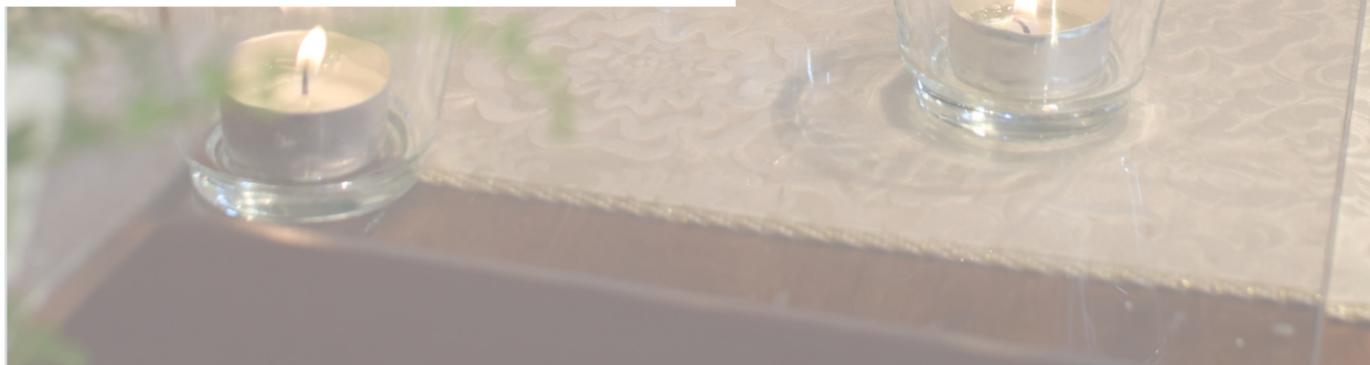




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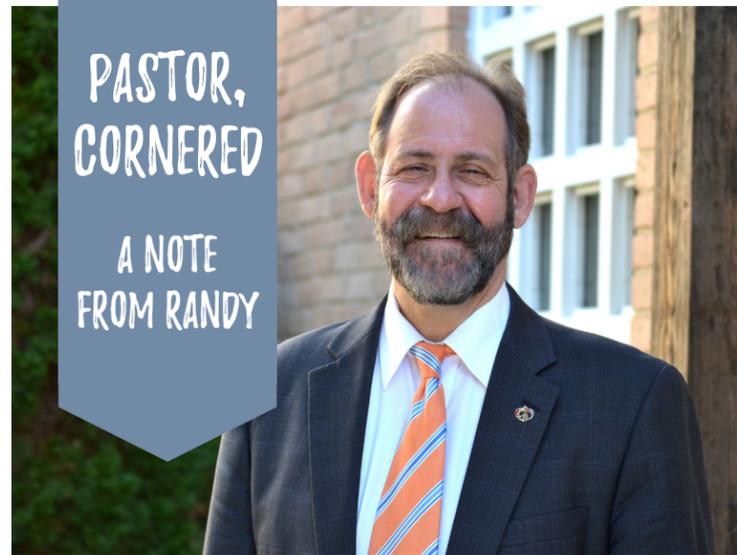


THE SPIRIT
FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



PASTOR, CORNERED

A NOTE FROM RANDY



The words are simply stated and matter-of-fact: "We came to Kadesh Barnea."

It was supposed to be a final rest before the Hebrews' entrance into the Promised Land; a time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal before they began the new life God had offered. Unfortunately, at Kadesh Barnea, the people heard the spies' stories of walled cities, fierce warriors, and iron chariots and they decided not to go any farther. What should have been a temporary pause became a terminus; they turned back into the desert where they wandered for the next 40 years.

I think of those words from Deuteronomy whenever we approach a new year. As we prepare to enter 2018, we too find ourselves, like the Hebrews, at a

time of reflection and renewal. We too have questions to answer within our hearts. Will the new year simply be a repeat of the year that is drawing to a close? Will I shy away from the challenges the new year holds or will I approach each day with an ever-growing faith and ever-deepening trust in God's purpose? How can I more fully live into God's calling to be a witness for Jesus and our mission at Fountain City UMC to make disciples and change lives?

I am so grateful for all that God has done throughout the past year, and I look forward to even greater things to come in 2018. My hope is that we will choose not to stop short or shy away as did the Hebrews of long ago. My hope is that we will do whatever it takes in order to make a difference for Jesus' sake. Let's begin the journey anew!

OUR GIFTS

WEEKLY OFFERING

Nov. 13-26	\$ 16,164.40
Nov. 27-Dec. 3	\$ 53,224.93
Dec. 4-10	\$ 35,519.69
Dec. 11-17	\$ 46,824.31

FAITH PROMISE FOCUS

Faith Promise Sunday will be January 28th. Please use the blue envelopes in the pew racks to make your Faith Promise commitment.

