

The Good News

September 2013

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Bible Study 10:00 AM, Sunday Service 11:00 AM, Fellowship 12:00

First Christian Church
1327 Leighton Avenue
Anniston, AL 36207

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From the Pastor, "Re-imagining Sabbath"

Some of you may have been hearing conversations about changes we could make for the year 2014. The Elders have been talking about it with me, and the council has discussed it as well. And now I want to start talking about it with everyone. After participating in a Disciple's sponsored webinar titled "5 Mistakes Churches Make When Visioning for the Future," I had the opportunity to ask the speaker about our church. I told him that as a new pastor, I had inherited a church that was visibly weary from years of fighting to survive. I asked him, "How does a church plan for the future when it is so tired from the recent past that it wilts at the mere mention of planning?" He said that there are many churches in our situation, and his recommendation to all of them has been to take a yearlong sabbatical from the Constitution, By-laws & programming and to focus entirely on prayer and bible study.

As I prayed about this and talked about the idea with the spiritual leaders of the congregation, a picture for what 2014 could look like began to evolve in my mind. I'm getting really excited about the church taking such a sabbatical and I hope that you will too. This is what I think 2014 could be like for us: For **one** year there would be no leadership retreat; no Council meetings (except for emergencies); no scheduled committee meetings (except for Partnership team); no pot luck meals; no VBS or Easter egg hunt; no special services; no Fellowship time signup; no food at Disciples Women; no food ministry; and no community Halloween party.

For **one** year we WOULD do the following: there would be a congregational commitment to coming to worship, to attending either Sunday School or Prayer Service (if not both), and to continued giving of tithes and offerings; I would host a series of prayer and Bible study meetings at my house each week for different groups (children, men, parents, youth/young adults, 60 & up, etc.); We would continue with one adult Sunday school class and one children's class; the 2013 officers, elders & deacons (might?) agree to serve in the same positions for one more year (with minimal responsibilities), and then we'd elect new leaders for 2015; elders, deacons and liturgists would serve in worship services as usual; we would provide aid to grieving families; the newsletter would contain Bible study aids, & prayer requests/concerns; we would continue with Worship & Wonder; we would have a simplified version of Fellowship Time; Holy Week would be a time for contemplation, prayer, and rest; we would spend a whole year focusing only on God.

Some of the concerns raised have a lot to do with the misconception that we would be taking a year off from church, thus possibly losing members and visitor interest. I want to reassure you that we would not be taking a year off from church, but instead taking a year off from "busyness for the sake of busyness" and focusing entirely on our Lord and Savior. Plus, there would be many opportunities to include our visitors in group building and spiritually uplifting activities without overwhelming them with any work or responsibilities.

Please begin praying about this groundbreaking idea and come ask me about any idea or concern that comes to mind. It will have to pass in a congregational vote for this to happen, so I want to make sure that every person fully understands what it means to 'RE-IMAGINE THE SABBATH!'

Laura

Reconciliation Offering

Sept. 29th & Oct. 6th



This offering leads the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of our denomination.

First Christian Church in Anniston is a pro-reconciliation/anti-racism church.

An Answered Prayer

by Doris Hoover

I want to thank you, Lord, for answering my prayer,
It's good to know you've always been there.
Many times I've been too anxious thinking you
should answer right now,
But I see the reasons you made me wait awhile.

I thought it would be quite easy when I asked
for this help.
The only one I thought of was my own selfish self.
I didn't stop to analyze the circumstance involved;
That the world around me just didn't revolve.

There were many people to whom your Spirit
had to speak.
There were many consecrations and your will
they had to seek.
Crooked paths were straightened,
mountains made low.
Many people had to walk in paths they didn't know.

The obstacles were many, often I didn't know
what to do.
The hardest thing was to wait & say,
"Lord, I'm trusting you,"
"I praise your name forever for
answering my prayer."
"For now I'm more certain your Love
is everywhere.

