

THE MESSENGER

January 2016

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Montgomery, Alabama exists to demonstrate and proclaim God's joyful, unconditional love and to provide an inclusive environment of spiritual growth and nurturing for God's children.



Some Assembly Required



Many of us know from experience that on Christmas Eve there are three words that give a parent serious concern. I am talking about the three words that come when parents are putting toys and gifts together for their children and friends. Those three words labeled on the outside of the box are: "Some Assembly Required".

Think for a moment about what you do when you put a toy together. First you spread all the pieces on the floor. Then you take out the directions and try to follow them.

Two hours later the job is done. All the pieces which were once covering your floor are joined together into a beautiful new toy for your son or daughter. The "some assembly required" is completed and you are now ready for Christmas.

In a sense we are all like that toy on the floor spread out in a hundred pieces. We each come into the world wrapped in God's love and labeled- "Some Assembly Required". We all come not completely assembled in the Spirit of God. Therefore, we must let Jesus make us new. To assemble us as our God intends us to be. To allow him to put all the pieces of our lives together.

So as we enter the New Year of 2016, may we remember that we all need some assembly required and the power of God to keep us going. May our prayer be, "Dear Lord, we pray for ourselves and others who come before you spiritually incomplete with some assembly required. Fill us with the desire to be built up and refashioned by your hand that we may be used in the work of your Kingdom here on earth. And may we always remember that your power at work within us is able to do far more than we can ever imagine. To Your glory and honor. Amen."

Happy New Year, Edd Spencer

Altar Flower Calendar



Our flower calendar is up on the Information Board. Please sign up to donate altar flowers for 2016.

You may donate in honor or memory of loved ones or just a special occasion in your life. Flowers are \$30 and can be taken home after worship or left and they will be taken to a homebound member or facility where they can be enjoyed for days to come.

*Checks should be made out to
First Christian Church.*

Wednesday Night Menu

January 6th

Shrimp and fish, baked potato, garden salad, peach cobbler, and ice cream.

January 13th

Sloppy Joes, french fries, garden salad, cookies, and ice cream.

January 20th

Baked chicken breast, rice, brussel spouts, brownies, and ice cream.

January 27th

Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, garden salad, chocolate layer dessert.

Catered by Dave Wheatcroft

Calling all Volunteers!

FCC needs you for the following volunteer positions:

- Worship Leader
 - Greeters
 - AV Room

Sign up at the Information Board.
Your Church thanks you for your service!

Music Notes



And so we begin. A new year has arrived. A new pastor is on his way. New times can be anxious times, but I believe joy is in the becoming. When we begin to learn a new piece of music in the choir, we usually go through it all the way without stopping the first time we see it, just to get a feel for the tune, the timing, the stops and starts, the trouble spots, the places we want to emphasize, the message the words bring. We plunge into it with faith, knowing there will be challenges, but pulling for each singer to "get it," helping each other to learn the notes, yes—but more importantly, to feel the message. After we've seen the entire piece we begin again, breaking it into parts, and practicing it piece by piece until we can bring the parts together again. That's when we can listen to not only our own parts, but also to the voices around us. Then we blend and listen some more and believe—and through our collaborative work the song becomes.

We don't have that luxury with life, do we? If we had a quick look-see through the year and could foretell the trouble spots, the things we need to pay attention to, the timing—what would we do differently as we actually live it? What would we practice more or less of? What would we emphasize? How would we work together to let new things become?

Music is a beautiful, joy-bestowing, priceless-but-free luxury. What are you waiting for? Come and sing with the choir. Let's see what becomes.

**Happy new year!
Su Ofe
Director of Music**

Breakfast Prepared by Disciple Men

(Open to All)



Please join us for breakfast on **January 10th at 7:45 a.m.** in the Great Hall. We will have a great breakfast, fellowship, and devotion! The cost is only \$5, and first timers eat FREE! Don't miss this opportunity for the Disciples Men to cook for you.

**Don Snyder
Disciples Men**



Sermon Series

After hearing many of my sermons, you are very aware that I like to use stories to lift up spiritual truth. Jesus was also a storyteller. In fact he was the master storyteller as he used stories of God to bring people into his mission.

During the month of January, I want to focus our sermons on the stories of Jesus we call his stories parables.

The word comes from two Greek words "Para" meaning "alongside" and "Bole" which is the verb "to throw" so parable means literally, "to throw alongside" or "to compare".

Therefore a parable is a story designed to compare that which is obvious to that which may not be obvious at all. Or as someone once said, "a parable is an earthly story with a "Heavenly Meaning". And so in January may the following parables bring some "Heavenly Meaning" to our lives.

Sunday, January 10:

"The Parable of the Good Samaritan"

Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, January 17:

"The Parable of the Two House Builders"

Matthew 7:24-29

Sunday, January 24:

"The Parable of the Sower"

Matthew 13:1-9

Sunday, January 31:

"The Parable of the Wedding Feast"

Matthew 22:1-10

Give Me a Call



I look forward to serving you next year until Shane Tabitha, and Tymari are able to move to Montgomery. Listed below are my phone numbers and e-mail. Please contact me whenever you have

a need, joy, or concern.

Cell-205-317-5868

Home- 205-991-1045

Email-eddthehiker@outlook.com

Christian Education

Happy New Year!!!! I certainly hope 2016 is going to be a spectacular year for each of you and especially for First Christian Church Montgomery, Alabama. As we closed out 2015 we had numerous blessings from God our Father through our Savior Jesus Christ. Our finances are in good order thanks to your tithes and contributions and well managed by a super duo team of treasurers, Alice and Dixie. Muchas gracias to them for all their hard work. Our mortgage dropped below \$100,000, and we are blessed to have some funding available to fix a few items around our facilities, when you see Dave Batson he can tell you all about the great "fixes" coming this year. We have lots of folks volunteering this year as Diaconate, Elders, Trustees, and we have appointed some outstanding Division Chairs. To celebrate their appointments and the blessing of service we will have a Leadership Bonding Seminar on Saturday morning, February 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Officers, Elders, Trustees and Division Chairs. Please mark your calendars for that morning so that we may have some time of learning and fellowship with one another. Now, the best and biggest blessing is that FCC Montgomery is getting a new Pastor!!!! Shane and Tabitha Isner will be joining us in 2016, so please plan on attending a fantastic welcoming get together when we firm up the date of their arrival. It will be so exciting to share their new beginning at FCC, and I personally am looking forward to Shane's spiritual guidance and leadership for the church that I love so dear. The last thing is that I would like to thank Fannie Ashley for her outstanding leadership as Moderator for the last two years. It was not always easy, but I can tell you she constantly gave 110 percent of herself for First Christian Church and all of us. I have learned so much from Fannie and can definitely tell you she has been my mentor and my friend, and I am making a promise to you that I will continue on the path she created of being true to FCC's mission and vision, keeping with our Bylaws, promoting good will and Christian fellowship in the congregation and community and all in the name of Jesus Christ for the glory of God. Amen.

My contact numbers are as follows: (H) 334-514-8002, (W) 334-416-4568, (C) 334-0312-4027

Mara Donovan

Christian Education



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mr. and Mrs. Claus Came to FCC!!

