

The Good News

First Christian Church
Anniston, AL

www.fccanniston.org
256-236-1316

May 2011
email: fccanniston@bellsouth.net

Easter Season Continues!

Easter has come, but it hasn't gone! The season of Eastertide continues through Pentecost (June 12th), and it is fitting that we celebrate it as a time of new life and growth. This is a great time to invite a friend or acquaintance to church, perhaps to our Outdoor Service at the end of the month or even to our Habitat Work Day (see page 2 for more information on both). ☉ !!

It is also a great time to re-commit to nurturing your own growth as a Christian. Faith Chat resumes after worship this Sunday, and our Common Daily Bible Reading study meets each Sunday at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to drop in on either one as you can, or make a commitment to regular attendance and see what it does for your faith. You can pick up a copy of the Common Daily Bible Readings schedule on the Engaged Faith table in the Friendship Room at the back of the sanctuary. ☉

Service of Baptism ~ May 1st

On Sunday, May 1st, we will have the privilege of witnessing the baptism of Jennifer Smith, who joined our church last year. Though Jennifer has been a Christian for many years, for a combination of many reasons, she has never been baptized before. The sermon that day will be a collaborative reflection on the meaning of baptism in our faith between Pastor Rebecca and Anne Phillips. You will definitely want to attend Faith Chat to continue the conversation. ☉

Sun., May 1 ~ Service of Baptism and more (see above) ☉ ♥ !!

Sat., May 21 ~ Habitat Work Day and Play Date (see page 2) ♥ Ω

Wed., May 25 ~ Council Meeting, 6:00 pm (see page 5) ♥

Sun., May 29 ~ Stewardship of Creation Service (see page 2) ☉ !!

Outdoor Service Ω !!

Because of the timing of Easter, our annual Stewardship of Creation Outdoor Service has been moved to Sunday, May 29th, when we would regularly have informal worship. We will meet in our Community Prayer Garden. Please bring lawn chairs and/or blankets and dress appropriately for the weather. We will have a small tent up to provide shade. This is a great time to invite a friend or neighbor. ⊕ Ω !!

126th Anniversary Lunch ♥

On Sunday, June 5th, we will be having a covered dish luncheon after worship to celebrate our 126th anniversary. Miracle Day will be a year old that day, and we will celebrate by viewing the scrapbook that Mary Lib Johnson has been preparing and the history that Anne Phillips has written. We will also be sealing our time capsule, with a copy of the history and our new photo directory in it. If you have additional items that should go in the time capsule, please turn them into the office as soon as possible, so we can ensure everything will fit. ♥

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

Mission Adventures! Ω

HABITAT WORK DAY /PLAY DATE

On Saturday, May 21st, you are invited to an FCC Habitat for Humanity Work Day. We will be working on a house in Jacksonville, at 1218 Quail Run Drive. We will meet there at 8:00. A sign-up sheet is on the Engaged Faith table. Ω

For those with kids, we are hosting a play date at church the day of the Work Day. We also need volunteers to be at church to help with this. Please sign up for whichever sort of work suits you best! We will need to provide lunch at church, but not at the work site. Ω

Thanks to everyone who donated sunscreen and bug spray for our April Mission Adventure Collection! Ω

Ω **MAY COLLECTION FOR** Ω Ω **CENTER OF CONCERN** Ω

Our Pass the Salt agency for May is All Saints Interfaith Center of Concern. We will not be going there to work, as they are not open on Saturdays. We are, however, collecting special items for them. Instead of food this time, we're asking you to bring in **diapers, feminine hygiene items, toilet paper, paper towels and new socks and underwear**. These are very useful to the Center's clients. Thanks! Ω

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

I write these words in the aftermath of much joy and much pain. On Sunday, we celebrated the resurrection with grand festivities, even as we mourned the loss of a beloved teacher. Then, just yesterday, there was terrible loss of life and more as violent tornadoes swept across the region.

Our sign out front currently reads "Jesus Christ is risen in our deeds" on one side and "I am with you in the midst of the storm" on the other. I hope that these words will guide us as we respond to the tragedy around us.

