

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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GOD LOVES YOU!

Someone figured out that a blond person has about 145,000 hairs on his/her head. A dark-headed person has about 120,000 and a red-headed person has about 90,000. That means God's love for you and me must be very detailed, since the scriptures say that "the very hairs of our head are numbered." That is a way of saying that in God's eyes we are never lost in the crowd. A God who counts the hairs on our head must know and love us very much. You are somebody special in God's eyes. God doesn't just love humankind, God loves YOU. So hold your head a bit higher today. God thinks you are worth something. So should you.

GALACTIC BLAST! VBS July 25-29: 9:30-11:30

Our VBS is going to be a BLAST!! Plan now to come and share in the excitement and fun that await all our Cadets age 4 through those who have completed the 6th grade. Our Space Cadets will gather in our Starship (Family Life Center) and experience upbeat music and motions as we begin our time together. Then they will meet the Commander of our Starship and our Special Starship Green Gorilla named Galileo. They will also discover exactly how he became green. Next their leaders will take them to the following: Cosmic crafts, Good News Galaxy with Bible Storytelling and Sign language, Orbital Observatory as they carry out science experiments and discover what an awesome God we have. Then our Cadets will get a little snack at our Galactic Café. At the close of the morning, our Cadets will return to our Starship (Family Life Center) and again enjoy some fantastic music and motions and even take home their own CD so they can learn the music. Our Cadets will have an opportunity to recap their day and look forward to the next. Don't forget our mission – to help those who need food. So each Cadet is encouraged to bring at least one canned good a day to complete our mission for Oak Mountain Ministries. So tell all your friends and neighbors to sign up soon because we are almost ready for take off, and we want to be sure that you are on board. Register now on the orange forms in the narthex. Please return registration forms to the church office.

NATIONAL SACRED HARP CONVENTION

The thirty-second National Sacred Harp Convention is now history. It was the fourth time at First Christian Church. You should know that we had record attendance on Friday, June 17 and on Saturday the eighteenth. Over 700 people registered for this event, and some people came, but did not register.

People registered from half of the United States – from California to Maine. They were from the South, all the way to Florida. Of course, most came from Alabama.

The countries from outside the States were Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom. This touches people in so many positive ways that I am proud that we at

First Christian Church can be associated with the joy they experience while here. Events like this can only happen when many people share their talents and abilities so generously. We have people to sincerely thank and our church is first on my list because we have a marvelous facility for us to gather and offer praises to God musically.

The first building at our present location was designed for a variety of purposes. Little did anyone foresee its being used so well by singers from such widespread locations.

You are the hands and hospitality that impress people, and it is a pleasure to thank Mary Pat Spencer, Jan Watts, Earl Strickland, Jr., Steve Orazine, Russell Favorite, and Clayton Brammer, as well as all you friendly members of First Christian Church for your help and presence. Edd Spencer became popular with our guests in previous years and was certainly missed this year.

We could not have done as well without the capable assistance from the church custodian, Lloyd Smith. The Sacred Harp singers pay him for his help, but he is such a good ambassador for our church that we should all be aware of how fortunate the church is to have him on the staff.

It is amazing! We take an offering (sometimes twice a day) to pay for the expenses that must be paid. There is no outside source of funding these costs, and on top of substantial travel expenses these dedicated singers bear, they still dig deep enough to permit a contribution to **First Christian Church**. PRAISES TO GOD! *Hubert Nall.*

OUTREACH UPDATE

Got Facebook? Then join us on First Christian Church Outreach's page and "like" us — please. We need enough fans to claim a domain. You can search for us on Facebook or navigate to the Church's website and follow the link. We hope you'll "like" us soon! While you're on Facebook, check out the photos from Camp High Hopes, (compliments to Jim and Ann Langley for the photos). Expect more updates as we continue our efforts to reach out to our community. We would also love to include photos from other Outreach activities. If you have photos to add to the Outreach page, please email them to char.brammer@gmail.com. Our efforts to help our local schools will continue. If you took a back pack, please remember to stuff and return it on Sunday, July 24. We continue to collect classroom supplies (paper towels, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, Ziploc bags (quart and gallon sizes), as well as individually packaged snacks and juice). As part of our tornado relief efforts, we will also be collecting school supply items to be distributed through our partners at Central Church of Christ, Tuscaloosa. Finally, thanks to those who went out Saturday, July 16, to help distribute school supplies for Faith Chapel's Christmas in July. I hear you were "jolly Santa's!" Stay tuned for more opportunities to reach out.

