

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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First Christian Church History Continued

On Easter, 1971, more than 700 people attended the two worship services, sunrise at the Retreat and morning worship at church for Dr. Giltner's last Easter sermon in active ministry, "What Can I Believe about Heaven?"

In April, 1971, the 86th annual Alabama Area Convention of Christian Churches was held at the Retreat with Dr. Ewart H. Wyle, Sr., former minister of our church and in 1971 minister of Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla, California, as guest leader.

Dr. Giltner ended his ministry at our church on the last Sunday in June, and a reception and service of recognition was held on July 18, 1971, to honor Dr. and Mrs. Giltner upon the occasion of their retirement from active ministry. Dr. Frank Rose, former president of the University of Alabama, came from New York. The Giltners' daughters and their families came from Texas and Virginia. Dr. and Mrs. Giltner moved to their new home, Bernard House, at Hargis Christian Retreat where he would serve as administrator and she would serve as hostess. Dr. Jerry C. Smith succeeded Dr. Giltner as minister of First Christian Church.

In October, Dr. Smith was formally installed as minister on Homecoming Sunday with Dr. Giltner leading the service of installation. The following Sunday Dr. Giltner was presented the Honored Minister's Pin during observance of Week of the Ministry.

Bernard House was dedicated at Thanksgiving worship in Hargis Chapel, and the Giltners held an open house on December 12, 1971.

In May, 1972, our church launched a campaign to underwrite the approved renovation of the kitchen and parlor and to install a new pipe organ. By Homecoming in October, the parlor had been completely redecorated, work was under way on the assembly of a Wicks pipe organ at the factory, and kitchen renovation was ready to begin. Installation of the organ was estimated to begin in January, 1973, taking approximately two weeks.

In June, 1972, Edward W. Spencer, Jr., completed his seminary education and received the Master of Divinity degree. He delivered the sermon at morning worship on July 9, and was ordained at a service in the sanctuary that afternoon. He and Mary Pat served their first pastorate at Azalea Hills Christian Church in Mobile.

Mr. Robert Capra, regional representative for Wicks Organ Company, presented the program at the January, 1973, fellowship supper. He had sample organ pipes to sound and other parts of a pipe organ to demonstrate. He also showed slides of the company and talked about the new organ which had been delivered and was in the process of being installed. Mr. Capra, an accomplished organist, promised to personally handle installation and also to service the instrument regularly. He found the sanctuary to be acoustically perfect and that, along

with the tone quality of the organ, should provide a magnificent sound.

The newly remodeled kitchen was in operation for the February fellowship supper, so the renovation project was complete with the redecoration of the parlor, the new kitchen and the installation of the Wicks pipe organ. The organ was heard in worship for the first time on March 11, 1973. This is the same wonderful organ that was moved to our present location on Valleydale Road in 1981, into the new sanctuary in January, 1990, and which David plays so beautifully today.

THE 2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It is that time of the year when we focus our attention on our commitments to the Lord in 2010. The following is a calendar of the different events that will highlight our Stewardship Campaign.

Sunday, Nov. 22 – Todd Adams will begin our campaign with a Stewardship sermon. Please be present as this guest preacher shares his thoughts on the joy of giving. Edd and Mary Pat will serve as worship leaders.

Monday, Nov. 23 – Commitment Cards will be mailed to all members of the church.

Sunday, Nov. 29 – Edd will share an Advent/Stewardship sermon and Gary Franklin will share his personal thoughts on stewardship and Christian commitments.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 – The Stewardship Campaign Committee, under the direction of Annie Franklin, will serve a chili/soup and potato bar dinner. The dinner begins at 6:00 pm and is free. After dinner at 6:30 pm there will be a thirty-minute program of questions and answers on the 2010 Budget, a humorous skit, and a worship devotional from Worship & Wonder.

Sunday, Dec. 6 – Commitment Sunday where we share our promises with the Lord in morning worship.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our church is joining in worship and fellowship with several other churches for a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 22nd at 6:00 pm, at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Edd will bring the Thanksgiving message. Please join us in thanking God for our blessings through the Word, music and Christian fellowship.

NATIVITY SET RAFFLE

The youth of will raffle a large, hand carved, olive wood, **Musical Nativity Set** from Bethlehem, valued at \$975.00. The set includes: 14 individually carved figures plus the stable. All pieces store in a 20" x 17" box. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be Sunday, Nov. 29th. You do not need to be present to win. All proceeds go towards the 2010 Youth Mission Trip.

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, November 22</u>
9:00	Sunday school
10:00	Stewardship Campaign begins with Todd Adams preaching
11:00	Congregational Meeting
4:00	Bell Choir
5:30	Children & Youth Groups
6:00	Community Thanksgiving Service at Shepherd of the Hills Church
6:45	Snack Supper
	<u>Monday, November 23</u>
7:00	Men's Bible Study
10:00	Staff meeting
	<u>Tuesday, November 24</u>
9:45	Chapel
6:30	Caring & Sharing
7:00	Elders Calls
	<u>Wednesday, November 25</u>
9:45	Chapel
	<u>Saturday, November 28</u>
10:00	Decorate the church for Christmas

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Chris McCayna, on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Young. Cards can be sent to:
The McCayna Family
5065 Pinehurst Terrace
Birmingham, Al 35242
- † Our prayers are with Gail Burton who is at home recovering from surgery.
- † We continue to lift up Jan Watts, Charles Daniels and Bud Flora in prayer. They are all recovering from surgeries and doing well.
- † Our prayers are with Ginny White's daughter, Robin Miller.
- † Sign up for Poinsettias on the chart in the narthex in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost is \$17 per poinsettia.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Jim Colee on the loss of his grandmother, Mrs. Laura DeMarco. Her funeral was held Nov. 12 in Nashville, TN.
- † Kay Keith needs you on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 10:00 am. Everyone that can, please come and help decorate our church for the Christmas season.
- † Our Moderator, Barry Storer, has called a Congregational Meeting, Sunday, Nov. 22nd after church, to approve the 2010 Budget and the report of the Nominating Committee.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	47
WORSHIP	95

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 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 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*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Our youth will be lighting the Advent Candles this year in morning worship. The schedule is as follows:
Nov. 29 - Ayana Crosby & Alyssa Lamb
Dec. 6— Jacob Thigpen & Emma Harms
Dec. 13 - Cayla Corbin & Jenny Parkko
Dec. 20— Cayla Corbin & Tyler Good
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services
7:00 pm service - Katherine Mee & Morgan Natale
11:00 pm service - Corey Tabb & Cayla Corbin.

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 this year to go towards a new bus. However, they need your help. They are asking for YOU to make a **one time gift** towards a 15 passenger bus. Ken Horne, our Administrative Mission Chair, has offered to help in this project. If you would like to make a donation, please see Ken.

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Nov. 29 -First Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Advent Candles
Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent
Commitment Sunday
Sunday, Dec 13 – Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata, “The Mystery And the Majesty.”
All-church Christmas Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 20- Christmas Sunday
Christmas Offering
Thursday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service at 7:00 and
11:00 pm. Holy Baptism
Friday, Dec. 25–Merry Christmas!

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
Sunday, November 22
“A Faithful People”
2 Peter 1:13-15

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