

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

When you receive this Visitor I will be backpacking on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. I will be spending this week hiking in the wilderness of Virginia as a warm-up hike for my sabbatical next year.

I want to share with you the following thoughts that I have received from backpacking on the A.T. thoughts that have brought me in touch with God.

Luggage in a Backpack

On the trail one soon comes down to the knowledge of only carrying the necessities in the backpack. Keeping the backpack light by carrying a half bar of soap and half of a towel. There is only so much room in the pack.

Sooner or later you realize that life is like that too. We have only so many hours in a day, only so much time and talent and ability, only so much in material possessions. Each one has to determine how much he can put in his life. For every item we include we have to omit something else.

Jesus the Hiker

Jesus was a hiker. He covered most of His native land on foot. He and some of His disciples even climbed a mountain to celebrate His transfiguration.

How Jesus must have been able to cover the ground! Yet He could also stop to help a blind beggar, and He could adjust His pace to walk with the slow, the crippled or the young.

He should be an example to the rest of us. Even though we, too, have a lot of ground to cover before we rest, we can slow down for the sake of those we meet. May we not be in such a hurry that we cannot stop and help others.

The Appalachian Divide

While I am hiking in Virginia, I will be hiking on the trail that runs along the Appalachian Divide. When a raindrop falls on the west side of the Appalachian Divide mountain ridge, it joins water flowing to the Gulf of Mexico. If a raindrop falls on the east side of the mountain ridge, it will flow into the Atlantic Ocean. It has no choice. The route of the raindrop is determined by chance.

Sometimes we are in the same situation. There are times when we are locked into a situation by circumstances beyond our control. Therefore, may we pray. “O God please give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.

See you Sunday after a refreshing walk in God’s sanctuary. God Bless you, Edd

POT LUCK SUNDAY

On Sunday, August 29th we will have our 5th Sunday Pot Luck after worship in the Family Life Center. Bring your favorite dish. Our hot food cabinet in the kitchen will keep your food warm. The Fellowship mission will provide drink and dinnerware. The nursery will be open.

Youth Groups Begin Again September 12th

Going back to school is exciting. It is a time to see those you haven’t seen in three months and, of course, it’s a time to get back to serious studying. So have a great time and get settled in. Then on Sunday, September 12th, come and bring your old and new friends at 5:00 as we begin our youth groups again. That’s right - **5:00 PM**. We will be beginning at 5:00 and meet until 6:30 with our snack supper at 6:30. This time change will help the younger ones get home earlier and get to bed. The older youth will still have time to do their homework. So mark your calendars now. See you soon - Can’t wait!!!! *Mary Pat*

YOUNG AT HEART RIVERBOAT CRUISE

Does the riverboat ring your bell? “Maverick” music comes to mind for me, but this cruise is not for the gamblers such as Britt and Bart...It’s for you and it’s a lunch cruise down the Alabama River on the 1st of September. Sign up for a ride on the church bus and lots of fun... oh yes, there’s a short side trip after the cruise to the historic First White House of the Confederacy. A fun day for all Young at Heart and their friends. We will meet at the church at 9:00 am. Please sign up soon in the Narthex by the 21st. Let’s go down the river together... *Janet*

HELP! HELP! HELP!

There are times in one’s life where a helping hand is required or just needed. This is what the HANDS of THE CARPENTER MINISTRY is all about ... to provide a helping hand where it is needed. We have a group of men and women who have volunteered to help out if illness or disability prevents one from being able to clean his/her home, mow the lawn, etc. In some cases THE HANDS of THE CARPENTER can also provide light carpenter work, painting etc. How does one avail themselves to this service? A quick call to the church office is all that is needed. God Bless, *Bud Flora*

MEN’S NIGHT Monday, August 30th

Just a quick reminder we will resume our Men’s Night functions on Monday, 30th August at 6:30pm. Unfortunately our guest speaker has had to cancel but we are working on a replacement, so stand-by. If anyone has a suggestion please call me at 991-9573 or E mail me at budflora@charter.net. ASAP! To God Be The Glory! *Bud Flora*

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	77
WORSHIP	154

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Life In Our Community

Sunday, August 22

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

Monday, August 23

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Pastor's Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday, August 24

