

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 04 JANUARY 26, 2010



A Regional Gathering of Worship Friday, February 12th - at 7:30 pm

Friday, February 12 Christian churches from Alabama and Northwest Florida will gather at our church for a Celebration of Worship. Dr. Bill Lee, past Moderator in the Christian Church, (DOC) and pastor of the Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke, Virginia, will bring the message. He is a dynamic preacher. The service will also include special music and coming forward for Holy Communion. The nursery will be open. Bring a friend for this great gathering.

BEING WELL

Congregational Health, Vitality, and You! Saturday, February 13th, 9:00 -2:00

Following the Regional Worship Service on Friday night there will be a Regional Workshop on Health and Wholeness. The workshops begin at 9:00 am on Saturday. The following is a list of the workshops that will be offered: Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct, True Community, Crafting a Transformative Life of Spiritual Practice, Being Heart-Well, Momentum for Life, Praise Away the Pounds, I Lift My Eyes to the Hills: Help for Churches that are Stuck, Sinking or Sapped, and Reflections on Shalom and Sabbath in the Hebrew Bible. All the workshops are free with a lunch provided by our youth. Please make plans to attend a workshop and meet other Disciples from Alabama/Northwest Florida.

Mary Decker's Retirement Recognition

Mary Decker has announced her retirement from First Christian 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 by check to the church marked "Mary's love gift". You may also go on our website at www.fcc-bhm.org, go to the *bottom tab* marked **giving** and make your gift on line.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, February 7th

“Recognized by a Canaanite Woman”

Matthew 15: 21-28

Church Family,

Growing up a PK, the message of giving was stressed in my house, not because of what it meant

for the finances of the Church, but because of what it meant in receiving God's blessings. One of my Dad's most often used messages about giving is one he calls "Prove Me". Malachi 3:10 says "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **Prove Me** now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

When teaching about giving, my Dad always says to picture a faucet. When we are faithful to God in giving, God turns the faucet wide open. That doesn't mean he turns off the faucet if we aren't faithful; God supplies all our needs according to his riches in glory. But wouldn't we all rather have the faucet turned wide open?

As you know, our Church family approved the 2010 Budget with estimated revenue of \$511,456 and estimated expenses of \$457,269 during our congregational meeting. Based on member pledges and past giving, we have estimated \$391,376 as our revenue for 2010. This is a significant gap that needs to be closed or we will have to look at cutting our budgeted expenses. The good news is that God has blessed our church richly in the past and has promised, in His word, to turn the faucet of blessings wide open as long as we are faithful in our giving to Him.

We appreciate all the pledges we have received and everyone's commitment and faithfulness to First Christian Church. The Finance Council will continue to monitor the finances of the Church and provide timely updates to our Family. We look forward to the blessings God has for all of us in 2010. *Scott Jackson, Finance Council Chair*

PLEDGE REPORT

We have received 76 pledges that represent \$325,260.00 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.

POTLUCK THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, after worship we are having an All-Church Pot Luck in the Family Life Center. This will be our first Pot Luck for the year as the fellowship mission is planning a Pot Luck for every month in the year that has five Sundays. Bring your favorite dish. We are blessed to have a new hot food cabinet in the kitchen that will keep all of your food warm. Also, remember that at the Pot Luck Dinner we will lift up the ministry of Mary Decker.

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

Sunday, January 31

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 10:15 Worship & Wonder
- 11:00 Pot Luck Luncheon
- 5:30 Children & Youth
- 5:30 Bible Study
- 6:45 Snack Supper

Monday, February 1

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

Tuesday, February 2

- 9:45 Chapel
- 7:00 Finance Council

Wednesday, February 3

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

Friday-Saturday, February 5-6

- 6:00 Youth Lock-In

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Jim and Beverly Baxter and family on the death of Jim’s brother, Michael Dale Baxter, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.
- † Please circle Feb. 12-13 on your calendar for the Transformation Workshop here at First Christian Church.
- † Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. We look forward to another year of Lenten Dinners and Lenten Worship services every Wednesday in Lent.
- † Congratulations to grandparents, Mike and Donnette Mee on the birth of their grandson, James Mee. Parents are Debbie Ann and Michael Mee, Jr.

CHURCH LOCK-IN

If you are 2nd through the 5th grade and are looking for something fun to do, mark your calendars for February 5th and 6th as the Kool Kids, Children Fellowship is planning a “Lock-In” at the church. We will meet at church at 6:00, Friday evening for supper, fun games, a movie, snacks and other fun surprises. We will sleep over and have a light breakfast before your parents pick you up between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. Bring \$5.00, a can of soup or non-perishable food item for our service project, your sleeping bag, pillow, pajamas, change of clothes and other personal hygiene items. Leave your electronics at home. Please call or email Deb Carpenter if you have questions and to RSVP. Please RSVP as I need a head count to plan food. My email is debcarpenter131@bellsouth.net or telephone 980-3416.

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COMPASSION CORNER

Week of Compassion (WOC) has been helping out during times of disaster for 65 years. Please go to their website for more information about who they are and how they represent The Disciples of Christ (DOC) congregations and Week of Compassion offerings. Search the site and find out how many connections there are that fall under WOC. See the way they are already responding and providing aid, almost immediately because they have been on the ground, in Haiti since 1965. They are there to let victims of disaster know that they do not stand alone. They are helping us share the abundance of God’s love that would be impossible on our own! These survivors may not know Jesus Christ as their savior, but they can see his face in the volunteers as they work side by side to provide support and encouragement to those in need. Decide now to partner with other Disciples of Christ as you share your gifts through a monetary donation. Sharing resources changes lives.....theirs and yours! Thousands are believed to have perished. Others will die due to injuries and health issues. Millions of people have been affected. This is the worst earthquake to hit Haiti in over 200 years. Church World Service (CWS) is providing immediate and essential supplies to survivors including temporary shelter, food and health assistance thru WOC. CWS will also support Haitian communities in the long struggle to rebuild from this disaster. Please go to: weekofcompassion.org to see how we can make an enormous difference then make your donation thru the church. The people of Haiti need our help and our prayers. *Blessings, Sharon & Liz*

**SOUPER SUNDAY
Sunday, February 7th**

The Kool Kids will be sponsoring a “Souper Sunday” food drive to benefit local food banks. So on Sunday, February 7th, bring your cans of soup, crackers and other non-perishable food items and put them in their baskets as they pass them around in the narthex, before and after the church service.

2009 CONTIRBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2009 Contribution Statements will be in the narthex this Sunday, Jan. 31. Please take a moment to stop by and pick yours up.

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	48
WORSHIP	117