Carrying the Easter message of resurrection with us is vital as we work to ease the pain of those who have been hardest hit. Our trust that God's promises will not fail can help them believe that things will get better. The Living Christ can be present with them through us, risen in our deeds. Let us do everything we can to let those who are hurting know that God is present with them, through all trials and tribulations.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca

P.S. See you in church!

Service Schedules ♥

May Meetings ♥

CWW Planning – Sat., May 14,
10:00

Council – Wed., May 25, 6:00

Fellowship – Tue., May 31, 6:00

Elders ♥:

May 1: Suzy Spiceland

May 8: Robert Soleman

May 15: Marie Bittle

May 22: Anne Phillips

May 29: Judy Bell

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Janna Sutherland & Don Jones

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

May 1: Geeter Smith

May 8: Julie Nix

May 15:

May 22:

May 29: Lori Hays

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

May 1: Robin Andrews / Rebecca

May 8: Suzy Spiceland / Lori Hays

May 15: Janie Morrow / Rebecca

May 22: Don Jones /

May 29: Getral Smith / Rebecca

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

May 1: Anne P. / Suzy S. / Julie N.

May 8: Lori H. / Jen S. / Trace S.

May 15: Janna S. / Marie B. / Karen R.

May 22: Janie M. / Dick B. / Nancy G.

May 29: Anne P. / Suzy S. / Julie N.

One + One + One Key

⊕ = You ♥ = Church Ω = World

!! = Bring a friend!

Disciples Women ⊕

Disciples Women will meet Saturday, May 7th at the church at 10:00 am, with Janie Morrow hosting brunch. Marie Bittle is responsible for the program. All women are invited to be part of Disciples Women. ⊕

Blankets for Dads! Ω

Because of the timing of Easter, our Church World Service blanket drive will be held in honor of Father's Day, rather than Mother's Day, this year. Envelopes will be available starting May 22nd to sponsor a blanket for only \$5, for a refugee or disaster victim, in honor or memory of the fathers, grandfathers and father figures in your life. ⊕ Ω

Photo Directories coming! ♥

The proof book for our photo directory was sent back a couple weeks ago, and we have been told the directories are scheduled to be shipped May 12th. When they arrive, we will pass them out on Sundays at church, one per family. If you need yours mailed, please let the office know. Please do not take more than one, as we want to save as many as we can for new members in the coming months and years. ⊕ ♥

FCC ♥s Our Kids!

At First Christian Church, we want our kids to know that they are loved. We also want the community to know that our kids are loved. One of the ways we do this is by showing up for the kids' activities. A schedule for Hayden Medley's T-ball games is now available. If your kids have events going on, please let us know so we can be present to support them. If you are planning to attend, please pick up a "FCC ♥s Our Kids!" sticker to wear. ♥ !!

Children Worship & Wonder

Our CWW team will be meeting on Saturday, May 14 at 10 am for further planning. There will be a retreat for storytellers (leaders) and "greeters" (assistants) scheduled in June. On July 31st, our regular informal service will be held in CWW style, so that the whole congregation can get a sense of what we'll be doing with the kids. ⊕

PAGE TURNERS ⊕

The Page Turners book group will be discussing "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck on Monday, May 2nd at 1:00 pm. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the group. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕

Council Meeting ~ May 25th ♥

FCC's Council will meet on Wednesday, May 25th. Council reports are due on Thursday, May 12th. Everyone is welcome to attend our council meetings, if you are interested. Information packets will be distributed to Council members on Sunday, May 15th. There are always a few extra available for others who would like to read through them. At this meeting, Anne Phillips will be appointed to serve out the remainder of Karen Reaves' term on the Spiritual Formation C-Team. Julie Nix will be taking on the Council responsibilities. Our Council members include Moderator Judy Bell, Vice-Moderator Kenny Hays, Secretary Janna Sutherland, Treasurer Suzy Spiceland, Trustee Chair Arlan Roszell, Spiritual Formation Rep Julie Nix, Mission Rep Dick Dell, Fellowship Rep Robin Andrews, and Stewardship Rep Janie Morrow. ♥

