

First Christian Visitor

"Where the Grace of God Awaits You."

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SACRED HARP CONVENTION

June 17-19

The Sacred Harp singers *love* to come to First Christian Church for their National Convention! The accommodations, your warm reception for those attending (both singers and listeners) are helpful in making this a memorable event in our lives. This is the third year at our church, and the thirty-first year of the National Convention.

This is not a pilgrimage, but singers will come from many states: Maine to California, Florida to Oregon, and also from England and Canada. It is an opportunity to join fellow singers in a cappella songs of praise and inspiration. Most will be from throughout Alabama because of the church being located among the many devotees living here.

There is no charge for attendance nor is there a charge for refreshments and lunch each day. Some people living near bring food, but it is primarily arranged by a family who brings basic food along with fried chicken, ham, etc. They have done this for years, and their food service contacts prepare the food. You are encouraged to prepare and share dishes you wish to bring.

We take up an offering each day to pay for the food and other expenses including a contribution for the hospitality of First Christian Church. Help from our congregation is needed in making everything go smoothly: greeting people, parking cars, giving guidance to our facilities, making visitors glad they came here.

Visitors are encouraged to sing along. Pick up a "loaner book", sit in the section where you prefer to sing and join in the songs you choose. So you make a mistake - nobody cares - enjoy. The sections are: alto in the chancel area, bass in front left as you face the chancel area, treble in front right (this is the highest tone), and tenor sits in the main seating area, and always as near as possible to the front facing the designated leader. Tenor is the melody part and most people will sing this part. Listeners may sit wherever you choose.

The volume will be loud, as most songs are sung at full voice. The singing starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. The officers each direct a song each day before others are called on to direct their song choice. As a vice-chair of the singing, yours truly will be one of the first three people directing each day. This should get you out early! During this beginning of each day, people are arriving, finding their seats and settling in. So to keep confusion minimal - come early! *Hubert Nall*

NEW WORSHIP TIME - 10:15 am

The Mission Council affirmed the positive vote by the congregation to change the time that worship

service will begin. The positive aspect for the change will be that Sunday School will be free of any interruptions, thereby allowing choir members, teachers, and others serving in worship to remain in class. Worship service now begins at 10:15 am.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE

June 13	Blessing of the Pets
June 17-19	Sacred Harp Music Convention
June 20	Father's Day
June 21	Mulch Work Party
June 27	All-Church Ice Cream Social

These are just a few of our all-church moments together. Many other activities such as Worship, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Young At Heart, Elder Gathering, Men's & Women's meetings, Mission meetings, and other ministries will be happening.

BLESSING OF THE PETS

One June 13, we will have a worship service in the prayer garden at 6:30pm with a Blessing of the Pets and a memorial for our pets that we have lost. Bring your family pet, on a leash or in a cage please, and join us for this service. The Fellowship Mission will be serving ice cream and cookies after the service. If you have lost a loved pet within the last couple of years and would like to have your family pet remembered at this service, please let the church office know.

THE PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer concern or a special joy to share, call the church office and ask that it be put on the prayer chain. I will be notified of your request (or Jean Nicholson if I'm not available) and I will initiate the call, which then goes out to all 50 participating members of the group. At that time we form our unseen circle of intercessory prayer for your request. If you would like more information or if you wish to join us in this prayer ministry, please call the church office or me at 822-5645 or email me at claradelcsh@aol.com.

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:6, 7)

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	48
WORSHIP	116
CAMP HIGH HOPES	22

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, June 13

9:00 Sunday School
10:15 Worship Service
11:30 Ona/Ruth
6:30 Blessing of the Pets

Monday, June 14

7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Elder Gathering

Tuesday, June 15

7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, June 16

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 17

7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19

9:30 -2:30 Sacred Harp Convention

GRACE NOTES

- † Don't forget our worship service begins at 10:15 am every Sunday morning.
- † Our prayers are with Beth Erwin, who is at home recovering from a fall.
- † Our Christian gratitude is expressed to John Hard, who shares Holy Communion with our shut-ins every Thursday.
- † Our appreciation is expressed to Beverly Baxter and Lloyd Smith, who cleaned up the Christian Education closet after a pipe burst in the ceiling causing water damage.
- † Our children are enjoying a week of Fun, Food and Fitness.
- † The following are attending summer camps at Hargis: Teanna Cason, Regan Everling, Barbara Carpenter and Alyssa Lamb.
- † Miracle Day in Anniston was a blessing. There were 170 people from Alabama N/W Florida painting the sanctuary and fellowship hall, building a playground and prayer garden. Those from our church were George & Judy Dudley, Bud & Georgia Flora, Jim & Janice Clifford, Pepper Edwards and Carl Flock. Well done good and faithful servants.
- † Congratulations to Mallory Wilson, who graduated from Grissom HS in Huntsville. He is a member of First Christian Huntsville and is going to Auburn University. The proud grandparents are Boyce & Virginia Guthrie.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, June 13th

“Christian Apologetics Islam”

New Testament Empires

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Dr. Allen C. Garner began his ministry at First Christian Church in August, 1978. The Shepherd Program planned meetings in homes during September, October and November so everyone would have the opportunity to meet Allen and Katie and enjoy dessert and fellowship with them.

Dr. Garner's installation service on September 24 was led by Rev. Carl Flock, Regional Minister of AL/NW Florida, and Rev. Flock also brought the message at morning worship. Dr. and Mrs. Garner were honored at a reception that afternoon.

Our annual Homecoming celebration was held on the first Sunday in October, always a joyful time of worship, fellowship and good food. Later in October the CWF sponsored a Farmer Brown dinner and square dance with proceeds donated to the KOP fund. Many enjoyed fresh turnip greens and cornbread as well as square dancing and the Trash and Treasure sale.

Several exciting proposals were discussed at the October meeting of the Official Board, one of which, submitted by Bill Conwell, asked that a committee be appointed to consider buying property for a future church. It was determined that the south Homewood area was the center of our congregation and that property was available between Highways 280 and 31 South on Valleydale Road as well as near Highways 150 and 31 South. Further development of Hargis Christian Retreat and the need to revise the church constitution were also proposed.

A stewardship rally was held in mid-November with each department presenting its budget needs in the form of clever skits. Commitment Sunday followed with members placing their pledges and offerings in the Joash Chest. This was also a day of Thanksgiving emphasis and a Festival of Harvest with children bringing offerings of fruit. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated with a service in Hargis Memorial Chapel followed by the traditional dinner in Giltner Lodge.

Advent began with the beautiful Hanging of the Greens service. There was a Christmas breakfast and Sunday School Open House in mid-December, also a Christmas fellowship dinner followed by the Christmas pageant. A sock tree in the education building was decorated for the children of the Southern Christian Home in Atlanta. Christmas Eve began with Sunday school and morning worship, followed by a special Christmas coffee hour. The day ended with an 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service and meditation on "When God said, 'I love you' ".

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