

Long-Term Calendar

Mar. 12-13 ~ Regional Men's Retreat ~ Miracle Day Publicity
Sat., Mar. 13 ~ Disciples Women's Gathering, 10:30 am
March 14 ~ Food Drive
Thu., Mar. 18 ~ Miracle Day Committee Meeting, 6:00
Thu., Mar. 25 ~ Valley CC Seniors Group visits Anniston
Sat., Mar. 27 ~ "Price-It-Yourself" Yard Sale for Miracle Day
March 28 ~ Baby Dedication and Shower for Amelia Medley
Sun., Apr. 4 ~ Easter ~ Early Service, Breakfast, Egg Hunt, Big Service
Apr. 10-11 ~ "Basebells" group from FCC-HSV
Sat., Apr. 17 ~ Dinner & a Show Fundraiser for Miracle Day
Apr. 23-25 ~ Regional Assembly in Decatur ~ Miracle Day Publicity
Sun., May 2 ~ Celebration of 30 Women in Leadership (tent. date)
Sats., May 8, 15, 22 ~ MD Prep-Work Days
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.

The Good News

First Christian Church www.fccanniston.org March 2010
Anniston, AL 256-236-1316 email: fccanniston@bellsouth.net

Taking a Deep Breath.....⊕

The season of Lent is here, a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Without the journey, the impact of the destination is diminished. This year at FCC, we are taking the season of Lent as a chance to catch our breath before the most intense preparation for Miracle Day gets started. It's easy to get wrapped up in details (and debates about carpet color, or so the stories go!), but what's important is to remember why we're asking God for a Miracle in the first place. Re-focusing our attention on the journey to Easter, slowing down, taking a deep breath and remembering that building up our church is about building up the body of Christ, will help us to stay on track with our Miracle.

Throughout the month of March, though we'll be asking about carpet color, we'll also be asking the deeper questions about Miracle Day. What are we doing this for? What could the spiritual impact of this project look like? What future congregation are we making this investment for? How does our very work become an act of praise when given in the right spirit?

You will be receiving a letter asking you to consider supporting Miracle Day with your financial resources as well. We hope you will consider your commitment prayerfully, with a hopeful sense of what God can do through our congregation. You may give your gift at any time, all at once or spread out over the next few months, until the end of August. Cards will be provided for you to make your intentions clear. A box will be placed in the Friendship Room for cards and donations. All gifts will be recognized at the end of August.

Sun., Feb. 14 ~ Food Drive (See p. 4.) Ω

Sat., Mar. 27 ~ Miracle Day Yard Sale ~ 6am-2pm (See page 2.) ♥

Sun., Mar. 28 ~ Baby Dedication & Shower (See page 2.) ⊕ ♥ !!

Miracle Day Yard Sale ♥

On Saturday, March 27th, you are invited to come help with our first Miracle Day fund-raiser, a price-it-yourself Yard Sale. We are asking you to bring in clean, usable items, already priced, no earlier than the week of the sale. We will have some pricing stickers available at church. ♥

The sale will go from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will need people to work all day, but if you can't get here early, make sure to bring your stuff earlier that week. ♥

Do not bring any items you're not willing to part with at any price! At some point in the day, all prices will be reduced 50%. At the end of the day, all items left will be donated. ♥

See the guidelines sheet on the Engaged Faith table for more information, and the sign-up sheet for when you can come help out. ♥

Baby Dedication & Shower ♥

On Sunday, March 28, **Joe & Rhonda Medley** will bring their daughter, **Amelia Grace**, to be dedicated. After worship, we will have a shower for them. They are registered at Target. Clothes sized 3-6 or 6-9 months will be most helpful. Come welcome a new child into the Family of God! ♥

Helping Us Pray Better ⊕ ♥

Our Elders have worked out a **new approach to sharing our prayer concerns** that we hope will help clarify and amplify our prayer concerns, both within and beyond our church family. ⊕ ♥

The "Prayer Concerns" page in the Sunday bulletin is being simplified. (See the prayer page in this newsletter as an example of what it will look like.) In the "Urgent Prayers" section, we will run concerns about **church members and their family members**. Concerns for members' family will **run for one week**, unless specifically requested to run again. Concerns about members will run as needed. ⊕ ♥

