

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 30 AUGUST 3, 2010



WELCOME BACK

There is a great song in *Fiddler on the Roof* that shares the following words, “Sunrise, sunset. Swiftly flow the days.” Such is the case for Mary Pat’s sabbatical. The days have swiftly flowed by, and now it is time for her to return to First Christian. She has had a wonderful three months of refreshment and spiritual renewal.

Her first day back in the office is Wednesday, August 4, and her first Sunday in the pulpit is Sunday, August 8. She will meet with the Elders on Monday, August 9 and share with them her wonderful journey.

Appreciation is expressed to Steve Pasky and the Personnel Committee for their support and guidance in her sabbatical. Appreciation is also expressed to Jim Baxter and the Elders for their great ministry as worship leaders and spiritual support in her absence. And finally, to all the congregation, for all your Christian love, help, and being present during the past three months.

And now, may we all say “Welcome Home, Mary Pat.” We can’t wait to see you and give you a big hug. We can’t wait to again serve the Lord together.

THE ANNUAL FUND OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA

The Alabama-Northwest Florida Annual Fund is an invitation for individuals to give additional financial support to undergird the ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. While the Region receives gifts from congregations through the Disciples Mission Fund and through the Christmas Offering, these dollars are not sufficient to help maintain current ministries and provide the new ministries we envision.

The Annual Fund is an opportunity for individuals to make a difference in the lives of children, youth, young adults, men, women, pastors, and students. Gifts to the Annual Fund directly impact people right in your own congregation and in neighboring Disciples of Christ congregations.

We hope that the motivation behind all gifts to the Annual Fund will come from the commitment to excellence. We do not want to struggle in our Regional Ministry. We want to thrive! We want to have the quality of excellence in everything we do. Nothing less is worthy of the Christ we serve.

Donors to the Annual Fund, in any amount of donation, will be listed in the December issue of the Christian. This listing is intended to acknowledge these gifts and to influence others to join the quest for excellence in our Region.

Please contact Edd if you are able to share or have any questions.

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 \$10 to be paid at the door. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, personal toiletries, and a great attitude as we fellowship with youth from the region.

THANKS! FROM OAK MOUNTAIN MINISTRIES

Thank you so much for the generous donation of food from your Summer Camp. We really appreciate it because our food pantry shelves were almost bare. Isn’t it amazing how God works? Just when the need was the greatest, He sends you wonderful people. It truly was a blessing. Please keep us in your prayers and come see us anytime you can. We would love to have you. God bless you! *Dianne Cesario, Oak Mountain Ministries*

LOOKING AHEAD IN AUGUST

August is a slow month in the life of the church, but please notice the special activities that will be happening in the church:

Monday, August 9 - Elder Gathering
Friday, August 13 - Regional Lock-In
Sunday, August 15 - Ona/Ruth
Monday, August 23 - Pastor’s Cabinet
Tuesday, August 24 - Caring & Sharing
Sunday, August 29 - Fifth Sunday Pot Luck
Monday, August 30 - Men’s Fellowship
Wednesday, September 1 - Young At Heart
River Cruise

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome into our church Mary Jean Baumgartner who comes by transfer of membership. Her address is:

1215 Oxford Court
Birmingham, AL 35242
991-101

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	62
WORSHIP	128

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, August 8

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

Monday, August 9

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

Tuesday, August 10

7:00 Finance Council

Thursday, August 12

7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

Friday, August 13

7:00 Regional Back-to-School Lock-In

Saturday, August 14

10:00 Regional Lock-In Ends

GRACE NOTES

- † Congratulations to Lindsey Askew, who was married to Robert Goff in New Orleans on July 17. Lindsey is Kathy Murphy's daughter.
- † Our prayers are with the following ladies: Pat Favorite, Edith Carreras, Marquita Sebastian and Gail Burton.
- † Many of our people are celebrating vacations with family and friends during the month of August. We wish them all safe travel and precious memories.
- † Worship attendance has been good this summer. The time change to 10:15 may have helped increase attendance.
- † Attention Mission Chairs. Please place Monday, August 23 at 7:00 pm on your calendar for Pastor's Cabinet. This is an important meeting as we plan programs for the end of the year and help Gary Franklin arrange a Security Committee and a Long Range Planning Committee.
- † Children and Youth Groups begin again in September. Please consider serving as a sponsor or helping with snack suppers.
- † The Membership Mission, under the leadership of Lisa Burdette, will guide the church in a new Pictorial Directory. Olan Mills will be taking pictures October 14-18. More information will be coming in future Visitors.
- † The Young At Heart are going on a dinner cruise on the Alabama River on September 1. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Holy Week, 1983, was a special time, as always, with a Symbolic Supper and Service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and a Community Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday evening. On Easter Sunday we had the traditional lakeside Sunrise Service followed by breakfast and an Easter egg hunt at the Retreat. After Sunday School at the church, 342 people gathered for worship and a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. Special guest during the Children's Minute was Mopsy the lamb who delighted the many children gathered around this little visitor.

In April Dr. Garner, Rev. Edwards and Rev. Early began a 5-week adult study series on Sunday evenings to learn more about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): history, growth and development, beliefs and the future of the church.

On April 16 Dr. Mike Harper, Associate Minister of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, led an All-Church Retreat at Hargis, focusing on the art of communication within the church. This was a much needed skill to help blend the members who relocated from the downtown church with the 139 new members added in the last two years. This retreat gave us an opportunity to spend time together learning, sharing and having fun.

In June the Committee on Ministry, AL/NWFLA Region, granted licenses to George and Judy Dudley as Commissioned Church Workers (Music Evangelists). The Dudley's had been singing evangelists since 1979, traveling coast to coast, and they chose our Region as their headquarters.

Some of our youth once again enjoyed a four-day Disciples Heritage Tour in Kentucky. They visited Hazel Green Academy, Antioch Christian Church in Lexington, Cane Ridge Meeting House, Transylvania College, Lexington Theological Seminary and other places of interest.

In August and September, Music Director Bill Bugg wrote weekly articles in the Visitor to stress the importance of the congregation's participation in singing the hymns that are so much a part of our worship experience. He encouraged us to enjoy praising God and proclaiming our faith by joining in song. In Colossians 3:16 Paul tells us to "Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts". We were asked to let him know our favorite hymns so he could include as many as possible in our worship. He also suggested using a hymnal as a daily devotional guide.

Code '83 was launched in August, a Challenge on Debt Elimination. An anonymous offer was made to lend the church \$150,000, interest free, provided the congregation responded with \$170,000 in the same manner. We could pay off the note on our building and save thousands of dollars in interest.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, August 8

“Christian Apologetics Islam”

Religion Political