

# The Good News

First Christian Church  
Anniston, AL

[www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)

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July 2011

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## Preparing for Children Worship & Wonder

**Excitement is building** for the kick-off of our new Children's Ministries program, Children Worship & Wonder!

### **CWW Training Retreat ~ Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

All CWW Storytellers and those who are interested in helping in the assistant role ("Greeters") are asked to attend a CWW Training Retreat, led by our Storytellers, on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10-3. We will spend the morning making sure everyone understands the program, its theology and how it works. Then, in the afternoon, we will use the supplies to create the sacred objects for the stories and arrange the Children's Worship Center. (Lunch provided.)

### **Children Worship & Wonder Service and Dedication ~ Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

On Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, we will all get a taste of what our kids will be doing, as CWW takes over the Sunday service. (This will be in place of our regularly scheduled informal service.) After worship, we will head back to the Fellowship Hall for a special dedication of the new Children's Worship Center.

### **Parents Orientation ~ Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**

On Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, parents will be asked to participate in the first session of CWW with their children. This one time, parents are invited, so that they can see how it works with their kids there and be able to discuss it with their children at home. We hope everyone will be here that Sunday.

**July 9-13 ~ General Assembly in Nashville** (see page 7) ⊕ ♥

**Sat., July 16 ~ CWW Training Retreat** (see above) ♥

**Sun., July 24 ~ Children Worship & Wonder Service** (see above) ⊕

**Sat., Aug. 20 ~ Family Retreat** (see page 5) ⊕ ♥

## Prayer Groups forming ⊕

In response to our Elders' challenge to get serious about prayer, two groups are forming so far. We encourage you to join one, or create your own. The groups can meet wherever, whenever, however you like, just so long as you get serious about prayer. ⊕

The Wednesday Night Prayer Group will be a modified version of Pause for Prayer. It will meet the first & third Wednesday of each month from 5:45-6:30 at church. There will be time for sharing prayer concerns, silence, music, scripture, and of course, prayer. ⊕

The East of the Mountain prayer group will meet in homes on Thursdays at 5:00 (weekly). They will have Bible study, sharing and prayer. See Anne Phillips for more information about this group. ⊕

## Chalice Hymnal Purchase

The Chalice Hymnal will be going out of print this year, so the Council has decided to order 15 additional copies. You are invited to cover the cost of one in honor or memory of someone, for \$20. You may also add to our order by purchasing a copy for your personal use at home, for the same price. See info on the Engaged Faith Table. ♥

## Men's Group Service Project ♥

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, all men of the church are invited to come and help prepare the Children's Worship Center for Children Worship & Wonder. We will be assembling shelving and re-arranging the movable walls to remove the doors. There will be a light breakfast served. Come to the church at 7:00. See Geeter Smith for more information. ♥

## Join the Woodstock 5K!

FCC is in the process of forming a team to participate in the Woodstock 5K. See Lori Hays if you would like to run or walk this year. The race is Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. ⊕

We also need some cheer leaders! We will be out in front of Pastor Rebecca's house, with music, a sprinkler and our church sign, to cheer on all the participants. Plan to come around 7:00 am and park behind the house or at the church. ♥

## *Tastes of Home Benefit* Ω

You are invited to the 2011 Tastes of Home Benefit Event for Habitat for Humanity of Calhoun County, at the Tyler Center on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. See Pastor Rebecca for more details or call the HfH office at 237-3700. Ω

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

It was ten years ago this weekend that I first stepped foot on the soil of Anniston, Alabama, when I came down for my initial interview with the search committee. My, how time has flown!

We are, in many ways, the same church we were 10 years ago. But in other ways, we are amazingly different! The sanctuary looks different, our worship services are slightly different, and we have a lot of people now who weren't here 10 years ago.

I am also aware that I am not the same pastor I was 10 years ago – Thank God! You have shaped me and taught me in ways I might never have imagined. The things we have gone through together have deepened my faith, and I hope, yours as well. Thank you for a beautiful decade!

*Grace and peace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*P.S. See you in church!*

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

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

## **Service Schedules ♥**

### **July Meetings ♥**

Fellowship CT – Wed., July 6, 6:30  
Stewardship CT – Tue., July 19, 4:30  
Mission CT – Wed., July 20, 6:30  
Spirit. Form CT – Thu., July 21, 5:30  
Elders – Sun., July 24, 12:30

### **Elders ♥:**

July 3: Anne Phillips  
July 10: Judy Bell  
July 17: Marie Bittle  
July 24: Rebecca Littlejohn  
July 31: Maria Zamarripa

### **Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:**

Janna Sutherland & Don Jones

### **Fellowship Hosts ♥:**

July 3: Anne Phillips  
July 10:  
July 17: Rebecca Littlejohn  
July 24:  
July 31: Lori Hays

### **Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:**

July 3: Joe Medley / Rebecca  
July 10: Trace Smith /  
July 17: Don Jones / Rebecca  
July 24: *Children Worship & Wonder*  
July 31: Judy Bell / Rebecca

### **Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:**

July 3: Lori H. / Dick. B. / Trace S.  
July 10: Janna S. / Jen S. / Karen R.  
July 17: Janie M. / Suzy S. / Nancy G.  
July 24: *Children Worship & Wonder*  
July 31: Anne P. / Marie B. / Julie N.

