First Christian Visitor

"Where the Grace of God Awaits You."

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME X NUMBER 08 FEBRUARY 19, 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 21 The Chipped Cup
February 28 The Broken Cup
March 6 The Styrofoam Cup
March 13 The Cup of Blessing

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.

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! We will have on display the Church World Service Kits this Sunday 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

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON "Summoned To Be a Disciple!"

Luke 14:25-33

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP 107 SUNDAY SCHOOL 44

> 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.

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.

2008 MEN"S RETREAT SET FOR MARCH 7-8

The Disciples Men will sponsor a Men's Retreat on March 7-8, 2008, at YMCA Hargis. The theme of this retreat will be, "Men as Sons, Brothers, and Fathers." The special guest leader for this retreat will be Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., Minister of Evangelism for Disciples Home Missions. Reservation forms are in the narthex.

SUMMER CAMPS

The region has released dates for the 2008 Summer Camp season. The deadline for all camp registrations to be submitted to the church office is NOON on May 12. This year, three of the four camps will be held during the same week. The dates and costs are as follows:

Discovery Camp — June 7-9 Cost \$125 (children completing 2-3- grades)

Junior Camp - June 9-13 Cost \$210 (youth completing 4-5 grades)

Chi Rho Camp - June 9-13 Cost \$210 (youth completing 6-8 grades)

CYF Conference - June 9-13 Cost \$210 (youth completing 9-12th grades)

Fine Arts Camp - June 20-25 Cost \$210 (youth completing 6-12th grades)

The church pays ½ of the cost. Full scholarships available if needed.



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

	Ene in our community ring vice			
	Sunday, February 24			
9:00	Sunday School			
10:00	Worship			
4:30	Pastor's Class			
5:30	Bible Study on Genesis			
5:30	Youth Groups			
5:45	Praise Kids			
7:00	Snack Supper			
	Monday, February 25			
7:00	Men's Bible Study on Job			
10:00	Staff Meeting			
	<u>Tuesday, February 26</u>			
9:45	Chapel			
6:00	Scale Back Alabama Class			
6:00	PEPP Program			
7:00	Elder Visitation			
	<u>Wednesday, February 27</u>			
9:45	Chapel			
6:30	Choir Practice			
	<u>Thursday, February 28</u>			
6:15	Lenten Dinner			
7:00	Lenten Worship			

GRACE NOTES

- Our prayers are with Hal Edwards and Inez Sikes.
- Our prayers are with Bob Smith, who is recovering from three heart bypasses.
- Our Elders are praying in the sanctuary every Thursday evening after our Lenten Worship for discernment of God's will for the mission of our church.
- The church needs card tables. If you would like to purchase one or have one you can donate, please bring it to the church office.
- Congratulations to Blake and Laura Taylor in the birth of their daughter, Adelynn Grace Taylor, born Sunday, February 17. Proud grandparents are Gary and Joye Taylor.
- Our prayers are with Mary Decker's husband Doug, who is in ICU at UAB.
- Our prayers are with the many members and friends in our church who are sick with the flu.

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.

<u>Education Mission</u>: 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.

Dear Members of First Christian Church:

Thank you so much for your willingness to bake bread for our regional event. Susan Diamond, Clarissa Harms and I sincerely appreciate your making and baking the bread for our closing worship service. Your making of the bread helped us share the gift of bread with others, just as Christ shared himself with each of us as the "Bread of Life." You were a part of the transformation process by turning simple ingredients into bread to be shared. Thank you again for baking the bread and for all that each of you do in your church and local community. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.

Sincerely and with joy, Mary Pat Spencer

CONGRATULATIONS SCALE BACK LOSERS!

The top four losers at the Scale Back Alabama mid program weigh-in on February 12 were our own: Jim Langley, Dan Alderson, Megan Alderson, and Evan Alderson. The total weight loss for these four participants was 40 pounds. Way (weigh) to go FCC losers!!! Each of these four participants received a beautiful stained glass cross created by Ginny White. Remember, the final weigh-out will be Sunday, March 9th, 11:30 – 2:30, and Monday, March 10th 1:30 – 7:30 pm. *Joye Taylor*

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

Thank you so much for hosting the awesome Transformation Event for our region. There was nothing left undone – nothing half-done – every thing was done perfectly with joy, warmth and enthusiasm. Thank you for your Christian witness and for sharing FCC with all of us! May God Bless you richly. Sincerely, Bob & Kay Stegall