

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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JANUARY 2009

THE EPISTLE

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year. I say that, not as an optimist or as a pessimist, not as a conservative or as a liberal, not as a Republican or a Democrat, but as a person of faith who is struggling, like all persons of faith, to look only to Christ for all things bright and beautiful. Ultimately, the future is in the hands of God. Standing at the threshold of a new year, we cannot yet tell how things are going to work out; whether the wars will end, whether the economy will recover, whether government will be friendly to the “least of these.” As people of faith, all we can say for sure at this time is that God is alive and that the future is the work of God. But having said that, we human beings have work to do, too. Jesus said that all of us would be judged, not on how sharp our clothes are, not how big our retirement account is, not which neighborhood we live in, not which church we attend. The measure of judgment for us will be the quality of our service, the depth of our love. What price are we willing to pay? What burden are we willing to bear? These are the criteria that measure the goodness of our days and years here on this earth. Having a “Happy New Year” in

2009 is linked directly to the part of ourselves that we make available for the will of God to be done “on earth as it is in

heaven.” It is in this sense that I wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Scott



Liturgist: Sandra Brennan

January 4 Woodie Payne
Muir Steward
*Cindy Harris
*Brandi Hewett
Brinley Hocutt
Martha Hocutt



Hope Circle will meet January 5th at 9:45 am.

January 11 Wiley Hales
Helen Gibson
Jon Atkinson
Chris Coleman
*Joe Duncan
*Martha Smalley

Serendipity Circle will meet January 12th. Cindy Harris will have the program.

Circle I will meet January 13th at the church at 10:00 am.

January 18 Buddy Harris
Randi Coleman
*Alice Gibson
Robert Gibson
Eileen McCoy
*Alison Tanner



Christian Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast on **January 11th at 8:00 am.**

January 25 Kathy Mason
Polly Bailey
*John Bennett
Sandra Brennan
*Kim Farish
Kate Matheny

The church staff wants you to know how much we appreciate the Christmas gifts. We know this season is extremely difficult for lots of you, and we appreciate you appreciating us!



Greeter: The Tanners

Special Offerings for 2008

Christmas	\$ 675.00
Thanksgiving	370.00
Reconciliation	480.00
Pentecost	480.00
Easter	735.00
Week of Compassion	751.00

Division of Overseas Ministries

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5
We have much to be thankful for this year, write Doug and Liz Searles, missionaries to Poland; as we walk with the church in Lodz and in ten other cities in Poland. We are giving thanks for all of you. It is you who have gifted us with work that we feel uniquely called to do.

We are newly arrived and it is great to be where worship matters – really matters. Attending worship in the past had been a political and sometimes very dangerous act. Even now it can be difficult. The Evangelical Reformed Church is a marginalized denomination in a country where less than 4% are Protestant. This means that those who worship other than in the Catholic Church may have their patriotism questioned. Protestant youth are treated differently in school. Therefore, church camps, youth events and music (!) are crucial

to the future of the Evangelical-Reformed church in Poland. Individual U.S. churches are beginning to gift us with bells, choir music, Sunday School materials, "karaoke" CDs of back-up for gospel and other Christian music, and more for the tiny new church starts in the Polish cities. We ask you most importantly, for your prayers. Please pray:

- for continued tenacity and energy for language study—challenging for both of us;
- for doors to open as we walk with the church, seeking to serve their desire to become a more missional and inviting denomination in a very challenging environment;
- for positive and nurturing mutual connections to develop with our partners in ministry in the U.S. in Poland, and worldwide.
- for our children in the U.S., Mackenzie (20) and McCleary (16) and for the challenges our work in Poland brings to our relations as a family.
- And may God's Peace and Joy be yours this New Year no matter what your circumstances may be!!

**Matters of the Heart
(God's Transforming Love)**

First Christian - Birmingham

**Worship:
Friday, February 20
7:30 pm**

Workshops:

Saturday, February 21

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

***Dr. Sharon Watkins, General
Minister and President will be the
keynote speaker Friday night.***

*Thank you--Thank you--
Thank you.*

*To all the wonderful friends for
the cards, food and phone calls
during my illness, I really
appreciated all of it. God is so
good to have His angels take
care of His children. Thanks
again for your loving care.*

Virgil Lewis

January

		<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
					Polly Bailey	Brenda Montgomery
4 4:00 Youth Meetings	5 9:45 Hope Circle	6	7 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	8	9	10
	Ed Carson	Jessica Chiles			Sylvia/Jose DeJesus	Chris Thuesen
11 8:00 CMF Breakfast 4:00 Youth Meetings 6:00 Board Meeting	12 6:00 Serendipity	13 10:00 Circle I	14 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	15	16	17
	Charles Crady				David Barger Cindy Harris Chris Hocutt Clay Hocutt	
18 4:00 Youth Meetings	19	20	21 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	22	23	24
						Alan Barger
25 4:00 Youth Meetings	26	27	28 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	29	30	31
Woodie Payne						