

The Good News

First Christian Church
Anniston, AL

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May 2009
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⊕ Come Study Revelation with Us ⊕

In May, Pastor Rebecca will be offering a class on the Book of Revelation, the very last book of the Bible. It is not a book that is discussed very often in churches like ours, but there are plenty of others out there using it for a variety of purposes, so it's important to understand it. ⊕

As one commentator says, "Few writings in all of literature have been so obsessively read with such generally disastrous results as the Book of Revelation." This class will give you the tools to sift the wheat from the chaff and find a message of hope and comfort in writings that might otherwise be too strange to be helpful. ⊕

Our Revelation class will be offered at two different times: The first session will be during our regular Sunday Morning Study time, and child care will be available for this session. We will also offer the study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 (no child care). The Tuesday night class will work more like a small group, with time for sharing and prayer at the beginning; it will run till about 8:00. ⊕

You are welcome to attend either session or to switch back and forth as your schedule allows. The Tuesday session will always be a repeat of the Sunday before. The first session will be Sunday, May 3rd, and the final Tuesday session will be June 2nd. ⊕

Sun., May 10 ~ Confirmation & Dedication ~ 11:00 am ⊕ ♥ !!

Sun., May 17 ~ Young Adult Luncheon ~ 12:30 pm ⊕ ♥ !!

Wed., May 20 ~ Pause for Prayer PLUS ~ 6:15 pm ⊕ !!

Sun., May 24 ~ Council Meeting ~ 12:30 pm ☐

Confirmation & Dedication

Julie Nix joined our church by transfer of membership on April 7th. On **Sunday, May 10th**, Mother's Day, we will celebrate the confirmation of Julie's baptism (done when she was 4) and the dedication of her daughter, **Olivia**. We hope you will be here to witness these happy events in the life of our church family. ♥ !!

Young Adult Luncheon

Young Adults – It's time to get our lunch on again! Come to worship on **Sunday, May 17th** and stay for lunch. We will have time for conversation and a chance to talk about what we want to do together to grow as a spiritual community. ⊕ ♥ !!

Congrats, Graduate!

Tristan Kaci Frintner, our Nursery Attendant and granddaughter of Dick & Judy Bell, will be graduating from Jacksonville High School on Thursday, May 28th. While in school, Tristan was involved in volleyball (State Champ team), softball (four years as starting catcher), Drama Club and Honors Society. She is graduating 18th in her class. Tristan plans to attend Jacksonville State in the fall. In addition to her job at our church, Tristan also works at Effina's Italian Restaurant in Jacksonville.

Evangelism Team Calling?

Now that we have completed our "Unbinding Your Heart" series, it's time for the Evangelism Team to get busy again. And you are invited to be part of that!

The Evangelism Team will be having a **Re-Organizing Meeting on Thursday, May 7th at 5:30**. Please pray fervently for this effort and ask God if you are being called to be part of it at this time. Everyone is welcome to join! See current team members Janna Sutherland (chair), Marie Bittle, or Karen Reaves for more information. ♥ !!

⊕ PFP PLUS ~ May 20

Join us for Bible study and communion on Wednesday, May 20th, at 6:15, as we enjoy Pause for Prayer PLUS (People Understanding and Learning from Scripture). ⊕ ♥ !!

What Do You Want to Know?

This summer, Pastor Rebecca will be doing a sermon series guided by YOU! What do you want to know? Are there terms used at church you don't fully understand? Things about God or Jesus or the Spirit you find confusing? Bible stories that don't make sense to you? Request slips will be available during May for you to turn in your suggestions. ⊕

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

Have you ever thought about what makes our church special? I think about it a lot. In this Easter season, with all the beauty bursting out around us, it's hard not to overflow with thanksgiving for this wonderful congregation. ♥

I like "raindrops on roses", but some of my favorite things about FCC are: your openness to trying new things, your willingness to do things the hard way when the easy way just won't cut it, the genuineness of your welcome to whomever comes in the door, your commitment to making sure people have a place where they can worship in unity while having the individuality of their beliefs respected.

