

First Christian Visitor

"Where the Grace of God Awaits You."
www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 03 JANUARY 19, 2010



Congregational Transformation Event February 12-13 - at First Christian Church

The regional Program Committee on Church Development is sponsoring the 3rd annual congregational transformation event here at our church on Feb. 12-13. This event is designed for clergy, congregational leaders and members. The theme is, "Being - Well: Congregational Health, Vitality and YOU." Our Friday night preacher will be Rev. Bill Lee, minister of Loudon Ave. Christian Church in Roanoke, VA. He will preach at 7:30. He is regarded as one of the most dynamic preachers in the Christian Church. He has also served as our Moderator for the Christian Church (DOC), is a strong advocate for health ministries and has created medical and social services to the disadvantaged. Several workshops will be held on Saturday. Topics include: Momentum for Life, "I will Lift My Eyes to the Hills: Help for Churches That Are Stuck, Sinking or Sapped," crafting a Transformation of Spiritual Life, True Community, Shalom and Sabbath.

This is a regional event for both lay people and clergy. The cost per congregation is \$250, which includes lunch on Saturday. Desserts will be provided by various congregations. Our nursery will be open for children under 3. Cokesbury will have a book display and valuable resources to help those who are seeking to be healthy in every way. Plan to attend and receive some special blessings, meet some new friends and get reacquainted with some old ones.

"Children's Worship and Wonder" Opportunity

FCC is offering a training session on March 19 -21 to train new leaders (story tellers and greeters) and anyone interested in learning ways to interact with and minister to children. Children's Worship & Wonder is a **ministry to children** that encourages children to experience God while learning about God. It involves helping children worship in a special place apart from the worshiping congregation, so they become able to worship meaningfully with the congregation. The key to this approach is a worship context for **telling and working with biblical stories**. The intent of this worship is to experience and praise God. Worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. Children experience the essential parts of worship, freed from the details of corporate worship, but in a worshiping atmosphere.

Cost to church members: Interest in and prayers for this children's ministry.

Deadline for Registration: February 26, 2010

Contact if Interested: Mary Pat Spencer or Joye Taylor.

COMPASSION CORNER

Week of Compassion (WOC) has been helping out during times of disaster for 65 years. Please go to their website for more information about who they are and how they represent The Disciples of Christ (DOC) congregations and Week of Compassion offerings. Search the site and find out how many connections there are that fall under WOC. See the way they are already responding and providing aid, almost immediately because they have been on the ground, in Haiti since 1965. They are there to let victims of disaster know that they do not stand alone. They are helping us share the abundance of God's love that would be impossible on our own! These survivors may not know Jesus Christ as their savior, but they can see his face in the volunteers as they work side by side to provide support and encouragement to those in need. Decide now to partner with other Disciples of Christ as you share your gifts through a monetary donation. Sharing resources changes lives.....theirs and yours! Thousands are believed to have perished. Others will die due to injuries and health issues. Millions of people have been affected. This is the worst earthquake to hit Haiti in over 200 years. Church World Service (CWS) is providing immediate and essential supplies to survivors including temporary shelter, food and health assistance thru WOC. CWS will also support Haitian communities in the long struggle to rebuild from this disaster. Please go to: weekofcompassion.org to see how we can make an enormous difference then make your donation thru the church. The people of Haiti need our help and our prayers. *Blessings, Sharon & Liz*

PLEDGE REPORT

We have received 69 pledges that represent \$275,472.00 toward our budget for 2010. If you have not made your pledge, please return your pledge card soon. We all need to share in our part of supporting the Lord's work at First Christian.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

All new officers, mission chairs, deacons and committee chairs will be installed in the morning worship on Sunday, January 24th. May God guide all of our new leaders for 2010.

DIACONATE MEETING

A diaconate meeting for all deacons is scheduled this Sunday, January 24th after worship, in the sanctuary. The purpose will be to welcome the new deacon class of 2012, review serving procedures, elect voting deacons for the Mission Council, and to elect a new chair for the deacons.

