

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 16 APRIL 20, 2010



THANK YOU, FCC

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my FCC family and the personnel committee for granting me a three month Sabbatical for physical, mental, and spiritual renewal. I have been in ministry for 42 years and I have never had the opportunity to be away more than a week at a time (except with youth trips- which I love). It has been a fantastic journey. I wish I could say I have loved every minute, but that would not be true. The ministry is like anything else in life, it comes with its ups and downs, its trials and tribulations. A college professor once told me that I would never make a good social worker, (Sociology was one of my majors- the other was religion) but I would make a great minister. Well, I may not be great, but the people I have met in my ministry have been beyond great. Many of those people have strengthened my faith through their personal hardships. They have reached out to me in faith and trust and friendship. These relationships have been invaluable and I hold them as sacred. This sabbatical will give me an opportunity to reconnect with a few of these friends in my life who in some ways have been life saving to me. I will now have the opportunity to say thank you to them by going to see them without a work related cause. I also am overjoyed to spend some quality time with my daughter and family in Kentucky. Although Holly will be working and I understand that I will be “helping” with their VBS, I still will be able to spend time with my other 2 grandchildren. I will also be able to spend some time at our seminary and learn more about their new and innovative ministry online. I am looking forward to going to Greece with one of my college roommates that I have known since our freshman year in 1964. We have kept in touch all these years, and I had the honor of conducting her husband’s funeral 17 years ago, her son’s wedding, and her father-in-law’s funeral, yet we have never just had time to BE. Our time in Greece is going to be special for so many reasons. We are both excited about visiting Ephesus. I had hoped to spend some quality time with a few other friends, however; they are in transitions with their jobs and building a new home. Please know that I will miss you all greatly. I will especially miss your hugs and smiles. I do ask that you pray for me during my time away. Pray that I will be renewed, refreshed and re-energized to carry on God’s work. Thank you again, FCC, for gifting me with this awesome privilege and opportunity. I look forward to being in the pulpit again on August 8 and ready to launch our fall programs. Special blessings to each of you for a happy and healthy summer. Love and joy to you all!

Mary Pat

WORSHIP SURVEY

In an attempt to have a more meaningful Sunday School and Worship Service for everyone, the Worship and Education Missions are considering a change in the worship time as follows:

Sunday School: 9:00 am–9:45 am, as is currently.

Worship Service: to begin at 10:15 am rather than 10:00 am.

This change will:

- Allow choir members, teachers, and others serving in worship to remain in classes with no class disruption.
- Allow choir members to have more time to prepare for worship.
- Allow ministers to take part in Sunday school classes.
- Allow members to gather, visit, and prepare for worship without being rushed.

Ballots for the survey to make the worship change will be in the church bulletins for the next three Sundays, beginning Sunday, April 25. Ballots will also be available in the church office.

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. 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. The deadline is Wed., April 28th.

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*

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, April 25th

“Inclusion in Community”

Luke 14:15-24

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, April 25

YOUTH SUNDAY

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 5:30 Children’s Groups
- 6:45 Snack Supper

Monday, April 26

- 7:00 Men’s Bible Study
- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Men’s Fellowship

Tuesday, April 27

- 9:45 Chapel
- 9:30 Young at Heart to Horseshoe Bend State Park
- 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- 6:30 TAN Art & Music Celebration
- 7:00 Caring & Sharing

Wednesday, April 28

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

CALLING ALL MEN! CALLING ALL MEN!

Monday, April 26, at 6:30 pm

A good time will be had by all. Steve Pasky is planning a special meal that everyone will enjoy. We want this month to be a special time of fellowship and Christian camaraderie. While we are not planning to have a special speaker, we are planning a couple of things that we think you will enjoy. So plan to come join us for an extra special meal and enjoy the evening with the other men of the church. This would also be a good time to invite a friend, neighbor, or relative to come together in Christian fellowship.

Shalom, Bud

NEW MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

For several months approximately 15 men have been meeting at 7am each Monday morning for Bible study. This has been a time of growth in knowledge & faith. These men, who have adopted the name of The James’ Gang, want to give their working brothers the same opportunity. Starting on Thursday, May 6, at 7pm, a new study on the Gospel of John will begin in the Fireside Room. Apostle John stated in chapter 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”. This one hour study will be conducted each week with Pastor Edd as the leader & assisted by some members of The James’ Gang. All men of the church & their friends are invited. *Charles Daniels*

**Young Adult – Busy Believers Class
“Resurrected”**

We are resurrecting the Busy Believers Sunday School Class beginning Sunday, May 2nd. The class will meet in the Gandy room beginning at 9:00 a.m. Susan Hales and I will be leading the class, but believe me, the class will be more discussion than instruction. That’s where we need your help. You would be surprised how much your experiences can help and inspire others going through similar trials. Come join us as we discuss events that affect us all and learn how the Word of God and the testimonies of others can help us all overcome. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 2nd.

Scott Jackson & Susan Hales

CAMP HIGH HOPES

It’s time to reserve your slot as a Camp High Hopes counselor. Each year, for 30 years, FCC 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 campers in recreational experiences such as: horseback riding, swimming, fishing, motorcycle riding and dancing. The camp is at YMCA Hargis on the weekend of June 5th - 6th. 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.

TAN MUSICAL & ART SHOW

We invite you to visit the Art Gallery on Tuesday, April 27, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Our children have been busy throughout the year working on special art projects. Our 3’s and 4’s will entertain us in the sanctuary with special music they have learned this year with Ms. Missy. The children have a great time in music/movement. We will begin with singing in the gym before viewing our art work.

CELEBRATE!

May 2nd 1:30 -5:30

Do you ever feel filled to overflowing when you leave the fellowship of First Christian? Do you wonder how you could help others know that joy? We have the perfect solution! First Christian has a nice, tented booth with a table and chairs at the Celebrate Hoover Day on May 2nd, at the Veteran’s Park here on Valleydale. We need smiling, joyful, outgoing volunteers to help man our booth. We will introduce our wonderful church to folks and pass out information on Vacation Bible School and our many church programs – all with a side of candy! It’s fun! Let us know if you will help! Shifts are 1:30-3:30 and 3:30-5:30. Call Edd or Clarissa at 969-2261 if you are available. The more the merrier!

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	53
WORSHIP	111

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