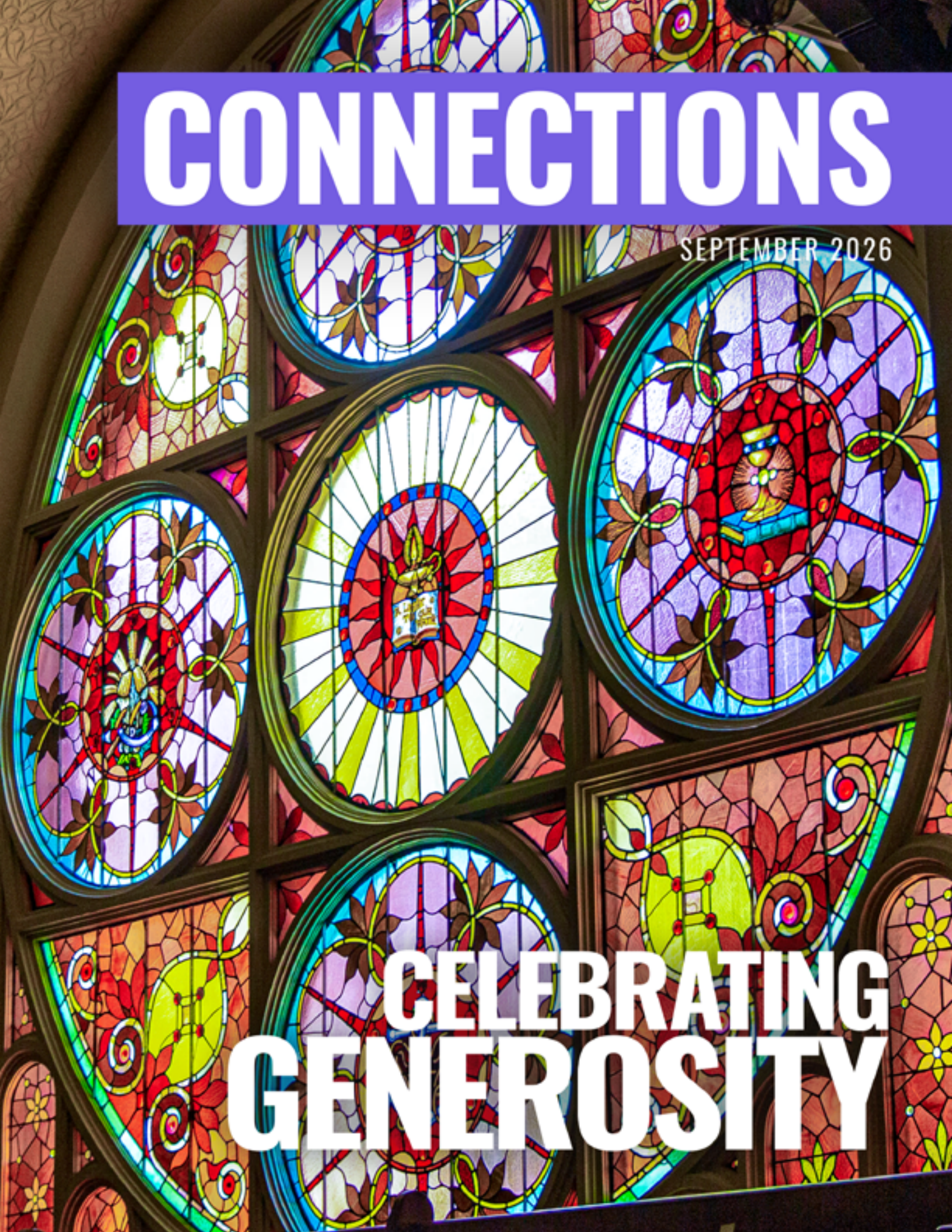
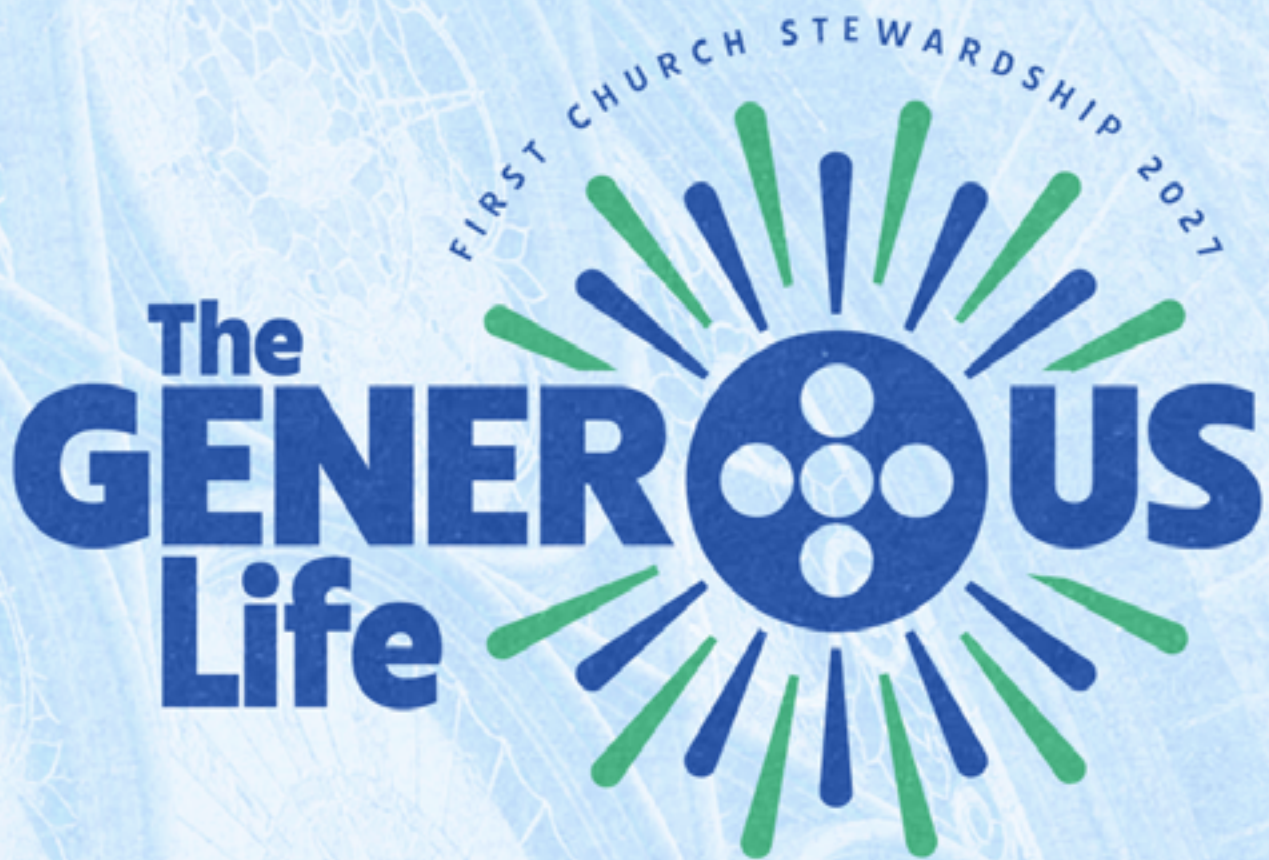


