

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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MIRACLES FROM GOD

On Sunday, August 28th I will be sharing with you my story of how God saved me from certain death in the Bahamas in 1998. However, I have been the recipient of other miracles as I am sure all of you have been, as well. Sometimes we are very much aware that we were part of a miracle and probably many times we are not aware.

In Max Lucado's devotional book on July 17th he writes: *“From how many winds is God protecting you? A slanderous critic heading toward your desk is interrupted by a phone call. A burglar en route to your house has a flat tire. A drunk driver runs out of gas before your car passes his. God, your guardian, protects you. “Psalm 91:4” He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you can hide.”*

Yet nonetheless, God is in control! Hallelujah!! Of all the many miracles of God, the changed heart is the most exciting because it is the miracle that lasts forever. God can heal us from diseases, hurts etc., but eventually we still die. As However, the healing of our souls will last forever, a young girl, I remember praying for my Dad to become a Christian. He was the hardest sinner to reach—a “good” man. He worked six days a week for the railroad and fed and clothed six children. And so when Mother took us to church on Sunday, my Dad stayed home and rested. Oh yes, he did make it to church on Christmas and Easter but outside of those days he had no use for church. As I became more active in church, I became painfully aware of my Dad's absence. I saw my friends' fathers who were such Godly men. I wanted my Dad to be like those Dads. I never stopped praying for my Dad. Four years after my Mother died in 1980, my Dad married a wonderful Christian woman who led him to the Lord. So at the wonderful age of 72, my Dad became a Christian. Talk about a changed man.....wow! His whole demeanor completely changed. He was happy, content, and he never got angry. He went from the man who never went to church to the man who was at church every time the doors opened - Sunday school, Sunday sermon, Sunday night, Wednesday night and even men's bible study during the week. Isn't God great!! The last 16 years of my Dad's life was a glorious testament of God's miracle of a changed heart. On September 1, 2000, at the age of 88, my Dad went home to be with his heavenly father.

My only brother, Bobby Hughes, had a similar change of heart as did my Dad's. Except my brother, who also worked for the railroad and was a “good” man, never went to church, not even Christmas or Easter. He actually made fun of the deacons in his church calling them all “hypocrites”. At the age of 66, my brother became a Christian and even became a deacon in the very church he criticized. Now I know God has a sense of humor! Ha!! On May 12, 2010, my brother suddenly went home to be with the Lord. I will be eternally thankful that God answered my prayers for my Dad and my brother. So keep praying for those loved ones who are lost. You might be the

only one praying for them. God does hear and God will answer those prayers.

What are your miracle stories? *Wanda Davis*

MARK YOUR AUGUST CALENDARS

Sunday, August 14, we will recognize Rev. Carl Flock for his outstanding 60 years of ordination and Christian Ministry. Please make your reservation on the envelopes in the pews. There is no charge for the meal.

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. The CYF youth were recognized in the “Summer Mission Trip” article in the August issue of **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).

THANK YOU FROM THE ADVENTURE NOOK

The Adventure Nook Preschool would like to thank Jerry Wallace and Bruce Moon for putting together new Trikes for us. You can be sure they will be going around the track many times a day. Thank you for your support. *Beth*

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”.

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!!

“A NIGHT ON 42ND STREET” DINNER THEATRE

Tickets are selling fast for our bi-annual dinner theatre. This year our performance is excerpts from Broadway musicals down through the years, starting with the music of Tin Pan Alley to state-of-the-art contemporary Broadway. Our cast will take you on a journey of entertainment, laughter, and beautiful music. If you have any questions about tickets, please contact Jan Watts. Our dinner theatre will be two nights this year, Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm. Menu: Prime Rib, roasted new potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls, tea, water and sweets during the show. Call for your tickets now.

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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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, August 14

9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service-Recognition of
Carl Flock
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:30 Luncheon in honor of Carl Flock
4:00 Rehearsals for Dinner Theatre

Monday, August 15

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

Wednesday, August 17

6:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, August 18

7:00 Advocates Bible Study

GRACE NOTES

- † Congratulations to Jim Colee on his graduation from University of North Alabama.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Roe, Toni and Kayla Vaughn on the death of Heather Vaughn. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 13th here at the church at 2:00 p.m.
- † Please continue to pray for Carole Rudd; Marquita Sebastian; Baby Carly Chandler, Carole Dutt; Rumsey Sutton; Mack and Linda Heaton; Carolyn Goodall and family; Cara and Mark Adams
- † Please pray for Carl Mee who has Pancreatic cancer, Carl is the brother of Mike.
- † There will be a District II Gathering on Sunday, August 14 at 4:00 pm. Registration begins at 3:30 pm. The host church is Valley Christian Church, Birmingham.



If you're blessed with children in your life, parent, grandparent, or Mentor, put something in your Blessing Box this week.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, August 14th

**“Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians”
2 Thessalonians 3: 6-18**

“THE DISCIPLES”

Sunday, August 14th

**Choosing a Community
Ruth 1: 8-18**

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE 140
SUNDAY SCHOOL 80

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

On the first weekend of November, 2000, choir members, some members of the congregation and others from the community presented two performances of "Night of Broadway". Jan Watts directed the production, assisted by Twila Tyree and Jill Pasky, choreographer. The show was presented in a dinner theater setting, and the dinner was delicious. The performances were terrific and everyone truly enjoyed all of the talented performers.

The Advent Festival was held on the first three Sundays in December during the Sunday school hour. Breakfast was provided by adult classes and was followed by a time for crafts and a Christmas story. The Hanging of the Greens service took place during morning worship on December 3. The Handbell and Chancel Choirs presented the Christmas cantata "Sing Noel" on the third Sunday in December. This was a beautiful musical presentation of the story of Christ's birth. On Christmas Eve, Sunday every family was asked to bring a favorite pastry to share at a light breakfast. The day closed with the two Christmas Eve services at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. During worship on New Year's Eve Gordon Goodall and Steve Pasky shared their stories of faith as we ended the year together.

In January, 2001, several of our young people joined others from around the region at the Regional Youth Retreat at Hargis. Rev. Beth Thomason was keynote speaker, and she urged those attending to consider prayer as "practicing the presence of God". In February, the youth once again sponsored their annual Valentine dinner to raise funds for summer mission trips. The CWF service project for January was blankets for Church World Service, and enough donations were received to purchase 35 blankets.

Laity Sunday was observed in February, and Chris Farrow, one of our newest members, brought the morning message. In preparation for ordained ministry, Chris recently completed his studies at Beeson Divinity School. Agnes Hintermeier, one of our oldest members, was honored with a reception after church on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Agnes, who worked in the church nursery for many, many years, joined our church when it was located on 5th Avenue and 21st Street North. This was later the site of the Redmont Hotel.

Kay Artner completed her training through the PEPP ministry program and was licensed in our worship service on March 11. The CYF hosted a reception in her honor after church. She was called to serve as the Regional Youth Minister of AL/NWFL.

During Lent, Wednesday evening potluck suppers were followed by members sharing their stories of faith, gifts of song and testimonies to what God was doing in their lives. John Hard, Aneda Chandler, Jill Pasky, Ruth Ann Steele, Bill and Lois Conwell, Jim Baxter and Rev. John Mobley shared their stories of faith.