

The Good News

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♥ “faith, hope & love abide...” ♥

In just nine months, First Christian Church of Anniston will turn 125 years old! As the days grow shorter, it is time to start preparing for the coming year, and this year we will have much to celebrate. The theme that has been chosen for our anniversary year, 2010, is “**faith, hope and love abide...**” This verse speaks to our long history, our excitement about the future, and the witness they give to God’s goodness. ♥ ⊕

This theme comes from I Corinthians 13:13, a favorite passage of many in our congregation. It will be used for our fall Stewardship Campaign (see page 5), for Miracle Day (see the back of the calendar), and for our anniversary celebrations in general. What do faith, hope and love mean to you? What does it mean to say they “abide”? ♥ ⊕

This verse is often used at weddings, but it’s also a good choice for funerals. It looks back and forward both, just as we will as we celebrate our anniversary. The word “abide” seems to imply a timelessness, an eternal nature that reflects God’s unwavering love. We will hear more about all that can be found in these few words in the coming months. 125 years seems like a long time, but to God, it’s like one brief evening. Let’s not miss a moment of it! ♥ ⊕

Sun., Oct. 4 ~ World Communion Sunday ⊕ ♥

Sat., Oct. 10 & 17 ~ Outreach for NHP ♥ !!

Sun., Oct. 18 ~ Consecration Sunday and Food Drive ⊕ ♥ Ω

Fri., Oct. 23 ~ Disciples Women’s Covered Dish ⊕

Sat., Oct. 31 ~ Neighborhood Halloween Project ♥ !!

Neighborhood Outreach

Our **Neighborhood Halloween Project** (NHP) was a **huge success** last year, and we need your help to make it even better this fall! ♥

The goals of this project are to serve our neighbors by increasing the sense of safety and community that night, to promote our church as an open-minded congregation that supports families, and to have fun. We hope you will pitch in! ♥

Volunteers are needed for many roles. On **Saturday, October 10th**, we will be letting the neighbors know we're doing the NHP again, by hanging flyers on their doors. On **Saturday, October 17th**, we will be signing people up to participate. Both outreaches will start at 1:00 pm; meet in the church office. (We may also have a follow-up Sunday afternoon to hit houses where no one was home the 17th.) Everyone will have a buddy. ♥

The night of Halloween, we need some folks to host the party here and others to take turns as "Guardian Angels," walking a block with a reflective vest, flashlight, cell phone and NHP maps. Donations of snacks and drinks are also needed. Sign up soon on the Engaged Faith Table for any and all of these opportunities to help make NHP a success again! ♥

Ω FOOD DRIVE Ω

On Sunday, October 18th, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for people in need in our area. We will pass out reminder slips the Sunday before. Please join us in sharing food with hungry people in our communities. Ω

The food we collect is distributed by Sister Mary's All Saints Interfaith Center of Concern and Community Enabler-Developer. You are always welcome to bring food in at other times as well. We deliver it about once a month. Ω

FCC ♥s Our Kids!

We hope everyone is excited about "**FCC ♥s Our Kids!**" We are asking parents to post their children's activities schedules on the calendar in the Friendship Room. John Russell Reaves is playing football, and Rico & Jaylon Aguirre are playing soccer. Lacy Frintner will have a concert this fall, and Caryn Hays will be in a Christmas program. Let us know what else is happening!

♥
To participate, just check the calendar, find a game or concert and show up! Wear your FCC t-shirt if that's appropriate, and make sure to take some "**FCC ♥s Our Kids!**" stickers so you can put one on your shirt. ♥

From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

Have you ever heard the phrase "Good things come in threes"? I think it must be true. I can think of lots of good things that come in threes around here. The first, most important, most lovely and awesome, of course, is The Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Ghost or if you prefer Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, or even Lover, Beloved and Love Itself.

But other good things come in threes too, like the attributes in our new anniversary theme: faith, hope and love. The three parts of our Mission Statement (deep relationship with Christ, service, and welcoming to the family) match the three calls to the faithful from Micah 6:8.

Coordinating Teams come in threes, and so do Children's Ministries volunteers. This fall and winter, baby girls are coming in threes at First Christian! The three aspects of faith in our 1+1+1 plan (self, church, world) help us keep a healthy balance in our faith life. Is it any wonder that the goodness of life is patterned after the Trinity?

Peace and grace,

Pastor Rebecca

p.s. See you in church!

Service Schedules ♥

October Meetings ♥

Miracle Day – Thu., Oct. 1, 6:00
Elders – Sun., Oct. 4, 12:30
Mission CT – Wed., Oct. 14, 6:00
Spirit. Form. CT – Thu., Oct. 15, 4:00
Fellowship CT – Tue., Oct. 20, 4:00
Evangelism – Thu., Oct. 22, 6:00
Stewardship CT – Thu., Oct. 29,
4:30

Elders ♥:

Oct. 4: Mary Elizabeth Johnson
Oct. 11: Rebecca Littlejohn
Oct. 18: Judy Bell
Oct. 25: Robert Soleman

Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Oct. 4/11: Kenny & Lori Hays
Oct. 18/25: Arlan R. & Joanne W.

Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Oct. 4: Deane Albright & Janie Morrow
Oct. 11:
Oct. 18: Karen & John Russell Reaves
Oct. 25: Suzy Spiceland

Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Oct. 4: Bill Rowland / Rebecca
Oct. 11: Mary Lib J. / Trace Smith
Oct. 18: Eva McCullough / Rebecca
Oct. 25: Marie Bittle / Lori Hays

Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

Oct. 4: Anne P. / Dick B. / Karen R.
Oct. 11: Janie M. / Marie B. / Deane A.
Oct. 18: Janna S. / Laura P. / Mary Lib J.
Oct. 25: Suzy S. / Lori H. / Karen R.

Disciples Women Gathering

All Disciples Women are invited to a Covered Dish Supper at Anne Phillips' home on Friday, October 23rd at 6:00 pm. We will have a Bible study and continue our conversation about how to structure our group. We will also discuss a Christmas service project. All women welcome!

⊕

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday of October is celebrated as World Communion Sunday each year. Of course, we will be having communion, but so will churches that only have it once a month or even just once a quarter.

This year's World Communion celebration is especially significant for Disciples and our denominational cousins (the independent Christian Churches and the Churches of Christ) because it marks the 200th anniversary of one of our founding documents, Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address." You can learn more about this call for unity at www.greatcommunion.org. In the mean time, make sure to be in church for the Lord's Supper on Sunday, October 4th! ⊕

One + One + One Key

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

PAGE TURNERS

⊕ The Page Turners will be reading "The Measure of a Man" by Sidney Poitier this month. They will meet to discuss the book on Monday, October 5th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. See Anne Phillips if you would like more information. This book group is open to everyone.

All Children's Ministries volunteers are asked to attend a re-organizing meeting after worship October 25th.

Ecumenical Book Group ⊕

Our Ecumenical Book Group will begin its 13th session on Tuesday, September 29th at noon. We will be reading "On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process" by Catherine Keller. We will meet each Tuesday at noon through December 8th. All are welcome. ⊕

Bible Study for All ⊕

We are studying the previous week's Common Daily Bible Reading scriptures each Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We'd love to have you join us! Discussion is picking up in the online group as well. Contact Pastor Rebecca if you would like to participate. ⊕

Nominating Committee Beginning Its Work ♥

Moderator Marie Bittle has appointed Robert Soleman, Lori Hays, Joanne Wells, Mary Lib Johnson and Deane Albright to serve on the Nominating Committee this fall. They will be meeting September 27th after the baby shower. Each year, the church, through the Nominating Committee, calls members to serve in leadership positions. Those who agree to serve are then approved by the congregation in December and installed in January. ♥

What should you do if a member of the Nominating Committee contacts you and asks you to serve? First, pray! See if there is a peace in your soul when you consider the position you've been called to. God equips those who step forward into service, if their intentions are faithful. If you need to, ask the person who contacted you for more information about the position. Then take a faithful and realistic look at your life, your other priorities and the responsibilities involved in the position. If you are able, say yes! ♥

Consecration Sunday to be held October 18th ⊕ ♥

As we look forward to our 125th anniversary year, one of our tasks as church is to plan for our financial future. We do this through an annual Stewardship Campaign, in which members are asked to estimate their financial support for the church's ministry in the coming year. On Sunday, October 18th, we will celebrate Consecration Sunday, when we ask God's blessings on the commitments we are all making to be generous and faithful stewards of the blessings God has given us. Financial stewardship can be a very fulfilling spiritual practice if approached with prayer and intentionality. If you would like more information about tithing or other forms of proportional giving, please contact Pastor Rebecca. ⊕ ♥

Sharing about Stewardship ~ Thank You! ♥

Through some very special, over-and-above gifts, we raised \$3000 (and counting?) to help with the costs of repairing our sanctuary air conditioning and heating system. We give thanks to all those who donated! The remainder of the repair costs will be drawn from our reserve funds. We are grateful to be keeping those withdrawals to a minimum. We hope that we won't have to run the system much at all this month, so dress appropriately for the weather. ♥

Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

Regional Women's Retreat - Oct. 2-4 - "Knowing and Being Known"

It's not too late to register for the annual Regional Women's Retreat, Friday-Sunday, October 2-4 at Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, AL. The theme this year is "Knowing and Being Known: Deepening Your Connection with God." Keynote Speaker Diane Wood says, "It is my prayer that each participant will have an experience of God that draws her deeper into the relationship with the Divine." Diane is pastor of Village Christian Church, our Regional Young Adult Minister, and an experienced leader of spiritual formation. ☩

The registration fee for the retreat is now \$120, which includes 2 nights lodging, meals and costs of the retreat. One-day registration is \$45 plus \$23 for meals. Registration forms and more information are available in the office. Marie Bittle, Lori Hays and Pastor Rebecca are planning to go and would love company! ☩

Pastor Rebecca to Keynote Senior Adult Retreat in November ☩

"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. Before October 26th, you get ten dollars off either fee. More information and registration forms are available in the church office. ☩

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 October is:

- Oct. 4: Madison Christian Church, Madison, AL – Bob Stegall, interim
- Oct. 11: First Christian Church, Robertsdale, AL – Tom Stephenson
- Oct. 18: Grace Christian Church, Helena, AL – Tommy Morgan & Phyllis Kirk
- Oct. 25: First Christian Church, Montgomery, AL – Susan Diamond & Diana Hodges-Batzka