



## First Christian Visitor

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

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

**VOLUME 3 NUMBER 37 SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

### **SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS**

I am very happy to be home from a wonderful journey on the Appalachian Trail.

The next two Sundays I will share spiritual reflections on two natural elements that exist on the trail. This Sunday, September 25, I will lift up spiritual thoughts on the roots of trees that cover the trail. And on Sunday, October 2, I will share spiritual insight on the dirt and mud that are a major part of the trail. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

*God bless you,*

*Edd*

### **HOMECOMING**

**Sunday, October 2**

On Sunday, October 2, we will have a Homecoming Sunday. Invite friends living in Birmingham who once attended First Christian to come back to renew friendships and celebrate precious memories.

The service will be led by Edd. Edd will share the last in his three-week sermon series titled “Spiritual Reflections on Mud”. October 2, is World Communion Sunday, and we will celebrate this moment of communion with Christians around the world.

Following the service, Fellowship Mission is providing a great dinner of turkey and trimmings,

The cost for the meal will be \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 5-10 years old, and children under 5 are free. Please make your reservations on the envelopes in the pews.

So invite someone you know that has attended First Christian in the past. Come and celebrate Homecoming and our 137<sup>th</sup> year of sharing the Lord with Birmingham.

### **Transitional Worship for “Graduates”**

Several of our children will be “graduating” from **Children's Worship and Wonder** this fall. We are very proud of these children and want to offer all the support we can as they continue to grow in their Christian faith. On September 25 and October 9, they are invited to attend a special worship called “Transitional Worship”. This will be a time for them to learn about the worship that takes place in the sanctuary. Some things are done the same as in Children's Worship and Wonder, and some things are different. Transitional Worship will help them get ready for the differences. They will learn how to use the hymnal and pew Bible and how to follow the bulletin. They will talk about things they can do to help listen closely to the sermons. They will share communion, which is much like the feast in Worship and Wonder. Thanks to Bud and Georgia Flora, who will be leading in this special worship experience.

### **SNACK SUPPERS**

As an important part of our Sunday evening youth programs, we offer a simple snack supper for only \$2.50. If you are a parent, grandparent, a member or friend of this church, we invite you to help us by preparing a simple meal for our children, young people and their sponsors. Just call or see Conlee Alderson, our snack supper coordinator, and tell her when you would like to prepare a meal.

The good news is that the kids love just about anything and you will also be reimbursed. All you have to do is to keep your receipts and turn them in at the office.

Parents/grandparents, in an effort to help you, we are encouraging you to pay for your child(ren's) snack supper in advance. It helps you not have to scrounge around for the right amount of money on Sunday afternoon right before youth groups. It will also save you money. If you pay in advance, you will save \$12.50 per child. It will also be a help to the sponsors, as we do not always have change.

Please consider paying in advance and bringing your checkbook to our parent's meeting on September 18 at 5:00 pm in the Farkas room along with updated information concerning health forms.

Snack suppers: For those who pay in advance for one year ( 25 meals @ \$2.50) will save the cost of 5 snack suppers.

1 child = \$50.00; 2 children = \$100.00;

3 children = \$150.00; 4 children = \$200.00.

Checks may be made out to First Christian Church for snack suppers.

### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**Monday, September 26 at 6:30 pm**

Write it down and plan to be here for the Men's Fellowship on Monday, September 26 at 6:30 pm. Clay Osburne, Athletic Director at Spain Park High School will be our guest speaker. He will be sharing what's going on in the Youth World. Let's have a big crowd for him.

### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

The choir would like to invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us this year for our Christmas Cantata which will be on December 11. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 28 at 7:30 pm in the choir room. This is always a wonderful time of spiritual renewal and fellowship for us as a choir. Come join our musical family! *In Christ, Jan.*



### **BLESSING BOX**

If you're grateful that we have modern medical technology in our area that can save your life, unlike not too many years ago, put something in your **Blessing Box** this week.

