

# The Good News

First Christian Church  
Anniston, AL

[www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)

256-236-1316

October 2011

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## Neighborhood Halloween Party

We hope everyone will make a point to be here for our **Neighborhood Halloween Party!** Because the actual holiday is on a weeknight this year, we'll be hosting a party on the **Saturday before, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 pm**, for the community, instead of doing our usual walking-the-blocks trick-or-treating hosting. There will be festive activities, including making s'mores and a costume contest, along with a simple meal of hot dogs, chips, and side dishes brought by neighbors. ♥

We need everyone's help to make this happen. We will be taking **doorknob flyer invitations to the neighborhood** after worship on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Many hands (and feet) will make that lighter work! There will be a sign-up for **food donations** and another for **different jobs on the day of the Party**. Look for those on the Engaged Faith Table. ♥

We will be soliciting donations from local businesses for **prizes for the costume contest**, so if you know someone who might give one, please let Lori Hays know. The categories will be **Scariest, Cutest, and Most Unique** (for kids and adults) and Best Group Theme. Let Lori know if you'd like to be a judge. ♥

We will also be having a **Food Drive** as part of the Party, asking people to bring at least one food item per person. We will have **invitations for you to take to friends** on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Start planning your costume now! ♥

**Sun., Oct. 9 ~ Inviting the Neighbors to our NHP** (see above) ♥ !! Ω

**Sat., Oct. 15 ~ CWW Story Making Day** (see page 2) ♥

**Sun., Oct. 16 ~ Community Farewell Reception** (see page 2) ♥ !!

**Sat., Oct. 29 ~ Neighborhood Halloween Party** (see above) ♥ !! Ω

## *Farewell Reception*

On Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, First Christian Church will be hosting a community Farewell Reception for Pastor Rebecca and Todd. This will be an opportunity for people from beyond our immediate congregation to come say good-bye to Rebecca. We hope that many church members will be present. ♥

Disciples Women is teaming up with the Fellowship Coordinating Team to host the reception. A sheet will be out for you to sign up to bring something for the reception. ♥

Having this event on the 16<sup>th</sup> will allow Pastor Rebecca's focus to be solely on the congregation on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, her last Sunday with us. Thank you for your help with this special event. We want the community to see how proud we are of the last ten years of ministry that we have shared. ♥

### **SIMPLE GOAL: SHINY FLOORS!**

We want to get the Fellowship Hall floors buffed and waxed before the Farewell Reception. If you can make a donation to this cause, please give a check to Disciples Women by Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will need help moving the furniture and movable walls after worship on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. THANKS! ♥

## WONDERING How to Help?

You don't have to be a Sunday morning volunteer to support **Children Worship & Wonder**. There are multiple ways the rest of the congregation can get involved. ♥

On **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, at 9:00, you are invited to a **CWW story-making day**. The stories that are told throughout the year involve props, made from all kinds of materials. You are invited to come help make these stories come alive for our children. ♥

We are also looking for people to **donate the food** that makes up The Feast. Each CWW session ends with a "Feast" that helps prepare the kids for communion in "big church." Simple snacks are needed for this each month. A sign-up calendar has been created for you to indicate when you can provide apple juice, cheese crackers or apple slices. Thanks! ♥

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Marie Bittle, Kenny Hays, Jennifer Smith, Robert Soleman and Joanne Wells are serving in this important role for 2012. You can help them out by filling out one of the covenant forms available on the Engaged Faith table. ♥

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." This old hymn reminds us that one of the things Christians can always count on is hope. If we have hope even in the face of death, surely we can have hope in the face of mere change.

I have a pile of hopes for how this congregation might grow in the chapter that will begin after I'm gone. It has been such an honor and a pleasure to serve with you. On the back of the calendar, you will find some of the hopes you have for the coming time of transition.

One of God's best gifts is that not just hope, but also gives us gifts to help make those hopes manifest. What gifts will you share to help hope come to life during this season of change that First Christian Church is entering now?

