

# The Good News

First Christian Church  
Anniston, AL

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June 2011

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## One Hundred Twenty-Six Years Old!

On **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**, it will be one year since Miracle Day, and almost 126 years since the founding document of our congregation was signed by the 14 charter members. (The actual anniversary of the charter is June 7<sup>th</sup>.) We will be celebrating with a **Covered Dish Luncheon**. Please bring one or two of your favorite potluck dishes to share with everyone. The Fellowship C-Team will be providing drinks and coordinating the kitchen.

After lunch, we will hear a little bit from the Elders about how we're going to **discover where God wants us to go next**. It's clear that the time has come for us to get focused on revitalization again, to make that next step. And **it begins with prayer**. (See page 4 for more information). Think about how you can commit to building more prayer into your life.

The main event on Sunday will be the filling of our **Time Capsule!** We've had it for a while, and we've been collecting interesting things to put in there. It will be opened by the First Christian Church-Anniston of 2035. Some of us will probably be around and others will not! What do you want them to know? If you would like to write a letter, or donate photographs, you're welcome to do so. If there is anything else you'd like to include that you think it would be interesting to see 25 years from now, bring it! The time capsule from 1985 had a dollar bill included, in case cash was obsolete by now. It isn't yet, but it might be by 2035.

**Come one! Come all! It's time to celebrate and move forward!**

**Sun., June 5 ~ 126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Covered Dish** (see above) ⊕ ♥ !!

**Sun., June 12 ~ FCC Hosts District II Gathering** (see page 2) ♥ Ω

**Sun., June 19 ~ Father's Day Blanket Dedication** (see page 2) ⊕ Ω

**Sun., June 26 ~ Collaborative Sermon** (see page 4) ⊕ !!

## District II Gathering ♥

We will be hosting the congregations of District II for a gathering on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. District II is the portion of the Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida (our Region) that stretches east and west of Birmingham, from Anniston to Jasper, Eutaw and Tuscaloosa. There are about a dozen churches included. ♥

Rev. Diane Wood, the Region's minister for young adults, will be presenting a program. We will be providing a reception at the end. See Robin Andrews if you would like to help by bringing food. ♥

## Honor Thy Father ♥ Ω

You are invited to honor or remember your father, grand-father, step-father, father-in-law or any other father figure this Father's Day by purchasing a Church World Service blanket. The blankets are only \$5 and are distributed to disaster victims and refugees all around the world. Order envelopes are on the Engaged Faith Table now. Deadline is June 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! ♥ Ω

**Common Daily Bible Readings**  
**Study continues ~ Sundays @**  
**9:45 in the Fellowship Hall ~ Join**  
**us! ⊕**

## PENTECOST FIRE! ⊕

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the "birthday" of the church universal when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples with tongues of fire. You are encouraged to WEAR RED that day to add to the festive tone! ⊕

## Support 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Shelter

Second Chance Women's Shelter is our Pass the Salt agency for June. We welcome your cash donations. We are also collecting paper towels, toilet paper and full-size bath towels for them. You can bring them in any time in June. Ω

We won't be volunteering with them this month, but we hope you'll have some time in December to help out at their gift-wrapping station at Quintard Mall. Ω

## Chalice Hymnal Purchase

The Chalice Hymnal will be going out of print by the end of the year, so the Council has decided to order 15 additional copies. If you would like to cover the cost of one in honor or memory of someone, please write a check for \$20 with the information. You may also add to our order by purchasing a copy for personal use at home, for the same price. ⊕ ♥

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

Do you remember how things were a year ago? Covered with cloths, and dust, and signs reminding us to be careful of all the things out of place?

Do you remember how things were two years ago? We were about to hear from our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee about the possibility of hosting a Regional Miracle Day to renovate our sanctuary and more. It seemed a little crazy, and yet, the committee was convinced that the Spirit had been moving in the meeting when the idea was born.

Aren't we glad that we stepped out in faith and took that risk? The relationships that have grown, the beauty we have created, the sense of accomplishment – and more, the sense of God's work among us. What a wonderful experience to celebrate! I hope you will join us June 5<sup>th</sup> as we reflect on it all and preserve those memories for the First Christian Church of 2035. Our witness will be a testament to God's faithfulness. Praise be to God!

*Grace and peace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*P.S. See you in church!*

**Service Schedules ♥**

**June Meetings ♥**

Partnership – Wed., June 1, 6:00  
Spirit. Form CT – Tue., June 7, 5:30  
Mission CT – Tue., June 7, 6:30  
Stewardship CT – Tue., June

**Elders ♥:**

June 5: Judy Bell  
June 12: Suzy Spiceland  
June 19: Maria Zamarripa  
June 26: Robert Soleman

**Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:**

Lloyd & Robin Andrews

**Fellowship Hosts ♥:**

June 5: **Covered Dish Luncheon**  
June 12: Suzy Spiceland  
June 19: Geeter Smith  
June 26: Maria Zamarripa

**Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:**

June 5: Julie Nix / Rebecca  
June 12: Colin Green /  
June 19: Shawn Taylor / Rebecca  
June 26: Mary Lib Johnson /

**Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:**

June 5: Lori H. / Jen S. / Trace S.  
June 12: Janna S. / Dick B. / Karen R.  
June 19: Janie M. / / Nancy G.  
June 26: Anne P. / / Julie N.

