

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 26 June 29, 2010



PRAYERS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

May the following prayers be helpful as we celebrate our freedom on the fourth of July.

For Our Troops

O God, we commend to Your gracious care our troops who are serving our nation. Defend them day by day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to endure the danger which they may face; and grant wherever they go, they may be assured of Your abiding presence, through Christ, our Savior. Amen

For Our Veterans

Lord our God, look favorably on all those who have served this nation in our armed forces. We thank You for Your presence with them in their service. Help them and us to remember the sacrifices of their fallen comrades. Let the light of liberty and the love of justice and mercy burn brightly in the heart of this nation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

For Our Nation

Eternal God our Father, on this day we come praising You for this land in which we live. Thank You for the people of this nation. We thank You for the divergent backgrounds - for peoples of every tradition, from many nations, of many colors, and of many creeds. We praise You for a land of abundance. For the mountains and plains, for rivers and lakes, for rich soil and rare minerals, we thank You. But more than these, we thank You for things unseen. For those forefathers who dreamed of a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, we thank You. O God, increase in us the desire to pass on to all the world the liberty we hold dear, until people everywhere have a right to worship as they wish, to read what they choose, to select their own leaders and to disagree with those who rule over them without fear of reprisal through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A FELLOWSHIP MOMENT

Beginning this Sunday, July 4, the Fellowship Mission will provide light refreshments, fruit, cookies, coffee and juice between Sunday school and Worship. The refreshment table will be located in the Narthex by the church office. Stop by between 9:45 and 10:15 to enjoy refreshments. Also, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet our guest and welcome them to First Christian Church.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	63
WORSHIP	145
VESPERS	57

SACRED HARP

Our buildings were alive with people experiencing the joy of Sacred Harp singing with “Dinner on the

Ground” (not really dinner on the ground but in the comfort of our gym) for lunch, and for refreshments of coffee, juice, cookies and donuts to start each day. There were about 840 people that came through our food line during the three days. There were more people going through our food line than actually registered their attendance during June 17 – 19. Lunches were served to 247 on Thursday; and a record 347 on Friday; and 246 on Saturday. Some of our members and others came but did not register their attendance.

Statistics are sometimes uninteresting, but I believe we should be excited about who came to our church from far away places! Wow! They came to First Christian Church of Birmingham, to the National Sacred Harp Convention, in a total number registered of 569. They were from a total of 29 states, Washington D.C., Canada and the United Kingdom.

They were from as follows: Alabama 403; Georgia 28; Tennessee 27; Mississippi 15; Texas 14; Florida 12; Illinois 9; New York 7; Massachusetts 6; Colorado 5; Virginia 4; Vermont 3; California 3; Indiana 3; South Carolina 3; Pennsylvania 2; Kentucky 2; Washington 2; Missouri 2; North Carolina 2; Arkansas 2; New Mexico 1; Ohio 1; Montana 1; Nebraska 1; New Jersey 1; Connecticut 1; Oklahoma 1; Louisiana 1; Washington D.C. 1; Canada 6; and from the United Kingdom 6.

There were 246 songs lifted up in joyful praise over three days. There were 169 leaders, some of whom led multiple times and leading different songs. Thank you for sharing our facilities and your warm welcome and fellowship to our guests. Pastor Edd was very supportive by offering welcome comments, prayers and even joining Yours Truly in leading “Coronation” (All Hail the Power of Jesus Name). He represented you – our members- and did it well. Pastor Edd and our custodian, Lloyd Smith, were so very helpful, and we are pleased that our voluntary contributions permitted the Convention to cover all our expenses and make a donation to the church and an honorarium for our custodian. Hubert Nall

WELCOME HOME

We welcome home to our fellowship Earl and Donna Strickland, who came forward Sunday to once again become active in the life of our church. Their address is: 309 Laurel Woods Lane
Helena, Al 35080
621-1492

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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 4

9:00 Sunday School
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder

Monday, July 5

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 6

9:30 TAN'S Summer Fun
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, July 7

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 8

9:30 TAN'S Summer Fun
7:00 Men's Bible Study

Sunday, July 11

9:00 Sunday School
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder

Monday, July 12

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

Tuesday, July 13

Primary Election Run-Off

9:30 TAN'S Summer Fun
7:00 Finance Council

Wednesday, July 14

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 15

9:30 TAN'S Summer Fun
7:00 Men's Bible Study



Remember, No Visitor next week, July 5TH!

A THANK YOU

Dear Reverend Edd Spencer,

On behalf of the Inverness Master Homeowners Association, I want to thank you and your church for the community service of your men's group for regularly collecting litter along Valleydale Road from your church to Highway 280. Unfortunately, litter is a huge problem. The efforts of your men's group provides a welcoming gateway to Inverness. We frequently hear new homeowners tell us they purchased a home in Inverness due to the covenants and the well maintained appearance of the neighborhoods.

Thank you, William Sweet, President
Inverness Master Homeowners Association

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, July 4th

**“Christian Apologetics Islam”
Quran Allah/Yahweh**

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CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

A copy of Dr. Giltner's benediction ("As you go without these walls...") is on the wall in our narthex. We usually use a variation of it at the close of our worship service. A Timothy in Dr. Giltner's first church (1930-31) used this benediction which may have come from his father, also a minister. This young man had Hodgkins which resulted in his death. He gave his benediction to young Tom Giltner, who felt that he was carrying on his friend's ministry as well as his own.

December, 1979, marked the passing of another long time member, Mrs. Camilla Mosely, who served as our social worker for many years and later as Pastoral Assistant. She kept in touch with the welfare organizations of our city for specific information concerning individuals who came to our church for help (and there were many in need in the area near our downtown location).

The Jefferson County Board of Education approved our use of Gresham Jr. High School in Cahaba Heights for our temporary church home. The cafeteria, 8 classrooms and a large storage closet were made available to us. Paul Ash, Winford Holloway, Margaret Willis and several others were instrumental in searching for and locating this facility.

The congregation overflowed into the balcony at the last worship service in the downtown church on the last Sunday in January, 1980. The children passed out pieces of red cord to everyone, and following a beautiful "Service of Deconsecration of the Church, we made a large circle around the sanctuary and joined our cords together in one unbroken length. We were ready to embark on a tremendous undertaking, and we did it with rejoicing, celebrating and giving thanks according to the scripture for the final service, Isaiah 54: 2, 3: "Enlarge the place of your tent and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left...".

On the first Sunday of February it was exciting to see Bill and Bobbie Lucas drive up at Gresham in our new church van with 15 happy riders who had sung "Happy Birthday" to Agnes Hintermeier on the way. Dr. Garner's sermon that day was "Behold, I Am Doing A New Thing!". Minister of Music Bob Burroughs composed a new choral Call to Worship with the same title.

Our fellowship suppers each month became covered dish suppers at the regional office on the Montgomery Highway and our church office was also located there in a trailer. We were more than ready to accept a few inconveniences in order to reach our goals.

THE ADVENTURE NOOK

Our Adventure Nook children and teachers are excited about Summer Fun. Our session runs June 22 – July 15. Hours are 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. We will have a great time doing art projects, playing in the gym and outside playground. We will also have a special day playing in the water. We are all looking forward to a great preschool camp with the most precious children. Beth Patterson, TAN director