

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

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MARCH 2013

THE EPISTLE

Greetings Faithful!

I thought of an old saying recently: “Sometimes the greatest treasures come in the smallest packages.” We see that is true in many ways, especially when we look at our children and grandchildren. Jesus made sure that we adults understand the value of children in His eyes. In fact, he afforded them special rights and privileges (“LET them come to me, do not hold them back ...”) to assure they all are deemed a valued part of His Church. Because we are generally taller than the kids in our midst, we adults tend to look over the top of their heads and miss some of the amazing things that they are doing right “under our noses.”

On the other hand, kids can be noisy, messy, and clumsy. I once served a church that desperately wanted a children’s Sunday school: “They are the future of the church!” was the battle cry. We put ads in the paper, sent out flyers, and invited folks from the community to come and experience our new Sunday School. We tripled the size of the school in a matter of months. But a couple of items in the church were accidentally broken by the kids, and they would often run through the church with a teacher not far behind yelling “No running.” Folks started to complain about the noise and the mess, and parents began to feel their children were unwelcome. They left, and we closed down the Sunday School not long after. What a shame!

I want us to remember the words of Jesus as we build our children’s programs at our church. We have a Sunday school with a variety of talented teachers who are signed up and ready to work with our children. We have a children’s moment the first Sunday of the month. We have our kids meeting with Sandra on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:30, and we have just joined an ecumenical partnership with Trinity United Methodist and University Presbyterian churches to have a joint Vacation Bible School on the last weekend in June (more details forthcoming)! There are other youth groups and activities being planned as well.

I pray you will spread the word (Gossip the Gospel!) and invite the children in your life to one or all of these programs. Let’s do more than “let” the children go to Christ: rather, let’s “bring” them to Christ!

Tom



March 3 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Pat Coleman
 Ken Largin
 *Mike Largin
 *Kate Matheny

March 10 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Alice Gibson
 Cindy Harris
 *Brenda Tanner
 *Gary Tanner

March 17 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Joe Duncan
 Brinley Hocutt
 *Chris Largin
 *Kenny Sulzmann

March 24 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Jon Atkinson
 Kim Farish
 *Rosa Jennings
 *Steve Jennings

March 31 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 *Pat Coleman
 Alice Gibson
 Cindy Harris
 *Brinley Hocutt

Liturgist: Kathy Mason



Hope Circle will meet at **9:30 am** **March 4th** at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet at **5:30 pm** on **March 11th** at the home of Cindy Harris.

Circle I will meet at the church on **March 12th** at **10:00 am**.

CMF Breakfast
8:00 am
March 10th



Karen Barger
 Coleman Berryhill
 Wiley Hales
 Kenny Sulzmann
 Muir Steward
 Nelda Williams
 Joan Woody



Joan Woody
Life Care Center
P.O. Box 2199
Banner Elk, NC 28604



Lenten Devotion/Lunch

The Lenten Lunches are going well. Join us for a series on Jesus' last words. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.



The Chili Cook-Off was a huge success! We raised \$900 that goes to the East Tuscaloosa Community Soup Bowl. Buddy Harris was voted the winner this year. He received a soup pot and ladle that will be passed to each year's winner. Thanks to the Outreach Committee for their coordination of this event. Everyone had a great time!



before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th.

Do you have any thread or yarn left over from craft projects? Would you donate them to the Christian Children's Fellowship for some projects?


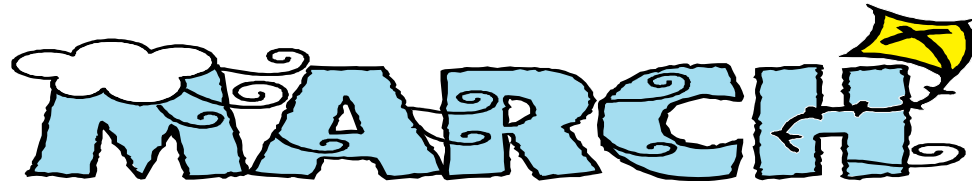







Palm Sunday (24th) - 10:30
Lenten Lunch (Wed 27th)
Maundy Thursday Service (28th) - 7:00
Easter Egg Hunt (Sat 30th) - 3:00
Sunrise Service (31st) - 6:30
Easter Breakfast - 7:00



Children should bring a basket with 6 plastic eggs (filled with goodies). Adults are asked to bring finger foods for snacking. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 3:00. Everyone is invited!

Reminder: Hope Circle is collecting Labels for Education as one of their projects. Please help by saving labels from Campbell's Soup products and cereal boxes. There will be a place in the narthex for these items. Also collecting pull tabs from soda cans.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31  Easter 6:30 Sunrise Service 7:00 Breakfast					1	2 Coleman Berryhill
3	4 9:30 Hope Circle Alison T Phelps	5	6 Noon Lenten Lunch 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	7	8	9 
10 8:00 CMF Breakfast 6:00 Mission Council	11 5:30 Serendipity Laura H Morrison	12 10:00 Circle I	13 Noon Lenten Lunch 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	14 Randi Coleman Joan Woody	15	16 Goebels - Honduras
17	18 10:00 Merrill Gardens	19	20 9:30 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	21	22	23 Goebels return Buddy Farish
24 	25 Cindy/Buddy Harris	26 Martha Smalley	27 Noon Lenten Lunch 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	28  Jeannie/Mike Largin	29  Susie H Sparks Suzanna/Michael Gibson	30  Easter Egg Hunt 3:00 pm Pat Coleman