

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Staff

Music Director – Ron Montgomery
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)

627 Paul W. Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
(205) 758-2968

tuscfcc@bellsouth.net
www.tuscaloosafcc.org

NOVEMBER 2016

THE EPISTLE

As we continue to move through this time of transition seeking new pastoral leadership for an always unknown future, we are reminded sometimes of how frail we truly are. Each day in the past provided us with a clear boundary of who we were and where we were going. Now we are disoriented, not necessarily lost, but not quite certain which way we ought to go. I've spent much of the past 8 months helping my 87 year old Mother move into a more manageable living arrangement in Jacksonville, Florida. She is fortunate to be in fairly good health and is quite capable of taking care of herself. She needed to downsize her living arrangements so that she could decrease the stress in her life. During this whole process we've had many conversations about the past, how it use to be, and of the future, wondering how it is going to be. What she has decided is that she is in control of what happens to her in the future by making good, well considered choices now.

Times of transition mean that we are coming up on a boundary. We have been in familiar territory for a while. But now there is a line to cross and new land to explore. We cannot see over into this new land. We can only walk forward and enter it. There is both fear and excitement.

Of course, this sounds very much like the main plot line of the Old Testament. We leave Egypt, and suddenly Egypt looks good. We leave the wilderness, and then the wilderness is described as the "honeymoon." We lose the Promised Land, and then in exile discover that God is there as well. We are not alone.

Psalm 139 expresses the discovery that God is in the land ahead just as God was with us in the past. "Where shall I go from your spirit? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there." Our help is in the name of the Lord no matter where we are on our journey. I am counting on this for both me and you.

I came across this prayer from John Baillie that speaks to me about walking into the future:

When the way seems dark before me, give me grace to walk in trust;
When much is obscure to me, let me be all the more faithful to the little I can see;
When the distant scene is clouded, let me rejoice that at least the next step is plain;
When what You are is hidden from my eyes, let me still hold fast to what You command;
When insight falters, let obedience stand firm;
What I lack in faith, let me repay in love. Amen.

Thank you for inviting me to walk into the future with you!

Jim

Church

Elders & Deacons



November 6th *Buddy Harris*
Muir Steward
 Ed Carson
 *Mike Largin
 *Will Largin
 Kate Matheny

Hope Circle will meet
 November 7th at 9:30 am.

Circle I will meet at 10:00
 November 8th at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet
 November 14th at 5:30 at the
 church.

Operation Christmas Child
 Shoebox Gift materials are
 available, including pre-
 made shoeboxes. Please
 bring the filled boxes back to
 the church by November 13th
 for Blessing of the Boxes.

The community of faith at First
 Christian Church is delighted to add
 Buddy Farish to
 our official
 membership
 role. Buddy has
 been a long time faithful partner
 with us along with his family, Kim
 and Bailey.

November 13th *Buddy Harris*
Muir Steward
 *Bailey Farish
 *Kim Farish
 Brinley Hocutt
 Martha Hocutt

CMF Breakfast
 November 13th
 8:00 am



Three game days in a row this
 month, the 12th (Mississippi
 State), 19th (Chattanooga), and
 26th (Auburn)!

WE NEED DESSERTS!

We also need some
 additional help
 especially in the
 middle of the day
 up to closing, even if it's just
 for a couple of hours.



The CWF/DW will begin collecting
 food items for the Alberta School
 Project starting Sunday, November
 6th. There will be a basket in the
 narthex for collection. Items needed
 include:

- family size cans of vegetables
- canned meats
- chili, stew, chicken/dumplings
- soup
- spaghetti sauce
- macaroni and cheese
- pasta, rice
- peanut butter/jelly
- peanut butter crackers
- canned fruit or fruit cups
- cereal (including oatmeal)
- pudding or jello cups
- granola or breakfast bars
- cookies and snack cakes
- juice boxes

November 20th *Buddy Harris*
Muir Steward
 *Cindy Harris
 Chris Largin
 Ken Largin
 *Amy Montgomery



Sandra Brennan
 Wiley Hales
 Linda Ingram
 Buddy Mason
 Anita Smelley
 Brenda Tanner

*There is a nice
 collection of casserole
 dishes, plates, platters,
 etc. (from games days
 and fellowship dinners)
 stacking up in the
 kitchen. Please check
 to see if any of these
 are yours and take
 them home.*

No child should ever have to go
 hungry, so just bring what you can
 when you can.

*A generous person will be blessed, for
 he gives some of his food to the poor.*
 Proverbs 22:9

November 28th *Buddy Harris*
Muir Steward
 *Rosa Jennings
 *Steve Jennings
 Chris Largin
 Ken Largin



MISSION
 COUNCIL
 November 13th
 noon

Liturgist: Muir Steward

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|  | | 1 Yoga 5:30 | 2 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 | 3 Senior Retreat St. Bernard - Cullman <i>Faith/Ken Largin</i> | 4 | 5 Kim Farish |
| 6  | 7 Hope Circle 9:30 | 8 Circle I 10:00 Yoga 5:30 | 9 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 | 10 | 11 | 12  MS State |
| 13 8:00 CMF Breakfast noon Mission Council | 14 Serendipity 5:30 | 15 Yoga 5:30 | 16 Soup Kitchen 9:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Ashlynn Christian Ken Largin | 17 | 18 Martha Hocutt | 19  Chattanooga Cynthia/Joe Duncan Brenda/Ron Montgomery |
| 20 | 21 | 22 Yoga 5:30 Margie Harless | 23 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Joan Atkinson | 24 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Meditation/Breakfast 8:30 am Kathy/Buddy Mason | 25 Dona/Kenny Sulzmann | 26  Auburn |
| 27 | 28 Jaime Christian | 29 Yoga 5:30 | 30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Treavor Gibson Martha/Sherrill Smalley | 31 | | |