

# 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

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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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## **MAY 2013**

## **THE EPISTLE**

Greetings Faithful!

After 14 known attempts, humans finally figured out how to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a balloon. Why they would want to attempt such a thing is beyond me, but they did it. In August 1978, the crew of the Double Eagle II floated off the Maine coast and nearly 6 days later landed safely in France. While the trip was a definite success, it was not without a serious problem that threatened not only the mission but also the lives of the crew. The trouble came not in their logistical planning for fuel usage, weather, or even distance. The problem was that they brought too much non-critical baggage with them. While they were packing for the trip, they had in mind how much weight they could safely carry. They divided their cargo into categories: wanted; needed; mandatory; and critical. But only halfway across the Atlantic they knew they were in serious trouble. As the gas in the balloon diminished, the excess weight was causing it to descend toward the ocean at an alarming rate which would put them in the water over 100 miles off the coast of France. One of the pilots stated, "It's amazing how quickly we reassessed what was no longer 'mandatory' or even 'critical' in comparison with our lives." Of course the "wanted" and "needed" items were tossed overboard immediately. As the coast of France came in to view, even some of the critical items were tossed overboard to assure they would make the coast.

Over the years I have used this story to illustrate some of the baggage humans carry through life. We hang on to stuff from our past: old feelings, hurts, memories, broken relationships, etc. Often we think we need to carry this stuff to use in the present or future. But then we become confused in categorizing what is wanted, needed, mandatory, and critical in our lives so we just lump it all together. But we soon realize the negative baggage is just weighing us down. Prayerfully we realize, before it's too late, that it is "time to toss." As we do our spring cleaning both in our houses and yards, let's also remember to clean out our bodies, minds, hearts, and our souls. We all have baggage, to be sure, so we need to continually assess what is worth holding on to and what is just dragging us down.

Tom



May 5

*Polly Bailey  
Kathy Mason  
Pat Coleman  
Ken Largin  
\*Mike Largin  
\*Kate Matheny*

May 12

*Polly Bailey  
Kathy Mason  
Alice Gibson  
Cindy Harris  
\*Brenda Tanner  
\*Gary Tanner*

May 19

*Polly Bailey  
Kathy Mason  
Joe Duncan  
Brinley Hocutt  
\*Chris Largin  
\*Kenny Sulzmann*

May 26

*Polly Bailey  
Kathy Mason  
Jon Atkinson  
Kim Farish  
\*Rosa Jennings  
\*Steve Jennings*

Liturgist:

Robert Gibson



Hope Circle will meet at **9:30 am** May 6<sup>th</sup> at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet at **5:30 pm** on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the church.

Circle I will meet at the church on May 14<sup>th</sup> at **10:00 am**.

**CMF Breakfast**  
**8:00 am**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>**



Coleman Berryhill  
Wiley Hales  
Jaime Christian  
Nelda Williams  
Joan Woody



The next Mission Council Meeting will be Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> (1 week later due to Mother's Day), at 6:00 pm.

**University Presbyterian Church**  
**Book & Media Sale**  
**Saturday, May 11, 8-2**  
**Proceeds benefit their**  
**Deacon Food Pantry**



### Prayer Shawls for Hospice

On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 3 prayer shawls were presented during the morning service. They were passed around and each person was asked to say a prayer as they held them. Persons making the shawls are asked to pray over the shawls as they work on them.



Don't be put off by that. The idea of "pray without ceasing" is wonderful—not real practical when doing hard work. You are asked to pray for the person who will receive the shawl—the experience they are going through—their families as they deal with difficult situations. You can also pray for yourself—your family—the state of the world—whatever touches your heart. I generally pray when I begin to work and then spend my concentration on the knitting. As new shawls are finished, they will be passed around during the service at which time we ask for your prayers and blessings on them.

**Want to learn a new way to reduce stress and increase wellness? Come try Yoga 101. In the near future, Kim Farish will offer a series of classes to introduce us to the benefits of yoga. No age or fitness prerequisites! A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to indicate your interest. See Kim if you have questions.**



**A beautiful way to celebrate your mother or any relative or close friend is by donating to the Blanket Sunday fund. Suggested donations are \$5.00. Each donation will pay for 1 blanket to be given to those in need (a number of them were sent to Tuscaloosa in 2011 after the tornado.).**



**Last year we purchased 80 blankets. This year let's shoot for 100! If you would like to purchase a blanket in honor or memory of anyone (doesn't have to be a lady!), please fill out the insert in your bulletin and place in the offering plate along with your check or money. Please have your info and donation in the church office no later than Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, to make sure it is included in the bulletin on May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b> Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00  <i>Casey Largin</i>	<b>2</b>  SAR Banquet 7:00	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  9:30 Hope Circle	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>9</b>   <i>Sylvia Colon</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>  CMF Breakfast 8:00  <i>Alice/Robert Gibson</i>	<b>13</b>  Serendipity 5:30	<b>14</b>  Circle I 10:00	<b>15</b>  Soup Kitchen 9:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>   <i>Katie/Rob Davis</i>	<b>18</b>  CWF Regional Mtg Montgomery
<b>19</b>  Mission Council 6:00	<b>20</b>  Merrill Gardens 10:00	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>   <i>Brenda Tanner Susie/Shawn Sparks</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00  <i>Jose DeJesus Leigh Ann/Mike Walker</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	