

First Christian Visitor

"Where the Grace of God Awaits You."

www.fcc-bhm.org

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First Christian Church History Continued

In February, 1970, the choir presented a program of secular music at the fellowship supper, singing numbers from "Oklahoma" along with other popular hit tunes and love songs. At the end of the program, the church presented John Light with an engraved watch in recognition and appreciation of his 21 years of continuous service as Minister of Music. He and Mrs. Light were also given a cash gift. At the Convention of Christian Churches of Alabama held in Selma in April, 1970, Mr. J.T. Beale, State-Secretary Director, was presented a new Plymouth in appreciation of his 20 years of service. Mrs. Beale was given a bouquet of roses.

Our church mourned the death of our former associate minister, Larry Crane. He came to First Christian in 1954, just out of the School of Religion at Vanderbilt, and worked with Dr. Wayne Drash and Dr. Cecil Jarman. Larry made an indelible impression on our church, especially for his work with the youth. He was minister of Madison Avenue Christian Church in Covington, Kentucky at the time of his tragic death at age 41. He was survived by his wife Sarah and three small children. Dr. Giltner and several others attended his funeral in Chattanooga. In 1970, our nation was at war in Vietnam, but several of our young men had returned home safely while a few still remained there. Local television stations did daily "sign on" and "sign off" devotionals, and our ministers were frequently asked to participate in this.

At the Retreat, work was completed on Tine Davis Lodge and on a small meditation chapel overlooking the lake and the cross. This small chapel, which will only seat four persons, was given in memory of Carolyn Evans Reese by her husband and son, all active members of our church before moving to Texas. These were dedicated at vespers in September. The Guest House and Hamner Hall were dedicated at Thanksgiving worship in the Chapel. Construction began on Bernard House, which will be the home of the Administrator when completed. This was given by Mrs. H.O. Bernard, mother of Mildred Bernard Watson. The CWF presented a much needed pick-up truck to the Retreat, and it was christened the "Green Goddess".

In February, 1971, Dr. Giltner submitted his letter of resignation after 11 years of ministry at FCC, effective July 31. He had reached retirement age and felt it was time for a younger man to lead the church. He and Mrs. Giltner planned to move to Bernard House and devote their time and energy to the Retreat while remaining active members of the church.

Tine Davis, who had already done so much for the Retreat, paid for the completion of Bernard House and also gave a mobile home for boys' summer staff housing, a walk-in refrigerator and freezer for the kitchen in Giltner Lodge.

Every week I look forward to reading the testimony of the Elder of the Week. My Christian journey has been one of steady growth of faith, helped by some dedicated Christians I have known and loved.

Like so many of our members, I did not grow up in the Disciples of Christ church. I was raised in Memphis, Tennessee as an only child. My father was an Irish Catholic, and my mother converted when I was twelve. Up until that time, I attended Highland Presbyterian Church for Sunday school and U.B.S.

When I was twelve, I was baptized, received first communion, and was confirmed. I don't know what I believed, but I did as I was told. I attended parochial schools and I am grateful for the education I received. Spiritually, I had many doubts and questions, but kept up a good façade. I knew there was something missing, but didn't know how to get it. I believed in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but I had no joy or no real relationship.

I met my husband, Howard, in 1955 and we were married in 1957. In 1964, we were transferred to Birmingham. A few years later our daughter was born. We decided to attend church as a family. Howard was a life-long member of the Disciples of Christ and I was drawn to it because of the weekly communion.

We attended First Christian Church in Center Point for about three years. The feeling of something missing continued until I accepted Jesus as my personal savior and was re-baptized. For the first time in my life I felt complete. We moved our membership to Crestwood Christian and stayed until it closed. My faith grew through worship, bible study, communion, the CWF and through dedicated friends, elders, deacons and ministers.

First Christian Church has been such a blessing to me. I hope and pray that I can live up to the tremendous honor and privilege this congregation has bestowed upon me as an Elder.

