

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6 FEBRUARY 8, 2010



“What If...?”

**Regional Transformation Event
February 18-19, 2011**

First Christian Church, Birmingham

What if the church really were a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world? And what if the church really did practice inviting all to the Lord's Table as the Lord has invited us? This is the theme of the 2011 Transformational Event sponsored by the Church Development Committee of the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region.

Our Mission Council has approved this outstanding event and, therefore, graciously gifted each of us with free registration- which includes a delicious lunch prepared and served by our own CYF youth. We do ask that you please sign up in the narthex if you plan to eat at the luncheon, so we will prepare enough.

We will begin with worship on Friday evening at 7:30. Our guest minister will be Rev. Todd Adams, our Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our children's Kids Praise will sing and sign for us, and our Chi Rho and CYF youth will share the Communion Meditation. In addition, Deb Carpenter will share our scripture in story, and Stacy Cason will sign for us, "I Can Only Imagine" as part of the communion meditation.

Saturday, February 19 begins with registration at 8:00 for three (3) of the eight (8) workshops that will be offered- including one with our own Rev. Lesleigh Carmichael, who will be leading two sessions on Youth Ministry "Outside the Box".

Plenary session will be in the sanctuary at 9:00 with Rev. Suzanne Castle, who is the Associate Minister for The SEARCH (an emergent worshiping community) and Campus Ministries at University Christian Church in Ft. Worth, TX.

A GLIMPSE AT THE WORKSHOPS TO BE OFFERED AT “WHAT IF...?”

Creating an Alternative with Special Seasons (Led by Rev. Suzanne Castle, University Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX).

This workshop will offer creative ideas for congregational worship and will emphasize multi-sensory expression. Special seasons are great opportunities to expand worship to include art, prayer, sacred space and music. In this workshop we will explore resources and walk through ways to engage the special seasons of the church year differently

Lifestyle Evangelism (Led by Rev. Ken Whisenant).

What if...every member of every church in the Region learned to share the good news of Christ as naturally as we talk about all of the other topics influencing our lives. This workshop will help break down the barriers and build ways to engage others in conversation that will create an interest and curiosity that will produce results in God's time. This could spark a new surge in spiritual growth in our congregations, even if we do not have all the answers.

Upward Sports—An Outreach to At-Risk Youth (Led by Sylvester Hardy).

This workshop will describe the outreach strategy behind the Upward Sports ministries, which have seen success on a global scale for the past three decades. Learn what one community in Alabama is doing to reach out to its youth as Disciples take the lead in fostering partnerships with other churches, schools, and community organizations to offer an Upward Sports ministry.

Fellowship of Twelve - Leadership Development

(Led by Rev. Susan Diamond). What IF...pastors were intentional about equipping lay leaders for ministry? How would it change the church, its mission and its ministry? Learn what one pastor and congregation are doing, and share your own ideas about leadership development for the 21st century.

Setting the Captives Free: The Payday Loan Trap (Led by Rev. Sèkinah Hamlin, SERF Minister of Anti-Racism and Reconciliation).

Persons of color and economically deprived communities are more likely to be impacted by predatory lending. What if congregations educated their members about the injustices of predatory lending and became advocates for the poor and marginalized in their communities?

What IF...We Read the Book and Followed the Directions? (Led by Rev. Paul Ingram).

It's 11:35 on Christmas Eve and you are trying to put together a swing set for the kids without reading the directions! The time is fleeting and we try to build the kingdom and we have failed to follow the directions! And we are failing in our attempt!!!! What If???????????

Boundary Training (Led by Nisha Warbington).

This workshop will train congregational leaders on how to structure policies and practices to protect children and youth. Congregations will be reminded of their responsibility for the safety of children and youth who participate in their programs. Attention will be given to best practices for the selection and screening of volunteer and paid persons who work with children and youth.

Youth Ministry “Outside the Box” (Led by Rev. Lesleigh Carmichael, Lead Consultant, Youth Ministry Architects, Nashville, TN).

