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 22 May 29, 2013

TELL ME A STORY
Life Lessons From the Greatest Storyteller
Sermon Series: May 26-July 14

June 2: *Hide and Seek*
The Parables of the Lost Coin, Lost Sheep, Lost Son: Matthew 18:10-13, Luke 15
Children's Books:
I Love You the Purplest Barbara M. Joosse
The Runaway Bunny Margaret Wise Brown
I Love You No Matter What J. Rutland
Frog and Toad Are Friends, chapter 3, A Lost Button Arnold Lobel

June 9: *Seeds, Seeds: Where Are the Seeds?*
The Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15
Children's Books:
The Carrot Seed Ruth Krauss
And Then It's Spring Julie Fogliano

June 16: *How Small Are You?*
The Parable of the Mustard Seed: Mark 4:30-32
Children's Books:
Horton Hears a Who Dr. Seuss
The Little Engine that Could Watty Piper

June 23: *How Big Are Your Barns?*
The Parable of the Rich Fool: Luke 12:13-21
Children's Book:
Petunia Roger Duvoisin

June 30: *Same, Same, But Different*
The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19-31
Children's Book:
Same, Same, But Different Jenny Sue Kostecki Shaw

July 7: *Giving and Receiving*
The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
Children's Books:
Now One Foot, Now the Other Tomie dePaola
The Giving Tree Shel Silverstein
Horton Hatches the Egg Dr. Seuss
How to Heal a Broken Wing Bob Graham

July 14: *The World's Largest Party*
The Parable of the Great Banquet: Luke 14:16-24
Children's Book:
Sneetches Dr. Seuss

DEBBIE BLUE PANTRY:
SUMMERTIME STOCKING!

We've been busy "feeding His sheep," and now it's time to re-stock the pantry. For the next few weeks, we will be collecting the following items for the Debbie Blue Pantry: peanut butter, canned meats (e.g., Spam, chicken, tuna, etc.), canned pasta meals, canned vegetables (e.g., green beans, corn, peas, beans, etc.), canned fruit (e.g., peaches, pears, mixed fruit, etc.).

Canned goods should be placed in the shopping cart in the Narthex or by the Outreach table. Let's keep "feeding His sheep!"

EXCITING NEWS FROM SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee would like to invite the congregation to attend an open house at the church to meet a prospective ministerial candidate and his wife on Thursday, May 30th at 6:30 p.m. At 7:15 p.m. the candidate will deliver a short meditation in the sanctuary to give you a chance to hear him preach.

I apologize for the lack of additional information even at this point in the search process but we must continue to maintain confidentiality to protect our candidate. Even after you meet him, I ask you to respect him with this confidentiality.

The Search Committee thanks you for your patience and want you to know we have felt your prayers. God has led us in this search and we ask you, please to continue to pray for God's direction for First Christian Church.

Blessings to all our church family, Beverly Baxter

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MOORE, OKLAHOMA

By now, we have all seen the images of children being pulled from the rubble of flattened schools and folks stranded in the midst of a huge debris field they used to call home. This time, however, those images are coming from Moore, Oklahoma rather than Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The hurt, the confusion, the losses are apparent. On Sunday, May 26th and June 2, we will collect funds to assist our neighbors in Moore, Oklahoma. All funds designated for Oklahoma Tornado Relief will be sent help people affected by the storms.

"I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 NIV

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL

	This Month	This Year
Offerings Received	$26,130	$140,522
Offerings Needed	$35,000	$146,000
Actual Expenses	$21,987	$111,551
Expenses Budgeted	$27,354	$132,373
Actual Surplus	$1,314	$15,107
Budgeted Surplus	$4,595	$683

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP	**112**
SUNDAY SCHOOL	**53**

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
Sunday, June 2
A Ruler Is Coming!
Micah 3-5

THE DISCIPLES
Sunday, June 2
Holy, Holy, Holy
Isaiah 6: 1-8

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, June 2
9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
9:45	Fellowship Moment
10:15	Worship Service –
10:30	Children's Worship & Wonder
11:15	A Moment of Prayer with Elders
11:30	Congregational Meeting
	Monday, June 3
7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	Thursday, June 6
7:00 p.m.	Advocates Bible Study
	Friday, June 7 – Saturday, June 8
	Camp High Hopes at Hargis Retreat

GRACE NOTES

† To the Sisters in Tuesday Morning Bible Study, At our last study until August, you presented me with the most encouraging words on a card as well as a generous gift, both of which I am most grateful for. I should be the one thanking all of you for your loyalty, excitement to learn, support of each other, and participation for several years now. THAT is what makes this study so awesome. Believe it or not, I am at a loss for words, so I will just say… THANK YOU! *God's Blessings, Judy.*

† Thank you so much for your generous donation to Calera Elementary School. I will have to come and share what a difference your help has made to some of our students with behavioral concerns. I am truly blessed for all your do!

