



First Christian Church

A Church of Service, working for wholeness in a broken world

650 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37403 • Phone 423-267-4506 • Hours: (M-Th) 10am-2pm
 www.firstchristian-chat.com • www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga • www.twitter.com/fcc_chattanooga

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The Bridge Newsletter • December 10, 2017

Servants in Worship



Worship Leader..... Sandy Reynolds
 Red Book Pickup Debby Demos / Bryce Wynn
 Deacons Coordinator Connie Smithson
 Ushers & Servers..... Sherry Baldwin, Joy Wagner,
 Kimberly Wynn, David Cass
 Other Servers..... Bryce Wynn, Gail Rich
 Elders at the Table
 Pulpit Side (Prayer of Consecration)..... Ardian Totten
 Pulpit Side (Pastoral Listener) Barbara Voss
 Lectern Side (Prayer of Thanksgiving)..... Greg Givens
 Lectern Side (Pastoral Listener) David Floyd
 Christmas Cantata FCC Choir

In Our Thoughts & Prayers...

Mai "Mike" Nary; Doug Ford; Ramon Garrido (Ann Knauff's husband);
 Gail Holcombe; Jim & Barbara Northcut; Angelita Sedigo; Shawn Baldwin;
 Dewayne & Sue Renfro; Jim & Mary Davis; Chuck Martin;
 Rowland W. Faust; William Poss (Lisa Hale Gilvin's dad);
 Joy Bourroughs (friend of Dreema Adkins mother); Phil Summerlin;
 Scottie, Jake & Jack Summerlin; Rona Gary;
 Mary Gifford (Mary Davis' sister-in-law); Lyndsay Wells
 (Bill Allen's Step-Sister); Tyler Rich and Family & Bret Lyness
 (friends of the Cass and Crosslin families); Jill McPhail DeVore
 (Kate Gilliland's mother); Danny Dyer (Tricia Dyer's brother); Gary Wilkes;
 Ardian Totten; Gary Goforth; Erick Griggs; Daniel Tomanelli;
 Brian Baldrige (cousin of David Cass); Judy Fitzgerald;
 Leroy Lewis (Bob Lewis' brother); Nick Dobbs;
 Edward Everett (Gayle Mingledorff's cousin); Mary & Jack Barker;
 Howard VanZant; John Black (Barbara Voss's brother);
 Bill Allen; Paul Shoun

Contact the church office to add or remove someone on the prayer list, 267-4506.

December BIRTHDAYS

13	Rebecca Floyd	28	Phyllis Grant
15	Bonnie Standley	29	Karen Whitworth
21	Dewayne Renfro	31	Janet Wallace
22	Julia Martin, Kenny Standley	January	
25	Thomas Street	1	Susan Spurgeon
		2	Claire Cole, Paul Shoun

Church..... church@firstchristian-chat.com
 Reverend Brandon brandon@firstchristian-chat.com
 Reverend Jonathan jonathan.h.hyde@gmail.com
 Victoria Flores..... victoria@firstchristian-chat.com
 Beth Harris..... beth@firstchristian-chat.com
 Gary Wilkes gwilkes428@gmail.com
 Merry Lee Wilson..... wmozart5@epbf.com
 Carey Anderson..... clf241@hotmail.com
 BRIDGE Deadline..... Monday, NOON
 Website..... www.firstchristian-chat.com
 Facebook..... www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga
 Twitter..... www.twitter.com/fcc_chattanooga



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The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 10

9:30 am Christian Education Classes for All Ages
 9:30 am Door Greeters: Covenant Group 7 (Givens/Blackburn)
 9:30 am Adult Choir Practice; Sanctuary
 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge
 11:00 am Christmas Cantata; Sanctuary - Candle lighters: Jim & Mary Davis
 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up: Covenant Group 7
 12:15 pm FCC Board Meeting; Sanctuary
 12:15 pm Covenant Group 6 Christmas Luncheon following worship; Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 11

10:30 am CWF Monday Circle; Fellowship Hall; Covered dish lunch. We will pack cookies for our homebound. Judy Duncan will preside. Rev. Brandon Gilvin has our program.
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting; Conference Room
 5:30 pm Elders Meeting; Conference Room
 7:30 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall



Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 13

No Scheduled Activities

Thursday, December 14

7:00 am Men's Group; Bluegrass Grill

Friday, December 15

10:30 am Community Kitchen Volunteering
 3:00 pm Community Kitchen Volunteering
 Sherry Baldwin: sherrybaldwin60@gmail.com
 7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 16

No Scheduled Activities

Sunday, December 17

9:30 am Christian Education Classes for All Ages
 9:30 am Door Greeters: Covenant Group 7 (Givens/Blackburn)
 9:30 am Adult Choir Practice; Sanctuary
 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge
 11:00 am Worship; Sanctuary - Children's Play
 Candle lighters: Atchley Family
 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up: Covenant Group 7
 12:30 pm Covenant Group 8 Christmas get-together at Acropolis Restaurant after worship.



From the Table

Lessons, Carols, and a Board Meeting

After last Sunday's spectacular Moravian Love Feast, I'm excited about our annual Lessons and Carols service on December 10th. I look forward to sharing this special time of Advent worship with you.



Immediately following worship, we will hold our final board meeting of the year. The first order of business will be to consider a proposed new governance structure developed after much study and work by a team focused on improving our governance.

As you may or may not know, FCC's current board is made up of the officers of the congregation—president, vice president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary, all of those who serve a cabinet position (hospitality, mission/outreach chair), and all of our deacons and all of our elders—which gives us a board of at least 55 people for a congregation that averages 129 people in worship.

While this structure ensures that there are many voices present in the decision making process, such a large board requires a large quorum (which is difficult to maintain), nor does it allow for the most efficient communication or decision making.

The governance committee is therefore proposing a structure that is both representative of the congregation and more nimble. It retains our democratic spirit but offers a more efficient implementation.

The proposed new board would be made up of:

- 6 officers, elected by the congregation
- 6 at-large members, also elected by the congregation
- 1 student representative (if one qualifies and is willing to serve)

- 1 chair of the elders
- 1 chair of the deacons
- 1 chair of the trustees

Totalling 15 or 16 voting members. The senior and associate minister will also serve the board as non-voting members.

In order to spread out leadership opportunities across the congregation, under this new structure no person will serve on the board in more than one voting position, and there will be a limit on consecutive years of service as a voting member. This spreads out leadership every year.

Additionally, for any measure on which the board can make a final decision, approval will require an affirmative vote by a majority of the voting members, not just a majority of a quorum.

Limits on the board's power will be close to the same as they are now. Some actions will require a super-majority vote for approval by the board. Some actions will require a vote of approval by the congregation.

The board may refer any matter to the congregation and will refer a matter on demand of the required number of board members. Members of congregation will have the power to petition for a congregational vote.

This model of governance gives us a board that is much more in line with the size of our congregation, is positioned to enact policy and offer guidance, but is also held in check by the principle that we are ultimately governed by the votes and voices of our entire congregation.

If you are currently a member of the board, I hope you will attend to consider this important change in how we do the business of the church. Our governance team has done exceptional work on this, and this measure deserves attention and consideration. Thanks in advance for providing it by attending the meeting

As always, I am grateful to be in ministry with you.
Brandon



FCC volunteer coordinator is needed to work with Room In The Inn (CRITI). The coordinator will recruit congregational volunteers who will provide dishes for a meal by those who are served by CRITI and includes delivery of the meal to the CRITI campus. FCC is responsible for providing meals during months that have a fifth Sunday. December 2017 is a month with five Sundays. Please call the church office at 423-267-4506 if you are interested.

Silverdale Snack Pack Information

We were delighted that all the tags were taken off the tree on Sunday! We did have some questions that we hope this note will answer.

Q: When and where do we bring the items?

A: Please bring the item(s) you chose off the tree to church on Sunday, December 10th. If you need to bring them earlier, please leave them in the church office. The tree will be in the narthex on Sunday and we will put our items around it.

* * * * *

Q: When it says 20 Little Debbie's, Moon Pies, or packs of crackers, do you mean individual ones or boxes of them?

A: Individual items. 20 Little Debbie's (not boxes), 20 Moon Pies (not boxes and not the miniature), 20 packs of peanut butter crackers or other type (not boxes)

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Q: Why can't we bring miniature candy bars in foil wrappers?

A: Apparently when the wrappers are put in the microwave, they create a spark.

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Again, we thank you for helping us take care of the "least of these!"

