



# The Journey

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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## Being Evangelism - A New Approach

It is my hope to make a transformative change in the way we here at First Christian “do” evangelism. Let’s be honest: the old ways don’t work anymore. Revivals, cold calls and knocking on doors, handing out brochures, or even fast and furious responses to worship guests are not only ineffective but often turn people off.

So. What works? When you look at Scripture, and in particular the way Jesus connects with people in the Gospel stories, it all comes down to one word: relationships. We must begin, not with a program and not with assigning the work of evangelism to a small group of people, but with melding into the culture of our congregation an emphasis on one of the most natural actions and most basic needs of our human creation: building relationships.

To that end, I want to share an idea that, actually, has been around for a while. It’s called Relational Evangelism, and it’s exactly what it sounds like: connecting people with the life of the church through connecting with people through personal relationships. I want to share with you nine principles of Relational Evangelism, briefly here, but I will expand and explain them in upcoming issues of the Journey:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1.Focus on Building Deep Friendships           | 5.Give and Take Refrigerator Rights with |
| 2.Be the Kind of Christian Unchurched People   | Unchurched Friends                       |
| Have Never Met Before                          | 6.Pray for Yourself                      |
| 3.Cross-pollinate Your Unchurched Friends with | 7.Refuse to Engage in Gossip             |
| your Fellow Group Members                      | 8.Share a Relevant Message               |
| 4.Avoid Duplicity                              | 9.Invite, Invite, Invite!                |

(These nine principles are from Randall Neighbour, President of TOUCH Outreach Ministries.)

As I said, I will expand on these in the coming weeks. In the meantime, let me end with this brief word: one of my mentors once wrote, “Stop praying. Be prayer.” It got my attention, and I hope it gets yours.

Think about it. Stop doing and be whatever it is that you think is most important. In that vein, I will say, stop doing evangelism and be the messengers of good relationships that lead to good church connections.

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Brad*

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, October 16**. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Frank Ahlbin, father of Jon Ahlbin  
 A.J. Arisco, relative of Pam Clascgens  
 Grace Carter, friend of Cameron &  
   Diane Douglas  
 Chad Cegelski, nephew of the Seward's  
 Christy Denton, mother of Chris Clark  
 Vonda Dihm  
 Pam Gilliland  
 Bud & Linda Hooker  
 Lane Ingram, friend of Jean Patterson  
 Katherine Jordan  
 Robbie Melrose, husband Shawna Stiles  
 Becky Love Roberts, sister of Monty Love  
 John Robinson  
 Tommy Ross & Madisyn Magistiados, friends of  
   Chris & Rhianna Clark  
 Hillary Hettinger Steiner  
 Helga Tucker, Rhianna Clark's grand- mother  
 Bev & Don Williamson  
 Jay & Cynthia Wright, parents of Holly Ahlbin

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. Call the church office at 256-881-0150 or send requests to [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org). **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the list.

### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Madison Christian Church, Madison, AL  
 First Christian Church, Robertsedale, AL  
 Grace Christian Church, Helena, AL

### ATTENDANCE

Sept. 21 Worship Service: 118  
 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 137  
 Sept. 28 Worship Service: 116  
 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 64  
 Oct. 5 Worship Service: 104  
 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): NR

**THE FOOD BASKETS** are given in memory of Ruth Lackey by Jeff & Sue Seward, and in honor of Clara Green's birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout, and in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month by Marie Bittle.

## Hi Church Family!

Our Trunk or Treat is coming up on **October 26 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm**, and we need your help to make it amazing!



We're looking for volunteers to:

- Decorate trunks & hand out candy
- Help with games and bounce houses
- Assist with the hot dog dinner
- Greet families and guests

This is one of our biggest community events, and your support helps us create a safe, fun, and welcoming evening for all.

If you'd like to join the fun and serve, please sign up here or in the Narthex:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949AFA728A1FD0-58988250-trunk](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949AFA728A1FD0-58988250-trunk).

**You may also donate bags of candy (no nuts) for the event in the Narthex.**

Thank you for being such a big part of sharing God's love with our neighbors!

Pastor Alyssa

### JACKSON LOVE

In a recent issue of *Living 50 Plus*, our own Jackson Love was recognized for writing an original score for the upcoming Huntsville Ballet Company Unplugged presentation "Beneath the October Moon." The performance leads audiences, children and adults alike, through a whimsical Halloween adventure full of enchantment and surprise. It will take place October 24-26 at the Dream Theater Performing Arts Center at 3401 Holmes Ave NW, Huntsville.



We are grateful to have Jackson on staff here at First Christian.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

**No Wednesday night activities this week**, but join us most Wednesday nights for an evening of fellowship and study. We have a meal at 5:30 followed by a Children's Group, Men's Group, Women's Circles (first Wednesday Phoebe, second Wednesday Naomi, and third Wednesday Lois & Eunice. Esther Circle meets second Mondays at 9:30 am.), and a Roman's 12 Study Group at 6:00. Call 256-881-0150 for meal reservations.

### THANK YOU, FIRST CHRISTIAN

Your donations totaling \$1,490 will go a long way in helping Shower Up carry out their ministry. Many homeless people will receive showers, clothes, and toiletries. Thank you for caring!

Community Outreach

The 2025 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may come by the office or call 256-881-0150 or email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) 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 the Outreach Committee. Make checks payable to First Christian Church with Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket through on our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give)



Community Outreach for this year is to support feminine hygiene items for Huntsville City Schools. What lack of support means is that girls who do not have access to hygiene products cannot attend school and, in some cases, hold after school jobs. Any feminine product is acceptable to donate except no tampons. The school health department really appreciates our gifts. And now these products are tax free. A container is in the Narthex waiting to be filled.

Please remember these girls' needs.

Margaret J. Vann

