

# First Christian Visitor

*“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”*

[www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org)

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 29 JULY 26, 2011



## GALACTIC BLAST IS AWESOME!

What a terrific week we are experiencing at our VBS! In fact, it is fantastic. The children are participating in learning activities as they explore God's amazing and awesome creation. They begin their day praising God with songs and motions and learning a Praise Phrase. Our guest Galileo, the Green Gorilla helped us learn our daily Praise Phrase and is a special hit with everyone. Our Commander of the Starship Galactic Blast keeps Galileo straight and reminds us of our mission to bring canned goods for the Oak Mountain Ministries. Cadets participate in the **Good News Galaxy**, where they experience a new Bible story each day and learn the Bible verse for that story in sign language. Each day they visit the **Orbital Observatory**, where they explore and experiment with science activities related to that day's Bible story. In addition, they visit to our **Cosmic Crafts** tent, where they make crafts to remind them of what they have learned. And, of course, they all enjoy visiting the **Astro Bistro Café**, where they have delicious and unique space type snacks. Each day is packed with excitement and adventure. We have over 50 Cadets in all on our Starship and 33 marvelous staff. Many thanks and appreciation are expressed to the following who without them the week would not be possible: Julie Henderson, our Christian Education Mission Chair; Kay Keith, Jon and Yvonne Hale (friends from Sarasota) who did our decorating; Lucille Leaman; Jean Nicholson; Janet Bonds; Janice Lamb; Gloria McWilliams and Virginia Nall, our Registration staff; Jan Watts, our Galactic Praise song leader; Kirstyn Rudd, our Praise Music booster; Katherine Mee, our Starship Commander; Barbara Carpenter, puppet master; Russ Favorite, who made Galileo's home; Soren Reitsma, who was the voice of Galileo. Many thanks to our Venus Cadet Group Leaders, Linda Hamilton and Olivia Wurner; Saturn Cadet Group Leaders, Donna Penn and Virginia Guthrie; Mars Cadet Group Leaders, Marian Moon and Beverly Baxter; Jupiter Cadet Group Leaders, Sandy Hamilton and Rita Wallace; our Good News Galaxy team, Deb Carpenter and Stacy Cason; our Orbital Observatory Discovery team, Charlotte Brammer and Regena Varvoutis; our Cosmic Crafts team, Conlee Alderson and Jenny West; our Astro Bistro Café team, Paulette Farquhar and Alyssa Lamb; our Public Relations team, Ann Langley, Emma Harms, and Jeff Eady; our fantastic Assistant to the Minister, Chris McCayna; our Nursery Assistant, Layla Stern; our custodian, Lloyd Smith; Jim Baxter, our floater, Bill Watts, our sound man; Nickey Rudd, our props man; our appreciation team, Peggy Daniels and Ginny White, who made beautiful thank you gifts for the

volunteers; to all those who donated snacks and tents and props; and of course, each parent and grandparent who brought their beautiful children. And, last but certainly not least, we give thanks and praise to our Wonderful, Incredible, Amazing, Magnificent and Awesome God!! Praise God!! Mission Accomplished, thanks to You and God.

## MARK YOUR AUGUST CALENDARS

Sunday, August 14, we will recognize Rev. Carl Flock for his outstanding 60 years of ordination and Christian Ministry. Sunday, August 21, our CYF youth will share the morning worship of their life changing experiences from their "Journey in Faith" to the Holy Land this past June. Our CYF youth have also been invited to write their stories for **280 Living**. Sunday, August 28, Wanda Davis will share with us in morning worship her life changing experiences titled, "Fly like the Angels." Come and invite a friend(s).

## OUTREACH UPDATE

"Back-to-school." The bittersweet words mean saying "goodbye" to carefree summer and "hello" to the enthusiasm of a brand new school year. This year, we're doing our part to help children and teachers start the year off right. We've stuffed backpacks for both Inverness Elementary and Oak Mountain Elementary, and we continue to collect classroom supplies. In addition to typical supplies, however, children also need healthy snacks. Some children come to school without snacks, and teachers often supply snacks for these students. We can help. Please bring donations of healthy snacks, such as individual packages of cheese crackers, puddings, applesauce, etc.

Have you checked us out on Facebook yet? You just might see your picture there!

You may have noticed that our parking lot is missing a few vans and cars and trailers. All Hands Volunteers left at the end of last week, and our Mission Station has closed for now. Because of you, FCC housed All Hands from June 10-July 21, and those "Hands" touched the lives of many who were affected by the April 27<sup>th</sup> storms. The Outreach Mission and Mission Station volunteers greatly appreciate all of your generosity and patience as we shared our facilities, and we would like to show you just how much.