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### Life In Our Community This Week

	<u>Sunday, September 25</u>
9:00	Sunday School
9:45-10:15	Fellowship Moment
10:15	Worship Service
10:30	Worship & Wonder
5:00	Youth Group
5:00	Praise Kids
6:15	Snack Supper
	<u>Monday - Thursday</u>
9:30 – 1:30	The Adventure Nook Preschool
	<u>Monday, September 26</u>
7:00	Men's Bible Study
10:00	Staff Meeting
6:30	Men's Fellowship
	<u>Tuesday, September 27</u>
9:45	The Adventure Nook Chapel
10:00	Women's Bible Study
	<u>Wednesday, September 28</u>
6:30	Choir Practice
7:30	Cantata Practice
	<u>Thursday, September 29</u>
7:00	Advocates Bible Study
7:00	Women's Bible Study

### GRACE NOTES

- Our sympathy is expressed to Bruce and Marian Moon on the death on Bruce's father, Walt Thomas.
- Please continue to pray for Carole Rudd, Carol Dutt, Thomas Barnett, Pat Deaton, and Linda Cullum.
- Our special Reconciliation Offering will be received September 25 and October 2. This offering is used to fund our church's mission to become a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across differences.
- The Adventure Nook preschool would like to thank "The Helping Hands of the Carpenters" for helping us with our to-do-list as we prepared for the 2011-12 school year. The improvements are being enjoyed by staff and our precious children.

"THE DISCIPLES"  
Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Wisdom and Discernment  
Proverbs 25: 1-10

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON  
Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Paul's Letter to Titus  
Titus 1 -3

### **CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

On September 11, 2003, the sanctuary was open for prayer and meditation from noon until 6:30 p.m., at which time there was a worship service to remember and reflect upon the tragedy of two years ago that caused the deaths of thousands of innocent victims. The youth held their annual Cajun Festival fundraiser in October and made close to \$800 for their ministries. Everyone enjoyed the shrimp/crawfish boil and gumbo and the various activities.

At the congregational meeting in November Gary Franklin and Nickey Rudd presented proposed changes in the building project which would include more storage space, increased classroom size and additional restrooms. These changes would increase the cost, but the congregation voted unanimously to proceed with the updated version of the plan. Groundbreaking was expected to take place in the spring of 2004. The Pastoral Search Committee reported that things were moving along well and the list of candidates had been narrowed down. The congregation enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner after worship on November 16. The Hanging of the Greens service on the last Sunday of November marked the beginning of another Advent season.

The choir performed a 1940s Christmas Homecoming Musical on the second Sunday in December. Interesting props included an old fashioned microphone, a short wave radio, an old army footlocker, duffle bag, USO advertising and 1940's costumes. The two traditional candlelight communion services were held on Christmas Eve. George Wagner, our interim minister, called February, 2004, a short month that was packed with love. On Valentine's Day at 5:00 p.m., George and his wife Jo offered married couples an opportunity to renew their wedding vows. This would be a group service, giving couples a chance to renew their commitment to each other. The following Saturday the youth of the church hosted their annual Sweetheart Dinner. That same weekend our neighbor, Inverness Vineyard Church, invited our church to participate in a Marriage Enrichment Conference. During the last week of February we began our Lenten journey with the Ash Wednesday service. This journey helped us fathom the depth of God's love for us.

The Pastoral Search Committee invited everyone to come and meet prospective co-pastoral candidates on Wednesday evening, April 28. Those attending would have an opportunity to vote at the end of the evening. In May it was announced that the congregation had voted to call Edd and Mary Pat Spencer to be our new ministers. This was the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the history of First Christian Church.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE  
WORSHIP SERVICE 108

h experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across difference. Our special Reconciliation Offerings will be received September 25 and October 2. Funds also provide grants for Young Adult Camps, training programs for leadership, development, small group study and community building. Our goal is \$2000.