

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 34 AUGUST 31, 2010



A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

Dear Church Members and Friends,

I am excited to announce that we're going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All I ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, on Sundays, September 12, 19 and 26, and again Sunday, October 3, we will be making appointments at the church.

Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free church directory and a complimentary 8x10 portrait.
- You will only need to come to the church once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to purchase portraits and frames on the same day of photography. All portraits come with a 100% unconditional guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are: October 14 – 16 and 18-19.

If you have questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Lisa Burdette.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Sincerely, Edd & Mary Pat

COLUMBARIUM DEDICATION AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday, September 12, following morning worship, we will dedicate our beautiful Columbarium in the Prayer Garden. Following the dedication we will have a memorial service for Daryl Harms. Everyone is invited to these special services. 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 that will be attending. Thank you.

We are asking the members and friends of First Christian to review your weekly gifts to the Lord's work through our church. To date, we are experiencing a \$15,398.00 deficit and need to correct it. If you have fallen behind in your giving, then Sunday, September 12, is the time to catch up. Or, if God has enabled you to earn more than you expected since the conclusion of our stewardship appeal back in January, you might want to make a single gift of appreciation.

Whatever the case, if you feel you can do more for the Lord, share your gift in worship on Sunday, September 12.

We are so happy you are among those we can count on for the support of the Lord's work through our church. We are glad you are a part of our First Christian family.

God Bless You, The Finance Council

LOOKING AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 1	Choir Rehearsal begins
Sunday, Sept. 5	Labor Day Sunday
Tuesday, Sept. 7	The Adventure Nook begins
Friday, Sept. 10	Busy Believers at the Spencers'
Friday, Sept. 10-11	Chi Rho & CYF Planning Retreat
Sunday, Sept. 12, 19, 26	Pictorial Directory Reservations
Sunday, Sept. 12	Catch-up Sunday
Sunday, Sept. 12	Dedication of Columbarium
Sunday, Sept. 12	Memorial for Daryl Harms
Sunday, Sept. 12	Barbeque Dinner
Sunday, Sept. 12	Ona/Ruth Group
Sunday, Sept. 12	CYF & Chi Rho Parents Mtg.
Sunday, Sept. 12	Children & Youth Groups
Monday, Sept. 13	Elder Gathering
Tuesday, Sept. 14	Women's Bible Study Begins
Wednesday, Sept. 15	Young At Heart River Cruise
Thursday, Sept. 16	Women's Evening Bible Study Begins
Sunday, Sept. 19	Senior Adults Recognition
Sunday, Sept. 19	Rebekah Group
Monday, Sept. 20	Mission Council
Sunday, Sept. 26	T.A.S.T.E. - Take A Student To Eat
Monday, Sept. 27	Men's Gathering
Tuesday, Sept. 28	Caring & Sharing

WELCOME BACK!

We welcome Jan back to her wonderful ministry of music at First Christian. She comes refreshed with a desire to serve the Lord again at First Christian. Come join her this Wednesday for the first night of choir practice. *Welcome back Jan!*

CATCH UP SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 12

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road

Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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

LABOR DAY SUNDAY
Sunday, September 5

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
- 10:15 Worship Service
- 10:30 Worship & Wonder
Monday, September 6
Offices Closed for Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 7
10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- 7:00 Elder Calls
Wednesday, September 8
6:30 Choir Practice
- Thursday, September 9
7:00 Men’s Bible Study on John
- Friday, September 10
7:00 Busy Believers at the Spencers’
- Friday-Saturday, September 10-11
Chi Rho and CYF Planning Retreat

GRACE NOTES

- † All Mission Chairs are encouraged to have their budget requests into the church office by Sunday, September 19.
- † Choir practice begins again at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 1.
- † Please remember these special people in your prayers. We lift up in prayer Jose Carreras, Donna Strickland, Beth Erwin, Lisa Burdette, Bill Qualls, and Marquita Sebastian.
- † We are blessed to have a great playground for the Adventure Nook and church. This month fresh new sand is being added to our sandboxes for the children to enjoy.
- † I had a great experience hiking on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. I just had a *few falls. Edd*
- † The Young at Heart River Cruise has been changed to Wednesday, Sept. 15. The boat had to be placed in dry dock for repairs.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In August, 1986, the Regional Young Adult Retreat was held at Hargis with the theme "Old Testament for Fun and Prophet", led by Dr. William Gwaltney, Professor of Old Testament, Milligan College. Later in the month CWF sponsored the Fall Fashion Fiesta and luncheon with fashions by Pizitz.

Kerygma Bible Study for Adults began in September with two sessions a week, registration for each group limited to 20. Kerygma approaches the Bible as a whole, tracing ten themes from the Old Testament to the New. Each theme deals with God's relationship to His people. The study continued until May, 1987.

Ginny Simons was approved as Director of Christian Education in September. Ginny and her husband David were members, having transferred with their 2 sons from Azalea Hills Christian in Mobile. Ginny had a degree in Elementary Education and was working on a Master's in Counselor Education.

Homecoming was celebrated in October with record attendance. It was necessary to add extra seating for worship and for the covered dish luncheon which followed. October also marked the beginning of a new series of ceramics classes taught by Helen Chapman and Jean Potts. This had been an ongoing activity since our move to Valleydale. The annual CWF Retreat at Hargis and an evening of "Soul Food and Square Dance" were other October activities.

CWF had a big Garage Sale in November, and the Christian Education Department sponsored a Book Fair on two Sundays. Drexel and Patty Rankin were honored at a reception on their first anniversary. On November 23 our church and the American Red Cross offered two classes after worship: Adult CPR and a Baby Saver class for Chi Rhos (safety precautions for children from birth to 8 years old). Many enjoyed worship in the chapel and Thanksgiving dinner at Hargis, and the month ended with the Hanging of the Greens service November 30.

A Long Range Planning Commission began meeting in August to consider the hopes and ideas voiced during the "At Home with the Rankins" evenings. After several months of researching the needs and desires of the congregation, Chairman Tom Curl presented the Commission's report to the Official Board on December 10 and it was approved by unanimous vote. Top priorities were the building of a sanctuary, classrooms, nursery and offices at Valleydale and a new dining hall on the Hargis property.

December 14 was designated "Come Home for Christmas" day, and that evening the children presented the Christmas pageant, "The Night the Animals Talked" with about 200 attending. The pageant was followed by a covered dish supper. The beautiful Candlelight Communion Service was held on Christmas Eve.

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE
SUNDAY SCHOOL 67
WORSHIP 145

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
Sunday, September 5
“Christian Apologetics Islam”
Are Mormons Christian?
Joseph Smith and the beginnings if the LDS Church