

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Staff

Minister – Rev. Tom Goebel
Music Director – Ron Montgomery
CCF Director – Sandra Brennan
Nursery Attendant – Alexandria Horne
Secretary – Dona Sulzmann

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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APRIL 2012

THE EPISTLE

Happy Easter! As I reflect on the closing of this Lenten season, I must say I was so thrilled at the turn-out for the 7 Wednesday Lenten Luncheon services: The 12 Stations of the Cross! The food was delicious, the fellowship was terrific, and the attendees seemed to really benefit from the weekly presentations.

During these weeks we examined the 12 events that occurred during Christ’s arduous journey from Pilate’s court to Golgotha. Along the way we met some interesting characters as well; Simon of Cyrene; the women of Jerusalem; a centurion; Joseph of Arimathea; Nicodemus; the two criminals on the cross, to name a few. God used each person in a specific role to say and do certain things to fulfill Christ’s journey. I know they were blessed in their encounter, as painful as it may have been to witness what was happening to Jesus.

But then again we realize that these events were all in Hebrew Bible prophecy, and it was God’s Will that they occur for the forgiveness of all sin and the salvation of our souls. Our role in the yearly cycle of celebrating the Easter event, like the characters along Christ’s journey, is to avail ourselves to God’s Will and live a life worthy of the sacrifice made by Jesus on our behalf.

How can we avail ourselves to God’s Will? In the example of the 12 Stations of the Cross, each must pray for God’s guidance and do our part along the way. God calls each of us in all times and places to fulfill His Will. The question is, therefore, are you available to take God’s call?

It is said that the best “ability” we have is “availability!” As we come through this Easter season I ask you to pray for God’s guidance to find your place in His Will both in the life of the Church (the Body of Christ) and in your home life. Christ sacrificed his life for you, how much of your life are you willing to sacrifice for him?

Blessings this Most Holy Easter Season, Tom



April 1 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 *Ed Carson
 Kate Matheny
 Letitia Roberts
 *Kenny Sulzmann

April 8 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 *Alice Gibson
 *Brandi Hewitt
 Brenda Tanner
 Gary Tanner

April 15 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 Allison Barger
 Sandra Brennan
 *Joe Duncan
 *Brinley Hocutt

April 22 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 *Jon Atkinson
 *Kim Farish
 Rosa Jennings
 Steve Jennings

April 29 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 Ed Carson
 *Pat Coleman
 *Chris Largin
 Kenny Sulzmann

Liturgist: Kate Matheny

*communion preparation



Hope Circle will meet at **9:30 am April 5th** at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet at **April 10th at 5:30** at Don Rafa Mexican Grill (Temerson Square).

Circle I will meet at **10:00 am April 10th** at the church.

The next **General CWF** meeting will be **April 16th** at the church (covered dish) at **6:00 pm**. Serendipity Circle is hosting. All women of the church are invited.

NO CMF Breakfast in April due to Easter Sunrise Service/Breakfast



Virgil Lewis
Letitia Roberts
Joan Woody

The **MEN'S CHILI COOKING CONTEST** held in March was a



huge success!!! Rev. Gary Edge was the winner and received a beautiful hand-painted apron painted by Martha Smalley. Donations totaling over \$700 were collected for the East Tuscaloosa Community Soup Bowl. We hope this will become an annual affair.

Christian Children's Fellowship



(CCF) has been having a great time on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Bowers Fellowship Hall, learning Bible stories/lessons, making crafts, having snacks and just enjoying each other!

Hope Circle is collecting Labels for Education as one of their projects. Please help by saving labels from Campbell's Soup products and cereal boxes. There will be a basket in the narthex for these items.

Thanks so much for the cards, calls, and prayers. I'm on the mend now, and getting back in the swing of things. I really appreciate my church family.



