

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 27 July 13, 2010



THANK YOU

Special appreciation is expressed to the following who spread mulch in our church gardens: Jim Baxter, Dick Burdette, Jim Langley, Russ Favorite, Joel Carpenter, Barbara Carpenter, Nickey Rudd, Gary Howard, Steve Pasky and Edd Spencer. Also, after finishing a good job of adding beauty to our grounds, Mack Carpenter provided the group with some wonderful refreshments. A special thank you is also extended to Dick Burdette who came back a few days later to finish placing mulch in the flower beds in front of the church. Well done, good and faithful servants.

A FELLOWSHIP MOMENT

Our first Fellowship Moments are very successful. Appreciation is expressed to Mack Carpenter for the wonderful homemade cookies and all the refreshments. The Fellowship Moments were a special blessing for a couple visiting our church from Danbury. They received special attention from members of First Christian.

Remember that Fellowship Moment is every Sunday between 9:45 and 10:15. This is a thirty minute time between Sunday school and church. This ministry of fellowship will take place in the narthex in front of the church office. Come this Sunday as we enjoy refreshments, sharing with each other, and making with our guests feel at home.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Studies are growing. Every Monday morning at 7:00 am in the Fireside Room, there are 15 men studying the Minor Prophets. On Thursday evening in the Gandy Room at 7:00 pm, there are 11 men studying the Gospel of John. All men are invited to participate in these precious moments of study and fellowship.

SERMON SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 18	“Making God Your Priority” Matthew 28: 16-20
Sunday, July 25	John Mobley preaching: “Being In Tune With The Lord's Song.” Psalm 137: 1-4
Sunday August 1	“Thank You For the Memories” I Corinthians 11: 23-26 Philippians 1: 3-6

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, July 18th
“Christian Apologetics Islam”
Crusades

DISCIPLES CONGREGATIONS

The 3,754 congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) represent a wide diversity of Disciples and their witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Each church chooses its own unique approach to expressing the will of God in furthering God's reign on earth.

Congregations range in size from small churches, such as First Christian Church (DOC) in Mansfield, LA., which had three members in 2007, to mega churches, such as New Direction Christian Church (DOC) in Memphis, TN., which has the largest reported Disciples congregation of 8,200.

THE ADVENTURE NOOK

Our Adventure Nook children and teachers celebrated Summer Fun Camp. The camp ran June 22 – July 15, from 9:30 am -1:00 pm. We had a great time doing art projects, playing in the gym and the outside playground. We also had a special “water day” playing in the water. We had a great preschool camp with the most precious children.
Beth Patterson, TAN Director

BLOOD DONORS

Would you be willing to donate blood for another church member in need? If so, please sign our blood donor list in the narthex. We will keep this list on file. If anyone in our church family has an emergency and needs this critical life source, we can call persons on our blood donor list to donate blood for that church member. If you would be willing to donate blood, please sign the list out in the narthex. *Thank you! Lisa Burdette*

MISSION COUNCIL

All Mission Council members are encouraged to attend the Mission Council meeting Monday, July 19 at 6:30 pm. Please make a special effort to attend since Mission Council only meets every other month.

THE PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer concern or a special joy to share, call the church office and ask that it be put on the prayer chain. I will be notified of your written request (or Jean Nicholson if I'm not available) and I will initiate the call, which then goes out to all 50 participating members of the group. At that time we form our unseen circle of intercessory prayer for your request. If you would like more information or if you wish to join us in this prayer ministry, please call the church office or me at 822-5645 or email me at claradelcsh@aol.com.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	62
WORSHIP	150

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

Sunday, July 18

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder

Monday, July 19

7:00 Men's Bible Study on Habakkuk
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Mission Council

Tuesday, July 20

7:00 Elder Calls

Thursday, July 22

7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

Friday, July 23

7:00 Scrabble with Joye Taylor

Saturday, July 24

6:30 Caring & Sharing Party at
The Moon's

GRACE NOTES

- † Our joy is with Richard and Kay Keith and family on the birth of their grandson Knox Reagan Whitaker.
- † Edd and Mary Pat, and family will be in Florida July 19-28. They will be renewing friendships with members and friends of the church they served in Sarasota. Jan and the Elders will be on call in their absence for pastoral care and church needs.
- † Our appreciation is expressed to the wonderful way the Elders have served as Worship Leaders during the past several months.
- † Good news! Mary Pat will be returning to First Christian on Wednesday, August 4. She has had a great sabbatical.
- † The Men's Fellowship and Young at Heart will not meet this month.

A LITTLE CHURCH HUMOR IN THE SUMMER

The following are church bloopers in church newsletters:

Barbara Jones remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and request tapes of Pastor Edd's sermons.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight will be "Searching for Jesus."

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Bill Bugg became our Minister of Music after Bob Burroughs and his family moved to Atlanta. Bill had sung in Civic Opera here and in Atlanta and was well known for his magnificent voice.

The sale of our downtown church was completed, and we were able to pay off the loan on our new property, pay the real estate company handling the sale and pay off the short term notes on our two new vans and the office trailer. The major portion was earmarked to pay for construction on our new site. An auction was held to sell all items not stored for future use.

In August, 1980, work had begun on clearing and grading of our new church site. It was hoped that the general contractor would soon be ready to dig and lay the foundation of a multi-purpose facility.

In September a Buddy System was set up under the leadership of Dr. Lola Kiser to keep in touch with our shut-ins (43 at that time). The program started with 57 volunteer buddies.

On the first Sunday in October, Homecoming, 1980, was celebrated with Sunday School, worship and a covered dish dinner at Hargis Christian Retreat. The theme for the day was "Remembering Our Past", and it was a wonderful time of sharing memories among members, former members and friends.

A unanimous vote by the Official Board approved the plans presented by the Building Committee whose members had worked long hours in arriving at the final plans. At a called meeting following worship on November 9, the congregation approved the plans by an overwhelming majority. We had crossed the threshold from vision to reality, and vague dreams and hopes would soon become actual buildings. Once more this congregation had answered God's call to a new and larger ministry.

Mrs. Mary Patton Templeton was employed as Youth Director to begin in November working with CYF, Chi Rho and a soon-to-be formed Junior Fellowship. A member of Valley Christian, she had been active in its youth work and in regional youth organizations. During this time of transition, it was important to maintain an active, expanded ministry to our youth.

Following worship on December 7, 1980, we drove to our new church site on Valleydale Road for a Groundbreaking Service. Every member was invited to be involved in the physical act of breaking ground. What an exciting day for our church!

December 14 was another special day with our Christmas celebration at the Retreat. The day began with Sunday School, followed by the choir's Christmas Cantata in the chapel. More than 200 people enjoyed a covered dish dinner in Giltner Hall, followed by a Christmas puppet show presented by the youth. On Christmas Eve a Candlelight Communion Service was held at 11:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Regional Office.