

The Good News

First Christian Church
Anniston, AL

www.fccanniston.org

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January 2010

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“faith, hope & love abide...” ~ 125th Begins!

Our 125th anniversary year begins! We will be celebrating all year, especially between now and the actual date of our founding document's signing, June 7th. Those 14 men and women who answered God's call to form a Christian Church here in Calhoun County deserve our gratitude and respect. All those who have supported our congregation in the 125 years since then deserve our honor as well. And most of all, God, who has been faithful to us into our second century, deserves our thanksgiving, praise and worship!

This month, we will get started with a special celebration each Sunday.

- ♥ Sunday, January 3rd ~ Special Guest Preacher, Regional Minister John Mobley will be here to help us kick off the festivities!
- ♥ Sunday, January 10th ~ Ordination of New Elders Suzanne Spiceland & Maria Zamarripa, who were called and elected this winter. (Page 5.)
- ♥ Sunday, January 17th ~ Opening of the Time Capsule from our Centennial ~ The 125th Committee decided to do this early in the year so we can enjoy and reflect on the contents all year till we seal a new one.
- ♥ Sunday, January 24th ~ Installation of Lay Leaders for 2010 and beyond and Picture Day for the website. (Page 2.)
- ♥ Sunday, January 31st ~ Welcoming the Next Generation with an Infant Dedication and Baby Shower for Piper Amelia Green (Page 2)

Sun., Jan. 17 ~ Deacon Training Meeting (See page 5.) ♥

Sat., Jan 23 ~ Leadership O & P Retreat (See page 2.) ♥

Sun., Jan. 24 ~ Installation of Lay Leaders and Picture Day ♥ !!

Sun., Jan 31 ~ Infant Dedication & Baby Shower ♥ !!

Leadership Planning & Orientation Retreat ~ 1/23 ♥

All Council and Coordinating Team members are asked to attend our annual Leadership Orientation and Planning Retreat, on Saturday, January 23, from 9:00-1:00. We will start as a whole group, with some overviews of this important anniversary year. We will hear some reflections on leadership from experienced lay leader Minta Colburn of Eureka Christian Church.

The second half of the retreat will be our CT meetings for the month. Council members are invited to stay and participate in that planning time as they are able. ♥

The Fellowship Team will be providing brunch goodies. Child care can be provided if you let us know of the need ahead of time. ♥

Installation and Picture Day ♥

On Sunday, January 24th, we will install and bless all our new lay leaders for 2010. We will also be presenting the Billy Weeks Award for Outstanding Lay Service that day. (Voting will be on 1/17.) Please be here to support all those taking on leadership positions this year. ♥

After worship, we are asking all lay leaders to stay to get their pictures taken for our website. ♥

Baby Dedication and Shower ♥

On **Sunday, January 31st**, we will welcome **Piper Amelia Green** into our church family, as her parents, Colin & Nancy Green, bring her to be dedicated. ♥ !!

After worship, we will have a shower for the Greens. They are registered at Target. We hope everyone will join us as we surround Piper and her parents with our love and blessings. ♥ !!

Welcome!

On Sunday, December 20th, Lloyd and Robin Andrews came forward to transfer their membership into our church. We are delighted to welcome them into our church family! Lloyd owns and operates Studio One Photography and is also an accomplished musician. Robin is an attorney with the Calhoun County School System. They live just behind our church on Christine. Welcome! ♥

Volunteers Needed for Kids

Volunteers are needed to lead the Children's Time in worship this month. We could also use some more leaders for Children's Church. See Rebecca for more info. ♥

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

"faith, hope and love abide..."

Our anniversary year is upon us! We have been planning and preparing for almost 2 years already for the celebration of this milestone.

An anniversary can be as complicated a celebration as a family reunion. There are those who want to spend most of their energy on the past, honoring and remembering the "good old days". And then there are those who are more focused on the future, dreaming about what can happen in the next 125 years.

I think here at FCC-Anniston, we have a good mix of both in our plans and among our church family. We will be celebrating and learning more about our past, giving our newer members a chance to learn from longer-time members. But our decision to host Miracle Day firmly directs our celebration of this milestone toward the future. Throughout it all, let's continue to be in communion with God and with one another, so that faith, hope and love will indeed abide, in the past, the present and the future!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca

p.s. See you in church!

