



# Azalea City Church of Christ

“A Place for Families, A Place for You”

3550 Schillinger Road North, Semmes, Alabama 36575 WWW.AZALEACITY.ORG (251)649-2436

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## Everybody Loves A Baby

At this time of year, many people are looking forward to celebrating Christmas. If you tell them that Jesus was not born on December 25th, and that you celebrate this time of year like any other national holiday - a time of family fun and get-together, you will probably get a strange reaction.

Why is it that Christmas is so popular to so many people around the world? History tells us that Christmas was unheard of until the 4th century. It's very beginning as a "religious" holiday was placed at December 25th to coincide with pagan holidays already in place. By the middle ages it had become a carnival-like holiday in which people, after going to religious celebrations at their church, would then engage in drunken parties. Because of this, Christmas celebrations were banned in Europe, but were eventually revived. When the Puritans came to America, Christmas was ceased because they said it had no Biblical basis whatsoever. It was not until the 19th century that the religious celebration of Christmas again became popular. Again, we come to the question of "Why?". Why is this the most favorite time of the year? It's not because of an apostolic action found in Scripture - such is simply not there. You simply cannot base it's popularity upon any Biblical basis whatsoever, thus the question still remains.

Could it be based on the fact that "Everyone loves a baby"? When most people think of Christmas, a picture of a baby comes to mind. A cute, precious baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes. But is that the picture that Jesus desires us to have in our hearts and minds? The scriptures do give the description of Jesus being born. Then you have a gap of 12 years before you next see Him in the Temple. Then you also have another gap of 18 years until He starts His earthly ministry at age 30. Even the writers of all the epistles do not dwell on Jesus as a baby in the manger, but as a man - the God-man who went about doing good, teaching others, and eventually being crucified, buried, and resurrected. It seems to me that people don't really want to be bothered by the Jesus of the Bible. They simply love a baby. Why? No demands... No rebukes... just a little baby to admire. They don't care to hear things like:

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven. (Matthew 5:19-20)*

*Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. (Matthew 7:21)*

*I tell you, nay, but except you repent, you shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)*

*If you love me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15)*

They look at such words, and they don't like what they hear. They turn their back on the God-man Jesus and His "hard sayings" (John 6:66) and look to that little baby who makes no demands. After all... everyone loves a baby.

David

### MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to **EXALT** Christ, **EVANGELIZE** the lost, **EDIFY** the saved, and be an **EXAMPLE** to our community.

### 2009 THEME: WALKING WITH HIM

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps." **1 Peter 2:21**

## YOUTH GROUP

Jason Killough - Youth Minister  
(251) 455-6443- cell

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Today- Teens return from FUEL at Gulf Coast Bible Camp around 11:30 a.m.

December 16- Sing His Praises

December 18- Tween Christmas Party at the Decks

December 19- Teen Christmas Party

## CONGRATULATIONS

William Busby will be inducted to the National Honor Society based on his 3.8 GPA, home, school and community service. Way to Go!

## BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

John 11:25-27

## IMPORTANT DATES

Exposure Youth Camp- December 27-30, \$100 is due before we leave

GULF- January 15-18, Cost- \$100, this is due before we leave.

Parents, I need Chaperones for GULF, Please let me know if you will be able to help with this trip, I need to know by Wednesday Night.

These are great events in order to grow spiritually. Please get involved!

## YOUTH GROUP MISSION

To grow into one of the strongest, God fearing, neighbor loving, cross centered, Bible studying youth ministries in the world today.

## THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Announcements	Terry Cagle
Video Media	Tom Deck
Ushers	Jacob Durham
	Taylor Copeland
Song Leader	A.M. Steve May
	P.M. Steve May
Scripture Reading	A.M. Nathan Myers
	P.M. William Busby
Opening Prayer	A.M. Kevin Crowell
	P.M. Bill Pierce
Closing Prayer	A.M. David Kirby
	P.M. Drew Nelson

### 9th Man

**Mike Wright**

### Men to Serve the Lord's Table - December

Harold Enke	Robert Oliver	Kent Wilkerson
Daivd Durham	Larry Dye	Phillip Odum
Johnny McDonald		George Spurlock

**Lord's Table PM:** Roy House

**Communion to Shut-Ins:** Mike Eubanks

### Greeters for November

**Front: Side:**

### Nursery Attendants

**A.M.** Jamie Goleman **P.M.** JoAnn Brown

**Toddler Training Room:** Rachel Myers

**Children's Bible Hour:** Randy & Tammy Miller

### Men to Serve Wednesday, December 9th

**Song Leader:** Frank Nelson **Prayer:** Jeff May

**Lock up Building for month of December:** George Spurlock

**Prepare Communion:** Bob & Wanda Hankins

**Coordinate Meals for Sick & Bereaved:** Need Volunteer

## ELDERS

Kevin Crowell	Mike Eubanks
Stan Holland	Rudy Pierce

## STAFF

**David Myers** Pulpit Minister

**Terry Cagle** Associate Minister **Jason Killough** Youth Minister

**Carra Deck** Secretary **Glenda Carpenter** Secretary

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

## THE RECORD YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Study	146
Morning Worship	227
Evening Worship	118
Wednesday Bible Study	146
<b>Contribution (Regular)</b>	<b>\$6,476.00</b>
<b>Weekly Contribution Need</b>	<b>\$8,607.80</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY: CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 5:30

Dec 8th - SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 11:00

Dec 12th - HOMEBUILDERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec 13th - ELDERS/MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING 4:00

Dec 14th - MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER 6:00

Dec 16th - WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER - CHILI 6:00

Dec 18th - PIONEER GAME NIGHT 6:30

Dec 22nd - MIDWEEK SERVICE 7:00

Dec 29th - MIDWEEK SERVICE 7:00

Feb 6th - NEXT ACCS/MCS FISH FRY

## SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



The senior citizens' Christmas luncheon is this Tuesday, December 8th at 11:00. Once again, the school children will sing Christmas carols, and we have a special treat! Brother Billy Lambert will be our speaker for the day! There are sign up sheets for food in both foyers. If you are **not** a senior citizen, please sign up to bring food for the luncheon.

## ELDERS/MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING

We will have a very important elders/ministry leaders meeting next Sunday afternoon at 4:00. We will be discussing the upcoming 2010 budget. We need to have every deacon & ministry leader at the meeting so we can discuss your area of ministry. Please make plans to attend the meeting.

## CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Steve has planned congregational singing for tonight at 5:30. Please plan to come back tonight a little early and join in the singing. We will be singing some new songs and some old favorites.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Jeremy and Stephanie Lewis and proud grandparents, Don and Sara Andrews, on the birth of Elijah Scott on Friday, November 27th. Elijah weighed 8 lbs 6 oz and was 21½" long.

## ADULT BIBLE CLASS DIRECTORY

Sun Aud. David Myers - The Book of John  
Sun F'hall Terry Cagle/Bill Pierce - Fundamentals of Faith  
Wed Aud. David Myers - Hebrews: Beautiful Savior  
Wed Fhall Ladies' Class - Various Topics

## PANTRY ITEM OF THE WEEK: CEREAL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CRAYONS FOR CHILDREN:** We have placed bags of crayons and coloring sheets in the front foyer. If you have small children who want to draw, please have them draw on these instead of the attendance cards. Please return the crayons to the front foyer after church.

**COMMUNION TO SHUT INS** is available for anyone who might need it. If you need to have communion brought to you (or know someone who does), please contact the church office.

## HOMEBUILDERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Homebuilders' Christmas party will be this coming Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at Bill & Tricia Pierce's home. Each person who wants to participate in "dirty Santa" will need to bring a \$5 wrapped Christmas ornament. Please also bring finger foods, desserts, and drinks.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We will be having Wednesday night dinner on Wednesday, December 16th. The menu is chili. If you can help out by making a pot of chili or bringing desserts, please sign up on the sheet located in the side foyer.

