

The Good News

First Christian Church

www.fccanniston.org

August 2009

Anniston, AL

256-236-1316

email:

fccanniston@bellsouth.net

♥ Do you believe in Miracles? Ω

Are you willing to work for one? Because a Miracle may be coming to First Christian Church, Anniston, early next summer! ♥

On Sunday, July 19th, the Council voted to apply to host the Region's **Miracle Day on June 5, 2010**, as part of our 125th Anniversary celebrations. That application has been approved by the Regional Division of Mission. Now comes the hard part! ♥

On **Sunday, August 16th**, we will be holding a **Congregational Meeting** to learn what is required for hosting a Miracle Day and discern whether this is the path we are committed to following. Regional Minister John Mobley, along with Rev. CJ Cobb of FCC-Cullman, which hosted Miracle Day 2008, will be here to help us understand fully what we're getting into. After their presentation and a time for questions, we will be taking a detailed assessment of your level of enthusiasm and commitment for this project. We cannot do it without you! **Please make a point of being here on August 16th for this important meeting!** ♥

The 125th Anniversary Committee will be dividing into 2 different teams if we go this way. They will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 12th to prepare for the congregational meeting. Please **see the back of the calendar** for an explanation of the hopes and dreams we have for our Miracle Day. ♥

Sun., Aug. 16 ~ Congregational Meeting re: Miracle Day ♥ Ω

Sun., Aug. 23 ~ Council Meeting ♥ See page 5.

Sun., Aug. 30 ~ Disciples Women Gathering ⊕ ♥ See page 4.

Sept. 11-12 ~ CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT ⊕ ♥ See page 2.

FCC ♥s Our Kids!

And we want you to help us show the world! Starting this fall, we are encouraging all church members who do not have young kids in their families to attend the various events of the children in our congregation. Maybe you can join the cheering crowd at a soccer game, or enjoy a band concert. ♥

This project has two goals. We want our kids to know that their church family supports them. And we want to spread the word about the strong bonds of love and care that we all enjoy at FCC. ♥

We are asking parents to help us by adding your child's events (any variety) to our Family Calendar which will be posted in the Friendship Room. ♥

For those attending, we have created "**FCC ♥s Our Kids!**" stickers for you to put on your shirt or jacket. Find an event, check with the parent to make sure you know how to get there, and enjoy! ♥

Rev. Tom Smith, of the United Methodist District Office, will be preaching on Sunday, Aug. 2nd, while Pastor Rebecca is at General Assembly. ⊕

Congregational Retreat

SAVE THE DATE ~ Sept. 11-12

You won't want to miss this year's Congregational Retreat, Friday and Saturday, September 11-12. We have big plans, and we hope that everyone will participate. ♥

Our retreat will be Friday evening and most of the day Saturday, with the assumption that you may not participate in every part of the second day. We are planning some special activities to make this year's retreat more intergenerational. ♥

We would love to hear your ideas. The Spiritual Formation C-Team is meeting on Aug. 9th to plan, so let us know what you would like to see happen at our annual retreat. ♥

Neighborhood Halloween Ω

Our Neighborhood Halloween Project was such a success last year and got such positive feedback from the neighborhood that we're planning to do it again this year. The holiday is on Saturday this year, and we hope you'll make plans to be here on Oct. 31st to help out. Ω ♥ !!

Like last year, we will need volunteers to spread the word in the neighborhood on Oct. 10 & 17, and lots of helpers the night of, to walk the streets, provide snacks, and welcome guests at the church. Ω ♥

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

I love our church! As you read this, I am in Indianapolis attending the General Assembly. Whenever I travel amidst our wider church, I carry you with me and my heart swells with gratitude for the place where God led me to serve in ministry. But when I say I love our church, I don't just mean FCC-Anniston. I mean the whole church. I love assemblies, regional and general. Having been in the church in four different places, I have lots of friends strewn all over the place who come together at this big Disciples "family reunion". It's not the best week for napping, but it sure is a lot of fun!

The only thing that would make this week better would be if you all had come with me. I wish you could experience the excitement, the energy, the incredible worship services and the togetherness that make up a General Assembly. Maybe next time, in Nashville in 2011, you can join me at this wonderful party! Then I could have the 2 churches I love all in one place!

Peace and grace,

Pastor Rebecca

p.s. See you in church!

Service Schedules ♥

August Meetings ♥

Sp. Form CT – Sun., Aug. 9, 12:30

125th/MD – Wed. Aug. 12, 6:00

Congregation – Sun, Aug. 16

Evangelism – Tue., Aug. 18, 5:00

Council – Sun., Aug. 23, 12:30

Elders ♥:

Aug. 2: Anne Phillips

Aug. 9: Judy Bell

Aug. 16: Robert Soleman

Aug. 23: Marie Bittle

Aug. 30: Mary Lib Johnson

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Eva McCullough & Suzy Spiceland

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Aug. 2: Gerald Roberts

Aug. 9: Suzy Spiceland

Aug 16: Rebecca L & Todd Lesh

Aug. 23: Lori Hays

Aug. 30: Disciples Women

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Aug. 2: Lori Hays / Julie Nix

Aug. 9: Bob Phillips / Marie Bittle

Aug. 16: Kenny Hays / Rebecca

Aug. 23: Laura Phillips / Lori Hays

Aug. 30: Trace Smith / Rebecca

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

Aug. 2: Janna S. / Marie B. / Deane A.