Service Schedules ♥

January Meetings ♥

MD Local Funds – Tue., Jan. 5, 6:00

Deacons – Sun., Jan. 17, 12:30

MD Comm. – Thu., Jan 21, 6:00

Leadership O & P Retreat ~

Sat., Jan 23, 9:00-1:00

Elders – Sun., Jan. 24, 12:30

Elders ♥:

Jan. 3: Robert Soleman

Jan. 10: Marie Bittle

Jan. 17: Anne Phillips

Jan. 24: Judy Bell

Jan. 31: Rebecca Littlejohn

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Scott & Jennifer Roszell

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Jan. 3: Deane A. & Janie M.

Jan. 10: Suzy Spiceland

Jan. 17: Lori Hays

Jan. 24:

Jan. 31: Baby Shower (Maria Z.)

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Jan. 3: Anne Phillips / Rebecca L.

Jan. 10: Robert Soleman /

Jan. 17: Kenny Hays /

Jan. 24: Janie Morrow / Rebecca L.

Jan. 31: Suzy Spiceland /

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

Jan. 3: Janna S. / Dick B. / Janie M.

Jan 10: Suzy S. / Karen R. / Deane A.

Jan 17: Janie M. / Marie B. / Mary Lib J.

Jan. 24: Anne P. / Dick B. / Karen R.

Jan. 31: Janna S. / Karen R. / Janie M.

Disciples Women Gathering

All women of the church are invited to the Disciples Women Gathering, Friday, January 15th at 6:00 at Julie Nix's home in Saks. We will be having a baked potato bar. See the sign-up sheet on the Engaged Faith Table to see what you can bring. We will have the meal, a brief discussion about direction, and a program with worship. ☉ !!

Miracle Day Local Funds

We will be kicking off the local portion of our fund-raising for Miracle Day at a planning meeting on Tuesday, January 5th at 6:00 pm. Join MD leaders Lori Hays, Rebecca Littlejohn, Judy Bell and Julie Nix that night if you are interested in helping with this portion of the project. ♥

2009 Billy Weeks Award ♥

On Sunday, January 17th, we will receive your votes for the 2009 Billy Weeks Award for Outstanding Lay Leadership. This award is given every year to honor the memory of Billy Weeks, a former member of the church, by recognizing someone from the congregation who has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the church in the previous year. It will be awarded during our installation of officers on Jan. 24th. ♥

Bible Study for All ☉

Start the New Year off right by getting in the habit of daily Bible study. It's easier to stay faithful to this important spiritual practice if you have buddies. Join with your church family in our Common Daily Bible Reading. Come to Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, or join the Yahoo discussion group. See Pastor Rebecca for more information. ☉ !!

Ecumenical Book Group

Ecumenical Book Group will be reading "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver this winter and spring. We will be starting early, on January 19th, meeting each Tuesday at noon. If you want a copy of the book, please order it by Jan. 5th. ☉ !!

PAGE TURNERS

The Page Turners will be discussing "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett on Monday, January 18th at 1:00. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the conversation. See Anne Phillips for more information. ☉ !!

One + One + One Key

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

Elders' Ordination and Training Workshop ♥

On Sunday, January 10th, we will be ordaining two new Elders to help lead our congregation. Suzy Spiceland and Maria Zamarripa were nominated and elected to this important position this winter. The act of ordination involves a laying on of hands and happens prior to the installation. ♥ !!

All Elders are requested to attend our Elders Training Workshop, after worship on Sunday, January 24th. Long-time Elder Minta Colburn of Eureka Christian Church will be reviewing the ins and outs of the position of elder. We will discuss our plans for the year, elect a new chair, and train our newest elders for service at the Table. ♥

Deacons' Training Workshop ~ January 17th ♥

All Deacons are asked to be in worship on Sunday, January 17th and stay for a training and review session following the service. This will be the primary opportunity for new deacons to learn the ropes, and continuing deacons need to be present to share their experiences. We will discuss the role of the deacon in the congregation and go through all the steps of setting-up, serving and cleaning up for communion. ♥