The background of the entire page is a vibrant, colorful stained glass window. It features several circular medallions containing religious symbols: a central medallion with a sunburst and a book, another with a chalice and host, and others with floral and geometric patterns. The colors are rich, including reds, blues, yellows, and greens, set against a dark leaded glass framework.

CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2026

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY



Throughout our sacred text, we find stories of generous living - characters who experience transformation, who give with intention, and who believe in making the impossible possible. We learn that generosity isn't simply a focus for one month each year, it's a way of life. For stewardship this fall (and continuing throughout the remainder of the coming year), we will explore what it means to live a life of generosity. In a world that thrives on the idea of scarcity and spending, we will dive into the truth of abundance and seek to live out our calling to share our resources.

SEPTEMBER 13
TRANSFORMATION
(LUKE 19:1-10)

SEPTEMBER 20
INTENTION
(LUKE 21:1-4 or JOHN 12:1-8)

SEPTEMBER 27
HOPE
(1 KINGS 17:8-16 or MATTHEW 14:14-21)

STEWARDSHIP 2027

As we explore THE GENEROUS LIFE this stewardship season, we will celebrate the love and abundance that surrounds us. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how we measure a year in the life of First Church.

Then, as we conclude stewardship on Sunday, September 27, you are invited to pledge your financial resources to continue the mission and ministry of First Church into the coming year. As a reminder, making a pledge each year allows us to be good stewards of our resources while building our budget for the coming year. You are invited to return your pledge card by placing it in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, or making your pledge online.

Click [HERE](#) to make your 2027 PLEDGE now!

