

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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THANK YOU FOR THE JOURNEY

On Sunday, August 1, 2004, we began our journey with First Christian.

On Sunday, August 1, 2010, we will celebrate six years with you on a fantastic journey of serving the Lord.

I am reminded that our journey together has a lot in common with Jesus. He lived and taught on the move. He was born on a journey. He died on a journey. He rose again on a journey. And, in doing this, He shows us not only that there is great joy in the journey, but that God is with us every step of the way.

Thank you, First Christian for bringing joy into our journey with you. Thank you for your love and the presence of God with us for every step of the way.

We have been blessed in serving you as Co-Pastors and look forward to more years together. Praise be to God for our journey.

In Christ love, Edd and Mary Pat

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

Some of you use the thoughts of James Moore, a Methodist minister, for your Sunday school class. May his following thoughts be helpful for our Christian journey.

10. *Remember that* it's best not to travel alone.
9. *Remember that* a sense of humor is not excess baggage.
8. *Remember that* the Bible is your best road map and your best instruction manual.
7. *Remember that* prayer means friendship with God and that friendship works best when the friends keep in touch.
6. *Remember that* no matter what obstacle may confront you, with the help of God, you can rise above it.
5. *Remember to* stop and smell the roses.
4. *Remember that* as you encounter the detours and hard knocks of life, you have a choice: You can get bitter, or you can get better!
3. *Remember as you travel* to love unconditionally, to forgive unreservedly, and to serve unselfishly.
2. *Remember to* keep your battery charged by staying plugged into the Power Source.
1. *Remember to* be careful as you travel, because you are of great value - you *must* be - because Christ came and lived and died and rose again for you.

SIGNS

The following are signs that are found on the doors of various businesses.

- On the door of a dealership: “The best way to get back on your feet is to miss a car payment.”
- On the door of a veterinarian's office: “Back in a few minutes. Sit! Stay!”
- On the door of a muffler shop: “No appointment necessary; we'll hear you coming.”
- On the door of a computer store: “Out for a quick byte.”
- On the door of an eye doctor's office: “If you can't see what you are looking for, you have come to the right place.”

These signs bring a smile to our face. But there is the greatest sign of all that brings joy to our lives. It is the sign that Jesus gave each one of us – the sign of the cross. It is the sign of unconditional love, forgiveness, sacrifice, and amazing grace. Praise be to God for this sign.

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!

<p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON Sunday, August 1 “Christian Apologetics Islam” Culture of Islamic States</p>

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	48
WORSHIP	103

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community

Sunday, August 1

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

Monday, August 2

7:00 Men's Bible Study on Habakkuk
10:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 3

Wednesday, August 4

Mary Pat returns to the office - Hooray!

Thursday, August 5

7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

Friday, August 6 – Saturday, August 7

Martin/Hall Wedding

GRACE NOTES

- † Congratulations and best wishes to Chip and Margaret Williams Watts and their family: William, Logan, Charlie, and Maggie. Chip & Margaret were united in marriage on July 24 at Chip's ancestral home, Arlington. We look forward to seeing the family in church in the near future.
- † Our prayers are with Pat Favorite as she recovers from having knee replacement surgery at UAB.
- † Our prayers are with Ruth Ann Steele as she recovers at home.
- † Thank you for all your prayers and good wishes for me during my last operation and recovery time. Knowing that my congregation is supporting me is the best medicine. The choir will be out of the loft in August as I take a much needed leave of absence. I will miss you all but look forward to being back in September, rested and ready to sing again. I love you all. In Christ, Jan.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

On August 23, 1981, the CYF hosted a Church Housewarming party with hot dogs, ice cream and cake. Everyone was asked to bring a gift for the church. On the second weekend in September the CWF had a huge Celebration Sale which netted more than \$5,000 with half going for our new church and half for outreach. September 27 was Homecoming Sunday and also the dedication of our new building.

Our congregation continued to grow, and by the end of the year we had added 40 more new members for a total of 86 since our last service in the downtown location.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

On the first Sunday of January, 1982, we celebrated the historic event that occurred 150 years ago when Barton W. Stone and "Raccoon" John Smith joined hands and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was ready to witness with a stronger faith. We also remembered the 108 years of the history of our church and saw a movie of our 1974 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Our church was busy throughout the week as various groups met for aerobics and jazzercise classes, volleyball and basketball. Later on it became a voting precinct and a meeting place for a church-sponsored Girl Scout troop.

In July Cindy Raley was approved as Director of Youth Ministries to work with the Youth Ministries Council, the Youth Education Division and the sponsors of CYF and Chi Rho. She would also assist in coordinating the Sunday evening activities for Juniors, youth and adults.

In August the Worship Department offered a Music Camp for the children of the church and community. Children in grades 1 through 6 would discover a new world of sounds and music as they worked with the recorder, kazoo, handbells and auto-harp. They would be able to visit Montevallo University and have the experience of playing a synthesizer. They would learn about our organ and also visit the School of Music at Samford University and see the organs there. Director of Music Bill Bugg offered a Children's Choir Program beginning in September so the children could continue to participate in the same activities they enjoyed at Music Camp.

A Mother's Day Out Program for pre-school children began in September, and in November we provided another service to church members and the community by offering a 6 session seminar on "Living in a Blended Family". The response, interest and offers of help were very gratifying.

In January and February, 1983, a Sunday evening study was offered following a snack supper, using Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" series of 7 films. A discussion period followed the showing of each film. An adult Bible study was also offered on Sunday evenings, led by Mrs. Pattie Goodall. In February the Official Board voted to call the Rev. Kim Maphis Early as Associate Minister on a part-time basis, to begin sometime in March.

THE ADVENTURE NOOK SUPPORT GROUP

We are blessed to have a great pre-school. It is a blessing for the community. We are also blessed to have a great Adventure Nook Support Group. The new group is as follows: Amanda Boyles, Chair; Nancy DeVore, Linda Byrd, Stacy Cason, Beth Patterson, TAN Director; and Debbie Braswell, Assistant TAN Director.

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