

# THE CALLER

## Following Jesus by Bob Stegall

Thank you, First Christian Church, for inviting us to serve in this interim ministry as you move on to the next chapter of serving our Lord Jesus Christ and glorifying God.

Kay and I have served in west, middle and east

Tennessee Christian churches. We are happy to be back in middle Tennessee, at beautiful Shelbyville. We love the scenery on our drive from Tuscumbia, Alabama.

Our four-day schedule is Saturday to Sunday and

Tuesday to Wednesday (or sometimes Wednesday to Thursday.). Saturday is a good time for lunches, dinners and special gatherings with families. Our address is 1311 Anna Drive, Tuscumbia, AL 35674. We have an answering machine on

**Following** continued on p. 2

## Experiencing Jesus by David M. Chism

No man hath seen God at any time. If we LOVE one another, God dwelleth in us, and his LOVE is perfected in us.

—I John 4:12

I've traveled. I've seen a lot of churches and a lot of strange things. I've observed and participated in worship services of every major denomination (except maybe the Amish; I haven't seen them in action). Amid all the church folks out there, with all their preferences and traditions, I searched long and hard to see the face of God. I knew that God abode in my heart and will. But, I still found it hard to see Him active in the lives of many church folks, and I desperately wanted to see that. As I

traveled and watched all the different church folks, I noticed that their backgrounds and worship methods didn't have much bearing on whether or not God was present. Bear in mind—I don't write this to stand in judgment. I write this objectively. Some of these churches were bound by the law, chain and shackle, to the point folks couldn't play Monopoly® without feeling guilty. Other churches took their Christian liberty to the extreme; the kids would brag how cool it was that their pastor included cuss words in his messages. Without endorsing either of those two extremes, I'll tell you where I believe God was and where He wasn't.

It's all about love. Where there was love, there was also His presence. Where there were grudges and bickering, there He was not. Where they sang songs of praise from a grateful heart, He was there (Ps. 22:3). Where they wasted time belly-aching over what kinds of songs to use, He wasn't there. For those who lifted up the cup of wine in grave remembrance of His sacrifice, God shared in their communion. For those who lifted up the cup vainly—without love, or in fulfillment of a dutiful habit—they might as well have been drinking water (or poison for that matter—I Cor. 11:29). Where the people were vision-oriented, God blessed. Where there was no vision, the people perished (Prov.

**Experience** continued on p. 2



### Financial Snapshot

General Budget needed per month	\$27,850.47
General Budget received in April	\$16,369.80
Building Payment per month	\$0!
Building Accounts received in April	\$8000.50
(Building fund will be redesignated as building/maintenance.)	

## Following continued from front

our home phone, (256)381-2927. For special needs, call the church and Anne can get in touch with us. Come by the office for a visit. I enjoy getting acquainted and learning people by name.

Easter Sunday we passed out little wooden crosses and used the poem "The Cross in My Pocket" for a benediction. The crosses will be available every Sunday in May for us to take on our journeys of faith.

Jesus showed His love for all people on the cross of Calvary. "And He said to them all, 'If any will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me.'" (Luke 9:23)

We look forward to following Jesus with you and carrying the crosses in our pockets.

Sincerely,

Bob, Brother Pilgrim Bob,  
Bobby, or *Preacher!*

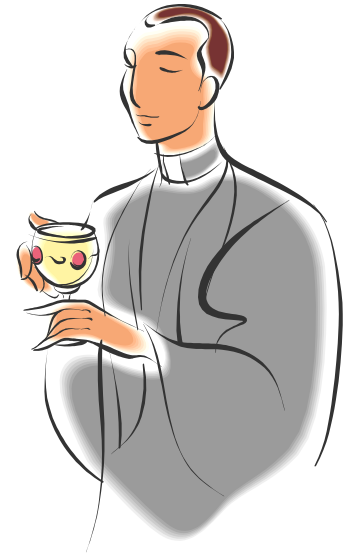
## May Sermon Series

### *Being Disciples of Christ*

"And Jesus said to them all, 'If any man wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and day by day let him take up his cross and follow me.'"

