

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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A CHRISTMAS WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

At Christmas we remember that Christ came down to Bethlehem not just to be worshipped and admired as a baby. He came down to be Savior and Lord, and wants to gain entrance into our lives. There is a story about a German prince, who wanted a very expensive violin, but never was able to buy it. One night, an old man carrying a violin case knocked at his door. They would not let him see the prince, but finally they delivered his message, “Heaven’s music is waiting at your door.” So the prince let the old man in and he took out his shabby violin and began to play for the prince. It was beautiful music and the prince was so moved, he wanted to buy the violin. He offered a large amount of money for it. The old man said, “It is not for sale, but you can have it on one condition, that I be allowed to live within your house all the days of my life and be allowed to play the violin every day.” The prince agreed.

In the same way, Christ came down into our lives at Bethlehem to bring us life if we will let Him dwell in our lives all of our days. If we will let Him use us to accomplish His music in the world.

May each one of us let this happen in our lives this Christmas. May we sing the song of joy, love and peace on earth. *God Bless You, Edd & Mary Pat*

2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

Below is the proposed budget for 2010. These figures lift up our ministry as a church for the new year. Please call Libby Carpenter or Gary Franklin if you have any questions.

Administration	\$ 29,427
Property & Maintenance	\$ 106,467
Communications	\$ 3,500
Personnel	\$ 287,135
Stewardship	\$ 900
Fellowship	\$ 1,012
Worship	\$ 2,503
Membership	\$ 2,825
Evangelism	\$ 2,500
Music	\$ 9,050
Education	\$ 9,700
Outreach	\$ 6,750
BMF & Local Outreach (11%)	\$ 50,795
Total FCC Budget	\$ 512,563

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

This Sunday, December 6th, we will dedicate our financial commitments to the Lord. You should have received your commitment cards in the mail along with a privacy envelope. Please return your card to the church by mail or bring it this Sunday.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, December 6th
“The Lineage of David”

Ruth 4:13-17, Matthew 1:1-6

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The All-Church Christmas Dinner will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 13. Come enjoy the Christmas Cantata and then stay for the dinner. 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 8th. Come and invite a friend for a wonderful dinner and Christian fellowship.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 13th

The Chancel Choir is excited in sharing with you the Christmas Cantata, “The Mystery and the Majesty” in worship on Sunday, December 13th. It is a beautiful cantata celebrating the miracle of Christ’s birth. Come and invite a friend as we worship together, allowing the chapels of our hearts to overflow with the mystery and majesty of Christmas.

COLUMBARIUM INTRODUCTORY PRICE PERIOD ENDS SOON!

If you are considering having your cremated remains inurned in our beautiful new Columbarium after your death, now is the time to make that known in order to take advantage of our reduced “introductory” price for the niches. In January, niche prices will go up to the standard rate of \$1500 each. You can convey your interest in the Columbarium and realize the introductory \$1000 per niche price by completing the commitment forms provided to each family last summer (extra copies are available in the FCC office). The introductory price can be honored only if you pay at least \$250 towards the price of each reserved niche by Dec. 31. Payment arrangements for remitting the balance due for all reserved niches by the end of 2010 can be made with Cece. The selection and reservation of your specific niche(s) will be done upon payment in full. For any questions, please contact a member of the Columbarium committee: Jim and Ann Langley, Clarissa Harms, Jim Baxter, Hugh Henderson.

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	n/a
WORSHIP	157

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

	<u>Sunday, December 6</u>
9:00	Sunday school
10:00	Worship & Commitment Sunday
11:30	Rebekah with Lucille Leaman
5:30	Parables of Luke
5:30	Youth & Children Groups
6:45	Snack Supper
	<u>Monday, December 7</u>
7:00	Men’s Bible Study
10:00	Staff meeting
6:30	Elders Party at Clarissa Harms
	<u>Tuesday, December 8</u>
9:45	Chapel
7:00	Finance Council
	<u>Wednesday, December 9</u>
9:45	Chapel
12:00	Young at Heart Christmas Party at Janet Bonds
6:30	Choir Practice
	<u>Saturday, December 12</u>
8:00-1:30	Christmas Cantata Practice

GRACE NOTES

- ✝ Our prayers are with Mac Heaton and Virginia Powell, who are both in the hospital recovering from congestive heart failure.
- ✝ Congratulations goes out to Mary Aiken, who won the drawing for the olivewood nativity scene given away by the youth.
- ✝ If the Lord has blessed you with financial blessings this year, please consider sharing with the Lord. Contact Cece for a special end-of-the-year gift to the church.
- ✝ Our appreciation is expressed to the following who decorated the church so beautifully for Christmas. Thank you to: Kay Keith, Jim & Beverly Baxter, their grandchildren, Anna and Karaley Carmichael, Bob Smith and his son, Kathy Murphy, Wanda Swihart, Aneda Chandler and Mary Pat Spencer.
- ✝ Our young people will hang the green wreaths on the walls by the stained glass windows this Sunday.
- ✝ Please return your commitment card to the church office as soon as possible. God Bless You.
- ✝ The Christian Comrades Christmas Party will be Saturday, Dec. 19, at 12:00 at the home of Carole & Nickey Rudd.

► Please note that we will not publish a Visitor the last week of December (28-31) as per our bulk mail permit.

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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Thursday, Dec. 3, 11:30- Staff Christmas Party
Monday, Dec. 7, 6:30 – Elders Christmas Party
At Clarissa Harm’s
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 12:00 – Young at Heart
Christmas Party at Janet Bonds
Sunday, Dec. 13, 11:30 – All-Church Christmas
Dinner
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:30 – Choir Christmas
Party at Jan Watts
Sunday, Dec. 19, 12:00 – Comrades Christmas
Party at Carole & Nickey Rudd’s
Sunday, Dec. 20, 5:30 – Youth Christmas Party
Monday, Dec. 21, 7:00 – Men’s Bible Study
Christmas Breakfast
Monday, Dec. 21, 6:30 – Mission Council
Christmas Party at Libby Carpenters
Please contact the church office if your Christmas
party is not listed.

YOUNG AT HEART

Christmas Magic and Salad... that's what our Young at Heart is all about this Wednesday, December 9th. Bring a salad, your jolly self and maybe a friend or two, and lets celebrate Christ's love for us in fellowship and fun. We will be leaving the church at 11:15 and travel to Chelsea. The back door will always be open, so come on in, rain or shine. That's at my house at 156 El Camino Real, Chelsea. (or call me for directions) Janet

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