CHURCH BUS

The youth are serious about their service project to purchase a new church bus. They have committed 10% of every dollar they earn to go toward a new bus. But they need your help. They are asking YOU to make a **one-time gift** towards a 15-passenger bus. Ken Horne, our Admin. Mission Chair, has offered to help in this project. Ken may call you, or you can contact Ken to make your gift. All gifts can be made to the "FCC Bus Fund". Donors will receive a personal thank you note from the young people. Your gift will help the children, youth and adults in our church make more memories- but in a safe and secure vehicle. If you would like to make a donation, you can contact Ken at: KCH@peaccorp.com or call him at 205-229-6107. Jesus said, "Ask, and you Shall Receive." So we are asking because we believe that "nothing is impossible for those who love the Lord."

First Christian Church
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**ELDER OF THE WEEK
PAT DEATON**

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

- Sunday, November 15
- 9:00 Sunday school
10:00 Worship Service
11:30 Ona/Ruth at Edith Carreras
4:00 Bell Choir
5:30 Adult Bible Study on the Parables
5:30 Children & Youth Groups
6:45 Snack Supper
- Monday, November 16
- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study
10:00 Staff meeting
6:30 Mission Council
- Tuesday, November 17
- 9:45 Chapel
7:00 Elders Calls
- Wednesday, November 18
- 9:45 Chapel
5:30 “The Shack” Study Group
6:30 Choir Practice
7:30 Cantata Practice

GRACE NOTES

- ✚ Our prayers are with Bud Flora, who is recovering from heart bypass surgery at St. Vincent’s.
- ✚ Our moderator Barry Storer has called a Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22. The purpose is to approve the 2010 Budget and the report of the Nominating Committee.
- ✚ Special thanks to our church family, Edd & Mary Pat, Elders and Christian Comrades class for your prayers, visits and cards. You have lifted up both of us at this difficult time. Love to all, *Charles & Peggy Daniels*
- ✚ Please sign up for Christmas Poinsettias in the narthex.
- ✚ John Hard flew up to Washington, DC with other WWII veterans to be recognized for their service to the country.
- ✚ Edd will be preaching at the Community Thanksgiving Service at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 22nd at 6:30 pm.
- ✚ Our young people will be lighting the Advent Candles this year.
- ✚ Our Stewardship Campaign for the 2010 Budget begins on Sunday, November 22. We are blessed to have Todd Adams, the Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (DOC), to bring the morning message.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
Sunday, November 15
“A Suffering People”
1 Peter 4:12-19

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CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent we will have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your special gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church office in care of Conlee Alderson. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us. *Thank you, Conlee Alderson, Chair of the Personnel Committee*

COMPASSION CORNER

Great News! We have adopted a family for Christmas. There is a single mother with 3 children who needs our help. She lost her job right after the major charities closed their lists for Christmas help. Luckily, we got a call from DHR in Shelby County to help out with a power bill and now we have been given the opportunity to do even more! The children are 10, 7 and 4. If you are part of a group in the church and would like to volunteer to sponsor a child, the mother, Christmas dinner, a tree and decorations or perhaps help with utilities, please contact me! I would love to have this project completed by Dec. 1. I will be available for questions and a sign-up list each Sunday, starting Nov. 15th in the narthex after service.

Also, on November 29th, Outreach will be asking for another \$5 bill. This goes towards a Global Mission Project. I remind you, if you eat lunch out during the week, have Starbuck’s coffee, see a movie or purchase fast food , you could skip just one thing and work together to bring about change in our world! We can reach beyondto the ends of the earth! Blessings, Sharon and Liz...991-7168.

YOUNG AT HEART

Wednesday, November 18 at 10:00 am

Blue Bell moments, ahhh, does that ring your bell? Yes, the Young at Heart is taking that promised trip to Sylacauga... to the Blue Bell Ice Cream factory. Yum, can you taste it now? Our trip will begin with a lunch in Sylacauga, Artena Maries Cafe about a block from Blue Bell, and then we will tour the production of ice cream at Blue Bell. Sound fun? We will meet at the church Wednesday morning at 10:00 on November 18. Be sure to sign up for this fun trip and bring along a hungry friend. And yes, they have sugarless too...and the smells are fantastic. (If you want, you can sit in the ice cream parlor and see part of the production without walking around and guess how many flavors they have on that day).

See ya! Janet

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE
SUNDAY SCHOOL 54
WORSHIP 141