

# 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

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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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## **SEPTEMBER 2016**

## **THE EPISTLE**

Aren't you ready for things to get back to normal? Have you been trying to tweak, change, adjust your life so that you can get back to some sense of normalcy? It does sound appealing but I have some news that for some of you will be received as good and for others not so good. Noah ben Shea has written that "Things aren't going to be normal again. Ever. Because things have never ever been normal. Certainly not normal if you mean static. High thinking physicists have for while now been thinking about "chaos theory." Maybe it's a theory to them. To the rest of us it's a normal Monday morning. Most of us can feel life's current running under our feet – usually when we're trying, unsuccessfully, to find our footing. If life is always running, and it is, most of us feel like we're running to catch up. Forget-about-it! Little drowns a man faster than fighting the current. Women too. Reality is a memory ahead of its time. The rate of change appears to be changing more quickly; things, however, usually look this way when our way of looking at things is unchanging. The world has never held still but an object in orbit, in its spin, isn't spinning out of control. It is only our urge to control the world or the naïve notion that we can stand still and look at the world that makes things appear out of control. In reality it's our perception that's out of control. We are on a spinning ball observing a spinning universe. That's it dude. To get on better with the world you've got to get with the program." Noah isn't holding anything back is he? Not exactly what we really want to hear when we are trying to move through so much change. I imagine that after the tornado of 2011 there was a desire by many that things would get back to normal. That never happened. Lives changed forever never to return to the way things used to be.

First Christian Church of Tuscaloosa is living in a time of change. The natural desire for most of us is for things to get back to normal. The good news, bad news for us is that the normal we knew before is gone. We work to find our new normal. This is a time of great opportunity, a chance to be in the midst of creating something new. To find a new way to be church. Winds of change haven't just started blowing. Change is the river we all sail on. We are each the source of the others river. Every river flows from God and to God. Everything being born is dying. And dying to be born. And a new year has just been born. Let's join together in the journey!

Jim Brooks, Interim Minister



September 4<sup>th</sup> Robert Gibson  
 Dona Sulzmann  
 Ed Carson  
 \*Mike Largin  
 \*Will Largin  
 Kate Matheny

September 11<sup>th</sup> Robert Gibson  
 Dona Sulzmann  
 \*Bailey Farish  
 \*Kim Farish  
 Brinley Hocutt  
 Martha Hocutt

September 18<sup>th</sup> Robert Gibson  
 Dona Sulzmann  
 \*Cindy Harris  
 Chris Largin  
 Ken Largin  
 \*Amy Montgomery

September 25<sup>th</sup> Robert Gibson  
 Dona Sulzmann  
 Ed Carson  
 \*Rosa Jennings  
 \*Steve Jennings  
 Kate Matheny

Liturgist: Martha Smalley



**Hope Circle** will meet  
**September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.**

**Circle I** will meet at **10:00**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>** at the church.

**Serendipity Circle** will meet  
**September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30** at the church.

**CMF Breakfast**  
**September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 am**



Sandra Brennan  
 Wiley Hales  
 Linda Ingram  
 Buddy Mason  
 Brenda Tanner

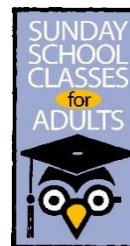


**September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:00 noon**



*Thank you to all those who completed surveys for the Search Committee. All input and recommendations will be prayerfully considered as we move forward in the process of calling a permanent minister.*

The Adult Sunday School class will resume meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> and begin a study titled, "The Call - Counting the Cost of Following Christ." The class meets in in the parlor at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome as we seek to grow together in Christ.



*Our Condolences*  
 to the **Harris family.** **Buddy's mother, Lorene Harris, passed away August 15<sup>th</sup>.**



*The Outreach and Spiritual Growth Ministry Teams will host a fellowship dinner after the worship service on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Following the meal, there will be a brief program focusing on two organizations which we support. Our own Rob Davis will share about his ministry at the Firehouse Shelter in Birmingham, and Tracy Dent will tell us about the Tracy Dent Foundation which ministers to people needing a second chance. Everyone is encouraged to come to worship, bring a dish, share a meal and learn more about mission opportunities.*

**If you were not included in the last directory or would like your picture re-done, please see Dona after church.**



We want to welcome Rev. Jim Brooks as our interim minister during our time of transition.



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<h1>September</h1>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  Suzanna Gibson	<b>3</b>  Sue Goebel
<b>4</b>  Dona Sulzmann	<b>5</b> <i>Labor Day</i>  Hope Circle 9:30  Brian Gibson	<b>6</b>  Yoga 5:30  Bailey Farish Buddy Harris	<b>7</b>  Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00  Sue/Tom Goebel	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Karen Barger Steve Jennings	<b>10</b>   Western Kentucky 2:30
<b>11</b> CMF Breakfast 8:00  noon	<b>12</b>  Serendipity 5:30	<b>13</b>  Circle I 10:00 Yoga 5:30	<b>14</b>  Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  Fellowship Dinner Parkinsons Support Group – 2:00	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Yoga 5:30	<b>21</b>  Soup Kitchen 9:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>22</b>  Robert Gibson Rosa/Steve Jennings	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>   Kent State
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>   Yoga 5:30	<b>28</b>  Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00  Ray Saunders	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	