

First Christian Church Visitor

“Where The Grace of God Awaits You.”

visit us at: www.fcc-bhm.org or call us at: 991-5000

Volume 5 Number 12 March 19, 2013



IN THE MEANTIME

Holy Week is upon us. This Sunday, we meet together to remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Those that were on the road that day waved palm branches, cheered, and laid down their cloaks. Our Chancel Choir will call us to remember, as they lead us in a powerful Easter Cantata, *The Power of the Cross*, during our worship time Sunday morning.

On Thursday night, at 6:30 p.m., we will gather for Tenebrae – A Service of Darkness. During this hour the room will begin with light and end in darkness. This is a powerful and gripping service, led by readers, our choir, instrumental and vocal soloists, and you. This year, words from the gospel of Matthew, which speak of Jesus' last days, will lead us to remember his great sacrifice.

Following the Tenebrae Service, members of our church will gather – one per hour for 24 hours to pray and remember the events of that holy night. This will be a time to quiet our hearts and listen for God's voice to prepare us for the great day of resurrection that is to come.

Resurrection Sunday –we begin the day on the mountaintop at the outdoor amphitheater at Camp Hargis at 6:30 a.m. We will watch the sun rise and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Following the service, we will gather together as a community for breakfast. And then, Easter worship! What a wonderful day! Alleluias replace the tears of Lent. I hope you will be present and invite your friends for this special day. He is risen! He is risen indeed! *Jane*

these little ones? Certainly, it's not a contest; all are winners in this instance.

Regena Varvoutis, Coordinator, TAN Reading Program



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

The Way of the Cross

Holy Week

March 24

Choir Easter Cantata

Palm Sunday

March 28

Thursday

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

Maundy

March 31

Service

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Easter Sunrise

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

March 31

John 20:1-18

“Supposing Him To Be The Gardener”

Easter Worship

The resurrection of our Lord has arrived and we celebrate. But, what was it like for the women who went to the tomb that morning. Was Mary mistaken when she mistook Jesus as the gardener?



OUTREACH NOTE: READING WITH TAN

The program for members of First Christian Church to read to the children of TAN has been a very successful experience. Once a week, for about 20 minutes, one of our congregation reads to classes of children from 3-5 years old. The children sit cross-legged on the floor of the First Christian Church library as one of us reads a story or two. Sometimes, the reader selects a book on a topic the children are studying, such as Berenstain Bear books during “b” week, the circus, an upcoming holiday, or perhaps just a favorite we have enjoyed sharing with our own children and grandchildren. The teachers are responsible for bringing the children in and out of the library and handling discipline (not that much is needed!), so all the readers need to do is read and enjoy.

And, enjoy they do! Several volunteers have offered to read more frequently than scheduled, if needed. Others offer to substitute. Readers generally rotate on an every six-week basis. Ginny White and Jane Belcher read on Tuesdays, following their folding of the Visitor. Peggy Thornbury coordinates her days with picking up her grand-daughter from TAN. Deb Carpenter, Virginia Guthrie, Mary Jean Baumgartner, Gloria McWilliams, and Regena Varvoutis may come on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, depending upon their personal schedules. Sandy Hamilton and Annie Franklin are available as backup.

Who benefits the most from First Christian Church's participation as TAN readers? Could it be the staff who get to watch the children in some unguarded moments as the children are enthralled, attentive, and so adorable? Could it be the children who often seem mesmerized by the stories? Could it be the readers who get smiles and waves of recognition upon walking into the narthex and delightful hugs at the conclusion of the reading? Or is it God who is glorified by our reaching out to



MUSIC NOTES

The Chancel Choir invites the congregation to join them for the cantata, “**The Power of The Cross**” on Palm Sunday, March 24, at our 10:15 worship service. We will journey with Christ through Holy Week, experiencing momentous events that changed history for all of humankind. Emily Jackson will be singing “*Pieta*”, an unforgettable piece inspired by Michelangelo's “*Pieta*.” From Emily, we hear the anguish of Mary, the Mother of Christ. “**The Power of The Cross**” provides an artful and poignant reminder of Christ's sacrifice of love, His triumph over death, and His promise of redemption for us all.

In Christ, Jan

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday, March 25 at 6:30 pm

For all you guys that appreciate a rousing, inspirational experience, you will want to be at Men's Fellowship on Monday, March 25. Clay Osborne will be here providing his message along with some very useful tips/guidelines on Evangelism. We crank up at 6:30 p.m.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE & BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 31

Our Easter Sunrise Worship and Breakfast is Easter Sunday, March 31, at the outdoor amphitheater at Hargis Retreat. Following the service, breakfast will be served in the Hargis dining room at a cost of \$5.75 for adults and children over three years; children three years and under are free. Please sign up for your breakfast reservation in the narthex or call the church office.