- 6:30 Caring & Sharing at Ann Langley's
7:00 Elder Calls

Thursday, August 26

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

Saturday, August 28

- 9:00 District II Elders Retreat

GRACE NOTES

- † Our prayers are with Marquita, who is resting at home after surgery.
- † Our prayers are with baby Thomas Hill, who is recovering from surgery in Children's Hospital.
- † Our prayers are with Ann Awtrey who is in Brookwood and is recovering from a fall.
- † Our prayers are with Jan and Bill as Jan enjoys her leave of absence in August to be refreshed in body and spirit.
- † Congratulations to Beth Thomason who has been called as minister of Madison Christian Church.
- † The new Upper Room devotional books are available in the narthex.
- † The Membership mission under the leadership of Lisa Burdette will be leading the church in the process of a new pictorial directory. Sign-up date for pictures will be on the Sundays of September 12, 19, and 26 and Sunday, October 3.
- † The Busy Believers will have a social at the Spencers' on Friday, September 10 at 7:00.

DISTRICT 11 ELDERS' RETREAT

Saturday, August 28, 2010 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
The Elders of Valley Christian Church and Macedonia Christian Church are jointly sponsoring this retreat. We invite all Elders of the District II churches to participate.
Leader: Reverend Rebecca Littlejohn, Minister, First Christian Church, Anniston, AL.
Theme: *Companion for the Journey, John 15:15*
Registration: Registration begins at 8:30 am.
The Registration fee is \$10.00 per person.
A light lunch will be served.
May all the Elders of First Christian consider attending. This will be a great experience for us.
Please contact Jim Baxter.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

We enjoyed Sunday afternoons at the Retreat during the summer months with swimming, softball, horseback riding, lakeside vesper services and picnic suppers. It had now been 20 years since Dr. Tom Giltner accepted the gift of 200 acres of land from Dr. and Mrs. Estes Hargis and since the building of the Retreat began.

Homecoming 1984 in October was also a celebration of our 110th Anniversary with a "Wall of History" displaying pictures, documents and other bits of memorabilia charting the history of our church.

In November the CWF held a bazaar following weeks of preparation. Many attended Thanksgiving worship in the chapel at Hargis, followed by the traditional dinner in the lodge. December brought the Hanging of the Greens, Christmas pageant and a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service.

On February 3, 1985, Dr. Garner submitted his letter of resignation to the Official Board and to the congregation, retroactive to January 31. He would continue his normal ministerial duties and activities for 60 days from that date. Dr. Garner felt that he had accomplished what he had been called here to do, and that his ministry here was finished. He and Mrs. Garner were honored at a Coffee Hour reception on March 10 and presented a gift of remembrance.

A Pulpit Study Committee was formed to receive and assimilate information and comments from the congregation by means of a questionnaire. The Study Committee would analyze the responses and submit them to the Pulpit Search Committee to utilize in the search for a new Senior Minister.

On the first weekend in March, an All-Church Retreat was held at Hargis led by Howard E. Dentler, General Minister and President of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and by Carl R. Flock, our Regional Minister of the Christian Church in AL/NWFLA. Dr. Dentler also preached at Sunday morning worship at our church.

On July 4 members and friends enjoyed barbecue, an afternoon of recreation and vespers by the lake at Hargis. Another all day celebration was held there on Labor Day with recreation following lunch and Crestwood Christian Church as our guests.

On August 24 the CWF sponsored a Fall Fashion Show and luncheon. They also sponsored a Ladies Night Out in September, an evening of fun, food and fellowship. Goodwill Industries presented a trunk show of their fashions through the years.

It was announced in September that Dr. Drexel C. Rankin had accepted a call to First Christian Church, to begin his ministry with us on November 17. He and Mrs. Rankin (Patty) were with us on Homecoming Sunday in October and he brought the message in morning worship.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON
Sunday, August 22
“Christian Apologetics Islam”
Expansions in Western World

EVERY MOUNTAIN IS A FOOTHILL

Every mountain we climb turns out to be merely a foothill. You climb one and look upward to the next.

The problem with God's people is that we are always trying to make mountains out of foothills. We like to climb up and look down on how far we have come instead of upward to how far we have to go.

When it comes to our faith, there is no stopping place. There is no ultimate peak where we can just rest and enjoy the view.

Every mountain is a foothill. We need to just keep climbing.

We are in the process of becoming Christians. We need to pick up the tempo for the journey. We are not home yet.

A MOUNTAIN PRAYER

Create in us a love, O Lord. A new love. A fresh love. A love with the tenderness of a deer, the grandeur of a mountain, and the strength of a bear.

Make us one with You, O God. As You made a hundred colors into one mountain sunset, a thousand pine trees into one forest, and countless stars into one galaxy.

Make our hearts as one with Yours. May Your will be our will. Amen.