Pause for Prayer on Hiatus

The Spiritual Formation Coordinating Team has decided that Pause for Prayer will be put on hiatus for at least the month of May, and possibly for the whole summer, pending discussion by the Elders. We want to ensure that our congregation is serious about and focused on prayer, but we realize this service is not feasible for many of our members. If you have suggestions for how the church can help enrich your prayer life, please share them with Pastor Rebecca, an Elder or a member of the Spiritual Formation C-Team. We will be considering adaptations and alternatives over the next few months. ⊕

Sharing about Stewardship ~ Website Sponsorship ♥

It is time to renew our website once again. Each year, we offer members and friends the opportunity to sponsor a month of our website in honor or memory of someone important to you. The cost for one month is only \$35.00. Your sponsorship will be posted on each page of the website, unless you wish to remain anonymous. You can pick the month you'd like to sponsor (first come, first choice). Sponsorship envelopes are available now. Our website is a vital tool in helping potential new members learn more about us and become more comfortable before and after they visit. Thank you for your support!

**Ω Ω "Pass the Salt" Recipient in May: Ω Ω
All Saints Interfaith Center of Concern**

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Pastor at Numerous Regional and General Events this Month

Regional Anti-Racism Training – Pastor Rebecca will be attending an Anti-Racism Training for clergy sponsored by the ALNWFL Anti-Racism Team and the Committee on Ministry, **May 13-14** in Montgomery. This training is part of the requirements for regional clergy to maintain their ministerial standing.

Disciples Home Missions – Pastor Rebecca will be attending her last board meeting for Disciples Home Missions, Tuesday-Friday, May 17-20, at Christmount Retreat Center in Black Mountain, NC. She will be driving back Friday or Saturday, depending on when added-on planning meetings conclude.

Clergy Colleague Group – FCC will be hosting Pastor Rebecca's Regional Clergy Colleague Group on Monday, May 23rd, from 10-3. We will need to make lunch arrangements. See Pastor Rebecca if you would like to help with this. ♥

FCC to Host District II Gathering in June

On Sunday, June 12th at 4:00, First Christian Church and Iglésia Cristiana will be hosting our fellow District II congregations for our quarterly gathering. Rev. Diane Wood, our Region's minister for young adults, will present the program. There will also be a brief worship service and a short meeting. We will provide a reception in the Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the gathering. See Fellowship CT Chair Robin Andrews if you would like to help. Iglésia will begin their service at 1:00 that day, so they can be finished in time for this event. ♥

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 May is:

May 1: Cedar Plains Christian Church, Falkville, AL – Jerry Smith

May 8: Macedonia Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – Kenneth Hill

May 15: Macedonia Christian Church, Tallassee, AL – David Hooks

May 22: Mt. Zion Christian Church, Hayneville, AL – Franklin Nettles

May 29: First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach, FL – Roger Peadro

Oakmont Christian Church, Saraland, AL – Larry Rawls & Diane Stephenson

Long-Term Calendar

Sun., May 1 ~ Collaborative Sermon and Baptism
Sat., May 7 ~ Disciples Women
Thu., May 12 ~ Council Reports due
Tue., May 10 ~ Community preview of Freedom Riders documentary
May 13-14 ~ Pastor Rebecca at anti-Racism training in Mont'ry
Sat., May 14 ~ CWW planning meeting
May 17-21 ~ Pastor Rebecca at Christmount for DHM Board
Wed., May 25 ~ Council Meeting
Sun., May 29 ~ Outdoor Worship for Earth Day/ Informal Worship Service
Wed., June 1 ~ Partnership Meeting
Sun., June 5 ~ 126th Anniversary Covered Dish Luncheon
Sun., June 12 ~ FCC hosts District 2 Event
Sun., June 26 ~ Collaborative Sermon
Sun., July 31 ~ Children Worship & Wonder Service
Sun., Aug. 14 ~ FCC hosts missionary Elena Huegel

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

**Bible Study 9:45 am ~ Faith Chat 12:45 pm
Sunday Worship 11:00 am**