I love the mix of generations we have at FCC, the variety of our worship music, and the reverent but informal tone of our service. You are a joy of a congregation to serve. Thank you! ♥

Peace and grace,

Pastor Rebecca

p.s. See you in church!

One + One + One Key

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

Service Schedules ♥

May Meetings ♥

Elders – Sun., May 3, 12:30
Evangelism – Tues., May 12, 5:00
125th Comm. – Thurs., May 21, 6:00
Council – Sun., May 24, 12:30

Elders ♥:

May 3: Judy Bell
May 10: Robert Soleman
May 17: Marie Bittle
May 24: Mary Elizabeth Johnson
May 31: Anne Phillips

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

May 3 & 10: Lori & Kenny H.
May 17: Eva M. & Colin G.
May 24: Suzy S. & Janna S.
May 31: Eva M. & Suzy S.

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

May 3: Shelley & Laura Phillips
May 10: Lori & Kenny Hays
May 17: Jessica Ortega & Maria Z.
May 24: Bill Rowland & Mary Lib Johnson
May 31: Nancy & Colin Green

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

May 3: Janie Morrow / Marie Bittle
May 10: Laura Phillips / Rebecca L.
May 17: Colin Green / ?
May 24: Julie Nix / Rebecca L.
May 31: Bill Rowland / ?

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

May 3: Suzy S. / Laura P. / Deane A.
May 10: Janie M. / Marie B. / Karen R.
May 17: Anne P. / Lori H. / Mary Lib J.
May 24: Janna S. / Dick B. / ?
May 31: Janie M. / Karen R. / Deane A.

Disciples Women ⊕

CWF/Disciples Women will meet on Thursday, May 14th at 6:00 at Anne Phillips' house. Marie Bittle will lead the program. All women are invited. Come and bring a friend! ⊕

The Disciples Women group is looking for suggestions about how we can provide spiritual growth opportunities (study, prayer and fellowship) for more women. If you have an idea about what would work for you, please speak to Anne Phillips, Marie Bittle, Mary Lib Johnson or Pastor Rebecca. ⊕

Mother's Day Blankets Ω

The CWF/ Disciples Women invite you to honor your mother or another beloved mother-figure for Mother's Day by donating the cost of a blanket to be distributed to refugees and disaster victims by Church World Service. May 3rd is the last Sunday to place an order. Blankets are \$5 each. Ω

NOVELS GROUP ⊕

The Novels Group will not be meeting in May, but get started reading "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" by Carson McCullars. They will be discussing it in multiple sessions in June. ⊕ !!

Interfaith Needs Ω

Thank you for your faithful support of "Pass the Salt" our monthly offering for emergency assistance that goes to Interfaith Ministries! Ω

IM serves the community in a wide variety of ways, but they are only as strong as the support they receive from churches. There are lots of ways you can help out. Ω

Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels and for Angel Tree Camp, for kids with parents in prison. Donations of individually wrapped snacks, deodorant and other toiletries, toilet paper and bath towels are also needed. Ω

Praying the Psalms ⊕

"Praying the Psalms" is a prayer and study small group that takes turns leading the discussion. They will be meeting Monday, May 4th and 18th at 5:30 in the church office. See Marie Bittle for more information. Anyone is welcome to come, just for one session or regularly. ⊕ !!

Book Group "Last Rites"

After our twelve weeks of discussing death, the Ecumenical Book Group will celebrate the end of our spring session with a "funeral dinner" potluck on Tuesday, May 12th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. ⊕

Anniversary Preparations getting underway ♥

The 125th Anniversary Planning Committee will hold its first meeting on **Thursday, May 21st** at 6:00 in the office. Anyone who is interested in helping plan our celebrations or even finding out if you're interested, is invited to attend the meeting. ♥

Meanwhile, the Fellowship Coordinating Team is planning a **Covered Dish Luncheon** after worship on **Sunday, June 7th**, our 124th Anniversary. This luncheon will be a kick-off for our planning. As our program, the 125th Committee will invite suggestions, stories and brain-storming about how to move into our milestone year. Everyone is asked to attend and share your ideas. ♥

