

The Good News

May 2013

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world

Sunday School 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

Blankets For Mother's Day May 12

(see inside for more details)

From your Pastor...

What is this food ministry I keep hearing about?

At the beginning of the year the Mission Team decided to focus on one local ministry project and one regional ministry project. They chose only two because we are a small, but energetic, church and they wanted to be sure that we did something really well instead of spreading ourselves too thin. I supported them in this decision. The two projects they decided to support were the Honduras Partnership of the Christian Church in Alabama/North West Florida (regional), and something they're calling our "Open Table Food Ministry" (local).

As you know, the Honduras Partnership is something I have been working on here in Alabama since the beginning. In 2010, the Honduras Task Force took our first trip to meet with our future partners. We sat down with representatives from the Christian Commission for Development (CCD) and from the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras (ERC). For several years now we have been talking and praying together about what our mission goals would be, and we have finally come up with a plan that will carry our partnership on into the future. The priority for the two groups is education – both for children and for their pastors – and that is something we can definitely help with. We will also be helping with other mission projects, including medical aide, building projects and other things. In return, we have identified that their gifts for evangelism and young adult ministry are so strong that they could be a huge help to us in these areas. (continued on page 4)

COUNCIL MEETING
Sunday, May 19, 12:30 pm

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Pentecost

May 19

Wear Red

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Pentecost Special Offering

The Pentecost Special Offering goes toward the goal of planting 1,000 new Disciples congregations by 2020.

Already since 2001

- 800 new churches have been started
- 50,000 new lives have been brought to Christ, and
- 18 languages are spoken in Disciples churches.

Half of this offering stays in our Region. The new congregation in Pensacola has received an allocation of \$60,000 for the first 3 years of its life with the expectation that it will be self-sustaining after that time.

The other half goes through New Church Ministry under the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation to provide support and leadership training for new church pastors.

YOUR CHURCH IS GROWING!

Service Schedules

Elders

- May 5: Judy Bell
- May 12: Suzy Spiceland
- May 19: Lori Hays
- May 26: Kenny Hays

Communion Set-Up/Service

Geeter and Jennifer Smith

Fellowship Hosts

- May 5: NEEDED
- May 12: Marie Bittle
- May 19: NEEDED
- May 26: NEEDED

Liturgists

- May 5: Kenny Hays
- May 12: Lacy Frintner
- May 19: Suzy Spiceland
- May 26: Robert Soleman

Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

- May 5: Lori / Marie / Julie
- May 12: Jennifer / Dick / Trace
- May 19: Tristan / Suzy / Julie
- May 26: Janie / Janna / Trace

Church Greeters

- May 5: Julie Nix
- May 12: Janna Sutherland
- May 19: Marie Bittle
- May 26: Kenny Hays

“Look for the Helpers”

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world. —Fred Rogers

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OFFICE NOTES:

Secretary out of the office May 29-June 4.



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
TO ALL OUR MOTHERS!**

Blanket Sunday
Mother's Day
May 12

Blankets are \$5 each and can be in honor or memory of your mother, grandmother, aunt, or any other important lady in your life. Blankets are distributed by Church World Service all over the world in times of disaster. Deadline to order is May 5.

"Biology is the least of what makes someone a mother." —Oprah Winfrey

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Interfaith Ministries needs people to deliver Meals on Wheels, even if you can do it only once a month. They will need substitutes for regular drivers during the summer. If interested, contact Maggie Freeman, Meals on Wheels Co-Director at 1-205-612-9022 or maggie.freeman@hotmail.com



Page Turners

Monday, May 13, 1:00 pm

"Grace and Grit:

My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond"

By Lilly Ledbetter

from Possum Trot, Alabama

Read the book and join us!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 18-20**

in conjunction with Iglesia Cristiana
(more info to follow later)



DISCIPLES WOMEN SPRING EVENT

May 18, Registration 9:30

Meeting: 9:50 - 2:30

First Christian Church, Montgomery

Speaker: Sheila Spencer,
who will help us connect across generations.

Save your Campbell's Soup labels
and Box Tops for Education.

Disciples Women will designate a place for you to bring them.

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(continued from page 1)

The local ministry that the Mission Team decided to pursue is the “Open Table Food Ministry;” we will become a part of the community in Anniston that is feeding the hungry people in our midst. At this time, we are in the early stages of planning to serve a hot meal one Saturday a month as well as having a small food pantry so people can take food home with them after their meal. The members of this church have identified a need in our neighborhood to provide food on the weekends when the Soup Bowl (the local soup kitchen) is not serving. We know that we are not capable of providing food every weekend, but we can at least do our part to fill in one of the gaps that exist in the services provided by our city. We are discussing our options in regards to where we will serve, either in our fellowship hall or in another facility close by. We are researching resources that can help us obtain food for free or for a very low cost. We are starting to raise funds that will help cover expenses when we are finally ready to start serving. And, we are praying very hard, seeking God’s guidance before any decisions that are made.

God calls us to care for the “least of these,” and so we are trying to do just that. We know that one hot meal will not change the world, but it will at least help some people get through another day. In the meantime, the other agencies in town are working hard to enable people to move out of their poverty and into positions of self-sufficiency. We’re just going to help people keep going until that happens. In every community there is a need for both kinds of ministry. And we pray that we are doing the kind that God wants us to do!

Keep praying for our mission team, for our congregation, and for the people in need who live around our church, and pray to God to guide you in the ways you would like to help our mission team. With God, we can do ALL things!

Peace,
Pastor Laura

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