– Luke 9:23

- May 1 "From Fasting to Feasting"  
Matthew 25:31-40
- May 8 "Abiding in Christ"  
Colossians 2:1-7
- May 15 "Living with Momentum"  
II Timothy 4:1-8
- May 22 "Jesus in the Present Tense"  
Luke 19:1-10
- May 29 "Our Proactive Call"  
Luke 5:1-11



## Experience continued from front

29:18). Where the people acted in faith, God remained faithful. When they didn't, they drowned. In church meetings where the people were in one accord, God's Spirit reigned (Acts 2:1-4). In gatherings where people acted like self-serving idiots (I use the term judiciously), Satan reigned and tore those churches asunder, leaving only the spirit of Ichabod (I Sam. 4:21) to sort through the plunder. I have seen this with my own eyes.

Even so, where there was love, there was also God. For, God is love (I John 4:12).

The above article I published about a year ago while I was serving my last church. I would now like to apply it to the present reality.

Our church has experienced a very emotional and trying Lent. Sad goodbyes were spoken. Financial burdens were confronted. Difficult situations followed us around as we labored to bury our sins at the altar. And through all kinds of heartbreaking situations we have journeyed with Christ all the way into the tomb of His death.

Now we experience the good news. Resurrection Sunday has come. The debts is paid off—both the small one for our building and the greater one for our sin! We have been reunited with the beauty of spring flowers and sunny picnics. On Ash Wednesday we buried our sins and shortcomings with Christ (something that we perpetually need to do), and on Resurrection Sunday, we experienced His glorified presence. All that we had done before no longer matters, because He is alive and worthy of all praise.

Now that Easter is here, let us all experience His love. Where there were ashes, let there be beauty. Where there was fear, let there be strength. Where we all wandered, let us now embrace our vision. Where we lacked meaningful purpose, let us now be focused. Let us be deliberate in sharing the light of God's love with a world that is yearning to experience the transcendent power of His resurrection. For, God is love.

Paschal blessings!

David

**WORSHIP AND WONDER**

Worship & Wonder for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade will again be offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (except this month due to Mother's Day on the second Sunday; May 22 will be the only time this month). Children are encouraged to participate in the worship service with their immediate family and their church family.

Lesson for May 22      Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper, part 1      Psalm 23, John 10, Matthew 18

**WHO'S COOKING? TOWEL NIGHT...** Service, Cooking and Sleepover for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Graders

A special night of cooking and eating, choosing a service project, devotion and having time together is planned. Starts at 5:30pm on Friday, May 13 and ends at 8:00am on Saturday, May 14 following a Hardees breakfast. Children will need a sleeping bag or roll, pillow, clothes, a Bible, a serving heart, and—lest we forget—a toothbrush.

Come and find out why it's called TOWEL NIGHT!

Please sign up by Wednesday, May 11 so adequate food and supplies can be obtained.



**4/5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MINISTRY**

Friday, May 20, 6:00-8:30. Night of Creating... Plans are underway for a night of making baskets. Plans are incomplete at this time. In case our guest can't come, we will be creating... ???

Complete information will be sent to parents.



**FISHING OUTING for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Saturday, May 14, 4:00-7:00pm. Bring your poles, bait, picnic meal, and cameras. Join us as we head off to David Coffey's pond on Naron Road for fishing and fellowship. A big "Thank You!" goes to Daryl O'Neal for making arrangement to fish at this lovely pond that is so child friendly. Come join us the whole time or just part—it's up to you. We will be there if it's not raining. If you are interested in carpooling please let Daryl or MJ know. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 11.

**Bethany Hills Camp Schedules**

Camp time is fast approaching. Registration deadlines set by the regional office are upon us. Please see last month's The Caller or MJ for more details for the following camps:

**Discovery Camp** for children who are finishing 2nd and 3rd

Wednesday, June 1, 2011 - Saturday, June 4, 2011

Registration must be postmark deadline is May 20.

**CYF Sunday**, June 5, 2011 - Saturday, June 11, 2011. 10th, 11th and 12th graders attend this camp.

Registrations must be postmarked by May 26.

**Chi Rho Camp** is Sunday, June 12, 2011 - Friday, June 17, 2011

For students finishing 6th and 7th grades

Registrations must be postmarked by June 2.

