

# First Christian Visitor

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

[www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org)

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 46 NOVEMBER 24, 2009



## ADVENT GREETINGS

This Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent. It is the day we enter the season of Advent. A season when we once more look forward to Christmas Day and the celebration of the birth of Christ.

It is also a season where each one of us have our list and feel relief in checking off each item: Christmas cards, buying and wrapping gifts, decorating the house, and going to parties. But may we also remember the reason for the season – the birth of Jesus Christ.

Therefore it is our prayer that during Advent we will prepare not just our homes for Christ, but also our hearts. May we have our hearts filled with joy as we sing, “Joy to the World, the Lord has Come.”

*Wishing you a wonderful Advent Season,  
Edd & Mary Pat*

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

The congregation approved the following at the congregational meeting, Sunday, November 22.

### The Nominating Committee Report

Office	Name
Moderator Elect	Hugh Henderson
Trustees	Libby Carpenter Hugh Henderson Bruce Moon
Treasurer	Dan Alderson
Secretary	Regena Varvoutis
Members at Large	Barry Storer Bob Smith

### Deacons (Class of 2012)

Conlee Alderson	Dan Alderson
Linda Byrd	Jose Carreras
Nick Cotruvo	Paulette Farquhar
Russ Favorite	Dotsy Kennedy
Jack Kennedy	Bob Lamb
Janice Lamb	Connie Tabb
Gary Taylor	Art Varvoutis
Regena Varvoutis	Ginny White

**The 2010 Budget: \$ 512,563**

## STEWARDSHIP DINNER

The Finance Council is sponsoring a Stewardship Dinner on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 pm. The dinner is free and will consist of chili/soup, a potato bar, salad and desert. After the dinner at 6:30, there will be a thirty-minute program of questions and answers about the 2010 budget, a skit on the joy of giving by Edd and David Brasher, and a worship devotional from Worship & Wonder. The nursery will be open. Please sign up the Sunday on the chart in the narthex.

### SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	47
WORSHIP	120

**NEW LOVE, NEW MERCY**

This week you will receive your commitment card for your giving to the Lord's church in 2010. The theme on the card is “New love, New Mercy”, which comes from Lamentations 3:21-24:

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in God.”

As we enter a new year of life, may we celebrate a new love with Christ and a new mercy with Him. For His mercies never come to an end and they are new every morning.

In 2010, let each one of us connect again to the love and mercy of God through our commitments. May we be growing as joyful stewards in the Lord.

## ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The All-Church Christmas Dinner will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 13. The Fellowship Mission is providing us with a great Christmas Dinner consisting of:

Roast Prime Rib of Beef  
rosemary whipped potatoes  
fresh vegetable medley,  
southern style green beans,  
fresh tossed greens w/sherry vinaigrette dressing  
hard rolls, cobbler a la mode  
coffee, tea, and water

The cost is \$9.00 for adults, children 5-10 years old \$4.00 and children under 5 are free. Please make your reservations on the envelope in your pews. Reservations must be made and paid for no later than noon on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Come and invite a friend for a wonderful dinner and Christian fellowship.

## 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.

## 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*

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road

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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: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4954 VALLEYDALE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242.

Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, November 29  
9:00 Sunday school  
10:00 Worship Service with Advent  
Candle lighting by the youth  
Monday, November 30  
7:00 Men’s Bible Study  
10:00 Staff meeting  
Tuesday, December 1  
9:45 Chapel  
7:00 Elders Calls  
Wednesday, December 2  
9:45 Chapel  
6:00 Stewardship Dinner  
7:00 Choir Practice  
Thursday, December 3  
12:00 Staff Christmas Luncheon

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Nov. 29 -First Sunday of Advent  
Lighting of the Advent Candles  
Sunday, Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent  
Commitment Sunday  
Hanging of the Greens  
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 – Contemporary Christmas  
Eve Candlelight Communion and  
Baptism Service at 7:00 and  
Traditional Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Communion Service  
At 11:00 pm.  
Friday, Dec. 25–Merry Christmas!  
Sunday, Dec. 27- College Recognition Sunday

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.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON  
Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>  
“A Hopeful People”  
2 Peter 3:1-13

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To My Beloved Church Family,

It is hard for me to express what is in my heart, but I want to try. I am filled with gratitude and love for you and all that you have given me. Your support and love for me has helped me through this ordeal. First, I need to acknowledge my husband, Bill, and my children, all members of this congregation, who have taken such good care of me, but you, my family in Christ, have supported us all. The choir, who not only fed us for a week, but have been with me through love and prayers consistently from the beginning of this faith walk I have taken. God is indeed a God who answers prayer. The Elders, who by laying on of hands and prayer, started the healing process. Our Lord is a healing God. All of you who were there, before, during, and after my surgery, praying and holding our hands. I may not have been fully conscious, but I felt your presence. God is a God of love and I was surrounded by His and yours. To all of you who have sent me cards, flowers, balloons, words of healing, words of wisdom, words of love and kept me in your prayers, I thank you. I know that The Adventure Nook was also praying for as well as our church staff. I also want to thank Edd and Mary Pat. I know that our God is still a God of miracles for He has given me not just one, but many over the past month. “My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” I am blessed to have such a strong church family and I know that you will always be there for me, even as I go through it all again in February. My prayer is that I can be there for you as you have been for me, and with the help and guidance of our Lord and Savior, I will. I love you all, my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Peace and love in Christ, Jan.*

SPREAD THE LIGHT

The CYF youth invite you to help them “Spread the Light of Christ” during this Advent season as we prepared to honor the Christ Child. We can each honor the Christ in those we love as well as those who have touched our lives by donating \$5.00 in honor or memory of someone who has shared Christ’s light with you. The CYF will be in the narthex Dec. 6, 13, and 20 to receive your donations. The names of those you will honor will be placed in both our Christmas Eve bulletins and displayed on the office windows. Thank you in advance for helping us spread Christ’s light. Your donations will help the youth on their mission trip.