



## First Christian 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 4 NUMBER 35 SEPTEMBER 4, 2012**

### **FIRST CHRISTIAN IS THRIVING AND WE GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!**

We can be thankful for inspiring sermons from our Ministers, the sustained dedication of our church staff, and the ongoing faithfulness of the congregation in all of the church's various ministries for Christ Jesus – in worship, membership, administration, evangelism, outreach, stewardship, and education. Consider all the programs and events we have hosted and the ministries we have supported over the years.

This is an exciting time with unimagined possibilities for our congregation. When we come together to hear God's word, to share the sacraments, to confess our sins in the assurance of forgiveness, and to worship God with joy and thanksgiving, we are strengthened and blessed. When we gather together our gifts of money, our time and our capabilities to love and care for each other and the world in order to do God's work in the world, the Spirit blesses those offerings and ordinary people lead extraordinary lives.

In the fall of each year we take time to examine ourselves, the needs of the Body of Christ and invite God's direction as we consider how we will give in response to God's great love and mercy to us. During the next 4 weeks you will hear from members of First Christian Church during our Offertory time of the Worship service sharing our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign.

- ▲ Our Past - Our Present
- ▲ Our People - Our Potential

Our commitment as a congregation remains to share the grace of God with others. In fact our church is a place where “The Grace of God Awaits You”. Your giving, volunteering, prayers, and witness make this possible.

May God bless you richly as you partner with all the members and friends of First Christian Church to share God's Grace. Grace and Peace, Steve Pasky,  
*Stewardship Campaign Chairman*

### **GREETINGS FROM JAN**

First, I want to thank the church for allowing me to take a sabbatical. It has been a time of spiritual renewal and a learning experience for me. Also, I was able to spend quality time with my family as well as traveling to places I have never been before.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, I sang with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and reaffirmed my decision to follow Christ as a Christian.

In Eureka Springs, Arkansas, I felt again the deep emotional stirrings of pain, sadness, and joy as I experienced the story of Jesus, death, resurrection and ascension.

In Branson, Missouri, I was overwhelmed by the Old Testament story in word and music of Joseph, and how what we think of as tragedy, God plans for our good, our redemption.

I also attended different Disciple Churches and recognized as Christians we are like a family, different and yet the same. I am thrilled to be back with my church family again, renewed and refreshed.

I have missed you all but most especially I have missed being in communion with my congregation.

*Love in Christ, Jan*

### **SCAVENGER HUNT KICK-OFF**

**Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 5:00 pm**

We look forward to another fantastic year with our youth groups. Our sponsors this year are as follows: Julia Williamson and Jeanell Miranda for our Bible Buddies (ages 4- 1<sup>st</sup> grade); Andrew and Sarah Ford for our Kool Kids ( grades 2-5); Jay Barkley and Deb Carpenter for our Chi Rho youth (grades 6-8) and Donnette Mee and Mary Pat Spencer for our CYF youth( grades 9-12). Gloria Mc Williams will be our new snack supper coordinator Thank you, as always, to all our volunteers and the parents and grandparents who make the effort to see that their children are a part of this important ministry.

### **GENERATION TO GENERATION**

#### **CREATING NEW FUNDING STREAMS FOR MINISTRY**

**September 15 Noon - 3:00 pm**

The Christian Church in Alabama and Northwest Florida ant the Chrisitan Church Foundation is sponsoring a financial workshop on Saturday, September 15 from noon until 3:00 pm at First Christian Church in Montgomery. Randy Johnson, Vice President for the Christian Church Foundation will give the leadership to the workshops. The purpose of the workshop is to learn about ways in which we might generate and grow new streams of income to expand the ministries of our congregations.

### **FINDING YOUR SIXTH SENSE**

#### **AND HOW TO BRING SELF ESTEEM TO YOUR FAMILY**

**Sunday, September 16 at 3:00 pm**

Besides food and water, our greatest need is to BELONG. As human beings we have a need to fulfill this 6th sense. But how do we do this? What examples as a people of faith can we better understand this need. Join us as we uncover stories and gain practical tools to help not only ourselves but also our young people. If the above information caught your eye, then come and learn more at our annual parents meeting on Sunday, September 16th at 3:00 in the Farkas room. We will have as our guest speaker John Douglas who is a family counselor with APAC. We have invited him to come and share with us practical ways that we can build up self esteem within our families. Please come and join us. In addition, if your child is in our youth programs, please bring your updated information for their health forms and your check for their snack suppers. As always, thank you for your support.

