



CHANGE IS CONSTANT

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is often quoted as saying, "the only constant is change." This piece of wisdom has floated through my mind in the past few weeks as I look ahead to future of the church. Some relish change and the new challenges and opportunities it brings, and for some change is something to be avoided at any cost. Transformation is seen as the enemy because it can lead us to reflect on past mistakes and acknowledge our growing edges. Change can be positive and negative depending on the circumstance but whatever group we may be in, we all have to admit to ourselves that change will occur.

Lately I have been reading about the difference between technical and adaptive change. Technical problems often have a clear cut solution. A water pipe breaks in the church, so you shut off the water, assess the damage, hire a company to clean up, and then complete the repairs. A technical change is simple; a new worship time, class, program, or different music. Adaptive change is much more difficult. According to Scott Cormode, a professor at Fuller Seminary, "Adaptive challenges happen when we ask people to adopt new beliefs, when we hope people will pursue better values, or when we help people see that the ways that they have been doing things in the past will not work for them."

Often we believe that all problems can be solved by technical change. It can be easier, and who does not like the satisfaction of fixing a problem, but many times it is temporary. It provides the illusion of a solution but does not lead to systematic challenges or improvements. On the other hand adaptive change is difficult and often painful. It takes a great deal of self-reflection and a change in lifestyle, however, adaptive change can lead to a new understanding of ministry and growth in faith and spirit.

Our congregation is in the midst of change. We are searching for a new Associate Minister, seeking ways to streamline our leadership structure, working to increase our evangelistic presence, and identifying new areas of mission and ministry. If we focus on this opportunity and claim it as adaptive change, it can lead to a new understanding of our mission as a congregation. Of course, there will be technical changes, however, this opportunity should also lead us to a discussion about the nature of our ministry, how we will welcome new people and new ideas, and where God is leading us on this faith journey. There are those who are new to our congregation and we should be ready to welcome and support visitors and new members. Our community will have its own unique challenges and necessities and we will need to see how can we offer solutions and provide opportunities to transform lives.

I am confident that First Christian Church will continue to know real connection with God, with each other, and with the world and find adaptive ways to provide a family of faith, a home for mission, and an avenue to welcome the transformation made real through Jesus Christ. As you read this article you know that more change is on the way, so I will simply say how honored I am to be your pastor and that I am sure our church has a bright future. Thanks be to God, Amen.

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 11**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee submitted an incomplete slate of officers to the board for the 2023-2025 term for a vote at the April meeting. After numerous contacts, the Committee was unable to find the best fit for six positions. During these contacts, it was mentioned by our members that reorganization is needed and the Nominating Committee agrees. Over the past few nominating cycles, it has become more difficult to fill the many positions that have been in place for years. It appears it is time to study how to meet the needs of a changing congregation and realistically assess what positions are essential.

In the meantime, while we attempt to minister in the current system, these six positions remain unfilled: **Treasurer, 2 Elders, 1 Deacon and 2 Conveners.** Should you feel called to serve, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

There are many encouraging happenings at FCC. During this time of transition in our congregation, the Committee requests your prayers. May each of us feel the call to serve as we are able.

Nominating Committee: Ann Thompson, Marilee Keim, Nancy Waites, Roberta Shivers, Jackie Sameck, chair.

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKETS are given in honor of Brianna's 16th & Pae's 17th birthdays and in memory of Eileen Parks by Beverly Cannon

Weekly prayer concerns are published in the Sunday bulletins. Send your requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Cedar Plains Christian Church, Falkville, AL
Macedonia Christian Church, Tallassee, AL

Please give a warm FCC welcome to new members Chris & Rhanna Clark who joined our church on Sunday, April 30.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY

FREE DENTAL CLINIC

Again the First Christian Church family has offered great support to a worthy cause in our community. There will be residents of Madison County who can find help with their dental emergencies who could not have done so otherwise. Thank you so much for the \$639 sent from FCC to aid in this much needed outreach. The Christian Women's Ministries is indeed grateful for all who support our ministry. Nancy Waites

THANK YOU to all who made the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday so meaningful.

Pastor Paul for the moving Ash Wednesday service that began the season. Watching the young people wave their palms on Palm Sunday, offered children a chance to participate in worship. Thank you for the helpers that made Palm Sunday special. Thank you to Lauren Carter for all her planning and execution of the Tenebrae service and our moving Easter Sunday worship. Thank you to Brad Clasgens and crew for smooth services. Thank you to all who participated in the activities: the musicians, the choir, AV crew, office staff, and worship committee members. Thank you to the Beutjers for the meaningful Children Moments. Again: Thank you all for your contributions to make this Lenten Season so meaningful.

Margaret J. Vann, Worship Chair

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Beginning May 3 Jeff & Sue Seward
218 Inverness Dr. SW, Huntsville, AL 35802

ATTENDANCE

April 23: Worship Service: 97
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 22
April 30: Worship Service: 97
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 12