



First Impressions

Worship God, strengthen His people, and reach out
with the Love of Christ

Volume 16 Issue 11

November 2009

The Power of Being One

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” – Acts 2:1 KJV

Jesus chose a bunch of unlikely characters when it came to the group of men with whom his church would be founded. They had been with him for three years and as a group they had witnessed wonderful things. Some had heard the Father’s voice at our Lord’s baptism saying, *“Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased.”* Later, others heard an echo of those very words on the Mount of Transfiguration. From a prison cell John the Baptist heard in Jesus’ words what the disciples witnessed: *“The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them” (Luke 7:22).* Let’s not forget the feeding of the multitudes and the disciples themselves healing the sick and casting out demons in Jesus’ name. Yes, the lives of this rag-tag bunch of ragamuffins called “the twelve” had been changed forever.

In spite of all they had experienced together, the disciples remained a diverse group. Over this three year period of togetherness one might expect somewhat of a growing unity among these men, yet in many ways each man remained an individual. We know of jealousies among them and we know that some sought places at Jesus’ right and left in his new kingdom. Peter, himself, remained impulsive, sometimes by being boisterous and pushing ahead of the others. Take a look at Judas – even though the twelve were constantly together he managed to plan Jesus’ betrayal in their midst and they didn’t even see it coming. Yes, perhaps it should come as no surprise that Jesus’ fervent prayer to his Father on the night of his betrayal included the plea that his disciples **“may be one”** (John 17:11, 21-22).

On Pentecost, Jesus’ prayer was answered. They were all with one accord in one place. Not only were they physically together, but they were also with one accord, united in mind and heart. Perhaps for the first time since they had been called together, the disciples had come to the change of mind and heart that permitted them to love one another, to prefer one another, to take on the mind of Christ. Perhaps each was able to suspend his judgment of the others and recognize his own great need for a savior. Perhaps, having been forgiven by Christ of all their failings, denials, and betrayals they were finally able to forgive themselves and each other. Whatever the reason, the disciples were with one accord, in one place, and the Holy Spirit of promise was loosed amongst them. May we pray that the Church, here in Birmingham and all over the world would experience such unity today!

Lord Jesus Christ, with your words we petition the Father that all believers may truly be one. Make our hearts to be like yours, that we may never be an impediment to the unity you desire. Amen.

Pastor Tom

Thank You, Southern District and Pastor Kurt, for allowing me to paraphrase the devotional material received from the District New Worker’s Orientation.

1st Glen Thompson
 1st Dcs. Peg Anderson
 2nd Audree Mathew
 4th Anne Allen
 4th Henry Hayes
 6th Rachel Mudd
 10th Heather Lackey



12th Larry Donaldson
 24th Trent Shiflett
 26th Leslie Hayes
 27th Kathy Roberts
 29th Bill Donaldson
 30th Gail Pugh



Nov. 10 - Brett & Sherry Stiefel
 Nov. 10 - Cecil & Norma Jefferson
 Nov. 11 - Stan & June Weir
 Nov. 21 - Gregg & Tammy Rudd



Worship for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas is as follows:

Wednesday 11-25-09 6:30 PM = Thanksgiving Eve Service with Holy Communion

Wednesday 12-02-09 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM = Breaking Bread Fellowship
 6:30 PM = Evening Prayer with Homily

Sunday 12-06-09 10:15 AM = Worship/Christmas Drama

Wednesday 12-09-09 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM = Breaking Bread Fellowship
 6:30 PM = Evening Prayer with Homily

Wednesday 12-16-09 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM = Breaking Bread Fellowship
 6:30 PM = Evening Prayer with Homily

Sunday 12-20-09 10:15 AM = Lessens & Carols

Thursday 12-24-09 7:00 PM = Christmas Eve Worship

Friday 12-25-09 10:00 AM = Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church -

- November 1 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED
- November 8 - Kate Cahill
- November 15 - Carol Lackey
- November 22 - Myra Grund
- November 29 - Kate Cahill

Readers:

- November 1 - Wilson Whittington
- November 8 - Carol Lackey
- November 15 - Mike Grund
- November 22 - Donna Speegle
- November 29 - Toby Cahill

Altar Guild: Kate Cahill

Candles: Kate Cahill

Communion Assistant:

November - Mike Twiss

Ushers: Graham Sisson, Victoria Sisson,
Pat Ryan, David Ryan

Worship Assistant:

November - Charlie Hayes

Nursery: Meg Callahan

Harvest - Graham and Victoria Sisson go through the Bible one chapter at a time.

Small Group - Topical Bible study for a limited number of participants taught by Rachel Mudd.

Adult Bible Study - General Bible study taught by Mike Grund.

Children's & Youth Sunday School Classes:

Pre-School - for kids 2-5 years old who cannot read.

Early Elementary - for kids in 1st - 3rd grade with limited reading skills.

Upper Elementary - for kids in 4th - 5th grade.

Middle School - for youth in 6th - 8th grade.



Retirement Home: Dorothy Adair, Annie Harrell

Recovering: Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer, Leo Perry, Hildegard Wesson, David Cybul & Bernie Cybul (Krista Wanats' brother & Father), and Floyd Seibert (Charlene Seibert's brother).

Thanks & Praise: For the safe return of Joel Lackey from military duty.

Illness: Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor).

Missionaries: Meg Tumbleson (China), Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).

Members who have lost their jobs.

Those Serving in the Military



11/1 - Ray & Julie Cvangros in honor of their 20th wedding anniversary.

11/8 - Stan & June Weir in honor of their wedding anniversary.

