



FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Anna

Anna is mentioned in the Bible as a [prophetess](#) and one of the people connected to Jesus' childhood. Her name means "favor" or "grace." When Anna encounters the infant Jesus in the temple, we see that her life is indeed overflowing with favor and grace. **"And there was a prophetess, Anna" (Luke 2:36).** Anna is among only a handful of women in the Bible bearing the title "prophetess." The others are Miriam ([Ex 15:20](#)); Deborah ([Jud 4:4](#)); Huldah ([2 Chron 34:22](#)); Isaiah's wife ([Isa 8:3](#)); and Philip's four unmarried daughters ([Acts 21:9](#)). **"She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four" (2:36-37).** Anna had been married only seven years when she became a widow, and she remained a widow for the rest of her life. Most translations indicate that Anna was eighty-four years old when she met Jesus. But it is also possible to translate the text to mean Anna had lived eighty-four years *after* her husband died. That would mean Anna was at least 104 years old. Either way, she had spent the vast majority of her life without a husband and was ministering before the Lord in the temple. **"She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying" (2:37).** After becoming a widow, Anna dedicated herself wholly to the Lord. She never left the temple but spent her time worshipping, fasting, and praying. It is possible that Anna was given living quarters at the temple because of her designation as prophetess, or she may have lived close by. What stands out is that her devotion was constant for the majority of her life, and her devotion was rewarded with an encounter with her Savior. Her many years of sacrifice and service were worth it all when she beheld the Messiah, the One for whom she had waited so long. **"Coming up to them at that very moment" (2:38).** Mary and Joseph arrive at the temple with the baby Jesus to satisfy the Old Testament law. They needed to make the purification offering ([Lev 12:6-8](#)) and to present Jesus as their firstborn before God ([Ex 13:2, 12-15](#)). While they're there, a man named Simeon cradles the Lord Jesus in his arms, praises God, and utters a prophecy concerning Jesus and Mary. At this moment, Anna enters. She immediately recognizes Jesus as the long-awaited Savior and begins thanking God. **"She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem" (2:38).** Anna the prophetess is among the first few to bring honor to the kingly babe born in a stable. Good news is meant to be shared, and Anna shares it with everyone who was anticipating the Messiah. The Redeemer had come, the prophecies were being fulfilled, and Anna was blessed to see it happen.

Missionary Update PNG

We have been so fortunate to be able to go into the local prison to do outreach. However, there is a crisis just now. The Sergeant in charge was put on discipline for 21 days. We encountered him in the market area and he said the prisoners had not been fed for 3 weeks. He said he had been bringing food in for them and as a result the discipline action. I think it was 2 days after he was removed there was a huge break out of 11 prisoners. The Sgt said these were hardened criminals. When we went into the prison on Wednesday, we found the cells on one side all vacant, except for one cell with an incarcerated police man. I do not know why he is in. The other side had men overcrowded into small cells and one cell had several men with bruised eyes. I suspect police brutality. I did not ask them as I did not want to create problems for them. They were exceptionally quiet in each cell. One man was sitting on the floor and could not get up due to his injuries. One man had lots of dried blood on his head and he had partially covered his head with a cloth. We were shocked.

We made the rounds and shared Scripture with the inmates, praying with them, giving them Bibles, yeast rolls (called scones), a sweet treat and then we went out and bought some blankets especially for the ladies as they were lacking. One large blanket was given to a men's cell. However, I think more could have been given, but the money I had was spent. Sgt, who is being disciplined, is a wonderful man. He prays with the prisoners. I had noticed after he came, less men were being beaten. He has been a policeman for some 40 years. I am glad he was not there when the break out happened so he could not be blamed for it. I pray he will be back soon.

One small bright spot: one prisoner asked me if I could get more of the Bible study booklets I had given last time. I certainly will try to do that. We go in on Wednesdays. I am glad that we had had a chance to share the redeeming love of Jesus with the prisoners who had escaped during our regular visits. I pray they will be captured by the love that God has for them and that they will be changed.

I have been praying. Please join me. - Lois

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| First Christian Assembly, | 1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 | 215-389-6721 |
| First Christian So Jersey, | 1960 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 | |
| Philadelphia Access Center, | 1832 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 | 215-389-1985 |

The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

| | Meets at FCA | Meets at PAC |
|-----------|---|--|
| Sunday | 9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service & Children’s Sunday School</i> | |
| Monday | | 7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i> |
| Tuesday | 6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</i> | |
| Wednesday | | 1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i> |
| Thursday | | 6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i> |
| Friday | | 7:00 PM <i>Free Indeed</i> |

- *Coram Deo*: A men’s Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*: Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one’s addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Youth Group meets tonight – See Jason or Jennifer Kohn for details

Upcoming Dates

- Sunday September 9th - Operation Christmas Child collection begins
- Sunday September 30th – Lord’s Supper followed by Church Fellowship
- Saturday October 6th – Bake Sale and Outreach
- Monday October 15th – Women’s Fellowship
- Monday November 12th – Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

Whenever God gives to a woman a special spiritual vocation, it will generally be found that her home life was made of God a preparation for it. – Mary Elizabeth Baxter