

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 35 SEPTEMBER 7, 2010



## COLUMBARIUM DEDICATION AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 12 will be a special day in the life of our church. At long last we will dedicate the beautiful Columbarium in our glorious outdoor worship center and prayer garden. Also, immediately after worship, our Columbarium will be used for the first time as we inurn Daryl Harms' remains during a brief memorial service. Please plan to attend this service of dedication and remembrance. Hear about the Christian symbols incorporated into our Columbarium and gain a greater appreciation for the importance of this end of life ministry for our church family. If you have not yet made your own end of life plans, you may find this service particularly meaningful. It is not too late to reserve a niche so that when your earthly life is over, loved ones can always remember you here at FCC. For more information, see Jim or Ann Langley, Clarissa Harms, Jim Baxter, Jack Kennedy or Edd Spencer. Also, after the services we will all gather in the Family Life Center for a Barbeque Dinner. There is no charge for the dinner, but please make your reservations on the envelope in the pews. This will give us an idea of the number of people attending.

## CHI RHO AND CYF PLANNING RETREAT

Our Chi Rho and CYF youth will leave on their annual planning retreat Friday, **September 10 at 4:30** from the church. We have been invited to the lake house of Ed Powell where we will plan our years' activities in the areas of worship, study, service to our church and community, recreation and fund raising. The cost of this retreat is only \$5.00. Each youth will receive a permission form and detailed information in the mail. We will return to the church by 5:30 on Saturday, Sept. 11. If you have any questions, call Mary Pat or Donnette.

## BUSY BELIEVERS GATHERING

**Friday, September 10**

We are excited about hosting the Busy Believers – young adults at our home on **Friday, September 10 at 7:00**. This will be an opportunity to simply visit and see how everyone is doing, especially since some have added to their families. It will also give us an opportunity to see if you all would like to meet on regular bases for fun, food, fellowship or study. We do ask that you bring your favorite dish and drink to share. We will provide the place, plastic ware, tea and soft drinks. We will also provide sitters for your children at the church. However, please give me a call at 991-5000, no later than Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, so we can plan on enough sitters.

## ATTENTION PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

If you are a parent or grandparent of children ages 4- 12<sup>th</sup> grade, then you are invited and encouraged

to attend our annual parent/grandparents meeting Sunday, September 12 at 5:00 in the CYF youth Room here at First Christian Church.

The purpose of this meeting will be two fold:

1. To update the health and permission forms for your child/young person, pre-pay for snack suppers and sign up to prepare a snack supper if you wish.
2. To listen to our own high school young people as they share: why they choose to come to Sunday school, Worship and Youth groups. In addition, they will share with you those things which they have experienced in our schools, like bullying, drugs, cheating etc. and what to expect and how to help your child.

Your children will be in his or her youth group while the parents meet. You are also invited to stay for our snack supper at 6:15 for \$2.00. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00.

## SNACK SUPPERS

As an important part of our Sunday evening youth programs we offer a simple snack supper for only \$2.00. 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 Wanda Swihart, 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 who would like to pay in advance for either ½ year or the full year may do so at our parents meeting on Sept. 12. Those parents wishing to pay ahead also will save money. One child will be \$45 and two children for \$85.00 for the full year. Or, if you wish to pay through Dec., one child is \$24, and two children is \$48. Make out checks to: First Christian – snack suppers.

## CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

**Sunday, September 12**

**“Christian Apologetics Mormonism”  
Are Mormons Christian?**

**The Mormon concept of Scripture**

## SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 68  
WORSHIP 139**

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road  
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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**

**Sunday, September 12**

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
- 10:15 Worship Service – “Catch Up”
- 10:30 Worship & Wonder
- 11:15 Columbarium Dedication and Memorial Service
- 11:45 Bar-B-Q Dinner
- 12:30 Ona/Ruth
- 5:00 Parents Meeting
- 5:00 Youth Groups
- 6:15 Snack Supper

**Monday, September 13**

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study on Haggai
- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 7:00 Elders Gathering

**Tuesday, September 14**

- 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- 7:00 Finance Council

**Wednesday, September 15**

- 9:00 Young at Heart Cruise
- 6:30 Choir Practice

**Thursday, September 16**

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study on John
- 7:00 Women’s Bible Study

**Saturday, September 18**

- 10:00 Regional Board Meeting

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHOOL**

The children’s church school class will be divided into two groups beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>. Linda Byrd will teach the 4 year olds, kindergarten, and first grade children in the room where they now meet next to the nursery. Janet Bonds will teach children in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, grades in the Ann Gandy Room. Our substitutes for these classes are Jill Pasky and Peggy Daniels. These changes will begin at 9:00 am on Sunday, September 12. A big “thank you” goes out to these ladies who will enrich our children. *The Education Mission*

**NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY THURSDAY NIGHTS**

Ladies, mark your calendars for Thursday night, September 16<sup>th</sup>. A new ladies Bible study will begin meeting at 7:00 pm in the Farkas Room. It will meet weekly for an hour. Judy Dudley will be leading the study. The curriculum will be decided during the first meeting. We hope to see you there! *The Education Mission*

**CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

In January, 1987, a Christian Singles Fellowship was formed with the group planning to meet on Monday evenings for a program and, beginning in February, on Sunday morning for class. A Community Sock Hop was held on Valentine's Day to benefit the Singles Ministry. More than 200 tickets were sold and about 100 attended. A square dance was held following the monthly fellowship supper and the decision was made to have square dancing every month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

The Feasibility Study Committee met with a representative of the Board of Church Extension to discuss the building of new facilities at the church and at Hargis Christian Retreat. An All Church Retreat was held at Hargis in February which was led by Dr. Mike and Rev. Barbara Harper of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church and attended by more than 100 people.

The nursery had been occupying the trailer behind the church and had outgrown the space. A moving day was designated, and the church offices moved to the trailer while the nursery was moved to the former office space. Youth groups volunteered to help as a service project for the church. By the end of the day a lot of very tired people had ripped out one wall, built a new wall and rewired a whole section of the old office area. They had also rerouted plumbing, moved ceiling lights, removed wall cabinets and transported them to the trailer or into the new 2 and 3 year old classroom. They had moved cribs and nursery equipment into the office area and moved 3 offices and a workroom to the trailer. The Fellowship Department served lunch to about 60 people who had performed a labor of love to provide better conditions for our little ones.

A committee was formed to look at the possibility of establishing an academically oriented kindergarten while continuing the very successful Mothers' Day Out program. An Adult Serendipity Bible Study of the book of James began during Lent and continued for about 7 weeks. The church enrolled in the Stephen Ministries program to begin in the fall.

The Feasibility Study Committee completed the initial portion of work and sent the results to the Board of Church Extension. The Committee had been considering long range goals, projected growth and demographics that would impact the building of new facilities on Valleydale and at Hargis. In March a called meeting of the Official Board received the report and recommendations of the Committee and approved them by a unanimous vote. Building plans would include a sanctuary, narthex, choir room, administration area and nursery. The construction of a new dining hall at the Retreat was also approved. In April a congregational meeting was held after each service and the vote was unanimous to accept the Board's recommendations.

**POSTAGE PAID PERIODICAL**  
(UPS 0195-880)