

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME X NUMBER 07 FEBRUARY 12, 2008



THURSDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Every Thursday night during Lent we will have the opportunity to gather in the Family Life Center at 6:15 for supper. Different groups will provide the meals, with the cost being \$5.00 for adults and older children; \$3.00 for children 4 through 11; and children under 4 are free. Following the meal at 7:00 pm, we will have a thirty minute Lenten worship service in the Farkas room. The service will focus on the thoughts of Joyce Rupp from her book, “The Cup of Our Life.” We will discover how the ordinary cups we use each day can become sacred vessels that connect us with life and draw us closer to God. The schedule for each service on the cups is as follows:

February 14	<i>The Cup of Life</i>
February 21	<i>The Chipped Cup</i>
February 28	<i>The Broken Cup</i>
March 6	<i>The Styrofoam Cup</i>
March 13	<i>The Cup of Blessing</i>

All of these services will begin at 7:00 pm following the meal and will last thirty minutes, ending at 7:30 pm. Reservations for the meal can be made on the reservation chart in the narthex or by calling the church office. If you can't come to the meal, please attend the worship service at 7:00 pm. Childcare is provided for both the meal and the worship service.

SERMON SERVICES FOR LENT

Edd and Mary Pat will share a service of sermons during Lent on meals that Jesus shared with His friends. Jesus loved to share in food and fellowship during His life on earth. The following sermons focus on some of the special meals that Jesus enjoyed on earth before He returned to be with His father.

Sunday, February 10	Dinner with Levi
Sunday, February 17	Dinner with Zacchaeus
Sunday, February 24	Dinner with Mary, Martha & Lazarus
Sunday, March 2	Dinner with the Twelve

OUTREACH NOTE

Our special Week of Compassion (WOC) offerings will be received on Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. Please be in prayer for what you can do! Sign up for the luncheon offered on Sunday, Feb. 24, so you can see what and where your donations serve. We will have on display the Church World Service Kits and other information about WOC giving. The kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world. Church World Service (CWS) provides school kits, hygiene kits, baby kits, and emergency clean up buckets. The contents of each kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible wherever they are sent. Kits may be sent to CWS all year. Kits are available for immediate response after a disaster here in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. The costs range from \$11 for a hygiene kit to \$50 for an emergency clean up bucket. Blankets can also be purchased for \$5.

There is a processing cost of \$2-\$3 for each kit to help pay shipping/delivery to the needed area. These are price ranges we can all afford. Giving to WOC is important. Sharing resources in response to the world's many needs is part of our faith. Lives are changed! Let yours be one of them.

Thank you, Sharon and Liz

The Christian Education Mission would like to offer a half-scholarship to anyone interested in attending the “Week of Compassion,” April 11-13 in Nashville, TN. We will give a scholarship of \$75 towards the \$150 registration fee. If interested, see either Joye Taylor or Mary Pat for the registration forms.

IT'S CANTATA TIME AGAIN

It seems that the Christmas musical drama has just taken place, but it is time for the choir's Easter Cantata. Please mark your calendars for March 9 to come to the morning worship to hear your Chancel Choir. However, that day is also our spring time change day, so don't forget to “spring forward” the night before. You don't want to miss this wonderful musical offering for our Lenten season and Easter.

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The Pastor's Class for Holy Baptism begins Sunday, February 17 at 4:30 pm in the library. The class will meet every Sunday until Palm Sunday, March 16. Holy Baptism will be in morning worship on Easter Sunday, March 23. The class is for all children, youth and adults who are considering baptism. Please contact Edd or Mary Pat if you are interested.

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Thursday, March 20 – March 21

We are having a Twenty-Four Hour Prayer Vigil beginning at 9:00 pm on Thursday, March 20th and ending at 9:00 pm on Friday, March 21st. The prayer vigil will be in the sanctuary with each person praying at their special time. A prayer chart consisting of 48 thirty minute prayer periods will be in the narthex. During the prayer vigil, there will be material available for reflection and prayer. There will also be security in the parking lot for those praying in the sanctuary during the night hours.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome into the life of the church Bob Smith, who made his profession of faith last Sunday in worship. May the Lord bless Bob as he serves Him and His church.

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP	127
SUNDAY SCHOOL	57

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

“Summoned To Be Humble!”