Sharing about Stewardship ~ 2010 Budget Changes ♥

At the congregational meeting on December 6th, **two amendments were made to the budget** that was recommended by the Council. The first amendment moved \$400 from Pastor Rebecca's salary line into her health care flexible spending account line. The second amendment added \$1200 to the budget's total by adding the expenses for Christian Education back into the budget, rather than planning to take funds for those expenses from the Youth Fund. \$240 was budgeted for curriculum and \$960 for nursery staff compensation. ♥

We also learned in late December that **Big Brothers Big Sisters will be moving out in mid-January**. This will mean the loss of almost \$3,600 in rental income. If you are aware of another non-profit that might be interested in using our basement, please let Pastor Rebecca know asap. Meeting our 2010 budget, especially with these adjustments, will be dependent on each member giving faithfully – hopefully tithing, if that is possible for you. We understand that money is tight all around, but with God's help, we will all be able to support the ministries of our congregation.

Ω Ω Ω **"Pass the Salt" Recipient This Month: Interfaith Ministries** Ω Ω Ω

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Pastor Helps Coordinate Ministers & Mates Retreat - Jan. 11-13

The 2010 Regional Ministers and Mates Retreat will be held in Orange Beach, AL, January 11-13. The theme is “Roles, Relationships, and Renewal: Conversations to nurture healthy ministry with integrity – for ourselves and for one another.” It is inspired by Mark 12:29-31 and by our church’s Ministerial Code of Ethics. Pastor Rebecca, in her role as chair of the Region’s Committee on Ministry, has had a leadership role in putting this retreat together. Rather than hearing from an outside expert, the clergy and spouses of the Region will share their personal experiences about a variety of situations that come up in ministry. Please be in prayer for this event designed to cultivate collegiality and renewal among the ministers of our Region. ⊕

Award-Winning “Disciples World” Magazine Ceases Publication

It was with sadness that the board and publisher of “Disciples World” magazine announced in December that the magazine will be closing its doors. After coming into existence 8 years ago in response to the shuttering of “The Disciple” magazine, “Disciples World” has struggled to grow circulation high enough to sustain publication. Recent drops in advertising added to the financial challenges. There is hope that the January-February issue will be printed, but operations will cease December 31 and the non-profit that publishes the magazine will be dissolved. “Just Women”, a partnership venture between “Disciples World” and the Office of Disciples Women will continue as a project of the ODW. Please be in prayer for all those affected by this closure.

Regional Prayer Calendar

In 2010, 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 January is:

- Jan. 3: First Christian Church, Athens, AL – Jim Osborne & Phillip Gilbert
- Jan. 10: First Christian Church, Anniston, AL – Rebecca Littlejohn
- Jan. 17: Village Christian Church, Auburn, AL – Diane Wood
- Jan. 24: First Christian Church, Dothan, AL – Bill Smith
- Jan. 31: Edward Point CC, Century, FL – Lamar Randall & Sherry Johnson

Long-Term Calendar

Sun., Jan. 3 ~ Regional Minister Rev. John Mobley preaching for 125th
Sun., Jan. 10 ~ Elder Ordination
Jan 11-13 ~ Regional Ministers & Mates Retreat
Sun., Jan. 17 ~ **Opening of Time Capsule** and Voting on Billy Weeks Award
Thu., Jan. 21 ~ Miracle Day Committee Meeting, 6:00
Sat., Jan. 23 ~ Leadership Orientation & Planning Retreat, 9:00-1:00
Sun., Jan. 24 ~ Installation of Lay Leaders and Picture Day ~ Elders Wkshp.
Sun., Jan. 31 ~ Infant Dedication and Baby Shower for Piper Green
Feb 12-13 ~ Regional Transformation Event ~ Miracle Day Publicity
Wed., Feb. 17 ~ Ash Wednesday ~ Lent Begins
Thu., Feb 18 ~ Miracle Day Committee Meeting, 6:00
Feb. 21-28 ~ Week of Compassion
Mar. 12-13 ~ Regional Men's Retreat ~ Miracle Day Publicity
Thu., Mar. 18 ~ Miracle Day Committee Meeting, 6:00
Apr. 23-25 ~ Regional Assembly in Decatur ~ Miracle Day Publicity
Saturday, June 5 ~ Miracle Day! Sunday, June 6 ~ 125th Anniversary!

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.