Celebration of **GENEROSITY** *Party*

Join us on Sunday, September 27 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm at The Upstairs at Avondale (201 41st S) as we celebrate the generosity of this community. In addition to light appetizers made by Deana Solfronk of Southern Chic Catering, you'll be able to purchase drinks at the bar (both alcoholic and nonalcoholic). There will be live music, a special presentation, and a musical sing along like you've never experienced before. This is a family friendly event and we hope you'll join us as we celebrate all that awaits First Church in the coming year! Please [RSVP](#) so that we can make sure to have enough food for everyone who wants to join us.

9.27.26
4:00PM – 6:00PM

Wednesday Night **DINNER** & **PROGRAMMING**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK! Join us on Wednesday nights beginning September 9 for dinner and programming, with dinner beginning at 5:15pm and programming at 6:15pm. You can sign up for dinners throughout the fall [HERE](#).

On Wednesday, September 9, we'll kick off the fall season with a **FREE DINNER** together. Although there is no cost for our first Wednesday Night Dinner, we ask that you register your attendance [HERE](#) so that we can be good stewards of our resources. Reservations are due by Monday, September 7 at 12:00pm.

In addition to our ongoing group opportunities, we'll be kicking off September with two short-term small group opportunities. Click [HERE](#) to read more about our small group options this fall.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

2:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Hark! The HERALD Angel



A Musical Drama About Charles Wesley

First Church is excited to welcome S. T. Kimbrough as he presents "Hark! the Herald Angel – A Musical Drama About Charles Wesley" on Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 in the Sanctuary. "Hark! The Herald Angel" is a one-person musical drama which deals with Wesley's struggle against poverty, reluctant acceptance of Holy Orders, and life as a Church of England clergyman. In addition, the presentation will cover Wesley's adventure to America, opposition to slavery, social and spiritual reform, personal transformation, courage in the face of violence, and the stormy beginnings of the Methodist movement. "Hark! The Herald Angel" debuted at Carnegie Hall in New York in 1985 and we are now excited about the opportunity to share it with you.

After worship on Sunday, September 20 and prior to "Hark! The Herald Angel" we will host a churchwide lunch. The meal costs \$10 and reservations must be made by Monday, September 14. Click [HERE](#) to reserve your meal.

We hope you'll make plans to join us for lunch and stay to see this widely acclaimed musical presentation.



SUNDAYS AT 5:00PM - 6:30PM

CONFIRMATION

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

This fall our sixth and seventh graders will begin Confirmation classes. Confirmation is a meaningful milestone in the faith journey of our students as it offers the space to ask honest questions, learn more about the church, explore what it means to follow Jesus, and begin claiming their faith as their own. While Confirmation is designed for sixth and seventh graders, it is open to any student who has not yet been through the confirmation process and would like to join us.

We will gather once a month on Sunday evenings from 5:00pm – 6:30pm in the Youth Room. Each gathering will include dinner, class time, conversation, and something fun. Confirmation classes will take place on the following Sundays:

SEPTEMBER 13 | OCTOBER 4 | NOVEMBER 8 | DECEMBER 6
JANUARY 10 | FEBRUARY 7 | MARCH 7 | APRIL 4

To finish our time together, we will hold a Confirmation Retreat April 9–11 at Camp Sumatanga.

As a congregation, we have the privilege of surrounding these students with encouragement and care as they begin this important season. If you, your family, your small group, or your Sunday School class would like to provide dinner for the youth on one of these nights, please reach out to Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com.

In addition, we invite you to pray for our confirmands as they learn, wonder, grow, and begin to claim their faith in deeper ways this fall. We also invite you to pray for the adults who will walk alongside them throughout this season.

Getting To **KNOW US** *Dinner*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 6:00PM

If you have been visiting with us at First Church, have recently joined, or are interested in learning more, you are invited to join us for a meal together around the table. We will gather at 6:00pm on Thursday, September 24 in the Large Dining Room for good food and fellowship. Childcare is available with a reservation made by Friday, September 18. Click [**HERE**](#) to learn more and register to join us.



