

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
Homecoming Sunday
Sunday, October 2, 2011

PRELUDE "Fount of Blessing" Nerak

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
(Thank you for signing the attendance pad and silencing your cell phones.)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "We Are An Offering"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: We come to celebrate our community of faith at First Christian
People: We come in thanksgiving for the worship, singing and the
Pastor: We come to celebrate the moment of the Spirit in Holy
People: We come in thanksgiving for the bread and cup lifting up
Pastor: We come to celebrate that we are the people of God.
People: We come in thanksgiving that we are growing as Christian
and be the church

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Standing on the Promises" Chalice Hymnal No. 552

***INVOCATION and LORD'S PRAYER and GLORIA PATRI** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
(Words to the Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri and Doxology are in the pews)

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERSHIP Rev. Edd Spencer
(Please stand when your decade is called.)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
Children who are rising four years old through fourth grade will be dismissed to
Children's Worship & Wonder.

ANTHEM "Let the Praise Go Round" Hopson

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, OFFERING, and RECONCILIATION
OFFERING

Communion Hymn "Come to the Table of the Lord"
Chalice Praise Hymnal No. 163

Invitation to Communion Libby Carpenter
Prayer of Communion Earl Strickland
Jim & Beverly Baxter

(This is the Lord's Table. All believers in Christ are invited to walk forward when the
deacons are standing by your pews. Also, please place your offering and prayer requests
in the offering trays as you come forward for communion.)

COMMUNION MUSIC "He Is Our Peace" Tornquist

SCRIPTURE John 9: 1-12 Rev. Edd Spencer

SERMON "Spiritual Reflections on Mud" Rev. Edd Spencer

Church.
Word in this church for one hundred and thirty seven years.

***HYMN OF INVITATION** "Holy Ground" Chalice Hymnal No. 112
Communion in this place and around the world
the love of Almighty God in Jesus Christ.

men, women, youth, and children. Lord, we truly want to stand on You
***BENEDICTION** Rev. Edd Spencer

***CHORAL RESPONSE** "Jesus, Stand Among Us" Chalice Hymnal No. 283

Jesus, stand among us in Your risen pow'r
Let this time of worship be a holy hour.
(Repeat)

Breathe the Holy Spirit into ev'ry heart.
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.
(Repeat)

***POSTLUDE** "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" Spiritual

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, October 2
Homecoming Sunday and World Communion Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School

9:45 – 10:15 am	Fellowship Moment
10:15 am	Worship Service
10:30 am	Worship & Wonder
11:30 am	Homecoming Dinner
3:00 pm	Bell Choir
4:00 pm	Pastor's Class
5:00 pm	Children & Youth Groups
5:00 pm	Praise Kids
6:15 pm	Snack Supper

MONDAY – THURSDAY

9:30 am – 1:30 pm The Adventure Nook Preschool

MONDAY, October 3

7:00 am	Men's Bible Study
10:00 am	Staff Meeting
6:30 pm	Mission Council

TUESDAY, October 4

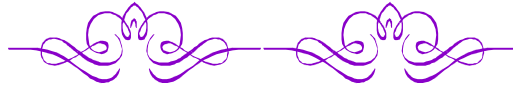
9:45 am	The Adventure Nook Chapel
10:00 am	Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, October 5

6:30 pm	Choir Practice
7:30 pm	Cantata Practice

THURSDAY, October 6

7:00 pm	Advocates Bible Study
7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study



IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION TODAY

Today we celebrate 137 years of serving the Lord with Birmingham and the world. The service will include recognition of all the members by highlighting the decade in which they joined the church. Also since it is World Communion Sunday, we will walk forward to the table to receive the Lord's Supper. The Elders will serve us through intinction. Following the worship service the Fellowship mission is providing a great Homecoming dinner. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a wonderful meal and help us celebrate 137 years of ministry!

RECONCILIATION OFFERING

Our special Reconciliation Offering will be received Today. 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.

PASTOR'S CLASS BEGINS TODAY

All children, youth, and adults who want to be baptized are welcome to join the Pastor's Class. In the class participants will discuss the meaning of baptism, communion, the life of Jesus, the love of God, and the joy of serving in the church. The class will be led by Edd and will meet every Sunday at 4:00 pm. The first class will be today at 4:00 pm and will meet in the library. Baptism will be on Christmas Sunday, December 25. Contact Edd if you are interested in taking the class.

MISSION COUNCIL Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30pm

All Church Officers, Mission Chairs, and Mission Council Members are invited to attend the Mission Council meeting on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm.

KOATS4KIDZ

Autumn is here, our young friends are back in school & cold weather is coming. Unfortunately some of these friends do not have warm coats. Check the closets of your children & grandchildren for lightly used coats which they no longer wear. During the month of October the Sunday school benevolence effort is collecting good new or used coats to be provided through our Shelby County School partners to these wonderful, but needy children. All sizes for kindergarten to junior high school are needed. Please bring your gifts to the Farkas Room/ Christian Comrades Class Room & hang them on the racks provided there. We will inventory by sizes & have cleaning done if necessary to have these items ready for early November distribution. Please contact: Regena Varvoutis, Gloria McWilliams, Gary Howard or Charles Daniels with any questions.

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
MUSIC MINISTER: Rev. Jan Watts
ORGANIST/PIANIST: David Brasher
ELDERS ON CALL: Libby Carpenter & Earl Strickland
SERVING DIACONATE: Lisa Burdette, Fletcher Hamilton, Sandy Hamilton, Carlton
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:
LESSON: Noah
STORYTELLER: June Pryor
GREETERS: Soren Reitsma & Cayla Corbin
WORSHIP GREETERS (Door): Bruce & Marian Moon
WORSHIP GREETER (Table): Susan Hales

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 are taking place now at 7:30 pm.* This is always a wonderful time of spiritual renewal and fellowship for us as a choir. Come join our musical family! In Christ, Jan.

PUMPKIN PATCH AT HARGIS

Volunteers are needed for the Pumpkin Patch at Hargis. The dates are October 18-21 and October 25-28. The times are 8:00 am – 1:00pm. Help is needed for story telling, games, fire-building and the petting zoo. Contact Libby Carpenter, Bud Flora, or Jim Langley if you can help.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

The Senior Adult Retreat for 2011 will be at Rolling Hills Camp at Calera, AL, November 3 – 4. Rev. Jim Powell, former president of Church Extension, will lead us as we examine the book "The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully" by Joan. D. Chittister. This book is available at our local bookstores. Motel-type rooms at Rolling Hills are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms are available in the narthex.