

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

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AUGUST 2011

THE EPISTLE





August 7 *Woodie Payne*
 Kathy Mason
 ***Allison Barger**
 ***Sandra Brennan**
 Pat Coleman
 Brinley Hocutt

August 14 *Robert Gibson*
 Polly Bailey
 Alice Gibson
 Brandi Hewitt
 ***Brenda Tanner**
 ***Gary Tanner**

August 21 *Dona Sulzmann*
 Kathy Mason
 John Bennett
 ***Cynthia Duncan**
 ***Joe Duncan**
 Kim Farish

August 28 *Muir Steward*
 Woodie Payne
 Jon Atkinson
 Sylvia Colon
 ***Brinley Hocutt**
 ***Martha Hocutt**

Liturgists: Cindy Harris
 Dona Sulzmann

Hope Circle will meet at 9:30 am August 1st.

Serendipity Circle will meet at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 9th at Taziki's Mediterranean Grill.

Circle I will meet at 11:00 am August 9th at O'Charley's.

CMF Breakfast
8:00 am
August 14th



 ...*Stephen Gibson visited Robert & Alice Gibson on his way back to Frederick, MD.*

...Susan Hales and a friend visited with her dad on the 4th of July.

...Buddy and Cindy Harris spent a few days in Irvington with Mark Gibson's family.

...Jaime, Danny, and Ashlynn Christian visited with Dona and Kenny Sulzmann a couple of times last month.

...Letitia Roberts visited with her cousin in New Orleans a couple of times.

...David Barger traveled with his band to Nashville, where they had a recording session. ...July 10th was declared "Stacked Deck Day" in honor of the members of Ron Montgomery's barbershop quartet who have entertained and worshiped with us many times. We made Fred Braswell, Jim Cain and Tom Cain honorary members of our Chancel Choir. Jim is moving to California and won't be singing with them anymore, so they went on a "last fling" immediately after church; they visited an alligator farm (ask Ron what they fed the alligators!) then traveled to New Orleans where they sang on Bourbon Street!

...Martha Smalley spent a week with daughter Megan and husband in Oklahoma.

...Robert Gibson, Elina Urazikova, and Melissa Henderson made the President's List at UA (4.0 GPA) for the spring semester.

...Josh Stiles and Chris Coleman made the Dean's List (3.5GPA) for the spring semester.

...Kathy Mason went with her sister to the beach after attending General Assembly. ...Tom and Sue Goebel traveled to Connecticut for a wedding. ...Elina Urazikova went to Nicaragua on a medical mission trip.

Muir Steward (on behalf of CWF) is putting together hospital bags for the minister to keep with him when he visits at the hospital. If you have any travel-size toiletries (shampoo, body wash, powder, deodorant, etc.) you could donate, please bring them to church to give to Muir or leave them in the office.

A mission group from 1st - Huntsville came and stayed in the fellowship hall and cleaned up a little there and in the Disciples House, helping us prepare to be a Mission Station. Our first group will be here August 7th. If you can come help out Saturday (July 30th), please do so. We need a sofa or love seat for the coordinator, so if you have one you are not using, please get in touch with Randi Coleman.

Casey's Prayer

Greetings Faithful,

Sometimes one sermon is just not enough for us to comprehend the depth of a Godly idea; a concrete example often helps. Have I got an example for you! Faith, Ken, and Casey Largin have permitted me to reprint a story about a prayer Casey lifted to God not long after I preached on prayer one Sunday morning. Read, reflect, pray, and I believe you, too, will be blessed by its telling.

Faith explained that the tornado brought significant damage to the Largin properties near Hurricane Creek. In fact, Michael and Jeanne Largin's home was a total loss, while Ken and Faith sustained serious damage. Both properties were left with MANY trees down that clogged the yard. Faith explains that because of the rules regarding how they moved trees out of the way after the storm, they would not be receiving government assistance regarding tree removal. That is not to the end of the story, to say the least.

Recently, after grilling some Cornish Hens for dinner, Ken and Casey decided to split the wishbone and see who was going to get the traditional wish. Casey got the larger end, but then could not seem to come up with a wish. It was kind of funny, thought Faith, that a 13 year old could not come up with a wish! So Faith suggested to Casey that perhaps a prayer might be nice instead. Without hesitation, Casey lowered his head and silently sent his prayer to God. Neither Ken nor Faith asked what Casey prayed for, they just figured it must be something between him and God and perhaps he will share his prayer when he was ready.

"Ready," as it turns out, came more quickly than anyone imagined. The next day Faith brought Casey to golf camp. When she returned to the house, she found a representative from the Core of Engineers waiting for her. He wanted to know if they could help in clearing their land of stumps, branches, and debris. Faith was shocked, since she believed they had been disqualified because the trees were now lying off the main part of the property. Regardless, the representative declared that not only were they going to clear the debris from the main property, but were going to retrieve the trees pushed down near the creek as well. Faith

was overjoyed and speechless, to say the least.

When she picked up Casey later that day she could hardly wait to tell him the news. Except for one thing, it seems Casey was already expecting this news. You see, as Faith told the story, Casey's eyes and face were already lighting up. He said, "Mama, that is what I prayed about . . . it came true!" Both Faith and Casey smiles all the way, contemplating the amazing power of God. After all, Casey had only prayed his prayer to God the night before! There was only one thing left to do, Faith said to Casey, "You need to say another prayer thanking God for answering your prayer." Casey gladly complied. After all, as Faith later stated, it was not so much about getting trees removed after the storm, it was more about the power of God in answering prayer, especially a 13 year-olds very thoughtful and unselfish prayer.

Unselfish: let us pause on that word for a moment. Casey did not pray for a skateboard, not an iPad, not even for new golf clubs nor a game-box for himself: rather he silently prayed that the trees be removed so that his family home

will be the way it was, and they can all find peace and comfort there once again. And if all that wasn't unselfish enough, you should know that the entire tornado episode happened 4 days before Casey's birthday. But Casey took it in stride and never complained even when family exhaustion overshadowed his impromptu birthday party. In fact, once again his unselfishness was rewarded when a tornado relief group called "Alabama's Lost Birthdays" received Casey's name and sponsored a surprise birthday party for him soon after. How great is God!

Faith later wrote that this prayer has had a huge impact on their entire family, especially Casey. And they want to share it with you as witness and testimony to the love, power, and glory of God. We ask God for so much, both publically and privately, so let us "Tell it," testify, and witness when our prayers are answered!

On behalf of all of us, Casey, thank you for an awesome and thoughtful reminder of what it means to pray and give thanks!

Blessings to all, Tom

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 9:30 Hope Circle	2 6:30 Men's Prayer Dot Elder	3 6:00 Elders Meeting 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Anne/Shawn Sullivan	4 Bob Henderson/ Laura Beasley	5 Katie Wallace-Davis George Welch	6
7	8	9 6:30 Men's Prayer 11:15 Circle I 5:30 Serendipity Loyl Collins Stephen Gibson	10 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Chris Coleman Tim Coleman	11	12	13 Andrea/Mike Minear
14 8:00 CMF Breakfast 6:00 Board Meeting	15 10:00 Merrill Gardens	16 6:30 Men's Prayer	17 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Polly/David Bailey	18	19 Evelyn Harman	20
21	22	23 6:30 Men's Prayer	24 10:00 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	25	26	27
28	29 Betty Welch	30 6:30 Men's Prayer	31 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Bob Henderson Dargan Ware			