Celita Deem, Principal

† Congratulations to Joshua Glenn O'Shields, who graduated this week from Oak Mountain High School. He will be attending Wallace State on a baseball scholarship. Joshua is the son of Tammy and Doug O'Shields, and the grandson of Carolyn Goodall.

BACKPACK BUDDIES COORDINATOR CALL

"Each one should use whatever gift he [or she] has received to serve others." 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Do you have the gifts to coordinate our efforts to feed 40 children each week during the next school year? Is God calling you to coordinate the shopping, packing, and delivering of 40 bags of food to 40 precious children? Please contact me if you are willing to serve in this much needed and very rewarding ministry ~*Charlotte Brammer, Outreach*

BLESSING BOXES

"God created man in his image" Ge. 1:27 NIV

The Bible says; God created man in his own image… male and female he created them. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." God has given you everything required to succeed at whatever He's called you to do. You must tap into your God-given creativity! The Bible says," Where there is no vision, the people perish" Pr. 29:18. Every great accomplishment begins as a vision, and every God-Given vision comes with innate power to fulfill it.

Whatever you feel called to do… write, paint, preach, teach…step out and do it. Walking on water begins with one step of faith. Jesus wasn't in the boat. He was out on the water, saying to his disciples, "Come and follow me." (MT 14-29 NKJV.) Only one got out of
the boat. Although Peter did it imperfectly, it changed his life. Tap into your creativity and watch what happens. The Word for You Today-2013

Dear God, What a world this would be if we all used our gifts each day for you and your Kingdom in Christ's name, Amen. *Peggy & Charles Daniels-Outreach, Blessing Boxes-The Carly Fund & Salvation Army Angel Tree*

BACKPACK BUDDIES THANK CAROLE RUDD!

On behalf of the 40 special children at Vincent Elementary School who have received bags of food each weekend over the course of the school year, I thank Carole Rudd for a job well done! Carole coordinated our efforts for the 2012-2013 school year, ensuring that these children felt the love of Jesus over the weekend.

No leader does everything alone, and Carole encouraged many to assist her. Nicki helped Carole faithfully as did the Tuesday Ladies, George and Judy Dudley, Regena Varvoutis, and… well… the entire First Christian family. Thank you all for caring enough to help these children. ~*Charlotte Brammer, Outreach*

ATTENTION PLEASE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TAKE THE VISITOR TO THE POST OFFICE ON TUESDAY MORNING'S. IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 22 – 26, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.- 12:00(noon)

Ages 4years thru 5th grade (completed)

July will be here soon and we have already started planning VBS. So mark your calendars to bring your children, grandchildren, neigborhood 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 chldren.

If you want more information or would like to volunteer your time and talents, you may contact Janice Lamb, Donna Penn, or Deb Carpenter.

BLESSING BOXES

"The world and all that is in it is mine."
Ps 50:12 NRS

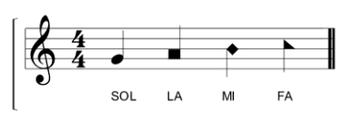
The Bible says, "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breadth of life; and man became a living being." Ge 2:7 NKJV. At that point God breathed into us two important things.

(1} Imagination-When you get ready to build and have only a few bricks, you can pray for more bricks, and God will give them to you. You also look at what you do have, and what you can make of it with God's help.

(2) Freedom of choice- God has empowered you with the ability to make the right choices and act on them. Don't try to go it alone. Jesus said "What is born of… the physical is physical; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit." Jn. 3: 6 AMP. Always depend on the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His disciples, "You shall receive power, strategies, solutions, and strength when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Ac 1:8 AMP The Word for You Today-2013

Heavenly Father, Help us to use our imaginations and freedom of choice for your Glory. In Jesus name, Amen.

Peggy & Charles Daniels, Outreach, Blessing Boxes, Carly Fund, and Salvation Army Angel Tree.



SACRED HARP SINGING CONVENTION

Thursday, June 13 – Saturday, June 15, 2013

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Sacred Harp Convention will meet at our church for their fifth year. We will welcome hundreds of singers and guests each day as they gather in the sanctuary praising God with their special music. Hubert Nall invites the congregation to participate