

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 47 NOVEMBER 30, 2010



THE 2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It is that time of the year when we focus our attention on our commitments to the Lord in 2011. Our theme this year is “2010 + 10 = 2011.” The meaning of the numbers is for each one of us to continue what we shared with the church in 2010 and to add on 10% which will equal our commitment for 2011. For example, if you shared \$5000 with the church in 2010, you would add \$500 to your contribution and share \$5500 in 2011. The following is a calendar of the events that will highlight our Stewardship Campaign:

Monday, Nov. 29 – Commitment cards were mailed to all church members and friends.

Sunday, Dec. 5 – Hugh Henderson will lead us in a celebration of “2010 + 10 = 2011” at our All-church Christmas Dinner.

Sunday, Dec. 19 – We will dedicate our commitments received in morning worship.

Please pray about your commitment to the church in 2011. Together, we can make a difference.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Our Cantata this year is a beautiful mixture of music and drama. The cantata “O Holy Night” will be the message at our 10:15 worship service on December 12. We will hear the story of the Christ Child’s birth through the perspectives of a number of different biblical characters: Isaiah, Jeremiah, the angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, a lowly shepherd, and a very wise man. The choir will be singing both old favorites and new songs of this most wonderful season. We are excited about our message this year and hope that you will be able to join us as we praise God with the gifts that He has given us. Our joy in our Savior will surely shine through as we worship Him in music, song, and drama. Come be a part of this inspiring worship service on December 12th. I pray that this Christmas season will be full of joy, hope, and love for all. In Christ, Jan

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent, we will have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church in care of Steve Pasky. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us. *Thank you, Steve Pasky, Chair of the Personnel Committee*

NATIVITY SET

As part of our Christmas celebration, the CYF youth will begin selling raffle tickets for the opportunity to win a large hand carved Nativity Set from Bethlehem, which may be viewed in the Narthex. The tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be on December 12, immediately after church. All proceeds will go towards their mission trip next summer to the Holy Land.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

The congregation approved the following at the Congregational meeting, Sunday, November 21.

- The Nominating Committee Report:
Moderator Elect – Scott Jackson; **Treasurer** – Dan Alderson; **Secretary** – Regena Varvoutis
Trustees – Bruce Moon, Libby Carpenter, Hugh Henderson; **Mission Council Members-at-Large** – David Hamilton, Gary Howard; **Deacons Class of 2013** – Bobby Boyd, Faye Boyd, Clayton Brammer, Charlotte Brammer, Don Garrison, Susan Hales, David Hamilton, Gary Howard, Sherri LaBeau, Alyssa Lamb, Nickey Rudd, Carole Rudd, Jerry Wallace, Rita Wallace, Cayla Corbin.
- The 2011 Budget of \$ 508,521.00
- The approval of George Dudley as Elder

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2011

Administration	\$ 24,500
Property and Maintenance	\$ 122,536
Communications	\$ 4,837
Personnel	\$ 268,332
Stewardship	\$ 600
Fellowship	\$ 2,750
Worship	\$ 2,550
Membership	\$ 4,140
Evangelism	\$ 2,500
Music	\$ 8,150
Education	\$ 9,400
Outreach Miscellaneous	\$ 4,250
Outreach-Estimated Disciples Mission	
Fund and Local Outreach	\$ 53,976
Total	\$ 508,521

MEN’S MEETING

The Christian Men’s Fellowship will be blessed on Monday, December 6 at 6:30 pm to hear an outstanding young pastor, father, athlete, and life coach share from his heart. Romeo Penn played basketball at Montevallo and then professionally on an international basis. Currently Romeo leads Bible studies in this area and is the Director of Revolutionary Training Systems LLC that provides personal fitness training. Romeo recently completed a book “Keys To Unlocking Your True Identity” and has started another book. Please plan to attend and bring young guys that have sport interests. Steve Pasky will provide a wonderful meal. Thanks, *Charles Daniels*

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Christmas Poinsettia list is now in the narthex. The cost of the poinsettias this year is \$17.00. Please sign up and select a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Checks may be placed in the offering marked for “Poinsettias.”

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	79
WORSHIP	148

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

Sunday, December 5

- 9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:30 All-Church Christmas Dinner
4:00 Pastor's Class
4:30 Children's Play Rehearsal
5:00 Youth Groups
6:15 Snack Suppers

Monday, December 6

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
6:30 Men's Gathering

Tuesday, December 7

- 10:00 TAN Christmas Walk
10:00 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 8

- 12:00 Young At Heart at the Spencers'
6:30 Choir Rehearsal
7:00 Cantata Practice

Thursday, December 9

- 11:00 Staff Christmas Party – Spencers'
7:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Men's Bible Study

Saturday, December 11

- 9-1:00 Cantata Practice

GRACE NOTES

✠ With a grateful heart I thank all of my church family for the prayers, notes, cards, calls, visits, and love that comforted me following the deaths of my dear sister and special cousin. I am so blessed! Hugs and love.
Jean Nicholson

✠ During Advent Edd & Mary Pat will be preaching a series of sermons on the three gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Adventure Nook Preschool will be participating in the Shelby Baptist Association's Christmas Gift Shop. If you would like to provide a toy or item for a child ranging from baby to teen, please send in unwrapped gifts by **December 6th**. Thank you for making Christmas possible for all God's children. *Beth*

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, December 5th
“Christian Apologetics”
Seventh-day Adventists

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

After 12 years as Associate Minister and Administrator of Hargis Christian Retreat, Rev. George Edwards ended his ministry with our

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congregation on December 31, 1990. He was honored with a farewell reception and potluck dinner on February 3, 1991. A Search Committee was formed to fill the position of director at Hargis, and committee members soon began looking over applications.