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, AL 35242

POSTAGE PAID
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FIRST CHRISTIAN VISITOR (UPS 0195-880) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY EXCEPT A WEEK IN DECEMBER AND A WEEK IN JULY, BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH. **PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BIRMINGHAM, AL, 35203.** POSTMASTER PLEASE SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4954 VALLEYDALE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242.

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service – Easter Cantata
11:15 A Moment of Prayer with Elders
3:00 p.m. Bell Choir

Monday, March 25

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, March 26

10:00 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 27

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday Service
9:00 p.m. 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Begins

Friday, March 29

9:00 p.m. 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Ends

Sunday, March 31

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service & Breakfast at Hargis Retreat
10:15 Easter Sunday Worship



BLESSING BOXES

God of Power Isaiah 43:19 NIV "See, I am doing a new thing!"

"Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

We are always ready for spring in our house. It is always nice to see the bulbs spring forth into new life.

When we put our trust in God's care, we become open to being made new in body, mind and spirit.

Dear God, Thank you for doing a new thing in each of us. Amen

Peggy & Charles Daniels Blessing Boxes-Outreach Mission



YOUTH RALLY LOCK-IN

Saturday, April 6, 2013

You are invited to a Youth Rally Lock-In

When: Saturday, April 6

Where: Grace Christian Church (DOC).

869 Highway 52, Helena, AL.

Introducing GCC Youth Mission Film Project: "I Am Home".

Master of Ceremonies, Tim Crist of Sylacauga, Guest Speaker, Bill Hart of McCalla, and featuring "Oakland" of Nashville. You can learn more about "Oakland" at: reverbNation.com/OaklandTheBand. Pizza and drinks will be served and many opportunities for the youth to win T-shirts, CD's and other prizes. Oakland T-shirts and CD's will also be available for purchase from the band. **All D.O.C. youth are invited to our Lock-In after the Rally.**

We invite you also to take part in Sunday Morning Worship in which the band and youth will be leading us along with Pastor Tommy Morgan. **There is no cost but Reservations are required.** Contact Lisa Schlichter at mizlisa1122@live.com

GRACE NOTES

- † Please continue to keep in mind those of our dear members and friends who are in need of our prayers.
- † Dear Church family, Barry and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, thoughts and kind words on the death of our precious sister and sister-in-law Ellen. We are so fortunate to have such a loving church family at this very difficult time. We love each and every one of you. God bless you all! Barry & Susan Storer.
- † Dear Supporter, Thank you for your contribution and support of Jeremiah Castille Foundation. We deeply appreciate your belief in the work of the foundation and request your prayers. Your donation and support help make the dream and goals of the foundation a reality. Blessings, Barbara A. Blomeyer, Executive Director, Jeremiah Castille Foundation.
- † The Project Homeless Toiletry Drive - Thank you from Hands on Birmingham's Junior Board of Directors and the Public Health Student Association. The Project Homeless Connect Toiletry Drive was a Huge Success!
- † To All First Christian Church Outreach Ministers, Wonderful friends! I just wanted to thank you all again, for your continued support and generosity to the children and families at Vincent Elementary. You are angels and make such a difference in this community. Angela Madison, Counselor, Vincent Elementary School. God bless you all!

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP 123

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, March 24

The Sins of God's People - Part 1

Malachi 1 - 2: 16

THE DISCIPLES

Sunday, March 24

The Lord's Supper

Luke 22: 14-30

**2013 CAMP & CONFERENCE
BEACH CAMP AT ROMAR BEACH, AL**

June 9th – June 14th

Activities will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Departure time is 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$250.00 after June 1st \$290.00

Registration forms are available in the narthex.

**2013 CAMP & CONFERENCE
TRADITIONAL SUMMER CAMPS**

Camp Information - All Camps Begin & End at 10am

Discovery Camp-June 22-24, 2013

For those who have completed 2nd or 3rd Grade ~~

Cost: \$135.00 ~~ after June 1st ~~ \$155.00

Junior Camp-June 24-28, 2013

For those who have completed 4th or 5th Grade

Cost: \$225.00 ~~ after June 1st ~~ \$265.00

CYF Conference-June 24-28, 2013

For those who have completed 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th
Grade~~Cost: \$225.00 ~~ after June 1st ~~\$265.00

Chi Rho Camp-June 24-28, 2013

For those who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade

Cost: \$225.00 ~~ after June 1st ~~ \$265.00

Registration forms are available in the narthex.