

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 14 APRIL 5, 2011



## MAUNDY THURSDAY PASSOVER SEDER AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Circle your calendar for a holy evening at First Christian on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The evening begins with a meal furnished by the Fellowship Mission. The cost is \$5.00 for age 11 and over, \$3.00 for ages 4-10, and children under 3 eat free.

After the meal, the Worship Mission will lead us in a Passover Seder. The Passover meal was instituted over 1200 years before Jesus. It recalls God saving the people of Israel from slavery to the Egyptians. Jesus celebrated it, knowing that it foreshadowed God's ultimate saving action to be accomplished through Him. On April 21, we will celebrate the Old Testament Passover Seder, followed with the New Testament Lord's Supper.

Place this meal and worship service on your calendar for Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. It will be a holy moment during Holy Week as we prepare for Easter Sunday. The nursery will be open.

## TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PRAYER VIGIL Thursday, April 21 – Friday, April 22

We are having a Twenty-Four Hour Prayer Vigil beginning at 9:00 pm on Thursday, April 21 and ending at 9:00 pm on Friday, April 22. The Prayer Vigil will be in the sanctuary with each person praying at his/her special time. A prayer chart consisting of 48 thirty-minute prayer periods is in the narthex. During the Prayer Vigil there will be material available for reflection and prayer. There will also be security in the parking lot for those praying during the night hours. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex. The Prayer Vigil takes place in the sanctuary.

## EASTER CANTATA

Our Easter cantata this year will be on Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at our 10:15 worship service. Please come and join the choir in praise to Jesus, our great Redeemer. "I Know My Redeemer Lives" is a telling of His story in words and music. Through His death and resurrection, the sacrifice has been made. The debt has been satisfied. Our redemption has been secured. Christ has been raised. Our hope is real. Our future with Him is certain. We know our Redeemer lives! On Easter Sunday, the choir again invites you to join us at the Hargis Retreat for a beautiful sunrise service at 6:30 with breakfast following in the cafeteria. We will be celebrating the risen Lord in word and song. At the 10:15 morning service in the sanctuary, the Bell Choir will be celebrating with the congregation the joy of the resurrection. Our hope is that you will join us as we ring in praise and worship of the risen Savior on Easter Day. In Christ's love, *Jan*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

The time has changed for the two remaining Lenten Dinners. The meals will be ready to be served at 5:45 pm. Come early and not be rushed before attending Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm. The menu this week for the dinner is Bar-B-Q, baked beans, and coleslaw.

Wednesday, April 6 The City of Jerusalem –  
His Suffering

Wednesday, April 13 The Hill of Calvary –  
His Death

Please make your reservation for the Lenten dinners at church on the envelope in the pews. If you can't come to the dinners, please attend the Lenten worship services at 6:30 pm. The nursery will be open.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 17 - Palm Sunday Easter Cantata  
"I Know My Redeemer Lives"  
Thursday, April 21 - Maundy Thursday "Evening  
Meal and Seder"  
Thursday, April 21 – Twenty-Four Hour Prayer  
Friday, April 22 Vigil  
Sunday, April 24 - Easter Sunday  
Easter Sunrise Service and  
Breakfast at Hargis  
Easter Morning Worship and  
Holy Baptism

## CROP WALK APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

As your congregational representative to the Church World Service (CWS) 5K Walk on April 10<sup>th</sup>, I am asking for your support in raising money. Each walker is asked to raise \$100. We have been involved with this event for 5 years. Due to the recent tragic events around the world, our participation is even more important this year. I will have 20 collection envelopes available until April 10th. Please see me before and after church to sign up to walk or to make a donation. We have a safe website available for on-line giving: [bhmcropwalk.org](http://bhmcropwalk.org). We were recognized as the congregation to raise the most money on the web last year...let's do it again! Twenty-five percent of all monies go to Greater Birmingham Ministries. The rest is distributed throughout the USA and into 67 other countries. CWS and the CROP Hunger Walk are non-denominational. Their operating expenses are paid by donations from businesses, churches, individuals and corporations. One-hundred percent of funds from the walks are used for the purchase of food. Your help is urgently needed.

