

# The Good News

February 2012

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

Bible Study 10:00 AM ~ Sunday Service 11:00 AM

First Christian Church  
1327 Leighton Avenue  
Anniston, AL 36207

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256-236-1316

## *Communication Event & Valentine's Lunch*

Sunday, February 12th  
Following worship

### **The Importance of Ash Wednesday**

Someone asked me about why we celebrate "Ash Wednesday." Even as few as 20 years ago, the Christian Church (DOC) and many other small independent Christian Churches did not celebrate "Ash Wednesday." It was thought of as one of those "high Holy Days" of the Roman Catholic Church and those Denominations who clung to the "high" Church ideals. The designation of "High Church" gave those who wanted to be "merely Christian" a bad taste. This idea was left over from the Reformation years of the Middle Ages, when anything that sounded like "High Church" was protested against. Our Denomination was home grown on the idea that a believer did not need a lot of form and not much substance in their religious life. Thus also was formed the idea of "High Church" meaning liturgy and lots of it, and "Low Church" where liturgy became almost non-existent. The Christian Church (DOC) was formed out of protest against the abuse of the High Church against any who did not accept "High Church" ideals like the "Apostolic Creed" and when in doubt believe in the Church doctrine, even if it is not found in the Bible. Hence, one of our early statements, "Where the Bible speaks – we speak. Where the Bible is silent – we are silent." And we maintained, "No creed but the Bible." So in the early church and even today in most Independent Christian Churches as well as several DOC Churches, one will not find the liturgy of Confession and Assurance of Pardon, nor much of the formalized type of Worship commonly found in the Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian Denominations.

But for many people the celebration of Lent has come to have a very special meaning in their busy lives. It is a time of penitence, somber reflection, and a renewal of faith. "Ash Wednesday" is that day for those who do celebrate Lent, to begin their 49 day walk (some say 40 and do not count the Sundays) with Christ. This inward celebration is distinguished by the mark of ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross and accompanied by the words, "Remember that from dust you were formed and unto dust you will return." It sounds gruesome and may be to those who are unfamiliar with the journey and perhaps that is the reason for "fat Tuesday" which precedes the day. (continued on page 2)

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Fat Tuesday is the day of excess celebrated in New Orleans, LA, as Madi Gras, of which many are familiar. Thus, I invite you, as one who changed his mind in regards to “Ash Wednesday” and “Lent” to celebrate this time with prayer and meditation and instead of giving up something, perhaps you can add something like getting involved with the “Bear Packs” ministry beginning in February. Or perhaps you can add a moment longer in prayer each day rather than give up chocolate or onions; add something special to your journey. God Bless, Sam

**WEEK OF COMPASSION**

**February 19<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH February 26<sup>TH</sup>**

During 2012, we continue to discern how “Sharing Brings Joy” for our Week of Compassion special offering. Amy Gopp, Exec. Dir., WOC, says, “in a time of uncertainty, fear, and continuing economic hardship in our country and in our world, I can think of no better offering than to give back to God our profound joy in knowing that we do have all we need – and more.” For “the point is this; *the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*’ (2 Cor. 9:6-7). God’s people giving of their resources – prayer, money, time, talent – remains the propellant behind Week of Compassion. The act of giving back to God is simply a matter of faith ... sharing with others invites God more fully into our lives. Sharing will joyfully transform you as you help transform the world.” Give generously and joyously of your Time, Talent, and Tithe. God Bless.

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# Ash Wednesday Service

## February 22, 7:00 pm

Joint service & meal with Iglesia

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, you are **invited to a combined service of penitence, meditation, and the dispensing of ashes.** **With Iglesia Cristiana** we will celebrate in song and word the journey to the cross on Easter. **Following the service** we will fellowship with a **pitch-in covered dish meal.** Bring your **favorite soup or loaf of home baked bread.** Start Lent well with your gift of love.

# Service Schedules

## Meetings

Council ~ Sun., Feb. 5, 12:15 pm  
Transition Team ~ Wed., Feb. 8, 6:00

## Elders

Feb. 5: Judy Bell  
Feb. 12: Robert Soleman  
Feb. 19: Marie Bittle  
Feb. 26: Anne Phillips

## Communion Set-Up/Service

Kenny & Lori Hays

## Fellowship Hosts

Feb. 5: Mary Elizabeth Johnson  
Feb. 12: Valentine’s Lunch  
Feb. 19: Nancy & Colin Green  
Feb. 26: Maria Zamarripa

## Liturgists

Feb. 5: Kenny Hays  
Feb. 12: Judy Bell  
Feb. 19: Robert Soleman  
Feb. 26: Robin Andrews

## Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

Feb. 5: Lori/Dick/Trace  
Feb. 12: Jennifer S./Janna/Anne  
Feb. 19: Janie/Geeter/Nancy  
Feb. 22: Tristan/Colin/Julie

## Church Greeters

Feb. 5: Julie Nix  
Feb. 12: Janna Sutherland  
Feb. 19: Marie Bittle  
Feb. 26: Kenny Hays

Welcome to new member, Martha Entel, who joined the church on Jan. 22. Please add the following info to your church directory:

Martha Entel  
381 Carr Road  
Alpine, AL 35014  
Phone: 1-813-951-0954  
Email: auntiem4711@man.com



## Valentine's Luncheon

Sunday, Feb. 12

The men of the church will be fixing lunch for the ladies, ages 2-92, following church on Sunday, Feb. 12. Arlan is fixing a Boston Butt, Geeter is fixing Chicken & Dumplings, Kenny is fixing Banana Pudding, Sam is fixing a cake. We still need some things like salad, green beans, baked beans, tea or sodas, etc., so if any men can provide these, please contact the church office.

## Communications Event

The first of our transition events will be learning more about communication.

Come find out if you are a blue, green, gold, or orange. This should help you improve your communication with your family and your church friends. This event will be held following our Valentine's Luncheon and will be led by our Transition Team: Anne, Laura, Marie, Arlan, Colin, Mary Lib, and Sam.

**From the Search Committee:** We will have a survey going out soon. If you stay for our communications event on Feb. 12, you'll receive it then. Otherwise, it will be mailed to you. This survey is an extremely important part of our search process! Please give us your input by filling it out and turning it in. We will be using the results from this survey to help us write the church profile that we will send to candidates who are interested in becoming the new permanent pastor at FCC. We will need for all surveys to be completed by Feb. 27th. We will have a box next to the clipboards in the back of the church for you to put your completed surveys in; plus, you can always leave it with Judy Engelhart or Pastor Sam. Thank you!

## Sudzy Ministry

Starting in February we will be starting a drive for sudzy stuff. Often people come to the church seeking assistance for money and food, both of which we cannot provide. What we can do is offer things that they cannot afford but need, like dish soap, bar soap, and laundry soap. This allows the working poor to pay utility bills and buy groceries. We are asking that everyone bring in small bottles of dish soap, powder laundry soap, and bar soap during the month of February to start our stock pile. Then as our supply gets low, we will seek more donations. Please contact Sam, Lori, or Trace if you have any questions! \*Hint\* CVS & Walgreen's often put their small bottles of dish soap on sale for .99. Then there are usually coupons in the Sunday paper for .25. Get some great deals for a great cause!

## Lincolns for Love

In lieu of Pass The Salt, the Mission C-team has opted to start a penny collection ministry. Starting this month, we will begin collecting pennies for our local community partners. Once the jar is full, we will vote for who to donate the funds to. Our community partners include Interfaith Ministries, Community Enabler-Developer, Habitat for Humanity, All Saints Interfaith Center of Concern, and Second Chance Women's Shelter. We have set a goal to reach 1,000 pennies by the time the jar is full. The children will be invited to bring the pennies for the jar when they come up for their message each Sunday.

## Coming Soon Daisy Scouts!!!

Stay tuned for more information.

## BEAR PACKS

There's a big bear in the woods and everyone knows it's big because God doesn't make little bears. The **big bear** in our woods of Anniston is **called hunger**. Many of our **young children** in the school system are fed very well during school hours. But they go **hungry on the weekends**. We have the **opportunity to help** alleviate this problem by teaming up with Constantine Elementary School once a month and stuff children's back packs with food for the weekend. Our Missions Team suggests we begin to assist once a month (for a couple of hours) to get started and the **program begins Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The time and place to meet will be announced in Worship and a Friday Reminder. If you would like to help fill 50 back packs to keep the bear away from the door of some child, please **call Lori, Trace, or Suzy** for more information. God Bless you.

## MEN'S RETREAT

March 9-10  
at YMCA-Hargis  
Chelsea, Alabama

Cost \$80; only \$70 if registration received prior to Feb. 17.

Registration begins at 2:00 on Friday.

The retreat officially begins at 6:00 with dinner and ends on Sat. by 2:30.

If arriving early, you can spend the time fishing, hiking, playing horseshoes or table games, and fellowshiping.

Registration forms on the Engage Your Faith table.

☺ Congratulations ☺

to Maria Zamarrípa who was presented the

Billy Weeks Award  
on Sunday, Jan. 22nd.

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Do you know where these members are?  
If so, please let the church office know their addresses. Thank you.

Janet Baker  
Kathi & Larry Breweur  
Kim Hardegree Keuter  
Kay Manderscheid  
Francies Mitchell  
Evelyn Stephens  
Janice Treckey  
Deanna Doss Walters

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