

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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AN EASTER WORD

In John 3:16 the scripture affirms, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” Did you hear those wonderful words – eternal life! Did you hear when eternal life is given? This is the best surprise of Easter. The scripture does not say whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life sooner or later. It says whosoever believes will have eternal life! That is the end of the verse. You can have eternal life now. There is no installment or layaway plan. It is instant delivery. Eternal life is yours right now.

It is fair to ask why value eternal life now? An answer is that while we live with Christ in this life, we learn the reliability of our Lord. We learn that we can trust Him now in this life on earth. For a Christian, that is what life is. It is a time for growing in confidence about the sufficiency of Christ, even in the face of death. As Christians, we realize that death and dying can be painful and being with Christ in this life and learning His sufficiency does not take that away. But it does take away the terror of the darkness of death. Learning to be with Christ in this life means you can begin to go into the valley of the shadow of death like a small child who is walking home in the dark with an older brother. Eternal life now is learning the sufficiency of Christ for the time of walking through the valley.

May we celebrate this message of Easter and Eternal life now. Easter is a beginning of new life now. It affirms now that death has no power over us. We have the life of Christ now and forever. Praise be to the Lord. *God Bless, Edd & Mary Pat*

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 call the church office by Thursday, April 1 to make your reservations.

GRADUATING?

Spring is not far away, which means many of those who are seniors will either be graduating from high school, college, grad school or special programs. Please let us know of those seniors graduating as we would like to share our congratulations in the Visitor the first week in May. Please call the church office or email us at cece@fcc-bhm.org and let us know the name of the graduate, the school and degree achieved no later than April 15th so we can get them all in the same Visitor.

2010 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 23-25

The 2010 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) in Al/NW Florida will be held at First Christian Church, Decatur, on April 23-25. Complete information on registration and housing is available on the website: www.alnwfdisciples.org

The 2010 Regional Assembly will focus on the theme, “..to the Ends of the Earth.” The assembly will emphasize the mandate from Christ, as found in Acts 1:8, for his disciples to continue his work of proclaiming the good news to the ends of the earth. We will be joined by several partners representing ministries that are taking the Disciples witness to the ends of the earth. These partners include: the Rev. Amy Gopp, the Rev. Sandra Gourder, and the Rev. Felix Ortiz. For additional information, go to: www.alnfdisciples.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY - April 25

Our Chi Rho and CYF youth will once again lead us in a unique and meaningful worship experience on Sunday, April 25th at 10:00. In the sermon portion of the worship, our youth will present in mime a unique reenactment of the highlights in the life of Christ. In addition, they will guide us during the entire worship service through prayers and special music. We are extremely fortunate to have such talented and dedicated young people to lead us in worship. Please make every effort to worship with us on youth Sunday and invite a friend.

HOLY WEEK MATH

1 Cross
+3 Nails
4 Given

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PRAYER VIGIL THURSDAY APRIL 1 – FRIDAY APRIL 2

The Prayer Vigil is filled. Members of First Christian will be praying for 24 hours in the sanctuary from 9:00 pm Thursday night, April 1 until 9:00 pm Friday, April 2. You are invited to come and pray with them anytime during these hours. There is power in prayer. Come and pray with others for the glory of God and this special time of the year in the resurrection of our Lord.

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 7:00 pm

Invite a friend to come with you to our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service this Thursday at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. We will celebrate the night that Jesus shared bread and the cup with His disciples before His death on Friday. Our service will include special music from the choir, a creative message by Edd & Mary Pat, and walking forward to receive communion. The nursery will be open.

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road

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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, April 4

- 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Hargis
- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Easter Worship Service And Special Offering

Monday, April 5

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

Tuesday, April 6

- 9:45 Chapel
- 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- 7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, April 7

- 9:45 Chapel
- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 8

- 7:00 Pastor’s Cabinet

GRACE NOTES

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Wanda Davis in the loss of her sister, Joan Nichols, and we celebrate the birth of her new granddaughter, Gabriella Alia Guetarni, born Friday, March 26.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Gina Whitehead in the loss of her cousin, Margaret Tappan.
- † The Wednesday Lenten Suppers and Worship Services were a blessing. Our average attendance was 60. There was great meals and joy in the Family Life Center and spiritual renewal in the Farkas Room for worship. Our gratitude is expressed to all who were involved.
- † Thank you to my church family for all the cards, calls, prayers, food and love expressed during my recovery from my knee surgery. *Edith Carerras & family*

MIRACLE DAY

The Region is sponsoring its sixth region-wide Miracle Day, Saturday, June 5, at First Christian Church, Anniston. The host congregation is celebrating its 125th birthday this same weekend with Gen. Minister/President, Sharon Watkins, as guest. Our FCC coordinator is George Dudley. Many projects are planned for Miracle Day as the congregation is seeking to make enhancements to its facilities to help them move into a bright future, even as they celebrate a rich history. Those wishing to help please contact George Dudley.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, April 4th

**“The Community Faces Pain & Joy”
John 16:16-24, 20:11-16**

FOOD, FUN and FITNESS CAMP

Mark your calendars! FCC’s Food, Fun and Fitness Camp will be here soon. The week of June 7 – 11, from 9:00 -12:00, your children and grand children will enjoy a week of discovering how our bodies are the temple of God through cooking fun, nutritious food, learning about healthy food choices, designing their own aprons and cookbooks, and having fun playing active fun filled fitness games. Registration cost is \$40.00 for non-members and \$20.00 for children or grandchildren of members. Watch the Visitor for more information.

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
SUMMER CAMPS 2010**

- Discovery Camp June 5-7, 2010**
For those completing 2nd and 3rd Grades
- Junior Camp June 7-11, 2010**
For those completing 4th and 5th Grades
- CYF Camp June 7-11, 2010, Giltner Hall**
For those completing the 9th, 10th, & 12th Grades
- Chi Rho Camp June 7-11, 2010, Giltner Hall**
For those completing 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades
All traditional camps are held at YMCA Hargis
- Fine Arts Camp June 20-25, 2010**
For those completing 6th -12th Grades
Phyllis Kirk, Director
Fine Arts Camp held at Noah’s Ark Christian Retreat Center in Panama City, Florida

Applications will be available on the website

FCC will pay 1/2 the camp fee for any of our youths that wish to attend. Scholarships are also available. See Mary Pat for more information.

**The Adventure Nook
April Calendar**

- April 4 The Adventure Nook Closed
- April 6 The Adventure Nook Staff Meeting
- April 6 & 7 Group Pictures
- April 9 4K Field Trip to Mt. Laurel
- April 12 The Adventure Nook Closed
- April 13 & 14 Wear Purple Days
- April 20 4K Field Trip to Old Baker Farm
- April 21 Gymnastics Show-Off at 1:45
- April 27 The Adventure Nook Art and Music Show at 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- April 29 4K Field Trip to Inverness

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	61
WORSHIP	172
WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE	67

**POSTAGE PAID
PERIODICAL**