

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Staff

Minister – Rev. Scott Thayer
 Music Director – Ron Montgomery
 Youth Directors – Lauren Dupree & Justin Stiles
 Children’s Director – Sandra Brennan
 Secretary – Dona Sulzmann
 Custodian – Susan Barger

Office Hours

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Monday through Friday



First Christian Church
627 Paul W. Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
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DECEMBER 2007

THE EPISTLE

One of my favorite Christmas songs has always been “Away in a Manger:”

*“Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.”*

What a priceless image: the Son of God in sweet repose on a soft nest of straw! It makes you want to run out and buy a box of *Precious Moments*© Christmas cards. Unfortunately, the song carries the cozy image too far in the second verse:

*“The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes...”*

Where did the song writer get the idea that the baby Jesus did not cry? I guess it was thought that, since Jesus was sinless (Hebrews 4:15), he must have been cry-less also. But such an idea undercuts the notion that Jesus was a real flesh-and-blood human being. The baby Jesus cried, you can count on it. That’s not a sign of his weakness; it’s a sign of his oneness with us and with our world. So next time you hear a baby yelling and screaming, think of the baby Jesus. Think of God’s willingness to join us down here in our world of tears. Remember a weeping Christ child the next time the hot tears well up in your own eyes, knowing that even in our crying, Jesus understands. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas.

Scott



December 2 Polly Bailey
 Buddy Harris
 Chris Coleman
 *Joe Duncan
 *Andrea Minear
 Martha Smalley

December 9 Woodie Payne
 Muir Steward
 Alice Gibson
 Robert Gibson
 *Eileen McCoy
 *Alison Tanner

December 16 Ron Montgomery
 Helen Gibson
 John Bennett
 *Joe Duncan
 Kim Farish
 *Martha Smalley

December 23 Kathy Mason
 Polly Bailey
 *Sandra Brennan
 *Buddy Mason
 Dona Sulzmann
 Kenny Sulzmann

December 24 Randi Coleman
 Wiley Hales

December 30 Helen Gibson
 Buddy Harris
 Ed Carson
 Brenda Montgomery
 *Brenda Tanner
 *Gary Tanner

Greeter: Jon Atkinson
 Liturgist: Martha Smalley



Hope Circle will not meet in December.

Serendipity Circle will not meet in December.

Circle I will have their annual Christmas luncheon at Cypress Inn at 11:15 on **December 11th**.



Christian Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast on **December 9th** at 8:00 am.

Brandi Tanner
December 2nd
 2:00 - 4:00 pm
 Bowers Hall



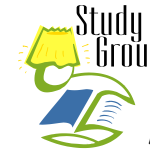
If you would be willing to serve as liturgist during the year, contact Sandra Brennan.



We want to thank everyone who participated in the Craft

Fair/Bake Sale - the Monday crafters - the Bakers - the Workers – and the Buyers. We had a lovely thank-you note from Patsy and Pam (the crafters in the first booth by the door). All booth holders indicated that they would like to return next year. A couple said that they would like double booths. It was a successful day and we expect our profits to exceed last years. Martha's giant check will be presented to the church in a couple of weeks. We look forward to seeing the changes that can be made in the parlor. We were going to thank some individuals specifically but would undoubtedly leave someone out. Those of you who did special things know who you are and we do appreciate your extra efforts. Martha is already thinking about next year and what we can change and/or add to make an even better event. Pat yourselves on the back for a great day!

M & M



Katie Wallace-Davis will be conducting a **new** bible study - "Really Bad Girls of the Bible" beginning the first of the year. Time and place will be announced at a later time. Be looking for it!

Please continue to send recipes to Dona or Sandra for the cookbook. We hope to have it completed by next football season.



There are still Centennial medallions for sale. If you don't have one yet, we will be selling them throughout the rest of the year. The cost is \$25. They make great Christmas gifts.



The Christian Children's Fellowship (CCF) 2007 ornaments will be based on **Chrismons**. Every one attending church in December will receive an ornament each Sunday before Christmas.



**East Tuscaloosa Community
Soup Bowl**

We are responsible for preparing and serving a hot meal Wednesday, December 26th and we need volunteers to help. I realize this is the day after Christmas so I really need your help! We serve at noon at Alberta Methodist Church; volunteers are needed between 10 am and 1:30 pm. If you can't be there, you can always help by donating a dessert. Call me at 553-2535 or 792-9315 to sign up! Thanks and God Bless!

Polly Bailey

The Annual Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 16th at 5:00 pm - a covered dish dinner



with a program to follow. The outreach focus of this year's party is the East Tuscaloosa Community Soup Bowl. Each family is asked to bring one extra large (6-7 lbs.) canned good (any variety) to be donated to the Soup Bowl. Please see Randi Coleman if you have any questions.

The FCC Christmas Extravaganza will follow dinner.

If you would like to perform a song, skit or have other talents you wish to share, see Sandra Brennan, Brenda Montgomery or Kim



Farish. Let's share in the joy of Christmas!

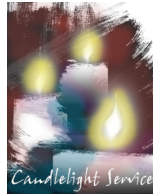
"Hanging of the Greens"

is when the church is decorated for Christmas. This will be Sunday (December 2nd) during the worship service; practice will be Saturday, and those participating will be fed while they are here.



**Hanging
of the
Greens**

The Christmas Eve service is the most beautiful as well as most meaningful.



The sanctuary is decorated (the evening before), special music and readings are chosen--what an exceptional way to celebrate Christ's birth with your family and friends.







If you, your family or group are interested in assisting with any of these events, contact me or Dona in the office.

See you in church!

Sandra Brennan, Worship



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  2:30-4:00 pm Bowers Hall	3	4	5 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Anita Smelley	6	7 Nisha S Warbington	8
9 8:00 CMF Breakfast  Christmas Cantata 6:00 pm	10	11 11:15 Circle I @ Cypress Inn Laura L. Hayes	12 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Jose DeJesus Susan Barger Sharon Brennan	13	14 Rusty Sigler	15
16  GEORGE CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00 pm	17 6:00 CWF Christmas Party @ Davises Ginger Bailey	18 Eleanora Mauritsen	19 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	20	21	22
23	24  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Corinne Bowers	25  Christmas	26 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	27	28	29  Tanner Wedding 6:00
30	31					