Love, Muir Steward



Palm Sunday (1st) - 10:30
Lenten Lunch (Wed 4th) - noon
Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00
Easter Egg Hunt (Sat 7th) - 3:00
Sunrise Service - 6:30
Easter Breakfast - 7:00



Children should bring a basket with 6 plastic eggs (filled with goodies). Adults are asked to bring finger foods for snacking. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 3:00. Everyone is invited!



...**Cindy & Buddy Harris** spent a few days at Orange Beach for their 40th anniversary of marital bliss!

... **Sue Goebel** spent Spring Break week in Rhode Island with her daughters/sons-in-law and grandchildren.

...**Martha & Sherrill Smalley** went to Seaside, FL for a few days.



Megan flew in and joined them.

...**Ron & Brenda Montgomery** have been traveling to compete with the Crimson Pride Barbershop Chorus (3rd in district) and Harmony Hills Sweet Adelines (3rd overall and 1st in small chorus).

...**Sandra Brennan** spent a few days with her dad in Huntsville. She took her first train ride to Birmingham and back.

...**Letitia Roberts** is now back at Martinview.

...**Rosa Jennings** rode the train to Lynchburg, VA to visit relatives and go to a family wedding.

...**Allison Barger** was inducted into the National Honor Society of the Arts. She also went to the beach for Spring Break.

...**Kathy Mason** spent a few days in Nebraska visiting daughter **Mitzi** and family.

...**Sharon Brennan** was hit by a car walking across the street close to work. She's bruised up but OK.

...**Giovanni DeJesus** and his mother **Sylvia Colon** went to the beach for Spring Break.

...It was good to see **Jose DeJesus, Jr.** with his dad at church during Spring break.

Cindy Harris, Alice Gibson, Susie Sparks and Suzanna

Bridal Tea Gibson will be hosting a bridal tea for the fiancé of J.C.

Lipscomb on April 22nd from 2:00 - 4:00 at the Harris home. All women of the church are invited.



The Lenten Lunches have been continuing successfully each Wednesday at noon. These will continue until Easter. We enjoy lunch beginning at noon, followed by a brief devotion by Pastor Tom on "The Twelve Stations of the Cross" beginning at 12:20. We finish in time for you to get back to work for the afternoon!



Lenten Devotion/Lunch



MISSIONS TEAM We will host two groups of Disciples Volunteers during April. The first group is from Crofton, KY, coming in on Easter evening. The second group is from Wauseon, OH, coming in on the evening of the 22nd. This group is a repeat group from the fall. Cottondale Christian hosted several teams in March.



The CWF will sponsor a rummage sale April 21st and we need your help. We are asking for good usable, gently used items (priced to sell!), children's clothing, costume jewelry, and household items. (Please--NO adult clothing or computer hardware!) Start gathering up those things that you no longer use but might be useful to someone else. Keep in mind that there will be a Disciple Volunteer group coming in on Sunday, so ALL items will have to be cleared out of the Fellowship Hall Saturday afternoon after the sale. The proceeds from this sale will go toward CWF projects.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Chris Morrison April M Williamson	2 Hope Circle - 9:30	3	4 Lenten Lunch – noon CCF – 5:30 Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir – 7:00	5  Maundy Thursday SERVICE 7:00	6  GOOD FRIDAY	7  easter egg hunt 3:00
8  DV Buddy Mason	9 Susan Hales	10 Circle I – 10:00 Serendipity – 5:30 Dexter Chiles	11 CCF – 5:30 Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir – 7:00	12	13 Alice Gibson	14  A-Day Game
15  District Meeting 5 4:00 pm – Jeffries Mem	16 Merrill Gardens – 10:00	17	18 CCF – 5:30 Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir – 7:00	19 Dreydon Chiles	20 Louis Payne	21  rummage sale 8:00 am
22 DV Muir/Gordon Steward	23 Shawn Sullivan	24	25 Soup Kitchen – 9:30 CCF – 5:30 Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir – 7:00	26	27  Regional Assembly Letohatchee	28
29	30					