

# The Good News

December 2012

**Celebrating the Unity and Diversity of the Body of Christ**

Sunday School 10:00 AM ~ Sunday Service 11:00 AM

First Christian Church  
1327 Leighton Avenue  
Anniston, AL 36207

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## *Welcome* *Rev. Laura Hutchinson*

*Thank you for answering the call to ministry  
for our congregation here in Anniston.*

Dear First Christian Church,

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be standing on the threshold of our new ministry together! I have felt God tugging me towards you all for some time now and so, it feels so right that I am moving to Anniston to start a new life here. There is something about this church that feels very special, and I'm sure you all know what I am talking about. There is a friendliness and genuineness that permeates the building and the congregation. And that is a strength that must be natural; it cannot be fabricated.

That being said, the sky is the limit to what we can accomplish together in the years to come! God has blessed us and continues to bless us with His call to serve the world and His people in it. And so we accept His invitation and say, "Here we are, Lord! Show us the way." Together we will worship in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we will work side by side serving God's people, we will study God's word, and we will do our best to discern God's will for us, each and every day.

I look forward to getting to know each one of you and hearing your hopes and dreams for First Christian Church. You all have different gifts and talents and ideas to contribute to our ministry, and I hope you know that I plan for us to work as a ministerial team while I'm here in Anniston.

My move-in date is Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>; I will be in the office for the first time on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>; and I will finally be in worship with you on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. May God bless each and every one of you this Advent Season, and may God guide us into 2013, walking before, beside and behind us the whole way.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Laura Hutchinson

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, December 9th, immediately following worship, we will have our annual congregational meeting. At this meeting, we will vote on the proposed slate of officers and the proposed budget for 2013.

We hope all members will attend!

## Girl Scout News

Dec. 2 (Sunday) 1:15 pm -  
McDonald's and to Anniston High  
School for the Nutcracker Ballet

Dec. 15 (Saturday) 11:30 am -  
FCC Fellowship Hall to make  
Christmas ornaments

Dec. 29 (Saturday) 11:30 am -  
FCC Fellowship Hall  
Bringing in the new year refreshed  
and renewed with our Daisy Scout  
Spa Day

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### What our church collected for Thanksgiving to help others:

24 cans of corn  
20 cans of green beans  
8 boxes of stuffing  
10 cans of cranberry sauce  
5 turkeys, 5 hams, 5# potatoes  
25 boxes of macaroni & cheese  
1 can mustard greens, 1 can collards  
10 doz. Rolls, 2 loaves of bread  
2 jars peanut butter, 2 jars peanuts  
2 jars of jelly  
2 boxes of crackers  
6 cans potted meat  
2 boxes Nature Valley granola bars

## Service Schedules

### Elders

Dec. 2: Robert Soleman  
Dec. 9: Marie Bittle  
Dec. 16: Anne Phillips  
Dec. 23: Suzy Spiceland  
Dec. 30: Maria Zamarripa

### Communion Set-Up/Service

Janie Morrow and Shawn Taylor

### Fellowship Hosts

Dec. 2: Karen Jones  
Dec. 9: Christmas Cookie Exchange  
Dec. 16: Lori Hays  
Dec. 23: Anne Phillips  
Dec. 30: NEEDED

### Liturgists

Dec. 2: Geeter Smith  
Dec. 9: Marie Bittle  
Dec. 16: Suzy Spiceland  
Dec. 23: Julie Nix  
Dec. 30: Kenny Hays

### Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

Dec. 2: Tristan / Janna / Anne  
Dec. 9: Maria / Geeter / Julie  
Dec. 16: Lori / Marie / Trace  
Dec. 23: Jennifer / Dick / Anne  
Dec. 30: Tristan / Suzy / Julie

### Church Greeters

Dec. 2: Julie Nix  
Dec. 9: Janna Sutherland  
Dec. 16: Marie Bittle  
Dec. 23: Kenny Hays  
Dec. 30: Robert Soleman

## Christmas News

### Children's Choir

Each Sunday in December our Children's Choir will be performing. The following are their selections:

- Dec. 2: O Come, Little Children
- Dec. 9: Rocking
- Dec. 16: The Friendly Beasts
- Dec. 23: Mary Had a Baby
- Dec. 30: He is Born, the Divine Christ Child

### Christmas Cookie Exchange

Make a couple batches of your favorite Christmas cookies and bring them on Sunday, Dec. 9, to exchange with all the cookies others have made (following our congregational meeting).

### Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service will be on Dec. 24th, Time to be announced.

### Christmas Special Offering

**All** of this offering stays in our region to help with our regional ministries. These ministries include those with youth, young adults, women, men, and senior adults. It also includes the Regional Convocation, which empowers and equips persons for leadership roles in the church. Please give generously!

### Congratulations

to Anne Phillips who achieved the level of Life Master in Bridge early in November.

## Church Directories

New church directories will be copied in January. If you have any changes in phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses, etc., please notify the church office as soon as possible but no later than Dec. 31. Thank you.

### Thank You!

Thank you for your gifts and continued support of Disciples Mission Fund! The precious resources you share beyond your congregation through DMF are transforming lives. Your gifts are at work on 6 continents, in more than 90 countries around the world, nurturing leaders, fostering community, and proclaiming good news! On behalf of the partners, thank you for sharing these gifts so that together we might be a movement for wholeness!

God's Blessings,  
Todd Adams,  
Associate General Minister &  
Vice President

DMF from FCC Anniston  
2010 \$2,943.90  
2011 \$3,246.66  
2012 \$3,244.81 (as of July)

These amounts do not include gifts to Week of Compassion, Reconciliation, and Special Day offerings.

\* \* \* \* \*

Week of Compassion Executive Director, Rev. Amy Gopp, has been elected as a new member of the Board of Directors of Church World Service.

## How can we best keep Christmas?

- By following the star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in a manger.
- By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
- By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.
- By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy, and devotion.

—Wilferd Peterson, *The New Book of the Art of Living*

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