

# The Good News

First Christian Church  
Anniston, AL

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

256-236-1316

June 2009

email: [fccanniston@bellsouth.net](mailto:fccanniston@bellsouth.net)

## ♥ 124<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration ♥

On June 7, 1885, seven men and seven women signed a document called "Articles of Agreement in forming the Church of Christ of Anniston, Ala." That document officially began the life of our congregation. We will celebrate their decision and God's faithfulness to us in the 124 years since then with a **Covered Dish Luncheon after worship on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**. (See the back of the June Calendar for more interesting events from our history.) ♥

For our program at the luncheon, our newly-formed 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee will lead us in a conversation about some of the possible ways to celebrate our quasiquicentennial, that is, our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up next year. See page 5 for more information on plans already being made. ♥

The Committee hopes to present you with some exciting options. We want this anniversary to be a celebration of God's continuing faithfulness that leads us into the future, rather than simply a chance to appreciate our past. We want as many people as possible to be present for this brain-storming and planning session so that we can all consider any big plans we might make. ♥

There is a lot going on at FCC, a lot to be thankful for. As we approach this important milestone, let's be in prayer about where God is leading us next and what each one of us is being called to do to get us there. ♥

**Mon., June 1 ~ Common Daily Bible Reading begins ⊕** See page 2.

**Sun., June 7 ~ 124<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Covered Dish Lunch ♥ !!**

**Sat., June 27 ~ Bowling and Pizza ♥ !!** See page 2.

**Sun., June 28 ~ Food Drive Ω** See page 4.

## Common Daily Bible Reading

**It's time to get some scripture and prayer in your life! ☉**

The Spiritual Formation Coordinating Team is pleased to present our Common Daily Bible Reading focus (CDBR). It is a way for you to build daily Bible reading, reflection and prayer into your life. ☉

Booklets are now available with the schedule of readings. There is a Psalm for each week and a scripture reading for each day. There are a few different ways you can share this experience with others. ☉

Our **Sunday Morning Study** will be discussing the CDBR each week at 9:30 throughout June and July (starting June 14<sup>th</sup>). We will also be offering an **online discussion** group. See the sign-up sheet on the Engaged Faith table to join that listserv. You can, of course, also get a study and prayer partner, and share your insights and growth that way. The guide booklet has numerous suggestions for **prayer practices** you can add to your daily readings. ☉

### What Do You Want to Know?

Pastor Rebecca is still taking suggestions for sermon topics for the summer. Suggestion slips are on the Engaged Faith table, along with the envelope to submit them in. ☉

## Bowling and Pizza! ♥

The Fellowship Coordinating Team invites you and your family to join us for Pizza and Bowling on **Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at Anniston **Bowling Center** on Blue Mountain Road at **3:00** for some friendly competition and/or exhibitions of the spiritual discipline of enjoying things you don't do well. We will then move over to **Pizza Hut** for an early dinner. We hope you will join us and bring some friends! ♥

## Evangelism Team Updates

The Evangelism Team is hoping that everyone will take advantage of our summer focus on spiritual renewal by participating in Common Daily Bible Reading or attending one of the mini-retreats that are being planned (more info coming soon!). ♥

In the meantime, we are working toward providing additional practice at talking about our faith with others. We are also putting together a new project called "**FCC ♥'s Our Kids!**" that will get church members involved with our children's activities outside of church, developing relationships and raising our profile. We hope you will want to participate! Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. You are welcome to join us if you'd like to help! ♥

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

Just because I keep getting reminded every Sunday, here are some hints for receiving communion.

1. It's easiest to get back to your seat without bumping into anyone if you go to the station in front of the section of pews you're sitting in and then return by the outer aisle. But you can, of course, go to whichever one you want!
2. Please take a big enough piece of bread so that your fingers aren't going in the juice!
3. If your piece of bread gets too long, it helps to fold it in half so it's not so floppy.
4. If there's too much juice dripping off your bread, feel free to tap it on the side of the cup before raising it to your mouth.
5. And PLEASE, if you forget and put the bread in your mouth before you dip it, please get another piece of bread to dip.

