



First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

[visit us at : www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org) or call us at: 991-5000

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 05 JANUARY, 31, 2012

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

Mary Pat is in the mood again to have a pet. I understand from the youth group that she checked at the Humane Society in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, on their recent youth trip to the mountains. She is really ready to find another dog to be a part of our family.

All of this has reminded me of an advertisement campaign I saw for the Humane Society that pictured a dog and cat seated side-by-side on a beautiful couch. The caption over their heads read “A couple of VIP's – Very Important Pets.” And at the bottom, a second line read, “What makes them important is who owns them.”

I guess we could also say that if you and I are Very Important Persons, there is only one reason – God owns us.

Therefore, we once again affirm that God owns us. We are children of a loving God and followers of Christ Jesus. And our purpose is that we go forth into the world proclaiming that we too are Very Important Persons. That God loves us and share that message of love to others.

Praise be to God!

God bless you,
Edd & Mary Pat.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

A sign-up chart for flowers for worship is in the narthex. Please sign up for flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or friends. The cost is \$50.00 for each arrangement, and you may take them home after the worship service.

DISASTER RELIEF

To meet current needs and to prepare for immediate response to future storms, we are now collecting plastic bins w/lids, plastic bags (all sizes), work gloves (for men and women), and tarps. Please bring any of these items you would like to donate to Narthex.

Outreach.

EASTER CANTATA PRACTICE

Easter Cantata Practice will begin Wednesday evening on February 8 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Anyone who would like to sing with us for the Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday, April 1st during the morning worship service is welcome. *Jan.*

THE BEST GIFT TO GIVE

Lately we have all been encouraged to share our financial gifts with the Church. Below are some other gifts that we should share.

- To your friend – the gift of loyalty
- To your enemy – the gift of forgiveness
- To your child – the gift of a good example
- To your parents – the gift of gratitude
- To your mate – the gift of love
- To your God – the gift of your life

THE ADVENTURE NOOK FALL REGISTRATION

The Adventure Nook is taking registration for the preschool. If you or a friend have an interest in enrolling your child in the preschool for the fall, please call 991-9952.

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Our church places an emphasis on Bible Study and discovering new insights to the Word of God. Come and participate in one of the Bible studies listed below.

- ✦ A Men's Bible Study every Monday morning at 7:00 am in the Fireside Room.
- ✦ A Women's Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am in the Ann Gandy Room.
- ✦ A Men's Bible Study every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm in the Farkas Room.
- ✦ A Women's Bible Study every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm in the Ann Gandy Room.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, February 5th

The Mormon concept of God; the Father, Jesus, the Trinity

THE DISCIPLES

Sunday, February 5th

**Justified by Faith in Christ
Galatians 2: 15-21**

INSIGHTER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday, February 5th

The Gospel of Mark

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, AL 35242

picture is on it". God loves us very much. We are also part of His family.

**POSTAGE PAID
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"Where the Grace of God Awaits You."

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 5

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
3:00 Bell Choir
4:00 CYF "Super Bowl Party" at the Thigpens/meet at church

Monday – Thursday

9:30 – 1:30 The Adventure Nook

Monday, February 6

7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Worship Mission

Tuesday, February 7

9:45 Adventure Nook Chapel
10:00 Women's Bible Study
6:30 Pastor's Cabinet
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, February 8

6:30 Choir Practice
7:30 Cantata Practice

Thursday, February 9

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

Saturday, February 10

9:00 A Winter Walk on Oak Mountain

GRACE NOTES

- ⋈ We express our sympathy to Bill Watts on the death of his aunt, Betty Montgomery .
- ⋈ Our prayers are with our known ill. Please pray for Carol Allen, Janet Clark, Carol Dutt, Jim Clifford, Jamey Mann, and Scott Long.
- ⋈ Our prayers go out to all those in Alabama and the Birmingham area that lost loved ones and property from the tornado. Don & Donni Garrison sustained some damage when a tree fell on their front porch.
- ⋈ Our joy is with William Watts who was baptized in morning worship on Sunday, January 29.
- ⋈ Eighteen "Young at Heart's" enjoyed a great meal and wonderful program from "Rosie the Riveter", on Wednesday, January 25. If you are a senior adult come, join the "Young at Heart's".
- ⋈ Our joy is with Charlie Thigpen, who was featured in the New York Times.
- ⋈ Appreciation is expressed to Conlee Alderson for taking pictures of the new leadership of the church for 2012 and placing them on the bulletin board in the Family Life Center.
- ⋈ Conlee's pictures of our leadership members reminds me that many of us have pictures of our family on our refrigerators. These pictures remind us how precious our families are to us. As Max Lucado shares, "If God has a refrigerator, your

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Each year on the first Sunday in October faithful Christians in every land gather at the Lord's Table to celebrate World Communion Sunday. We shared this special oneness with the world at morning worship on October 7, 2007. The holy words of communion for the bread and cup found in Corinthians were spoken in German by Fletcher Hamilton, in Spanish by Edith Carreras, and shown in sign language by Stacy Cason. This service was preceded by communion in the beauty of God's creation at an 8:00 a.m. service in the Outdoor Worship Center.

The Adventure Nook celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. We observed this special occasion at morning worship on November 4. There was a service of recognition for all of the directors, all of the chair persons of the TAN Support Group, and of all teachers and children. Worship leaders for this service were children, youth and young adults who attended TAN. It was a privilege to recognize TAN which has been sharing God's love and grace with the children of our church and community for 20 years.

The annual stewardship campaign began with a gift from the church, a copy of the book "Treasures of the Transformed Life" by John Ed Mathison. We were asked to study the book and to learn and pray together for our church and for each other. This campaign was different from any we had in the past. We came together around the concepts of commitment, presence, prayer, service and financial giving.

A group of adults from our church traveled to Covington, LA, November 25-December 1. This was a mission trip to help in the recovery efforts from hurricanes Katrina and Rita by helping rebuild and repair homes along the Gulf coast.

Everyone was invited to an all church Christmas dinner and worship on Friday evening, December 7.

The handbell choir played special Christmas music before dinner, and there was a Christmas drama in the sanctuary after dinner, "Christmas Carols Come Alive". Several veterans in our congregation were asked to light the Advent candles: Jane Belcher, John Hard, Don Garrison and John Tabb. On December 16 the chancel choir presented a musical drama, "Jesus Our Treasure", the story of Jacob, one of the shepherds visited by the angels on that hillside so long ago. That evening the Chi Rho and CYF youth went caroling to nursing homes and assisted care facilities in the Birmingham area. There were two candlelight communion services on Christmas Eve, an early contemporary service with a children's moment and a late traditional service.