

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 19 May 11, 2010



## PENTECOST SUNDAY – May 23

Pentecost is the day on which the Christian Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian Church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church.

We will celebrate Pentecost in some special ways. After worship, we will go outside and gather in the parking lot. A flock of doves will be released. As they fly in a circle around our church grounds, they will symbolize the coming of the Holy Spirit. It should be a very special moment.

Also, after worship, we will gather in the Family Life Center for a pot luck lunch. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite dish. The church will provide drinks and a birthday cake.

Invite a friend to church for this great day. Remember to wear red. It is the color of the fire and Spirit of Pentecost.

## TOP TEN LIST FOR 2009

The region of the Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida presents an annual report of the ministry of all the churches in the region. In 2009, First Christian appeared in 12 of the 14 reports. The following are the areas where First Christian was successful and a blessing to others.

Ten Largest Congregations #2 (340)  
Highest Average Worship Attendance #3 (169)  
Most Total Additions #9 (16)  
Highest Disciple Mission Fund #1 (\$39,022)  
Highest Disciples Outreach #1 (\$59,399)  
Highest Per Capita Outreach Giving #4 (\$174)  
Highest Week of Compassion Giving #5 (\$1,695)  
Highest Reconciliation Giving #3 (\$1,475)  
Highest Easter Offering #3 (\$1,330)  
Highest Pentecost Offering #7 (\$613)  
Highest Thanksgiving Offering #4 (\$841)  
Highest Christmas Offering #1 (\$14,423)  
John Mobley, our Regional Minister, made the following comment about our ministry:

*“This region, the whole church, is strengthened by your faithfulness. I particularly want to commend and thank the congregation for its support of the Christmas Offering. As you know, this offering is returned to the region and makes a huge impact on our ability to do ministry in Alabama-NW Florida. I am grateful to the congregation’s leaders for promoting this special offering. May God bless you in 2010 as you continue to serve faithfully.”*

Well done, First Christian. God Bless the church.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Listed below are two mission opportunities on June 5 & 6 for members of our church. Please select one and contact either George Dudley for Miracle Day or Jim Langley for Camp High Hopes. We are blessed that we are a mission church focused on the needs of others.

### MIRACLE DAY: JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

#### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ANNISTON, Welcome to the world of miracles!

When was the last time you felt like you were part of a miracle? I hope it hasn't been too long! Whether it has been quite a while or happened just recently, I am excited to tell you this event provides an incredible opportunity for you to become a partner in a miracle. The Miracle Day program sponsored by the Christian Church in Ala/NW Florida in partnership with the districts is not a new idea. It's like an Amish barn raising, a Habitat for Humanity build, and a church workday all rolled into one. It is Disciples, young, old and in-between, getting together for work, worship, fellowship and food. I have been blessed to take part in every Miracle Day program since it began ten years ago. Congregations in Mt. Willing, Saraland, Auburn and Cullman have all received miraculous blessings and revitalized ministries through this semi-annual event. However, in every case, the volunteers, myself included, received the greatest miracle of all! We need volunteers, donations and prayers. Please consider joining me and Disciples from all around the region on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Anniston. You will be blessed! For the next several weeks, I will be manning a table outside the sanctuary after worship to answer your questions, provide volunteer sign-up sheets, and encourage donations. Please stop by.

*George Dudley, Miracle Day Coordinator*

### CAMP HIGH HOPES

It's time to reserve your slot as a Camp High Hopes counselor. Each year, for 30 years, FCC Outreach sponsors a weekend camp for mentally challenged adults from Jefferson, Shelby, and Chilton counties. Those who are looking for a way to contribute their time for the service of others should take advantage of this experience. It is also fun. Counselors participate with campers in recreational experiences such as: horseback riding, swimming, fishing, motorcycle riding and dancing. The camp is at YMCA Hargis on the weekend of June 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jim Langley at 980-1827 with any questions and to reserve your slot. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex in May.

#### SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	75
WORSHIP	146

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road

*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, May 16**

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:30 Ona/Ruth at Lucille Leaman’s
- 2:00 Valleydale Clean-Up

**Monday, May 17**

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study on Micah
- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Mission Council

**Tuesday, May 18**

- 9:45 Chapel
- 10:00 Women’s Bible Study on James
- 7:00 Elder Visitation

**Wednesday, May 19**

- 9:45 Chapel
- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 20**

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study on John

**GRACE NOTES**

- † Our joy is with Jakie Woodruff and Bill Qualls, who were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, May 8.
- † Our prayers are with Thomas Hill, who is at Children’s Hospital. He is the grandchild of Virginia Crim.
- † FCC men are invited to come to the church at 2:00 pm Sunday, May 16, to pick up trash along Valleydale Road between the church and Highway 280. This is our service project for helping keep our community clean.
- † Remember that Edd and Elders will be visiting homes during May and June that Edd has not had the opportunity to visit.
- † Our prayers are with Edith Carreras, who underwent another knee surgery at Brookwood this past Monday.

**FOOD, FUN AND FITNESS CAMP**

“Your Bodies Are Temples of The Holy Spirit... Therefore Honor God with Your Bodies”

(1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)

For children who have completed 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

When: June 7-11, 2010

Time: 9:00 am -Noon

Registration Cost: \$40.00 or \$20 .00 for church members - deadline June 1<sup>st</sup>

Call the church office at 991-5000.

**CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

**Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**“Christian Apologetics Islam”**

**Abraham’s Family**

**CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

Several activities took place in October, 1976: a Family Life Retreat led by Dr. Robert Bottoms, Asst. Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School; a concert to benefit the Kitchen, Organ & Parlor Fund; and an Evangelism and Membership Workshop led by Dr. James Baughman, minister of Middletown Christian Church, Louisville, KY.

In November there was the traditional Thanksgiving service and dinner at the Retreat, and in December a Youth Carnival was held during the fellowship supper to raise money for gifts for hospitalized children. This was followed by the Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas pageant. The year ended with a watch night party and service at Davis Lodge at the Retreat.

On January 30, 1977, the Laity Sunday sermon was delivered by three outstanding lay people of the congregation: Mrs. Chivers Woodruff, Sr., Mr. Bob Fulton and Dr. Gordon Goodall. Their sermon topic was "What does the church mean to me?"

In January the Chairman of the Board, Mrs. Pattie Goodall, appointed "The Second Century Committee" to look at the condition of FCC (physical, spiritual and mental). She appointed Dr. Robert Russell (chairman), Mr. Bill Conwell (vice-chairman) and Mrs. Evelyn Rubin (secretary). The rest of the committee consisted of Dr. Bowers and 11 others. The committee established the following objectives: improve the role of the church within the family unit, make better use of the Retreat, investigate the possible renovation of our present worship site and/or consider relocation. Dr. Roland Sheafor, president of the Board of Church Extension, was invited to visit and bring ideas. In January and February Dr. Bowers spent two weeks of renewal at Vanderbilt University. He also began an adult Bible study on Psalms, which he defined as "the hymnbook of the Bible" and "the faith of the Old Testament set to music". Several people committed themselves to designing a Shepherd Program for our church as they sensed a real need for a program to allow us to better communicate and care for each other. The Shepherd Committee members were: Dr. Lola Kiser, Miss Virginia McMahan, Mr. Bob Fulton, Mr. Philip Porter and Rev. Wyatt. Kick-off Day was set for May 22 with 65 people committing to the program. A training session was led by Rev. Michael Harper, Chaplain/Campus Minister of Birmingham-Southern College.

In April Dr. Manfred Hoffman, Professor at Candler School of Theology and Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University, brought the message on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A published author and a preacher with true insight into the passion of our Lord, many of his works dealt with the mystery of suffering and the cross of Christ.

**POSTAGE PAID  
PERIODICAL  
(UPS 0195-880)**