

# First Christian Visitor

*“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”*

[www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org)

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transformed  
living

## Remember being a kid and waiting expectantly during the days leading up to Christmas?

If you were like most children, you probably hopped out of bed before dawn, before your parents were even awake, and headed expectantly for the gifts wrapped and waiting under the tree. Who knew what wonders awaited?

This week, as we read through the last part of *Treasures of the Transformed Life*, we're headed toward another wonderfully special event: Commitment Sunday. This Sunday, you'll be able to commit your prayers, presence, service, and financial gifts to the church for the coming season. And just like Christmas morning, you have no idea what wonders await.

See, God always meets us where we are. And any time we take a step closer to him, he responds likewise by stepping closer to us. When we're ready to say yes to all that he asks of us, we can know for certain that he will richly reward us for it, and continue to draw us closer into relationship with him. Keep this in mind:

*And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done.*

Colossians 2:6–7 (NLT)

Please bring your commitment card and survey to church this Sunday.

*The Stewardship Committee*

## COMMITMENT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18

On Sunday, November 18, we, as a congregation, will share our commitments with the Lord. This will be our financial commitment toward our proposed budget of \$431,535 and also we will share commitment of time and talent. Please share your treasures of money, time, and talent so that we can continue to transform our lives and the life of our church.

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE Sunday, November 18

Our church is joining in worship and fellowship with several other churches in Shelby County for a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 18 at 6:30 pm at Crossbridge Church of Christ. The church is located at 3039 Brook Highland Parkway, just a few blocks off highway 280 on the left. The service will include special music, testimonies of gratitude, prayer, and fellowship for the Pentecostal members of the churches.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Saturday, Dec. 1	Decorating the Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 2	First Sunday of Advent Lighting of the Candles by Our Veterans Hanging of the Greens
Friday, Dec. 8	All Church Christmas Dinner and Worship
Sunday, Dec. 16	Christmas Cantata
Sunday, Dec. 23	Christmas Sunday with Holy Baptism
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service At 7:00 and 11:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!!!



### TIS THE SEASON

Please join us Saturday morning, December 1, at 10:00 am to decorate our sanctuary and narthex for Christmas. We need helpers to decorate the tree in the sanctuary and in the narthex, along with hanging wreaths and putting out all the other decorations that make our church beautiful for the holidays. If you have any questions, please call Kay Keith at 408-7655.



### POINSETTIA SIGN UP SHEET

The poinsettia sign up sheet is now in the narthex. Again this year, we are ordering 33 poinsettias, representing the number of years Christ lived on the earth. Please sign up for poinsettias in honor or memory of your loved one. The cost is \$16 per plant. Please note on the memo line of your check, "for poinsettias".

### Thanksgiving Day Dinner.

The Spencer's would like to extend an invitation for Thanksgiving Day Dinner. If you don't have plans, come to our home and celebrate with us. We have done this in the past and it is a true blessing. We will provide the turkey and invite you to bring your favorite dish to share. We will have a sign up list in the narthex.

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road  
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Awaits You.”

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: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4954 VALLEYDALE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242.

Life In Our Community This Week

- Sunday, November 18
- 9:00 Sunday School
  - 10:00 Worship Service
  - 11:00 Ona/Ruth in Fireside Room
  - 4:00 Bell Choir
  - 5:00 Chi Rho Music Group
  - 5:30 Adult Bible Study on Romans
  - 5:30 Youth Groups
  - 5:45 Praise Kids
  - 6:30 Thanksgiving Dinner at Crossbridge Church of Christ
  - 7:00 Snack Supper
- Monday, November 19
- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study on Romans
  - 10:00 Staff Meeting
  - 10:00 Regional Meeting in Farkas Room
  - 10:00 TAN’s Thanksgiving Feast
  - 6:30 Mission Council
- Tuesday, November 20
- 9:45 Chapel
  - 10:00 TAN’s Thanksgiving Feast
  - 7:00 Church Growth Calls
- Wednesday, November 21
- 9:45 Chapel
  - 6:30 Choir Practice
- Thursday and Friday, November 22-23
- Offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

GRACE NOTES

- ✚ Please pray for our organist David Brasher’s sister and family upon the loss of her husband.
- ✚ Please be in prayer for Gretel Watt’s sister and brother-in-law, Anastasia & Michael Ferrell. He has been diagnosed with brain cancer.
- ✚ All Sunday School classes and groups are encouraged to contact the church office with the dates and locations of your Christmas parties. We want to include them in the Visitor.
- ✚ This year Veterans are lighting the Advent candles. Their names will be in the next issue of the Visitor.
- ✚ The congregation approved the 2008 Budget and Nominating Committee report at the Congregational Meeting.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
Sundays Nov. 11 and Nov. 18

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Everyday I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

Psalm 145:1-5

The Thanksgiving Special Offerings benefits 14 colleges/universities and 7 theological institutions supported by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These institutions pledge to serve and care for Disciples students and the church, and to work to produce leaders for the church. For more information, log on to: [www.helmdisciples.org](http://www.helmdisciples.org).

LAST CALL FOR THE MISSION TRIP!

A group of adults from First Christian is going to Covington, LA., Sunday, Nov. 25 through Saturday, Dec. 1 on a mission trip to help in the recovery efforts from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Please contact Sharon or Elizabeth Orazine if you are interested in helping rebuild and repair homes along the Gulf Coast. This is another wonderful opportunity of First Christian reaching out to others.

MISSION COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 17 at 6:30 pm

The scheduled date for the Mission Council to meet in December is on the 17. Usually, there is no need for a December meeting. This year, we will be having a social event for Mission Council members and their families on December 17 at 6:30 pm at the home of Nickey and Carole Rudd. If there is any business that needs a vote, we will handle it quickly then. So save this date! It will be simple and casual, just a chance to be together and socialize. More details to follow after Thanksgiving.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON  
“God Preserved a Remnant”  
Genesis 45:1-12

LAST SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE  
WORSHIP 142  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 54

“Can You Hear Me Now?”

Discerning God’s Call to Transformation  
February 9, 2008 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Dr. Fred Craddock and Dr. Richard Hamm are among the leaders who will be with us for this event

that will offer support for congregations and leaders who are committed to transformation in order to do more effective ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. First Christian Church, Birmingham, will host this event. There will be a variety of workshops offered that will give helpful tools and methods to participants. Congregations are asked to bring as many persons as they would like to this event. On site registration will begin Saturday morning at 8:00 am. The cost will be \$200 per congregation, regardless of the number attending, or \$20 per person for individual registrations. Lunch on Saturday will be provided. The event will begin with a worship service on Friday night at 7:30 pm with Dr. Craddock preaching. There is no cost to attend this service.