“What if?” youth ministry was not looked upon as something that a church could purchase in a can from a church resources site? What if youth ministry was a ministry done with consideration of one's own resources and gifts instead of thinking it had to look like the 6000 member church down the street? What if we valued the training and accountability of those who lead and nurture our youth instead of hiring anyone who walked through the door who could play the guitar? What if we looked at youth ministry as a ministry needing to be done in community with the rest of the church? It is our hope that **YOU** as a chair of a mission or elder, deacon or member here at FCC that you will plan to attend this spiritual and educational event. It is also our hope that you will encourage other members and friends of this congregation to attend and participate as well.

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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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 This Week

Sunday, February 13

9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:30 Ona/Ruth meet/Fireside Room
4:30 Kids Praise
5:00 Children and Youth Groups
6:15 Snack Supper

Monday, February 14

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

Tuesday, February 15

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

Wednesday, February 16

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 17

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

Friday, February 18 – Saturday, February 19

“What If?” Transformation Worship & Workshops

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is extended to Jim Langley and family in the loss of his sister Ann Murphy.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Earl Strickland and family in the loss of his mother Doris Strickland.
- † Dear Church Family, My family and I thank you for your thoughts and prayers. We deeply appreciate the cards, meals, calls, emails, and texts! We love you very much. Conlee Alderson and Family.
- † Please turn off all cell phones during worship.

GOT HELP?

Got Help? The church and several groups do and are providing a variety of different programs. If you or someone you know needs transportation, lifting, yard work, light carpentry, fixing up/repairs or just someone to talk to, give Jerry Wallace a call at 991-0512.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Want to get into the construction business? Want to help build a house? Got just the thing for you! The church is joining with Habitat for Humanity to provide these services on a volunteer basis. Men, women, youth - all are invited to participate. Take a minute and call the church at 991-5000.

New Sunday School Class
Sunday, February 13th
“This is My Beloved”
Mark 9: 2-13

DISCIPLE MOMENT

Beginning on the second Sunday of this month (Feb. 13, 2011), and continuing the second Sunday of the month thereafter, a Disciple Moment will become part of our service. The moment will be just that, a two-or three-minute message to specifically highlight Christ's command to honor the call to spread the good news of God's saving grace. You will hear real life experiences from those who wish to tell us how the Holy Spirit moved them to share His love, grace and compassion with others. This may include how God moved in some of their lives to bring them to the awareness of the need for Christ. If you have a moment you would like to share, please call the church office. Remember: God's love / our mission!

WIRELESS INTERNET

Our church now has wireless internet throughout the building. The wireless network is split into secure and open segments. The secure segment serves the office area. And the open segment serves the narthex, sanctuary, library, gym, and classrooms on the western side of the building along with most of the fireside room. Our appreciation is expressed to Charles Daniels and Gary Howard. Well Done!

OUR COMMITMENTS

To date we have received \$352,560.00 in commitments toward our 2011 budget. We are grateful that this is an increase of \$14,700.00 over the pledges last year. If you have not made your commitment for 2011, please contact Cece.

KID'S PRAISE

The Kids' Praise group will meet at 4:30pm Sunday, February, 13th, 2011 for their last rehearsal for the Regional Worship Service on Friday, February, 18th, 2011. The children need to be at the church at 7:00 pm that Friday night for the practice before the service at 7:30 pm. Please meet your children at the back of the sanctuary that evening right after they finish singing. Kids' Praise will resume Sunday, February 20th, 2011 as part of the children's Sunday evening programs at 5:00 pm. Thank you for your and your children's participation. In Christ, Jan

BELL CHOIR

There will be an organizational Bell Choir meeting on Sunday, February 20th, 2011 at 4:30pm in the choir room. Anyone interested in playing bells is invited. You do not need any experience to join this group, only a wonderful sense of humor! Jan

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, February 13th

“What In The World Is Going On?”

The Crude Awakening – Luke 12: 54-56

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 82
WORSHIP 151