

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

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## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPER AND WORSHIP

We have one more Wednesday night Lenten supper and worship service. This Wednesday, March 24, we will focus our worship on the sense of taste in the passion of Jesus, “Jesus Tastes the Approach of Death.” The service begins at 6:30 pm in the Farkas Room. Before the worship service 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. 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.

## CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**“Acceptance in Community”**

**Ruth 2:5-12; 3:9-11**

## 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. 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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*

## SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	58
WORSHIP	117
WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE	57

First Christian Church  
4954 Valleydale Road

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**Life In Our Community This Week**

Sunday, March 28

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

Monday, March 29

7:00 Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast  
10:00 Staff Meeting

6:30 Men’s Gathering

Tuesday, March 30

9:45 Chapel  
10:00 Women’s Bible Study  
12:00 Young at Heart Trip  
6:30 Caring & Sharing

7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, March 31

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 1

7:00 Maundy Thursday  
Lord’s Supper Worship Service  
9:00 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Begins

Friday, April 2

9:00 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Ends

**MEN’S NIGHT – MONDAY, MARCH 29**

Some things can’t wait. Spring yard-cleanup 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 with us Monday evening, March 29 at 6:30 pm, sharing all that you need to know to get started. So bring your shovel or rake 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup>. *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. Yum... March 30<sup>th</sup>, 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*

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**CROP WALK**

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:

- 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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: 991-7168 or you can go to: [www.bhamcropwalk.org](http://www.bhamcropwalk.org) *Sharon Orazine*

**GRACE NOTES**

- † Our prayers are with Bruce Moon’s father, Walt Thomas, who is recovering at home.
- † Our prayers are with Beth Erwin, who is receiving therapy at Lakeshore.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Nickey Rudd in the loss of his brother, Lester Rudd.
- † Our joy is with Wendy Wallace and Paul McDaniels, who were married in the sanctuary on Friday, March 19.
- † A class from Bright Divinity Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas met at our church Thursday, March 18. They are touring Alabama in study of the Civil Rights movement.
- † A group from Barton College spent the night here at our church Friday, March 19, in their journey on a mission trip.
- † Please consider attending the Christian Church Regional Assembly in Decatur, Al. April 23-25. Forms are in the narthex.
- † The Membership Mission is grateful for everyone wearing their nametags. We are becoming better acquainted with each other as a church family.
- † Alabama State Day of Prayer Over Students is March 26. This day has been proclaimed by the governor as a day of prayer for students. For more information, visit: [www.gofirstpriority.com](http://www.gofirstpriority.com)
- † Our prayers are with Norma Baker, who is undergoing tests at Brookwood.