NOVEMBER 2009

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First

6:30 PM Church Council Meeting

8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First

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First Impressions

Anonymous @ First

1	2	3	4	5
	5:30 PM - 6:20 PM "Reverend - Bob Collier" Fellowship 6:30 PM - 7:10 PM Evening Prayer with Horally	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission



From the church President

Planning To Go Fishing

“Come follow me, Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19

On October 9 and 10, the church’s leadership met to plan for the future. Twenty-five people spent two days at Emmanuel reflecting on our past decisions, reviewing our current position, and planning for our immediate future. We were very fortunate to have Pastor Rick Armstrong from Lutheran Counseling Services as our facilitator for the retreat. With his help, we reviewed the challenges and opportunities of the congregation. We discussed the various ministry models available to us (remaining on the Southside, merging with other local congregations, relocating to a new location, and using Emmanuel). In addition, we discussed if we should pursue calling a senior pastor.

By the end of the retreat we had agreed to the following:

1. To pursue calling a senior pastor,
2. To defer the decision to move to a third location until we call a senior pastor,
3. To establish three task forces to set goals for the congregation for the next two years.

These task forces will address the following ministry foci:

Offering multiple types of worship services – Wilson Whittington (chair), Carol Lackey, and Pat Thompson.

Expanding the number of small groups – Mike Grund (chair), Donna Speegle, and Heather Lackey.

Expanding community involvement – Dee Mayhew (chair), Mike Twiss, and Myra Grund.

Each group wants to add additional members to their group from people who were not at the retreat. Please contact the chairperson if you would like to participate. The task forces will present their ideas at the December Council Meeting which is scheduled for December 7 at 6:30 PM at First.

In addition June Weir (chair), Jim Campbell, and Rachel Mudd are serving on a committee to contact people who have left the congregation recently or have lost regular contact with the congregation. They are seeking their input as we strive to move forward.

As we move into the future, Pastor Armstrong encouraged us to build on our assets, use the gifts God has placed among us, do ministry based on our strengths, and recognize that we will always have some weaknesses. We must realize that the Gospel calls us to action and that there are no spectators in our religion. It is time for us to use the gifts God has given us.

I look forward to every member of the congregation being involved. It is time to go fishing!

Glen Thompson
President

Service & Fellowship

Outreach to the “least of these” in our community



The Evangelism Board would like to offer the opportunity for our members to help us reach out and serve “the least of these” in our community. Highlands Methodist has invited us and several other churches to join them as they serve the homeless in our community.

Their church on the square in the Five Points area welcomes, serves breakfast, and fellowships with the homeless six mornings a week. Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:0 am, men and women are fed, can receive new clothes, have their clothes washed, receive mail, and receive assistance in applying for I D’s. Highlands has been growing in this ministry for 20 years and First will have a group helping on the first Saturday of each month. We will be working alongside a team from Highlands and other area churches from 8:30 to 10:00 am. Please contact Dee Mayhew or see the signup sheet in the hallway to volunteer for any of these Saturdays that you can “do for the least of them as unto Christ”

Matthew 25: 35-40



A reminder that the Prayer Team meets every Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us in the library at First Lutheran.



Children’s Church teachers are needed for

one Sunday a month. If you are willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Myra Grund.



Mark your calendars, cook some food, and bring it to church on Sunday, November, 29, 2009 for the 5th Sunday of the Month Potluck & Fellowship. What a great way to hang with some old friends, meet some new friends (please bring these), and get rid of all the Thanksgiving leftovers!

Hope to see you after Worship Service on Sunday, November 29th.



PASTOR APPRECIATION POTLUCK

The Board of Deacons is sponsoring a pot luck luncheon for Pastor Tom & Carol Lackey following worship service on Sunday, November 15, 2009. Plan on attending to show your appreciation for our Pastor!
If you have any questions, please contact your deacon or Toby Cahill.

The church secretary requests that all announcements for the Sunday bulletins be submitted by Wednesday afternoon (subject to approval & possible editing). Also, the newsletter editor requests that articles, information, announcements, corrections, and deletions be submitted by the **THIRD** Wednesday of the month by **11:59 PM**.



They sincerely appreciate your cooperation.



The Fellowship Board announces the return of Game Night on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at First/Emmanuel. There will be food and fun for all ages starting at 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Snacks and lots of laughs will be provided. Wear the colors of your favorite sports team and we'll have some friendly competitions between groups. So be sure to mark November, 21, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on your calendars and BE THERE!!!



TAKE STOCK IN OUR YOUTH

Over the next 11 months the youth will be selling shares of stock in a continued effort to raise funds for the 2010 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Shares, which may be purchased from our youth, are \$10.00 each and the shareholder will receive a stock certificate. This certificate entitles the shareholder to a dinner and special presentation where the youth will share their experience(s) upon returning from the Gathering. Please consider taking STOCK in our Youth and purchase more than one share and help our youth attend this awesome event!
Special thanks to Sherry Stiefel and Julie Cvengros for volunteering to be our two chaperones needed for this event.



The church secretary would like to sincerely apologize for any mistakes made in the Fall Directory. Corrections, additions, & deletions will be an ongoing process so please make the following in your copy: Eric Kilbourne's area code is 256; Amy Neimkin is no longer at the listed address; Jennifer Morrison (Buettner) transferred. If you are aware of any other changes, please contact the church office.



First Lutheran Church

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Adults
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Communion Service 1st and 3rd and 5th Sunday

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday Morning Worship Service &
Sunday School for Children & Adults
Combined at First

First Lutheran Church

2507 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205-2497

933-0380 Fax 933-8879

Pastor's E-Mail: church@firstlutheranbham.org
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November 2009

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