

# The Good News

First Christian Church  
Anniston, AL

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April 2009

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## Easter Is Coming! ⊕ ♥ !!

Be sure to **bring a friend** to church on Easter. We want a **full house**. We will be celebrating all morning long, opening our hearts to welcome the Risen Christ!

**8:30 ~ Easter Early Service** ~ Outside, weather permitting; in the Friendship Room if too cold or wet. This service will be in partnership with Iglésia Cristiana. The kids will be part of the service, and we will be doing our now traditional "Flowering of the Cross". ⊕ ♥ !!

**9:15 ~ Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast** ~ Make sure to sign up to help provide our breakfast and to bring candy for our Easter Eggs so the kids will have lots to find. During breakfast, we will be taking pictures of various groups of servant-leaders to update our website. ⊕ ♥ !!

**10:00 ~ Family of Faith Hour** ~ After breakfast, we will remain in the Fellowship Hall to talk together about our journey through Lent. We will hear from some folks about their experience of "Unbinding Your Heart" and brainstorm about how more of us can be involved with small group study and prayer going into the future. ⊕ ♥ !!

**11:00 ~ Easter Morning Worship with Baptism** ~ We will gather in the fullness of the day to worship the Risen Christ and to welcome a new member of the Body of Christ through a service of baptism. ⊕ ♥ !!

**Thurs., Apr. 9 ~ Holy Thursday Service ~ 6:00 pm ⊕**

**Sun., April 12 ~ EASTER ⊕ ♥ !!**

**Wed., Apr. 22 ~ Pause for Prayer PLUS ~ 6:15 pm ⊕ !!**

**Sun., Apr. 26 ~ Outdoor Service ~ 11:00 am ⊕ ♥ Ω !!**

## Order Easter Lilies Now!

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> will be the last day to order Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary. They are \$9 each and may be dedicated in honor or memory of someone special. Order envelopes are on the Engaged Faith Table in the Friendship Room. ♥

## Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, you are invited to join us as we remember the events of Holy Week in our traditional Holy Thursday service. The church will be open for prayer on Friday as well. ☉

## Service of Baptism

On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the risen Christ with an extra share of joy, as we welcome Mark Williams into deeper fellowship in the Body of Christ, as he goes through Christian Baptism. Mark has been attending for a year now, and made his confession of faith last fall. Please make sure to be here to welcome him! ☉ ♥ !!

## Easter Best for Pictures

On Easter morning, during breakfast, we will be taking pictures, particularly of those in leadership positions, so that we can update our website. Please be here. ♥

## Help Prepare for Easter

Everyone is invited to join the Deacons on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 to prepare for Easter. We will be setting up tables, decorating, stuffing and hiding eggs, and filling the baptistry.

## Outdoor Service 4/26

Our annual Outdoor Service for Earth Stewardship Sunday will have a special twist this year – a guest speaker. Dr. Katy Hinman of the Methodist Church and Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, will be here to share with us a message about our Christian calling to care for God's earth. You can learn more about what Katy does at [www.gipl.org](http://www.gipl.org). Ω

We will have a tent, but we encourage you to dress appropriately for the weather and to bring bug spray, sunscreen, and lawn chairs. Fellowship will be outside as well.

## Special Class on Hymns ☉

On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to a special, one-session class during our Sunday Morning Study. We will be looking at how the words and the music go together in the songs we sing in church. Pastor Rebecca will provide some interesting, funny and strange examples for your examination. ☉ !!

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

It's not quite here yet as I write this, but Easter is coming very soon. And as we await its arrival, we have so much to celebrate!

Attendance in worship is up, giving has been generous and faithful, and numerous people have stepped out in faith to commit to prayer and small group study during this Lenten season.

Spring is breaking out all around us, and we'll hopefully have two chances to worship outside this month (Easter early service and Earth Day service).

Are you ready to welcome the Risen Christ into your heart? Have you done your spiritual spring-cleaning? Only a couple weeks left, and then the Day of Resurrection will be here and the celebration will begin!

