

The Good News

First Christian Church
Anniston, AL

www.fccanniston.org

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November 2009

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♥ Advent Festival & Blessing of Nativities ♥

Just after Thanksgiving, the church year begins again, with the First Sunday of Advent on **November 29th**. First Christian will be having an Advent Festival and Blessing of Nativities that day. We invite everyone to come at **9:30** that day to **set up your nativity scene** in the Fellowship Hall and help decorate the sanctuary. After worship, our festival will begin with the Blessing and then we'll have **crafts, games, music and holiday treats!** ♥ ⊕ !!

This will be a family and friend-friendly event. The craft will be an easy, but cute Christmas ornament. You will have time to make more than one, so plan to make some extras for holiday gifts. The Fellowship C-Team will be hosting Fellowship Time that day. ♥ ⊕

Time to Order Poinsettias

You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by ordering poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones. Order Envelopes will be available Nov. 15-29. You can order red or white. The 6½" pots are \$8.50 and the 8" pots are \$13.50. You may also order flowers for your home through this process, if you wish, and pick them up at church. We will be ordering them from Rainbow Omega again this year. Their greenhouse provides work for many developmentally-disabled adults from our community and around the state. ♥ Ω

Sun., Nov. 1 ~ All Saints Memorial Service ⊕ ♥ !!

Sun., Nov. 8 ~ Hymn Sing ⊕ ♥ !!

Sat., Nov. 14 ~ Bowling & Pizza Party, 3:00 ♥ !!

Sun., Nov. 15 ~ Council Meeting ♥

Sun., Nov. 29 ~ Advent Festival & Blessing of Nativities ⊕ ♥ !!

All Saints Memorial

On Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints Day with a special memorial service. We will lift up church members and family members who have passed on in the past year, and offer a time for all our past losses to be remembered. ♥

This will also be a time for all of us to meditate on how our faith prepares us for the realities of life and death and grief. You may know someone who could benefit from this service. Why not extend a special invitation to them to join you in church? ♥

Fall Hymn Sing

On Sunday, November 8th, we will be having a Fall Hymn Sing. We are currently collecting suggestions. Let Pastor Rebecca know what you would like to hear that day. The name and the number from the Chalice Hymnal are helpful in locating your favorites. ☺ ♥ !!

Pastor Rebecca will be returning from Indianapolis that morning, but should be in worship, provided the flight is on time.

Don't forget...

FCC ♥s Our Kids!

Check the calendar today for an event to attend!

Bowling & Pizza!

Make a plan to join friends from FCC and Iglésia on Saturday, Nov. 14th at 3:00 for bowling and pizza. We will meet at the bowling alley on Blue Mountain Road for a couple games and then head over to Pizza Hut for dinner. ☺ ♥ !!

This is a great time to bring a friend! All ages are encouraged to come and have fun, even if you're not going to bowl. Some of us are pretty amusing to watch! ☺ ♥ !!

Children's Ministries Needs

As we anticipate our nursery expanding, the Spiritual Formation Coordinating Team is asking for the congregation's support for our Children's Ministries program. We need donations to ensure our facilities are sufficient. If you can donate any of the following, we thank you: baby wipes, Lysol spray, bouncy seat, baby swing, infant toys & mobiles, cabinet w/ securable doors, adult-size chair with wipe-able surface, milk crates, file folders, non-clear tubs for toys (not too large), Bible-themed dvds, flip chart and construction paper, snacks (individually wrapped are best – animal crackers, teddy grahams, cheezits, goldfish, fruit snacks) and juice boxes. Thank you! ♥

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil. 1:3-5)

This line from Philippians is what comes to mind as we move forward into our ninth year in ministry together. This church has meant so much to me. We have done so much together, but there is much more to look forward to.

Thank you so much for the love gift that you presented to me for the Month of the Ministry. While so many of you express your appreciation regularly, such formal (and generous) gestures have special meaning.

"Sharing in the gospel" with you has shaped me in ways I cannot begin to thank you for. As we continue in ministry together, I hope that we can all re-dedicate ourselves to "worship, prayer, study and stewardship" as we grow closer in Christ Jesus. Bless you all.

