

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

VOLUME X NUMBER 13 MARCH 25, 2008



## A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

When you receive this newsletter, we will be traveling down the road to Jerusalem in the Holy Land, a road similar to our highway 280. The following thoughts of Ann Weems symbolize the modern day road in Jerusalem:

### THE WAY

*The way to Jerusalem looks suspiciously like highway 40, and the pilgrims look suspiciously like you and me. I expected the road to Jerusalem to be crowded with holy people...clerics and saints... people who have kindness wrinkled in their faces and comfort lingering in their voices, but this is more like rush hour...horns blowing, people pushing, voices cursing. This is not what I envisioned! Instead of holiness the highway is crammed with the cacophony of chaos. Is there no back road to Jerusalem? No quiet path where angels tend to weary travelers? No sanctuary from the noise of the world? Just this? Can this hectic highway be the highway to heaven?*

It seems that we must travel the hectic and stressful highways of life in our journey to heaven. Even our Lord had to travel the painful road to Calvary. There must not be another way. But remember that on the journey, Jesus is with us. He even said... “and lo, I am always with you, even to the end of the age.” Thank you, Lord, for being our traveling companion. God Bless, Edd & Mary Pat

## 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.

The men of First Christian are blessed at their next meeting to have Richmond Flowers as their guest speaker. All men are encouraged to attend and bring a friend for a great meal and speaker. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex. The following is some information about Richmond Flowers.

Richmond Flowers grew up in a household of high expectations. His father was an Alabama state senator and later the Attorney General. As a child, Flowers was flat-footed, asthmatic and anemic. But he would later become arguably the greatest “prep track and field athlete” to hail from the state. While in high school, Flowers set the national high school record for the high hurdles and set the world record for a high school athlete running the college hurdles in 13.8. In the 1964 Alabama State Track Championships, he finished first in five events with five state records. Flowers ended his high school career with eight gold medals, two silver medals, five state records, two national records and one world record. Even today, 40 years later, his performance has not been approached. In 1965, with over 100 scholarship offers, Flowers elected to leave Alabama and go to the University of Tennessee where he would later become one of the most successful two sport athletes to compete in the SEC. In football, he was the leading pass receiver in Tennessee history (105 catches for 1,215 yards in 3 years), a record that stood for many years. He was a football All-American playing for Tennessee on an SEC Championship Team. As a Volunteer, Flowers played in a Gator Bowl, Orange Bowl and Cotton Bowl. In track, he was a four-time track and field All-American, an NCAA High Hurdle Champion and NCAA record holder in two events. In 1968, with sights set on the Mexico Olympic games, Flowers had become the number one hurdler in the world and was favored to win the gold. That year, he was just .10 second off the world 60 yard high hurdle record, becoming Tennessee's first NCAA Track Champion. Flowers defeated the world record holder, Earl McCullough, and finished first seven times in eight major meets. He also defeated Willie Davenport, the eventual 1968 Olympic Gold medallist, on Davenport's own home track, and then repeated the defeat the following day on Flowers' home track. Named the number one high hurdler in the world, Flowers' dream of winning the Olympic title ended on June 2, 1968, with a season ending hamstring injury. Flowers was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the second round of the NFL draft. In 1970, he was a member of the Cowboy's Super Bowl V Team. After he was traded to the New York Giants, where he became the starting strong safety, Flowers' seven-year professional career ended in 1975 due to injury. In 1998, Flowers was named one of the 12 Living Legends of SEC Football, representing the University of Tennessee. In March of 2002, Flowers was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

**CHRISTIAN MEN'S GATHERING  
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 6:30 PM**

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road  
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community This Week

- Sunday, March 30  
9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship Service  
5:30 Youth Groups  
5:45 Praise Kids  
7:00 Snack Supper  
Monday March 31  
10:00 Staff Meeting  
6:30 Christian Men’s Fellowship  
Tuesday, April 1  
9:00 Watercolor Class  
6:00 PEPP Program  
Wednesday, April 2  
6:30 Choir Practice  
Thursday, April 3  
Return from the Holy Land

GRACE NOTES

- † Our prayers are with all of the pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. 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.
- † Our prayers are with Inez Sikes, who is back in Shelby Ridge.
- † Pray for Sharon Freeman, who is home recovering from surgery on her back.
- † Our prayers are with Alta Mae Cezar, Cindy Thigpen’s mother, who fell and broke her hip.
- † Invite a friend to the Ken Jenkins program on Friday, April 11, at 7:30 pm., where he celebrates God’s creation in, “The Spiritual Side of Nature.”
- † Our prayers are with Conlee’s mother, Connie Talbot, who is having surgery for cancer on April 1 in Gainesville, Fl.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our joy is with Barbara Carpenter and William Mee, who confessed their faith and were baptized on Easter Sunday.

EASTER ATTENDANCE	
PRAYER VIGIL	45
SUNRISE SERVICE	63
EASTER WORSHIP	203

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON  
“Josiah Renews the Covenant”  
2 Chronicles 34:15, 18-19, 25-27, 29, 31-33

Scale Back Alabama Success!!!

Congratulations to all who participated in this state-wide program to become healthier through improved eating, increased physical activity, and weight loss! Eighty individuals in 20 teams of 4 each weighed in at FCC in January. Fifty one individuals weighed out this past week, for a total weight loss of 388 pounds in 10 weeks! Sixteen individuals lost 10 or more pounds each and will qualify for the \$250.00 prize drawings.

All members of the Alabama A’s team lost 10 pounds each and will qualify for the \$1000.00/member prize drawing. The team members are Conlee, Dan, Megan and Evan Alderson. Special congratulations to them! The top five losing teams and their total team weight loss were: PRC (team captain Susan Hales) – 56 pounds; Alabama A’s (team captain Conlee Alderson) - 46 pounds; Wannabees (team captain Carolyn Goodall) – 46 pounds; Whoppers (team captain Jim Langley) – 34 pounds; and Team Phat (team captain Brian Abston) – 33 pounds.

The most successful teams were those who supported each other, kept food records and regularly increased physical activity. Many participants voiced conviction to continue the healthy lifestyle changes until they become habits. Names of prize winners will be drawn in Montgomery on April1st at 10:00 am. For more information and success stories, visit the website at [www.scalebackalabama.com](http://www.scalebackalabama.com) . May God bless all who participated, and may He strengthen you in your convictions to continue to lead healthier lifestyles.

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.

REGIONAL 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.