

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Staff

Minister – Rev. Tom Goebel
Music Director – Ron Montgomery
CCF Director – Sandra Brennan
Secretary – Dona Sulzmann
Custodian – Rosa Jennings

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 2013

THE EPISTLE

Greetings Faithful! This past Sunday my sermon topic was God's 10-Step Program to healthy and faithful living: The 10 Commandments. I concluded the sermon with 8 brief thoughts we can recite daily to help us stay centered and focused on our life journey. These words are adapted from the very popular and effective mantras of Alcoholics & Narcotics Anonymous programs. I've had some folks say they could benefit from having a copy of these words, so they are:

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday nor obsess about tomorrow. I will not try to overcome all of my problems at once.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be joyful. Not *try* to be joyful – but *be* joyful. I will not dwell on thoughts that rob me of my joy.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those things that I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind and be more Christ-like.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path and I will not gossip or speak ill of others.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will refrain from attempting to change anybody except myself.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something positive to improve my health, even if it is just a brisk walk around the block or cutting back on my bad habits.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will remind someone just how much they are loved – by God and me.

If I can succeed in following these principles today, then my prayer is that God will give me the strength to do the same tomorrow!

Note how each of these statements focuses on what we can do to improve ourselves, not on what we wish others would do to improve themselves. We can only control our own actions and pray that others will do the same. I pray these words are useful to you and deepen your sense of peace with God by helping you to live out Peter's command to us:

"Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he

visits us.”(1 Peter 2:11-12)

Blessings, Tom



August 4 Polly Bailey
 Kathy Mason
 *Pat Coleman
 *Ken Largin
 Mike Largin
 Kate Matheny

August 11 Polly Bailey
 Kathy Mason
 *Alice Gibson
 *Cindy Harris
 Brenda Tanner
 Gary Tanner

August 18 Polly Bailey
 Kathy Mason
 *Joe Duncan
 *Brinley Hocutt
 Chris Largin
 Kenny Sulzmann

August 25 Polly Bailey
 Kathy Mason
 *Jon Atkinson
 *Kim Farish
 Rosa Jennings
 Steve Jennings

Liturgist: Martha Smalley

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, ask someone to fill in for you, or call Rosa Jennings at 759-4162.

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

Serendipity Circle will meet at 5:30 pm on August 12th at Red Lobster.

Circle I will meet at Cracker Barrel for lunch August 13th at 11:00 am.

The General CWF will meet on Monday, August 19th at 6:00. Bring a food dish to share and join us.

CMF Breakfast
8:00 am
Aug 11th



Coleman Berryhill
Wiley Hales
Nelda Williams
Joan Woody
David Bailey

In late 2010, after a lengthy process of assessment, a recommendation was approved by the congregation to increase the mission focus of the church. Two aspects of this recommendation were creating a greater presence in the local community through the expanded use of our facilities, and reorganizing our structure from a business model to a mission model to enhance our ministry. It was through this assessment process that God prepared us for ministry in partnership with Week of Compassion and the Office of Disciples Volunteering in responding to recovery from the tornado of April 27, 2011. For the past two years, a Mission Station has been based in the Disciples House, and we have been blessed to provide housing and meals to multiple volunteer groups.

In 2012, we began a trial implementation of a Mission Council/Ministry Team structure in place of the Board/Committee structure. To move this process forward, a revision of the Church Constitution and By-Laws is required. A revision has been drafted by a committee composed of Rev. Tom Goebel, Kim Farish, Cindy Harris, Kate Matheny and Randi Coleman. The revision has been given to the Trustees and the Elders for review. It will then be presented to the Mission Council for consideration of a recommendation to the Congregation.

Please pray for God's guidance as we seek to become the church that He would have us be.

MIRACLE DAY UPDATE

With the approval by the Region of our proposal for Miracle Day 2014, a Miracle Day Committee is in the process of being formed. The committee will be a combination of members of our congregation plus others from nearby Disciples congregations. Committee members from our church are Randi Coleman, Mike Largin, Ken Largin, Polly Bailey, Dona Sulzmann, Sandra Brennan, and Jon Atkinson. Regional Minister Rev. John Mobley will be appointing the remaining members. An orientation meeting for the committee is planned for August 20th. Information will be shared with all as we learn more about the process, and everyone's help will be needed as we move toward this exciting event in June of next year!