**Firsters Camp** is Thursday, July 14, 2011 - Saturday, July 16, 2011

For kindergarteners and 1st graders

Firsters' Camp is an exciting introductory camping experience.

**Junior Camp** is Sunday, July 17, 2011 - Friday, July 22, 2011

For students leaving 4th and 5th grades.

**8'ers Camp** is Sunday, July 3, 2011 - Saturday, July 9, 2011

Eighters' Camp is a biblically-based sex education camp. CLER Ministries has published a curriculum written by the Rev'd Linda Goddard. Only students finishing 8th grade attend this camp so the small ratios of counselor-to-camper allow for lots of small group time.

Note: Camp falls during July 4th. Registrations postmarked by June 22.



**May Nursery Volunteers (Sundays)**

May 1	Kathy & Tripp Reed	May 15	Mary Jane
May 8	Jane Bartlett	May 29	Amy Mitchell

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### **Youth Fundraiser Meal**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 22 at 5:30. Make your dinner plans now. The youth will be preparing a fine dinner for everyone to enjoy. The cost is \$10 per person for a delicious meal of Chicken Parmesan with dessert included. Everyone is welcome to attend. All money raised will support the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Tickets are on sale NOW! We strongly encourage you to purchase tickets in advance. Please support our youth and the American Cancer Society by dining with us on Sunday, May 22.

Also, the Youth would like to invite you to attend Relay for Life Friday, June 3 at the Ag Center to help raise money for cancer research. Relay for Life is an all-night event where a member of our team will stay on the track all night walking to raise awareness about cancer. Cancer never sleeps, so neither will we! The event begins with a survivor lap at 6:00. We ask that anyone in our church family who has ever been diagnosed with cancer to come out at 6:00 for the first lap around the track. After that the 2nd lap will be the care givers lap. Then the walking will begin. We will walk and walk! Someone from our team will stay on the track all night walking. Please come and join in even if you can't stay all night. Stay for 1 hour or 2, or as long as you want. This is a very emotional event that you won't want to miss. All money raised will go to the American Cancer Society.

**FireProof** practices each Thursday night at 6:00pm.

**No Youth meetings** on Sunday, May 8 due to Mother's Day.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Christian Education Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00pm in MJ's office. All are invited to participate. Donnye Fields is the chairperson.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Monday, June 13 through Friday, June 17**

Each child will become a cadet who will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, children will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have your cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Ages four years through those entering 8<sup>th</sup> Grade are encouraged to be a part of this special children's summer ministry of First Presbyterian and First Christian Church. VBS will be held at First Presbyterian Church from 9:00-12:00pm each day. Nursery will be provided for the volunteer staff.

Several changes have been made and parents will be receiving a letter soon with these newest update from First Presbyterian Church. One of which is a separate offering for those entering 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade based on serving which includes Bible study, serving others opportunities, and joining in for the opening and closing celebrations each day with the children. More details about this and the rest of VBS will be delivered to your homes soon.

Mortgage Incineration Fellowship and Ceremony - Celebrated on Sunday, May 1

Meat and drinks were provided by the membership department

The membership department also provided red and white, biodegradable balloons that were release on the front steps!

*With Gratitude for All who Sacrificed for the Work of God's Kingdom!*

## Graduate Recognitions

by Missy Eakin

On the morning of May 21 four of our young folks will become graduates of Shelbyville Central High School:

Kasie Leigh Caldwell- granddaughter of Joyce Bell and daughter of Benita Bell Caldwell

Daniel Stewart Farrar- son of Lynne and Dennis Farrar

Shelby Marinda Forsythe- daughter of Charleen and Tim Forsythe

DeShawn Shonta Manley- granddaughter of Rhonda and Leighton Reed and daughter of Kim Reed Manley

As these fine young adults begin their post-high school endeavors, our congregation will be sending them on their way with laundry baskets filled with appropriate items. These items include:

- dorm room supplies
- apartment basics
- “away from home” living items
- gift cards for restaurants and superstores
- laundry and cleaning supplies
- small plastic containers
- Sharpie marker sets
- Post-It notes
- small appliances (tea kettles, popcorn poppers)
- towel sets
- non-perishable food items
- many, many others!