## ***Disciple Women*** ⊕ ♥

Disciples Women will meet Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 am at Anne Phillips' home. Robin Andrews will present the program. All women of the church are warmly invited to attend and bring a friend! ⊕

## **THANK YOU, KAREN!** ♥

We now have a whole year's worth of new flower arrangements, thanks to some generous sponsors and the decorating talents of Karen Reaves! We are so grateful for her generous donation of her time and skills in arranging our altar flowers. We are still in need of around \$75 to cover the costs of the summer arrangement. You can simply write "alter flowers" on your check if you would like to donate. Thank you! ♥

## ***Zumba for Kids!***

We are now hosting a Zumbatomic class for kids, ages 3-13. It is taught by Jennifer Whyte. The class meets every Friday from 4:00-4:45 in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$5 per class, but see Pastor Rebecca if you are interested in a scholarship. This is a great way for kids to have fun staying fit, and a great way for us to serve our community! ♥ Ω

## **School Supplies Time! Ω**

The beginning of school is just around the corner! We invite you to bring in school supplies, starting July 17<sup>th</sup>, which we will deliver to Community Enabler to distribute to area children in need. All sorts of supplies are helpful, including notebooks, paper, pens, pencils and backpacks. Watch for lists in stores if you want more guidance. No child should have to start school without the tools they need to learn! Thanks!

## **AHS Class of 1986 to Visit**

You may remember that the Anniston High School Class of 1986 Reunion Planning Committee has been using our Fellowship Hall to plan their event this summer. The weekend of their reunion, many of the class members will be joining us for worship. Please be prepared to offer a warm FCC welcome on July 31<sup>st</sup>!

## **PAGE TURNERS** ⊕

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

## Family Retreat to have Special Focus This Year ♥

Parents, mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**! That is the date of our summer Family Retreat, and we want all our families with kids to be present. We will have the same kinds of fun activities for you to do with your children, but we are also planning an important conversation between the parents about the common **Church Family Values** that we want to shape our Children's Ministries at First Christian Church. All parents should watch for a letter that will go into more detail about the questions we want to discuss. We hope you will consider these topics prayerfully before the retreat, so we can all come prepared to create a coherent statement about what our common Church Family Values are and how they impact our ministries. ☉ ♥

Our Family Retreat will go from 9:00 to 1:00 as usual, with lunch provided by the Fellowship Team. We hope that everyone will make a point of being present, with your child. ☉ ♥

We will **need lots of volunteers** (people without kids) to make this retreat a success. See Pastor Rebecca or Julie Nix if you can help out. We will need help with food, crafts, games and general supervision of play. We will also be asking for donations of food, which would be a great way to assist if you are unable to be here that day. Thank you for your support of our ministries to young families! ♥

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### *Sharing about Stewardship ~ Summertime!* ♥

Any church has two major stewardship concerns in the summertime – people on vacation and the cost of air conditioning. We encourage anyone who is going to be out of town for an extended period to mail in or drop off your tithes and offerings. That way, our treasurers don't have to lose sleep wondering if we'll get what we need on time to pay the bills. Thanks so much! ♥

The other major challenge of summer is the heat. We strive to conserve energy and keep our power bill low. If you use space at the church, be sure to return the thermostat to its "unoccupied" setting when you leave. In the summer, that is around 80 degrees. We also encourage you to dress for the weather and use the fans that were recently dropped off by FEMA. Thanks for your support!

Ω Ω **"Pass the Salt" Recipient in July: Ω Ω**  
**Interfaith Ministries**

# Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

## “Tell It!” - General Assembly 2011 in Nashville this month

Pastor Rebecca and the entire Hays family will be attending the 2011 General Assembly July 9-13 in Nashville. Kenny & Lori have been officially elected as our voting delegates. The business this year will include consideration of extending another 6-year term to Rev. Dr. Sharon K. Watkins to serve as our General Minister and President. ♥

The theme this year is “Tell It!” which encourages us to spread the good news about what God is doing in our churches. Pastor Rebecca is featured in a brief video on the GA website, telling about our decision to open the church’s doors to Iglésia Cristiana and how God has since blessed us with so many young children. Also on that website, you can find information about how you could live-stream the Assembly worship services. Even better, why not consider making a one-night trip to Nashville yourself? It’s not far, and you could experience a little bit of what an Assembly is all about. ☺

## FCC & ICDC to Host Missionary Elena Huegel in Joint Service

On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a joint service with Iglésia Cristiana to welcome our Missionary Partner Elena Huegel, who serves in Chile. We hope that everyone will be here to welcome our ICDC brothers and sisters and hear what Elena has to share about her ministry in Chile and how they have been recovering since the 2010 earthquake there. Ω

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## **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. The Prayer Calendar for July is:*

July 3: Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – Gary Edge

July 10: Woods Chapel Christian Church, Hayneville, AL – Alvin Howard

July 17: Big Union Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Timothy Silmon

July 24: Little Union, Hayneville, AL – Willie Timmons

July 31: Salem Christian Church, Letohatchee, AL – Joan Andrews, board chair

Hayneville Christian Church, Hayneville, AL – Mrs. R.V. Harrell, board chair

## **Long-Term Calendar**

Sat., July 9 ~ Disciples Men Service Project  
July 9-13 ~ General Assembly in Nashville  
Sat., July 16 ~ CWW Training Retreat  
Sat. July 23 ~ Disciples Women's Gathering  
Sun., July 24 ~ Children Worship & Wonder Service and Dedication  
Sat., July 30 ~ Tastes of Home Habitat Benefit Event  
Sun., July 31 ~ AHS Class of 1986 visiting in worship  
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  
September ~ All Church Retreat, Reconciliation Offering

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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)

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