We have created a **Prayer Book** that will be placed in the Friendship Room. The "**On-Going**" and "**Cancer**" concerns from the bulletin will be moved into our Prayer Book. You may add names to these lists at any time. ⊕ ♥

In addition, there will be a "**General Concerns**" section where you are encouraged to write in any concerns you have for co-workers, friends, acquaintances, etc. We also invite you to go back and write in updates as they occur, so we can give thanks for prayers answered as well. ⊕ ♥

You are, of course, **always welcome to share any prayer concern** verbally during worship or through the Prayer Chain. It is our hope that this new approach will make our Prayer Page more readable and useful, as well as give us a new way to lift people up in prayer. ⊕ ♥

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Regional Men's Retreat - Hargis - March 12-13 ⊕ ♥

All men are encouraged to attend the Regional Men's Retreat this year, to help promote Miracle Day. The event starts Friday, March 12 at 6:00 (come as early as 2:00 for fishing, hiking, fellowship, etc.) and goes through Saturday at 2:30. Rev. Eugene Fisher of the Christian Church's Pension Fund will be the retreat leader. The theme is "God First – Spirit, Mind and Body". ⊕

Kenny Hays will be leading our delegation of men. We are hoping to do some good recruiting of volunteers for Miracle Day, especially for our three prep-work days scheduled in May. See Pastor Rebecca if you need a registration form. The cost is \$75.00. ⊕ ♥

Regional Assembly at FCC-Decatur - April 23-25 ⊕ ♥

Now is the time to start thinking about attending our Regional Assembly at First Christian Church of Decatur, Friday-Sunday, April 23-25. The theme this year is "...to the ends of the earth." Guest speakers include Week of Compassion director Rev. Amy Gopp, Global Ministries Africa Executive Rev. Sandra Gourdet and Global Ministries Latin America Executive Rev. Felix Ortiz-Cotto. Registration is only \$30 for adults before March 22, plus the costs of housing and meals. Registration and housing information is available in the office. We're hoping to send a big group to promote Miracle Day. We can also send two more voting delegates if you are interested. ⊕ ♥

⊕ Register for Quadrennial Assembly! Visit www.quadrennial.org ⊕

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 March is:

Mar. 7: Fairhope Christian Church, Fairhope, AL – Mike Barnes

Mar. 14: First Christian Church, Decatur, AL – Cameron Douglas

Mar. 21: Primera Iglésia Cristiana, Anniston, AL – Carmen Reyes

Mar. 28: Snow Hill Christian Church, Ft. Deposit, AL – Dale Braxton

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

One of my favorite writers, Kathleen Norris, talks about Lent as a time to practice for those seasons that arrive in our lives on no schedule, bringing slowness or deprivation or difficult personal reflection. If we practice those things together, as church, we can hopefully be better prepared when they arrive in our individual lives.

At FCC this year for Lent, we are practicing breathing. Doesn't seem like it should be that hard, but how often have you heard the reminder, when things get tense, to "take a deep breath"?

The Apostle Paul exhorts the church to "pray without ceasing". Such a teaching may seem impossible, but the more we unify our breath with the breath of God's Spirit, the more simply breathing can become an act of prayer. It is my hope that this season of breathing will not only make us better prepared as a church for all that is happening this year, but also bring us all blessings that will carry us through whatever life may bring our way.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca

p.s. See you in church!

One + One + One Key

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

Service Schedules ♥

March Meetings ♥

Children's Min. – Sat., Mar. 6, 9:00
Fellowship CT – Sun., Mar. 7, 12:30
Stewardship CT – Tue., Mar. 9, 4:30
Elders – Sun., Mar. 14, 12:30
Spirit. Form. CT – Tue., Mar. 16, 5:00
Mission CT – Wed., Mar. 17, 6:00
MD Comm. – Thu., Mar. 18, 6:00

Elders ♥:

Mar. 7: Anne Phillips
Mar. 14: Judy Bell
Mar. 21: Rebecca Littlejohn
Mar. 28: Maria Zamarripa

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Joanne Wells & Don Jones

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Mar. 7: Robin & Lloyd Andrews
Mar. 14: Suzy Spiceland
Mar. 21: ?
Mar. 28: Lori Hays

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Mar. 7: Karen Reaves / Rebecca L.
Mar. 14: Marie Bittle / Lori Hays
Mar. 21: Mary Lib Johnson / ?
Mar. 28: Julie Nix / Rebecca L.

