

# First Christian Church Visitor

“Where The Grace of God Awaits You.”

visit us at: [www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org) or call us at: 991-5000

Volume 5 Number 18 April 30, 2013



## IN THE MEANTIME

Jane Hull, Interim Minister

It's Youth Sunday. What an important day in the life of the church. Some of my earliest nudgings from God toward ministry rose out of Youth Sundays when I was a teenager. It didn't matter if you had an amazing gift (like an operatic solo voice) or if you were just a regular person (like me), everyone had the opportunity to participate in worship leadership. These youth are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are our leaders today. I am so happy to be in a church that encourages and supports youth in this way. I hope you will be here. We will all be blessed.



## YOUTH SUNDAY - Sunday, May 5

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 5. It will be a special Sunday as our youth lead us in worship for our Youth Sunday. Immediately following worship we will celebrate “This Is Your Life” with a luncheon recognizing our graduating seniors, please make plans to attend and support our youth and honor our graduating seniors. Reservations for the lunch may be made in church.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH

|                    | This Month  | This Year    |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Offerings Received | \$45,674.00 | \$114,392.00 |
| Offerings Needed   | \$41,000.00 | \$110,000.00 |
| Actual Expenses    | \$29,095.00 | \$ 89,557.00 |
| Expenses Budgeted  | \$30,041.00 | \$105,019.00 |
| Surplus            | \$11,808.00 | \$ 13,800.00 |

## VERY GOOD NEWS

Our giving continues to be strong and our expenses are under budget. Two of the main reasons that expenses are under budget are savings in salaries and expenses of the search committee will not occur until later in the year. So, we need to see that surplus continue to grow in order to have adequate funds for the search process, moving expenses of a new minister and salary requirements. Our mission directors remain diligent in their oversight of expenses, which has also contributed to the surplus we presently enjoy, but some seasonal expenses are coming soon that are vital missions of our church, such as Vacation Bible School, Camp High Hopes and Camp Scholarships. Thanks to all for giving to the Lord's work here at First Christian generously, in the same manner that we are blessed. We do make a difference and are a blessing to many.

*Libby Carpenter, Finance Chair*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 22 - 26, 2013

July will be here soon and we have already started planning VBS. So mark your calendars to bring your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children and please volunteer. Our theme is “**Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's Neighbors Come Together.**” We will be “traveling” to Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, Mexico and of course Bible Times. This year we are **free** but pre-registration will be required as we are limiting our number to 50 children.

If you want more information or would like to volunteer your time and talents, you may contact Janice Lamb at 408-7431, Donna Penn at 980-9162 or Deb Carpenter at 602-9717



## THIS IS YOUR LIFE - Sunday, May 5

TIYL (This is Your Life) has been a long-standing tradition here at First Christian. It is a celebration of our graduating seniors as we honor them and wish them well in the years to come. We honor them with a lunch immediately following worship service and a cake with their school colors for dessert. Following the lunch, there will be a short “roasting” of each senior followed by a two-minute video of his/her life. Each senior is also presented ahead of time with a scrapbook from the church which they fill with photos and memorabilia for their life accomplishments thus far. Each senior will have his/her own table with the scrapbook and memorabilia. In addition, each senior who is a member of our church is presented a gift from our church to help them with their college expenses. It is our way of saying, “Congratulations, and we love you and are so proud of you. Remember that this will always be your home church. We look forward to hearing great things from you in the future.” Our graduating seniors that will participate this year are: Ayana Crosby, John Howard and Stephanie LaBeau. Kaitlin Rudd and Sarah Scott will also be graduating this year. The cost of the celebration meal will be \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12. Reservations envelopes may be found in the pews.



## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND WONDER

There will be **no Children's Worship and Wonder on May 5.** May 5 is Youth Sunday, in which the youth will be leading the worship service. We invite all children to attend worship in the sanctuary on both of these dates.

## SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| WORSHIP       | 113 |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | 61  |

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road  
Birmingham, AL 35242

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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, May 5

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:45 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship Service - Youth Sunday  
11:15 A Moment of Prayer with Elders  
11:30 "This Is Your Life" Luncheon honoring our graduating seniors  
3:00 p.m. Bell Choir  
5:00 Children meet /Last meeting  
6:30 Snack Supper

#### Monday, May 6

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

#### Tuesday, May 7

9:45 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 Ladies Bible Study

#### Wednesday, May 8

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

#### Thursday, May 9

7:00 p.m. Advocates Bible Study

### GRACE NOTES

† Please continue to keep in your prayers our dear members and friends.



### BLESSING BOXES

"Let us not give up meeting together."

#### GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT GOD

They took God's word seriously. They spent their time learning the apostle's teaching. They were so committed to the Word, that they spent, invested and paid the price with their time, learning, studying to understand and master the apostle's teaching. God's Word not only enabled them to withstand life's challenges, but when persecution made them fugitives, they took the Word with them and planted new churches around the world. (Ac 8-4.) Are you growing in God's Word so that it fortifies you against tough times and prepares you to influence your world for Christ?

The New Testament believers understood David's instruction, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Ps 100-4 NIV) Do you want to be a serious worshipper? Enter his presence and focus exclusively on his goodness and express your appreciation for all he is.

#### The Word for You Today-2013

"Heavenly Father, You give us so many good things in life to enjoy. Words cannot express how grateful we are for your life and sacrifice. Mary's anointing of your feet showed her great love for you. May our hearts and minds show you, and you alone, that you are our only King." In Jesus name. *Peggy & Charles Daniels, Outreach, Blessing Boxes, Carly Fund, and Salvation Army Angel Tree.*



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP-Monday, May 6 at 6:30 pm

Just a very little change in Men's Fellowship. We have moved our April meeting to the first Monday in May. Got one dynamite speaker that you're really going to like. Mark that calendar for May 6.



### CAMP HIGH HOPES

#### Friday, June 7 – Saturday, June 8, 2013

This camp is an FCC tradition carried on for over 25 years, serving intellectually challenged adults from surrounding areas. We provide interaction with the campers through one-on-one experiences, sharing fun activities, food, and Christian fellowship. We will start the camp at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 7. At 7:30 p.m., we will have our Camp High Hopes live band playing dance music. We will need a crew of about 10 to 15 counselors to check in campers, to chaperon the dance, and to get the campers to bed. On Saturday June 8, we will have a full day of activities starting with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and ending between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. We will need a full complement of counselors for Saturday to ensure camper safety. Please consider Camp High Hopes as your opportunity for personal outreach. Contact Jim Langley at 980-1827 to sign up.



### HOLY BAPTISM

The church celebrates three special days of worship: Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. The next special day of worship is Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church. This is a wonderful day to renew your spirit and begin again in commitment to the Lord. Therefore, if you are an adult considering baptism for the first time or a recommitment to the Lord through baptism, consider being baptized on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19.** Please contact Jane if you are interested in this act of worship and re-dedication to the Lord.

THE DISCIPLES  
Sunday, May 5  
A Living Hope  
1 Peter 1: 3-12

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON  
Sunday, May 5  
"Woe to the Sinners!"  
Amos 5:18- 6:14



**2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
July 13 - 17, 2013  
Orlando, Florida**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Adult Registration                      | \$210 |
| Florida Disciples                       | \$150 |
| Seminarian                              | \$150 |
| Young Adult (18-30)                     | \$150 |
| Youth (11-17)                           | \$100 |
| Child (1st - 6th grades)                | \$100 |
| Pre-school<br>(3 months - kindergarten) | \$100 |

**Mail-in Registration**

- Mail-in registration is available by downloading and printing the PDF registration form.
- Mail-in forms must be accompanied by a check.

*(If you pay with a debit or credit card, please register online.)*

Mail your form and payment to:  
2013 General Assembly  
PO Box 1986  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**Refund Policy.**

**There are no refunds after May 1, 2013.**

**Contact Us**

2013 General Assembly Office  
Phone: 317-713-2416

E-mail: [generalassembly@disciples.org](mailto:generalassembly@disciples.org)

Meal event tickets are available for purchase through the General Assembly Registration system.

Check here for a list of ticketed meals and events.

**[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)**

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