### **SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE**

<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>37</b>

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### **Life In Our Community This Week**

#### Sunday, September 9

9:00 Sunday School  
9:45 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship Service – The Past  
  
10:30 Children's Worship & Wonder  
11:15 A Moment of Prayer with Elders  
4:00 Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University  
5:00 Youth Group Kick-off  
6:15 Snack Supper

#### Monday, September 10

7:00 Men's Bible Study  
10:00 Staff Meeting

#### Tuesday, September 11

9:45 Chapel  
10:00 Ladies Bible Study  
7:00 Finance Council

#### Wednesday, September 12

5:30 Worship Mission  
6:30 Choir Practice

#### Thursday, September 13

7:00 Ladies Bible Study  
7:00 Advocates Bible Study

#### Saturday, September 15

Noon Financial Workshop

### **GRACE NOTES**

- ⤴ Our prayers are with Chris, Stephanie, Samantha LaBeau, and Bud and Georgia Flora and family in the sudden death of Sherri LaBeau on September 3.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with Barbara Wyrosdich in the death of her step son-in-law, Ricky Whitworth, who was killed in a ATV accident near Montgomery.
- ⤴ Ellis and Lynn Hill, who now live in Biloxi, Miss. suffered several leaks and carpet flooding in their 9<sup>th</sup> floor condo on the water. The good news is that they are safe. They say that the flooding is much worse than they saw with Katrina.
- ⤴ Many thanks to Garry and Twila Tyree, and John Tabb who helped out while Jan and Bill were away. We sincerely appreciate their service to the church. May God Bless you all.
- ⤴ Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. John Mobley in the marriage of their daughter Jeanessa to Jordan Barrios on Saturday, September 1 at Grace Christian Church.
- ⤴ Youth Groups start this Sunday, September 9 at 5:00 pm.
- ⤴ Have you noticed the fresh painted walls? Or how about the new carpet in the gym? What about the new cabinets in the Sacristy or Office? If you have, then you should be proud of our new look. The work in the gym is now complete. The painting is complete and cabinets are installed. All we have left is the new carpet in the sanctuary which will be installed soon. *Property and Maintenance Chair, Gary Franklin.*

### **After the Storm:**

#### **A Time of Assessment and Response**

The remnants of Hurricane Isaac are working their way north, leaving behind flooding and significant damage along the Gulf Coast. Week of Compassion, in partnership with its ecumenical and denominational partners, is currently working to assess the best ways we can respond. As the waters recede, we will have a better sense of how we will be able to do so. Our partners in ministry in the Great River Region are keeping in touch with congregations in affected areas, helping us to gather the most up-to-date information we can. We have been in touch with First Christian Church, Slidell, LA, as that community has received significant media coverage; thus far, no reports of loss or damage are emerging from the congregation itself. Nonetheless, there will be needs in the wider community of Slidell. Through our longstanding partnerships, we will be able to contribute when that time comes. Likewise, our partners at Church World Service are collecting information, assessing damage and capacities for responding, and will provide direction for an ecumenical response early next week. Early reports indicate property damage in Mississippi and Louisiana, and some in Florida. Congregations are invited to help provide clean-up kits and to reach out through Week of Compassion's Disaster Response Fund. Through this, we give thanks for your generosity, care, and the concern you have expressed for those affected by Isaac. Above all, we give thanks to the God who calms the storms that wreak havoc, brings light to the darkness, and calls us to bring comfort amidst chaos.

#### **SILENT AUCTION AND BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE CARLY FUND Sunday, September 30**

Ona-Ruth is sponsoring a Silent Auction and bake sale to benefit the Carly Fund on September 30 in conjunction with the fifth Sunday covered dish luncheon. If you would like to donate baked goods or items for the silent auction please contact Deb Carpenter at 602-9717. **Deadline for silent auction items is September 16.**

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Mission Council has approved the following to serve on the 2012 Nominating Committee. They are: Bob Browning, Sandy Hamilton, Ann Horne, Buzz DeVore, Donnette Mee, Conlee Alderson, Scott Long, Jim Baxter, Georgia Flora, Judy Dudley, and Marian Moon. Their ministry will be to select new church officers, members-at-large for the Mission Council and Deacons.

#### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

##### **Sunday, September 9**

##### **Let Marriage be Held in Honor**

**Matthew 19: 4-6, Ephesians 5:24-32**

#### **THE DISCIPLES**

##### **Sunday, September 9**

##### **Faith Is Assurance**

**Hebrews 11:1-3.6; Psalm 46:1-3, 8-11**