

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God, our help in ages past: We confess that often we do not have much hope for the New Year and years to come. As we read or watch the news, our faith falters. We wonder about the future - about the world's future and our own future. We forget Your promises along with Your great, saving acts on record in Your Word.

We thank You, most patient God, for keeping faith with us in spite of our doubt and particularly, for providing for us examples of steadfastness and of belief in the future.

We thank You for the old man who is planting trees up and down his street, even though he knows that he will be too old to enjoy them.

We pray for the young woman who is dying a slow, painful death, but who has left her body to a hospital so that, out of her anguish, healing may come to persons unknown to her.

We pray for scholars who write plodding, faithful chronicles of bygone times, because they consider humankind's ongoing history worth recording.

We thank You for scientists, politicians and grass-roots folk who struggle to preserve our environment, so that our children and grandchildren may inherit a habitable world.

And we pray, with thanksgiving, for women and men who agree that, in spite of the news, this world is still a fit place for having and raising children

Restore our faltering faith. Remind us that You are our hope for years to come. For the sake of Him who willingly died young so that we might have a future.

Amen.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN 2011

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord at First Christian in 2011. Please choose one and notify Hugh Henderson, Scott Jackson, Edd or Mary Pat. All members of First Christian are encouraged to serve as a member of a Mission.

Worship Mission: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.

Education Mission: Responsible for Sunday school of all ages, youth work and the total education program of the church.

Evangelism Mission: Responsible for bringing new members into the life of the church.

Fellowship Mission: Responsible for providing a social life and fellowship activities for the church.

Administration Mission: Responsible for the financial program, maintenance of property and general administration policies for the church.

Outreach Mission: Responsible for giving to the needy within Birmingham and throughout the world.

Membership Mission: Responsible for care and nurturing of church members.

PLEDGE REPORT

We have received 59 pledges that represent \$255,995.00 toward our budget for 2011. If you have not made your pledge, please return your pledge card soon. We all need to share in our part of supporting the Lord's work at First Christian. Pledge cards and privacy envelopes are available in the narthex.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The men that are meeting on Monday mornings at 7:00 am began a new Bible study on the book of Acts on Monday, January 3. From the Pentecostal fire in Jerusalem to a gospel proclamation in a Roman prison, the book of Acts shares the exciting story of God working to take the gospel message of salvation to the ends of the world. Come join seventeen men as we celebrate this remarkable book.

PLANNING FOR 2011?

As you plan for the New Year, consider making a resolution to finalize your personal end of life plans. Rather than leaving difficult decisions for your bereaved loved ones to handle, make your own wishes known ahead of time. Consider reserving a niche in the FCC columbarium in our lovely outdoor worship center. Hopefully, you had an opportunity to attend one of our recent memorial inurnment services to witness how special our end of life ministry is at FCC. To ask about our columbarium and related end of life matters, please contact Jim or Ann Langley, Jim Baxter, or Clarissa Harms. Reservations for a niche in our columbarium can be made with Cece in the church office.

DIACONATE MEETING - Sunday, January 9

A diaconate meeting for all deacons is scheduled for Sunday, January 9 in the sanctuary following morning worship. The purpose will be to welcome the new deacon class of 2013, review serving procedures and to elect voting deacons for the Mission Council. The nursery will be open after church for those deacons who need childcare.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Don't forget to sign-up for flowers to celebrate birthday, anniversaries, and other special occasions for your loved ones and friends. The sign up list is in the narthex and the cost is \$45.00. Our talented ladies always do such a beautiful job of flower arrangements. There is no nicer way of showing your love or appreciation of that special someone than to say it with flowers.