*Peace and grace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*p.s. See you in church!*

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

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

## **Service Schedules ♥**

### **June Meetings ♥**

125<sup>th</sup> Comm. – Thu., Jun. 4, 5:00  
Evan. Team – Thu., Jun. 4, 6:00  
Stewardship CT – Tue., Jun. 9, 4:00  
Mission CT – Wed., Jun. 10, 6:00  
Fellowship CT – Thu., Jun. 11, 5:30  
Spiritual Form. – Sun., Jun. 14, 12:30

### **Elders ♥:**

June 7: Robert Soleman  
June 14: Marie Bittle  
June 21: Mary Elizabeth Johnson  
June 28: Anne Phillips

### **Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:**

June 7, 21, 28: Lori & Kenny H.  
June 14: Eva M. & Suzy S.

### **Fellowship Hosts ♥:**

June 7: ***Covered Dish Luncheon***  
June 14: Anne Phillips  
June 21: Judy Bell  
June 28: Karen & John Russell R.

### **Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:**

June 7: Trace Smith / Rebecca L.  
June 14: Anne Phillips / ?  
June 21: Robert Soleman/Rebecca L.  
June 28: Dick Bell / ?

### **Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:**

June 7: Anne P. / Lori H. / Karen R.  
June 14: Suzy S. / Laura P. / Mary Lib J.  
June 21: Janna S. / Marie B. / Janie M.  
June 28: Suzy S. / Karen R. / Deane A.

## **Disciples Women ⊕**

CWF/Disciples Women will not meet in June. The next meeting will be Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> after worship. ⊕

## **Mother's Day Blankets Ω**

The CWF/ Disciples Women thanks all those who donated funds for blankets for Mother's Day. We raised \$275, which means Church World Service can provide 55 blankets to refugees and disaster victims. Thank you! Ω

## **Mini-Retreats Coming Soon!**

We are embarking on a summer of spiritual renewal. One of the ways we hope to offer spiritual nourishment this summer is through a couple mini-retreats. They will be aimed at specific groups (families, women, young adults, etc.) and take about half a day on a Saturday. They will be stand-alone events designed to help you discover new spiritual practices to build into your life. ⊕

## **Need a Tomato? Ω**

Robert Soleman, keeper of our front flower bed, has diversified. We now have 12 tomato plants, which Robert intends for us to share with the community. If you need a tomato, feel free to pick one. Ω

## **Ω Ω FOOD DRIVE Ω Ω**

The Mission Coordinating Team will be inviting the whole congregation to join in a Food Drive on **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**. We will have reminder slips for you the Sunday before. Ω

Useful items include: cereal, canned meat, pasta, canned vegetables, macaroni & cheese, applesauce, rice, canned soup and chili, powdered milk, peanut butter and jelly, toilet paper, sanitary supplies, and other toiletries. Ω

## **NOVELS GROUP ⊕**

The Novels Group (soon to have an exciting new name!) will be discussing "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" by Carson McCullars in June. They meet Mondays at 1:00 pm. They will cover pages 1-120 on June 15<sup>th</sup>, pages 121-238 on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the rest of the book on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the group. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕

## **Praying the Psalms ⊕**

"Praying the Psalms" will take their summer break through June and July. They will resume regular meetings (twice monthly on Mondays at 5:30) on August 17<sup>th</sup>. See Marie Bittle for more information. ⊕

## Anniversary Planning underway ♥

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee had its first meeting in May and made some initial decisions about our celebrations. We will begin working on a theme for the year very soon, something that will connect with our Mission Statement and draw on the past to move us into the future. ♥

