

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Staff

Minister – Pastor Phillip Hayes  
Music Director – Ron Montgomery  
Children’s Director – Sandra Brennan  
Secretary – Dona Sulzmann  
Nursery Attendant – Alexandra Horne

## 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)*  
**627 Paul W. Bryant Drive**  
**Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401**  
**(205) 758-2968**  
**Fax (205) 758-5871**  
[tuscfcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:tuscfcc@bellsouth.net)  
[www.tuscaloosafcc.org](http://www.tuscaloosafcc.org)

## **JANUARY 2011**

## **THE EPISTLE**

First of all I want to thank the congregation for your generous gift the night of the Christmas party. Secondly, I want to thank individual members for your cards, greetings, and gifts to Dorothy and me. It has been a great year for us because we have felt your love every day.

It’s the time of the year that we look back on all that has happened. During the year we have had the privilege of welcoming five people into our family, four by transfer of fellowship and one by baptism. All four have participated in one way or another in the life and ministry of the congregation. The young lady who came to Jesus through baptism immediately went off to France to study; but she is now back to attend the University here. We are looking forward to sharing with her this year.

In April the search committee suspended their search for a new minister until we finished the New Beginnings search for direction. We finished that process in October and pledged ourselves to find a new way of doing church by searching for a leaner and more effective structure. More importantly we decided to become a “missional” congregation and redefine our ministry. The new direction will become who we are, and hopefully the community will come to know us for the new direction God is leading us.

We experienced good fellowship in our many ministries through the year, including game days, Merrill Gardens’ communion, and the East Tuscaloosa Soup Bowl.

When it became time to turn the sanctuary thermostat from A/C to heat, nothing happened. We made due with small space heaters, lap robes, and our coats for three Sundays until a new A/C-furnace could be installed. Fortunately, that happened just in time for the coldest weather in December.

The search committee has been at work for three months now, and we are all looking forward to the day that a minister is called to share ministry with First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Blessings,  
Pastor Hayes



January 2      *Woodie Payne*  
                   *Dona Sulzmann*  
                   \*Pat Coleman  
                   \*Chris Coleman  
                   Alice Gibson  
                   Cindy Harris

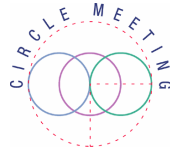
January 9      *Buddy Harris*  
                   *Kathy Mason*  
                   Jon Atkinson  
                   \*Allison Barger  
                   \*Sandra Brennan  
                   Ed Carson

January 16     *Robert Gibson*  
                   *Randi Coleman*  
                   \*Cynthia Duncan  
                   \*Joe Duncan  
                   Brinley Hocutt  
                   Martha Hocutt

January 23     *Polly Bailey*  
                   *Muir Steward*  
                   Kim Farish  
                   Brandi Hewett  
                   \*Brenda Tanner  
                   \*Gary Tanner

January 30     *Wiley Hales*  
                   *Woodie Payne*  
                   Jon Bennett  
                   \*Brenda Montgomery  
                   \*Letitia Roberts  
                   Kenny Sulzmann

Liturgist:      Muir Steward



*Hope Circle* will meet at 9:30 am  
 January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the church.

*Serendipity Circle* will meet at  
 5:30 pm January 10<sup>th</sup> at Martha  
 Hocutt's home.

*Circle I* will meet at 10:00 am  
 January 11<sup>th</sup> at the church.

**CMF Breakfast**  
**8:00 am**  
**January 9<sup>th</sup>**



**The Pulpit Search  
 Committee will  
 have a meeting at  
 5:00 on January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

*Do you know how to play  
 cribbage? If so, you are  
 wanted for one evening in  
 January. Call the church to let  
 us know.*



*Best Wishes to the  
 Newlyweds* **Congratulations to Megan  
 Smalley and Kendall  
 Hurst on their marriage  
 in December. They are now  
 living in Oklahoma.**



PLEASE **PRAY** FOR:

*Billie Brennan*  
*Sandra Brennan*  
*Dot Elder*  
*Evelyn Harman*  
*Anita Smelley*



*Leah's  
 journey this  
 last year has  
 been  
 courageous and filled with  
 such love from her family and  
 friends. Our journey without  
 her sunshine and daily  
 mischief is almost impossible  
 to bear. Your cards, calls,  
 contributions, food, flowers  
 and many acts of kindness has  
 given us the strength to face  
 each day. Thank you with all  
 the love we have in us or your  
 many acts of kindness.*  
**Letitia & Paul Roberts  
 Family**





Installation of  
 newly elected  
 church officers will  
 be January 9<sup>th</sup>  
 during the worship service.

## TRANSFORMATION

Ruth Fletcher, Montana Regional  
 Minister, has collected a list of the  
 marks of transforming congregations  
 from pastors engaged in this work.  
*Transforming congregations...*

- Understand that they live in a culture where the church is irrelevant to most people.
- Tell the truth about who they are.
- Are made up of people who pray daily and who try to love God and love neighbor more than self.
- Focus outwardly on the world rather than inwardly on the church's concerns.
- Are driven by a common vision rather than by trying to please any one individual or group within the church.
- Choose to be generous and to live in God's abundance rather than focusing on scarcity.
- Trade fear for trust, judgment for grace and cynicism for hope.
- Take risks instead of sticking with what's comfortable.
- Partner with other non-profits and foundations to accomplish their mission.
- Experience transformation by building relationships with the stranger.
- Understand that implementing a vision takes time and requires the leadership of a pastor who can persevere.
- Have the will to change.

What will your congregation do to become God's instrument of witness and service in this new year?

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Laura Beasley					<b>1</b>   Polly Bailey
<b>2</b>  Brenda Montgomery Cecil Ann/Tom Sayles	<b>3</b>  Hope Circle - 9:30	<b>4</b>  Men's Prayer – 6:30	<b>5</b>  Search Comm – 5:00 Elders Meeting - 6:00 Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir - 7:00 Ed Carson	<b>6</b>  Jessica Chiles	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  CMF Breakfast – 8:00 Board Meeting – 6:00	<b>10</b>  Serendipity - 5:30 @ Hocutts	<b>11</b>  Men's Prayer – 6:30 Circle I – 10:00	<b>12</b>  Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir - 7:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  David Barger Cindy Harris Chris Hocutt Clay Hocutt	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Men's Prayer – 6:30	<b>19</b>  Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir - 7:00  Cecelia/Dargan Ware	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Alan Barger Phillip Hayes	<b>25</b>  Men's Prayer – 6:30  Woodie Payne	<b>26</b>  Soup Kitchen – 10:00 Circle of Prayer - 6:30 Choir - 7:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>