## MCS SCHOOL UPDATE

Mobile Christian School will be having their annual school update on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions that you would like answered at the meeting, you can submit them by calling the front office at 661-1613 or emailing them to Mr. David Pahman at david\_pahman@mobilechristian.org

## SPANISH FORT CHURCH OF CHRIST

Spanish Fort Church of Christ is having a special open house and dedication of their new church building today. They will have many events happening throughout the day and Cornerstone will be singing at 2:00. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

To our Forever Family,

There are no words to say how much we appreciate the calls, visits, and prayers from everyone in the church. We pray God knows how very blessed this family of Believers have made us feel. Thank you all so much for keeping mother and I in your prayers.

Yours in Christ, Betty and Debora Graham

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER (members)

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW OF ANY CHANGES IN THE PRAYER LIST

**Jamie Overton** - Had jaw surgery Tuesday, recovering at home  
**Lou Holland** - Cataract surgery on Tuesday went well  
**JoAnn Brown** - Recovering from knee surgery, doing extremely well  
**Michelle Jayroe** - Has shingles  
**Betty Graham** - Doing well  
**Trez Rudder** - Recovering at her sister's - 33971 Lee Rd, Robertsdale, AL 36567  
**Deborah Moody** - Still recovering from pneumonia  
**Ruby Allsup** - Infection in her leg  
**John Allsup**  
**Jane Campbell**  
**Myra Blizzard** - Back pain  
**Brenda Odom**  
**Bill & Betty Nichols** - Bill is on hospice care  
**Billy Allsup** - Back problems, deteriorated discs  
**Nita Mae Eubanks**  
**Bill & Eunice Day** - Health problems  
**Audrey Anderson** - Thyroid problem, on medication  
**Cubby Merrell** - Lots of health problems (Paul & Debora's grandson)  
**Rainie McInvale** - Back surgery 12/29  
**James & Esther Bell** - Health problems  
**Paul & Debora Merrell**  
**Linda Lockler** - having to resume treatments for blood problem

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER (friends & family)

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW OF ANY CHANGES IN THE PRAYER LIST

