

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 33 AUGUST 24, 2010



A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

When and where should we pray? Some of us have a special prayer time each day. Some of us pray only in church on Sundays; some of us pray in the parking lot asking God to get us close to the store. However, I was blessed to have an uncle who, not only prayed at every meal, he also prayed whenever he heard a siren. He would stop what he was doing and stop me if I was with him, and we would pray for the person being transported as well as the team who was in charge. In addition, he would always pray before we left on a road trip. We would gather in the car, hold hands, and he would offer a prayer for a safe journey. But the prayer I remembered most is when my uncle would kneel beside his bed every night and thank God for his day. We can learn a great deal from our family members when and where they prayed. What will your family learn from you about your prayer life? Something to pray about!?

God Bless you, Mary Pat

BUSY BELIEVERS GET TOGETHER

Friday, September 10th at 7:00 pm

Well, the resurrection of the Busy Believers Sunday School class has been, in a word, under whelming (probably because of the teacher). But we're not giving up! And we need your help. We are having a get together Friday, September 10th at 7:00 pm at the Spencers' home in Highland Lakes. The purpose of our gathering will be two-fold. First, and most important, fellowship! We rarely get an opportunity to catch up with each other given our BUSY lives! Second, we will spend a little time discussing the class and your ideas about how to make it work (even if that means finding a new teacher). We are asking everyone to bring a snack, and if you need a sitter for your kids, we will arrange to have someone at the Church so you can drop them off on the way to Edd and Mary Pat's. Just let us know by calling 991-5000 and making a **reservation for your child by September 7th**. I look forward to seeing all the Busy Believers at the Spencers' on September 10th.

Scott Jackson

MEN'S NIGHT GENE HALLMAN

Monday, August 30

All you sports fans will want to attend Men's Night at the church Monday, August 30 at 6:30pm. For the non sports fan (I don't know any in ALA?) Gene will also share with us some very exciting things going on in both the business and sports world here in Birmingham. You will definitely want to invite your male family, friends, and neighbors to hear the latest news. Gene Hallman is President, CEO of the Bruno Event Team responsible for bringing both professional and amateur sports to Birmingham. Additionally, he created The Alabama Sports Foundation in 1995 and currently serves as Executive Director. So come on out and enjoy a great meal by the James Gang, under the tutelage of His Eminence, Steve Pasky. To God be the Glory! *Bud*

POT LUCK SUNDAY

On Sunday, August 29th we will have our 5th Sunday Pot Luck after worship in the Family Life Center. Bring your favorite dish. Our hot food cabinet in the kitchen will keep your food warm. The Fellowship mission will provide drink and dinnerware. The nursery will be open.

“SECURITY FOR JESUS”

Many of you know one of our church families recently experienced a break-in to their car during worship. The Cabinet, after consulting with security companies and other churches have decided to form a “Security for Jesus” team. Members of this team will take turns, on a monthly basis, walking the parking lot a couple of times each Sunday during worship just to “be seen” by anyone who might think they're not being watched. If you are interested in serving on this team please contact Edd, Mary Pat, Hugh Henderson, or Gary Franklin.

IS THAT A KETCHUP STAIN?

No, it's Just Some Red Ink!

As of July 31st, we have fallen behind the budget in our giving for the first time in 2010. Mid-summer is a common time for church giving to fall behind when members are traveling on vacation. The Finance Council is asking those who are behind in their giving to catch up and those who are on schedule to consider an extra gift at this time. We are blessed by offerings totaling \$212,905.13 through July. However, that is \$15,398 less than our budget, and \$7,200 less than what had been given by this time last year. Since our budget for offerings this year did not balance with projected expenses, falling behind in our giving means depleting reserves even more than we anticipated. In the coming weeks, our leaders will be developing a budget for 2011. They will certainly consider offerings to date in 2010 in that process. Let's join together to catch up, erase the red ink and create a firm foundation to support our many vital programs today and in the future. We will focus on Sunday, September 12th as the Sunday for all of us to catch up on our giving. *Libby Carpenter*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Year to Date 7/31/2010

