

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

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## A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

Many of you know that one of my favorite phrases is “a piece of cake.” Often I use that term facing a challenge or concern. The other day I came across the following story that defines “a piece of cake” in a unique way. It’s a wonderful explanation.

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong. She is failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her, and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, “Absolutely, Mom, I love your cake.”

“Here, have some cooking oil,” her mother offers. “No, that is terrible,” says her daughter.

Then her mother says, “How about a couple of raw eggs?” Her daughter responds, “Gross, Mom!”

Her mom then says, “Would you like some flour?” Or maybe some baking soda?” The daughter replied, “Mom, those are all so yucky!” To which the mother replies, “Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a delicious cake.”

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows, when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good. We just have to trust Him and they will all make something wonderful.

I hope your week is “a piece of cake.”

*God Bless You, Edd & Mary Pat*

## IT’S GREAT TO BE HOME

It has been said that “There Is No Place Like Home”- that includes my Home Church. While I have had an exciting experience during my Sabbatical, it is definitely great to be back home here at FCC. Special thanks to the Personnel Committee, especially the Sabbatical Committee, for gifting me with the honor to have my very first Sabbatical since I have been in ministry. I also would like to thank all the elders for your leadership and service as worship leaders in my absence. I truly appreciate it. Many thanks as well to those of you who were so kind to send me “thinking of you” cards and notes of affirmation during my time away. It felt great to be missed. Please know that I felt your prayers and hugs across the miles. Thank you again for the opportunity to be refreshed and renewed. I am looking forward to my continued ministry to this fantastic congregation.

*Love to you all! Mary Pat*

The Alabama-Northwest Florida Annual Fund is an invitation for individuals to give additional financial support to undergird the ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. While the region receives gifts from congregations through the Disciples Mission Fund and through the Christmas Offering, these dollars are not sufficient to help maintain current ministries and provide the new ministries we envision.

The Annual Fund is an opportunity for individuals to make a difference in the lives of children, youth, young adults, men, women, pastors, and students. Gifts to the Annual Fund directly impact people right in your own congregation and in neighboring Disciples of Christ congregations.

We hope that the motivation behind all gifts to the Annual Fund will come from the commitment to excellence. We do not want to struggle in our Regional Ministry. We want to thrive! We want to have the quality of excellence in everything we do. Nothing less is worthy of the Christ we serve.

Donors to the Annual Fund, in any amount of donation, will be listed in the December issue of the Christian. This listing is intended to acknowledge these gifts and to influence others to join the quest for excellence in our region.

Please contact Edd if you are able to share or have any questions.

## ATTENTION ALL CHI RHO AND CYF

Get your sleeping bags, pillows, \$10 and, of course, your wonderful selves, and come to our Regional Lock-In here at the church Friday, August 14 at 7:00 pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet some new friends from around the region plus renew some ole flames - I mean friendships. This will also give us time to connect and start thinking about our upcoming year together. It is going to be the BEST!! Love to you all. *Mary Pat*

## Youth Groups Begin Again September 12<sup>th</sup>

Going back to school is exciting. It is a time to see those you haven’t seen in three months and, of course, it’s a time to get back to serious studying. So have a great time and get settled in. Then on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, come and bring your old and new friends at 5:00 as we begin our youth groups again. That’s right - **5:00 PM**. We will be beginning at 5:00 - and meet until 6:30- with our snack supper at 6:30. This time change will help the younger ones get home earlier and get to bed. The older youth will still have time to do their homework. So mark your calendars now. See you soon - Can’t wait!!!! *Mary Pat*

### SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	54
WORSHIP	131

**THE ANNUAL FUND OF THE CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH IN ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA**

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road  
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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### **Life In Our Community**

#### **Sunday, August 15**

- 9:00 Sunday School  
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments  
10:15 Worship Service  
10:30 Worship & Wonder

#### **Monday, August 16**

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study  
10:00 Staff Meeting

#### **Tuesday, August 17**

- 7:00 Elder Calls

#### **Thursday, August 19**

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

### **GRACE NOTES**

- † Congratulations to Rachel Powell, who graduated from Auburn on August 9.
- † Our prayers are with Marquita Sebastian, who had surgery at UAB on August 9.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Tiffany Horne in the loss of her uncle.
- † Great news! David Hamilton, his wife Linda, and grandson Soren, are moving to Birmingham in September.
- † Sign up for flowers in worship on the chart in the narthex. Kathy Murphy was very creative in her arrangement for Hubert Nall's birthday. The vase for the flowers was a watermelon.
- † Our prayers are with Beth Erwin, who is in Hanover House for therapy.
- † God bless Cayla Corbin, who rededicated her life to Christ on Sunday, August 8.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE**

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.
3. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
4. Smile when you pick up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
5. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
6. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
7. And most of all, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself."

### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

#### **Sunday, August 15**

**"Christian Apologetics Islam"**

**Fatwa/Jihad**

### **CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

September 11, 1983, was designated Privilege Sunday. It was a privilege to present the individual notes showing the amount of our loans to the church. It was also a celebration of the elimination of debt and of the 2nd anniversary in our new building.

On October 4, Dr. Garner and officers of the church met with a representative of the savings and loan institution and presented him with a check for \$320,556.46, payment in full of our debt!

On October 15, Rev. Kim Maphis Early resigned from her ministry with us. Her husband, Rev. Robert Early, accepted the position as Assistant Dean and Director of Development, Vanderbilt Divinity School. On October 31, our organist, Janet Dickson, also resigned. A Search Committee was formed to seek candidates as replacements for these positions.

November and December were busy months as we completed our second full year on Valleydale Road. On Commitment Sunday we presented our pledges to the work of the church for 1984, and the children celebrated the Festival of Harvest by bringing their offerings of fruit to be distributed to our shut-ins. The traditional worship and Thanksgiving dinner were held at Hargis. December brought a flurry of activity: Breakfast with Santa for the children, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Pageant, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. On Sunday, Christmas Day, we enjoyed a continental breakfast before family worship and Holy Communion.

In February, 1984, the youth of the church sponsored a Valentine's Sock-Hop. Also in February an All-Church Membership Retreat at Hargis was led by former Associate Minister Kim Early. Kim helped us discover creative ways to "Make New Friends and Keep the Old".

On April 1 Kathy Quick joined our staff as Director of Christian Education. Kathy had a Master of Christian Education degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School. She had served on the staff of camps, conferences, college and church organizations and was also a qualified teacher of gymnastics. She was the daughter of a Methodist minister and the wife of Rev. Gerald Davis, minister of Hueytown First United Methodist Church.

We also welcomed a new Director of Music and a new organist to our staff. Dr. Ovide DeLage was Professor of Music and Associate Chairman of the Music Department at Montevallo. Organist Kathy Stewart was a graduate of Montevallo with a degree in Music Education and a master's degree in Elementary Education.

In May we added an 8:30 worship service to our Sunday morning schedule to provide a wider sharing of our ministry. This would be a shorter, more informal and casual service. The choir would not be involved, at least in the beginning.