We plan to kick the year off in January with John Mobley or Dale Braxton as a guest preacher. During the year, we will create a banner to commemorate the milestone and a photo directory of our church family. Anne Phillips will write an addendum to our centennial history that will cover the last 25 years. We will open the time capsule from the centennial and possibly make a new one to be opened in 2035. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have a big worship celebration with our General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins preaching. We will invite former ministers, as well as former or inactive members to join us that day. We plan to develop ways to involve our kids in the anniversary and to incorporate service projects as part of the celebration as well. Come to the **Covered Dish on June 7<sup>th</sup>** to hear more about the possibilities! ♥

## Council Makes Decision to Lock Elevator ♥

At its May 24<sup>th</sup> the Council made the decision, based on the recommendation from the Stewardship Coordinating Team and the Trustees, to have our elevator tagged and locked out by the state inspector. The costs involved in bringing the elevator up to code and maintaining it safely were seen as disproportionate to the elevator's current use. See Robert Soleman, Bill Rowland or Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions. ♥

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## *Sharing about Stewardship ~ Special Gifts Helpful ♥*

As you think about summer vacations, remember that the church's bills never take a break. If you know you're going to miss worship more than normal, why not stop by to drop off your tithe or offering or mail them in? Due to some necessary upgrades in our computer systems and accounting software, we can use any additional gifts you can share with the church at this time. We know that these times are uncertain, but we hope you will see your giving to the church as an investment in God's future, which is full of promise and hope. If you would like to make an over-and-above gift to help with these extra costs, please note "computer upgrades" on your check. Thank you for your faithful generosity! ♥

# Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

## Changes at Iglésia Cristiana - Good-byes and Hellos!

José Matos and Ana Rivera, the co-pastor church planters of Iglésia Cristiana, our Hispanic congregation-in-formation, will be leaving at the end of June to follow God's call to attend seminary at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Their congregation will be having a special farewell party on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> to say Good-bye to them. You are invited to join the festivities. ♥

Carmen Reyes, who has been serving as an associate pastor under care with the Region since spring 2008, will be taking on the role of pastor for Iglésia. We will welcome all three of them into our worship service on **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>** so that we can say good-bye to José and Ana and welcome Carmen as the new pastor. Be listening for more information about how you can say thank-you to José and Ana for their leadership these last 3 and half years and bless them on their new journey! ♥

## Pastor Rebecca to attend Special Meeting on behalf of DHM

Pastor Rebecca will be attending a special "extended table" meeting of the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council on behalf of Disciples Home Missions this month. This is the group that has been discerning a way to re-configure our General Ministries for better efficiency in ministry. DHM is one of the major partners in the proposed re-structure and Rebecca will be one of two Board members attending. The meeting is June 16-18. She will be leaving after worship on June 14<sup>th</sup>, so she can spend Monday in Indianapolis with her mother for her birthday. She will return the evening of June 18<sup>th</sup>. ♥

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

June 7: Roebuck Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – John Willis

June 14: Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian Church, Tuskegee, AL – Otis Head

June 21: Sellers Memorial Christian Church, Hayneville, AL – Clifford Jackson

Azalea Hills Christian Church, Mobile, AL – Paul Ingram

June 28: First Christian Church, Hartselle, AL – Jerry Smith

# Volunteers Needed! ♥

**Children's Time** ~ Do you like kids? Would you like to help our kids know that Jesus loves them, and that we love them? Why not take a turn leading the Children's Time in worship? There is a sign-up sheet on the Engaged Faith table now. We like to have lots of different people taking leadership in this part of our worship service. Think of a special story you have to share, or check with Pastor Rebecca on the themes of the day and go with that! We can offer hints, if you need help.

**Recycling Volunteers** ~ We have started recycling in the Fellowship Hall kitchen, and wow! do we have a lot of stuff collected already! Just think about how much we're saving from the landfills. But we don't want our kitchen to become a landfill either. If you have time when you're passing by someday, we'd love for you to pick up the full bags of plastic and aluminum and drop them off at the Waste Recycling Center on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

♥ ♥ ♥ **THANKS!!!** ♥ ♥ ♥

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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)

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