



EVANGELISM IS A MISUNDERSTOOD WORD

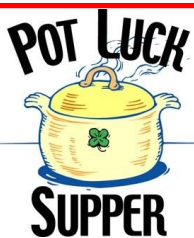
This article was written by Rev. David Mallory, the Senior Minister of Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, that presented a clear view of what Evangelism should be for the church. With his permission, I have reprinted this article. I hope that it is as meaningful to you as it was to me.

I have become convinced that evangelism is one of the most misunderstood words in our faith language. Postmodern thought has positioned evangelism as a methodology for the recruitment of non-believers into the Christian faith. Especially in conservative evangelical circles, evangelism has been reduced to strategies, programs, and rhetoric. It is cold call door knocking, it is handing out witness tracts at the shopping mall, and it is bringing a neighbor to the church revival so that they can find the truth.

However, this was not the practice of the first church. In his book, *Journey to Jesus*, Robert Webber suggests that the early church evangelized the Roman Empire through “the personal witness of individual Christians and through the corporate witness of the congregation whose inner and outer actions demonstrated the continuing presence of Jesus Christ in and to the world.” In the first century, people were drawn to the church because the believers consciously and consistently mirrored the witness of Jesus Christ. Their lifestyle was their evangelism.

I believe that people are much more convinced by our actions than they are by our words. People would rather see a sermon any day than hear one. Unchurched embrace the Christian faith not because it gives them the “right” answers, but because they have experienced the joy and energy of a loving and life-giving faith community. Therefore, evangelism is the conscious and continuous practice of manifesting the witness of Jesus Christ in every action, word, and moment of our life. I am convinced that when we do this, people will be drawn to the Gospel and will want to bind themselves to the Good News that has been given through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us keep this in mind as we look to the end of the summer and the beginning of our fall ministry programming. But more importantly let us witness to Christ in everything that we do, so others will want to become a part of our congregation because they see the mission of Christ in us. Let’s go out and be the church!



FCC FALL KICK OFF POTLUCK

YOU are invited to our annual Fall Kick off Potluck, **August 13th, 4:00 pm.**

Mark those calendars!

This will be a time of wonderful fun and fellowship.

Stephanie and Debra, Conveners

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 17.** Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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



**LONG TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Not Published Online

EVANGELISM STUDY

Starting Sunday, August 13th in the Garden Room following the Worship Service. We are starting a 6 week study *Contagious Faith* by Mark Mittelberg. Contact Sharifa Love-Rutledge if you have questions.

MEAL TRAIN

Welcome to the world baby Edward Lloyd Lee! Let's show our love and support for the Lees as they transition to life as a family of four by bringing meals. Head to the following link to sign up to bring a meal!

GOOD NEWS!

On Monday, July 24, the Piece by Piece Quilters here at FCC gave 37 youth-size quilts to St. Jude's Hospital in memory of a 15 year old girl. We thank all the quilters and our coordinator, Dinah Love.

WONDER-FULL WORLD!

2023 Disciples Women Fall Retreat
4-H Center, Columbiana, AL

Register online at alnwfidisciples.org/womens-retreat-registration or with forms available in the Commons Area. Contact Mary Ann Anderson for more information.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

2023-24 Program Kickoff
Sunday, August 27, 2023

1030 am following Worship service
FCC Commons Area

All women of the church are invited for fellowship and to explore our opportunities for study and service.

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 list.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Little Union Christian Church, Hayneville, AL
First Christian Church, Huntsville, AL
Cottondale Christian Church, Cottondale, AL

SAVE THE DATE!

September 24th will be Love Thy Neighbor Sunday. The Evangelism committee hopes that you will invite your neighbors (friends, family, and community) to worship with us. More information to follow.

ATTENDANCE

July 23: In-Person Worship Service: 104
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 105
July 30: In-Person Worship Service: 109
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 19
Aug. 6: In-Person Worship Service: 86
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 12



SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of James Cannon's birthday by Beverly Cannon, and in honor of Beverly & James Cannon's 45th Anniversary by Beverly Cannon.



Our next home will be scheduled in the Fall and should be in the new Habitat Village on Meridian. If you want to participate, you will need to attend a zoom or in-house safety program. Please contact me so I can schedule you for a future program. , .



Thank you,
Bob Senn
Your FCC Habitat Representative



The 2023 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may call 256-881-0150 or email office@fcc-hsv.org the office to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion.** Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your donation through PayPal and designate Food Basket through our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/

Thank You for **CARING!**

Because of your generosity, enough monetary donations were collected to give \$900 in gift cards to a very grateful Foster Care Unit at DHR. The cards will be used to meet the needs of children in our community who can no longer remain in their homes because of abuse or neglect (or both). Thank you for that. A few days ago, Community Outreach had an urgent contact from Adult Services of DHR for help in meeting the needs of 50 people displaced by fire at The Summit, low-income apartments for older adults, most in the DHR caseload. Our yearly budget, which you supply through your pledge, allowed CO to donate \$500 to that need. Both units at DHR are very grateful for your generosity. You are truly making a difference.



Are you up to the challenge of starting a new, beneficial habit?

Why not start a new habit this Sunday? Bring one food item for the food pantry cart. Of course, more donations would be better.

As inflation continues to grow, many families are suffering from food shortages. Our food pantry cart is located to the right as you enter the church. Can you help your neighbor?

