

# First Christian Visitor

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

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

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## **SABBITICAL LEAVE FOR MARY PAT**

Mary Pat's sabbatical will begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme for her sabbatical is: Reciprocate and Become Re-Energized. It has been said that "A good sabbatical will seek to take care of that which takes care of you." That is, it will seek to replenish the wells from which you draw your strength for your walk with and service to Jesus Christ. Therefore, Mary Pat will focus her sabbatical on being reenergized by those who have "taken care of her" with their love, support and nurture throughout her ministry. She hopes to do this by visiting some of those who have made yearly visits to come see her, but she has never been able to visit them. Her main goal is to be reenergized by their friendships that have sustained her throughout her ministry. Mary Pat is excited that she will be able to spend quality time with her family in Kentucky and even be there for her grandson's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. While in Lexington she will spend some time in reflection at Lexington Theological Seminary where she and Edd went to school. Mary Pat will also be traveling to Greece with her college roommate. She will study Paul's letter to the Ephesians before she actually visits this famous and historic city. Other plans are to visit several friends and colleagues that have been instrumental in her ministry. Hopefully, she will even be able to participate in a mission experience in Mexico when she stays with her friends who live on the southern border of Texas. These experiences and opportunities will not only provide an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends but they will also help to nurture and refresh her spirit. Her secondary goal is to begin to write a book for her daughters and grandchildren of her personal faith journey. If she finds that it is not too personal, she would welcome the opportunity to share it with her FCC family. She is grateful for the opportunity for this Sabbatical and sincerely wishes to thank the personnel committee and the entire congregation for this opportunity. She will miss us greatly and looks forward to her return – renewed and refreshed and re-energized.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Tuesday mornings @ 10:00**

We are in the 2nd chapter of James and will begin at verse 14. James says, "Faith without works is dead". This is one reason Martin Luther did not want the book of James to be in the Bible. We should have some lively discussion about that. Please come and join us as we seek to find the answers the Holy Spirit reveals to us as we learn together. *Judy Dudley*

## **A WALK ON RUFFNER MOUNTAIN**

This Saturday, April 17, Edd is leading a group on a spring walk on Ruffner Mountain. The church bus will leave at 2:00 pm. After the walk on Ruffner, the group will have supper at the Whistle Stop Café in Irondale. See Edd for more information.

## **CROP WALK**

The Crop Walk to help overcome poverty is this Sunday, April 18, at 2:00 pm at Caldwell Park off Highland Ave. Please come and walk to help overcome poverty.

## **CAMP HIGH HOPES**

It is time to reserve your slot as a Camp High Hopes counselor. Each year, for 30 years or more, First Christian Church Outreach sponsors a weekend camp for mentally challenged adults from Jefferson, Shelby, and Chilton counties. Those who are looking for a way to contribute their time for the service of others should take advantage of this experience. It is also fun. Counselors participate with the campers in an array of recreational experiences: horseback riding, swimming, and fishing, motorcycle riding and dancing to a live band. The camp is conducted at YMCA Hargis and will be on the weekend of June 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jim Langley at 980-1827 with any questions and to reserve your slot. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex in May.

## **SHACK STUDY TO RESUME**

Wednesday, April 14, 21, 28, The Shack Study group will once again return to complete the book. We have had an exceptional group and fantastic discussions and learning. On April 14<sup>th</sup> we will pick up with Chapter 14. We will meet in the Fireside room at 5:30-6:30. Mary Pat will conduct the group until she leaves for Sabbatical.

## **THIS IS YOUR LIFE**

On Sunday, May 2, we will recognize our high school graduates with our annual "This Is Your Life" program. Our high school graduates are: Jacob Beatty, Andrew Burdette, and Emma Harms. Our seniors will be honored at a luncheon after church in the Family Life Center. Each senior will have a table to display their memorabilia and personal photos in the scrapbook which is a gift from FCC. In addition, they will be "roasted" by a person of their choice followed by a brief video presentation of their life. Please come and support our graduating seniors. You may make your reservations in the envelopes provided in the pews on Sunday mornings. You may also make reservations and pay on line through our website: [www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org). The deadline is Wed., April 28<sup>th</sup>.

