

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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OCTOBER 2012

THE EPISTLE

Recently I was speaking with a church member and we were discussing the state of faith and Christianity in America. It's no secret that 85% of all churches in America are struggling with declining membership and financial commitment. This member asked me what I thought was the leading issue causing this decline. I suggested that in my observation it appears that Christians have very high expectations of the church (and its members), and when those expectations aren't met there is conflict. We moderns struggle with resolving conflict for lots of reasons, so when it arises the simple solution is to pack up our family and go elsewhere, or simply walk away from the church altogether. By the way, if you have any questions about how we moderns deal with conflict, may I offer our federal government as but one example?

I digress. The member I was speaking with made one of the most heart-warming statements to me: "Well," she said, "this is *my* church and I'm not going to let that happen!" Now I know what she meant, given that all churches really belong to *Christ*, but I really appreciated her point: she was claiming ownership to her and her family's part of the Body of Christ! She was declaring ownership in her church.

We are so very blessed to have little conflict in our church. It does happen from time to time – it happens in every part of life where people care about issues. And when it does arise, it is dealt with appropriately and, prayerfully, BIBLICALLY! This is a HUGE blessing!

I pray you feel the same way as the member I spoke with that day. Every member is a whole, functioning, beloved member of the Body of Christ. No one part can say to the other "I don't need you!" (1 Corinthians 12:21). You are welcomed, loved, appreciated, and needed as a member of the Body of Christ. And I pray that you feel that way and take the kind of ownership that declares "With Christ this is my church!"

Blessings to you, and see you in worship!

Tom



October 7 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 *Ed Carson
 Kate Matheny
 Letitia Roberts
 *Kenny Sulzmann

October 14 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 *Alice Gibson
 *Brandi Hewitt
 Brenda Tanner
 Gary Tanner

October 21 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 Allison Barger
 Sandra Brennan
 *Joe Duncan
 *Brinley Hocutt

October 28 *Woodie Payne*
 Muir Steward
 *Jon Atkinson
 *Kim Farish
 Rosa Jennings
 Steve Jennings

Liturgist: **Kate Matheny**

*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** **October 1st** at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet **Monday, October 8th at 5:30** at **Full Moon Barbeque**.

Circle I will meet **October 9th** at the church at **10:00 am**.

CFW Annual Fall Retreat
 October 5-7th!



First Christian – Birmingham
October 14th
3:30 Registration
4:00 Meeting

We have a Disciples Volunteer group arriving on the 14th (Sunday). We will feed them for dinner on the 16th (Tuesday). Details forthcoming.



Christmas Extravaganza!!

We are planning our annual "Christmas Extravaganza!" only 2 short months away! We have a few things lined up that you won't want to miss! If you would like to perform, contact Sandra Brennan (886-4273). If you don't already have an act, we have places for you!! Also, we are looking for props to be used that evening. We need kazoos, a man's pipe, a duck call, chef hat(s), hula hoops, swimming pool gear (snorkel, fins, floaties, etc.), and some Bama fans! Thanks for helping make our annual Christmas Party and "Christmas Extravaganza!" extra special this year!!

CMF Breakfast
October 14th
8:00 am



Bea Acre
Coleman Berryhill
Wiley Hales
Joan Woody

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Hope Circle 9:30	2 Mike Largin	3 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Wiley Hales	4	5 Gordon Steward	6 Sandra Brennan
7  World Communion Sunday	8 Serendipity 5:30 @ Full Moon BBQ  COLUMBUS DAY	9 Circle I 10:00	10 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Karen/Bill Barger	11	12	13
14 CMF Breakfast 8:00 District II – 1 st Bham 3:30 DV (thru Sat) →	15  Merrill Gardens Communion 10:00	16	17 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Dorothy Hayes	18 Jon Atkinson Rob Davis Randi/Pat Coleman	19	20
21  Fellowship Dinner	22 Rosa Jennings	23	24 Soup Kitchen 9:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Sherrill Smalley	25	26	27  GAME DAY MS State Martha/Brinley Hocutt
28	29	30	31 Halloween Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Lamar McElroy Kenny Sulzmann Leigh Ann Walker	 October		