	SUNDAY NOV. 26	SUNDAY DEC. 3	SUNDAY DEC. 10	SUNDAY DEC. 17
Sunday School	308	345	352	351
8:30 am Traditional Worship	150	228	195	190
11 am Traditional Worship	261	278	271	288
11 am The Journey	79	118	92	82
Celebrate Recovery	148	181	154	169
TOTAL WORSHIP SERVICES	638	805	712	729
Christ the King Worship Service	230			
Chancel Choir Christmas Concert			12/10 - 368	12/11 - 255

OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Kathy Castenir and family in the death of her father, Rev. Earl H. Wilson, on November 7.

We extend our sympathy to A.J. Owens and family in the death of his sister, Alberta Newell, on November 10.

We extend our sympathy to Janet Bolus and family in the death of her father, Clyde Mitchell Childress on November 24.

We extend our sympathy to Brenda Therry and family in the death of her brother, Clarence Loy.

We extend our sympathy to Doug Cox and family in the death of his mother, Margaret Frances Whedbee Cox, on November 29.

We extend our sympathy to Carolyn Collins McCarter and family in the death of her husband, Danny Earnest McCarter on November 30.

We extend our sympathy to Jim Whedbee and family in the death of his sister, Rebecca "Becky" Whedbee Addington on December 16.

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE

UPCOMING JANUARY DATES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:45 am : Move-Up Party for Kindergarten (Large Group Room)
4:00 pm : Youth Parent Meeting (Old Fellowship Hall)
4:00 pm : Missions Committee Meeting (Room 137)
5:30 pm : Church Council Meeting (Wesley Hall)

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Preschool resumes
6:00 pm : Spring registration for GED students (Room 106)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

7:00 am : Men's Bible Study resumes (Room 137)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

5:30 pm : Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal resumes (Gym)
6:00 pm : Spring registration for GED students (Room 106)
6:30 pm : Wednesday Night Activities resume (Churchwide)

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 19-21

Resurrection 2018 (Off-Site)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Faith Promise Sunday (Churchwide)
4:00 pm : OffeRing Rehearsal resumes (Room 108)
5:00 pm : Youth Choir resumes (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:00 pm : WordPlayers presents, "Walk, Don't Ride" (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDIES

Our Wednesday night activities kick off on **January 10**, at 6:30pm, following our Fellowship meal. Amy Aycock will facilitate a study on the book, "Make a Difference: Following Your Passion and Finding Your Place to Serve," by James Harnish. Books are available on Amazon and Cokesbury.

John Gargis will facilitate a study on, "The Anger Workbook: An Interactive Guide to Anger Management," by Les Carter and Frank Minirth. Workbooks are available on Amazon.

Studies will also be facilitated by Randy Frye and Jim Dougherty. Stay tuned for what studies will be available, and make plans to join us!

EMERGENCY ON CALL

Jan. 5-7 : Amy Aycock
(423) 278-1965

Jan. 12-14 : John Gargis
(865) 310-4783

Jan. 19-21 : Randy Frye
(865) 228-5510

Jan. 26-28 : John Gargis
(865) 310-4783

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift
(865) 922-9408

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Mary Bolton
(865) 688-6277

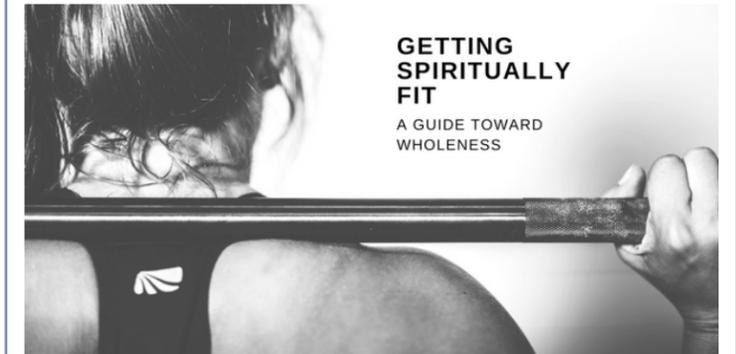
Tom Harrington
(865) 687-8460

A LOOK AHEAD

MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG

NEW SERMON SERIES COMING

GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP TOGETHER



The first Sunday of January we will begin a new sermon series titled, **Getting Spiritually Fit: A Guide Toward Wholeness**. Just as we need a plan to become physically fit following the holidays, we also need a plan in order to grow in our faith and in our effectiveness as a follower of Christ. Here is the schedule for our series:

Jan. 7 - Getting Started: The Hardest Part

based on John 5:1-9

Jan. 14 - Finding the Right Trainer

based on Luke 5:1-11

Jan. 21 - Working Your Core

based on Luke 10:25-37

Jan. 28 - Getting Rid of the Excess

based on Matthew 18:21-35

Feb. 4 - Keeping Up the Routine

based on Luke 9:18-24

Feb. 11 - Fit, for What?

based on Mark 10:35-43

We have three worship services each Sunday: our Traditional worship services at 8:30am and 11:00am in the Sanctuary and our contemporary worship service called The Journey at 11:00am in the Gym.

We hope you will join us each week as we explore how to have a more dynamic relationship with Jesus and how to be a more faithful and fruitful disciple!