First Church 101 returns this fall through a series of four different Sunday morning sessions during the Sunday School hour. From 9:45am – 10:45am on Sundays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25 we will gather in the Parlor to learn more about the United Methodist Church and First Church in particular. We are excited about this new opportunity to dive in and learn together. Click [**HERE**](#) to let us know you plan to attend.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM'S CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

Save
the
Date

FEBRUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 14, 2027

Save
the
Date

Mark your calendars for February 12-14, 2027 for our annual Church-wide Retreat at Camp McDowell! We are looking forward to being back together for time spent in community, laughter, prayer, and rest (and, of course, karaoke!) More information regarding our theme and registration will be available soon.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM JUSTICE & MERCY EMAIL LIST

Justice & Mercy is creating a new email list! We will use this email list to keep people aware of upcoming volunteer opportunities with our community partners as well as any action items we think the First Church community should know about. These items can include: contacting senators via email or phone, upcoming protests, and any other opportunities that fall in line with our priorities. If you would like to be included on this email list, click the link below or reach out to Rea (rea@firstchurchbhm.com) for more details! Please note: after this new list is made, we will no longer use the previous list. If you would like to receive Justice & Mercy related emails, please sign up for the new list by clicking [HERE](#).

CONNECT FALL RETREAT

(4TH THROUGH 6TH GRADERS)
OCTOBER 23 - 24

4TH- 6TH GRADE students are re invited to the Connect Fall Retreat at Camp Sumatanga, October 23-24! Connect Ministries brings kids from First Church together with students from other local United Methodist churches.

Through retreats, service projects, and special events, students build friendships, have fun, and discover they are part of a larger connectional church family.

During the retreat, students will enjoy hikes, fellowship, worship, crafts, and time together at Sumatanga Pool Camp. The subsidized cost to attend is \$95 and the deadline to register is Monday, October 5. Click [**HERE**](#) to register now.

MARY MAGDALENE

Sunday Morning Study

This fall we are launching a new opportunity to participate in short term small groups on Sunday mornings. The first will be a study of Mary Magdalene led by Jay Jessee for 3 weeks beginning Sunday, September 13 at 9:45am in the Carolyn Pitts Classroom (basement level of the Education Building at the end of the hall). Click [**HERE**](#) to read more.

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF PEGGY JACKSON MONTIN

FROM THOMAS WILLIAMS

IN MEMORY OF ROCHELLE ANDERSON

FROM JOHN AND BETTY MCMAHON

FROM MARLIN ANDERSON III

IN MEMORY OF REV. DR. PHILIP BAKER

FROM RIA HEARLD

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA ROBERTS

FROM DAVID AND TERRI GLASGOW

IN MEMORY OF RALPH JOLLY

FROM MATTHEW MCMILLAN

FROM STEVE AND STEPHANIE ARNOLD

IN MEMORY OF SARAH JOLLY

FROM MATTHEW MCMILLAN

IN MEMORY OF ANN KEITH

FROM REBECCA KEITH

IN MEMORY OF PATRICK SLUDER, II

FROM KELLYE SELF

CHOIR SPECIAL

IN MEMORY OF PEGGY JACKSON MONTIN

FROM LYN GRANT

IN MEMORY OF ROCHELLE ANDERSON

FROM LYN GRANT

PRAYER TEAM INVITATION

In Philippians 4:6-7 we are given powerful words about prayer, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.” At First Church, we believe in the supporting love of prayer. One of the commitments we make to one another is that we will pray for our church family. If you would like to support your church family through the ministry of prayer, you are invited to sign up for the weekly prayer team email by emailing Jonathan Goss at Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com.

In addition, if ever there is a request that you would like to include on the prayer list, please reach out to Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com to let him know it is ok to share that information with a wider audience.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00am

LOFT & SANCTUARY IN PERSON WORSHIP

11:00am

LIVE STREAM

Click [HERE](#) to view our monthly calendar.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM STAFF

YOU MAY REACH OUR STAFF AT 205-254-3186 OR BY EMAIL

Senior Pastor: KEVIN THOMAS	Kevin@firstchurchbhm.com
Pastor: JONATHAN GOSS	Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Pastor: KATIE GILBERT	Katie@firstchurchbhm.com
Associate Pastor: REA GREEN	Rea@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Community Engagement: KATHERINE MULLEN	Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Families & Youth: ASHLEY HESS	Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com
Organist: RICHARD BYRD	Richard@firstchurchbhm.com
Design: BLAKE HOBBS	Blake@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Music: PATRICK EVANS	Patrick@firstchurchbhm.com
Office Administrator: PEG THOMPSON	Peg@firstchurchbhm.com
Business Administrator: STEVE PITTS	Steve@firstchurchbhm.com
Maintenance Supervisor: COTY SMITH	Coty@firstchurchbhm.com
Wedding Director: BETSY PATE	Betsy@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Director of Early Learning Center: CASSANDRA COPELAND	ELC@firstchurchbhm.com



an OPEN place for ALL to **WORSHIP, GROW,** and **SERVE**

518 North 19th Street • Birmingham AL 35203
205-254-3186 • www.firstchurchbhm.com