

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

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## Eleven Years of Ministry

Cece Roberts has been our Administrative Assistant for eleven years. It is with much regret and sadness we announce the conclusion of her ministry here at First Christian Church. Cece leaves due to a difficult decision. Since our pledges for 2011 do not presently support our budget, the Finance Council of our church, through a difficult process, decided to eliminate the position of Administrative Assistant. Cece has been an important part of our church and our lives; we will miss her and we wish her abundant blessings as she leaves our walls.

We will recognize Cece in Sunday worship on May 15<sup>th</sup> for her ministry. In addition to the generous gift that the church has shared with Cece there will also be a luncheon in her honor at 11:00 am on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> in the Farkas room. We encourage anyone who would like to attend please make reservations on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The duties of Administrative Assistant will be reevaluated as First Christian works within its budget to meet the needs of the congregation and the community. The members of the Finance Council have volunteered to manage our church's accounting needs in this interim time.

You are encouraged to attend the luncheon on May 17<sup>th</sup> and/or send Cece your best wishes at: Cece Roberts, 5670 Bryan Church Road, Dora, AL 35062. Please join us in wishing Cece many blessings as she begins a new journey.

Sincerely,  
Hugh Henderson  
Moderator of First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

## A PRAYER AFTER A DISASTER

O God, our hope and trust are in You. We have nowhere else to turn.

O God, how could these storms happen to our brothers and sisters. Grant them and us the faith to find You in the midst of this disaster. Be with us all in our questions of why?

We pray for all of those suffering from the death and destruction caused by the tornados. Come to them with the peace that passes understanding. In their time of darkness, may they find hope in Your presence.

And O God, pour Your Holy Spirit upon us and send us out with a sense of mission to help them. Bless our efforts as a relief center and all those who help and share. In this time of desperation in Alabama, enable each one of us to do our part in lifting the tremendous burdens of others through our love and compassion.

These things we ask in humility and service to Your kingdom. In Christ name. Amen

## STAGE BUILDING WORKDAY

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – Noon**

All we need is 8-10 workers to build 25 stage platforms in the gym. The more help we have, the faster it gets done. We are not installing the stage, just building the platforms to put into storage. Bring a power screwdriver. We have the materials. Please call Bill Watts at 966-1907 to let him know you'll be there. *Thanks, Bill Watts*

## THE YOUNG AT HEART

Moonlight and Magnolias, a hilarious comedy about how the greatest movie ever made almost wasn't. You don't want to miss this outing on May 28<sup>th</sup> (a Saturday afternoon matinee). Sign up in the narthex, get all the details and be ready for a fun bus trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. Frankly, my dear, this is some funny play. *Janet*

## TORNADO RELIEF

We are called to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way to fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). Many of our neighbors are burdened by the destruction wrought by the storms and tornados of April 27, and we, at First Christian, can help to ease some of those burdens by addressing some basic needs: water, nonperishable food items, towels, wash cloths, hand sanitizer, and toiletries.

First Christian has been designated a collection site for the 280 corridor, and you can help by volunteering to staff our donation site from 8:30am-7pm Monday through Friday and 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday. We also need donations of tarps, hammers/nails, bungee cords, rope, plastic tubs (all sizes), and yard gloves.

These are immediate needs. Our neighbors will need us long-term, and as their needs shift from survival to planning for the future, our response will shift as well. We can ease our neighbors' burdens.

*Outreach Mission, Charlotte Brammer*

## LOVE OFFERING

You may share a love offering with one of the following outreach ministries for tornado relief in Alabama: (1) The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) special offering for disasters through the Week of Compassion. We receive this offering in morning worship, or you can mail your check to the church. Please designate on your check for the Week of Compassion Tornado Relief. (2) You may also share a love offering with the American Red Cross. We are blessed to have Ann Langley as a gift officer for this ministry of outreach. Please make your check payable to: The American Red Cross, 300 Chase Park South, Hoover, AL 35244. These ministries of outreach will bring love and support to our brothers and sisters in Alabama.

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

#### Sunday, May 8

#### **MOTHER'S DAY**

9:00 Sunday School  
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship Service  
10:30 Worship & Wonder

#### Monday, May 9

7:00 Men's Bible Study  
10:00 Staff Meeting  
6:30 Elder Gathering

#### Tuesday, May 10

9:45 TAN Jungle Walk  
10:00 Women's Bible Study  
7:00 Finance Council

#### Wednesday, May 11

6:30 Choir Practice

#### Thursday, May 12

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

### **GRACE NOTES**

- † Our prayers are with Frances Battles, who is receiving therapy at Lakeshore.
- † Our prayers are with Luci Colee, who is resting at home after receiving a pace maker.
- † Margaret Willis had a few trees blown down in her yard from the tornado that went through Cahaba Heights.

### **WHAT IS A SABBATICAL?**

What is a sabbatical? It is a time given to ministers by their congregations, usually after every 3-5 years of service, in which the ministers takes paid leave from the responsibilities of the parish (usually 2-3 months) for an intentional time of study, rest, and reflection. It is separate from vacation, which is often a time for ministers to do special things with their families, and it is usually different from pursuing advanced theological degrees or professional certifications.

Why does the minister need a sabbatical? Although every person in a high stress, helping professional could benefit from a sabbatical, the case for ministers is somewhat unique. The minister is on a continuous day-in, day-out treadmill of Sunday morning deadlines, meetings, study, counseling, hospital and bereavement calls, and community and denominational commitments. There is a repetition and intensity involved in ministry which exacts a price in weariness of spirit, diminished enthusiasm, and loss of vision and perspective. This kind of psychological and spiritual stress is visited upon the very person to whom we go when we are weary, diminished, or lacking vision. Ministers give and give, rarely having time to

worship or study without its being related to lesson or sermon preparation. They have crises in their own lives, just like anyone else, and yet often do not have the privilege of time away from the responsibilities in order to be ministered unto by others.

The observance of sabbaticals allows ministers to get off the treadmill to allow for recreation and restoration of what has been worn down by day-to day leadership in stressful situations. Sabbaticals give new energy to ministers who look forward to them and who experience them as times of renewed spirit, vision and growth.

### **EDD'S SABBATICAL PLANS**

Edd will be on sabbatical leave June 15 through September 15. His plan is to spend two months backpacking on the Appalachian Trail from Mt. Katahdin, Maine, to Monterey, Massachusetts.

This journey on the trail will bless his life physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The physical challenge will help him see "what he is made of" and help him better function under the stress of ministry. Mentally, he will be able to find new thoughts for his sermons. Emotionally, he will be able to discover new ways to handle feelings more appropriately. And spiritually, he will be blessed to be able to better share the grace of God.

After the two-month hike, he will spend one month at Samford University writing a book about his experiences on the trail. The book will be titled, "Trailside Altars", and will be filled with spiritual thoughts about God from nature. Thoughts where other lives may be touched with the glory of mountains and God's creation.

While Edd is on sabbatical, Mary Pat and Jan will lead the church in ministry. Also, the church is blessed with a group of dedicated Elders. They will serve as worship leaders on Sunday mornings, make pastoral calls to hospitals, nursing homes, and member's homes to share the ministry of the church.

Life at First Christian Church will continue with a blessed joy. Edd is blessed to serve the Lord with such a great congregation.

### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

#### Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

**"Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians"**

**I Thessalonians 1:1-10**

### **"THE DISCIPLES"**

#### Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

**John's Vision of Worship**

**"Heavenly Worship"**

**Revelation 4:1-2, 6-11**

**SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**119**