Service Schedules

Elders

Sept. 1: Maria Zamarripa
Sept. 8: Judy Bell
Sept. 15: Suzy Spiceland
Sept. 22: Lori Hays
Sept. 29: Kenny Hays

Communion Set-Up/Service

Robin and Lloyd Andrews

Fellowship Hosts

Sept. 1: Robin Andrews
Sept. 8: NEEDED
Sept. 15: NEEDED
Sept. 22: NEEDED
Sept. 29: NEEDED

Liturgists

Sept. 1: Lori Hays
Sept. 8: Lacy Frintner
Sept. 15: Martha Entel
Sept. 22: Suzy Spiceland
Sept. 29: Marie Bittle

Storyteller / Greeter / Nursery

Sept. 1: Tristan / Geeter / Trace
Sept. 8: Julie S / Marie / Julie N
Sept. 15: Maria / Dick / Trace
Sept. 22: Jennifer / Suzy / Julie N
Sept. 29: Tristan / Janna / Trace

Church Greeters

Sept. 1: Julie Nix
Sept. 8: Janna Sutherland
Sept. 15: Marie Bittle
Sept. 22: Kenny Hays
Sept. 29: Robert Soleman

Disciples Women

Saturday, Sept. 21, 10:30 a.m.
at Historic Anniston Kitchen
Program by Carol Hutchinson



To everyone
for the school supplies



In August we took the following school supplies to
Community Enabler:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 16 spiral notebooks | 3 folders |
| 11 packs notebook paper | 1 bottle glue |
| 80 pencils | 1 pack 3x5 cards |
| 18 pens | |

Our **Regional Prayer Calendar** churches and
Pastors-not-serving-churches for Sept.:

- Sept. 1: First Christian, Huntsville
Melanie Barton, Radio Ministry, Tallahassee
- Sept. 8: Braggs CC, Minter, AL
James Gazaway, Military Chaplaincy, Pensacola
- Sept. 15: Azalea Hills CC, Mobile
Theron Gunn, Military Chaplaincy, Warrior
- Sept. 22: First Christian, Pensacola
Scott Bowen, Military Chaplaincy, B'ham
- Sept. 29: Madison CC, Madison
Harvey Fearson, Community Ministry, Fort
Walton Beach

**Please be in prayer for these church congrega-
tions and ministers during the week indicated.**

PETFEST

1 mile fun walk for your pet,
Sat., Sept. 21, Zinn Park

Cost: \$10 first pet,
\$8 each additional pet

All proceeds go to local shelters &
non-profit animal organizations.

Each entrant will receive a custom bandana.

9:00 Registration

9:30 Walk begins

10:00 Blessing of the Animals
by **Pastor Laura**

PAGE TURNERS

Monday, Oct. 7, 1:00 pm

Read "Porch Lights: A Novel"
by Dorothea Benton Frank
and join us!

This is a multigenerational story taking place
in the Carolina low country about a nurse
who returns from the Afghanistan War who
finds her life altered by tragedy.

Ecumenical Book Group

Wednesdays at Noon

September 11—November 20

If you want to join us, get the book
"Beyond Belief: My Secret Life Inside
Scientology and My Harrowing Escape"
by Jenna Miscavige Hill & Lisa Pulitzer .
Read the Prologue, Chapters 1,2,3
before the first class.

Celebrate Grandparents!

The impetus for a National Grandparents Day
originated with *Marian McQuade*, a housewife in
Fayette County, West Virginia. Her primary moti-
vation was to champion the cause of lonely elder-
ly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade
grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage
their grandparents could provide. President
Jimmy Carter, in 1978, proclaimed that **National
Grandparents Day** would be celebrated every
year on the **first Sunday after Labor Day**.

Why I Stopped Attending Sports Events

1. Every time I go, they ask for money.
2. The people I have to sit with don't seem friendly.
3. The seats are too hard and uncomfortable.
4. The coach never visits me.
5. The referee makes decisions I disagree with.
6. I sit near some hypocrites; they come only to see what others are wearing.
7. Some games go into overtime, so I'm late getting home.
8. The band plays some music I haven't heard before.
9. The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. I read a book on sports, so I know more than the coaches do anyhow.
12. I want my kids to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

—*Moody Monthly*

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