**Charles McMillian** - Mob. Inf., Rom 5609 - Having surgery Monday to put a stint in his leg to try and improve the blood circulation in his foot (Belinda Russo's father)  
**Kathy Ferguson** - Broke femur (Beverly Hall's daughter)  
**Jeff Ludlam** - Recovering from back surgery (Mandy Schmitz's brother)  
**Loretta Vaught** - Cancer has returned in her liver (Tricia Pierce's mother)  
**Larry Miller** - Home, cancer (Stacy Cagle's father)  
**Wanda Browning** - Cancer, surgery Dec 7th at Providence (Nita Mae Eubanks' daughter)  
**Lillie Pierce** - Health problems (Kathy Henebry's mother)  
**Mr. Newbill** - SMH, many health issues (friend of Libby Phillips')  
**Lester McIntyre** - Mob Inf, had surgery 11/23 (friend of Libby Phillips')  
**Faye Smith** - Had a bad fall (friend of Rachel Myers')  
**Elaine Dearmon** - Stroke (friend of Chris & Candi White)  
**Michelle Batchelor Mills** - cancer, had double mastectomy, in Atlanta  
**Debbie Johnson** - Bad fall, may need surgery (Helen Jones' daughter)  
**Chris Barrett** - Cancer (friend of Lisa Marler's)  
**Kathy Finch** - Various health issues (Rhoda Carpenter's mother)  
**Addie Jones** - Congestive heart failure, on hospice care (June Tart's mother)  
**George Loden** - Heart problems (Pauline King's brother)  
**Vera Hill** - Cancer returned, radiation treatments soon (Dora Wright's sister)  
**Madelyn Fetner** - Neonatal diabetes, treating with insulin (Ben & Jennifer's baby - members at Univ. COC)  
**Frances Davidson** - Been sick for long time, Drs don't know why (Jerry's wife)  
**Fred Roschen** - Cancer, not taking any more treatments (Margaret Istre's friend)  
**Gil Ludlam** - Blood clots in leg, on medication (Mandy Schmitz's father)  
**Cindy Buford** - Had leg amputated (Libby Phillip's neighbor)  
**Judy Lincoln** - Needs liver transplant (former member)  
**Larry Williams** - Complications from kidney transplant (Easter's son)  
**Amy Dominques** - Cancer of lymph nodes (relative of Helen Jones)  
**DC Mosley** - Bone & blood cancer (Quincy & Pat Woodard's neighbor)  
**Gerald Ruiz** - Hit by tractor trailer 7/20, paralyzed from waist down, not doing well (address on bulletin board for cards) (Kathy Henebry's co-worker)  
**Doris Moss** - Doing better (Bob's mother)  
**Freddy Corina's father** - Health issues  
**Toni Lucas** - Lymes Disease (Perry & Donna's daughter-in-law)  
**Mary Bauer** - Cancer, on chemo (Tom Deck's aunt)  
**Icleatus Albritton** - home  
**Temple Anderson** - Cancer (elder at Opelika Church)  
**Jessica Weller** - Cancer free (friend of the Roberts family)  
**Mary-Kathryn Harrison** - Has Gorlin's Syndrome  
**Michelle Epperson & Darian Guy**  
**Pauline Russell** - cancer (Tim's sister)  
**Donald Thrower** - Various health issues (Glenda Wilkes' brother)  
**Breanna Moore** - 18 mth old, incurable disease (friend of Blankenships)  
**Brynn Woods** - Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma (3½ yrs old)  
**J.T. Harrison** - Back problems  
**Ann Weaver** - Cancer (friend of Glenda Warren)  
**Charlie Peterson** - Cystic Fibrosis (child) (Mac & Jamie Goleman's friend)  
**Billy Jones** - Mother is battling ovarian cancer (Kevin Crowell's friend)  
**Michael Hornbuckle** - Head injury, another 6 months of recovery  
**Teddy Mears** - Bone cancer  
**Ronin White** - Cancer (Linda Lockler's 7 yr old nephew)  
**Hixon Nobles** - Friend of David & Sarah Myers  
**Pauline Russell** - Cancer  
**Patricia Jones** - Colon cancer  
**Greg Lewis** - Cancer (friend of David & Sarah Myers)  
**Dylan Gibbon** - Blood disorder (JoAnn Gibbon's young grandson in Calif.)  
**Elders, preachers, missionaries, college students**  
**our Country & leaders**

## EXPECTANT MOTHERS

**Lori Holland** (June 2010)

## OUR MILITARY

**Josh Henebry** - Marines, Afghanistan (Rick & Kathy's nephew)  
**Jason Odom** - Iraq (Phillip & Tammy's nephew)  
**Chris Campbell** - Navy  
**Randy Pierce** - Marines, Fort Pendleton (Rudy & Nita's grandson)  
**Kenneth Andrews** - In Iraq (Terry & Sue's son)  
**Aaron Allsup** - Stationed in Italy (John & Ruby Allsup's grandson)  
**Jacob Pierce** - Leaving 12/1 for Iraq  
**Matthew Geroux** - Deployed to Kyrgyzstan, 6 mths (Phillip & Tammy's son-in-law)  
**Keith Moss** - Marines, in Afghanistan (Skip Garner's son-in-law)  
**Dewayne Nix** - Navy, stationed in Corpus Christi, TX  
**Manuel Baldwin** - Iraq (Natasha Polk's-member at Univ COC-fiance')  
**Michael L Burroughs** - Navy, back in the states (Irene King's son)  
**Layne Ortiz** - London & **Ryan Ortiz** (Beverly Hall's niece and her husband)

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

**Today** - Ruby Allsup  
**Monday** - Evelyn Cornelison  
**Tuesday** - Gerald Copeland, Ricky & Tammy Buford  
**Wednesday** - Tommy Blizzard  
**Saturday** - Joyce Simmons, Taylor Thomas,  
Candi White