*Grace and peace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*P.S. See you in church!*

**Pastor Rebecca will be in Indianapolis Oct. 13-15 attending the Disciples Peace Fellowship Executive Committee meeting.**

### **One + One + One Key**

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

## **Service Schedules ♥**

### **October Meetings ♥**

Stewardship CT – Tue., Oct. 4, 4:30

**Nominating – Tue., Oct. 4, 6:00**

**Partnership – Wed., Oct. 5, 6:30**

Sp. Form. CT – Tue., Oct. 11, 5:15

Mission CT – Thu., Oct. 13, 6:30

Fellowship CT – Wed., Oct. 19, 6:30

**Elders – Sun., Oct. 30, 12:30**

### **Elders ♥:**

Oct. 2: Robert Soleman

Oct. 9: Marie Bittle

Oct. 16: Rebecca Littlejohn

Oct. 23: Judy Bell

Oct. 30: Anne Phillips

### **Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:**

Lloyd & Robin Andrews

### **Fellowship Hosts ♥:**

Oct. 2: Marie Bittle

Oct. 9: Nancy & Colin Green

Oct. 16: Maria Zamarripa

Oct. 23:

Oct. 30: Lori Hays

### **Liturgists ♥:**

Oct. 2: Marie Bittle

Oct. 9: Robert Soleman

Oct. 16: Suzy Spiceland

Oct. 23: Anne Phillips

Oct. 30: Judy Bell

### **Storyteller / Greeter / Floater ♥:**

Oct. 2: Tristan / Janna / Susan/Trace

Oct. 9: Janie M. / Suzy S. / Anne P.

Oct. 16: Lori H. / Marie B. / Nancy G.

Oct. 23: Jenn S. / Dick B. / Julie N.

Oct. 30: Maria Z. / Geeter S. / Susan R.

## Disciples Women ⊕ ♥

Disciples Women will meet Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Marie Bittle's home. Julie Nix will present a second session on human trafficking. All women of the church are warmly invited! ⊕

## Find a Prayer Group... ⊕

### PRAYING MOMS ⊕

The Praying Moms group will meet at 6:30 pm on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at Effina's Tuscan Grille in Jacksonville. All moms are welcome! (We're going to support our nursery attendant, Tristan, who works there!) ⊕

### EAST OF THE MOUNTAIN ⊕

Anyone can join this group, which meets on Thursday evenings at 5:00 in the Golden Springs area. Call Anne Phillips or Deane Albright to determine the location for the evening you'd like to attend. ⊕

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP ⊕

Everyone is welcome to attend the Wednesday Night Prayer Group, which meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 5:45 pm in the Friendship Room at the back of the sanctuary. ⊕

## *Blessing of Marriage*

On Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, in worship, we will have a special blessing of the recent marriage of Tristan (Frintner) and David DuBose.

## *A Habitat for Habitat*

One of the ways we serve the community is through providing space to ministries that we partner with. Habitat for Humanity is using our Fellowship Hall for their monthly board meetings and occasional training sessions for homeowners. Ω

## PAGE TURNERS ⊕

The Page Turners book group will be discussing "Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett on Monday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the group. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕

**Anyone interested in helping keep our website up to date is invited to a training on Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm in the office. ♥**

*Are you praying for  
Children Worship & Wonder?*

## God's Guidance for a Season of Change ⊕ ♥

Many of our leaders were present for our annual All Church Retreat last month. In the wake of Pastor Rebecca's resignation announcement, it was a blessing to be together and begin to process our reactions and look forward. Facilitators Laura Stephens-Reed and Penny Ford helped us understand that an interim period can be a fruitful time for our congregation. ♥

After our congregational meeting on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, the Elders met to map out a plan for the coming weeks and months. A Search Committee has been appointed by Moderator Judy Bell and approved by the Council, consisting of Lori Hays, Anne Phillips, Arlan Roszell, Geeter Smith, and Suzy Spiceland. This committee's first task will be to recommend an interim minister to the Council for approval. Regional Minister John Mobley will be meeting with the committee on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. ♥

In the weeks prior to the call of an interim minister, we will get to hear from a variety of preachers. Rev. Jim Clifford will be with us on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to be able to call an interim quickly, but we also do not want to rush the process. Let us all be faithful in prayer for God's guidance for our congregation and our lay leaders during this season of change. ♥

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### *Sharing about Stewardship ~ "A Future with Hope" ♥*

The theme of our Stewardship Campaign for 2012 calls us to look forward toward whatever is that God has planned for us around the corner. In Jeremiah 29:11-14a, we read "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes."

