

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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
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JULY 2013

THE EPISTLE

Greetings Faithful!

I want to share with you a remarkable prayer I read recently. A man was asked to deliver the opening prayer at a city council meeting. He obliged with these remarkably thoughtful and poignant words to the council members and the Lord:

“Dear God,

Sometimes life catches us by surprise: as well it should, and shakes up the way we view reality. So we ask that you give us a new perspective on our life together in this community this evening. Help us to remember that the woman who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry, and spend a few precious moments with her children. Help us remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who cannot make change correctly is a worried 19 year old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with this fear of not getting his student loans for next semester. Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares. Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together. God, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience,

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The **Largin** took a trip to Disney World.

Ron & Brenda Montgomery spent a week at the beach

Alan Barger & Sharon Brennan joined Becky Holt & Garrett Carmichael for a weekend at Six Flags Over Georgia

Judy Strickland made a trip to Boston



Sue Goebel flew to Connecticut & New York to visit her daughters & grandchildren

Kathy Mason travelled to Nebraska for grandson Nicholas Cardona's high school graduation

After a week at the beach with friends, **Allison Barger** spent the next month as a counselor and member of the work crew at YoungLife Camp at SharpTop Cove in Jasper, GA. She then spent a week at CYF Conference at Camp Chandler



Flynn Woods was also at Camp Chandler as a counselor for Junior Camp



Chris Largin's band, Loudmouth, recently spent a weekend in the recording studio. Can't wait to hear you on the radio, Chris!

Polly Bailey visited daughter **Ginger** in Gadsden. She also travelled with her sister, Ella Billions to Warrington, VA.

Dona & Kenny Sulzmann spent Father's Day in Mobile with **Jaime, Danny & Ashlynn Christian**. Dona's mother & aunt joined them for a family weekend.

Muir & Gordon Steward celebrated with daughter **Beth Voynovich** when she reaffirmed her faith by being baptized in a river. They also had a chance to visit with grandson Ben, who flew in to spend a week with his Aunt Beth.



It was great to see **Janae Yarborough** back in Tuscaloosa! She & members of her family joined the Youth Group from her home church, Tylersville Road Christian from Ohio, as a Disciples Volunteering Mission Team. She will be back in August for school and will live in the Hornback Disciples House.

I **Church Friends,** apologize for the lateness of the newsletter this month. Due to medical issues in both Dona's family & ours, car issues, travel, etc. it has taken longer than usual to get this out. I also apologize for empty spaces and a full blank page! I am not computer literate enough to delete without messing up the calendar! If you have any questions or problems, please let me know. Don't know if I can fix them but I will

try!
Thanks again for your patience!
Happy July!

Sandra



July 7
P ayne

Woodie

Muir Steward
Pat Coleman
Ken Largin
*Mike Largin
*Kate Matheny

July 14

Woodie Payne
Muir Steward
Alice Gibson
Cindy Harris
*Brenda Tanner
*Gary Tanner

July 21

Woodie Payne
Muir Steward
Joe Duncan
Brinley Hocutt
*Chris Largin
*Kenny Sulzmann

June 28

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

Liturgist:

Pat Coleman

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

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empathy and love. We ask but one thing more: that we in this City and in the Council Chamber learn well the lesson of developing this new perspective – the one where the young mother, the college student, the bum, and the old couple – are truly our teachers! In caring for them we receive that care which can only come from above. Amen.”

Perhaps you have heard “perspective” prayers like this before. I think they are very helpful in keeping us centered, sympathetic, and understanding to the conditions and situations of our brothers and sisters. It is said that if each of us knew what the others was going through, then there would be far fewer fights, arguments, and misunderstandings. “Walk a mile in another’s shoes” seems like and appropriate cliché here. I pray the council members took these words to heart: I know I did and I pray you will as well. I plan on keeping this prayer in my desk to remind me from time-to-time to be more compassionate and understanding of those I encounter each day.

Happy Independence Day! Blessings, and I hope and pray you are enjoying your summer,
Tom



Hope

Circle will meet at 9:30 am July 1st at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet at 5:30 pm on July 8th at the church.

Circle I will meet at the Cypress Inn for lunch July 9th at 11:00 am.

CMF Breakfast 8:00 am July 14th



Susan Barger
Coleman Berryhill
David Brennan
Jaime Christian
Wiley Hales
Nelda Williams
Joan Woody

The Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications for the 2013-14 Perry Scholarship. Church members (other than student members) who are enrolled as undergraduate students at The University of Alabama, or who will be enrolling this year, are eligible to apply for the scholarship and are encouraged to do so. Applications are available in the office. Please

submit your applications by the deadline of Monday, July 14th.

Now through August 12th, Polly Bailey and Katie-Wallace Davis are taking orders for hams (\$40) and Boston butts (\$30) cooked by Robertson's BBQ. Pickup dates will be Aug 24th (Sat) and Aug 27th (Tue). This is the East Tuscaloosa Soup Bowl's biggest fundraiser for the year. Help them out!



During June, July and August, Children's Church will be held exclusively on the first Sunday of each month.



Another group of Disciple Volunteers will be here the 7th of July. We will have a dinner for them on Tuesday, the 9th at 6:00. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex just to let us know how many to expect to eat.

<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 <i>Laura/Chris Morrison</i>	2	3 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	4 	5	6
7 <i>Freedom & Democracy Sunday</i> <i>DV Group arrives</i>	8 5:30 Serendipity at Church	9 11:00 Circle I Volunteer Dinner	10 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir			
14 8:00 CMF Breakfast 6:00 Mission Council <i>DV</i>	15 10:00 Merrill Gardens <i>John Bennett</i>	16	17 9:30 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	18 <i>Woodie/Louis Payne</i>	19 <i>Nelda Williams</i>	20 <i>Muir Steward</i>
21 <i>Giovanni DeJesus</i>	22	23	24 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir <i>Marilyn Buehler</i> <i>Patricia Tucker</i>	25	26	27
28	29 <i>Brandi Hewitt</i> <i>Ron Montgomery</i>	30	31			