

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

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(Disciples of Christ)
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OCTOBER 2013

THE EPISTLE

A joyous October to you faithful Christians,
There is an old saying: "If we knew what the other people were going through in life, and they knew what we were going through, there may never be another argument" (I'm bold enough to think the same thing about conflicts and wars). The saying is kind of a variation of "Walk a mile in someone's shoes before you criticize them" (that way, when you do criticize them, you're a mile away you have their shoes). Just kidding. When someone slights or offends us we tend to immediately take it as a personal insult, or even an assault against us. In other words, we tend to jump to conclusions fairly quickly when it comes to verbal offenses. Some folks would earn a Gold Medal if they made the "Conclusion Jump" an Olympic event. We just don't always know what someone else is going through the moment they make an offensive comment or gesture towards us. Perhaps they are really hurting inside or going through a traumatic event. Retaliating will usually result in an all out fight between two that are now hurt. When someone snaps at me, makes a snarky or sarcastic comment, is rude and offensive, or cuts me off in traffic, I try to make it a habit to not jump to conclusions that the offense was directed at me *personally*. Rather I try to take a quick second to "hold my peace" and consider that they may be extremely upset about something of which I'm not aware. And of course I hope they would offer me the same courtesy. When the world weighs heavy on our shoulders or we feel overwhelmed, it is so easy for hurtful comments to slip out (and usually they are directed at the wrong person). Pray about this as we remember that Jesus wants us to "build each other up, and not tear each other down." Perhaps by holding your peace for a moment you will realize that most hurtful comments and gestures are only made "*toward*" you, but are not necessarily "*about*" you. It doesn't make it "okay" when people are verbally hurtful, but it does lessen the hurt when we know someone was just speaking out of their own pain. I had a teen in my youth group tell me one time after someone lashed out "toward" her, "Hey, whatever, I knew it wasn't about me, and I'm glad they did it to me and not someone who would have

been really hurt by it.”

Blessings, Tom



October 6

Woodie Payne
Muir Steward

*Pat Coleman
*Ken Largin
Mike Largin
Kate Matheny

October 13

Woodie Payne
Muir Steward

*Alice Gibson
*Cindy Harris
Brenda Tanner
Gary Tanner

October 20

Woodie Payne
Muir Steward

*Joe Duncan
*Brimley Hocutt
Chris Largin
Kenny Sulzmann

October 27

Woodie Payne
Muir Steward

*Jon Atkinson
*Kim Farish
Rosa Jennings
Steve Jennings

Liturgist: Buddy Harris

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



Hope Circle will meet at 9:30 am on October 7th at the church.

Circle I will meet at 11:00 am on October 8th at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet at 5:30 pm on October 14th at Full Moon BBQ.

CMF Breakfast
8:00 am
October 13th



Coleman Berryhill
Wiley Hales
Helen Gibson
Nelda Williams
Martha Smalley
Joan Woody
David Bailey

Game Days

Our October home games will be Georgia State October 5th (HC), Arkansas October 19th and Tennessee October 26th. Please help us by making desserts to sell, and come and help out meeting and greeting old and new friends.



If you
whole
as you



If you weren't at the "baptism in the creek" at the Largins, you missed a wonderful, inspiring time, not to mention the fellowship with all those that attended. Pictured are Rev. Tom Goebel, Mike and Jeanne Largin, Debbie Kings, Faith & Ken Largin, and Mikey Weatherford.


The joint Ministry Team Meeting on October 13th will be at 3:00 pm since the Fellowship Hall will be in use that evening.

Once again this year, you will have the opportunity to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts ministry. Information and materials will be available in the narthex in mid-October. A Blessing of the Boxes



If you want to relax and enjoy a few moments of quiet, come join with the yoga class at 5:30 on Tuesday evenings (except for the 3rd week of October when it will be on Thursday because of a meeting conflict). You would be surprised how you will feel. If you need, you can use a chair to prop on or even sit on.

A 10 year old little girl was asked by another classmate, "what is it like to be a Christian?". The girl replied, "it's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 5:30 Yoga	2 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Mike Largin	3 Wiley Hales	4	5  HC – Georgia State Gordon Steward
	6 Children’s Message Sandra Brennan	7 9:30 Hope Circle	8 11:00 Circle I 5:30 Yoga	9 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	10 Karen /Bill Barger	11 CWF Retreat Camp Chandler
13 → 8:00 CMF Breakfast 3:00 Ministry Teams	14 5:30 Serendipity	15 5:30 Miracle Day Committee	16 9:00 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	17 5:30 Yoga Dorothy Hayes Matt Minear	18 Jon Atkinson Rob Davis Randi/Pat Coleman	19  Arkansas
20	21 10:00 Merrill Gardens 6:00 CWF	22 5:30 Yoga Rosa Jennings	23 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir	24 Sherrill Smalley	25	26  Tennessee
27 Martha/Brinley Hocutt	28	29 5:30 Yoga	30 6:30 Circle of Prayer 7:00 Choir Kayla Geer	31  Lamar McElroy Kenny Sulzmann Leigh Ann Walker		