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, February 17

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship
- 4:30 Pastor's Class
- 5:00 Chi Rho Music Group
- 5:30 Bible Study on Genesis
- 5:30 Youth Groups
- 5:45 Praise Kids
- 7:00 Snack Supper

Monday, February 18

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study on Job
- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Mission Council

Tuesday, February 19

- 9:45 Chapel
- 6:00 Scale Back Alabama Class
- 6:00 PEPP Program
- 7:00 Elder Visitation

Wednesday, February 20

- 9:45 Chapel
- 6:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, February 21

- TAN's Open Registration
- 6:15 Lenten Dinner
- 7:00 Lenten Worship

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Bud Flora and family in the loss of his brother.
- † Our prayers are with Roe Vaughn, who is in UAB recovering from bypass surgery.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Don, Donni and family in the loss of Edith Garrison.
- † Our prayers are with Hal Edwards, who is recovering at St. Vincent's.
- † The Chi Rho/CYF Soup Drive collected 376 cans of soup for Oak Mt. Ministries. Thanks to all who helped!
- † Sincere gratitude is expressed to all who helped and participated in the past week-end event, "Can You Hear Me Now?" at FCC. We experienced 331 in worship Friday night and 187 in attendance for the workshops on Saturday.
- † Georgia Flora was confirmed as an Elder at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 10.

SCALE BACK ALABAMA--Tip of the Week

It's hard to taste food in front of a TV! When we eat while watching television, in the car, or at a desk at work, we don't notice what we are eating, especially when eating snacks. Portion control is very difficult if you take the whole container of snacks to "nibble" on in front of the TV. We don't taste the foods we are eating, and we miss out on the flavors, colors and textures. We may feel full after a meal, but not be satisfied. Calories are wasted and not tasted – so we only get part of the pleasure we should from eating. When we always sit in a particular chair to watch TV, and eat there as well, we soon come to associate sitting there with eating. *In addition, we may be missing out on quality time with family around the table. This can be a time to talk and catch up on the day's activities. It also gives parents an opportunity to set good eating examples for children and teens.*

2008 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
SET FOR APRIL 25 - 27

The 2008 Regional Assembly for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in AL-NW Florida will be held at Azalea Hills Christian Church in Mobile, Alabama on April 25 -27. Complete information on registration and housing is available on the website www.alnwfldisciples.org. This Regional Assembly will focus upon the theme, "And You Shall Be My Witnesses." This theme, borrowed from Jesus' words in Acts, chapter one, will challenge us to share boldly the good news of God's love, made known in Jesus Christ. Several special guests from outside the AL-NW Florida Region will give leadership in preaching and worship and serve as workshop leaders. These include; Rev. William Lee, Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt, Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, and Rev. Bob Shebeck.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED WITH MIRACLE DAY

The AL-NW Florida Region will sponsor its fifth region-wide Miracle Day Saturday, June 7, 2008. The effort is becoming known as MD678. It will be an opportunity for congregations to join in a common project to strengthen the ministries of the congregation that is hosting this event - First Christian Church, Cullman, Ala. This historic congregation envisions making many enhancements to modernize the facility and for a growing ministry with children and youth.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE & BREAKFAST

Our Easter Sunrise Worship and Breakfast is Easter Sunday, at 6:30 am 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 6 and over, \$3.75 for ages 3-5, and

children 2 years and under are free. The Easter Sunrise Service will focus on the sun and the Son. A celebration of the light of the sun for creation and the Light of the World in Jesus. Following the service, we will gather around the table for a fantastic breakfast with great food and fellowship as we celebrate the risen Lord. Please sign up for reservations in the narthex or call the church office.

MISSION TRIP REFLECTION

This poem was written during the recent work mission trip from First Christian to rebuild homes hit by Hurricane Katrina. We were housed in Grace Disciples of Christ Church in Covington, Louisiana, and worked on a home in Slidell. They host groups every week and are a really small congregation in size, but not in heart.

The Power of One

I've been inspired by this church. I read you were once at a crossroads, considering whether your doors should close, when Katrina hit and you became a mission station instead. Through your doors countless volunteers have passed through your building, slept on your floors, enjoyed your showers and refreshing water, and partaken of your weekly potlucks. You have the gift of hospitality – You offer shelter to equip some to serve others, and in doing so multiply your witness tenfold across the nation, impacting the volunteers and your own community. You are an example in action of the parable of the talents. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Valya Mobley

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YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN 2008

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord at First Christian in 2008. Please choose one and notify Libby, Barry, Edd or Mary Pat.

Worship Mission: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.

Education Mission: Responsible for Sunday school of all ages, youth work and the total education program of the church.

Evangelism Mission: Responsible for bringing people to Christ and new members into the life of the church.

Fellowship Mission: Responsible for providing a social life and fellowship activities for the church.

Administration Mission: Responsible for the financial program, maintenance of property and

general administration policies and throughout for the church.

Outreach Mission: Responsible for giving to the needy within Birmingham and throughout the world.

Membership Mission: Responsible for care and nurturing of church members.

JOINED TOGETHER IN WITNESS

We celebrate that First Christian Church is in partnership with 60 other Christian churches in Alabama-NW Florida in sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ. To lift up this ministry of cooperation, the region of Alabama-NW Florida has produced a Pictorial Tribute of the congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida. This wonderful book has a picture of every church in the region. Along with pictures of the outside and inside of each church, there is a brief history of each congregation. The books are \$50 each with order forms available on the Welcome Table in the narthex. Please consider buying a copy to support this ministry.