

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 7 FEBRUARY 15, 2011



“WHAT IF....?”

February 18-19, 2011

This Friday, February 18 and Saturday, February 19, a dynamic event will take place at our church. We are all invited to participate in the “What If...?” Transformation Worship and Workshops.

Friday Evening at 7:30 pm (nursery open)

Worship & Preaching with Dr. Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

- Deb Carpenter will share the scriptures in a story
- Our children in Kid’s Praise will share special music
- Our youth will share the communion meditation
- Stacy Cason will sign in the worship service

Saturday, February 19 (nursery open 8:30-2:00 pm)

8:00 am	Registration for Workshops
9:00 am	Plenary Session with Rev. Suzanne Castle, Campus Minister at University Christian Church in Ft. Worth, Texas
9:45 – 12:00	Workshops (see list below)
12:00	Lunch provided by our youth. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex if you are planning to eat lunch
12:45 pm	Workshops – (see list below)
1:45 pm	Closing worship and communion
2:00 pm	Depart

WORKSHOPS – (Your choice of three workshops)

Rev. Lesleigh Carmichael	“Youth Ministry Outside the Box.” Workshop will help the members of the church be involved in <u>youth ministry</u> .
Rev. Suzanne Castle	“Creating an Alternative with Special Seasons.” Workshop will offer creative ideas for <u>worship</u> .
Rev. Susan Diamond	“Fellowship of Twelve – Leadership Development.” Workshop will enable Lay leaders to be equipped for <u>ministry</u> .
Rev. Sekinah Hamlin	“Setting the Captives Free: The Payday Loan Trap.” Workshop will help us in our <u>outreach</u> to become advocates for the poor in our community.
Sylvester Hardy	“Upward Sports – An Outreach to At-Risk Youth.” Workshop to provide sports and activities for <u>youth</u> through Upward Sports ministry.
Rev. Paul Ingram	“What If ...We Read the Bible and Followed the Directions?” Workshop will encourage us to read the Bible and <u>study God’s Word</u> .
Nisha Warbington	“Boundary Training.” Workshop on how to help the church make decisions and policies to protect <u>children and youth</u> .
Rev. Ken Whisenant	“Lifestyle Evangelism.” Workshop will help break down the barriers of sharing the “Good News” through <u>evangelism</u> .

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE HERE

Our new pictorial church directories have arrived. Please pick up your copy this Sunday from our Membership Mission Chairs, Susan Storer and Marquita Sebastian. They will be in the narthex after worship and each family will receive one copy.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Hey all you Habitat for Humanity folks. To get us going, we are going to have a very brief meeting right after our February 20 Sunday service in the Farcas Room to discuss our plans. So put this on your calendars and come ready to talk.

BELL CHOIR

There will be an organizational Bell Choir meeting on Sunday, February 20, 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*

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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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 This Week

Sunday, February 20

9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship-Rev. Lesleigh Carmichael
10:30 Worship & Wonder
5:00 Children and Youth Groups
6:15 Snack Supper

Monday through Friday

9:30 -1:30 The Adventure Nook

Monday, February 21

7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, February 22

9:45 Chapel
10:00 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 23

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 24

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

GRACE NOTES

- † Our joy is with Reagan Everling, who was baptized last Sunday.
- † We welcome into the church Lisa Everling, who comes by transfer.
- † We celebrate with Brandi Long, who rededicated her life last Sunday.
- † Our joy is with Dustin & Amy Chandler in the birth of their daughter, Carly. The proud grandparents are Dronnie & Aneda Chandler.
- † Our prayers are with Mac Heaton, who is in St. Vincent's getting a new pace maker.
- † Congratulations to Ed & Sarah Powell, who were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, February 12.

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, heavy lifting, yard work, light carpentry, repairs or just someone to talk to, call Jerry Wallace at 991-0512.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday, February 20th

“Jesus Came to Serve”- Mark 10: 35-45

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, February 20th

“What In The World Is Going On?”

Modern Europe... Ancient Rome – Daniel 2:31-45

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 94
WORSHIP 172

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CHURCH HISTORY

More than 20 volunteers helped to create a marketplace as it might have appeared in biblical times. This was the setting for the June, 1993, Vacation Bible School, "Leap into The Year 29 A.D.". During the week long experience, nearly 40 children enjoyed making musical instruments, pottery, jewelry and learning to weave. They even baked and ate their own bread each day.

At the end of July, 18 adults from our church and 14 from other congregations left for the island of Andros in the Bahamas where they held a Vacation Bible School for about 300 of the island children. Mission members paid their own expenses and stayed at the AUTEK Navy Base. Churches helped provide hundreds of snacks, caps, t-shirts, flip-flops, toys, color books, crayons and hygiene items for the children.

Members of the youth groups enjoyed a regional retreat at Gulf Shores in August. The Fellowship Department sponsored a "Back to School-End of Summer Party" with hot dogs, ice cream and games on the last Sunday evening in August.

The Men's Fellowship of the AL/NWFL region and the Christian Women's Fellowship had a joint retreat October 1-3 at Hargis Christian Retreat. The theme was "Singing the Lord's Song in A Changing World". This was a rewarding weekend and an opportunity to meet and enjoy fellowship with other men and women across the region. The CARE program was also held at the Retreat every Saturday in October. Pumpkin Patch 1993 was visited by more than 8,000 children, parents and teachers from Birmingham and surrounding areas.

In November a group from our church participated in a Habitat for Humanity work day at a Pratt City neighborhood where 6 homes were to be built by volunteers and the families who were purchasing the houses. The youth of the church sponsored a spaghetti dinner in November as a fundraiser for their projects. Karaoke was the featured entertainment, and everyone had fun as they sang along to their favorite songs.

Many enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving worship and dinner at the Retreat on Thursday and the Hanging of the Greens on the last Sunday evening in November. The service was followed by a cookie tasting party. Each family was asked to bring a batch of favorite cookies to share.

The Fellowship Department served a Christmas dinner with turkey and all of the trimmings after the pageant on Sunday evening, December 12. The early Christmas Eve service was family oriented with a special time for the children. The 11 p.m. worship included a Candlelight Communion Service. On December 26 all Sunday School classes gathered together for a celebration and Blessing of Toys. Families brought doughnuts and muffins for this time of fellowship.