

# First Christian Visitor

*“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”*

[www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org)

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## WEEK OF COMPASSION EXTENTION

Our hearts break for our neighbors in Japan as they try to cope with the aftermath of earthquakes and a tsunami even as they fear nuclear disaster. We feel compassion for their pain, loss, and uncertainty. We want to help, and we can. **The Week of Compassion offering will be extended to this Sunday, March 27, to provide a secure way for us to assist our neighbors.** The Christian Church (DOC) is also poised to assist Libyan refugees as they escape into Tunisia, assist flood victims in Brazil and Columbia, and help US residents following recent storms in Kentucky and Missouri, especially. In addition, the Church has ongoing disaster relief programs in several African countries (Chad, Liberia, and Tanzania) and continues to provide aid to those suffering from flooding in Australia and the earthquake in New Zealand. The need is great. **Please give generously.** You can find out more about how the Christian Church distributes Week of Compassion donations at: [www.weekofcompassion.org/current-year](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/current-year).

*The Outreach Mission*

## EASTER HYDRANGEAS

This year we are going to have Easter Hydrangeas in the sanctuary for Easter morning. Many of our people are allergic to Easter lilies and the Worship Mission felt this would be a good alternative. The hydrangeas are \$18 and you are encouraged to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one. Payment in advance is required. Please note on your check, “for Easter Hydrangea.”

## MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

If you have ever had any concerns, questions about the Middle East, please plan to attend our next Men’s Fellowship on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We are very pleased to have as our Guest Speaker, Dr. Iradj Sooudi, an Iranian born into a Muslim family who has lived in the US for 48 years. Dr. Sooudi will be sharing his thoughts and feelings on what is going on in the Middle East Region. Our meal starts at 6:30 pm and we look forward to your being with us. Ladies are welcome to attend.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome into our congregation by transfer of membership Russell Fountain. Russell is an ordained pastor in the Church of Christ. Please add the following to your new church directory.

Russell Fountain  
4909 Clairmont Ave. South  
Birmingham, Al 35222  
595-0957

## SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	69
WORSHIP	122

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

### LENTEN SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Every Wednesday night during Lent we will have the opportunity to gather in the Family Life Center at 6:00 pm for supper. The Fellowship Mission will provide the meals, with the cost being \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 4-11, and children under 4 are free. Following the meal at 6:30, we will have a thirty-minute Lenten worship in the Farkas room. The youth will assist the ministers in leading the worship services.

The worship services this year will focus on places in the Holy Land where powerful things happened.

*Wednesday, March 23:*

The Mountains of the Wilderness –  
His Temptations

*Wednesday, March 30:*

The Sea of Galilee – His Greatest  
Sermon

*Wednesday, April 6:*

The City of Jerusalem – His Suffering

*Wednesday, April 13:*

The Hill of Calvary – His Death

The meal and service have become a wonderful Lenten tradition at First Christian.

Reservations for the meal can be made on the envelopes in the pews on Sunday mornings. If you can’t come to the meal, please attend the Lenten worship service at 6:30 pm. The nursery will be open for childcare.

## YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart & friends, you are in for a great treat. We will have as our guest for lunch, Plato Pappajohn Plato, well known in the produce business in Birmingham and now an author and inspiring speaker for all ages. A hard working immigrant from the island of Evia, Plato survived a childhood shattered by two wars and drafted into the Korean conflict by the USA. He has quite a story of faith to tell. We are privileged to have him as our guest and speaker. Sign up on the poster and bring your friends for a great time of fellowship with Plato Pappajohn, March 30<sup>th</sup> at noon, here at First Christian Church. *Thanks, Janet*

## NAMETAGS

We would really appreciate everyone wearing his/her name tag during worship and social events. Thank you. *Marquita and Susan, Membership Council*

## “THE DISCIPLES”

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

1 Timothy 5: 1-8, 17-22  
Worship Inspires Service

*Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”*

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### **Life In Our Community This Week**

#### **Sunday, March 27**

9:00 Sunday School  
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship  
10:30 Worship & Wonder  
4:30 Pastor Class for Baptism  
5:00 Kids Praise  
5:00 Children & Youth Groups  
5:00 CYF Parents Meeting  
6:15 Snack Supper

#### **Monday, March 28**

7:00 Men's Bible Study  
10:00 Staff Meeting  
6:30 Christian Men's Fellowship

#### **Tuesday, March 29**

9:45 Chapel  
10:00 Women's Bible Study  
7:00 Elder Calls

#### **Wednesday, March 30**

12:00 Young at Heart  
6:00 Lenten Dinner  
6:30 Lenten Worship  
7:00 Choir Practice  
7:30 Cantata Practice