Beginning on Sunday morning, May 1 through May 15, the membership department will have labeled laundry baskets available in the gathering area. Gifts may be placed in these baskets. During the week, baskets will be held safely in the Anne’s office.

During worship on May 15, we will pray for our graduates, and they will share with us their immediate plans for life after high school commencement. There will be a reception for the graduates and their families immediately after worship in the gathering area.

## 2011 General Assembly

July 9-13, Bridgestone Arena

[www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/tabid/59/Default.aspx](http://www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/tabid/59/Default.aspx)

## Nominating Cmte Update

by Susan Derryberry

The Nominating Committee for the officers of the church, as determined by the constitution and by-laws, is in place in order to prepare for the new church year beginning in July. Please share your suggestions and ideas with any of the committee members. Your ideas will be most welcome. Committee members include the full-time ministerial staff along side Dale Alexander, Roy Bartlette, Susan Derryberry, Bonnye Fields and Johnny Reed.

## DWM Update by Janelle Douglass

The April meeting featured a program by Sherry Swing a former resident of Next Step Home. Sherry gave a touching talk which inspired us all. She also helped us sew during Helping Hands. Other visitors were Libby Covington and Cheryl Jackson who are sewing volunteers at NSH. Additional visitors were Darlene Bowman and Barbara Beckert from Central Christian Church/Murfreesboro CWF/DWM group.

### Bake Sale Contributions 2011

Christian Churches in TN	\$1800.00
Good Samaritan	\$200.00
Cross Homeless Shelter	\$100.00
Week of Compassion	\$200.00
Imagination Library	\$100.00
CASA Works, Inc.	\$200.00
Great Strides	\$100.00
Community Clinic	\$100.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00
Care Givers	\$100.00
Haven of Hope	\$100.00
United Way	\$100.00
Center for Family Development	\$200.00
Total	\$3400.00

There will be a box in the gathering area for donations for Next Step Home supplies. Items needed are:

toilet tissue	Kleenex
laundry detergent	dish washing liquid
trash bags	bath soap
liquid hand soap	paper towels
other items needed for daily living	

Next month’s meeting will be May 10 at 9:30 for Helping Hands, with lunch at 11:30 and a program to be presented by Kay and Kyle Dennis.

Janelle Douglas, CWF/DWM President



### VBS DAILY THEMES (June 13-17)

- Day 1 - The Creation Story: Children are reminded of all God has created - both seen and unseen. Our God is wonderful! Praise God!
  - Day 2 - God is with Elijah at Mt. Horeb: Children are reminded that God is always with them just like the moon is always next to the earth, even when it can't be seen. Our God is incredible! Praise God!
  - Day 3 - Jesus knows the woman at the well: Children are reminded when they look into a star-filled sky that God has created and knows each star just as God has created and cares for each one of them. Our God is amazing! Praise God!
  - Day 4 - Jesus heals a blind beggar: Children are reminded that a comet is nothing more than a dirty snowball in outer space until it comes close to the sun and transforms into a brilliant glow in the sky just as their lives are transformed as they grow into a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our God is magnificent! Praise God!
  - Day 5 - Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus: Children learn that a super nova is an exploding star giving birth to new stars just as Jesus' life and resurrection gives new birth to all who believe in Him. Our God is awesome! Praise God!
- The committee has chosen to return to a center rotation format for this year. Small groups and their group leader will rotate between four centers: Bible Story, Crafts, Recreation and Discovery Time.

HOW CAN YOU BE A PART OF VBS MINISTRY? Volunteer to be a leader, a committee member, or a prayer warrior.

Mission Pilots are the group leader who pilot children from one activity center to another, lead children in reflection time and review.

Leaders and assistants for the four year olds through those entering kindergarten: Areas where your gifts and talents can be used: leading a bible learning station, telling the bible story, games related to the theme, science lab and more.

Registration: Help for both the first day and for daily morning sign in/out.

Decorating: Help decorate during the week prior to VBS, especially on Saturday and Sunday

Please contact Donnye Fields, Christian Education chairperson or Mary Jane to share how you would like to be a part of this year's VBS! Planning meetings are every Thursday during the month of May, at First Presbyterian Church, 6pm.

