

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am Emmaus 10:15 am ECM Wednesday Worship 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 am DISCIPLES Bible Study 4 pm Conveners' Meeting 5:30 pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 am Evangelism Committee</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Souper Bowl of Caring 5 pm Kids Group • Youth Super Bowl Party</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 pm Personnel Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 am Emmaus 10:15 am ECM Wednesday Worship 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal • Community Outreach</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 am DISCIPLES Bible Study 10 am Elizabeth Circle 7 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Congregational Transformation Event - Birmingham</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Congregational Transformation Event - Birmingham</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Food Pantry Sunday 5 pm Kids' Group • Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am Esther Circle 10 am Quilters 5 pm Kids & Youth Task Group</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Deadline to register for Parents' Night Out. 8:30 am Emmaus 10:15 am ECM Wednesday Worship 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 am DISCIPLES Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Parents' Night Out, "Beauty and the Beast" at Grissom</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Week of Compassion Offering 11:30 am Elders' Meeting • Rummage Sale Drop-Off Begins • Youth Rummage Sale Prep Begins 5 pm Kids' Group</p>	<p>20 Presidents' Day</p> <p>Church Office Closed Rummage Sale Prep 8:30 am Praying for FCC (Off Site) 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Rummage Sale Prep 6:30 pm Phoebe Circle</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Rummage Sale Prep 8:30 am Emmaus 10:15 am ECM Wednesday Worship 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Rummage Sale Prep 9 am DISCIPLES Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8 am - 5 pm Rummage Sale</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8 am - 12 pm Rummage Sale 12 - 4 pm Clean Up</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Week of Compassion Offering 5 pm Kids' Group • Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10 am Quilters</p>	<p>28</p>				

Dear Fellow Disciples,

I am so enjoying working on music. While my real job is engineering, I have always loved music, ever since I was a little guy - my first church music experiences were in Epworth United Methodist Church in the 60's. I loved the hymns - and they are still some of my favorites. I was a trumpet player in band in middle school, and played guitar in the 70's with all my rock and roll friends. I sang in choir when I lived in Meridianville, serving as choir director for 11 years at Meridianville Cumberland Presbyterian Church. I was a member of the Hazel Green UMC choir, and was involved in lots of music projects there. Somewhere along the way I got interested in opera and studied voice with Helen Bargetzi for many years. I sang in at least 2 operas a year for more than 10 years, and also performed as a soloist with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, and several musical theater shows.

Singing and music has always been a constant in my life, and I have been so very blessed in so many ways. But church is different. It is a passion that I find pretty consuming and a ministry that I am dedicated to. First Christian Church in Huntsville is my church family, and the Lord has put us all together in this place. We work together to advance God's Kingdom now in Huntsville, and I thank you for the trust you have put in me. I am so thrilled that by doing this work as a volunteer, I can say that this first year Stephanie and I, with lots of help, have donated about \$50,000 in time and talent that would otherwise have come out of the collection plate! This is such a blessing to me, and it has benefited our church greatly.

As a part of that work, Chuck Herber and I have developed and presented a proposal that would begin the process of change and provide a plan for the future direction of our congregational worship. We have shared that plan with the Worship and Building Committees of our church, and

their reaction was to want the rest of you to see it and consider whether you believe God wants us to move forward with action on this plan.

The plan involves modifications to the Chancel and sanctuary that will enable us to truly support a blended worship service and attract young adults and families. It would enable us to be flexible as our future service needs change. I believe these changes are in the spirit of the "Time is Now" campaign, and will produce a lasting legacy that will reverse the downward trends in membership and attendance we have experienced over the last 10 years if we commit to it and make it happen.

Finally, I believe these changes are overdue, and we should begin to put the plan in place as soon as practical, to take advantage of the resources and dedication of our current membership, while trying to attract a new generation of Disciples. We can do this and still preserve the existing traditions and spirit of our worship service. I am offering to present this proposal several times in the next few weeks so that we can talk about it together, ask questions, and discuss choices that we face together. I am considering the Sunday School time, and perhaps one Saturday and an evening some time. You will see some sketches made from the concept models that I developed of our sanctuary that reflect ideas about changes to truly expand worship to the next generations. I pray that God would guide our discourse on the important choices facing us, and that His hand would direct our paths. Please watch for announcements of the presentations, and let me know if you have comments or questions. Thank you and please be in prayer for our church family!

In love,
Michael Beutjer

MR. AND MRS. RONALD VOLINSKI, JUNIOR
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Courtney Maria Volinski

to

Christopher James Ronald Olsen

SON OF MR. AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER K. OLSEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIFTH
TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN
FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

Weatherly Heights Baptist Church

1306 CANNSTATT DRIVE
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Valley Hill Country Club

Kindly respond yes by February 10 to
patandchip@comcast.net



FEED THE HUNGRY on the Salvation Army soup kitchen. One or two servers and a driver are needed each month to deliver meals to three locations in Huntsville on the third Tuesday of each month. The time commitment is 5:15 departing the Salvation Army mission on Seminole Drive until approximately 6:45. A sign up sheet is on the Community Outreach bulletin board across from McMains Hall. Please consider helping.

Talk to Jeff Seward for more information.

RENOVATION BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Contributions continue to come in to support renovations to our building. The committee continues to discuss all the suggestions made by church members in the survey, the nine small group meetings, and the preliminary drawings from our architects. A report is being prepared to show you the donations and expenses to date.

The committee met on Sunday, January 22. We plan to meet one more time in early February and then come to the congregation with our recommendations.

In the meantime, our Interim Volunteer Music Director, Mike Beutjer, will be having presentations to provide information about possible sanctuary upgrades. Look for his article in this issue of The Journey.

Thank you for your patience in waiting for us to complete our work.

Bob Senn,
Chair of the 2016-2017 Renovation Committee



FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

Sunday, February 12, is **Fill the Cart for the Food Pantry**. Bring one non-perishable item or several. St. Paul's has empty shelves. Let's help fill them. As always your donations of food items are appreciated at any time.

Thank you,
Community Outreach Committee