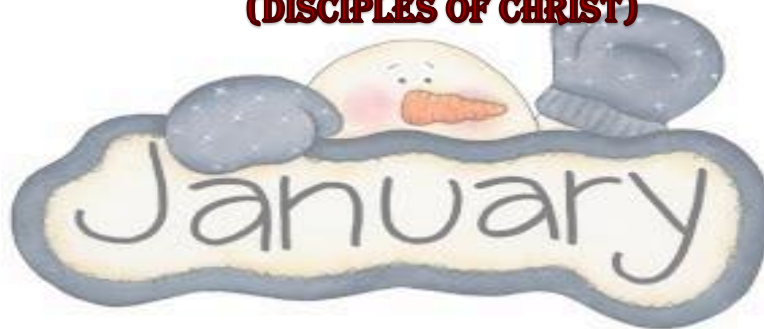


# THE GOOD NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 1

## FROM FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



January 2024

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News/Notes .....	4
Calendar .....	3
Prayer List .....	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	5
Disciples Making Disciples .....	6



Reach up to God,  
Reach into our hearts,  
Reach out to others.

### Pastor's Annual Report:

This past year was a busy one as the bulk of our energy was centered on preparing for the 2024 Regional Assembly which will be held at Fairhope Christian Church on April 26-28. There were updates to the restrooms, lighting, electrical panel, sanctuary sound, landscaping, parking lot among others. We held several meetings both locally and with the region going over plans and lining up volunteers. We secured our offsite locations for the women's and men's luncheons as well as the all-assembly dinner. We have lined up caterers to provide meals at each of these events as well.

Ecumenical Ministries stayed with us until the end of October upon which time they moved into their new kitchen at their office space on Fairhope Avenue. We were blessed to be able to support them during this last year and a half by offering our kitchen space for their Meals-on-Wheels program.

Ellen and I attended the Ministers and Mates event in January in Fort Walton.

We held weekly game days for the first part of the year where we played bingo. This was a great time of fun and fellowship.

We also held several movie nights where we enjoyed light-hearted movies, some popcorn and fellowship.

In January we began a six-week Bible study "With all your Heart." We followed that up with a five-week study, "The Path to the Cross."

The church participated in a listening conference held here on February 5, as we gave thoughts and insight into the search for a new Regional Minister.

We held a noontime and an evening Ash Wednesday service on February 22.

Fred Crawford and Don Jennings also led Bible studies during the middle part of this past year.

In April, I had the privilege of driving the van for our CWF to Mobile for a tour of the Mardi Gras Museum and lunch.

We held two Red Cross blood drives, one in June and the other in August which both went very well.

I attended the Regional Transformation event in Birmingham in August as well as participated in several regional board meetings and anti-racism training meetings.

(Continued on page 2)

We welcomed a third and fourth grade boy's bible club into our facility. They meet once a week as these young men learn more about the bible and their faith journey.

In September/October we offered another installment of our video Bible study series, this one titled, "Walking with God in the Desert."

Rev. Jim Clifford and I also held a four-week grief support class as well as a Hope for the Holidays seminar in October.

I have continued the weekly prayer group that has met on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am via zoom as well as part of the monthly men's group (when I could make it).

I also led the opening prayer at both the city council and county commission meetings several times over this past year.

We participated in the live Nativity again this year that was held on Sunday, December 3.

We also held our longest night service on Thursday, December 21 and one service for Christmas Eve that was held at 10:00 am.

We had to say goodbye to several members of our family this past year, Morris White, Barbara Smith, Robert Rucando, Gary Turner, Hugh Hays and Linda Talley.

I had the privilege of baptizing three youth on November 12: Caitlinn Ragland, Colbie Ragland and Gabe Light.