## Prayer Concerns of the Church

### Nursing Homes or Assisted Living

- Cecil Cleek  
*Glen Oaks Assisted Living*
- Mildred Bobo  
*Christian Care Center*

- Milbrey Eakin
- Melba Henry  
*Carriage House Inn*
- Opal Summerall  
*Donaldson Place*

### At Home

- Billy Gunter
- Wallace Hancock

- Normanda Huffman
- Max McCullough
- Annette Palmer
- Amy Philpott
- Johnny Reed
- Cornelia Riddle
- Bill & Naomi Thompson
- Ted York

## May Birthdays

- |    |                  |    |                       |    |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| 2  | Dee Wenzel       |    | Sarah Riddle Caperton | 23 |
| 4  | Jimmy Clark      | 13 | Michael Sharp         |    |
| 5  | Wallace Hancock  | 16 | Juanita Anderson      | 24 |
| 6  | Michelle Murray  |    | Andi Hawell           |    |
| 7  | Rhonda Reed      | 18 | Michael Coffey        | 25 |
| 8  | Chris Simmons    |    | Cindy Whitfield       | 27 |
| 9  | Tom Hulan        | 21 | Carol Crouse          |    |
| 10 | Alix Harwell     |    | Stephanie Crouse      | 29 |
|    | William Thompson |    | Billy Gunter          | 31 |
| 11 | Bonnye Fields    | 22 | Ruby Taylor           |    |
|    | Donnye Fields    |    | Theresa Ervin         |    |

## May Elders

- Rose Marie Clark
- Ray Smith

## May Deacons

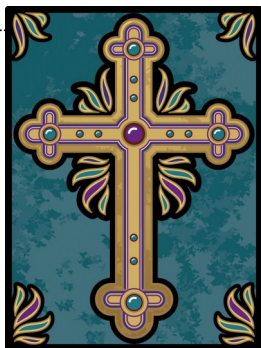
- Buddy Taylor
- Ellen Taylor
- Tera Overcast-Davis

- Cristin Murray
- Brannon Potts
- Tera Overcast Davis
- Cory Smith
- Ted York
- Roy Bartlette
- Alexandra Coffey
- Iris Schuman
- Chris Boggs

# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 7pm - CBS w/ Eric Richardson	3 Circle IV 6pm Mitzi Crick's	4 ☩	5 9:30am-C.B.S.  6pm - VBS mtg at FPC***	6	7	<b>VBS Meetings</b> Every Thursday in the month of may at First Presbyterian Church See p. 4  <b>FireProof</b> practices each Thursday night at 6:00pm
8 Men's Breakfast 7:30am	9 7pm - CBS w/ Eric Richardson	10 9:30 Helping Hands 11am - DWM 6pm Christian ed mtg	11 ☩	12  6pm - VBS mtg at FPC***	13 5:30pm Who's Cooking and Sleepover**	14 8am end sleepover 4-7pm Children's Fishing**	
15 8am - elders' mtg. 6:30pm - cabinet mtg.	16 7pm - CBS w/ Eric Richardson	17  Circle I Circle III	18 ☩	19 Staff mtg 9am  6pm - VBS mtg at FPC***	20 6-8:30pm 4th/5th	21	
22 5:30pm Youth Fundraiser Meal	23 7pm - CBS w/ Eric Richardson	24	25 ☩	26  6pm - VBS mtg at FPC***	27	28	
29	30 CLOSED  Memorial Day	31  T-ball coach/ parent mtg.					

\*\*May 13 - 14  
 Children's Activities  
 Cooking, Sleepover, Fishing, Picnicking  
 See page 3



☩ Wednesday Schedule  
 is suspended for the summer,  
 except for  
 7:00pm—choir rehearsal

\*Mother's Day  
 Men's Fundraising Breakfast  
 May 8

**Memorials have been given in loving memory of:**

**MARY ARNOLD**

Joyce Bell

Anita, Bonnye & Donnye Fields

Charles & Karen Sue McDonald

Wayne & Iris Schumann

**EDWARD C. HUFFMAN, SR.**

Ann T. Farrar

The Plateau Group, Inc.

**MAC PALMER**

Joyce Boggs

George & Kay Dennis

William & Virginia Ann Haynes