

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME X NUMBER 10 MARCH 4, 2008



A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

The Thursday night Lenten services on “The Cups” have been special to us. Especially when you receive a beautiful thought on the cups as presented below. Gratitude is expressed to Hank Whitehead in sharing these wonderful thoughts with us.

A group of alumni, all highly established in their respective careers, got together for a visit with their old university professor. The conversation soon turned to complaints about the endless stress of work and life in general.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went into the kitchen and soon returned with a large pot of coffee and an eclectic assortment of cups: porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal - some plain, some expensive, some quite exquisite. Quietly he told them to help themselves to some fresh coffee.

When each of his former students had a cup of coffee in hand, the old professor quietly cleared his throat and began to patiently address the small gathering.

“You may have noticed that all of the nicer looking cups were taken up first, leaving behind the plainer and cheaper ones. While it is only natural for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is actually the source of much of your stress-related problems.”

He continued. . . “Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In fact, the cup merely disguises or dresses up what we drink. What each of you really wanted was coffee, not a cup, but you instinctively went for the best cups. . . Then you began eyeing each other’s cups.”

“Now consider this: Life is coffee. Jobs, money, and position in society are merely cups. They are just tools to shape and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not truly define nor change the quality of the Life we live. Often, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee that God has provided us. . . God brews the coffee, but he does not supply the cups. Enjoy your coffee!”

The happiest people don’t have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything they have. . . Live Simply, Love Generously, Care Deeply, Speak Kindly and leave the rest to GOD!

And always remember: The richest person is not the one who has the most, but the one who needs the least.

EASTER CANTATA SUNDAY, MARCH 9

The cantata, Praise the God of Resurrection, will be presented by the Chancel Choir next Sunday, March 9th at the 10 AM worship service. Be sure and spring forward on Saturday night because you do not want to be late for this wonderful offering in word and song. You will travel the breadth of human emotion found in the passion story of our Lord. From joyous hosannas, to hours of solitude and rejection, to glorious alleluias, the pervading theme is that ultimately God is in control. Walking through the last days of Jesus’ earthly life, our cantata this Easter season is a moving reminder of the power of the Living God. This work is a sensitive blending of scripture and inspired music that you will not want to miss. Jan

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 our last two services are as follows:

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.

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. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex.

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.

EASTER LILIES

Please sign up in the narthex for Easter Lilies in memory or honor of a loved one. The lilies are \$12 each. Please note on your check for “Lilies.” Cece

► **DON’T FORGET THE TIME CHANGE THIS SATURDAY – SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR!**

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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

Life In Our Community This Week

<u>Sunday, March 9</u>	
9:00	Sunday School
10:00	Choir Cantata in Worship
4:30	Pastor’s Class
5:30	Bible Study on Genesis
5:30	Youth Groups
5:45	Praise Kids
7:00	Snack Supper
<u>Monday, March 10</u>	
7:00	Men’s Bible Study on Job
10:00	Staff Meeting
6:30	Elders Gathering
<u>Tuesday, March 11</u>	
9:45	Chapel
6:00	PEPP Program
7:00	Finance Council
<u>Wednesday, March 12</u>	
9:45	Chapel
6:30	Choir Practice
<u>Thursday, March 13</u>	
6:15	Lenten Dinner
7:00	Lenten Worship
<u>Friday, March 14</u>	
2:30	Scale Back Weigh-Out
7:00	Scrabble at Joye Taylor’s

GRACE NOTES

- ✝ Time changes this Saturday, March 9th. So don’t forget to spring forward one hour Saturday night, or you’ll be late for church!
- ✝ Our sympathy is expressed to Pat and Russ Favorite and family on the passing of Pat’s sister, Vicki Silva. Vicki passed away Feb. 20. She is survived by 4 children and 6 grandchildren.
- ✝ Our sympathy is expressed to Annie Franklin in the loss of her uncle, Jack Stogsdill.
- ✝ We continue to be in need of card tables for church programs. If you have a card table to donate, or will buy one, please bring it to the church office.
- ✝ Our sympathy is expressed to June Pryor in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Roberson.

LAST SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE	
WORSHIP	145
SUNDAY SCHOOL	67

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
“God’s Covenant with David”
I Chronicles 17:1, 3-4, 6-15

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Thank you so much for your generous help with the canned goods. With so many clients in need, your help is sincerely appreciated. Thank you for being part of the community of servants that the Lord uses to make Oak Mountain Missions possible. May God bless you as you have blessed others. Thanks to generous donations such as yours, we are able to fulfill our purpose statement: “to love those who feel they are not loved and to share with those in need, as our Lord shares with us.” God Bless You, Oak Mt. Missions Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

Just a reminder.....if you didn't get to make a Week of Compassion special offering on Feb.24th, it's not too late. We will let you know how much we are sending from the congregation. Also, it appears we may be heading toward a small Outreach project each month with a \$10-15 request. For March, the Lovelady Tree is back!!! It will be available starting on March 9th and continue through the month. It is so rewarding to see the work of the church grow week by week as we make small donations that all add up-- so much help for so much need! In April, Liz and Sharon will be attending the Weekend of Compassion in Nashville for inspiration and fellowship. We will be back on April 13th to participate in the 3rd CROP WALK to be held in Birmingham. Last year we had only Edd as our representative. This is a project by Church World Services to raise money and awareness for world hunger. And 25% of the funds raised will stay in B'ham and be used by Greater B'ham Ministries. The rest goes throughout the U.S. and to the "ends of the earth". We have our own page on the local website: www.bhamcropwalk.org. You can go to this site, find First Christian Church under "groups". Please sign up and walk with us. We can make signs to carry and wear our Logo shirts. This will improve our health and our hearts! See you in the Outreach Corner. Blessings, Sharon and Liz

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.