

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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Mary Decker's Retirement Recognition

Mary Decker has announced her retirement from First Christian Church as our Nursery Coordinator. Mary has been with us for 20 years and has nurtured many children through the years. Therefore, on Sunday, January 31, we will recognize Mary for her many years of service during our morning worship service. Also, we will have a pot luck lunch immediately after church where you will have the opportunity to personally greet and thank Mary. As part of our recognition we will present Mary with a Love Gift. If you wish to thank Mary in this way you may send your love gift in check form to the church marked "Mary's love gift" or place in the offering plate Sunday. You may also go on our website at www.fcc-bhm.org and go to the *bottom index tab marked giving* and make your gift on line. Your gift will be recorded along with your regular giving- which you may also do on line.

Congregational Transformation Event February 12-13 - at First Christian Church

The regional Program Committee on Church Development is sponsoring the 3rd annual congregational transformation event here at our church on Feb. 12-13. This event is designed for clergy, congregational leaders and members. The theme is, "Being - Well: Congregational Health, Vitality and YOU." Our Friday night preacher will be Rev. Bill Lee, minister of Loudon Ave. Christian Church in Roanoke, VA. He will preach at 7:30. He is regarded as one of the most dynamic preachers in the Christian Church. He has also served as our Moderator for the Christian Church (DOC), is a strong advocate for health ministries and has created medical and social services to the disadvantaged. Several workshops will be held on Saturday. Topics include: Momentum for Life, "I will Lift My Eyes to the Hills: Help for Churches That Are Stuck, Sinking or Sapped," crafting a Transformation of Spiritual Life, True Community, Shalom and Sabbath.

This is a regional event for both lay people and clergy. The cost per congregation is \$250, which includes lunch on Saturday. Desserts will be provided by various congregations. Our nursery will be open for children under 3. Cokesbury will have a book display and valuable resources to help those who are seeking to be healthy in every way. Plan to attend and receive some special blessings, meet some new friends and get reacquainted with some old ones.

Your Columbarium Committee is thrilled to share that as of year-end we have 20 church members who plan to inurn their physical remains in our Columbarium when the Lord calls them Home. Those commitments should enable us to repay the "loan" our trustees provided from church endowment monies to build the Columbarium Memorial Garden so we could offer this meaningful end-of-life ministry at FCC. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project with your prayers, energy and financial resources.

If you have yet to step outside to see the beautiful Columbarium wall and lovely landscaping in conjunction with our outdoor worship center, please do so at your next opportunity. The latest additions to our Memorial Garden are two beautiful granite benches donated in loving memory of our brother, Leo, by the Nicholson family. Thank you to Jean and her family for sharing their love for "Angel" and our church in this meaningful way.

Anyone interested in participating in our Columbarium can speak with a Committee member at any time (Jim and Ann Langley, Jim Baxter, Jack Kennedy, Clarissa Harms).

PLEDGE REPORT

We have received 61 pledges that represent \$254,880.00 toward our budget for 2010. If you have not made your pledge, please return your pledge card soon. We all need to share in our part of supporting the Lord's work at First Christian.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

All new officers, mission chairs, deacons and committee chairs will be installed in the morning worship on Sunday, January 24th. May God guide all of our new leaders for 1020.

ELDER RETREAT

There will be an Elder Retreat at Lake Guntersville State Park on January 22-23. Elders are looking forward to this time when they can step out of their busy lives and focus on the beauty of God's creation. The theme will emphasize communion with our Master and a "Spiritual Renewal". It is also Eagle Awareness Weekend at Guntersville, where everyone hopes to spot an eagle! Please pray for your Elders as they attend this opportunity for growth and fellowship. Elders will depart at 3:00 pm on Friday.

THE 2009 VISITOR

If you would like to bind the 2009 Visitor in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Cece in the church office. The cost is approx. \$35.

Columbarium Update

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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

Friday, January 15-18

Youth Conference in Gatlinburg

Sunday, January 17

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 5:30 Bible Buddies & Kool Kids
- 5:30 Bible Study
- 6:45 Snack Supper

Monday, January 18

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study
- 10:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 19

- 9:45 Chapel
- 7:00 Finance Council

Wednesday, January 20

- 9:45 Chapel
- 5:30 Shack Study
- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 21

- 7:00 Pastor’s Cabinet

Friday-Saturday, January 22-23

- 3:00 Elder Retreat at Guntersville State Park

Young Adult Retreat at Camp Chandler

GRACE NOTES

- † Congratulations to Kathy Murphy on the announcement of the engagement of her daughter, Lindsey Askew, to Robby Goff.
- † If you borrowed the round chafing dish buffet ware, please return it to the church.
- † Sherry Johnson, who once worked in the Adventure Nook, will be on the TV show The Biggest Loser.
- † The Shack Study will resume on Wed., January 13th at 5:30 in the Fireside Room. Read chapter 11.
- † Congratulations to the Thigpens on their new business, The Gardeners Gallery, at Pepper Place.
- † F.Y.I. Please lock your car and don’t leave any valuables in your car during church services, as a car was broken in to during worship service this past Sunday.



THE CIRCUS IS COMING! THE TAN CIRCUS!

The Adventure Nook Circus is coming on Tuesday, January 26 at 12:45 pm. Parents, grandparents, family and friends are all invited. Please make plans to attend.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGES

- Finance Council moved to Tuesday, January 19
 - Pastor’s Cabinet now on Thursday, January 21
 - Mission Council moved to Monday, January 25
 - No Men’s Gathering on Monday, January 25
- The Finance Council and Mission Council have been changed in order to allow more time to receive pledges towards the 2010 Budget.

DIACONATE MEETING

A diaconate meeting for all deacons is scheduled for Sunday, January 24th at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. The purpose will be to welcome the new deacon class of 2012, review serving procedures, elect voting deacons for the Mission Council, and to elect a new chair for the deacons.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday evening Bible Study for adults will begin again on Sunday, January 17 at 5:30 in the Genesis classroom. Our Bible service for January will be the miracle of Jesus. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, January 17 – Turning Water Into Wine
John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 24 - The Feeding of the Multitude
John 6:1-13

Sunday, January 31 – The Raising of Lazarus
John 11:1-53

Edd is the teacher for the class. Everyone is invited to come and discover how the miracles proclaim the positive presence of God in our hour of greatest need.

YOUNG AT HEART

A penny saved is a penny earned, thrifty is nifty, shopping until we drop. Let's do it!!! Ready all you Young at Heart? On Wednesday, January 27 at 10:00, we are going to crank up the new bus and head toward the thrift shops around Birmingham with Mary Pat being our guide. One of the important stops will be a Dutch lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe in Irondale, for some of the best fried green tomatoes. Be sure to sign up for this fun outing and save your pennies....they might just buy something that you really, really need. *Janet*

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, January 17th

“Demonstrated in Acts of Healing”

Matthew 9: 27-34, 11:2-6

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | 49 |
| WORSHIP | 150 |

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YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN 2010

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord at First Christian in 2010. Please choose one and notify Hugh Henderson, Gary Franklin, Edd or Mary Pat. All members of First Christian are encouraged to serve as a member of a Mission.

Worship Mission: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.

Education Mission: Responsible for Sunday school of all ages, youth work and the total education program of the church.

Evangelism Mission: Responsible for bringing new members into the life of the church.

Fellowship Mission: Responsible for providing a social life and fellowship activities for the church.

Administration Mission: Responsible for the financial program, maintenance of property and general administration policies for the church.

Outreach Mission: Responsible for giving to the needy within Birmingham and throughout the world.

Membership Mission: Responsible for care and nurturing of church members.