Peace and grace,

Pastor Rebecca

p.s. See you in church!

Service Schedules ♥

November Meetings ♥

Elders – Sun., Nov. 8, 12:30
Council – Sun., Nov. 15, 12:30
Evangelism – Thu., Nov. 19, 6:00
Miracle Day – Tue., Dec. 1, 6:00

Elders ♥:

Nov. 1: Marie Bittle
Nov. 8: Mary Elizabeth Johnson
Nov. 15: Anne Phillips
Nov. 22: Judy Bell
Nov. 29: Robert Soleman

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Scott & Jennifer Roszell

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Nov. 1: Marie Bittle
Nov. 8: Anne Phillips
Nov. 15: Lori Hays
Nov. 22: Bill R. & Mary Lib J.
Nov. 29: Advent Festival

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Nov. 1: Colin Green / Rebecca L.
Nov. 8: Robert Soleman / Lori Hays
Nov. 15: Janie Morrow / Rebecca L.
Nov. 22: Joanne Wells / Lori Hays
Nov. 29: Don Jones / Rebecca L.

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

Nov. 1: Anne P. / Dick B. / Janie M.
Nov. 8: Janna S. / Marie B. / Karen R.
Nov. 15: Janie M. / Laura P. / Mary Lib J.
Nov. 22: Suzy S. / Lori H. / Deane A.
Nov. 29: Janna S. / Marie B. / Karen R.

Disciples Women Gathering

A good time was held by all at our first re-vamped Disciples Women's Gathering last month. Lori Hays will be hosting the next gathering, some Saturday in early December. Watch for more information. ⊕

PAGE TURNERS

The Page Turners will be reading "Same Kind of Different As Me" by Hall and Moore this month. They will meet to discuss the book on Monday, November 9th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. See Anne Phillips if you would like more information. This book group is open to everyone. ⊕ !!

Locating the Pastor...

Because of cost-saving changes to our phone plan, Pastor Rebecca has a **new cell phone number**. Please check with her to get the new number if you don't have it already.

Pastor Rebecca will be attending the Disciples Home Missions board meeting in Indianapolis Friday & Saturday, Nov. 6-7. She will be flying back early Sunday morning. ♥

She will also be gone overnight Nov. 12, for the Regional Senior Adults Retreat. (See page 7.) ♥

Pastor Rebecca will be out of town visiting family for Thanksgiving, Tuesday-Friday, Nov. 24-27. ⊕

Christmas Parades

The Evangelism Team invites you to join us for a holiday outreach at local Christmas parades. We will be passing out candy canes with information about our church and our Christmas activities attached. We need just a few people each night. ♥

Anniston – Sat., Nov. 21st, 5:00

Jacksonville – Tue., Dec. 1st, 6:00

Oxford – Thur., Dec. 3rd, 6:30

Bible Study for All ⊕

As the church year winds to a close Nov. 22nd, we will begin a new cycle of our Common Daily Bible Reading. Pick up the new booklet this month, and come join us in Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 or online. See Pastor Rebecca for info. ⊕ !!

Interfaith Ministries Community Thanksgiving Service

This year's Thanksgiving Service will be Nov. 22nd at First Presbyterian Church of Anniston at 4:00 pm. An adult choir and a children's choir will be singing. Bishop Will Willimon of the United Methodist Church will be preaching. All are welcome! ⊕ Ω !!

One + One + One Key

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

Council to Address Action Items Nov. 15th ♥

The Council of First Christian Church will meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, November 15th. All Council reports are due Thursday, November 5th, so that Council information packets can be distributed on the 8th. All Council members are asked to attend. Council meetings are open to anyone else who is interested in attending. ♥

At this meeting, the Nominating Committee will present the slate of lay leaders for 2010, for the Council's information. The slate is voted on by the congregation at the annual congregational meeting, which will be Dec. 6th. The Stewardship Coordinating Team will be presenting the 2010 budget for the Council's approval. ♥

The Mission Coordinating Team will be presenting 3 action items. They are proposing amendments to the by-laws that will make the True Community initiative part of the Mission CT's mandate, similar to the way the Fellowship CT has primary responsibility for the Evangelism Mandate. They are requesting the Council's approval to hold a special offering for Disciples Mission Fund, as a way of remembering our call as a congregation to model tithing through our DMF giving, despite our current incapacity to do so. Ω