What: **Appreciation Spaghetti Luncheon (Free)**

When: **July 31<sup>st</sup>** immediately following worship

*Please join us to celebrate the spirit of giving that abounds here!*

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE	
WORSHIP SERVICE	167
SUNDAY SCHOOL	78

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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 This Week**

#### **Sunday, July 31**

9:00 Sunday School  
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship Service  
10:30 Worship & Wonder  
11:30 Appreciation Spaghetti Luncheon  
1:30 - 3:30 Rehearsals for Dinner Theatre

#### **Monday, August 1**

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

#### **Tuesday, August 2**

6:30 – 8:30 Meadowridge Homeowner's Mtg

#### **Wednesday, August 3**

6:30 Choir Practice

#### **Thursday, August 4**

7:00 Advocates Bible Study

#### **Saturday, August 5 – Sunday, August 6**

Regional Young Adults Retreat  
At FCC Montgomery

### **GRACE NOTES**

- † Our sympathy is expressed to Carolyn Goodall and family in the death of Gordon, who passed away on July 25. The memorial service details will be announced later.
- † Please continue to pray for Carole Rudd; Marquita Sebastian; Baby Carly Chandler, Dustin and Amy Chandler, Aneda and Dronnie Chandler; Pat Deaton; Carole Dutt; Heather Vaughn; Rumsey Sutton; Mack and Linda Heaton.
- † Congratulations to Sarah Alderson and Jason Hammontree on their engagement. They will marry on October 1<sup>st</sup> in a private ceremony.
- † Wanda Swihart will be moving to Kansas this week to be with her family. She will be greatly missed. Her new address will be: 24547 West 110<sup>th</sup> St, Olathe, KS 66061
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Michael West in the death of his future mother-in-law Peggy Davis who passed away July 25.



If you are blessed with caring friends, put something in your **Blessing Box** this week.

### **CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

#### **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

**“Paul’s Epistles to the Thessalonians”**

**2 Thessalonians 2: 13; 3:5**

### **“THE DISCIPLES”**

#### **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Return to Obedience**

**Judges 10:10-18**

### **CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

In January, 2000, the Mission Council announced plans to establish a team to help our church plan for its future ministry. This planning effort was called Vision 2000 and was led by Bill Conwell, chairman of the team. They planned to gather information from the congregation with a survey taken on two Sundays in March.

The youth of the church sponsored their annual Valentine's dinner and raised more than \$500 for their summer mission trips. The youth also hosted a regional lock-in on the last Saturday in February featuring fellowship, food, games and a midnight worship service. Adults of the church participated in a progressive dinner on that same evening.

At the meeting of the Mission Council in May, the results of the Vision 2000 surveys were discussed. Rev. Sotello Long of Indianapolis led the group in exploring dreams and visions for the future ministry of the church. These dreams and visions were divided into two groups, those for the immediate or near future and those for the next three to five years.

In June, our church joined with others from Alabama and NW Florida to perform a miracle at Snow Hill Christian Church. In one day, 14 from our church and about 300 others painted the sanctuary, constructed a playground, almost finished an outdoor pavilion and completed a quarter mile of outdoor walking track. Our church also contributed more than \$850 to support Miracle Day. More than 20 from our church served as counselors and volunteers at another successful Camp High Hopes in June, with Jim Langley as director.

The CYF made a summer mission trip to North Carolina to build a new roof on the soup kitchen for Broad Street Christian Church. Eleven of our youth spent a great week of service with their leader, Kay Artner, and Pastor Ted. The Chi Rho mission trip was to Jacksonville, Florida, to work at the Florida Christian Home. Sixteen youth and their sponsors, Hugh Henderson, Sharon Freeman and Toni Vaughn, painted buildings, provided worship and support in an Alzheimer Daycare unit. They were accompanied by Pastor Vickie.

On Sunday, July 16, the Vision 2000 team led the worship service and presented a Short Term Vision program for ministry at the congregational meeting following worship. After the meeting there was a potluck luncheon and ice cream social. The Short Term Vision program included three initiatives to be pursued in the next few months: FCC will be a welcoming church, FCC will have a strong Sunday School program and FCC will evaluate the use of our building and space.

In September the youth hosted their 3rd Annual Cajun Festival featuring delicious seafood, carnival booths and a cake walk. This annual event helped fund the youth summer mission trip. The CYF also hosted a fall festival for all children, toddlers through 5th grade, in October. Children were invited to wear their Halloween costumes.