Tom & Sue Goebel attempted to go to Orlando to the Disciples General Assembly, but Sue became ill and they had to return home. Hope you're feeling better, Sue!

Kathy Mason, along with some of her children, her grandkids and her great-grandson took a trip to the beach. Kathy's roommate for the trip...Polly Bailey! They all had a great time soaking up some of that warm summer sun!

Jon & Joan Atkinson travelled to Maui to attend a wedding, then took a cruise with friends around the Hawaiian islands.

Many thanks to Ron Montgomery, Kim Farish & Tom Goebel for a wonderful worship service on Freedom & Democracy Sunday. Ron started us off with an "Armed Forces Medley" and members of the congregation stood in honor of their loved ones who served in each of the branches of the military. The congregation joined their voices with those of the Choir in singing "God Bless America." Tom - with help from Woodie & Louis Payne's

great

then delivered an inspiring sermon for worship.

After the service, the

congregation was asked to return to their seats while Ron & Kim presented a rousing arrangement of "Stars & Stripes Forever!"

Bill & Karen Barger attended a wedding in Cleveland, OH, then travelled to Dayton to visit Karen's son before returning home.

Allison Barger attended a YoungLife Work Crew workshop in Fairhope. She, along with her mom, Susan Barger, aunt Sharon Brennan and friend Becky Holt spent a few days in Montgomery at Huntingdon College for Allison's freshman orientation. She will be attending Huntingdon in the fall.

Pat Coleman attended his 40th high school reunion in Florence.

It's always good to see Jaime & Ashlynn Christian when they are in Tuscaloosa visiting Dona & Kenny Sulzmann. Ashlynn had her tonsils/adenoids out on July 30th. Dona's mom, Faye Kirkland, also visited with them.

grandson, Lawson - shared a Children's Message,

Anita from long Costa

We always enjoy when Pat Tucker fills the pulpit in Tom's absence. Thanks Pat!

Tim Coleman will begin the doctoral program in physical therapy at Alabama State University in Montgomery in the fall.

The Hydrick Family spent some time at the beach.



The Farish Family enjoyed a trip to Watercolor, Florida.

Rosa & Steve Jennings travelled to Virginia to visit Rosa's sister and her family. Rosa stayed for several weeks then rode home on the train.

More Church Bloopers:

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water" The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus".

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Alabama Football Game Days

The first football game for Alabama will be against Virginia Tech on

Smelley recently returned her month-trip to Rica.

always

st. at (CT), will be played in Atlanta GA, and will be tele

Saturday, August 31 Beginning 4:30 pm the game

Tuscaloosa will be Saturday, September 21st, time TBA, against Colorado State. We have 3 home games in a row with the Tide against Ole Miss on September 28th, and Georgia State on Octo

th. There are 4 more games scheduled in Tuscaloosa later in the season. We will need desserts to sell (remember, no icing please!) and anyone who is available to come help us cook, serve, cut & bag desserts, whatever needs to be done! "Come

when you can, stay as long as you can." Join us for this time of fellowship and outreach to our parkers & food customers.

"ROLL TIDE!" Billie Brennan

CWF Game Day Coordinator



Exciting things are coming for the children of First Christian Church! Beginning soon, Children's Church will be meeting in the small room next to the nursery/playroom. The baby beds and toys will be moved out and the room will be set up for the older children to meet. This will also be the meeting place for Christian Children's Fellowship (CCF). It will be decorated for and by kids! A permanent space for the children of the church to play, craft & worship together!

CCF is trying something different as a fundraiser this year. We will make and distribute our ornaments, but we have some larger decorations we will be offering for sale to help decorate your home for Christmas. We are still collecting yarn. Also, if you have any old wreath forms you no longer need please consider donating them to the CCF. Thanks!



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4 Children's Message Children's Church	5 9:30 Hope Circle Katie Wallace-Davis	6 David Wright	7 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	8	9 Stephen Gibson	10 Chris Coleman Tim Coleman
11 8:00 CMF Breakfast 2:00 Baptism at Hurricane Creek	12 5:30 Serendipity	13 11:00 Circle I Andrea/Mike Minear	14 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	15	16	17 Polly/David Bailey
18 6:00 Joint Ministry Team Meetings	19 10:00 Merrill Gardens Bill Barger	20 6:00 Miracle Day Committee Meeting	21 9:30 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	29 Betty Welch	30	31