

The Good News

First Christian Church
Anniston, AL

www.fccanniston.org

256-236-1316

August 2011

email: fccanniston@bellsouth.net

FCC Annual Family Retreat ~ 8/20 ♥

For all FCC Parents and Children ♥

We hope that all parents and children will be able to be here for our Family Retreat on Saturday, August 20th. We will begin at 9:00 am and go through 1:00 pm, with lunch provided by the Fellowship C-Team. You don't need to bring anything special, except what your family would normally need during that time.

♥

Church Family Values Conversation ♥

Though we'll have some fun activities for everyone to do together, the parents will also have some important conversation in their time apart. We are hoping to discuss some of the values that should guide our church family as we raise our kids together. Look for a letter that will get you thinking about what kind of issues and questions we need to discuss together, so that we can be on the same page – at least at church – with what's important for our kids. ♥

NON-PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ♥

This Family Retreat – an important ministry to our young families – is only possible because the rest of us pitch in to make it happen. Volunteers are needed to work with the kids while the parents have their discussion time. (See Pastor Rebecca if you can help with that.) Volunteers are also needed to help provide lunch. (See Robin Andrews if you can help with that.) THANK YOU! ♥

Sun., Aug. 14 ~ Missionary Elena Huegel visiting (see pp. 2 & 7) ⊕ Ω

Wed., Aug. 17 ~ Council Meeting (see page 5) ♥

Sat., Aug. 20 ~ Family Retreat (see above) ⊕ ♥

Sun., Aug. 21 ~ Miracle Day Pulpit Swap (see page 2) ⊕ ♥ Ω

Sun., Aug. 28 ~ Ice Cream Social (see page 4) ⊕ ♥

Welcome, Elena Huegel!

On Sunday, August 14th, we will be worshipping with Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, as we welcome our Global Ministries missionary in Chile, Elena Huegel. ☩ Our service will be a combined service in English and Spanish, so that everyone can be comfortable. Elena will be preaching and providing the children's moment. See page 7 for more information about Elena's visit in our area. ♥

We will work out the details of this service at our next Partnership Team meeting on Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. PICH will be providing dinner this time. ♥

Woodstock 5K!!!

Around ten FCCers will be participating in this year's Woodstock 5K and Kidstock on Saturday, August 6th. Some will run, some will walk fast and some will walk, but all of them plan to finish. We need your support! Please come to Pastor Rebecca's front yard around 7:00 am to cheer on our team. The address is 1504 Christine, but park in the alley in the back, as the street will be closed. We will have a sprinkler going and music playing to keep the race participants' spirits up. This is a great chance to show the community how much we care! ♥

Tote Bags for NACC Ω

Throughout August, we will be collecting tote bags for the Northeast Alabama Crisis Center. These bags are taken to the ER whenever NACC responds to a sexual assault. Ω

Please bring in a tote bag (re-usable grocery bag) that contains a t-shirt and shorts (both XL), underwear (size 9 or so), socks, a travel-size deodorant, and a toothbrush. Ω

We would love to get at least 15 of these filled tote bags collected for NACC. Thanks for your support! Ω

NACC is our Pass the Salt agency for August, so you can also make a cash donation. Their new director, Phillip Gramling, will hopefully be here Sunday, August 7th to talk with us about their ministry. Ω

Miracle Day Pulpit Swap

On Sunday, August 21st, Pastor Rebecca will be preaching at Madison Christian Church, which will be the site of the next Miracle Day, June 2, 2012. They have invited her to come share some of what made Miracle Day miraculous here in Anniston. Rev. CJ Cobb, who is now a member there, will be preaching here at FCC. CJ was the co-chair of our MD committee. Please be in prayer for Madison CC as they make their Miracle Day plans! Ω

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

The General Assembly in Nashville this summer was a time of great blessing in many ways. There was powerful preaching, inspiring music and the usual renewing of vital friendships.

I was touched to realize that many of the issues our denomination called out as important are things FCC has already been working on. One resolution called the church to prevent sexual abuse and minister to its victims and survivors. Our support of the Northeast Alabama Crisis Center is a testament to our commitment to this ministry.

