



# 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 24, 2017

### Servants in Worship



Worship Leader..... Rona Gary  
 Red Book Pickup ..... Sally D. Hunt / Dreema Adkins  
 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)..... Bob Gary  
 Pulpit Side (Pastoral Listener) ..... Don Reynolds  
 Lectern Side (Prayer of Thanksgiving)..... Barbara Voss  
 Lectern Side (Pastoral Listener) ..... Jean Blackburn  
 Scripture..... Luke 1:26-38  
 Proclamation ..... From Advent to Eve ..... Rev. Brandon

### In Our Thoughts & Prayers...

Bill Allen; Dave Fleury; Mai "Mike" Nary; Gail Holcombe; Angelita Sedigo;  
 Ramon Garrido (Ann Knauff's husband); Jim & Barbara Northcut;  
 Shawn Baldwin; Dewayne & Sue Renfro; Jim & Mary Davis;  
 Chuck Martin; 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; Paul Shoun;  
 Edward Everett (Gayle Mingledorff's cousin); Mary & Jack Barker;  
 Howard VanZant; John Black (Barbara Voss's brother);

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

### December BIRTHDAYS

25 Thomas Street  
 28 Phyllis Grant  
 29 Karen Whitworth  
 31 Janet Wallace

### January

1 Susan Spurgeon  
 2 Claire Cole, Paul Shoun  
 6 Karen Coleman, Jennifer Lambert  
 7 Chuck Martin, Renee West  
 11 Bob Gary, Shane Beattie, Charlie Wylie

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



Sunday, December 31st, will be Merry Lee Wilson's final Sunday with us. We will celebrate her ministry of music with a short reception. If you would like to contribute to a love offering showing our appreciation, please send a check to the church office this week.

### The Week Ahead

#### Sunday, December 24

**No Christian Education Classes Today**  
 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  
 Candle lighters: Wiisanen Family  
 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up: Covenant Group 7  
 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service; Sanctuary  
 Candle lighters: The Gilvin's

#### Monday, December 25

**Church Office Closed December 25 - January 1**

7:30 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

#### Tuesday, December 26

7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

#### Wednesday, December 27

No Scheduled Activities

#### Thursday, December 28

7:00 am Men's Group; Bluegrass Grill

#### Friday, December 29

3:00 pm Community Kitchen Volunteering  
 Sherry Baldwin: sherrybaldwin60@gmail.com

7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

#### Saturday, December 30

No Scheduled Activities

#### Sunday, December 31

**No Christian Education Today**  
 9:30 am Door Greeters: Covenant Group 7 (Givens/Blackburn)  
 10:00 am Adult Choir Practice; Sanctuary  
 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge  
 11:00 am Worship; Sanctuary  
 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up: Covenant Group 7  
 12:15 pm Room in the Inn Meal Day

CHATTANOOGA ROOM in the INN 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.

### Bethany Hills News

On January 15, 1998, David Johnson began his call as the Camp Manager at Bethany Hills. For 20 years he has been

hard working and faithful. David has now decided to end his employment at Bethany Hills effective December 31, 2017.

To celebrate David's 20 plus years of service to the Tennessee Region, a reception will be held in his honor on Sunday, January 21, 2018 from 3 - 5 pm at the Regional Center for Ministry. Please direct any cards and well wishes to the regional office to his attention. The address is 7980 Coley Davis Road, Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37221.





## From the Table

Last Sunday, we continued our journey through Advent with our annual Nativity Play. Our children and youth made a big splash in their costumes, and if you were like me, you were enthralled by the reflections on Mary, the Shepherds, and the Wise Men that Ashlee Hubbard-Heitz, Phil Summerlin, and Belle King wrote and shared. I am always amazed by the talent of our congregation.

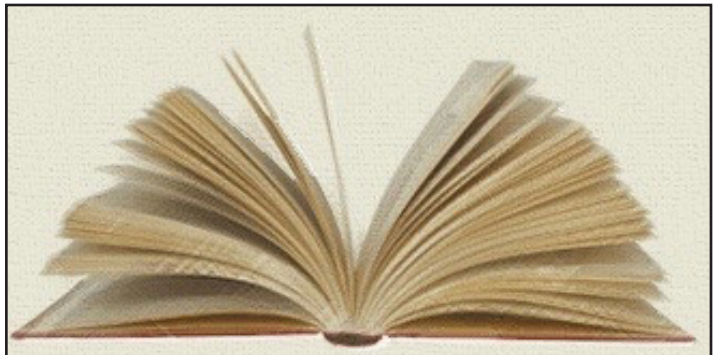


We're adjusting our schedule a bit this Sunday, as it is Christmas Eve, and I'm sure many of you will want to spend time with your family, sharing a meal and gifts together. We will not have Christian Education classes, but will gather for worship at 11 am. This worship service will conclude with the lighting of candles that ushers in Christmas for us every year. At 9 pm, we also will have a special Christmas Eve worship service that will include a special opportunity for children and youth who attend!

First Christian's Office will be closed on Christmas and through New Year's Day, and will re-open on January 2nd. Worship on December 31st will be a special day, as well, as we will be saying goodbye to Merry Lee Wilson, our organist, as she will be returning to her own faith community in the new year.

I'm grateful to be on this season's journey with you all, just as I'm always grateful to be in ministry with you.

Peace,  
Brandon



## Turning the Pages Together

gatherings for widows raising children

### Turning the Pages

**Together** is a new support community formed for women widowed during the active parenting stages of monthly peer discussion will be guided by reading selections. For more information, call the church office at 423-267-4506.

January 10: 10-11:30 am

January 22: 6:30-8 pm (child care available)

February 14: 10-11:30 am

February 26: 6:30-8 pm (child care available)

March 14: 10-11:30 am

March 26: 6:30-8 pm (child care available)

April 11: 10-11:30 am

April 23: 6:30-8 pm (child care available)

## Congratulations to the 2018 elected Officers, Deacons, and Elders

### OFFICERS:

President: Bob Gary  
Vice-President: Jan Webster  
Treasurer: Alan Voss  
Assistant Treasurer: Kent Smithson  
Secretary: Gail Dobbs  
Assistant Secretary: Ardian Totten

### DEACONS: (Chaired by Bryce Wynn)

Debra Branson  
Kate Wallace  
Tricia Dyer  
Shawn Fulgham  
Laura Wendell  
Missy McKenna  
Paul Shoun

### ELDERS: (Chaired by Jean Blackburn)

Peggy Brannen, Fielding Atchley, Alan Voss, Rona Gary, Sally D. Hunt, Phil Summerlin, Scott Crosslin, Lorraine Hipp

### ELDER EMERITI:

Jim Davis, Mary Davis, Alan Derthick, Ruby Lewis, Jim Northcut

