



The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 5
January 29, 2018
www.fcc-hsv.org

2018...

The snow that we had last week shut down most of Huntsville and the surrounding area. My family and I came from Kansas, where we are more used to snow and ice so when I saw the forecast I admit that I did not take it very seriously. Then I tried to get up the hill to my home and began to realize that I was used to snow and ice on a mostly flat area. Things are different here. Of course this weekend the weather was in the 60's and 70's. We opened the windows to our home so we could get some fresh air. What a change just a few days can bring. To me, the weather seems to mirror our nation and the world. We seem to be moving from one extreme to another, never knowing what to expect or how to respond.

When we reflect upon 2017 political instability, domestic terrorism, and division seem to be the hallmarks of the year. Our hearts cry out with the hope that the New Year will be better, safer, and free from trepidation. It is easy to lose sight of what is good in a world that seems to be filled with evil, but as Christians our hope is founded on the sure belief that God is in control of all things, Jesus Christ provides forgiveness and new life, and the Holy Spirit continues to refresh our lives of faith. We are called to look at the world through the eyes of Christ, see the possibilities of humankind, and share the good news that we have become the children of God.

As January comes to an end we ask ourselves, what will be the hallmarks of 2018? Will the world become safer, peaceful, merciful, and just, or will the same questions and doubts nag at our hearts? We cannot say for sure, but I know that unless we continue to strive to serve God and emulate Christ our enthusiasm will wane, our joy will wither, and our hope will disappear. Yet, the good news today and all days is that we are continually empowered to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Through the mystery of Jesus Christ we know that we are never lost and we are never alone because we are united by the love of God. Together we can make a difference, in Huntsville, and in the world.

Let us move toward that goal, Amen.

Pastor Paul



**Join Us For The FCC
Souper Bowl Chili Cookoff!**
Sunday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
In McMains & Family Services

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 1**, 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, FEBRUARY 4

Sermon Scripture Mark 1: 29-39
 Sermon "When We Are Lifted Up"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dale Thomas & Roger Sameck
 10:30 Mike Lash & Mark Stiles

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bev Williamson

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Carol & Carl Jones
 Linda Lykins & Kathi Luzar
 10:30 Marie Bittle & Beverly Cannon
 Carolyn Brown & Ruth Lackey
 Bev Williamson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Rick & Kay Shrout

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor Kathryn
 Shrout's 92nd birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Leaven
 Linda Lykins
 Margaret Vann
 Brianna Jackson
 Evan Sexton

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	1/21	1/28
First Service Worship	39	38
Sunday School	47	31
Second Service Worship	91	82
Children's Church	7	3
Young Disciples	NA	8
Total Worship	137	131

WHY DO PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH?

Do you wonder what keeps people away from church? Adam Hamilton offers some insightful ideas in his book "When Christians Get It Wrong." A short-term study of the book and DVD will be offered **Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m., beginning February 14.** This study may take you out of your comfort zone as we examine our attitudes toward politics, salvation, sexuality, and science. A sign-up sheet is available on the table by the Commons Area (deadline is February 11). Contact Ann Thompson if you need further information.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEWING CLASS

I have decided to lead a beginner's sewing class on **Wednesday evenings starting March 7th**. It will run for 6 weeks and we will make a "Gathering Apron". Remember that we have babysitting on that evening now so no excuses. If you've wanted to learn to sew now is the time. We will go slow and enjoy our fellowship time together. We will meet from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Please let me know if you are interested.



Dinah Love

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ON THE PARABLES!

On **Wednesday, January 31** there is a new adult bible study class starting. This class will be from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Library and will be taught by Pastor Laura. We will be studying some of Jesus' parables and will be using the book *Inverted: Living Out the Perspective-Changing Parables Jesus Told* by Tom Elsworth.

"Jesus' parables can turn your life upside down...on purpose. Stories of whiny workers, a roadside rescue, a shocking servant, bewildered bridesmaids. From the first to the twenty-first century, people have heard Jesus' words and had their directions reversed, perspectives altered, and lives inverted."

All adults are welcome to attend and we do have child care provided for the nursery & toddler children. A sign-up sheet is available on a table in the Commons Area.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Dan Ball, father of Matt Ball
Christopher Brewer, grandson of Jan Mackenzie
Steve Brown
Mary Dorough
Iness Kellogg
Carey Link, friend of Margaret Vann
Joyce Neighbors
Tom Paul, son of Doris Paul
Lynn Ursery, former member
Mack Vann

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.

BAKE SALE WRAP-UP

Attention all Bake Sale participants I will be hosting a meeting on Sunday, March 4th in the Family Services Area to determine which charities will receive funds brought in by our bake sale this year. We will meet from 9:30 to 10:00 AM. I am hoping we will receive suggestions for 8 to 10 charities which we can then vote on and distribute the money. If you helped with the bake sale I hope you will attend and help distribute the funds. We have about \$2900 to give out.

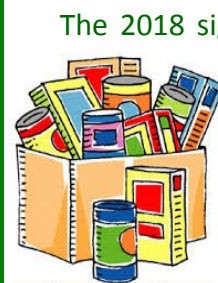
Thanks for all your hard work
Dinah Love



February Birthdays



1	Campbell Blair, Judith Hodge, & Conner Klaehn
3	Jodi Crockett & Kathryn Shrout
5	Cowan Wilson IV
6	Don Coburn
7	Charles Herber, Michelle Givens, & Valerie Parks
10	Lisa Fitzgerald
11	Matthew Brown
14	Justin Givens
17	Holly Ahlbin & Jackie Sanford
19	Shelby Gillroy
20	Adler James Turner
22	Daniel Dixon
23	David Suggs
25	Shea Brennaman, Evan Sexton, & Velma Strong
26	Kelsey Beckman & Tom Craig



The 2018 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.

WE'RE READY, ARE YOU?

We need new talent in the FCC Chancel Choir and Praise Band! Making music is a great form of worship, prayer and fellowship and a vital part of the FCC ministry. If you play an instrument and/or sing please join us! All skill levels are welcome.

For more information contact Lauren at 88fingers1963@gmail.com or Christopher at mcdnld_chrs@yahoo.com.



WILL YOU HELP OUR YOUTH?

Volunteers needed to serve in our Youth Sunday morning program from 9:15-10:15. Curriculum is biblically rooted and easy to teach. Please consider volunteering.

Please contact Pastor Linda
FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The youth ministry is in need of a few volunteers willing to serve one Wednesday a month so that Pastor Linda is able to attend the Worship meetings. Please contact her directly for more information at FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com or at (256)529-1076.

NURSERY OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We are now offering a nursery on Wednesday Nights. The nursery is for nursery and toddler age children and is available from 5:45-8:15 pm. This is offered for parents to attend one of the adult Bible studies and/or choir practice! We hope to see continued growth in our Wednesday night ministries.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at:

www.fchsvtech.weebly.com

MISS A SERMON? See previous sermons at:

www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.*

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Every dollar donated goes to

Grateful Life (Disciples of Christ) Ministry

Our 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of Choice.

You may either donate Food or write a check or place cash in the Souper Bowl buckets now through February 4th