Times of transition and times of commitment are both important moments in which to seek God. Our Stewardship Campaign for 2012 is both. Please be in prayer about the financial commitment you will make to First Christian Church for the coming year. If you are tithing, pray about whether it's time to surpass your tithe. If you're not yet tithing, pray about what percentage you can give to work your way toward a tithe. If you haven't ever turned in an Estimate of Giving card, pray about whether now is the time to start. We will present our commitments to God on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. ⊕

**Ω Ω Ω "Pass the Salt" Recipient in October: Ω Ω Ω  
Habitat for Humanity of Calhoun County**

# Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

## Wider Church Support for Congregational Transitions

Money doesn't grow on trees, but did you know that ministers don't either? So when a congregation is seeking a new pastor, where do they start? In the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we are doubly blessed in this situation, because we have the support of our Regional church and our General church.

The process of growing ministers, though, starts in congregations, as lay people are nurtured in the faith and some of them hear a call from God to go into ministry. At some point, they enter into training, usually through a seminary degree program. This process is supported by our regional committees on ministry and our seminaries and divinity houses throughout the country.

When a pastor is ready to seek a call, whether fresh from training or moving on from another ministry, they develop their Ministerial Profile, a tool of the Office of Search and Call, housed in Indianapolis at Disciples Home Missions. Those ministerial profiles are distributed to the Regions each minister is interested in, and then the Regional Ministers send the good matches to search committees in congregations that are seeking pastors. They know how to do that because all along, they have been working with those search committees to develop a congregational profile that describes the church's history, present, and hopes for the future. Let us give thanks for all the ways our covenantal relationships support our congregation in this season of transition!

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## **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. In the summer, we also pray for ministers serving in non-congregational settings as well. The Prayer Calendar for October is:*

- Oct. 2: Madison Christian Church, Madison, AL – Beth Thomason & Mark Underwood  
Randy Elkstrom, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL
- Oct. 9: First Christian Church, Robertsedale, AL – Tom Stephenson  
John Mobley, Regional Minister, Helena, AL
- Oct. 16: Grace Christian Church, Helena, AL – Tommy Morgan
- Oct. 23: First Christian Church, Montgomery, AL – Susan Diamond
- Oct. 30: First Christian Church, Florence, AL – Carl Gebhardt & Laura Hutchinson

## Long-Term Calendar

Sept. 30-Oct. 2 ~ Regional Women's Retreat  
Sun., Oct. 2 ~ World Communion Sunday  
Wed., Oct. 5 ~ Partnership Team meeting (FCC hosts meal)  
Sun., Oct. 9 ~ Marriage Blessing, Stewardship Emphasis, Inviting for NHP  
Sat., Oct. 15 ~ CWW Story Making Day  
Sun., Oct. 16 ~ Consecration Sunday (Stewardship Campaign)  
Sun., Oct. 16 ~ Community Farewell Reception for Pastor Rebecca  
Sun., Oct. 23 ~ Pastor Rebecca's last day  
Sat. Oct. 29 ~ Neighborhood Halloween Party  
Sun., Nov. 6 ~ All Saints Memorial Service and Wedding Shower  
Nov. 13 & 20 ~ Thanksgiving Special Offering for Higher Education  
Sun., Nov. 20 ~ Council Meeting  
Sun., Nov. 27 ~ First Sunday of Advent  
Sun., Dec. 4 ~ Annual Congregational Meeting

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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](http://www.fccanniston.org)

**Bible Study 10:00 am**  
**Sunday Worship 11:00 am**