THE 2010 VISITOR

If you would like to bind the 2010 Visitor in honor or memory of a loved one or friend, please contact Cece in the church office. The cost is \$35.00

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	56
WORSHIP	124

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Life In Our Community

Sunday, January 9

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:15 Diaconate Meeting
5:00 Children & Youth Groups
6:15 Snack Supper

Monday, January 10

7:00 Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 11

9:45 The Adventure Nook Chapel
10:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Finance Council

Wednesday, January 12

6:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, January 13

7:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Men's Bible Study

Friday, January 14 – Sunday, January 17

Chi Rho & CYF Smoky Mountain Trip

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Conlee Alderson and her family: Dan, Megan, Evan, Sarah, and Danielle in the loss of her mother and a grandmother, Connie Talbot.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Faye Boyd in the loss of her father, Richards Bonds.
- † Our appreciation is expressed to our college young adults who led us in worship on Sunday, December 26. Hannah Harms shared the sermon with Keith Henderson, Emma Harms, and Andrew Burdette, serving as worship leaders. Well Done!
- † Our joy is with our children who did a fantastic job at the early Christmas Eve Communion Service. They received a standing ovation.
- † Karley Lanier Clausheide was dedicated to the Lord at the Christmas Eve Communion Service.
- † Our congratulations to Lana Aiken who was married in the sanctuary on New Years Day.
- † Installation of new officers, Deacons, and Elders will be in morning worship on Sunday, January 23rd.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to the Sikes family in the loss of Nancy Youngs.
- † Ruth Ann Steele is in Bangkok, Thailand to be with her son, daughter-in-law and grandson.
- † Mario Carreras is a comedian and a master of ceremonies in sharing humor in Comedy clubs around Alabama.
- † Our prayers are with Cece Roberts who is in St. Vincent's Hospital.

A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new Sunday School class focusing on Biblical scripture using the International Sunday School Lesson as a guide will have an organizational meeting during the regular Sunday School hour on Sunday, January 30th in the Fireside Room. We will hold a discussion of a class name, class leaders, and the class format. The class will be discussion type rather than lecture. Participants will have educational materials available. If you have any interest in a class of this type, please join us on January 30th to prepare for a February 6th beginning.

CHI RHO & CYF TO ATTEND RESURRECTION EVENT

Our Chi Rho and CYF youth and their sponsors will participate in a youth event sponsored by the United Methodist Church in Gatlinburg, Tennessee over the MLK weekend. The event is called "Resurrection," which is an annual event of worship and spiritual growth. Each year over 12,000 youth and their sponsors come together to celebrate the God of the Resurrection. Through inspirational words by nationally known speakers and music led by well-known musicians, young people encounter the Lord in new and deeper ways. Resurrection gives evidence to the common experience of Jesus Christ's Lordship that binds all believers. The youth come from all over the Eastern United States as well as many denominations. This year we have 18 youth attending. We will depart Friday, January 14 at 1:00 pm and stay in cabins in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We will return Monday, January 17 in the afternoon.

TRUTHS TO GUIDE THE SOUL

- ♦ Be fishers of men and women. You catch them, and He will clean them.
- ♦ Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- ♦ God provides a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- ♦ Prayer: Don't give God, instructions, just report for duty.
- ♦ The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.
- ♦ The will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, January 9th

"Christian Apologetics"

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD'S WORK WORKS WONDERS

Six months after the owner of a small store was appointed postmaster, not one piece of mail had left the village.

When deeply concerned postal officials from Washington investigated, the local postmaster explained, "It's simple; the bag ain't full yet!"

My dear friend, your bag doesn't have to be full for you to share some of your blessings with others.

- You don't have to be in perfect health to serve others through our church.
- You don't need to be a literary genius to write an encouraging note to a lonely person.
- You don't have to be a professional musician to lift your voice in song to our Lord.
- You don't have to be a talented orator to share the love of Jesus with a child.
- You don't have to be a movie star to brighten the lives of others by giving them a loving Christian smile.
- You don't have to be a VIP in the eyes of the world to be a genuine Christian friend.
- And you don't have to be wealthy to give a portion of your resources to expand His love through the ministry of our church.

That's because your gift to God's work works wonders. May God help us to work wonders in His church through our time, talents, and treasures for 2011.