In January, 1991, war again touched our nation as Operation Desert Shield escalated to Operation Desert Storm. The church prayer chain included a good many relatives and friends of our congregation who were serving in this conflict.

At Home with The Rankins also began again in January to enable the Rankins and the 70 newest members to become better acquainted during an evening of conversation, refreshments and fellowship.

A Mardi Gras dinner and celebration was held in February with red beans and rice and a parade in the Family Life Center complete with floats. The youth also hosted their third Sweetheart Dinner in February, and the annual All Church Retreat was held at Hargis the last weekend of the month.

The Library Committee decided to sponsor an Adult Literacy Program and volunteers began training in March. The annual CWF Spring Fashion Show and luncheon was also a March event with proceeds going toward funding Camp High Hopes and the purchase of furniture for the library. The Single Adult Ministry was very active, meeting weekly for discussion or entertainment. The group also sent out a monthly newsletter.

Palm Sunday featured a Lenten cantata/drama performed at both services and an Easter Fair in the afternoon. Everyone was invited to come and make Easter crafts, learn to make hot cross buns and learn about the symbols of the season. Dinner was provided, followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children. The 24-hour Chain of Prayer began after the Maundy Thursday service and concluded on Good Friday night. The Maundy Thursday service was combined with the service of Tenebrae (darkness). Following communion, the lights in the sanctuary were dimmed and candles extinguished as the service ended in total darkness. Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast at the Retreat were followed by one worship service at the church.

Randy Weems accepted the call to be the new administrator of the Retreat beginning April 1. He, his wife Susan and their two children moved into Bernard House, former home of the Giltners. He had master's degrees in camp administration and social work and also a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Shoppers made another trip to the outlet mall in Boaz in April with the usual stop for breakfast at Shoney's in Attala. The first spring CARE program was held the last Saturday in April and was a success in spite of the rain. CARE continued on three Saturdays in May with many volunteers from our church helping these special friends dance, create art and play games.

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP?

Do you, or someone you know, need some help lifting, moving stuff around, transportation, doctor trips, light construction, tree/limb removal, yard work or other tasks that are difficult for you or them? The James Gang & The Hands of the Carpenter are ready and available to see if we can provide this assistance. We are only a phone call away. Please call the church at 991-5000.

Busy Believers Christmas Gathering Friday, December 17

The Busy Believer (Young adult 21-41) will be gathering at the home of Darren and Julie Williamson at 6:30 on Friday, December 17th. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish, as well as *their children*. If possible please bring a gift to share with a family in need. Their address is: 2004 Highland Dr. 35244 in Hoover. The Williamsons will prepare beef tips & rice and hot dogs (for the kids). Busy Believers are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Julie at jdwilliam@bellsouth.net. Directions will be emailed. FYI to the parents: there may be a special guest dropping by to say hello or Ho! Ho! Ho! To the children.

TIRED OF TURKEY YET?

The CYF will be taking orders for those delicious Boston Butts on Sunday, Nov. 28th. They will be delivered fully cooked and ready to eat on Thursday December 9th. The cost is \$30.00. They will be perfect for holiday parties and family meals. Also, this time we will be selling smoked hams for \$40. They are as tasty as the Boston Butts. Thank you as always for your support! *The Youth Groups*

RAJA THE FRIENDLY COBRA HAS ARRIVED AT LAST!

Soon all the children will be out for the holidays. They will be looking for things to do in order to stay busy. So we would like to encourage you to introduce your children to *Raja*. She is part of the new Kids to Kids website for elementary age children. This particular website explores a wide range of ministry opportunities for our children. So check it out- they will love it. Go to www.kids2kidsmissions.org.

SPREAD THE LIGHT

Sunday, November 28, is the first Sunday in Advent when we begin to celebrate the birth our Lord. The CYF youth will once again accept your donations of \$5.00 or more in honor or memory of a loved one. These donations will help the youth to *Spread the Light* of Christ on their Mission Trip - which this year will be to the Holy Land. The youth have created a special Christmas card - a gift to you - to share with others if you wish, in lieu of a Christmas

gift. Oftentimes it is difficult to find that perfect gift for our family and friends. However, when you give a gift to the *Spread the Light* project, you will help the youth spread the Light of Christ in the land where He walked *and* you will be able to send your friends a Christmas card letting them know you have honored them with a special gift. Also, your name and those you have honored will be placed in our Christmas Eve Bulletins. As always, thank you for your love and support of our youth.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Sunday, December 5 at 11:30 am – All-Church Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 8 at 12:00 pm – Young At Heart Christmas Party at the Spencers'

Thursday, December 9 at 11:00 am – Staff Christmas Party at the Spencers'

Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 pm – Men's Bible Study Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 11 at 6:30 pm - Seekers Christmas Party at the Lamb's

Monday, December 13 at 6:30 pm – Elder Christmas Party at Clarissa Harms

Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm – Music Department Christmas Party at Jan Watts

Friday, December 17 at 6:30 pm – Busy Believers Christmas Party at Darren & Julia Williamson's

Sunday, December 19 at 1:30 pm – Comrades Christian Party at David Hamilton's

Sunday, December 19 at 5:00 pm – Chi Rho and CYF Christmas Party

Monday, December 20 at 6:30 pm – Mission Council Christmas Party at Gary & Annie Franklin's.

First Christian is a place of fellowship and joy. May we all celebrate the joy of the season at these special gatherings.