	Actual	Budget
Offerings	212,905	228,303
Hargis	49,000	49,000
TAN	103,441	115,590
Other Income	24,147	22,405
TAN Expenses	101,967	115,590
FCC Expenses	275,231	285,885
Mortgage Payments	21,945	21,945
Deficit	(9,650)	(8,122)

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	71
WORSHIP	130

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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

Friday, August 27

7:00 Scrabble at Joye Taylor's

Sunday, August 29

9:00 Sunday School

9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments

10:15 Worship Service

10:30 Worship & Wonder

11:15 Pot Luck Dinner

Monday, August 30

7:00 Men's Bible Study

10:00 Staff Meeting

6:30 Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, August 31

7:00 Elder Calls

Friday, September 3 & Saturday, September 4

Watson/Brown Wedding

GRACE NOTES

- † Our Prayers are with Ann Awtrey as she recovers from taking a fall at Shelby Ridge Nursing Home, Room 120B, 881 3rd St NE, Alabaster, AL 35007.
- † Congratulations to Megan Alderson. Megan graduated in August with a BS in Nursing from UAB.
- † The Membership mission under the leadership of Lisa Burdette will be leading the church in the process of a new pictorial directory. Sign up date for pictures will be on the Sundays, of September 12, 19, and 26 and Sunday, October 3.
- † A dedication for the Columbarium and memorial service for Daryl Harms will be Sunday, September 12 after morning worship. Following the service there will be a Barbeque Dinner in the Family Life Center. There is no cost for the dinner but please fill out the reservation envelopes in the pews so that we will know the number attending the dinner.
- † Sunday, September 19 we will honor our senior adults in morning worship. First Christian is blessed with great senior adults who love and serve the Lord in many special ways.
- † Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study starts back on September 14th. We will wrap up the book of James beginning in the 5th Chapter. All Women Are Welcome!

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, August 29

“Christian Apologetics Islam”

Conversions to Christ Followers

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Dr. and Mrs. Rankin are parents of two children, both in college. Dr. Rankin had served churches in Pennsylvania and Indiana and came to us from Carmel Christian Church, Carmel, Indiana where he had served the last 10 years. Patty Rankin, an engineer, was an elder at Carmel and taught the high school class.

Nearly 300 were in worship on November 17 to welcome the Rankins. A covered dish luncheon was enjoyed after church, and Drexel and Patty were honored with a surprise "pounding" party to help stock the pantry in their new home. Dr. Rankin was installed as Senior Minister in a special service on December 15. Rev. Carl Flock, our Regional Minister, brought the morning message.

Beginning in January, 1986, groups of 13 to 15 people at a time were invited to spend an evening "At Home with the Rankins". This was an opportunity for everyone to get to know the Rankins and to share ideas and dreams for the ministry of the church.

The weekend of February 28-March 1 more than 85 people participated in an All-Church Retreat at Hargis led by the church staff and several others. On April 5 the CWF sponsored an all day Hargis Spring Festival with artists and craftsmen exhibiting and selling their creations, plenty of good food, fishing and boating. Proceeds were for the Hargis Kitchen Fund. The Regional Assembly was also held in April at the historic First Christian Church in Selma, and there was a special service of celebration for Rev. Carl Flock's 35 years in ordained ministry.

Sunday, May 4, marked the start of a new early worship service at 8:30 a.m., in addition to the regular service. There was little difference in the two, except that casual dress was encouraged for the early service.

Kathy Quick submitted her resignation as Director of Christian Education in May because she and her husband, Rev. Gerald Davis, were moving to Tennessee. Gerald accepted the position of Field and Program Director with the Appalachia Service Project.

A Sunday evening prayer study group led by Patty Rankin began in April and concluded the 6 weeks program in June. The group decided to continue to meet and to serve the congregation by praying for the church and for any special concerns during the weekly prayer time and at other times during the week.

Almost 200 people enjoyed another fun-filled day at the Retreat on the 4th of July with barbecue, horseback riding, paddle boats, swimming, softball and other games. On July 5 and 6 a special retreat was held for 14 mentally challenged young adults and 25 volunteers from our church, our first Camp High Hopes led by Dr. Lola Kiser. It was a special weekend of fun, fellowship, worship and study at Hargis and an unforgettable experience for these young people and the volunteers.