

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)
 627 Paul W. Bryant Drive
 Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
 (205) 758-2968
 FAX (205) 758-5871
tuscfcc@bellsouth.net
www.tuscaloosafcc.org

APRIL 2008

THE EPISTLE



I am excited about inviting you to attend this year’s Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It will be held April 25-27 at Azalea Hills Christian Church in Mobile. If you are thinking that regional assemblies are stuffy and boring, you have a pleasant surprise in store for you! Our regional assemblies are not just a bunch of dry business meetings. The main business of our assemblies is to worship God. The worship experiences are rich and inspirational. I always come back home filled with new enthusiasm and energy. The assemblies are open to anyone who wishes to attend. You would learn a lot about what is going on in our region and in the wider church. You would also be given some valuable ideas on how we could help our church to grow. This year’s theme is “**And You Shall Be My Witnesses**,” a phrase taken from Acts 1:8. Friday’s worship experience will feature the Rev. William Lee as preacher. Rev. Lee is the out-going Moderator of the General Assembly that was held last year in Fort Worth. People who heard him preach there are still buzzing about how powerful his message was. There will be interesting workshops to attend. Our regional youth will play a key role in this year’s assembly. Plus don’t forget the friendship and fellowship that connect us with our brothers and sisters all over the region. It’s not too late to register. See me for more information if you would like to go.

Scott



April 6 Kathy Mason
 Ron Montgomery
 *Jon Atkinson
 *Chris Coleman
 Martha Smalley
 Alison Tanner

April 13 Wiley Hales
 Muir Steward
 Kim Farish
 Alice Gibson
 *Robert Gibson
 *Eileen McCoy

April 20 Helen Gibson
 Woodie Payne
 John Bennett
 *Sandra Brennan
 Pat Coleman
 *Kate Matheny

April 27 Randi Coleman
 Buddy Harris
 *Dona Sulzmann
 *Kenny Sulzmann
 Brenda Tanner
 Gary Tanner

Greeters: Cindy & Buddy Harris
 Liturgist: Eileen McCoy

*communion preparation



Hope Circle will meet April 7th at 10:00 am at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet April 14th at Mugshots at 5:30 pm.

Circle I will meet April 8th at 10:00 am in the parlor; lunch following in Bowers Hall.

Thanks to Hope Circle for hosting General CWF on March 17th.

The women of CWF will be preparing and hosting a banquet in Bowers Fellowship Hall on April 24th as a fund-raising project.



Christian Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 April 13th
 8:00 am

Join us each Tuesday morning at 6:30 am at the church for men's prayer group.



If you missed the Lenten

concert that Kim Farish & Ron Montgomery presented, then you missed a real treat! We hope this becomes a tradition!

CWF ALBERTA PROJECT

Our cupboards are bare! We need your help. Three bags of staple food items are taken to Alberta Elementary School weekly during the school year. They are given to those families of children that are most needy; the families are chosen by the school guidance counselor. Canned vegetables, soups, fruit, rice, grits, Jell-O, pudding mix, dry milk, canned meat (ham, chicken & dumplings, chili w/beans) peanut butter, and crackers are all items that can be included in our three food bags. If you don't have the time to grocery shop, we will gladly accept your monetary donations! You have been so generous in the past, and we sincerely thank you.



Helen, Martha, and Woodie



The Andros Mission Team will be holding their annual yard sale in May. Be collecting your unwanted and unused items to donate. A tax-deduction form will be issued for your donations. This helps the team with their travel expenses.



It's our turn once again to prepare and serve a hot meal on Wednesday, April 23rd and we need volunteers! 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 help by donating a dessert. Call Polly Bailey at 553-2535 or 792-9315 to sign up! Thanks!

The Parlor Refurbishing Committee is hard at work. We plan to remove some of the



furniture. If you donated any of these pieces and want them back, please

remove them before April 15th. The pieces in question are: the pink Mr./Mrs. Chairs, the 4-piece parlor set, and the camel-back sofa. They will not be discarded, but will be sold on consignment. The money will be added to the monies we already have for this project. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Smalley, Woodie Payne, Mary Alice Guthrie, or Muir Steward.

