



## First Christian Visitor

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

visit us at : [www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org) or call us at: 991-5000

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### OUTREACH NOTES

Lest anyone think we've been hibernating in anticipation of cold weather, let me assure you that FCC continues to reach out to our neighbors. In Galatians 6:2, we read, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." We are trying to ease the burdens of those around us in a number of ways.

**Blessing Boxes:** Since summer, we've been counting our blessings by contributing to our Blessing Boxes. Our blessings and our thankfulness to God for those blessings will enable us to share God's love by purchasing Christmas gifts for children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. Peggy Daniels has worked tirelessly on this effort, and on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, the Youth will help collect our Blessing Boxes. Please remember to count your blessings and to give generously to this special effort.

**Backpack Buddies:** With the start of the school year, we joined Vineyard Family Services' efforts to supply food to the neediest children in area schools. We are working with Vincent Elementary School and supplying food bags for 22 children who would otherwise have little to no food over the weekend. Vincent Elementary has a large number of students who are in great need; approximately 72% of their students are on free or reduced price lunches. Sandi Hamilton is heading up our participation in this effort.

**Book Drive:** Our newest effort is to collect 1200 books for local elementary schools (Inverness, Oak Mountain, and Vincent). It's difficult for me to imagine a home without books. Just as children need food and clothes, they also need books—books of their very own. Books provide entertainment, hopes, and essential literacy skills for young children. We're looking for gently used and/or new books suitable for kindergarten through third grade. Do you have some good children's books around your home that you could donate? Bring them to the Outreach table in the Nathex or contact Charlotte Brammer if you have questions.

**Sunday School Benevolence:** The adult Sunday school classes continue to reach out to the Owens House as well as local elementary schools. Gary Howard has recruited Gloria McWilliams and Regena Varvoutis to help in our efforts to serve Inverness Elementary and Oak Mountain Elementary. The backpacks we collected and stuffed in July really were a blessing to the children in these schools. Currently, we're anticipating cold weather and are collecting coats and hooded sweat shirts for children at these schools as well as at Vincent Elementary. Do you have **Koatz4Kids**? Bring them to the Farkas Room!

**Food Panty:** We will be opening a food pantry at FCC soon. As many of you know, the Sunday school classes have been preparing dry food boxes to assist families in immediate need, and then we have supplemented with Angel Food boxes as needed. In September, Angel Food Ministries closed, and we do not currently have access to a similar food source.

We are working to fill this gap for local people who need food. Stay tuned for more information on this important mission.

**Odds and Ends:** You may have noticed that we opened up as a Mission Station for one week in September for a group from Ohio. Our sister churches in Tuscaloosa and Cottondale are now open as Mission Stations for ongoing Tornado Relief. We continue, however, to partner with Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa. We purchased socks and underwear for approximately 40 children from Alberta City whose school and neighborhood were destroyed on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Jerry and Rita Wallace as well as Bob Smith have been instrumental in our efforts in Tuscaloosa.

These generous outreach efforts are only possible because of your generous support. Thank you for all that you do to help our neighbors.

Outreach Mission.

### WORSHIP AND WONDER GRADUATES

Reagan Everling, Haylee Horne, Georgia Horne, and William Watts have "graduated" from Children's Worship and Wonder. They have grown spiritually as they attended Children's Worship and Wonder since this ministry began in August 2009. They have learned to experience God and learn many stories of God. On September 29 and October 9, they attended a special worship called "Transitional Worship". Here they learned about worship that takes place in the sanctuary – how some things are done the same as in Children's Worship and some things are different. They have learned how to use the hymnal and pew Bible and how to follow the bulletin. They considered things they can do to help listen closely to the sermons. They have shared communion. On Sunday, October 9, during the worship service, FCC gifted them with their own parable box of "The Good Shepherd". We are very proud of these young people! Please welcome them into sanctuary worship as they continue their journey of faith.



### THE ADVENTURE NOOK FALL FESTIVAL

Come join us for our Fall Festival  
Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm – 7:30 p.m.  
We will have funfilled games for the children to play and win prizes! The cost is only \$7.00 per person. This includes food and games. (Please remember this is a fundraiser so if you do not eat, it is still the same cost). We will again have a raffle table with many items to try to win. Cost of tickets for raffle prizes are \$1.00 a ticket or six for \$5.00. You may purchase \$15.00 of raffle tickets by October 13th and receive a \$5.00 Belk's coupon. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, please drop it off by October 19th. Please have your child wear their costume. Menu: Chick-fil-A sandwiches, chips, brownies and drink.

