

The Good News

January 2013

Celebrating the Unity and Diversity of the Body of Christ

Bible Study 10:00 AM ~ Sunday Service 11:00 AM

First Christian Church
1327 Leighton Avenue
Anniston, AL 36207

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Leadership Conference

Saturday, January 12th

9:00 a.m. — Deacons

9:30 a.m. — Elders

10:00 a.m. — Council

(this meeting includes all coordinating team members)

I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself and allow you all to get to know me a little bit better. I was born and raised in Atlanta, GA and grew up as an inner city kid. I was raised by artists and lived in a neighborhood made-up almost entirely of artists. I spent my free time running around the neighborhood with my friends, riding my bike, and pretty much just being an active kid. It was an idyllic sort of childhood; except for the fact that neither my family nor any of our neighbors were Christians.

My parents were new-agers, jumping from one strange "religion" or philosophy after another. Easter was only about the Easter bunny, and Christmas was only about Santa Clause. I was not introduced to Jesus until my middle school years. Through a series of events that I can only call miracles, my whole family was brought to Christ. And at the same time, God brought us to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It was through my youth group and church camping experiences that I learned about the love and grace and mercy of God through His son, Jesus. And, I received my first "call" to ministry at Camp Christian in Georgia.

I tell you all of this because I want you to understand, I know what life is like without Christ in my life. I know that no matter how idyllic things seem, without God, it is meaningless. And I know that as my faith grows throughout my life, everything I do, everything I see, everything I experience becomes more and more powerful; because as my faith grows, I can see God everywhere I look. As we enter into the end of our Advent Season and finally welcome the birth of our Savior, I encourage you to take a moment and look around. It is because of this Christ child that we are all saved. And, it is because of Jesus that we can find joy and peace in any situation that comes our way.

Merry Christmas to all and may God bless you and your family this holiday season!

Laura

Newsletters by E-mail

Due to postage going up again in January, everyone who has an email address will be sent the newsletter by email unless we hear from you otherwise. The newsletter is regular 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper size so you can print a copy for reference if you need to. If you request a paper copy, we will continue to mail you one. Thanks for your support in helping us to cut down on postage costs.

Newly Elected Officers (Lay Leaders)

On Jan. 13 we will install the following newly elected leaders:

Moderator: Kenny Hays

Vice-Moderator: Lloyd Andrews

Secretary: Martha Entel

Treasurer: Suzy Spiceland

Assistant Treasurer: Janie Morrow

Financial Secretary: Anne Phillips

Stewardship Team: Janie, Kenny, Don

Fellowship Team: Jennifer S., Robin, Julie

Mission Team: Lori, Lloyd, Martha

Spiritual Formation: Janna, Suzy, Marie

Trustees: Robert, Robin, Arlan

Elders: Marie, Suzy, Maria, Judy, Kenny, Lori

Deacons: Don, Janie, Janna, Jennifer S.,

Geeter, Shawn, Dick, Lloyd, Robin, Julie,

Martha, Ricardo

Disciples Women

The Planning Committee for the
2014 Quadrennial Assembly

has been selected and held their first meeting this fall at the assembly site of the Marriot Marquis Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

Their expectation for the Quadrennial Assembly is to experience Atlanta in its fullness, and leave Disciples Women "finger prints" all over the city.

The Planning Committee asks that you keep them in your prayers as they plan for this gathering of thousands of women in 2014.

Service Schedules

Meetings

Leadership Conference ~ Sat, Jan 12, 9:00-11:30

Elders

Jan. 6: Suzy Spiceland

Jan. 13: Lori Hays

Jan. 20: Kenny Hays

Jan. 27: Marie Bittle

Communion Set-Up/Service

Don Jones & Janna Sutherland

Fellowship Hosts

Jan. 6: NEEDED

Jan. 13: NEEDED

Jan. 20: Dick & Judy Bell, Tristan

Jan. 27: NEEDED

Liturgists

Jan. 6: Anne Phillips

Jan. 13: Martha Entel

Jan. 20: Judy Bell

Jan. 27: Dick Bell

Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

Jan. 6: Janie / Janna / Trace

Jan. 13: Maria / Geeter / Julie

Jan. 20: Lori / Marie / Martha

Jan. 27: Jennifer S. / Dick / Trace

Church Greeters

Jan. 6: Julie Nix

Jan. 13: Janna Sutherland

Jan. 20: Marie Bittle

Jan. 27: Kenny Hays

Office notes: Pastor Laura will be at Ministers & Mates Retreat Jan. 14-16 and at Evangelism Training Jan 28-29.

Voting for Billy Weeks Award

We will vote on this award on Jan. 6 and present the award on Jan. 13. Please be here to cast your vote for the lay person that you think has done the most for the church in the last year.

New Church Directories

New church directories for 2013 with phone, address, email, and offices held will be available in the back of the sanctuary sometime in January.

EPIPHANY

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope, and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle, star, crown, gifts, and a globe. Epiphany has become a time for reaching out and “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions.

from The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2013

Beyond the Local Church

Rev. Amy Gopp, who is the Executive Director of Week of Compassion, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Church World Service. Church World Service is comprised of many denominations and does great humanitarian relief efforts around the world including the distribution of the blankets we purchase at Mother's Day.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Young adults from around the Region will gather at Camp Chandler on January 18-20, 2013, for a weekend of “Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts” led by Rev. Beth Thomason from Madison Christian Church. Cost is \$50 per person. Registration forms are available on the Engage Your Faith table in the back of the sanctuary.

Youthopia

(for Grades 6-12)

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss

January 25-27, \$100

(includes lodging, meals, snacks, & T-shirt)

A registered paying adult is expected to attend for every 1-6 youth.

Contact church office if interested in attending.



Page Turners

Will meet on January 7 at 1:00 pm to discuss the book “Wine to Water”

By Doc Hendley, a guy from North Carolina, who is helping to bring clean drinking water to people in Africa. Join us!

Happy New Year!

The Ultimate Resolution

Resolutions are easy to make but oh so hard to keep. In fact, many people refuse to make them for that very reason. After all, by February, most people have broken them, and by March they don't even remember what they were. It's just too hard to change, so why try?

Yet Scripture exhorts us to be more like Christ, to forgive our enemies, to tithe, and to be thankful in all situations. Shouldn't we resolve to put some of these into practice, even if ever so imperfectly?

Peter admonishes us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). That's the ultimate New Year's resolution — all but certain to be broken repeatedly before the sun sets on the first day. Yet though we fail, are we not better for trying?

from The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2013

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