



First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

visit us at : www.fcc-bhm.org or call us at: 991-5000

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 04 JANUARY, 24, 2012

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

I once heard the story about a drought that threatened the crops in a small village. The pastor told members of his church to go home and pray and return to church the following week for a special prayer service in which they would ask God for rain.

The people went home and prayed for rain and returned to the church. When the pastor saw them, he was furious. He yelled at them, “Go away, we will not have a prayer service. You do not believe”.

“But, Pastor”, they protested, “we prayed and we believe”. Then the Pastor, said “Believe? You believe? Then tell me, where are your umbrellas?”

I am asking for all of us to pray and with faith spiritually bring our umbrellas.

God bless you, Edd & Mary Pat

BELL CHOIR

Bell Choir began Sunday, January 22, at 3:00 pm in the choir room. We are excited that we now have four octaves of bells. We really would like to have at least fifteen ringers in our bell choir this year, and we are in need of a few more people. So, if you have ever wanted to play an instrument or participate in music with your church, this is the place to be on Sunday afternoons. We will have a Bell Choir Sunday in May, where we will be ringing the whole service. We invite you to come and join us in fun, fellowship, and worship because that is what happens in each of our meetings! You won't know how much you will enjoy it until you try it. Join Us! In Christ, Jan

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday, January, 30 at 6:30 pm

Great News! Two of our elected officials have agreed to be our speakers this month. Mary Sue McClurkin, our state representative, and Cam Ward, our state senator will be here on Monday, January 30, to give us an update on what we can expect from Montgomery this year. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

MEN'S RETREAT

The annual Men's Retreat for the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be on March 9-10, 2012 at YMCA-Hargis Retreat, Chelsea, AL. The Resource Leader is Mark D. Anderson, President, National Benevolent Association, leading the group on the theme “Ministering to the 'Least of These’”. Registration forms are available in the narthex. Early registration ends on February 17th. Details are on the registration form.

FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

This Sunday, January 29, is our fifth Sunday Pot Luck. Please bring your favorite dish. The church will provide drinks and paper products.

MISSION COUNCIL 2012

Moderator -	Scott Jackson
Moderator-Elect -	Steve Pasky
Secretary -	Regena Varvoutis
Treasurer -	David Hamilton
Chair of Elders -	Georgia Flora
Voting Elders -	Beverly Baxter Earl Strickland
Chair of Diaconate -	Art Varvoutis
Voting Deacons -	Clayton Brammer Janice Lamb Nickey Rudd Ginny White
Chair of Trustees -	Bruce Moon
Members at Large -	Ann Horne Bob Frederickson
Worship Mission -	Jim Baxter
Administration Mission -	Bill Watts
Education Mission -	Deb Carpenter
Evangelism Mission –	Bud Flora
Fellowship Mission –	Mack Carpenter
Membership Mission -	Bob Browning
Outreach Mission -	Charlotte Brammer

PRACTICING THE LORD'S PRAYER

P – Praise God's Person

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name

R – Respect God's Reign

Your Kingdom come.

A – Act in God's will

Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Y – Yield to God's Provision

Give us today our daily bread.

E – Expose Your Sin

Forgive us our trespasses as we also forgive those who trespass against us.

R – Resist the Evil One

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Try memorizing this acrostic and using it as a tool to prayerfully prepare for your day.

THE ADVENTURE NOOK CIRCUS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls and Children of all ages are welcomed to the greatest show on Valleydale. The circus is coming to First Christian Church. The children of The Adventure Nook will entertain us on Tuesday, January 31 under the “Big Top” in the Family Life Center. Come and bring a friend as we enjoy The Adventure Nook Circus!

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE	159
SUNDAY SCHOOL	77

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4954 VALLEYDALE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242.

Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, January 29

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:30 Fifth Sunday Pot Luck
3:00 Bell Choir
4:30 CYF at Laser Tag
5:00 Chi-Rho/Children/Praise Kids
6:15 Snack Supper

Monday – Thursday

9:30 – 1:30 The Adventure Nook
Monday, January 30
7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Men's Fellowship Gathering

Tuesday, January 31

9:45 Adventure Nook Chapel
10:00 Women's Bible Study
12:30 The Adventure Nook Circus
3:00 Elder Calls
6:30 Pastor's Cabinet

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, February 2

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

GRACE NOTES

- ⤴ We express our sympathy to Carolyn Goodall and family in the death of Carolyn's mother, Helen Chapman.
- ⤴ We express our sympathy to Sandy Hamilton and family in the death of Sandy's mother, Helen McQueen.
- ⤴ If you have not had the opportunity, please return your pledge promise for 2012 to the church as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.
- ⤴ We would like to thank the congregation for all their support and help. We can't know who was responsible to thank you individually, but we know you work together as a family and we want you to know how much we appreciate all you did. Your kind words about Jimmy and the outpouring of sympathy was a comfort to us. Jim & Dody Boyd.

INSIGHTER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday, January 29th
The Gospel of Mark

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, January 29th

A Study of The Book of James

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Drama camp for our children and youth took place the first week of June, 2007. This was an opportunity for the kids to develop self-confidence and self esteem. On the following Sunday, the participants presented performances of the biblical stories of Noah's Ark, the Creation, and David and Goliath. They were honored with a reception after church.

CYF youth and their sponsors were commissioned on Sunday, June 10. for their mission trip to Charleston, SC. They left on Saturday, wearing their mission t-shirts and looking forward to a week of service to others. They worked with residents in "My Sister's House", an emergency shelter for victims of abuse. They sorted food in the Low Country Food Bank warehouse, worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House, and also served the homeless at the Crisis Ministries Shelter. On Friday they enjoyed a walking tour of Charleston and a harbor cruise. This was a wonderful week of exercising their faith and sharing their love of Christ with others.

On the first Sunday in July, we gathered at a potluck breakfast to celebrate the freedom that we cherish in our nation. Jan led us in singing patriotic songs after breakfast; then Edd shared some thoughts on freedom. The breakfast and program took the place of our Sunday School classes and morning worship followed at the usual time.

We observed Mission Sunday the last week of July and learned how lives were changed by Camp High Hopes, the CYF trip to Charleston, and the Vacation Bible School for 300 children on the island of Andros. That evening, after a hamburger/hot dog supper, we had the dedication of the new outdoor worship center. This was an Eagle Scout project completed by Jacob Beatty, his family, fellow scouts, friends and members of FCC.

In August we welcomed David Brasher as our pianist/organist. David graduated from Florida Baptist Theological College where he majored in piano and minored in voice. David has an amazing talent and has been such a blessing to our congregation.

The first Sunday in September began with a contemporary service in our new outdoor worship center, followed by an end of summer potluck breakfast at 9:00, the usual Sunday School hour. After breakfast we gathered in the sanctuary for morning worship. Sunday evening, the 16th, there was a snack supper and pet dedication service in the outdoor worship center. We were invited to bring our cats, dogs or whatever little creatures we called pets, and to dedicate them to our Heavenly Father and to thank Him for these special blessings.

THE DISCIPLES

Sunday, January 29th

Out of Egypt

Exodus 15: 1-3, 19, 22-26