Another resolution called the church to speak out against anti-Muslim rhetoric and action in society. Our church, primarily through our Ecumenical Book Group, has nurtured a strong, affirming relationship with the Anniston Islamic Center that I think we can be proud of and continue to learn from.

It is a pleasure to be your pastor and recognize all the ways that our witness is making a difference in our community!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca

P.S. See you in church!

Service Schedules ♥

August Meetings ♥

Partnership – Wed., Aug. 3, 6:30

Council – Wed., Aug. 17, 6:30

Elders – Sun., Aug. 28, 12:30

Fellowship CT – Wed., Aug. 31, 6:00

Elders ♥:

Aug. 7: Suzy Spiceland

Aug. 14: Robert Soleman

Aug. 21: Marie Bittle

Aug. 28: Anne Phillips

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Dick Bell & Shawn Taylor

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Aug. 7: Robin & Lloyd Andrews

Aug. 14: Marie Bittle

Aug. 21:

Aug. 28: ***Ice Cream Social***

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Aug. 7: Dick Bell / Rebecca

Aug. 14: Lori Hays / Elena Huegel

Aug. 21: Robert Soleman /

Aug. 28: Kenny Hays / Rebecca

Storyteller / Greeter / Floater ♥:

Aug. 7: Lori H. / Geeter S. / Trace S.

Aug. 14: Jenn S. / Colin G. / Anne P.

Aug. 21: Janie M. / Janna S. / Nancy G.

Aug. 28: Tristan / Marie / Julie & Susan

One + One + One Key

⊕ = You ♥ = Church Ω = World

!! = Bring a friend!

Disciple Women ⊕ ♥

Disciples Women will meet Saturday, Sept. 24th, at 10:30 am at Lori Hays' home. Julie Nix will present the program. Meet at church to carpool at 9:45. All women of the church are warmly invited! ⊕

Prayer Groups Invite You ⊕

You are invited to participate in one of the Prayer Groups that have gotten started this summer. ⊕

The Wednesday Night Prayer Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the church at 5:45. Come at 5:30 for extra prayer-to-music time. This group takes turns bringing a scripture for reflection. ⊕

The East of the Mountain Group meets every Thursday at 5:00 pm, currently at Deane Albright's home. This group works much like the WNPB, taking turns choosing a passage for reflection. ⊕

If you are interested in a Praying Moms group, which would meet 2 Saturdays a month, with one gathering being a play date for kids as well, contact Lori Hays. ⊕

**Are you praying for Children
Worship & Wonder?**

Ice Cream Social! ♥

We will be having a special Fellowship Time after worship on Sunday, August 28th. If you own an ice cream maker, you are invited to sign up for whatever flavor of ice cream you would like to make that day. Others are invited to bring your favorite toppings. See the sign-up sheet on the Engaged Faith Table. ♥

FCC ♥'s Our Kids!

As the new school year gets started, so do many of the activities our children are involved in. Parents, please let us know what your kids are doing – games, recitals, plays, etc. – so we can show up and support them! If you're going, try to remember to wear a special FCC sticker. Thanks! ♥

PAGE TURNERS ⊕

The Page Turners book group will be discussing "Peace Like a River" by Lief Eger on Monday, August 1st at 1:00 pm. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the group. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕

**Watch for information about
Ecumenical Book Group starting!**

All Church Retreat ~ September 16-17 ~ Be Here! ♥

FCC's annual Visioning & Planning All Church Retreat will be Friday, September 16th from 5:30 to 8:00 and Saturday, September 17th from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. We hope that all members of our church family will make a point to be here that weekend. On Friday evening, we'll chip in for a simple meal, and on Saturday, we'll have a covered-dish supper. ☉ ♥

We have a number of important things to discuss at this retreat, including the direction our mission work is going to take. Please mark the date and make sure you can be part of the conversation! Child care will be available. ☉ ♥

Council Meeting ~ Wednesday, August 17th ♥

The FCC Council will meet on Wednesday, August 17th at 6:30 pm. Council reports are due Thursday, August 4th by noon. Council information packets will be distributed on Sunday, August 7th. On the agenda this month will be the appointment of the Nominating Committee to name leaders for 2012.