**One + One + One Key**

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

## *A Call to Prayer* ⊕ ♥

The Elders of First Christian Church, in collaboration with the Spiritual Formation Coordinating Team are calling the congregation to prayer. Because we are aware that family life, jobs and distance make it a difficult time for many to meet, we have currently put Pause for Prayer, our weekly contemplative prayer service on hiatus for the summer. We want to find ways to help more of our members connect with prayer disciplines that fit with your lives. ⊕

At our luncheon on June 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking some time to talk about new possibilities for each of our members to find a way to build more disciplined prayer into our lives. We want to offer a small group model that would combine devotional study of scripture with sharing of life concerns and praying for one another. Please give prayerful consideration to how you can add this into your life. ⊕

## **Flower Sponsor Needed** ♥

The last of our four new floral arrangements for the sanctuary chancel will debut on Pentecost Sunday. It will be our “summer” display. We are looking for a sponsor for this arrangement. The cost is just over \$100. See Pastor Rebecca for more information. ♥

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Kayli (Frintner) Hollingsworth, who graduated from Jacksonville High School on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Kayli finished high school through a partnership program with Gadsden State Community College, so she also has most of the credits necessary for an Associate’s degree in Early Childhood Development. We are proud of you, Kayli!

## Going Deeper in Faith ⊕

Remember that in addition to our Sunday morning Bible study, you are invited to **Faith Chat** each Sunday, to discuss the morning’s sermon topics. We have had some good conversations so far! ⊕

Also, Pastor Rebecca is looking for a sermon-collaboration partner for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Ask Colin, Kenny, Robin or Anne about how this opportunity can help grow your faith! ⊕

## PAGE TURNERS ⊕

The Page Turners book group will be discussing “Water for Elephants” by Sara Gruen on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the group. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕



### **Change on Spiritual Formation Team**

At the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council accepted the resignation of Karen Reaves from the Spiritual Formation Coordinating Team and approved the moderator's appointment of Anne Phillips to serve Karen's unexpired term (the rest of this year), with Julie Nix serving as Council rep for the rest of the year. ♥

### **Clarification of Reimbursement Policy**

The Council wants to remind all church members about the parameters of our reimbursement policy. We are very grateful for members who purchase supplies and materials for the church. Please remember that only expenses that have been previously approved are eligible for reimbursement. Prior approval means that a Coordinating Team or the Council has decided the items are necessary. If you have purchased something for the church on your own, it may still be eligible for an in-kind donation tax receipt, though not for reimbursement. Thank you for your understanding and generosity! ♥

### **Disbursement of Special Gift Funds**

The Council voted to move \$4000 of the remaining special gift funds from last summer into a CD at Church Extension. The remainder will be added to our savings account at F&M bank, as readily accessible emergency funds. ♥

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### ***Sharing about Stewardship ~ New Church Ministries! ♥***

Our Pentecost Special Offering will be received on June 5 & 12. These over-and-above gifts go to support Disciples' efforts to plant new churches in communities that do not currently have a Disciples congregation adequately serving the populations there. Fifty percent of the funds received in Alabama-Northwest Florida will stay in our Region to support the new congregations that are being planted here. New Church Ministries in Indianapolis receives the other half, which is used to provide training, resources and coaches for new church planters throughout the church. Our gifts to this special offering are a testament to our faith that God is not done with our world. A flyer and an offering envelope are included in this newsletter and will also be in the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

**Ω Ω "Pass the Salt" Recipient in June: Ω Ω  
Second Chance Women's Shelter**

# Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

## Dick Bell representing FCCA at Regional Church Camps

Dick Bell will be serving as a counselor at Junior Camp this summer, June 20-24 at YMCA-Hargis in Chelsea. All ages above third grade have their camps the same week now, so he will be there with Junior Camp, Chi Rho (junior high) and Christian Youth Fellowship (high schoolers). We thank Dick for his service. He has been serving as a counselor for many years, and we hope he'll still be going when our pre-schoolers are old enough to attend! ♥

## News from Iglésia Cristiana

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Carmen Reyes announced her resignation from Iglésia Cristiana as pastor. She is moving to Orlando to take a new job. A big celebration of her ministry was held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. ICDC's leadership is working with John Mobley to identify a new pastor, whom they hope to have in place in a month or so. Please be in prayer for them during this time of transition. Pastor Rebecca will be preaching for them on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Further information will be clarified at our Partnership Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. ♥

## Village Christian in Auburn Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Labyrinth

The afternoon of June 5<sup>th</sup>, Village Christian Church in Auburn is inviting the Region to join them in celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the labyrinth that was constructed at Miracle Day 2006. While we will be celebrating our own anniversary that day, we hold VCC-Auburn in our prayers on this special day.

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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 June is:*

- June 5: Roebuck Christian Church, Birmingham, AL
- June 12: Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian Church, Tuskegee, AL – Otis Head
- June 19: Sellers Memorial Christian Church, Hayneville, AL – Clifford Jackson
- June 26: First Christian Church, Hartselle, AL – Jeremy Harbin  
New Bethel Christian Church, Greenville, AL – Tommie Means

## Long-Term Calendar

Wed., June 1 ~ Partnership Meeting  
Sun., June 5 ~ **126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Covered Dish Luncheon**  
June 5 & 12 ~ Pentecost Special Offering for New Churches  
Tue., June 7 ~ Spiritual Formation and Mission C-Teams meet  
June 10-15 ~ Regional Beach Camp in Panama City Beach  
Sun., June 12 ~ FCC hosts District 2 Event ~ PENTECOST!  
June 20-24 ~ Regional Church Camps at YMCA-Hargis  
June 24-26 ~ Regional Convocation Assembly  
Sun., June 26 ~ Collaborative Sermon  
July 9-13 ~ General Assembly in Nashville  
Sun., July 24 ~ Children Worship & Wonder Service  
Sun., July 31 ~ AHS Class of 1986 visiting in worship  
Sun., Aug. 14 ~ FCC hosts missionary Elena Huegel

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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 ~ Faith Chat 12:45 pm**  
**Sunday Worship 11:00 am**