

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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PENTECOST SUNDAY – May 23

Pentecost is the day on which the Christian Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian Church.

We will celebrate Pentecost in some special ways. After worship, we will go outside and gather in the parking lot. A flock of doves will be released. As they fly in a circle around our church grounds, they will symbolize the coming of the Holy Spirit. It should be a very special moment.

Also, after worship, we will gather in the Family Life Center for a pot luck lunch. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite dish. The church will provide drinks and a birthday cake.

Invite a friend to church for this great day. Remember to wear red. It is the color of the fire and Spirit of Pentecost.

YOUNG AT HEART Wednesday - May 26

How well do you remember your fairy tales? Can you picture the villain or the wicked character that we were so frightened of long ago? Of course we do remember how they all ended...happily ever after. The Seasoned Performers are performing a short play for us with rejected villains and no longer needed bad guys. What fun! We have invited the players to join us for lunch and then we will sit back and have a good laugh. May 26th at noon..... hope you can come and bring a friend, or maybe an old retired ogre or two. Sign up as soon as you can.

Thanks Janet

IT DID NOT FALL, FOR IT WAS FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

A man named Rock is looking to build a very special place for children ages 12-18 with addictive issues. Come hear his testimony on how his ministry titled, “The Transformation Ranch” will provide a Christ-centered, long-term facility with the emphasis on spiritual and clinical treatment that will lead young people to look to God as the anchor in their lives. A former F-16 fighter pilot for 21 years and a captain for United Airlines, Rock’s story and call to the ministry are moving. Come join us on Men’s Night, May 24 at 6:30 pm. Steve Pasky and the James Gang will provide a fine meal. Plan to sign up Sunday. Don’t miss this special message Rock Hobbs has to share. It will give you a lift.

FOOD, FUN AND FITNESS CAMP

“Your Bodies Are Temples of The Holy Spirit...
Therefore Honor God with Your Bodies”
(1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)

For children who have completed 1st - 5th Grade
When: June 7-11, 2010 Time: 9:00 am -Noon

Registration Costs: \$40.00

\$20.00 for church members - deadline June 1st
Contact the church office for Registration forms

POT LUCK LUNCH

Next Sunday, May 23 at 11:00 am

Bring your favorite dish and the church will provide drinks, tableware and birthday cake.

MIRACLE DAY: JUNE 5th

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ANNISTON,
Welcome to the world of miracles!**

When was the last time you felt as if you were part of a miracle? I hope it hasn’t been too long! Whether it has been quite a while or happened just recently, I am excited to tell you this event provides an incredible opportunity for you to become a partner in a miracle. The Miracle Day program sponsored by the Christian Church in Ala/NW Florida in partnership with the districts is not a new idea. It’s like an Amish barn raising, a Habitat for Humanity build, and a church workday all rolled into one. It is Disciples, young, old and in-between, getting together for work, worship, fellowship and food. I have been blessed to take part in every Miracle Day program since it began ten years ago. Congregations in Mt. Willing, Saraland, Auburn and Cullman have all received miraculous blessings and revitalized ministries through this semi-annual event. However, in every case, the volunteers, myself included, received the greatest miracle of all! We need volunteers, donations and prayers. Please consider joining me and Disciples from all around the region on June 5th in Anniston. You will be blessed! For the next several weeks, I will be manning a table outside the sanctuary after worship to answer your questions, provide volunteer sign-up sheets, and encourage donations. Please stop by.

George Dudley, Miracle Day Coordinator

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.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, May 23rd

“Christian Apologetics Islam”

Ishmael’s Family

Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, May 23

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service - Pentecost
11:00 Pot Luck Lunch

Monday, May 24

7:00 Men's Bible Study on Micah
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Men's Gathering

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 Women's Bible Study on James
7:00 Elder Visitation

Wednesday, May 26

10:00 Young at Heart
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 27

7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

MENS THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Come join the men in the study of John on Thursday night at 7:00 pm in the Farkas Room. It is a wonderful place to be with great sharing on the Word of God. Come and be blessed!

HELP START NEW CHURCHES THROUGH THE PENTECOST OFFERING

Many communities do not have a Disciples congregation. In some neighborhoods, Disciples churches no longer meet the needs of local residents. In these places, where can those in search of a personal expression of Disciples witness find God's table, open to all?

With your support, New Church Ministry and your region can help Disciples start new churches to meet those needs, so we can all be one in the love of Christ.

Make your Pentecost Offering this Sunday, May 23! Half of your gift is put to work in your region or area, and half supports the new church planter recruitment, training and mentoring efforts of New Church Ministry.

You can help *EXPAND THE TABLE*, now and for generations to come.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Oak Mt. Ministries has an urgent need for the following items: King/Queen blankets and all size comforters, pots, pans, boy's clothing size 5 and up, large size women's clothing, men's t-shirts, polo shirts, blue jeans and shorts. *Thanks, Sharon*

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	72
WORSHIP	130

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In May, 1977, Rev. Wyatt submitted a letter of resignation, as he had accepted the call to ministry at Holly Ridge Christian Church in Richmond, VA. He concluded his ministry with us on the last Sunday in June, and he and Martha were honored at a reception. During the summer months an Adult Forum was held during the Sunday School hour to learn more about other faiths and religious beliefs. Representatives of these different faiths were invited to speak on "What We Believe".

The Hargis Retreat Committee treated over 200 people to a July 4th barbecue. Everyone enjoyed great food, an old-fashioned hymn sing in the chapel after lunch, an afternoon of fun, games and swimming followed by a watermelon cutting. In July, Lindsey Oden retired after 40 years of devoted service as treasurer of First Christian Church. He was re-elected again and again through the years and was a supreme example of Christian witness and devotion. He agreed to chair the Stewardship Department for the church year 1977-78. He and his family were honored on Homecoming Sunday in October.

Dr. Bowers and family was away on vacation for three Sundays in August. The pulpit was filled by Bill Conwell, Rev. Marshall Masters and Rev. Phil Runner. On August 27, Dr. Bowers submitted his letter of resignation as Senior Minister after accepting a call to ministry from Euclid Avenue Christian Church of Cleveland, Ohio. His last Sunday was October 9, and a reception was held to honor him and his family.

In September, Rev. Carl Flock, Associate Minister, for the Christian Church in Kentucky, accepted the call to become the AL/NW Florida Regional Minister starting in December. The Second Century Committee held listening conferences in September conducted by Rolland Sheafor and Harold Watkins of the Board of Church Extension.

In October Dr. J.J. VanBoskirk was called to begin an interim ministry in November. He held degrees from Phillips University and the University of Chicago, and had served as area pastor in Chicago and Washington, D.C.. He and Mrs. VanBoskirk (Irene) lived in Chevy Chase, MD. Irene held a nursing degree and had also trained as a medical missionary. She had served on the staff of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and was also a licensed pastoral counselor. In November, December and January, the Shepherd Committee arranged informal meetings with area groups to get acquainted with the VanBoskirks.

On December 1, 1977, Carl R. Flock came to Alabama as Regional Minister of the Christian Church in AL/NWFL after serving on the regional staff of the Christian Church in Kentucky for more than 18 years. He graduated from Lynchburg College in Virginia and Lexington Theological Seminary. He and Georgia transferred their membership to our church from Central Christian Church in Lexington, KY.