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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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:
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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, January 24

9:00	Sunday School
10:00	Worship Service
10:15	Worship & Wonder
5:30	Children & Youth
5:30	Bible Study
6:45	Snack Supper

Monday, January 25

7:00	Men's Bible Study
10:00	Staff Meeting
7:00	Mission Council

Tuesday, January 26

9:45	Chapel
12:45	The Adventure Nook Circus
6:30	Caring & Sharing

Wednesday, January 27

9:45	Chapel
10:00	Young at Heart
5:30	Shack Study
6:30	Choir Rehearsal

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Bob Lamb and family in the loss of his brother Ken.
- † We celebrate that our young people had a great trip to Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and the Great Smoky Mountains. They were the first group to use the new church bus and everything went great.
- † Please circle Feb. 12-13 on your calendar for the Transformation Workshop here at our church.
- † Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. We look forward to another year of Lenten Dinners and Lenten Worship services every Wednesday in Lent.
- † A reasonable goal for the new year is to have 100 in Sunday school and 200 in worship every Sunday. May each of us make the commitment of being present in church every Sunday.
- † Our prayers are with Bobby Holcombe, who was injured in a car accident in Orlando, Florida.
- † Lloyd Smith, our custodian, has purchased the old church van.
- † The children of First Christian are having a lock-in on Friday night, February 5.
- † George Dudley is a member of a group representing the AI/NW Region of the Christian Church (DOC) on a mission trip to Honduras.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING! THE TAN CIRCUS!

The Adventure Nook Circus is coming on Tuesday, January 26 at 12:45 pm. Parents, grandparents, family and friends are all invited.

Mary Decker's Retirement Recognition

Mary Decker has announced her retirement from First Christian as our Nursery Coordinator. Mary has been with us for 20 years and has nurtured many children through the years. Therefore, on Sunday, January 31, we will recognize Mary for her many years of service during our morning worship service. Also, we will have a pot luck lunch immediately after church where you will have the opportunity to personally greet and thank Mary. As part of our recognition we will present Mary with a Love Gift. If you wish to thank Mary in this way you may send your love gift by check to the church marked "Mary's love gift" or place in the offering plate Sunday. You may also go on our website at www.fcc-bhm.org, go to the bottom tab marked **giving** and make your gift on line.

SNACK SUPPER REMINDER

Can you believe ½ our youth group year is over? Some of the children and youth paid for ½ the year for our snack suppers on Sunday night; so it is now time to pay for the rest of the year, or either have your child (or children) bring \$2.00 each time. However, if you wish, you can pay for the remainder of the year for only \$22.50 per child or \$45.00 for two children. Make checks payable to First Christian, write "for snack suppers" on the memo line and drop in the offering plate, send to the church office or pay on line at our website at www.fcc-bhm.org. Go to the bottom of the homepage, find the Giving Bar and follow the directions. Thank you.

YOUNG AT HEART

A penny saved is a penny earned, thrifty is nifty, shopping until we drop. Let's do it!!! Ready all you Young at Heart? On Wednesday, January 27 at 10:00, we are going to crank up the new bus and head toward the thrift shops around Birmingham with Mary Pat being our guide. One of the important stops will be a Dutch lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe in Irondale, for some of the best fried green tomatoes. Be sure to sign up for this fun outing and save your pennies....they might just buy something that you really, really need. Janet

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, January 31st
"Revealed in Rejection"
Matthew 13: 54-58

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	52
WORSHIP	119

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN 2010

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord in 2010. Please choose one and notify Hugh Henderson, Gary Franklin, Edd or Mary Pat. All members are encouraged to serve as a member of a Mission.

Worship Mission: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.

Education Mission: Responsible for Sunday school of all ages, youth work and the total education program of the church.

Evangelism Mission: Responsible for bringing new members into the life of the church.

Fellowship Mission: Responsible for providing a social life and fellowship activities for the church.

Administration Mission: Responsible for the financial program, maintenance of property and general administration policies for the church.

Outreach Mission: Responsible for giving to the needy within Birmingham and throughout the world.

Membership Mission: Responsible for care and nurturing of church members.