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, July 24

- 9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
1:30 - 3:30 Rehearsals for Dinner Theatre

Monday, July 25 - Friday, July 29

- 9:30 – 11:30 Vacation Church School
“Galactic Blast”

Monday, July 25

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study

- 10:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 27

- 6:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, July 28

- 7:00 Advocates Bible Study

GRACE NOTES

- † Our prayers are with Gordon Goodall, who remains in Trinity Medical Center.
† Please continue to pray for Carole Rudd, Marquita Sebastian, Baby Carly Chandler and Carly’s parents Dustin and Amy Chandler and grandparents Aneda and Dronnie Chandler, Pat Deaton, Carole Dutt, Heather Vaughn, Rumsey Sutton (Father of Shirley Naylor).

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, July 24th

“Paul’s Epistles to the Thessalonians”
2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5

“THE DISCIPLES”

Sunday, July 24th

Let God Rule
Judges 7:2-4, 13-15; 8:22-25

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE 127

BLESSINGS?

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me.” (Psalms 13:6). God has richly blessed us with a loving church family, a beautiful sanctuary, a peaceful home, religious freedom, and other blessings too numerous to name. Remember to thank God for each blessing and to show a token of your gratitude by filling your blessing box. All monies will be used to bless children through the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree this Christmas.

If you are grateful for a loving God, that is quick to forgive you when you do wrong, put something in your **Blessing Box** this week.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In July, 1999, Macy Johnson, office administrator, resigned after three years of faithful service. Macy, who had an MBA degree, had accepted a position in the corporate community. Ten of our youth attended the International CYF convention accompanied by their leader, Kay Artner, and Pastor Ted Firch. They gathered with about 900 other youth and 200 adults at TCU in Fort Worth, TX, to worship, play and perform a miracle together. In three days they built a house for Habitat for Humanity and also painted or repaired 29 other homes. The Andros Mission Team left in July to spend a week witnessing and ministering to the island children at Vacation Bible School. We also welcomed Cece Roberts to our staff in July as our new administrative assistant.

The 125th Anniversary Task Force met and worked throughout the summer months in preparation for the celebration on September 26. Photographs and other memorabilia were collected for display. Letters were written to former ministers, Timothys and Priscillas from our church.

A reunion picnic at Hargis Christian Retreat was planned for the afternoon of the 25th, concluding with a vesper worship service by the lake. A catered reservation-only dinner following worship on Sunday was to take place in the family life center along with a display of historical items. Dr. Jack Forstman, Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School and a Timothy of our church, accepted the invitation to be guest minister on Sunday morning. Anniversary medallions and car tags were ordered for those wishing to purchase souvenirs of this occasion.

The celebration was a great success. More than 240 members and friends gathered to worship and give thanks for God’s grace which had sustained this congregation for 125 years. Dr. Forstman brought an inspiring message, “Find the Center, Make It Known”, followed by the burning of the mortgage in the Cornerstone Memorial Garden. More than 200 stayed for a delicious meal and to enjoy the historical displays prepared by Beverly Baxter and the Anniversary Task Force.

In October Mary Decker was honored for her 10 years of service as nursery care coordinator. The youth sponsored their annual Cajun Festival, again with music by the Crawfish Daddios, and raised over \$700 for their summer mission trips.

The Hanging of the Greens service took place on the last Sunday in November. On the first three Sundays in December an Advent Festival was held during the Sunday School hour. This began with a full breakfast, prepared by adult classes, followed by a time to make various Christmas crafts. It concluded with a Christmas story from the pastors. On the Sunday before Christmas a cantata/drama, “An Old Fashioned Christmas”, was presented by the chancel choir, handbell choir, musicians and others. The two Christmas Eve services included familiar carols and candlelight communion.