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**Life In Our Community This Week**

Sunday, April 18

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:30 Ona/Ruth at Kathy Mann’s
- 2:00 Crop Walk
- 5:30 Youth Groups
- 6:45 Snack Supper

Monday, April 19

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

Tuesday, April 20

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

Wednesday, April 21

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

Friday-Saturday, April 23-24

Regional Assembly at Decatur

**SUMMER WATERCOLOR CLASSES**

Watercolor classes are going to be offered in June and July. These are beginners classes. For more information, contact Carole Rudd at [chrvol@aol.com](mailto:chrvol@aol.com), 678-2440 or 276-7326. Information will be in Carole’s box outside the church office.

**YOUNG AT HEART**

Tallapoosa, Red Sticks, Gen. Jackson, Horseshoe Bend, Chief Menowa and Pastor Edd- What do all these names have in common? All but General Jackson are from Alabama. Well, to get our history correct, Alabama was not even a state until 1819, and the events that we will tour and learn about were all at Horseshoe Bend before that date. Pastor Edd will be driving our church bus. We will stop in Alexander City for lunch at a great cafe. Sign up now and be ready to go on *Tuesday*, April 27. FYI...The Red Sticks are part of the Creek nation and our tour guide will be Alabama Park Ranger, Sean Williams. *See you Janet*

**NO CHILDREN’S WORSHIP & WONDER**

There will be NO Children’s Worship and Wonder on Sunday, April 25. This is youth Sunday and the children will remain in the sanctuary to worship with the adults. Please make plans to attend this special service.

**CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

“Connecting in Community”

Matthew 22:34-40

**SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE**

<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>127</b>

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**CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

Dr. Douglas McColl began an interim ministry in August, 1974. He was minister of Hillside Christian Church, Wichita, Kansas, for 21 years prior to retirement and had just concluded an interim ministry at First Christian Church, Savannah, GA.

In October the congregation called Houston Bowers, minister of Jeffersontown Christian Church, Jeffersontown, KY, to begin ministry with us in January, 1975. Dr. and Mrs. McColl were honored with a Coffee Hour on December 29, and they returned to their home in Savannah.

Houston Bowers was a graduate of Phillips University, Vanderbilt Divinity School and was completing his doctoral work at Louisville Seminary. He and Mary and their two children received an enthusiastic welcome as he began his ministry in January.

During February, March and April, 1975, about 25 neighborhood "Let's Get Acquainted" meetings were held in members' homes for an evening of fellowship and getting to know Mr. and Mrs. Bowers. He started a Prayer Workshop on two Monday mornings each month so interested persons could learn some very basic things about prayer.

In April, 1975, long time church secretary Rosemary Morse resigned after more than 30 years of service to the church. Jean Potts, who had served as secretary for 15 years, also resigned. They were both honored at a reception for their many years of service.

Congressman John Buchanan, an ordained Baptist minister, was speaker at the April fellowship supper. Also in April a service of celebration was held as our church began a new century of ministry. Dr. Roger Carstenson, president of Christian College of Georgia, was the speaker, and the choir of Judson College, Marion, AL, presented special music. A dinner followed the morning service honoring participants, the Pulpit Committee and elders and their families.

In May Associate Minister Don McLaughlin resigned. He and Stephanie were moving to Lexington, KY, where he planned to continue his education at Lexington Theological Seminary while serving as minister of Old Union Christian Church. Randy Hayes, a senior at the University of Alabama, was called to be Student Minister during the summer months. Randy planned to attend seminary after college. Houston Bowers received his doctorate from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in May, 1975.

In July about 30 families in our church, led by Mr. W. C. Johnson, recommended that we sponsor a Vietnamese refugee family. The recommendation was adopted and a Refugee Task Force was created to work in conjunction with the World Outreach Department. The family we were to sponsor finally arrived in late August. *Claradel Holcombe*