*Blessings, Sharon*

<p><b>SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE</b> <b>WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP 57</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL 75</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE 158</b></p>
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### Life In Our Community This Week

#### Sunday, April 10

9:00 Sunday School  
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship  
10:30 Worship & Wonder  
11:30 Ona/Ruth at Janet Bonds  
1:30 Bell Choir  
4:30 Pastor Class for Baptism  
5:00 Kids Praise  
5:00 Children & Youth Groups  
6:15 Snack Supper

#### Monday, April 11

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

#### Tuesday, April 12

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

#### Wednesday, April 13

5:45 Lenten Dinner  
6:30 Lenten Worship  
7:00 Choir Practice  
7:30 Cantata Practice

#### Thursday, April 14

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

#### Saturday, April 16

9:00 Easter Cantata Practice

### GRACE NOTES

- † An area of the tile floor in front of the offices broke apart. Our appreciation is expressed to Kasey Fox, who repaired the floor.
- † If you or someone you know needs help with transportation, lifting, shopping, or light construction, call the Hands of the Carpenter (Jerry Wallace) at 991-0553.
- † Vacation Bible School will be July 25 – 29. Please save/bring any aluminum pie tins to the office. We will use them in our craft projects.
- † Our prayers are with Carole Rudd, Nancy Hubner, Frances Gatewood, Mac & Linda Heaton, and Beverly Smith.
- † Our prayers are with Jim Clifford, who is resting at home from a stroke.
- † Our prayers are with Bob Tomlinson, who had bypass surgery at St. Vincent's.
- † Fifty people attended the Men's Gathering on Monday, March 28, where Dr. Sooudi shared his thoughts on the Middle East. The men and women enjoyed a wonderful meat loaf dinner made with Pat Favorite's famous recipe.
- † Elders and spouses don't forget about our Elder Gathering at the Flora's lake house on Lake Martin this Saturday, April 9. The church bus will leave church at 8:30 am.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that FCC is becoming known for its outreach? Once upon a time we were known as "the church with the soccer field", but now we are becoming known as the "church of outreach". As your pastors we are so proud of you. Needless to say, we know that God must be pleased and proud as well. Here are a few examples of your outreach to others. FCC has once again been recognized as:

† One of the top 100 Disciples of Christ congregations who financially support Disciples Mission Fund through our financial gifts. Also to date, we have raised \$5,695.00 for the Week of Compassion offering to go to disaster relief to Japan and other natural disasters throughout the world.

† **Our CYF and Chi Rho** youth groups have adopted a student from India. They help buy school and medical supplies for a teenager by willingly donating \$38.00 a month towards his expenses.

† **Our Comrades Sunday school class** has adopted both Inverness and Oak Mountain Elementary Schools by providing food, clothing, books and toys to needy students. They also have provided some financial aid to help parents of disadvantaged children. In addition, the class has established an incentive reading program for the students where they record books for children with learning differences to help them succeed.

† **Our Insider's Sunday school class** has been active in working with Habitat for Humanity and is remodeling a church in Bessemer. They have also raised money for the Inverness and Oak Mountain Elementary schools and helped financially with several senior citizens who are disabled.

† **"Disciples" Class** is our newest adult class and is raising money for The Owens House in Columbiana for abused and neglected children.

† **Our Seekers Sunday school class** is presently ministering to a family in a nearby elementary school as well as a family in North Shelby County with a multitude of needs.

† **Our Hands of the Carpenter** reach out and respond to those in need within our congregation as well as those whom we do not know.

† **Our Crop Walk** is ready to walk and serve in April to raise money for those who have to walk to get water or food.

Please know that together we can and will make a difference. May God bless you for your outreach ministry to others; after all that is what God calls for us to do. Thank you for your love.

### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**"What In The World Is Going On?"**

**When One Man Rules the World (Part II)**

**"THE DISCIPLES"**

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Ancient Words of Praise

Jude 17-25

Praise Builds Us Up

## 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."

## 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>

## A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

We are blessed as a church to celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday. Maybe during these troubled times in our world we should celebrate the Lord's Supper more often.

Imagine Jesus as a guest in your home for the evening meal. You ask Jesus to say grace. To your surprise, He says not only grace, but all the words of the Communion Service. Imagine Jesus taking one of the dinner rolls, breaking it, and saying, "This is my body...". Then imagine Him taking a glass and saying, "This is my blood...". Jesus tells you that He never intended for the last supper to be shared only in a church service. He intended for every meal to be a remembrance.

During these troubled times, may we all remember the love and power of Jesus at our table at home. He is our hope in a fragmented world.

*God Bless You, Edd & Mary Pat*

## 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.
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