

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

In a few days we will celebrate the freedom and joy of living in our country. May the following prayer help us focus on the blessing of living in the United States of America.

Merciful God, thank you for the joy we have as citizens of this great nation. We thank you for the freedom that was won by many on our behalf, a freedom we so often take for granted. We praise you for the founders of this nation, who laid the foundations for a system wherein all could eventually be given basic rights. We thank you for these United States, for this nation of immigrants, for the noble experiment of unity with diversity. While it is our responsibility to recognize and to mend much that is wrong with our country, we give you hearty praise for so much that is right. We thank you for our legacy of enterprise, fairness and hopefulness, passed down among us through the generations from our very beginning. We praise you for a system of government in which dissent is not merely tolerated, but expected and encouraged. We thank you for a system of justice which, in spite of its many flaws, manages to make room for mercy. We pray on Independence Day that you would help freedom to be a reality to all people. Enable all people to be able to enjoy the basic necessities of housing, food, care and community. We are especially grateful for the gift of Your Son, who won independence from sin for all people by hanging on a cross and being placed in a grave, only to be raised three days later. It is through His life, death and resurrection that we are fully free from sin, slavery, and the regrets of the past.

Amen

PATRIOTIC VESPER SERVICE

Sunday, June 27 at 6:30 pm

Next Sunday evening we will gather in the coolness of the Family Life Center. We will gather at 6:30 pm to celebrate our country through special patriotic music by the choir, lifting up the fifty states and a congregational song lifting up our state with “Sweet Home Alabama”. Edd will share a patriotic meditation. After the service, the Fellowship Mission will provide ice cream and all the trimmings. The nursery will be open.

MEN'S NIGHT MONDAY JUNE 28

Our own home-grown Scott Jackson will speak to us on Men's Night, June 28. Scott has his finger on the pulse of what's hot and what's not here in the Birmingham area. Scott is keenly aware of what is planned in the way of commercial development in our local area and will share with us what the future holds for Birmingham. Scott has worked for Russell Mills in a variety of different capacities and is currently the comptroller for Bayer Properties Inc. here in Birmingham. Come join us for another “James Gang” meal brought to you by Steve Pasky and his merry men. Please sign up on the list in the narthex. *Bud Flora*

THE YOUNG AT HEART

It's showtime! The “Show Stoppers” will perform tap dancing for us at noon, Wednesday, June 30. After a great lunch, we will be in for a treat! Some mature dancing, costumes, music, glitter, all the best – just for you! Be sure to sign up and bring your friends for some great entertainment. *See ya, Janet*

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

If you've not been out to the Memorial Garden lately, please make a point to go soon. Thanks to Jim Langley's weekly TLC (and lots of hard work and sweat!), it's beautiful. You can't help but feel God's peace and serenity in the quiet beauty of our Garden. And remember, it's not too late to reserve a niche in our beautiful Columbarium. Several of our members have reserved niches even though they want some of their remains to be placed in other locations too. Jim Langley wants his ashes to be inurned at FCC, buried in his family's cemetery in Lamar Co., and scattered in the lake at Hargis. That's one of the many benefits of cremation...your loved ones can remember you in multiple places that have been important to you during your life on earth. For questions about FCC's Columbarium, please see Jim or Ann Langley, Jim Baxter, Clarissa Harms, or Jack Kennedy. Niche forms can be obtained in the church office.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following special people into the life of our church.

Jenny Claushide
5437 10th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222
Phone: 585-9591

Chuck & Gloria McWilliams
385 Rockport Lane
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: 980-9475

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	64
WORSHIP	159

Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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, June 27

9:00 Sunday School
10:15 Worship Service
6:30 Patriotic Vesper Service

Monday, June 28

7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Christian Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, June 29

9:30 TAN'S Summer Fun
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, June 30

11:00 Young at Heart
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 1

9:30 TAN'S Summer Fun
7:00 Men's Bible Study

GRACE NOTES

- † We express our sympathy to Jim & Beth Garner, Janna Lowery, Trudie Edwards and family in the loss of a son, brother, and grandson, Jeff Garner.
- † Mac & Linda Heaton would like to express their sincere thanks to Clarissa Harms, Charles Daniels, Jim Langley, Jim Baxter and Edd Spencer, for their cards and visits during Mac's recent health problems.
- † We continue to lift up our prayers for Gail Burton and Marquita Sebastian.
- † Calling all scrabble players. You are invited to the home of Joye Taylor for scrabble games on Friday, June 25 and Sunday, July 23, at 7:00 pm.
- † All young adults come join Scott Jackson and Susan Hales for Sunday School.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, June 27th

**“Christian Apologetics Islam”
Mohammad's Life**

CHURCH HISTORY

Word was received in August, 1979, that our former minister, Dr. Ewart Wyle, was retiring from Torrey Pines Christian Church, La Jolla, CA, and also retiring from active ministry. He and Mrs. Wyle were honored at a special service of recognition, and our congregation was invited to share memories of his years with us.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In September the closing on the purchase of the 17-acre site on Valleydale Road took place in the office of attorney Bill Conwell with a total purchase price of \$175,000. We secured a loan of \$162,000 from the Board of Church Extension.

We celebrated the last Homecoming in the downtown church in October with Rob Holloway, one of our Timothys, as guest minister. Although it was difficult for many of us to leave our beloved downtown church, it was deemed necessary because of the shift to suburban living, lack of adequate parking space and serious security concerns.

We were proud of the fact that our older education building had recently been placed on the National Historic Register and also proud of the vital ministry of our church to this area of Birmingham for 55 years. Now it was time to take this ministry to a new area.

In October several interested parties took an option to purchase our property with terms calling for the sale of our facility in the amount of \$885,000, to be closed by January 31, 1980. The Official Board specified that certain items be retained and removed upon completion of the sale (organ, pews, communion table, kitchen equipment, stained glass window, which is now in our narthex).

Our congregation mourned the death of John A. Light, our Minister of Music for more than 31 years. Mr. Light was survived by his devoted wife Martha, who was a member of our choir for all of those years. Together they also taught music in a studio at the church. Mr. Light's ministry went far beyond his music, as he touched the lives of thousands in our community.

Dr. Thomas M. Giltner's long illness ended with his death on Christmas Eve, 1979. He was survived by his wife Margaret, their daughters, Jane and Brents (Bebe), and 6 grandchildren. His influence extended beyond his own church as he worked for a better community and world as a leader in the Birmingham Ministers Association, Children's Aid Society and Civitan Club. Dr. Giltner was an outstanding minister and a shepherd who guided our church with understanding and love through our joys and sorrows. He was a man of vision, who could accept a gift of land and develop Hargis Christian Retreat, and he was a workman who labored with his own hands to make his vision a reality.

A generation of children of our church grew up enjoying the Retreat, just as their children and grandchildren continue to enjoy it today.