This year was also one of change as Ellen and I made the decision to move closer to our grandchildren in Birmingham, AL. This was not an easy decision but through intense prayer we felt God pulling us in this direction. I have accepted a position at Valley Christian Church to be their senior pastor. Words cannot express the level of love and gratitude I have for this wonderful congregation. These past eight plus years have been a blessing to me in so many ways. The care and support we have received has been tremendous and you will always be on our minds and in our hearts.

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

We began the year with a gathering of parents and youth to decide how to move the youth group forward. It was decided to hold two meetings a



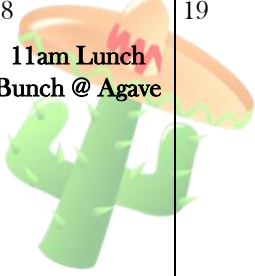
month on the second and fourth Sundays beginning at 4pm. It was agreed that there would be a short devotional, some fun and a meal. Later in the year, we moved the meeting times up to 11:45 am.

During this past year, the youth have raised funds to benefit Baldwin Family Village through a spaghetti dinner and visited Wales West Railway as well as played putt-putt. They have been active in the church helping clean up and participated in the Youth Sunday taking part in the first Sunday of Advent service as well as performing a play.

We had three youth who were baptized in 2023  
- Gabe Light, Caitlinn Ragland and Colbie Ragland.



# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5	6 Men's Fellowship 9am 
7 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	8 9:30 Search Committee 1:30 Craft Circle 6:30 Magnolia Squares	9 10am CWF 7pm CWF (Zoom) 	10	11	12	13
14 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	15 9:30 Search Committee 1:30 Craft Circle 6:30 Magnolia Squares	16	17	18 11am Lunch Bunch @ Agave 	19	20
21 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	22 9:30 Search Committee 1:30 Craft Circle 6:30 Magnolia Squares	23	24	25	26	27
28 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	29	16 2:45 pm Boys Bible Club	31			

## NEWS AND NOTES

Welcome interim part-time minister David Massey!

Many of you know David and Betty Massey better than I do. David was the Administrative Board Chairman at Fairhope Christian Church about 10 years ago. Born in Bay Springs, Mississippi, he went to Mississippi College, in Clinton, MS. He served as a pilot for some 14 years before moving to the Mobile area. He moved there in 1989 and brought with him his wife, Betty. David went back to college and majored in engineering. He worked in the chemical plants in the Mobile area.

Both David and Betty felt the call of the Lord to go into the ministry care vocation in the early 2000s. They joined the Disciples of Christ church and later became members of Fairhope Christian Church. David and Betty were called to take the place of Pastor Rick Malugani at Westwood Christian Church in Pensacola when Pastor Rick was hired at Fairhope Christian. Betty will continue to serve at Westwood while David will join us at Fairhope. Welcome.

Fred Crawford, Chairman, Administrative Board

### **Christian Men's Fellowship**

Meeting is on Saturday December 6th at 9am. Coffee & donuts will be served.



Thank  
you 

We the staff here at FCC thank you, the congregation, for your generous year end bonus to us. We love you and are blessed to be serving such a wonderful group of people.

*Anya, Cindy and Justin*

**Sign up sheets for 2024 are ready.  
SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER!**

### **We pray for others in the Disciples' Fellowship:**

1/7 - Athens First, Clint Coffey, Minister  
1/14 - Anniston, First, Laura Hutchinson & Maria Zamarripa, Ministers  
1/21 - Auburn, Village, Tommy Morgan, Minister  
1/28 - Birmingham, Primera Iglesias, Roberto Rodriguez, pastor

### **Military Prayer Requests:**

**Sgt. Samantha Helms,**  
Anchorage, AK; granddaughter of Morris & Janet  
**Major Ross Malugani,**  
Ramstein AFB, Germany; son of Pastor Rick & Ellen