Council Meeting on May 24th ♥

The FCC Council will meet after worship on Sunday, May 24th. Council **reports are due** to the office by drop-off or email on Thursday, **May 14th**. Information packets will be distributed in worship on Sunday, May 17th. All Council meetings are open to anyone who is interested in attending. Your Council officers are Moderator Marie Bittle, Vice-Moderator Judy Bell, Secretary Lela Davis, Treasurer Suzy Spiceland, Trustee Chair Bill Rowland, Mission CT Rep Colin Green, Spiritual Formation CT Rep Laura Phillips, Fellowship CT Rep Janna Sutherland and Stewardship CT Rep Robert Soleman. ♥

Sharing about Stewardship ~ You Need "Disciples World"! ♥

As part of our budget reductions for 2009, it was determined that we will not renew the church's multiple subscriptions to our award-winning denominational magazine, "Disciples World." This decision was made in the hope that individuals within the congregation will choose to pick up where we leave off by subscribing themselves. Our subscription is about to expire, so now is the time! You will find all sorts of interesting, thought-provoking articles, good ideas for ministry, and information about our wider church in DW. Plus, when you're done reading your copy, you can bring it in and leave it on the magazine table so a visitor can pick it up and learn more about our church. An annual subscription is only \$31 and includes a code that gives you access to extra materials online. We hope at least ten households will subscribe. Pick up a subscription form today! ♥

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Pentecost Special Offering Supports New Congregations

On Sundays, May 24th and 31st, we will collect a special offering for Pentecost. All of the funds from this special offering go to **support the development of new Disciples congregations**. How many people do you know who are part of a new Disciples church? Well, everyone at Iglésia Cristiana! Plus, those who remember Noel and Arline Stephens should know that they joined a new church start in Arizona when they moved back there. It's hard to start something out of nothing, even with God's help and guidance. The gifts you give help ensure that there is a Disciples witness, a community of faith that encourages deep faith of the heart and mind, in places where there wouldn't be otherwise. Please give generously to the Pentecost Special Offering. Ω

Pentecost is a great day to remember new churches, because it is considered the birthday of The Church, the day the Holy Spirit overcame the disciples and empowered them to share the gospel. **Wear red on May 31st** to help celebrate the out-pouring of the Spirit! ♥ !!

Pastor Rebecca to attend Disciples Home Missions Board Meeting

Pastor Rebecca will be attending the Board Meeting for Disciples Home Missions, Thurs.-Sat., May 28-30. She will return early Sunday morning. Please keep DHM in your prayers during this time of transition within the wider church. Also, the Anti-Racism Team that Pastor Rebecca co-chairs will be promoting some policy changes they've been working on for the past few months.

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 May is:

May 3: Cedar Plains Christian Church, Falkville, AL – Keith Andrews

May 10: Macedonia Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – Kenneth Hill

May 17: Macedonia Christian Church, Tallassee, AL – David Hooks

May 24: Mt Zion Christian Church, Hayneville, AL – Frank Nettles

May 31: First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach, FL – Roger Peadro

First Christian Church, Florence, AL – Carl Gebhardt & Laura Hutchinson

First Christian Church Recycles! Ω

On Sunday, April 26th, at our 6th Annual Outdoor Service for Earth Stewardship Sunday, the Mission Coordinating Team initiated FCC's recycling program. We now have bins in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to **collect plastic and aluminum**.

All plastics with the number 1 or 2 on the bottom (especially tea/milk/juice jugs or water bottles) should be **rinsed out, crushed if possible**, and dropped in the plastics bin. All aluminum cans, foil, and pans can be rinsed and crushed and put in the aluminum bin. **Please help us** develop and maintain good recycling habits as a congregation **by thinking before you throw anything in the trash!**

Our recyclables will be taken, along with the paper we recycle in the office, to Waste Recycling on 10th Street. You can drop off your own recycling from home there too. They pay for newspaper, aluminum, office grade paper, and corrugated cardboard. They also take mixed paper and plastic.

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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

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