



The Journey

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A NEW YEAR

For the last couple of weeks, when I greet people in church or around town, one question always seems to come up. “What did you do for Christmas?” I am guessing that most people are asking how my family celebrated, if anyone came to visit, and if we had a wonderful time together. Of course I always smile and say that my Christmas was wonderful, full of joy and laughter, but I am going to let you all in on a secret. If you really want to know what I did for Christmas the answer can be summed up in one word, rest.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the Advent and Christmas season, however for a minister they are the busiest seasons we have during the year. In many ways Christmas has eclipsed Easter, at least in secular terms, as the dominant holiday. We see Christmas decorations going up in stores as summer ends, it is the busiest shopping time of the year and many stores rely on the Christmas boom to make ends meet, and in the church we see those who come from the community to celebrate, family members who are visiting their loved ones, young adults returning from school, and old friends who make Christmas Eve an annual reunion. This means that Advent and Christmas can be very stressful as there are worship services to plan, events to coordinate, people to visit, not to mention the plans that need to be made for family and friends and the shopping we need to do.

Then comes the New Year, a period of time when our hectic church life stills for a brief few days, and we can begin the process of winding down and reflecting on the last year while preparing for the year to come. It has been wonderful to have a few days to sleep in, take time with my family to watch some movies and play a few games, and have the opportunity to thank God for the blessings we have received. With a New Year comes new opportunities, visions of the future, hopes and dreams that provide insight and energy to carry on with the work of Christ.

I hope that in this Christmas season, which includes our celebration of the New Year, you have had an opportunity to rest, reflect and restore yourselves. Perhaps you found new connection with God through the celebration of Christmas, or you may have recognized new opportunities to serve others. Whatever the case, as we come together once again to worship, pray, sing, and share the good news let us do so remembering that the presence of Christ remains. The celebration continues, the work of God continues, and the peace we find through our faith continues. Thanks be to God for a New Year filled with opportunities, Amen.

The 2019 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is 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.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 10**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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 13

Scripture Luke 3: 15-22
 Sermon "Sons and Daughters of God"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mike Lash & Roger Sameck
 10:30 Jan Mackenzie & Mark Stiles

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Mary Ann Anderson

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Delores Edgeton & Margaret J. Vann
 Carl & Carol Jones
 10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Beverly Cannon
 Marie Bittle & Roberta Shivers
 Ty Davis

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Kay & Rick Shrout

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is Open

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

TBA

YOUNG DISCIPLES

TBA

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith
 Sound - Michael Smith &
 Malcolm Landreth
 Stream Operator - Michael Smith

ATTENDANCE	12/30	1/6
First Service Worship	39	40
Sunday School	NR	35
Second Service Worship	56	82
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	8	7
Total Worship	103	129

**ANNUAL TRAINING & PLANNING EVENT
 FOR COMMITTEES**

On Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, there will be a Training & Planning Event for **all Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs**. The purpose of the event is to train committee chairs and co-chairs on church policies and major initiatives within the church. Additionally, the event will serve as an opportunity for the committees and church staff to map out the church calendar for 2019. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office.

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

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Share an hour or more of your time with our babies or toddlers once a month. Sign up poster is in the Commons for first service, Sunday School, or second service. If you are not on the Safe Church volunteer list, we can easily provide training. Call Pastor Laura, 256-881-0150, if you have any questions.

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YOUTHTOPIA REGISTRATION

January 18th-20th.

Cost: \$130.00 (Includes lodging, meals, snacks, and T-shirt). Please contact: Pastor Linda Davis for more information. 256-529-1076 (Text) or Fccyouthmin1@gmail.com

First Christian Church owns four cemetery lots in Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, AL 35811). These lots are available at market value, either in pairs or four total. We are offering these to our members and friends before advertising through various outlets. If you would like more information, please contact Lee Boles.

Leeboles@aol.com for the Trustees



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Reggie Anderson

Lynda Baig, cousin of Penny Jackman

Thomas Burns, father of Karen Ball

Burl Chandler, father of Chris Chandler

Betty Joe Estes, friend of Donna Blair

Lynn Harris, daughter of Bob & Mary Spencer

Phil & Ginny Jackson, brother-in-law & sister of Cathy Rosol.

Carey Link, friend of Margaret Vann

Joyce Neighbors

Betty Rogers

Jo Thomason

Lynne Ursery, former member

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. Please keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS IN JANUARY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUPS RESUME JANUARY 9