#### **Thursday, March 31**

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

### **GRACE NOTES**

- † Our prayers are with Carole Rudd, who is receiving chemotherapy.
- † Our prayers are with Mac Heaton, who received a new pacemaker.
- † Our prayers are with Frances Gatewood, who fell and is in St. Vincent's.
- † Did you see the article about John Hard in the Birmingham News about his service to our country as a B-17 pilot in World War II?
- † Congratulations to Gina Flora, granddaughter of Bud & Georgia. Gina gave birth to Anna Grace on St. Patrick's Day.
- † The Chi Rhos are having a Lock-In at the Spencers' this Friday night.
- † The ministers of First Christian are extinguishing the Lenten Candle this year. Extinguishing the candles are: Carl Flock, Jim Clifford, Russell Fountain, Jan Watts, Edd and Mary Pat Spencer.
- † Sixty-three people attended our first Wednesday night Lenten service. Mary Pat led us in a very meaningful service on the birth and sacrifice of our Lord. Come this Wednesday night and be blessed.

### **CHURCH HISTORY**

The Tuesday Girls celebrated their 20th anniversary of sewing and quilting with a party at The Club in January, 1995. Elders and members of the diaconate and their spouses had an opportunity to participate in a retreat at Rolling Hills on January 28. Dr. John Killinger, the resource leader, was a well known author of religious books and widely respected for his spiritual depth and knowledge of prayer.

The youth sponsored their annual Valentine dinner on February 10 and raised \$550 for their projects. The All-Church Retreat was held the next weekend, beginning Friday evening with a fellowship supper and entertainment by the men in the choir. This was followed by a message from Dr. Bill Leonard, Chairman of the Samford University Department of Religion and leader of the retreat. This continued at Hargis on Saturday with two more messages from Dr. Leonard on the theme, "Who Are These Christians and What in the World Are They Doing?". A vesper service followed by dinner concluded the retreat. All of our district Disciples' churches were invited to take part in a church hymn music festival at our church on the last Saturday in February. The guest speaker was David Polk, editor of our new Chalice Hymnals.

The Lenten season began with the Ash Wednesday service on the first evening in March. This season was a time to bring before God any brokenness in our lives, asking for forgiveness and healing. The CWF presented "Fashions in Bloom" on the second Saturday in March. A silent auction preceded the luncheon and fashion show, and proceeds were designated for Camp High Hopes. By the end of March, our Organ Fund was over the top, more than our \$50,000 goal. Repairs should be completed during the summer months.

The Maundy Thursday service centered around the ancient Tenebrae Service, a ceremony progressing from light to dark, symbolizing the fading light of the world as Christ was departing from it. This was followed by the 24 hour Chain of Prayer. Our youth participated in the 4th annual Rock-a-Thon at Hargis Retreat the night before Easter. Part of the funds raised went to help the CYF with their trip to Chapman University in California for the International CYF Conference. The Chi Rho group planned a trip to Six Flags in Georgia. Rev. Bonnie Condon, a recently ordained member, led the sunrise service which was followed by a fellowship breakfast buffet. Sunday School and the late worship service were held at church.

The spring CARE program for mentally and physically challenged adults took place on four Saturdays in April. Lane Mahaffey, from Spokane, Washington, was named Administrator of Hargis Christian Retreat in April. She and her husband had owned and managed a resort, she had held camps for the Salvation Army, and had been in charge of numerous volunteer programs. They had three children, and their family had also been home for 23 foster children.

### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

#### **Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**“What In The World Is Going On?”  
Vanished Without a Trace (Part 2)  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

## PROPERTY NEWS

- An area of the tile floor in front of the offices is breaking apart. Our appreciation is expressed to Kasey Fox, who is repairing the floor.
- The roof is leaking in the narthex near the entrance to the sanctuary. Our appreciation is expressed to Nickey Rudd, who has contacted the roofers and is guiding them in the process of repairing the roof.
- Appreciation to our custodian, Lloyd, who has been cleaning the carpet and floors in the class rooms during the TAN Spring Break.
- The storage shed behind the kitchen has been cleaned out. The old wooden, six-foot tables are outside behind the shed. You are welcome to come by and take a table home. Appreciation is expressed to Russ Favorite for cleaning out and organizing the shed.

## SUMMER CAMPS

June 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

Traditional Week-Long Camps:

**CYF Conference** (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Chi Rho** (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Junior** (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

\$225.00 before June 1<sup>st</sup> & \$265.00 after June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Discovery Camp** (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

June 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

\$135.00 before June 1<sup>st</sup> & \$150.00 after June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Beach Camp**

(formerly Fine Arts Camp)

For Youth in Grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

June 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

at Noah's Ark in Panama City, FL

\$225.00 before June 1<sup>st</sup> \$265.00 after June 1<sup>st</sup>