



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 2
January 9, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 12**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The world around us is full of division - liberal vs conservative, women vs men, nation against nation, division across generations and religions. Through news and social media, we are surrounded by polarizing messages that further separate us. Even those of us who love God and follow Jesus are divided by dogma and denominations.

We know God loves all He created and wants us to love each other. So what will God do with today's circumstances? What does He want us to do?

Physicist and theologian John Polkinghorne considers a laser beam and compares it to prayer. In a laser beam, light waves are coherently aligned and are much more powerful than the random light that naturally surrounds us all the time. When we pray, as we talk with God and listen to God, we align with God's will -- individually and collectively. Prayer generates powerful responses from our words and thoughts.

We can pray for unity among all Christians. For more than a century, January 18-25 has been set aside as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The World Council of Churches has set the 2017 theme of Reconciliation -- The Love of Christ Compels Us (2 Corinthians 5:14-20). "19God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation." CEB To participate in this Week of Prayer, the Southeast Huntsville Ministerial Association is planning a Christian Unity Service on January 22 at All Saints Lutheran Church. Father Phil O'Kennedy from Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church will be the speaker.

As Christians, we can also pray for unity for all of God's creation. The Division of Mission of the Alabama/NW Florida Disciples of Christ have written topical prayers for each day of the Week of Prayer, from our young people who will be gathered at Camp Chandler that weekend to healthy interfaith dialogue and international peace.

So what can you do? Join in praying for unity. Check out *The Journey* and your Sunday worship bulletin for details about the community-wide Week of Prayer service. Go to our church website (fcc-hsv.org/calendar/) or Facebook page ([First Christian Church \(DOC\) - Huntsville, AL](#)) for links to the events and daily prayers. Pick up the printed prayers in the narthex. Look to God, who wants to save us all.

Karen Ball

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, IN OBSERVANCE FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY.

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 Office Hours: 9am - 5pm M-F
Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages - 9:15 a.m.

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 15**

Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 Gospel John 1:29-42
 Sermon Text Isaiah 49:1-7
 Sermon "Those Whom God Chooses"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Jan Mackenzie & Nancy Waites
 10:30 Karen Ball & Joe Brockway

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Lynn Abernathy

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Delores Edgeton & Margaret J. Vann
 Eddie & Valerie Parks
 10:30 Marie Bittle & Ruth Lackey
 Marilee Keim & Matt Ball

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gray & Theresa Killough

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Mack Vann III & Annie C. Vann's birthdays by Margaret J. Vann.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS

Year end Giving Statements will be available in the **Narthex on January 15th and 22nd and in the Church Office during the week.** Please be sure to pick yours up so we can save on postage.

HELP IS NEEDED in the Nursery and Toddler rooms on Sunday mornings. Please see the sign up poster in the Commons and sign up now for first or second shift on one Sunday in December and January. We need loving hands to assist our attendants.

2017 FOOD BASKETS

The 2017 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is up and located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and "Food Basket" on the notation line.

KEEPING WARM

Now is the time for keeping warm. It is cold outside. Not everyone in our sister church, Grateful Life, has a coat, thick sweater, even a blanket, especially those without a place to live. Let us gather coats or blankets for those without.

Look in your closet for a clean, gently used coat or sweater that you are not using. Maybe you even have a blanket that is just gathering dust. Or if you wish, buy a used, warm coat to share. We can help keep the attendees of Grateful Life Church warm during this cold season. Check your closet for warm items you aren't using.

A box for collecting the coats or blankets will be in the Commons Area all January.

Community Outreach

2017 CWM WOMEN'S WINTER DAY RETREAT

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9 am to 4 pm

Vann's home: 1808 Covewood Drive SE, Huntsville

Respond by January 18, 2017

Open to all women of the church, space is limited.

The retreat leader is Amanda Ragland, PhD, director The Vine Pastoral Counselling Center. Sign up sheets are in the Commons Area. Cost is \$10 to underwrite meal and honorarium. Contact Margaret at 256-533-4213 for information

ATTENDANCE	1/1	1/8
First Service Worship	NA	44
Sunday School	6	31
Second Service Worship	86	87
Children's Church	NA	6
Young Disciples	NA	8
Total Worship	86	145

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SPRING 2017

The Men of First Christian Church are once again gathering to study together. We will be studying *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning. It has been described as "Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out!". We would Love to have you join our group while we explore the treasures that this book has to share with us.

We are a diverse group with different backgrounds and are seeking to learn more about what God's plan is for us in the world.

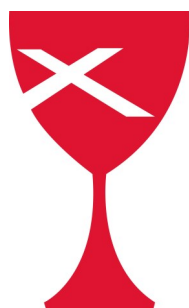
We meet once a week on Wednesday at 6 P.M. in the church library and all are welcome. We use study guides that are usually provided free of charge. We agree to keep our discussions confidential. What's said here, stays here. If we disagree, we disagree in God's Love. We respect each other's opinions and there are no questions that are not welcome. We are all on a faith journey together and we are trying to stay on the path and learn about God's word and God's plan for us, our family and our congregations at large.

We invite you to come and join us. Let's journey together, one step at a time.

If you have questions, you may call our church office at 256-881-0150 or call Monty Love at 256-337-5581.

I would like to thank all the women and men that helped set up the Family Services Area and the Parlor for the Reception for Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Joe Shelton.

Thank you so much!
Gayle Herber



FLOWER GUILD

Beginning in January 2017, the Flower Guild will be on hiatus indefinitely while we reassess our plans for this mission. We have appreciated the congregation's support in the past in our desire to enhance the sanctuary during worship services. After a busy Advent season and with coming changes for the church, we feel the new year is a good time to simplify our worship setting and reflect anew on the architectural beauty of the sanctuary and the central element of Disciples' worship: communion at the Lord's table. If you have already signed up to fund arrangements in 2017, please consider transferring your donation to fund a food basket instead. If you have questions, please contact Mary Ann Anderson at maryannanderson@knology.net.

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM

January has traditionally been blanket month for CWM service activity. Once again, CWM is partnering with Church World Service in their Blankets+ program. We are the "+" in the blanket project. FCC in Huntsville, Alabama, can make a difference all around the world as the need arises. \$10 can provide a warm blanket for anyone left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. Please consider a monetary donation to FCC with CWM "Blankets" in the memo line.

Margaret J. Vann