# Happy Birthday

## Happy Anniversary!

1/9 Margaret & Don Jennings



1/1 Jonathan Light

1/8 Marsha Jansen

1/9 Pat Bagby

1/12 Helen Renner

1/16 Jim Clifford

1/18 Brian Talley

1/19 Dian Magnus

1/19 Norma Mullins

1/22 Laura Talley

1/24 Kaki Chambers

1/26 David Massey

1/27 Bob Broughton

1/29 Caitlin Ragland

## *Our Church Prayer List*

Bryson Akins	Jessica Fleming	Peggy McCarthy	Margie Robinson
John & Frances Alford	Phyllis Fondren	Brad Jason McCullough	Elise Rogers and Family
June Berry	Berry Fulford	Mark McGee	Jennifer Penry Romano
Kristy Bishop	Lonnie Gibbs	Rev. Bob Moffitt	Lisa Seymour
Sandra Bishop	Michelle Greene	Barry Nix	Elijah Sprague
Paul Bivins	Sharon Grimes	Emily O'Toole	John Stephens
Shannon Boatwright	Louise Good	Mike Patrick	Millie Stephens
Jesse Bond	Peggy Harbin	Audrey Peed	Talley Family
Margaret Buchanan	Calvin Hanson	Chance Pope	Laura Todd
Nettye Carter	Bobby and Barbara Harris	Cullen Potter & Family	Oleta Volking
Logan Chandler	Daniel Herrea	Sharon Quimby	Daryl Wasp
Haley Clift	Dottie Hughes	John Ray	Xavier Weller
Clay Conrad	Jerry Johnson	Matthew Rice	Erika White
Crawford family	Tony Long	Marlene Robinson	Charlie Wiggins
Don Darnell	Mack Maclaren	Wally & Judy Robinson	Fonda Winfrey
Paula Darnell	Sarah Maddox	McKenzie Rockwell	
Blake Ernest			





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## Disciples Making Disciples

### Sharing the Good News in Our World Today



#### *Pebble Evangelism*

Remember Nicodemus? We meet Nicodemus in the third chapter of the Gospel of John. Nicodemus was a highly respected religious leader in the Jewish community but something was pulling at his heart. He knew Jesus was from God but could not get around his religious training. Nicodemus knew in his heart that his religious training could not save him so he came to Jesus in the night for help with his problem. That's when Nicodemus becomes our example of the second way for Disciples to make Disciples—through the pebble in the shoe method.

Here is what Disciples know: Religiosity impedes genuine salvation and as such, a religious prodigal must die to his religiosity before he can marvel at the gospel. People often become caught up in religious things: “their” church, “their” Bible study, “their” interpretation of the gospel. People come to love their

religion more than God's Righteousness. Salvation is never about works no matter how good they are. Nothing we do is good enough. To get out of this rut, we must embrace our moral bankruptcy. C. S. Lewis once wrote, “No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good.” (*Mere Christianity*, 142).

Nicodemus knew the Law, but Jesus speaks instead of the Kingdom of God. That is the pebble in the shoe. We take the discussion from what a person perceives he or she can do and focus on only what God can do. When we see someone lost in their self-righteousness or religiosity, place a few pebbles in their shoe. Do not be afraid to speak the truth. It may take a while but eventually the pebble will win out because the person knows in their heart that salvation comes only from God.

Blessings,  
*David Chambers*



**Fairhope Christian  
Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
349 Fairwood Blvd.  
Fairhope, AL 36532

**Join us! Everyone is welcome!**

**Sunday Schedule:**

Sunday School - 9 am  
Worship Service - 10 am  
(live-streaming online)

**Office Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
9 am - 2 pm  
Phone: 251-928-8495

E-mail: [pastor@fairhopechristian.org](mailto:pastor@fairhopechristian.org) or  
[office@fairhopechristian.org](mailto:office@fairhopechristian.org)  
[FairhopeChristian.org](http://FairhopeChristian.org)

**Church Staff:**

David Massey, Interim Pastor  
Cindy Bishop, Financial Assistant  
Anya Scott, Administrator  
Justin Gipson, Choir Director  
Anya Scott, Musician