*Peace and grace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*p.s. See you in church!*

### **Pastor on Retreat**

Pastor Rebecca will be at Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat center, preparing her heart and mind for Holy Week, April 1-4. ⊕

## **Service Schedules ♥**

### **April Meetings ♥**

Elders – Sun., Apr. 5, 12:30  
Mission – Wed., Apr. 8, 6:00  
Stewardship – Wed., Apr. 15, 6:00  
Spiritual Form. – Sun., Apr. 19, 12:30  
Fellowship – Thu., Apr. 23, 5:00

### **Elders ♥:**

Apr. 5: Robert Soleman  
Apr. 12: Marie Bittle  
Apr. 19: Mary Elizabeth Johnson  
Apr. 26: Anne Phillips

### **Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:**

Apr. 5 & 12: Lori & Kenny H.  
Apr. 19 & 26: Colin G. & Janna S.

### **Fellowship Hosts ♥:**

Apr. 5: Suzy Spiceland  
Apr. 12: Fellowship Team  
Apr. 19: Karen & John Russell Reaves  
Apr. 26: Suzy Spiceland & Marie Bittle

### **Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:**

Apr. 5: Kenny Hays / Rebecca L.  
Apr. 12: Bob Phillips /  
Apr. 19: Joanne Wells /  
Apr. 26: Karen Reaves / Rebecca L.

### **Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:**

Apr. 5: Suzy S. / Lori H. / Deane A.  
Apr. 12: Janie M. / Laura P. / Karen R.  
Apr. 19: Anne P. / Dick B. / Mary Lib J.  
Apr. 26: Janna S. / Karen R. / Joanne W.

### **One + One + One Key**

⊕ = You ♥ = Church Ω = World  
!! = Bring a friend!

## **Disciples Women** ⊕

**Thank you** to everyone who helped assemble the 25 CWS/WoC Hygiene Kits we dedicated on March 15<sup>th</sup>! Ω CWF/Disciples Women will not meet this month. Offerings may be given to Mary Elizabeth now or in May. ⊕

## **Mother's Day Blankets** Ω

The CWF/ Disciples Women invite you to honor your mother or another beloved mother-figure for Mother's Day by donating the cost of a blanket to be distributed to refugees and disaster victims by Church World Service. We will begin accepting donations on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Blankets are \$5 each. Ω

## **Child Abuse Prevention Month** Ω

Big Brothers Big Sisters will be marking Child Abuse Prevention Month by placing pinwheels in our yard throughout April. The pinwheels represent all those who work to intervene in abusive situations to provide safe and healthy homes for all children. Ω

## **Praying the Psalms** ⊕

"Praying the Psalms" will resume on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Everyone is welcome to join this prayer and Bible study group. ⊕ !!

## **Pause for Prayer PLUS** ⊕

Don't miss prayer, singing, Bible study and communion, Wednesday night, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pause for Prayer will be at 5:00, as usual, and the PLUS will start at 6:15. Come and bring a friend! ⊕ !!

## **Sunday Morning Study** ⊕

In April, our Sunday Morning Study schedule will vary: on April 5<sup>th</sup> we'll finish our Acts study; on Easter we'll have special events; on April 19<sup>th</sup> we'll have a Words & Music Class; and on April 26<sup>th</sup> we'll set up for the Outdoor service.

In May, Pastor Rebecca will be leading a Bible study on the Book of Revelation. You won't want to miss the opportunity to take a thoughtful and informed look at this highly abused portion of scripture. We meet in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:30. All welcome! ⊕ !!

## **NOVELS GROUP** ⊕

The Novels Group will be meeting **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** at the church at 1:00 pm to discuss "**Home to Holly Springs**" by Jan Karon. This is a one-session discussion, open to anyone who has read the book. Anne Phillips leads this group. Come and bring a friend! ⊕ !!

## Mission C-Team Introduces Recycling Program Ω

The Mission Coordinating Team will be asking the congregation to start recycling on Sunday, April 26, at our Annual Outdoor Service. We have considered what materials we use most often and what is most feasible. We will be installing two extra bins in the **Fellowship Hall kitchen**. One will be for **plastic bottles and jugs**. If possible, we request that you rinse and crush these items. Plastics #1 and #2 are most useful. The other bin will be for **aluminum cans**. These can also be rinsed and crushed. We will be looking for volunteers to drop off what's collected occasionally at Waste Recycling on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Let Colin Green know if you can help with that. Ω

## Neighborhood Outreach for Outdoor Service !!

The Evangelism Team invites everyone to join us on **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** for a walk around the neighborhood. Since we'll be having church outside on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, we thought it would be good to let our neighbors know what's going on and that they're welcome. **Meet us at church at 1:00** for warm-up conversation and prayer, and then we'll hit the sidewalks.