The Mission CT will also be recommending that the "Pass the Salt" offering in 2010 be distributed to six different charities, on a monthly rotation. The organizations that would receive funding in the new system are Interfaith Ministries, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Daybreak Rape Crisis Center, All Saints Interfaith Center of Concern (Sister Mary's), and Community Enabler-Developer. Currently the "Pass the Salt" offering goes to Interfaith Ministries every month, along with our monthly budgeted support. The new system would collect funds for each agency twice a year. Ω

Sharing about Stewardship ~ Need to Catch Up? ♥

As we move toward the end of the year, you may be curious to check how you're doing with your stewardship practices. If you turned in an Estimate of Giving card last year, and would like to check on where you're at in relation to that, please check with one of our treasurers, Suzy Spiceland or Janie Morrow. If you have not yet turned in an Estimate of Giving card for 2010, you are certainly still welcome to do so. Making these statements of intent, mostly to ourselves, helps us stay accountable for how we are using our resources. Bless you! ♥

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Pastor Rebecca to Lead Regional Senior Adult Retreat this month ☉

“Adding Life to Your Years and Years to Your Life” is the theme of this year’s Regional Senior Adult Retreat. Pastor Rebecca will be the keynote speaker, and she would love to have some FCC-ers come along! The retreat will be held at Rolling Hills Camp in Calera, November 12-13. The retreat begins at noon on Thursday and ends by 1:30 on Friday. The cost for the retreat is \$85 for double occupancy rooms or \$110 for single occupancy rooms. More information and registration forms are available in the church office. ☉

Thanksgiving Special Offering to Support Schools - Nov. 15-22

On Sundays, November 15th & 22nd, we will be collecting our special Thanksgiving Offering. Each year, this offering goes to support Disciples students. Did you know that 17 colleges and universities are affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), along with 10 seminaries and divinity houses? (A divinity house is a center of support for Disciples students at a larger school like Vanderbilt or University of Chicago.) Ω

These institutions represent the current state of the Disciples’ historic commitment to nurturing the mind along with the spirit. By giving to the Thanksgiving offering, you are making a quality education possible for hundreds of Disciples students around the country. For more information and a donation envelope, please see the inserts in this newsletter or the bulletins on those Sundays. This “special day” offering is intended to be an over-and-above gift from those who have a little extra to give. Thank you for your generosity! Ω

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 November is:

Nov. 1: First Christian Church, Valhermoso Springs, AL – Mickey Johnson

Nov. 8: First Christian Church, Jasper, AL – Jack Baldwin

Nov. 15: Fairfax Christian Church, Valley, AL – Milton West

Nov. 22: United Christian, Montg’ry, AL – Shadeed Shareef & Bernice Stewart

Nov. 29: Oakmont Christian, Saraland, AL – Larry Rawls & Diane Stephenson

Long-Term Calendar

Sun., Nov. 1 ~ All Saints Memorial Service

Nov 6-8 ~ Pastor Rebecca in Indy at DHM (back for worship)

Sun., Nov. 8 ~ Hymn Sing and Elders Meeting

Nov. 12-13 ~ Regional Senior Adult Retreat

Sat., Nov. 14 ~ Bowling & Pizza Party, 3:00

Sun., Nov. 15 ~ Council Meeting, 12:30

Sun., Nov. 22 ~ Interfaith Ministries Community Thanksgiving, 4:00

Nov. 24-27 ~ Pastor Rebecca with family in IL for holiday

Sun., Nov. 29 ~ Advent Festival & Blessing of Nativities

Sun., Dec. 6 ~ Congregational Meeting

Sun., Dec. 13 ~ Christmas Cookie Exchange and Baby Dedication

Sat., Dec. 19 ~ Pastor's Christmas Open House

Thu., Dec. 24 ~ Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 6:00

Sun., Dec. 27 ~ Christmas Contemplative Service

Sun., Jan. 3 ~ Regional Minister Rev. John Mobley preaching for 125th

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.