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### **Life In Our Community This Week**

Sunday, October 16

#### Ministry Appreciation Sunday

9:00	Sunday School
9:45-10:15	Fellowship Moment
10:15	Worship Service
10:30	Worship & Wonder
3:00	Bell Choir
5:00	Praise Kids
6:15	Snack Supper
<u>Monday - Thursday</u>	
9:30 – 1:30	The Adventure Nook Preschool
<u>Monday, October 17</u>	
7:00	Men's Bible Study
10:00	Staff Meeting
<u>Tuesday, October 18</u>	
9:45	The Adventure Nook Chapel
10:00	Women's Bible Study
<u>Wednesday, October 19</u>	
6:30	Choir Practice
7:30	Cantata Practice
<u>Thursday, October 20</u>	
6:00 -7:30	The Adventure Nook Fall Festival
7:00	Advocates Bible Study
7:00	Women's Bible Study
<u>Saturday, October 22</u>	
9:00	Leaf-Peepers on Oak Mountain

### **GRACE NOTES**

- ⤴ Congratulations to Kathy Murphy on the birth of her granddaughter Isabelle. Isabelle was born on September 28 and weighed 9lbs 3ozs. The proud parents are Michael and Sara Askew.
- ⤴ Congratulations to Sarah and Tony Intoccia on the birth of their daughter, Liliana Joy. Liliana was born on October 4, and weighed 6lbs 12ozs.
- ⤴ Edd will be leading a group on Oak Mountain, Saturday, October 22 to enjoy the fall colors. Be at church at 9:00 am, with a day pack containing lunch, water, and snacks.
- ⤴ Acolytes and their parents will meet on Sunday 23 October after worship for lunch and an orientation meeting. The Acolytes are our candle lighters for worship, and children 5 years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to participate. Edd will call the parents for reservations.

### **BLESSING BOX**

If you're grateful that you can communicate with friends and family almost instantly through e-mail and texting, unlike letters that took days, put something in your **Blessing Box** this week.

### **YOUTH WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

During our mission station we met many people in our community who came and dropped off supplies for the tornado victims. One of those ladies was named Carol Lawton. As I helped unload water from her car I noticed beautiful art work in the back seat. She said that she recently started to paint, but what she really enjoyed was going around encouraging others to express themselves through painting. She said that she had gone to a couple of groups and shared with them a devotion and then invited them to paint on canvas a theme related to her talk. Naturally, I got her name and number. Carol Lawton and her friend will join us October 16 for our youth group. The Chi Rho and CYF youth will have the opportunity to create and paint and express themselves as we learn once again that worship can be in many forms.

The CYF will help with the Blessing Box ministry on Sunday, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 which will go towards the Angel Tree ministry at Christmas. The CYF will be at the collection station, counting the financial blessings received and wrapping the money. In addition, they will participate in the Belk Charity Sale on Saturday, November 5 at the Summit store. If you are interested in saving 20-70% store wide then see one of the CYF for a \$5.00 donation which will go towards their Inner City Mission trip next June. It is not too early to do your Christmas shopping and save and at the same time help the youth help others. The youth will also be selling the famous soups and the Boston Butts again this year. We will let you know the date soon. Thank you as always for your support.

### **MINISTRY APPRECIATION SUNDAY** **Sunday, October 16**

Every year in October we lift up a special ministry in the life of our church. This year on Sunday, October 16 we are going to celebrate the ministry of our Tornado Relief. First Christian was very active in helping people who were devastated by the tornado that hit Alabama in April. This Sunday we are going to recognize everyone who helped in the relief effort. We will probably have most of the church standing as it was a wonderful church-wide effort of outreach and Christian love to others. Well done, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

### **“THE DISCIPLES”**

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Wisdom for Ageing**

**Ecclesiastes 11: 9-12: 7, 13**

### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSONS**

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Christian character**

**Titus 2**

### **SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE**

**WORSHIP SERVICE 136**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL 62**