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

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

Disciples Women Gathering

Disciples Women will gather Sat., March 15th at Lori Hays' home in Pell City at 10:30 am. Mary Lib Johnson will present a program. We will meet at the church at 9:30 to car-pool. Ask Lori if you'd like to bring something for brunch. We invite all women of the church to join our newly formulated group! ☉ !!

Children's Ministries ♥

All Children's Church and Pre-School Leaders are asked to attend the re-scheduled Children's Ministries meeting on Saturday, Mar. 6th at 9:00. We will discuss curriculum, supply needs and other concerns. ♥

Food Drive Ω

We will be having a Food Drive on Sunday, **Mar. 14th**. Please bring in non-perishable food items that day. We'll give reminders on the 7th. Ω

Breathe Deep with Bible Study

Lent is a great time to get serious about your faith. One way to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ is through regular Bible study. We encourage everyone to get involved with our Common Daily Bible Reading program. Booklets are available that show the readings for each day. We discuss the past week's readings on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Join us! ☉ !!

Preparing for Easter

Every year, we celebrate Easter by adorning the sanctuary with **lilies**, which represent the eternal life we have in Christ. Members are invited to buy lilies, in memory or honor of special people in your life. Order envelopes will be available by March 14th. The lilies will be \$8.00. ☉ ♥

We also invite your donations of **plastic Easter eggs and candy**, for our Egg Hunt. Please bring them in by March 28th. Thanks! ♥

FIELD TRIP!

The Active Ageless Adults from Valley Christian Church in Birmingham are coming to Anniston on Thursday, March 25th. They are going to visit the Anniston Museum of Natural History, and they have invited our church members to join them for lunch beforehand and the museum, if you like. They will be eating at the Classic on Noble around noon. The museum is free on Thursday afternoons. See Pastor Rebecca if you would like more information about this chance to get to know fellow Disciples. ☉

PAGE TURNERS

The Page Turners will be discussing "Nature's Witness" by Daniel M. Harrell on Monday, March 1st at 1:00. A second session on this book will be scheduled at that meeting. See Anne Phillips for more information. ☉ !!

One More Big Decision for Miracle Day ♥

We have one more decision to make before we can proceed with our plans to renovate our sanctuary on Miracle Day, June 5th. If we're going to paint and install new carpet, we have to choose some colors. Our Work Project Coordinator Karen Reaves, who is a professional interior decorator, will be presenting the congregation with three color scheme options. They will be displayed the first three Sundays in March. On Sunday, March 21st, you will be asked to vote for your favorite. This will be a strictly most-votes-wins choice. All three options will look lovely in our historic sanctuary. We thank Karen for her work on this. If you cannot be present Mar. 21st, see Pastor Rebecca for an absentee ballot. **See the back of the calendar for more Miracle Day news.** ♥

Council Approves "Salt" Switch and Appoints Delegates ♥

At their meeting on Feb. 21st, the Council approved the Mission Coordinating Team's recommendation to replace Big Brothers Big Sisters with Second Chance Women's Shelter in our "Pass the Salt" offering rotation. They also appointed Kenny & Lori Hays as delegates to our Regional Assembly. Two more delegate slots are available if anyone is interested in attending. Being a delegate is simple; it merely means you have voting privileges at a very brief business meeting. ♥

Sharing about Stewardship ~ Over & Above? Ω

With Week of Compassion just past, and our Miracle Day fund-raising campaign kicking off this month, not to mention our monthly "Pass the Salt" offering, it may seem like we're always asking for money. And of course, those gifts are all over and above what members give regularly to sustain the basic ministry of the church. There's no doubt about it – ministry is not cheap! But is this really about being nicked and dined? The Call to Commitment each Sunday in worship reminds us that our gifts are about commitment and gratitude. Here's one way to think about it. A regular donation, hopefully a tithe, is a place to start, an acknowledgement that everything is God's. An over and above gift is a way to express gratitude that God has empowered us to minister to others. Ω

Ω Ω Ω "Pass the Salt" Recipient in March Ω Ω Ω
Sister Mary Roy's All Saints Interfaith Center of Concern