

# 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

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**First Christian Church  
627 Paul W. Bryant Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401**

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)  
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## DECEMBER 2011

## THE EPISTLE

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."  
Merry Christmas to all! We are so blessed as a church community; let us never take this for granted! As our recovery efforts from the April tornados are well underway locally and monetary gifts continue to flow in from around the nation and beyond, the AL-NW FL Region of the Disciples of Christ have continued to seek ways to partner with churches from around the world to help them recover from other kinds of tragedies. This past November church leaders (lay & clergy) from our region voted to partner with a church in the economically devastated nation of Honduras. The prospect of faithfully reaching across borders is very exciting, especially during this most holy time of year. So I wanted to begin introducing you to our Christian brothers and sisters in Honduras and share one of their Christmas traditions. Starting at the beginning of December, Hondurans practice the *posada*, a tradition that is popular throughout Central America. The *posada* is a cross between caroling & trick-or-treating. On any given night, groups of people can be seen walking from house to house singing a traditional call-and-response carol with home-owners. This event reenacts the story of Mary & Joseph seeking lodging at the inn in Bethlehem. The visitors represent Mary & Joseph, and the home-owners represent the innkeepers. After the carol, the owners of each home give the visitors a snack of traditional food, like rice pudding or *canches* (toasted tortillas with refried beans and cheese). Like in the United States, Christmas in Honduras is about faith, family, giving, sharing, music, and community. I hope you will see this partnership as a blessing, and support the effort as you are able. I'll share more on this partnership later. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all! And remember, He's got the whole world in His hands!

Blessings, Tom

"Reflect on your present blessings of which every man has many,  
not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."

Charles Dickens



- December 4      *Woodie Payne*  
*Randi Coleman*  
\*Ed Carson  
Kate Matheny  
\*Letitia Roberts  
Kenny Sulzmann
- December 11     *Polly Bailey*  
*Robert Gibson*  
Allison Barger  
Sandra Brennan  
\*Pat Coleman  
\*Brinley Hocutt
- December 18     *Kathy Mason*  
*Dona Sulzmann*  
\*Alice Gibson  
\*Brandi Hewitt  
Brenda Tanner  
Gary Tanner
- December 24     *Muir Steward*  
*Woodie Payne*
- December 25     *Randi Coleman*  
*Robert Gibson*  
\*John Bennett  
Cynthia Duncan  
Joe Duncan  
\*Kim Farish
- Liturgist:         Robert Gibson



Hope Circle will meet at **9:30 am** December 5<sup>th</sup> at the church.

Serendipity Circle will play the bells at **6:00 pm** on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at **University Mall** (for Salvation Army), followed by dinner at Applebee's at 7:00.

Circle I will meet for lunch at **11:00 am** December 13<sup>th</sup> at Cypress Inn.

The CWF Brunch and Ornament Swap will be **December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**. Bring a brunch food and join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

**CMF Breakfast**  
**8:00 am**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>**



...Tim Coleman is now employed at Lakeshore Rehab Hospital in Birmingham and is enjoying his job in

physical therapy.

...Rosa Jennings visited her family in West Virginia.

...Muir & Gordon Steward spent a few days at Orange Beach.

...Cindy & Buddy Harris visited Leigh Ann, Mike and Evan Walker in Houston.

...Dona & Kenny Sulzmann visited with family in Phenix City for Thanksgiving.

...Jeannie, Mike, Chris, and Will Largin spent a few days at the beach.

**T-shirts can still be ordered for \$13. The shirts are gray with a red chalice and church name on front and the houndstooth Tuscaloosa disaster relief emblem on back. Part of the proceeds will go to our disaster relief fund. If you have ordered and not picked up your shirts, see Sandra Brennan.**



Berryhill family  
Letitia Roberts  
Caver Sigler  
Nelda Williams

**Thanks to and for all of you that helped with game days: making desserts, cooking, bankers, parking attendants, cleaning up, etc. The church collected \$21,736 just for parking, and CWF cleared**



**\$3736 on food sales and potty fund. If you haven't been involved with this ministry (and it IS a ministry!), join us next season and see what it's all about!**

*Thanks to all who baked and made items for the CWF Bake Sale. The CWF made \$885 on this annual project.*



Gift cards for Heifer International are available in the narthex. These gifts support sustainable farming around the world and make wonderful gifts for friends and family.



Please make checks out to the church and designate Heifer Project. They can be put in the offering plate, turned in to the church office or given to Randi Coleman.

**Come shop at Barnes & Noble on December 16th and have your Christmas presents gift-wrapped by volunteers from our church that day.**



**Proceeds will go to the East Tuscaloosa Soup Kitchen. Polly still needs a couple of volunteers for 3-5 and 5-7. If you can help, let her know.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Hope Circle – 9:30  Anita Smelley	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Circle of Prayer – 6:00 Choir – 7:00	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  CWF Brunch/ Ornament Swap - 10:00
<b>11</b>  CMF Breakfast – 8:00 Elders Meeting – 5:00 Board Meeting – 6:00	<b>12</b>  Sharon Brennan Susan Barger Jose DeJesus	<b>13</b>  Circle I – 11:00 Serendipity – 6:00	<b>14</b>  Circle of Prayer – 6:00 Choir – 7:00	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Barnes/Noble Gift-Wrapping	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  Christmas Cantata   Christmas Party  Tom Goebel	<b>19</b>  Merrill Gardens 10:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Soup Kitchen – 9:00 Circle of Prayer – 6:00 Choir – 7:00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Christmas Eve SERVICE 7:00
<b>25</b>  Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Circle of Prayer – 6:00 Choir – 7:00	<b>29</b>  Brandi/Beau Hewett	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>