

The Good News

February 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

www.fccanniston.org

email: fccanniston@bellsouth.net
256-236-1316

Pastor Installation for Rev. Laura Hutchinson

Sunday, February 17th, 11:00 a.m.
Pot-luck lunch after church!

On-Going Prayer Requests for FCC!

First Christian Church has much for which to be thankful, and it is obvious that God is working in the life of our Church as well in the personal lives of our members! As we look to the future of this congregation and its participation in the life of the Body of Christ, we will always have on-going prayer requests. Please keep the following items on your personal prayer request list and remember them in your time spent with God.

- We need several Children's Sunday school teachers to rotate Sundays.
- We need a web master who will keep our website up to date, modern and user friendly.
- Kenny Hays, Maria Zamarripa, and Laura Hutchinson are going with the ALNWFL Region to Honduras. We need to raise a minimum of \$1500 by March. And, the church would like to continue to raise money as an ongoing contribution to the Region's commitment to the Partnership with Honduras.
- Pray that God help FCC develop a strong and spirit filled Men's group.
- As God has blessed us with children and teens, pray that God be with us this year in achieving our goal to start a Children's Fellowship program as well as a Youth Group.

If you or someone you love are sick or in the hospital, please do not hesitate to call and let me know. My number is 256-689-0909. If someone you know has passed away, please contact the church office (so we can light a candle for them on Sunday). Thanks. *Laura*

WEEK OF COMPASSION
February 17TH THROUGH February 24TH

SHARING BRINGS JOY TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

Everyone Has a Gift to Bring!

Can you imagine what it would be like to never give? Never to reach out, lend a hand, or give of oneself? Through Week of Compassion, we experience the joy of giving not only because it is a blessing, but also because our offerings literally change lives. By giving to those who suffer and are in need, we give back to God.

God supplies the gifts and resources so that we **can** give back. After all, none of what we give is truly ours. Because all that we have—all that we have!—is God's. We're simply giving back to God what God graciously gave us.

God created a world where there is more than enough. In the sharing of our resources, we put our faith into action. We transform lives. We offer courageous compassion.

Indeed, we are **blessed** with the opportunity to join with God in God's work in the world. **Everyone** has a gift to bring. And that gift—your gift—whatever it is, brings joy to our God.

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What will you give up?

During Lent, some Christians give up a luxury or vice as a form of self-denial or to practice self-control. Ultimately, such a sacrifice should benefit one's spiritual walk with Jesus, who gave everything.

A Missouri teenager decided to give up talking for Lent. Decklan Conway, 13, communicated through dry-erase boards, going through three markers in less than a week. Although he lost a few friends because he wouldn't talk, Decklan wrote, "I'm doing it for a greater purpose." He added, "God gave up his only Son for us. ... What are you willing to give up?"

A worthy corollary to that question is "What will you take on?" What can you do for God's kingdom during this season of reflection and recommitment?

From The Newsletter Newsletter, Feb. 2013

Service Schedules

Meetings

Liturgist Training ~ Feb. 3, 12:15 pm
Fellowship Team ~ Feb. 4, 5:15 pm
Council ~ Sun., Feb. 10, 12:15 pm
CWW Teachers/Greeters meeting, Feb. 24, 12:15
Spiritual Formation, Feb. 27, 5:00 pm

Elders

Feb. 3: Maria Zamarripa
Feb. 10: Judy Bell
Feb. 17: Lori Hays
Feb. 24: Suzy Spiceland

Communion Set-Up/Service

Janie Morrow & Julie Nix

Fellowship Hosts

Feb. 3: Marie Bittle
Feb. 10: Joanne Wells
Feb. 17: NEEDED
Feb. 24: Maria Zamarripa

Liturgists

Feb. 3: Karen Jones
Feb. 10: Trace Smith
Feb. 17: Jennifer Smith
Feb. 24: Janie Morrow

Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

Feb. 3: Tristan / Suzy / Julie
Feb. 10: Janie / Janna / Martha
Feb. 17: Maria / Greeter / Trace
Feb. 24: Lori / Marie / Julie

Church Greeters

Feb. 3: Julie Nix
Feb. 10: Janna Sutherland
Feb. 17: Marie Bittle
Feb. 24: Kenny Hays

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Joint with Iglesia

February 16

Time to be announced



Happy Valentine's Day
Thursday, Feb. 14

Congregational Transformation Event
"Invited and Inviting"
February 8-9, FCC, Birmingham

Friday night, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Rev. Dr. William Willimon
Former Bishop of the
North Alabama Conference of the
United Methodist Church
No cost. Nursery provided.

Saturday, Workshops 9:00-2:30

These workshops will be aimed at helping church leaders focus upon what it means to be "invited" and upon the mandate of the church to be "inviting" in all of its ministries. Cost: \$25 per person

Beyond the Local Church

The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President of The Christian Church (DOC), offered the opening acclamation for the Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service for President Barack Obama on Tues., Jan. 22, in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. She was the preacher for his first inaugural prayer service.

All Church Wellness Challenge by Lori Hays
Sun., Feb. 3rd, we will invite members and friends to "weigh-in" for a good cause. Entry fee is \$10 per person. Goal is to lose 10 lbs in 10 weeks. At the end of the 10 weeks, anyone who loses 10 lbs will be entered into a drawing to win 1/2 of the entry fees. The other half will be donated to missions. We will have a Wellness email newsletter once a week, opportunities for group fitness, and buddy system for local members who need a fitness partner.

PAGE TURNERS

Monday, February 25, 1:00 pm

We will be discussing "Caleb's Crossing" by Geraldine Brooks. This book, inspired by a true story, takes place on Martha's Vineyard in the 1660's and relates the activities of the Puritans in trying to convert the Wampanoag Native Americans, including Caleb who becomes the first Native American graduate of Harvard College.

ECUMENICAL BOOK GROUP

Our Ecumenical Book Group spring session will meet on Wednesdays at noon beginning February 20th. We will be reading and discussing "The Year of Living Biblically" by A. J. Jacobs. Everyone is responsible for getting their own book.

Get a book and join us!

Disciples Women

Saturday, February 23, 10:00 a.m., at Julie Nix's. Marie Bittle will be doing the program. All ladies are invited.

Mission Corner by Lori Hays

Our Mission Coordinating team is in the beginning stages of planning our "Open Table—Dinner Ministry." We will be taking our time to make sure all of the details are ironed out so that we can execute this well. Our next planning meeting will take place after church on Sunday, Feb. 24th. If you would like to be involved, you are welcome to attend. Right now, all we need is prayer for the people we will serve, for the people who are called to volunteer with us, and for the resources we need to make it happen.

Noisy Offering by Lori Hays

On Sun., Feb 3rd, we will replace our coin ministry for missions with a Noisy Offering. On the first Sunday of every month, our kids will be asked to bring little metal buckets around to the congregation to fill with "noisy" coins. These offerings will fund our Open Table—Dinner Ministry. This is our children's way of contributing to the missions of our church, so please join us in supporting them. Bring your change this Sunday! We will send a reminder at the end of each month.

MEN'S RETREAT

"When Men Pray..."

Speaker: Dr. Rick Lowery

Disciples Professor and Biblical Scholar

March 8-9

at YMCA-Hargis

Chelsea, Alabama

Cost \$80; only \$70 if registration received prior to Feb. 16.

Registration begins at 2:00 on Friday.

The retreat officially begins at 6:00 with dinner and ends on Sat. by 2:30.

If arriving early, you can spend the time fishing, hiking, playing horseshoes or table games, and fellowshiping.

Registration forms on the Engage Your Faith table.

☺ Congratulations ☺

to Kenny Hays

who was presented with the

Billy Weeks Award

on Sunday, Jan. 22nd.

ASH
WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service
February 13, 6:30 pm

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