

The Good News

March 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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256-236-1316

*Spaghetti Supper &
Family movie Night
March 2, 5:00 pm*



Come have a fun time & help us raise money for our mission trip to Honduras.

New Possibilities (from the Society of St. Andrew, an organization that works to reduce hunger)

John 4:7-42

Lent is a time to meet Jesus anew and discover unrealized possibilities in our faith journey.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well, she was leading a life that seemed to have no other possibility. She was stuck in a rut, repeating the same choices over and over again. Her choices had led her to be marginalized in her community.

How surprised she must have been to have this man, a Jew, a stranger, talk to her. But she was not a stranger to Jesus. She came for water that would be consumed, but she received water that would change her life.

When she left her home, she could not see the possibility of such a change. She could not anticipate that she would have a positive influence on her community. She had no idea that she could move out of her marginalized status. She had no hope for new possibilities for her life. She expected that her life would be the same when she returned from the well as when she approached it.

But Jesus was at the well. He saw her with eyes of concern and acceptance that looked past who she was, who she had been. He offered her new possibilities for her life. And she accepted.

Will you be the same at Easter as you were on Ash Wednesday? Seek new possibilities. Meet Jesus anew.

~ The Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell

Prayer: Lord, help me to draw near to you and find new possibilities for my life. Amen.

From the Regional Minister...

One theologian has described preaching as “one beggar telling other beggars where to go to find food.” I have always remembered this quote and have found it to be quite informative as I understand the task of preaching. The saying can be applied to the task of evangelism in general. This task belongs not only to preachers, but to every person who has embraced the good news of God’s grace in Jesus Christ. Our mandate is to serve as agents of good news in the world – telling others where salvation may be found. We are all beggars, totally dependent on the grace and generosity of God, telling others, who are also totally dependent on the grace and generosity of God, where they may find such grace. Accepting Jesus Christ into our lives -- confessing him as Lord -- brings us into a right relationship with God. Other approaches to finding what we need fall flat, leaving us empty and hungry.

The theme for the 2013 Congregational Transformation Event, “Invited and Inviting,” is a theme that reminds us of the evangelism mandate. We are called to remember that we have come into the community of faith because of God’s invitation. We did not earn the right to be in such a community. We are included because of who God is – a loving, forgiving, and inviting God – not because of who we are or what we’ve done or not done. In this community, created by the invitation of God, we must remember that the invitation has come not only to us, but to the whole world. But not everyone has learned of this invitation. Therefore, we must become an “inviting” community. We must become good stewards of the invitation we have received by making known to others that the invitation is for them also.

I celebrate the fact that 33 ministers in the Alabama-Northwest Florida and Tennessee Regions are participating in Colleague Groups in 2013 in which the year-long focus is evangelism. By studying resources, encouraging each other, and praying together in monthly gatherings, these Colleague Groups will become better equipped to lead the church to be a more effective instrument for evangelism – sharing the good news of God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

How about your congregation? Is anyone talking about evangelism? Is there anything in your 2013 budget that indicates a commitment to this all-important part of our ministry? Is there any intentional effort to discover those persons in your community who may not be receiving the invitation that God is trying to deliver to them?

I pray that the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region and the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will realize that we have not received a “private” invitation into God’s grace but we have received an “open” invitation that includes our neighbor just as much as it includes us. Let us spread the word, by our actions and by our words. We are beggars who must tell our fellow beggars where to go to find food.

Your Partner in Ministry, John P. Mobley

Service Schedules

Meetings

Fellowship ~ Wed., March 6, 5:30 pm
Mission ~ Sunday, March 24, 12:15 pm

Elders

March 3: Kenny Hays
March 10: Marie Bittle
March 17: Maria Zamarripa
March 24: Judy Bell
March 31: Suzy Spiceland

Communion Set-Up/Service

Don Jones & Janna Sutherland

Fellowship Hosts

March 3: NEEDED
March 10: Mary Elizabeth Johnson
March 17: Karen Jones
March 24: Robin & Lloyd Andrews
March 31: Easter, none needed

Liturgists

March 3: Suzy Spiceland
March 10: Robin Andrews
March 17: Marie Bittle
March 24: Anne Phillips
March 31: Robert Soleman

Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

March 3: Jennifer S./Dick/Martha
March 10: Tristan/Suzy/Trace
March 17: Janie/Janna/Julie
March 24: Maria/Geeter/Martha
March 31: Lori/Marie/Trace

Church Greeters

March 3: Julie Nix
March 10: Janna Sutherland
March 17: Marie Bittle
March 24: Kenny Hays
March 31: Robert Soleman

Children's Market Consignment Sale

Jacksonville First United Methodist Church
March 6-9

Get a bookmark on the Engage Your Faith table
for times of specials

(see Laura’s article on back of calendar)

MEN'S RETREAT

"When Men Pray..."

March 8-9 at YMCA-Hargis, Chelsea, Alabama

Cost \$80

Speaker: Dr. Rick Lowery

Disciples Minister & Biblical Scholar
& husband of Rev. Sharon Watkins.

Registration begins at 2:00 on Friday.

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

Registration forms on the Engage Your Faith table.

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**We recently received a letter from
Martha Vandervoort, Executive Director of
Interfaith Ministries**

**Thanking us for our contributions in 2012
which totaled \$1,233.00.**

Thank you for making this possible.

We also received the following letter from Faye Tash, a friend of Laura's from her former church in Florence, who attended the installation service:

Dearest Friends,

Thanks for your warm hospitality this past Sunday. I was totally impressed with the installation service for Laura and the part Pastor Carlos and his congregation had in this celebration. It was truly an awesome tribute to the Lord and to the love you have for Laura and her ministry.

The lunch was wonderful—I think I tried it all! The roasted chicken, meat balls, roast beef, mac and cheese, pecan pie, red velvet cake, etc., were delicious!! Thanks for this great luncheon.

I wish all of you the best in your service of the Lord.

Love in Christ,
Faye Tash

Who made the Mexican lasagna? Wow!!

New Series "The Bible"

On the History Channel
beginning Sunday, March 3, at 7:00 pm



Page Turners

Monday, April 8, 1:00 pm

One Thousand White Women:

The Journals of May Dodd

by Jim Fergus

(about "Brides for Indians" in 1875 under President Ulysses S. Grant, whereby the white women went west to intermarry with the Cheyenne Indians in an attempt to assimilate the Indians into the white man's world)

Read the book and join us!

173

Average worship attendance
here at First Christian Church
in July 1928.



St. Patrick's Day
falls on Sunday
this year.

Wear Green
to church
that day.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 10!
Move your clock ahead one hour.



Spring Ahead

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On going prayer concerns/wish list

- Sunday school teachers for the children.
- Webmaster (especially to put pictures on website)
- A strong spirit-filled Men's Group
- A Children's Fellowship program and Youth Group.
- A freezer, upright or top loading, for our Open Table Food Ministry.

EASTER SCHEDULE

MARCH 24, PALM SUNDAY AND PARADE OF PALMS

MARCH 28, MAUNDY THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM. JOINT WITH IGLESIA.

**MARCH 30, FELLOWSHIP TEAM, DEACONS, 7TH-12TH GRADERS
COME TO CHURCH TO FILL EGGS FOR EASTER EGG HUNT**

MARCH 31, 8:30 AM - EARLY SERVICE IN THE PRAYER GARDEN

9:00 AM - BREAKFAST, ALL ARE WELCOME

**10:00 AM - EGG HUNT FOR ALL CHILDREN
(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

11:00 AM - EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

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