

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 32 AUGUST 16, 2011



MIRACLES FROM GOD-PART II

In last week's article, I referred to the miracle of a changed heart. I wrote of my father's and my brother's conversion to Christianity late in their lives. This week, I want to tell you about the miracle of how I came back home to Birmingham.

This story will not make any sense if I do not tell about the most wonderful man I met earlier in my adult life. It was the first day of orientation in college. My best friend, Kristie Franklin, and I were in a big auditorium listening to a very boring speaker when I noticed this tall, good-looking young man several rows in front of us whose name I would learn later was Jim Davis. Being the shy person that I am, I managed to introduce myself to him after the meeting. That was the beginning of our long-term courtship, and after graduating from Auburn in 1971, we got married. I was the high school teacher, and he was the engineer. Jim's career took us to Savannah, Georgia, where our two daughters, Natalie & Nicole, were born. Then nine years later we moved to Jacksonville, Alabama. In 1989, we moved again to Logansport, Indiana, and finally, in 1994 we moved to Brighton, Michigan. So all of my adult life, I lived away from Birmingham. Some would say that we were living the American dream. Jim was doing very well in his career, I was teaching and our two daughters were attending Western Michigan University and Michigan State University.

This happy life came crashing down on June 22, 1999. Jim had gone to Portland, Oregon on a business trip. One day after arriving in Portland, Jim died of a massive heart attack. He was only 50 years old. Had it not been for the Lord and our wonderful church family, Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church, I don't know what I would have done. But God was faithful and taught me so many things that first year. Little things that I would have gone to Jim about, I learned to ask God and to wait for His answers and His timing.

A little over a year later, my sisters and brother were trying to get me to move back to Birmingham. Everyone said to wait at least a year after Jim's death before making any major decisions. So in October, 2000, I was able to get a courtesy interview with the Assistant Superintendent of Hoover City Schools, Dr. Connie Williams. I knew that Spain Park High School was going to open the following year and maybe I could get a position there.

I remember so vividly the morning of my meeting with Dr. Williams. My appointment with her was at 1:30 pm. I woke up early that morning and I was a bundle of nerves. This was the first major decision I had made since Jim's death.

I was emotionally torn between wanting to move back home and be with my family and leaving my church family and friends in Michigan. I remember getting on my knees and crying out to God....."What do I do Lord? What do you want me to do? They are not going to hire me...I'm too old." I must have cried and had my "pity party" for twenty minutes or more.

Then I felt the Lord was telling me to get my Bible and read the daily devotional. I wiped my eyes and this was the bible verse: Matthew 6:25-34 (The parable on worrying)....."Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself..."

Isn't God amazing? After reading those verses, I got up, wiped my eyes and got ready for my interview. I was so relaxed in the meeting that I had to keep telling myself to sit up straight. My interview was only supposed to last ten minutes because it was the end of October and school had started in August, so naturally there were no openings. After about an hour, Dr. Williams said: "Ms. Davis, when I agreed to see you this was just going to be a courtesy interview. However, the strangest thing happened this morning." I thought, how did she know that I was crying like a baby this morning? Dr. Williams continued: "We had a teacher in your field (Social Studies) who turned in her resignation this morning at 8:30. She teaches International Baccalaureate History and you walk in with a Masters' Degree in U. S. History".

I believe that miracles come in many different ways to us. Remember, I was afraid that my age would keep me from getting the job. God actually used my age and experience in teaching to get the job. God is truly wonderful!!

Start looking for those miracles in your life.

Wanda Davis

COME ONE AND COME ALL TO "A NIGHT ON 42ND STREET"

We still have tickets left for both Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27. Call Jan at 365-6942 to make your reservations now. Come have a fun time and enjoy good food and beautiful music. See your favorite Broadway songs performed by your favorite people. You'll have a blast!

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Monday, August 29 at 6:30 pm

It's time, again, to mark your calendar for Christian Men's Fellowship. Monday, August 29, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m. is the date & time. We already have a super speaker lined up & you don't want to miss it!

HANDS OF THE CARPENTER-PLUS

Hands Of The Carpenter – Plus are standing by to provide help that you might need. Lifting, assembly, small repairs, transportation can all be handled by our crew. Give Jerry Wallace a call at 991-0512 for a "consultation".

“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 This Week

Sunday, August 21

- 9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
Rehearsals for Dinner Theatre

Monday, August 22

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

Wednesday, August 24

- 6:30 Dress Rehearsal for Dinner Theatre

Thursday, August 25

- 6:30 Dress Rehearsal for Dinner Theatre

- 7:00 Advocates Bible Study

Friday, August 26

- 6:30 "A Night on 42nd Street"
Dinner Theatre Performance

Saturday August 27

- 6:30 "A Night on 42nd Street"
Dinner Theatre Performance

Sunday, August 28

- "Senior Adult Sunday"
In Alabama/Northwest Florida

GRACE NOTES

- † Please continue to pray for Carole Rudd and Marquita Sebastian.
- † We express our sympathy to the following:
- † Lloyd Smith and family in the death of his brother Lawrence. The memorial service will be on Saturday, August 20 at 1:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Forestdale. If you would like to send Lloyd and his family a card his address is: 3025 21st Street, Ensley, Birmingham, AL 35208.
- † Thomas Barnett in the death of his wife Sue.
- † Layla Stern in the death of her grandmother.
- † The Chi Rho and CYF will have a "Day at the Lake" with the Powell's from 8 am - 4 pm on Saturday, August 27.
- † The Chi Rho and CYF youth will have our annual Planning Retreat on September 23 – 24 at Horse Pens 40.
- † All our youth groups begin on September 11 at 5:30 pm.
- † Many thanks to Twila and Garry for the lovely luncheon in honor of Carl. Also, many thanks to Mack Carpenter for cooking, Deb Carpenter, Cayla Corbin, Alyssa Lamb, Donnette Mee, Katherine Mee, and Soren Reitsma, for helping out in the kitchen.
- † If you want to see what a mountain man (Edd) looks like? Go to: YouTube and click on *Appalachian Trail "Piece of Cake" 2011*.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday mornings, beginning September 6th from 10:00 am - 11:00 am, we will be studying ACTS.

Thursday evenings, beginning September 8th from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, we will be studying 1 Corinthians. So, Ladies, bring your choice of Bible translation and any commentary you would like to share. I look forward to seeing ALL LADIES wishing to participate in this study. *Judy Dudley*

COLLECTION CENTER

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:14)

Many faithful people manned our "Collection Center" during the Tornado Relief effort. You were the "Light of the Community" during that time. We would like to recognize those wonderful folks with a small gift following worship services on Sunday August 21 & 28. Please visit the "Outreach Table" in the narthex & pick up your gift.

Jerry & Rita Wallace, Charles & Peggy Daniels

SERMON SERIES

Beginning on Sunday, September 18th, Edd will begin a four-week sermon series "Reflections on a Mountain Top Experience". Please invite your family and friends to come and hear about his adventure.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome Lori Morrow to First Christian Church. Lori transferred her membership from Roebuck Christian Church. Her address is:

1228 Park Avenue
Moody, AL 35004



If you're blessed with good health or good health insurance, put something in your Blessing Box this week.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, August 21st

"True Salvation"

John 8: 21-30

"THE DISCIPLES"

Sunday, August 21st

Empowering the Needy

Ruth 2: 8-18

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE 185

SUNDAY SCHOOL 66