



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

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A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

This past week I had to go to the dentist for a cavity. There was a little boy who was taken to the dentist. The dentist discovered that he had a cavity that would have to be filled. “Now, young man,” asked the dentist, “What kind of filling would you like for that tooth?” “Chocolate, please,” replied the little boy.

We wish that all our fillings would be chocolate. But life does not work that way. We all face concerns and tribulations. Yet the Apostle Paul said, “We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4: 8-9).

So life is not all chocolate or even a piece of cake, but praise be to God for the love and power of Jesus Christ. He is with us in all the joys and concerns of life. Praise be to God.

God bless you,
Edd & Mary Pat.

A WINTER WALK

Saturday, February 11 at 9:00 am

Every year some of us take a walk together in the woods of Oak Mountain in the spring or fall. This year we want to add another season for our walk in the woods. On Saturday, February 11 we have the opportunity to have a winter walk on Oak Mountain. Together we will see a new perspective of the forest, a more open look to see wildlife and God's creation. Come on Saturday, February 11, at 9:00 am and meet at the church. Bring your lunch and water in a daypack. Come and celebrate God's creation in the season of winter. Maybe there will be snow.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30pm

Lent begins Wednesday, February 22. Lent is the season we reflect on the suffering and passion of our Lord. A season to consider ways that we can suffer for our Lord and carry our own personal cross for His Glory. We will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm to remember our Lord on our Lenten journey. Along with a special message and music, we will walk forward to receive the Mark of Cross on our foreheads. This will be a thirty-minute service and the nursery will be open for child care. Invite a friend!

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, February 12th

**Necessity of prayer
Luke 18: 1**

THE DISCIPLES

Sunday, February 12th

**Freed From Law Through Christ
Galatians 3: 1-14**

HEART POUNDING?

FCC has a heart for feeding others, and now has a food pantry! We need your help to stock it. Please bring any (or all) of the following items to the Narthex on Sunday, Feb. 12-19. Let's get our hearts pounding as we feed the hungry in our community!

****Please note that these are regular-sized items.**

- ▲ Canned soups, 11 oz.
- ▲ Cans of tuna, 5 oz
- ▲ Canned vegetables, 15 oz
- ▲ Canned fruits, 15 oz.
- ▲ Cans of small ham
- ▲ Dried beans, 1 or 2 lb
- ▲ Grits, 2 lbs
- ▲ Instant potatoes, 13 oz
- ▲ Macaroni, 1 lb
- ▲ Rice, 2 lb
- ▲ Spaghetti, 1 lb
- ▲ Oatmeal, 2 lbs
- ▲ Peanut butter plain, 1 lb
- ▲ Prepackaged Meals (Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Macaroni and Cheese, etc.)
- ▲ Powdered milk, 1 or 2 lbs

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 the Narthex.

Outreach Mission.

EASTER CANTATA PRACTICE

Easter Cantata Practice will begin Wednesday evening on February 8 at 7:30 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.*

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome Andrew Brown who came by transfer of membership from First Christian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Andrew is married to Michelle Bohan-Brown who joined the church this past summer. There address is:

2801 Riverview Road. Apt. 2124
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: 712-540-8872

INSIGHTER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

**Sunday, February 12th
The Gospel of Mark**

“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 12

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 9:45 Fellowship Moment
- 10:15 Worship Service
- 10:30 Worship & Wonder
- 11:30 Ona-Ruth meet at church
- 3:00 Bell Choir
- 5:00 Youth/Children/Praise Kids
- 6:15 Snack Supper

Monday – Thursday

- 9:30 – 1:30 The Adventure Nook
- Monday, February 13
- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Elder Gathering

Tuesday, February 14

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

Wednesday, February 15

- 6:30 Choir Practice
- 7:30 Cantata Practice

Thursday, February 16

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

Saturday, February 18

- 9:00 – 3:00 Regional Board Meeting

GRACE NOTES

- ⤴ Our prayers are with John Tabb's mother,
- ⤴ Our prayers are with, Robert Carreras, who is suffering from Hodgkins Lymphoma. Robert is the brother of Jose' Carreras.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with George and Judy Dudley's brother-in-law, Lo Smith.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with Earl Bonds, who had knee surgery.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with Jim Langley, who had a fall.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with Susan Hales' father Wiley Hales, who is in the hospital in Tuscaloosa.
- ⤴ To My Church Family, Thank you all so very much for your prayers, calls, concerns, messages, and cards that you sent when I lost my precious Mother. You are all so special to me, and I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family. Thanks for caring and being there for me. Love, Carolyn Goodall.
- ⤴ Laura Langley has accepted a professional position as a Social Worker at Aids Alabama effective Feb. 20. Congratulations, Laura!
- ⤴ The “Hands” have been active in helping our neighbors who experienced damage in the January storms. Please go to: <http://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianOutreach> and see them in action.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

There were two new Bible studies in 2008, both led by Edd. A men's group met at 7:00 a.m. Monday to study the book of Job, and an all adult group met on Sunday evening to study the book of Genesis.

Several members of our congregation and others in the community participated in Scale Back Alabama, weighing in January 6 and 7 and weighing out March 9 and 10. Their goal was to lose 10 pounds in 10 weeks. The group learned healthier eating habits and the importance of exercise in the weekly optional support classes.

A Saturday of fun was provided for our friends who participate in the CARE program, and they enjoyed crafts, lunch, recreation and fellowship. Other January activities included a CYF trip to Pigeon Forge over the MLK holiday weekend and The Adventure Nook circus.

The CYF and Chi Rho youth set a goal of raising \$200 and collecting 200 cans of soup to share with Oak Mountain Ministries during their Souper Bowl of Caring each Sunday in January. They collected 376 cans of soup by Super Bowl Sunday, February 3.

Lenten suppers and worship were held on Thursday evenings. In worship we learned how the ordinary cups we use each day can become sacred vessels that connect us with life and draw us closer to God.

It was an honor and a privilege to have well known minister, Dr. Fred Craddock, as the speaker during Transformation weekend in February. This was an event for the entire AL/NWFL region with the theme, "Can You Hear Me Now?". Dr. Craddock brought the message at the worship service on Friday evening, and workshops on Saturday were led by Dick Hamm and leaders from our congregation. We were challenged to realize the changes God was calling us to make in order to respond to the many needs of today's world.

The March Men's Retreat at Hargis focused on "Men As Sons, Brothers and Fathers" and was led by Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., Minister of Evangelism for Disciples Home Missions. Edd and Mary Pat offered a series of sermons during Lent on the meals that Jesus shared with His friends.

Shortly after Easter, several of our members joined others on a wonderful 8 day trip to the Holy Land. Edd, Mary Pat, John Hard, his daughter Laura Lewis, David Hamilton and Hubert Nall had the unbelievable experience of walking where Jesus walked, standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where He taught, and following His footsteps in Jerusalem and the Garden of Gethsemane.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE
WORSHIP SERVICE 128