The CWF will be having a hot-dog sale for the A-Day Game on April 12th. Please be thinking about desserts you would like to donate! Also, the ICYFers and Andros team will be parking cars for the concert on Friday night, and the game on Saturday.



“Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Nailed Him to the tree? Laid Him in the tomb?” (the words to one of my favorite old gospel hymns). But of course, we weren’t there. That was 2000 years ago! So let me ask you about some other times. Were you there on Ash Wednesday when we met for communion and had the sign of the ashes marked on our foreheads to begin the Lenten season? How about Maundy Thursday a few days before Easter?...the night we were reminded of the Last Supper, Jesus in the Garden and His betrayal by Judas and Peter? Or the early morning service on Easter Sunday when we sang together “He is risen! Hallalujah!” Did you come to Fifth Sunday vespers? No? You didn’t make it to any of those services? Well, I know you weren’t there when Jesus preached on the mountaintop or fed all those people with a few fishes and loaves of bread. But what about the last CWF or CMF meeting...Bible study...fellowship dinner? We couldn’t be there on the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the people greeted him with waving palms; the day the

children of the city surrounded Him and begged to hear His stories. Children loved Jesus and He loved them. Do your children attend Chi Rho/CYF or CCF? Did you support the CCF at their fund-raising event last month? Most members of our congregation can’t answer “YES” to these questions. Why? I don’t know. I’ve heard all sorts of reasons: some were shopping, some watching TV, some forgot. Some didn’t want to disturb their children who were playing outside. Others don’t like to drive after dark. Some people just didn’t want to come. I am SO sorry, because you miss a blessing each time you aren’t here. I believe if you truly think about it, you will realize that without you, we cannot BE a church. Know why? Because, in the words of Christian songwriters Richard Avery & Donald Marsh, “A church is not a building, a church is not a steeple, a church is not a resting place, a church is a PEOPLE! I am the church, YOU are the church, WE are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world,

YES! WE’RE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!” I realize everyone can’t or doesn’t want to be at the church building EVERY time the doors are open. But, what a great idea! Why not try to take advantage of many opportunities to learn, study, worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ? How many of you can truthfully say you only have 1-1½ hours to give to God each week--the time it takes us to have our usual Sunday morning worship? After all, God did give us the gift of His Son. And that Son, Jesus, gave His life for us. His LIFE! I look forward to seeing you at worship on Sunday morning and at many events to come! And I hope next time someone asks you “Were you there?” about a church event, you can say, “Yes, I was there! Were you?”

Sandra Brennan
Worship Chair



... Alison Barger won positions on the Tuscaloosa Middle School Tennis Team and the US Tennis Association Tuscaloosa Junior team.



... Mikaela McCoy (Naida & Ray Saunders’ granddaughter) is a member of Alabama Hunter Jumpers Association and won several awards at the annual banquet.



... Ron & Brenda Montgomery and Sharon Brennan & Susan Barger attended the Sweet Adelines Barbershop Regional Competition in Chattanooga. We hope they bring back lots of awards!



... Chris Coleman, Jose DeJesus, and John Bennett (along with Lauren Dupree & Justin Stiles) will be attending International CYF Conference at Chapman University in Orange, CA in July.



April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 6:30 am Men's Prayer April Williamson Chris Morrison	2 6:30 pm Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	3	4	5
6 6:00 Elder's Meeting	7  10:00 am Hope Circle	8  6:30 am Men's Prayer 10:00 am Circle I Buddy Mason	9 6:30 pm Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Susan Hales Kathryn Jones	10	11	12  A-Day
13 8:00 am CMF Breakfast 6:00 Board Meeting Alice Gibson	14  5:30 pm Serendipity @ Mugshots	15 6:30 am Men's Prayer	16 6:30 pm Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	17	18	19
20	21 Eve Harman	22 6:30 am Men's Prayer Natalie Cason Muir/Gordon Steward	23  10:00 am Soup Kitchen 6:30 pm Circle of Prayer 7:00 pm Choir	24 6:00 CWF Banquet	25 Regional Assembly 7:00 pm Azalea Hills – Mobile	26 
27 	28	29 6:30 am Men's Prayer	30 6:30 pm Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir			