

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 11 MARCH 16, 2010



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

We have two more Wednesday night Lenten suppers and worship services. This Wednesday, March 17, we will focus our worship on the sense of touch in the passion of Jesus, “The Feel of the Cross”. Next Wednesday, March 24, we will discover the sense of taste, “Jesus Tastes the Approach of Death.” The service begins at 6:30 pm in the Farkas Room. Before the worship services is the Lenten meal at 5:45 pm. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 10 and under, children 3 and under are free. This week the meal is Chicken Pot Pie. Please make your reservations for the meal by using the envelopes in the pews.

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus gathered His disciples to share a Passover meal. Passover was the celebration of God’s bringing the Hebrew people out of bondage to the Pharaoh of Egypt. The Hebrews were told to slay a lamb and place its blood on the doorpost of their homes to avoid the plague that struck the Egyptians. Death “passed over” them. They were saved by the blood of the lamb.

Jesus reinterpreted the meaning of the Passover feast for His disciples in terms of His own ministry. He became the Lamb of God. His body was to be broken and His blood shed. His emphasis changed from the physical salvation the Hebrews experienced in Egypt to a spiritual salvation.

At the meal together, Jesus gave them a “new commandment” that they “love one another”. Therefore, the word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum meaning commandment. On Thursday we celebrate the new commandment of His love.

Our Maundy Thursday Communion Service is on Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm. We will come forward for communion, celebrate special music from the choir, and a special worship experience led by Edd & Mary Pat. The nursery will be open. Invite a friend for worship.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AND BREAKFAST Sunday, April 4

Our Easter Sunrise Worship and Breakfast is Easter Sunday, April 4 at 6:30 am at the outdoor amphitheater at Hargis Retreat. This year we are blessed to have George and Judy Dudley lead us in worship at the Sunrise Service. Following the service, breakfast will be served in the Hargis dining room at a cost of \$5.75 for adults and children 6 and over, \$3.75 for children ages 3 – 5, and children 2 years old and under are free. Please sign up for your breakfast reservation in the narthex or call the church office.

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PRAYER VIGIL Thursday, April 1 – Friday, April 2

We are having a Twenty-Four Hour Prayer Vigil beginning at 9:00 pm on Thursday, April 1 and ending at 9:00 pm on Friday, April 2. The Prayer Vigil will be in the sanctuary with each person praying at his/her special time. A prayer chart consisting of 48 thirty-minute prayer periods is in the narthex. During the Prayer Vigil there will be material available for reflection and prayer. There will also be security in the parking lot for those praying during the night hours. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex. And remember that the Prayer Vigil takes place in the sanctuary.

EASTER LILIES

The sign-up sheet for Easter lilies is in the narthex. The lilies are \$12.00 each, and you are encouraged to purchase a lily in honor or memory of a loved one. Advance payment is requested. Please use the envelopes from the basket in the narthex marked “Easter Lily” and place them in the offering plate during the service. Make sure your name is on the envelope if paying with cash, and a note “for lilies,” if you are paying by check. Thanks for your support.

EASTER CANTATA

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter are just around the corner; less than two weeks away. The Chancel Choir would like to invite you to participate in these special services with us. We are singing a special selection of Palm Sunday music during our worship service on March 28th at 10am in the sanctuary. We call this special music “Sing Hosanna”. It is a wonderful and majestic compilation of Palm Sunday music from nine of our last ten Easter cantatas. David Brasher will be accompanying us on the piano. This music will lift your soul and touch your spirit in its simplicity and complexity; it is written by some of the most widely recognized and enjoyed Christian composers of our times. The choir will also be singing a beautiful selection during the Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday evening and will finish Holy Week with the story of Christ’s Holy Week journey in music on Easter Sunday morning at the 10am worship service, April 4th. We would encourage you to take this uplifting and spiritual journey with us over the next few weeks. We feel God has given us a gift and we would like to share our gift with you.

