

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

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## EASTER GREETINGS FROM YOUR STAFF

Christ is risen! This proclamation isn't just an event that we celebrate on Easter Sunday. It is our Christian affirmation every day of the year.

Christ is risen! Notice the present tense **is**. This isn't an event in the past. It is an ever present happening that gives joy to our life and faith!

Therefore, Christ is risen! Today! Tomorrow! Always! Even unto the end of the world!

And from all of us on your church staff may you have a Blessed Easter today, tomorrow, always and forever. God Bless You.

Edd	Cece	Beth	Lloyd
Mary Pat	Chris	Mary	
Jan	David	Jennifer	

## THE OUTDOOR WORSHIP CENTER

Brent shared that the Outdoor Worship Center would always be a “work in progress”. He was correct as new plants have been added for the spring season. Also, all of the memorial bricks in honor or memory of loved ones have been placed along the sidewalk in the Outdoor Worship Center. They look great and bring an awareness of beautiful people associated with First Christian Church.

There has been an interest by individuals and families to order some more memorial bricks. A sign-up sheet will be available on the table in the narthex. The cost of each brick is \$50.00. If you have any questions contact Brent Beatty or Edd Spencer.

## LAST CALL FOR

### 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. Please call the church office to make your reservations.

## WATERCOLOR CLASS

Learn to watercolor! A class is being offered at the church on Tuesdays through the month of April. April 1, 15, 22, and 29 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. with a break for lunch. There is no charge for this class, but you may need to buy a few supplies. The first class on April 1 will be about watercolor basics, techniques, etc. In the other classes we will complete one, possibly two, simple paintings in which you will use these techniques. This is a beginners class, no experience necessary. If you are interested, contact Carole Rudd at 678-2440 or email her at: [chrvol@aol.com](mailto:chrvol@aol.com) by March 30. We must have a minimum of six and a maximum of fifteen in order to have the class. Thanks.

## HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT'S COMING?

What is just around the corner and is for those of us that are silver around the edges... The right word for that is gilded. Now that you know who you are, you soon will know that something special is being planned just for you on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm here at our church. Mark your calendars now; there will be food of the finest and entertainment, with a laugh, just for you. It is a much needed time of gathering for us gilded folks that love the Lord. Tell you more later! *Janet Bonds*

## THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF NATURE

**Friday, April 11 at 7:30 pm**

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.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road  
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community This Week

	<u>Sunday, March 23</u>
	EASTER SUNDAY
6:30	Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast at Hargis
9:00	Sunday School
10:00	Easter Worship and Holy Baptism
	<u>Monday, March 24</u>
7:00	Men’s Bible Study on Job
10:00	Staff Meeting
6:30	Mission Council Meeting
	<u>Tuesday, March 25</u>
6:00	PEPP Program
	<u>Wednesday, March 26</u>
6:30	Choir Practice
6:30	Caring & Sharing at Pablo’s

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome into the membership of the church David Hamilton. He comes as a dual member with his membership in the Baptist church back home in Illinois and membership at First Christian Church in Birmingham. We celebrate that he wants to be a member of First Christian. His address is: 2002 Vale Street, Champaign, ILL 61822.

GRACE NOTES

- ✚ Our prayers are with all of the pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land March 25 – April 3. May God protect and be with them.
- ✚ While Edd & Mary Pat are in the Holy Land please contact Jan Watts, or co-chairs of the Elders, Clarissa Harms and Bud Flora for pastoral care.
- ✚ First Christian had ten new members by transfer of membership and three new members by baptism in 2007.
- ✚ Our prayers are with Holly Drum, whose father, Jim Moon, is in UAB.
- ✚ Congratulations to Cece on the birth of her granddaughter, Madison Michelle, born on March 12. She weighed 7lbs., 6ozs.
- ✚ Congratulations to Mark & Holly Bosarge, on the birth of their baby boy, Ryland Bennett, born on March 13. He weighed 6lbs., 12ozs. Proud maternal grandparents are Paul & Dar Lester, and proud aunt is Heidi Lester.
- ✚ The Adventure Nook needs baby wipes and riding toys for the gym. Thank you for any contribution that you can make.

LAST SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE  
WORSHIP 137

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:  
*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 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades)  
*Fine Arts Camp* - June 20-25 Cost \$210 ( youth completing 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades)  
The church pays half of the cost. Full scholarships available if needed.

OUTREACH MESSAGE

On March 6th, The Lovelady Center honored First Christian Church for our continued support of their program. Edd Spencer, Sharon Orazine (Outreach representative), Steve Pasky (CMF representative) and Jerry Wallace (Special Work representative) were invited to attend the daily morning worship service. We were recognized for our support with a special plaque and a standing ovation from over 250 women. We have been working with the Center for about 18-20 months. We have donated office supplies, personal care bags, pillows, sheets, blankets and money. Last year we helped with an Easter Egg Hunt, Thanksgiving dinner for 75, and the Christmas Shoe Box Ministry. On April 12th, the CMF will host an ice cream booth at their Spring Fair to help raise operational funds. The Easter "Love" Tree is now available. So, please take a paper egg from the tree and purchase some much needed items for these very brave women and their children. Most of the items can be purchased at the grocery store or you could make a \$25 donation to "The Lovelady Center". We will be receiving these items throughout the month of March. Don't forget to pick an "egg" from the tree on Sunday....or maybe two! We will be waiting for you at the door! Thank you all for your support and love that reaches out to these women and their children. They can feel the Grace of God flowing from our congregation. We are so proud to be a part of this.....*Blessings to all, Sharon and Elizabeth*

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON  
“Fulfillment of God’s Promise”  
2 Chronicles 6:12-17, Luke 24:44-49