

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Staff

Minister – Rev. Tom Goebel
Music Director – Ron Montgomery
CCF Director – Sandra Brennan
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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JULY 2012

THE EPISTLE

In August of 1978 the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by a hot air balloon was completed, after 17 known previous attempts failed miserably. With careful planning, The Double Eagle II high-altitude balloon lifted off from Maine and a few days later gently touched down in France to a heroes welcome. But even with careful planning, the journey was not without its life-threatening moments. As the gas in the balloon cooled overnight and depleted over the Atlantic, so did their altitude. On the second to last day they descended from a safe 20,000 feet to a perilous 4,000 feet over open water. At this rate of descent they would never make it across to dry land in France. The choices they had were few: dump non-essential equipment to lighten the craft or swim the rest of the way. Needless to say, they decided to dump “non-essentials.” It’s funny to think that knowing weight is such a major concern with long distance ballooning that they would bring anything along that they didn’t absolutely need. In other words, the equipment they tossed overboard was so essential at the beginning of the trip had rapidly becoming non-essential as their lives were at stake. So why did they bring it in the first place? Who knows? In many similar ways I think of this same principle on our lives. We are on a journey over our lifetime. We collect things along the way that we think we will need for the long journey. But sometimes when we collect too many “non-essentials,” we just weigh ourselves down and wear ourselves out. Do you have anything in your life like this? Are you holding on to non-essentials that have brought you perilously low? What ballast have you been holding aboard for far too long that threatens a successful crossing through your life? Learning what is essential and non-essential is mandatory if we are to successfully make it through life. And just as important as it is to learn what to keep, we must learn what to let go. I’ve got a few things in my life I’ve pitched over the side recently. I’ve got a few more things to go as well. Check your essentials list, and pray that with the help of God you can pitch over the things that are dragging you down.

Blessings, Tom



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

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

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

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

July 29
 Woodie Payne
 Muir Steward
 *Pat Coleman
 *Chris Largin
 Brenda Tanner
 Gary Tanner

Liturgist: Polly Bailey

*communion preparation

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please call Brinley Hocutt at 292-7268.



Hope Circle will meet at 9:30 am
 July 2nd at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet
 Monday, July 9th at 5:30 at the church.

Circle I will meet July 10th at
 Red Lobster at 11:15 am.

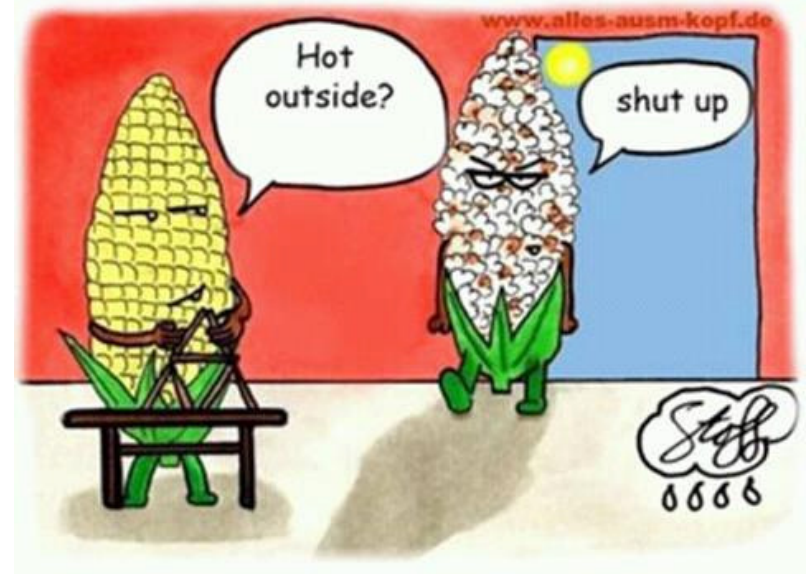
CMF Breakfast
 JULY 8th
 8:00 am




Coleman Berryhill
 Wiley Hales
 Virgil Lewis
 Letitia Roberts
 Joan Woody



We have two groups of Disciples volunteers coming to stay in July. The first group will be here on the 8th (from Sandy Springs in Atlanta ~ 25) and the second group on the 22nd from Ohio ~ 15). We will feed these groups on the Tuesday evening of the weeks they will be here at 6:00 pm. If you can help out, please contact Billie Brennan.



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 2:00 Sisters Study <i>Laura/Chris Morrison</i>	2 Hope Circle 9:30	3	4  INDEPENDENCE <i>Day</i>	5	6	7
8 8:00 CMF Breakfast 2:00 Sisters Study DV	9 Serendipity 5:30	10 Circle I @ DV Dinner 6:00	11 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	12	13	14 Virgil Lewis
15 2:00 Sisters Study <i>John Bennett</i>	16 Merrill Gardens 10:00	17	18 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 <i>Woodie/Louis Payne</i>	19 <i>Nelda Williams</i>	20 <i>Muir Steward</i>	21 <i>Giovanni DeJesus</i>
22 2:00 Sisters Study DV	23	24 DV Dinner 6:00	25 Soup Kitchen 9:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	26	27	28
29 2:00 Sisters Study <i>Ron Montgomery</i> <i>Brandi Hewett</i>	30	31	