

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

For the past few weeks we have been thinking about the Christian journey in terms of biblical images. The first image was the path. We live in a world where there are a variety of paths we can take. And every Sunday in worship we are reminded that the true and only path to happiness is Jesus Christ. To be a Christian is to live in a certain way, to follow a certain path, to follow Jesus.

We also thought about the mountain in our journey. The mountain in scripture is often associated with the awesome power of nature, the place of giving the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount by Jesus, and emotional mountain top experiences. But we also remember two things of which the image of climbing the mountain reminds us. First, that Christian discipleship takes effort and discipline. And, second that we should never be content to stay where we are in our relationship with God, but should constantly be striving for a higher level.

In our sermon series we thought of the desert where so many of the Bible stories take place. The stories of the Israelites wandering for forty years and Jesus being tempted in the desert. We discovered that even in the lonely desert there can be communion with God and a spirit of trusting God for everything. As Paul put it in I Corinthians 10:13: “No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing He will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.”

Finally, we thought about the image of the pool in scriptures. Water is needed for our journey and without it we would be in big trouble. The scriptures promise that God provides a spring and pool that meets our needs. A spring that is a constant source of nurture and refreshment and a pool that is a place of grace and love that fills our spiritual needs.

I hope that from the series of sermons this summer we can follow Jesus along the way, continue to strive to climb the mountains of life, face temptation and fear with the presence of God in the desert and to allow God to fill our cup with His everlasting pool of living water.

God Bless you, Edd

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY LOCK-IN

July 30 -31

First Christian Church in Huntsville

Contact Diane Wood for more information at
dwservant@aol.com

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, July 25th

“Christian Apologetics -Islam”
Crusades

WELCOME JOHN

This Sunday John Mobley will bring our morning message while Edd is visiting friends in Florida with Mary Pat and family.

John P. Mobley has served as Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida since March 1, 1996. Prior to that time he had served as senior minister at First Christian Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee (1991-1996) and as pastor of the Simpsonville Christian Church in Simpsonville, Kentucky (1985-1991). Born in Augusta, Georgia, on April 20, 1957, John is the youngest of four children born to a Southern Baptist minister. John received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University in Greenville, SC, in 1978, and his Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville KY, in 1981. He discovered the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1984 and immediately affiliated with the Disciples, working through the Kentucky Region, to obtain ministerial standing based on his prior ordination in a Southern Baptist church. John Mobley has served the larger church in a variety of roles, including the Week of Compassion Committee, the Mission Council (chair), the Trustee Board of Disciples Divinity House - Vanderbilt, the Mission Funding Task Group of the General Board of the Church, and the Advisory Council of NBA-Christian Services for Children in Alabama. He currently serves as chairperson for the Center for Faith and Giving Committee, and he is also serving his second term on the Board of Trustees for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). John has been married to the former Valya Wilson since June 1, 1985. They have two children, Tyler, born in 1987, and Janessa, born in 1990.

God bless you, John, in your ministry to our church, all the Disciple churches in Alabama/Northwest Florida, and the ministry of our Lord around the world.

REGIONAL YOUTH LOCK-IN

Friday – Saturday August 13-14

The Alabama/Northwest Florida region will hold its annual back to school lock-in at our church August 14-15. Together, we will enjoy fun, fellowship, Bible study, and worship. It begins at 7:00 pm on Friday and concludes at 10:00 am on Saturday. This lock-in is open to all 6-12 graders. Chi Rho/CYF youth will be receiving forms in the mail. The cost is only \$10 to be paid at the door. Bring your sleeping bag, a pillow, personal toiletries, and a great attitude as we fellowship with youth around the region. See you there!

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

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| SUNDAY SCHOOL | 63 |
| WORSHIP | 132 |

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, AL 35242

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Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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Life In Our Community

Sunday, July 25

- 9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
Monday, July 26
7:00 Men's Bible Study on Habakkuk
Thursday, July 28
7:00 Men's Bible Study on John
Next Sunday, August 1
8:00 Pomona Christian Church, California
Overnight Stay

GRACE NOTES

- † Congratulations to Jeremy Franklin and Melissa Andrews, who were married on July 10, 2010 in Graham Chapel, at Washington University, St. Louis. MO. The reception followed immediately in Crowder Courtyard at Washington University. Proud parents are Gary and Annie Franklin. After a trip to Costa Rica, the happy couple will reside at 4563 Laclede Ave. Unit A. St. Louis. MO 63108.
- † Sharon Freeman is pleased to announce that her Daughter Katherine was married to Robert Woods on July 6, 2010.
- † Our best wishes are extended to Mason & Lisette Guttery, Bridgette and Jackson who are moving to Pensacola, Florida.

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*

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In the six weeks since breaking ground for our new church on Valleydale Road (December 7, 1980) an amazing amount of work had been completed in spite of freezing and sub-freezing temperatures. The concrete block work on all the exterior and interior walls had been finished at the second story level, and the concrete floor for the entire building had been poured and finished. The brick for the exterior had been ordered, and Stewart Draper and members of the Property Department had cleared and seeded the area in grass.

A Maundy Thursday pot luck supper was held in Giltner Hall at the Retreat, followed by a Candlelight Communion Service and the Service of Tenebrae in the chapel. Easter, 1981, was also celebrated at the Retreat with the traditional lakeside Sunrise Service, breakfast in Giltner Hall, an Easter egg hunt for the children, Sunday School and morning worship in the chapel.

After church on May 24, more than 100 members gathered on Valleydale Road and walked into the new building for a sneak preview. This was followed by a church picnic at the Retreat. On the last weekend in May we hosted the Regional Assembly at the Retreat with Dr. Fred Craddock, Candler School of Theology professor and outstanding minister, as speaker at four sessions. George and Judy Dudley came to share their music ministry with us after presenting programs at churches in 27 states during the past year. All of this contributed to a wonderful weekend.

During our almost 20 months of worship at Gresham Junior High, there was a vital spirit of Christian love and fellowship, a new closeness, which sustained and supported us through the difficulty and inconvenience of worship in our temporary setting. We became more flexible in our programs and more experimental in our planning. We found new and creative ways to be the church and carry out our ministry. It was a learning time and a growing time with 46 new members added since we left our downtown location.

On July 11 the pipe organ was moved from storage in a Morris Avenue warehouse to our new building on Valleydale Road. The church office was also moved on the same day. On August 16 we held our first worship service in our new building. The parking lot was full, the 100 extra chairs that had been set up were not enough; classrooms were full. We had been empowered to accomplish this work through God's presence with us and by the guidance and direction of His Holy Spirit. Our dream had at last become a reality.