Blessings, Jan

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
Sunday, March 21st
“Family as Community”
Ruth 1:1-9; 14b, 16

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, March 21

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service
10:15 Worship & Wonder

Monday, March 22

7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 23

10:00 Women's Bible Study
6:30 Caring & Sharing
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, March 24

5:45 Lenten Dinner
6:30 Lenten Worship
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 27

9:00-1:00 Cantata Rehearsal

GRACE NOTES

- † Our prayers are with Judy Dudley, who is recovering from successful back surgery.
- † Our prayers are with Caleb Jackson, who is having some tests for a heart concern.
- † Our prayers are with Marquita Sebastian, who is undergoing some exams.
- † Our prayers are with Ruth Ann Steele's grandson, John Tan.
- † We welcome back home Carl Flock, who is a winter resident in Florida.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Jan Watts and Susan Hales in the loss of their cousin, Kim Judd.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Mary Pat Spencer on the loss of her uncle, Charles Kirkpatrick.

JOIN US!!!!!!

We need help.....we are sharing Easter fun with our adults in the CARE group on Saturday, March 20th. These friends with disabilities are coming from 9:00 until 1:00 to share Crafts, Singing, Lunch and Fellowship. Can you help us "Reach Out" for Outreach? They would enjoy your smiles and hugs. Also, help is needed preparing lunch for everyone present. John Jones, from Canaan Baptist Church, and a member of the Bessemer Gideons, will be with us to present our friends with Bibles. You can call the church office to sign up or email me at sao2crna@bellsouth.net so we know how many lunches to serve. Your time and love is very important to them, please share! Don't miss George and Judy Dudley..."pickin and grinnin".

*Blessings, Sharon Orazine and Liz West
Outreach Mission*

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CROP WALK

Dear Friends,

During the month of March, I will be asking for help with CROP Walk (Citizens Responding to Overcome Poverty) through volunteers in the congregation. You can help by participating in one of the following:

- You can be just a walker, you can be a walker and help raise a \$100 or whatever is possible.
- You can be an event volunteer- helping at the event passing out water, marking the route, passing out t- shirts etc.
- You can be a sponsor- by donating \$300 to advertise your company, church, business, friend, recognitions on the back of each t- shirt (we anticipate 300 plus walkers).
- You can make a monetary donation.

The date of the event is **April 18th at 2:00 at Caldwell Park**, Birmingham. The **deadline** to register is **March 25 for sponsorship for T- shirts**. There is no deadline for walking or making a donation. Thank you for your consideration of this important outreach ministry. If you have any questions, please call me at 991-7168 or you can go to: www.bhamcropwalk.org

Blessings, Sharon Orazine

MEN'S NIGHT – MONDAY, MARCH 29

Some things can't wait, spring yard clean up time is upon us! What to do, what to plant, what to trim, what not to, which chemical will get rid of those pesky weeds? Where can I get some good advice (for a price)? How about free, one evening only. Our own Charlie Thigpen will be sharing with us Monday evening, March 29, all that you need to know to get started. So bring your shovel, rake, or whatever and let's get going. Just so you know, Charlie & Cindy have recently opened their own garden center: "The Gardener's Gallery, located at 2805 2nd Ave. South S#300. For those of you not familiar with Pepper Place, that is the location. If you haven't been there yet to see what they've got going on, you're missing a treat. See ya Monday the 29th. *Bud Flora*

YOUNG AT HEART

Cookie monster never met a cookie he didn't love...and we, the Young at Heart, will have our hand in the same cookie jar as the monster. It's those cute little bite size cookies that we have to taste and share. Yumm... March 30th, that's a Tuesday...we are on our way to visit the Best Buds Bakery. Picnic lunch, inside or outside, depending on the weather. We will begin at 12:00, either at the church or in a park. Sign up soon so you will have a seat on the bus and a taste of Birmingham's Best Cookie. Just a reminder, in April we will have a trip to Horseshoe Bend Park, Alabama with Ope Johnson as our guide. In June we have the tap dancers and dinner at the church and much, much more to come. Oh, we are sooo Young! *Love Janet*