Aug. 9: Janie M. / Lori H. / Karen R.

Aug. 16: Anne P. / Laura P. / Mary Lib J

Aug. 23: Janna S. / Dick B. / Janie M.

Aug 30: Janie M. / Karen R. / Deane A.

Calling All Women!

All women are invited to come to a Disciples Women's Gathering after worship on Sunday, August 30th in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to have a good discussion about how our church can more effectively meet the spiritual needs of women. ⊕

What will women's ministries look like in the coming years? How can we ensure we don't lose what's been good in the past? We need your voice, so make sure to join us! ⊕

Recycling Volunteers Ω

The Mission Coordinating Team is looking for a couple people who are free during the week-days to pick up and deliver our recycling. It doesn't have to be taken in every week, but at least once a month. Please let Colin Green know if you can help. Ω

A big Thank You to everyone who donated Ω School Supplies this year!

Need a Tomato?

The tomatoes Robert planted out front are starting to ripen, so if you need a tomato, pick one, but leave some for the neighbors too! Ω

Common Daily Bible Reading

Our Adult Study in August will continue discussing our Common Daily Bible Readings. And the discussion is picking up online too. Pick up a CDBR booklet soon and join in the journey! See Pastor Rebecca if you have questions. ⊕

Praying the Psalms ⊕

You are invited to join "Praying the Psalms" as they resume for the fall on Monday, August 17th at 5:30. They meet in the office. The group studies the psalms, shares stories and prays together. They meet twice a month on Monday evenings. See facilitator Marie Bittle for more information. ⊕

PAGE-TURNERS ⊕

The Pageturners will be reading "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows this month. They will meet to discuss the book on Monday, Aug. 31st at 1:00 at the church. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕

One + One + One Key

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

Council to meet, take up Region's request

The Council of First Christian Church will **meet after worship on Sunday, August 23rd**. **Council reports are due** from Coordinating Teams and others in the office on **August 13th**. All Council meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. The Council members should plan to **pick up their information packets** on Sunday, **August 16th** at church. ♥

The Mission Coordinating Team will be presenting an action item for the Council to consider. They are asking the Council to sign the congregation onto the Region's Reconciliation and Anti-Racism Initiative. The Region has created a booklet of suggestions for ways that congregations can work to dismantle racism in our hearts, our churches and our communities. They are asking congregations to commit "to being an instrument of true community by addressing the brokenness that is caused by the sin of racism and being a voice for reconciliation, in the spirit of Christ" and to use this guidebook in those efforts. If you would like to see the guidebook, see Pastor Rebecca. ♥

Evangelism Team Open to New Members

The Evangelism Team is meeting Tuesday, August 18th at 5:00. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in working with this team is invited to attend. The Evangelism Team is responsible for creating and coordinating the efforts of the whole congregation to spread the good news of Jesus Christ as we know it here at First Christian Church. They are working on some exciting projects right now, including **FCC ♥s Our Kids!** and preparing for our Neighborhood Halloween Project. We welcome your input. Come join in the fun! ♥

Sharing about Stewardship ~ Thanks a Million! ♥

The Stewardship Coordinating Team (Robert Soleman, Arlan Roszell and Janie Morrow) and your treasury officers (Suzy Spiceland, Janie Morrow and Anne Phillips) would like to express their profound gratitude for the faithful generosity of this congregation thus far in 2009. We have made it through the first seven months of this year without having to draw money out of our reserves to pay our bills. We cannot do this without the support of each and every one of you, and we thank you! We thank God for his continued faithfulness and we pray that this financial stability and growth will continue into 2010. ♥

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

News from Iglésia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo)

Our Hispanic congregation-in-formation, Iglésia Cristiana, will be installing their new pastor, Carmen Reyes, on Sunday, August 16th at their 2:00 service. You are invited to join them for this celebration. Carmen will be meeting with the Regional Committee on the Ministry on August 12th to apply for a ministerial license. Please be in prayer for her and the congregation as they live through this time of transition. ♥

Members of Iglésia have committed themselves to helping take care of our facility. They will be gathering at the church once or twice each month to do some serious cleaning. We thank them for this over-and-above contribution to the upkeep of our building! ♥

Meanwhile, we are hoping to do more and more activities together. The Fellowship Coordinating Team has scheduled another Bowling Day (!!) on November 14th, and we hope friends from Iglésia will be joining us that day. If you have suggestions on how to strengthen our partnership, please share them with Pastor Rebecca. ♥

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. In the summer, we include ministers who serve in non-congregational settings. The Prayer Calendar for August is:

- Aug. 2: Cottdale Christian Church, Cottdale, AL – Ben West
Robert Davis, Firehouse Shelter, Birmingham, AL
- Aug. 9: Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, AL – Jeremy Harbin
Nisha Warbington, Regional Staff, Youth Ministries
- Aug. 16: Mt. Moriah Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Nathan Hartley
Sèkinah Hamlin, SERF Minister of Reconciliation and Anti-Racism
- Aug. 23: New Hope Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Howard Jones
Salem Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Willie Smith
Diane Wood, Regional Staff, Young Adult Ministries
- Aug 30: First Christian Church, Huntsville, AL – Guy McCombs, Beth Thomason,
Kristi Hill and Mary Beth Johns
Betty Wright, Regional Staff, Women's Ministries

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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

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