## Time to Start Preparations for 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ♥

Our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee will be getting started soon. Have you thought of creative ways we can celebrate this milestone? A brainstorming meeting will be scheduled in early May, open to all who are interested in helping with plans for our year-long celebration in 2010. ♥

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## *Sharing about Stewardship ~ Thanks for your Faithfulness! ♥*

Treasurer Suzy Spiceland and Assistant Treasurer Janie Morrow gratefully report that giving so far this year has been excellent. Thank you for your faithful stewardship! When we have had months with higher costs and let you know we need a little more, you have come through. When the steeple needed repairs, you chipped in. Faithful stewardship is one of the disciplines listed in our Mission Statement as a way to deepen our relationship with Christ. When we put "our money where our mouth is" it shows that our faith is more than "just words." We hope that you will continue to pray for the financial stability of our congregation and to see your own stewardship as an important part of your faith walk. ♥

# Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

## José and Ana Leaving Iglésia - Carmen Reyes Called as Pastor

José Matos and Ana Rivera have announced that they are stepping down as pastors of Primera Iglésia Cristiana Hispana here in Anniston, so they can further their education in Indianapolis at Christian Theological Seminary. They will be leaving at the end of June, but returning for some special events in July. ☩

Carmen Reyes, who had been serving as an associate minister at Iglésia, has been called by the Project Advisory Team (Iglésia's Board) to serve as primary pastor starting July first. Carmen is already scheduled for a licensing interview with the Regional Committee on Ministry this month. Please be in prayer for our partner congregation as they go through all these transitions! ♥ Ω

## Regional Camps gearing up for Summer - Who Is...?

Registration is now open for all our Regional summer camps, including the traditional camps at Hargis, June 6-8 or 8-12, and fine arts camp in Panama City, June 22-26. The church is committed to paying half the registration fee of any child who attends from our church. See Pastor Rebecca for more information. ☩

## Easter Offering to Support Church-Wide Ministries

Our Easter Special Offering goes to support the many ministries of our denomination as a whole. This can include everything from missionaries, to support for congregations in transformation, to help for congregations re-settling refugees, to assistance with work trips, to support for pastors and congregations trying to find each other for ministry, to a thousand other things. Please review the flyer enclosed with this newsletter and give generously on April 5 & 12. ♥ Ω

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## **Regional Prayer Calendar**

*In 2009, we will continue to send cards with our prayer blessings to our partner churches in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. This year, we are inviting Iglésia to join us in signing the cards. The Prayer Calendar for April is:*

Apr. 5: Primera Iglésia Cristiana, Ft. Walton Beach, FL – José Diaz

Apr. 12: First Christian, Birmingham, AL – Edd & Mary Pat Spencer, Jan Watts

Apr. 19: Jeffries Memorial Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – Edward Williams

New Bethel Christian Church, Greenville, AL – Tommie Means

Apr. 26: Grateful Life Community Church, Huntsville, AL – Sherry Birney

# Calhoun County Civic Chorale Concert

## Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 3:00 pm ~ Anniston 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist

The Chorale will be singing John Rutter's "Requiem" (a mass for the dead), along with two pieces by Felix Mendelssohn. Look up these verses before the concert and see if you can identify them during each piece.

### **"Requiem"**

Movement 1 – *Requiem Aeternam* – Psalm 65:1-2

Movement 2 – Out of the Deep – Psalm 130

Movement 4 – *Sanctus* – Isaiah 6:3 and Psalm 118:26

Movement 5 – *Angus Dei* – Job 14:1-2 and John 11:25-26

Movement 6 – The Lord is My Shepherd – Psalm 23

Movement 7 – *Lux Aeterna* – Revelation 14:13

### **"How Lovely are the Messengers"**

Romans 10:15, 18

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***Celebrating the Unity and Diversity of the Body of Christ!***

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1327 Leighton Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36207

Visit us at [www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)

**Sunday School 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.**