Sharing about Stewardship ~ Stewards of the Heart ♥

There are many ways that we try to promote good stewardship at FCC. Each fall, we have a stewardship campaign, to remind ourselves that our ministry is possible because we make prayerful commitments to support it. We are asked to estimate what level of financial gift we can offer in the upcoming year to make FCC's ministry happen. ♥

Each Sunday, we are invited to give our "tithes of commitment and our offerings of gratitude." This wording reminds us that a tithe is a vital part of the spiritual discipline of a growing disciple of Jesus, and that usually, our lives are so full of blessing that we want to give a little more, just out of joyful gratitude. ☉

But in order to be a good steward of all of God's blessings, there are things besides our money that we must attend to. How are we spending our time? What are we giving our energy and attention to? It might be that one of the most important stewardship decisions you can make this year is to commit to one of the prayer groups that started up this summer. Our health, our relationships, and our talents are other things God has given us to use for his glory. How does your faith affect your stewardship of these things? ☉

**Ω Ω "Pass the Salt" Recipient in August: Ω Ω
Northeast Alabama Crisis Center**

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Missionary Elena Huegel continues story for all of District II

After our joint service with Iglésia and Missionary Elena Huegel on Sunday, August 14th, we are all invited to Valley Christian Church in Birmingham to gather with our brothers and sisters from across District II and learn more about her ministry in Chile. We will meet at the church at 2:45 to carpool over there. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you are planning to come, if you can, so we don't leave anyone behind. Ω

Rev. Elena has been a missionary all of her life, and in fact, grew up in the mission field where her parents were serving. Her perspective on the global church is an important one for us to hear as we seek to be faithful witnesses to God's encompassing love here in East Central Alabama. She will also have updates and stories from the recovery process that Chile has been going through since their large earthquake last year. Ω

FCC's Lori Hays now District II Officer ♥

At the last District II meeting (here at FCC on 6/12), our own Lori Hays was elected moderator-elect of District II. She will serve as moderator-elect for 2 years and then as moderator for two years. **Thanks for your service, Lori! ♥**

Regional Prayer Calendar

In 2011, we will continue to send cards with our prayer blessings to our partner churches in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Iglésia joins us in signing the cards. In the summer, we also pray for ministers serving in non-congregational settings as well. The Prayer Calendar for July is:

- Aug. 7: Cottondale Christian Church, Cottondale, AL – Ben West
Nisha Warbington, Regional Staff – Youth Ministries
- Aug. 14: Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, AL – John Autry, interim
Sèkinah Hamlin, SERF Minister for Anti-Racism & Reconciliation
- Aug. 21: Mt. Moriah Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Nathan Hartley
Diane Wood, Regional Staff – Young Adult Ministries
- Aug. 28: New Hope Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Howard Jones
First Christian Church, Lanett, AL – Howard Merchant
Betty Wright, Regional Staff – Women's Ministries

Long-Term Calendar

Thurs., Aug. 4 ~ Council Reports due
Sat., Aug. 6 ~ Woodstock 5K
Sun., Aug. 7 ~ CWW Orientation for Children and Parents
Sun., Aug. 14 ~ FCC hosts missionary Elena Huegel
Wed., Aug. 17 ~ Council Meeting
Sat., Aug. 20 ~ Family Retreat
Sun., Aug. 21 ~ Miracle Day Pulpit swap with Madison Christian Church
Aug. 22-26 ~ Pastor Rebecca out of town for DHM ART retreat
Sun., Aug. 28 ~ Ice Cream Social for Fellowship
Fri. & Sat., Sept. 16-17 ~ All Church Retreat
Sept. 18 & 25 ~ Reconciliation Special Offering
Sat., Sept. 24 ~ Disciples Women gathering
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 ~ Regional Women's Retreat
Sun., Oct. 2 ~ World Communion Sunday

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

Bible Study 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am