

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

This past Saturday, Brent Beatty, a helper, and I were placing memorial bricks in the Prayer Garden, the special memorial bricks purchased in memory or honor of loved ones. As I was placing the bricks along the sidewalk in the garden, I was reminded of a story.

Years ago a man named Christopher Wren, who designed St. Paul's Cathedral in London, wrote about the reactions of construction workers who were asked what they were doing. Those workers who were bored and tired responded by saying, "I am laying bricks." But one worker, who was mixing cement, seemed cheerful and enthusiastic about his work. Asked what he doing he replied, "I am building a magnificent cathedral."

God didn't create us to be bored. He created us to serve Him in everything we do. In other words, "whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

(I Corinthians 10:31)

God Bless you, Edd & Mary Pat

OUR LAST THURSDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPER AND WORSHIP

The Lenten meals and worship services over the past several weeks have been a blessing. There has been good attendance, wonderful meals, Christian fellowship and creative worship. Appreciation is expressed to all who helped and participated in these dinners and services. The last Lenten Supper and worship is this Thursday, March 13. The supper begins at 6:15 pm with the cost being \$5 for adults and older children. Following the meal at 7:00 pm is the thirty minute Lenten worship service in the Farkas Room. This Thursday we will conclude our services of meditation on Cups with the "Cup of Blessing" - the cup that will focus on the power of blessings and the greatest blessing of all - that we are in the embrace of a God who calls us "the Beloved."

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, lifts up the celebration of the Lord's Supper which Jesus held in the upper room with His disciples, and the washing of the disciples feet. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means a commission, especially a verbal commission. It is associated with Jesus command after the Lord's Supper, found in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." We will celebrate this special meal on this special night at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The congregation will walk forward to receive the Holy Communion from the Elders and have a symbolic hand washing by Edd and Mary Pat.

Invite a friend to come with you on this Holy evening. The nursery will be open.

We have a wonderful opportunity ahead of us on Friday, April 11 at 7:30 pm in our sanctuary. On this evening, we will be blessed to have Ken Jenkins share the glory of God and grace of Jesus through beautiful pictures of nature. Ken is a nationally known natural history photographer, writer, lecturer, and outdoor adventurer. For more than 30 years his photography and articles have appeared in National Geographic and Southern Living. Galleries across the country have exhibited his work, including the United States Air Force Academy and the Sarasota Arts Center in Florida.

Ken shares that his "photography has been an opportunity to share my love for Jesus. I simply stand humbled and amazed in the presence of Almighty God, who created all things and sustains all life and allows me to push a button and record a split second of His majesty."

Ken makes his home in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, a small resort town at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Many of you have probably been in his gallery and store, Beneath the Smoke, in Gatlinburg.

Please circle your calendar for Friday, April 11. We will be encouraging the community to attend this wonderful experience. May we fill the sanctuary with members of our church and visitors as we celebrate the majesty of God in nature.

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 during the night hours. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex. Please remember that the Prayer Vigil takes place in the sanctuary.

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.

THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF NATURE
Friday, April 11 at 7:30 pm

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community This Week

	<u>Sunday, March 16</u>
9:00	Sunday School
10:00	Procession of Palms
	<u>Monday, March 17</u>
7:00	Men’s Bible Study on Job
10:00	Staff Meeting
7:00	Finance Meeting
	<u>Tuesday, March 18</u>
6:00	PEPP Program
7:00	Elder Visitation
	<u>Wednesday, March 19</u>
6:30	Choir Practice
	<u>Thursday, March 20</u>
	Maundy Thursday
7:00	Maundy Thursday Communion
9:00	Prayer Vigil Begins
	<u>Friday, March 21</u>
	Good Friday – Offices Closed
9:00	Prayer Vigil Ends

GRACE NOTES

- ✝ My family and I wish to thank you for your love, prayers, food, cards, flowers and friendship during this sad time in our lives. Special thanks to Edd, Mary Pat, John Hard and all those that visited with us. *Thank you, Trudie Edwards and family*
- ✝ Our prayers are with Inez Sikes who is in intensive care at Shelby Baptist.
- ✝ Our prayers are with Edith Carreras’s brother-in-law, Jaime Zapata, who is very ill. Edith is in Puerto Rico with him and her family.
- ✝ Our prayers are with Jill Pasky’s mother, Sue Monhssen, who has cancer.

Worship For Holy Week

Sunday, March 16, 10:30 am
The Procession of Palms by the children
Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Worship
Thursday, March 20, 9:00 pm
The 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Begins
Friday, March 21, 9:00 pm
The 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Ends
Sunday, March 23
6:30 am - *Easter Sunrise Worship and Breakfast at Hargis*
10:00 am - *Easter Morning Worship And Holy Baptism*

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
“God Calls Solomon to Build the Temple”
I Chronicles 28:5-10,20-21

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY IN MOBILE

Azalea Hills Christian Church will be the host site for this year’s Regional Assembly meeting April 25-27. A wonderful group of speakers will be present, including the former Moderator, Rev. William Lee, pastor of the Loudon Avenue Christian Church, in Roanoke, VA. Voting delegates from our church will be Ellis and Lynn Hill, Libby and Deb Carpenter, Sharon Orazine, Carl Flock, and Edd and Mary Pat Spencer. Please consider attending the assembly. Reservation forms are in the narthex.

CAMPS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ADVENTURE DAYS 2008

June 23-25-27 1-3 grades 9:00-11:30 am
July 7-9-11 4-5 grades 9:00-11:30 am
July 14-16-18 4 yrs- K 9:00-11:30 am
Full of activities, games, crafts, stories and much more! Cost \$10 (A non-refundable registration fee)

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP 2008

“It’s Cool in the Furnace”
July 28 - August 1
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
For ages 6 yrs. to 8th grade. Cost \$65 of which \$25 will be a non-refundable registration fee.
A performance will be held on Sunday, August 3 at 10:00 am.
Limited registration – hurry!
Registration forms are in the office.

THE PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer concern that you would like to share with our church family, please call me at 822-5645, email me at: csh48@webtv.net, or contact the church office at 991-5000. There are currently 42 people on the Prayer Chain who are praying for every request that we receive. If you would like to become a member of this group, please let me know.

*“Have no anxiety about anything,
But in everything by prayer and supplication
With Thanksgiving let your request
be made known to God.
And the peace of God
which passes understanding,
Will keep your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.”*
Philippians 4: 6 -7
Claradel Holcombe, Prayer Chain

REGION 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 half of the cost. Full scholarships available if needed.

EASTER LILIES

On Easter Sunday we decorate the sanctuary and narthex with 33 Easter lilies. The number 33 symbolizes the number of years that Jesus lived on the earth before He was crucified and rose again. Again this year you may purchase an Easter lily in memory or honor of a loved one. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex. The lilies cost \$12 each.