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

GENERAL FUND

In Honor of Charles and Kathy Harrington by Chloe Harrington
In Honor of Allan and Amy Bible by Chloe Harrington
In Honor of Charles and Kathy Harrington by Tom Harrington
In Honor of Allan and Amy Bible by Tom Harrington
In Honor of Melanie and Randy Seiber by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Bob and Jayne Hillhouse by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Alan and Beth Witt by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Rob and Nancy Sterling by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Craig and Quincy Holtzclaw by Mark Biagi
In Honor of David and Kelly Hardin by Mark Biagi
In Honor of John and Kim Meade by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Robert and Jennifer Smiddy by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Leslie Hill by Mark Biagi
In Honor of Rob White by Open Door SS Class
In Memory of Rev. Earl Wilson by Rudy and Carol McBee
In Memory of Fred Cazort by Larry & Charlotte Acuff

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Memory of Tom Hodge by Sarah Ridenour
In Memory of Myra Nine by Sarah Ridenour
In Memory of Fred Cazort by Sarah Ridenour
In Honor of Dan B. Kelly by Mary Emma Scott
In Memory of Myra Nine by Fred & Billie Graves

NEWS, NOTES, AND THE NOTEWORTHY

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Rev. Earl Wilson by Mark Biagi
In Memory of Myra Nine by Mark Biagi
In Memory of Virl Huskey by Mark Biagi

CHOIR FUND

In Memory of Myra Nine by Christian Homebuilders SS Class

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

In Memory of Margaret Cox by Pete & Elizabeth Brown
In Honor of Martha Kerley by Pete & Elizabeth Brown

FOUNTAIN CITY MINISTRY CENTER

In Memory of Ruby Fee by Tom Harrington
In Memory of Becky Addington by Tom Harrington
In Memory of Clyde Childress by Tom Harrington
In Memory of Margaret Cox by Tom Harrington
In Memory of Danny McCarter by Tom Harrington

ERIN SEWELL FUND

In Memory of Erin Sewell by Bill and Betty Addonizio

YOUTH MINISTRY

In Memory of Tom Hodge by Matt and Susan Arndt

JANUARY USHERS

8:30AM TRADITIONAL

Bruce & Jeane Luttrell - Head Ushers
Larry & Sharon Smith

11:00AM TRADITIONAL

John Bolton & Gary McMahon - Head Ushers
Rob Koho
Elizabeth & Sherman Morton
Charlie Durham
Ken Lett
Kenton Page

FCUMC YOUTH UPDATE



On **Sunday, January 7**, we will be having a youth parent meeting in the Old Fellowship Hall at 4:00pm! We will discuss some big changes coming to Confirmation, as well as plans for the Spring and Summer. This will also be a great opportunity to get a new Waiver Release notarized before Resurrection 2018.

Please make plans to join us and get all of your youth ministry questions answered. For more information, please contact Daniel Doubleday at daniel.doubleday@fountaincityumc.org. We hope to see you there!

GED CLASSES UPDATE

Registration for the Spring semester of GED classes will be on **Monday and Wednesday, January 8 and 10** at 6:00pm. GED classes are held at various convenient times each week at FCUMC.



If you know any perspective students, please call Susy Gray at (865) 947-0473 or the church office at (865) 689-5175.

ADULTS 50+ UPDATE

Please note, our Adults 50+ Ministry will be taking a break during the month of January! There are no scheduled events at this time due to unpredictable weather during this time of year.

If you would like more information on our vibrant Adults 50+ group, please contact Jeanie Tillman at jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org or call the church office for the latest updates!

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO: The photo on the cover of this month's *The Spirit* was taken on All Saints' Sunday this past November. For years, Sharon Dobbins has designed the altar for this meaningful service in the life of the Church. This was her last year sharing her time and talent with us. Thank you, Sharon!

If you'd like to see one (or two or five!) of your photos grace the cover of future *The Spirit* newsletters, please email jessie.buttram@fountaincityumc.org.

OUR PRESENCE

CELEBRATING WITH OUR FCUMC FAMILY

Our extended church family continues to grow! We invite you to rejoice in the following blessings with us!

Join us in celebrating the birth of **Quinn Emilia Cross** on December 13 to Nick and Caroline Cross. Quinn is the granddaughter of Keith & Fran Burroughs.

Join us in celebrating the baptism of "**Charlie**" Benjamin Nester on December 10. Charlie's parents are Mike & Virginia Nester and his big brother is William.

If you would like to include a celebration in a future edition of *The Spirit*, please email jessie.buttram@fountaincityumc.org.



As we welcome 2018, on behalf of the Lay Leadership Committee, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the volunteers who have given their time and talents to make FCUMC a wonderful place of worship and service.

Throughout the year we have collected canned goods, disaster relief buckets, school supplies, coats, socks, underwear...just to name a few. We have supported local, statewide, national, and global outreach ministries. We have been involved on every level, from our littlest children to our adult Sunday school classes. Not to mention the financial support we faithfully give through Faith Promise.

The many missions and worship accomplishments could not have been achieved without everyone's efforts. Thank you! Praise be to God for His many blessings!

- Anita Lutes Reyes

KIDCHECK APP

At FCUMC, nothing is more important to us than the safety and security of your kiddos. That's why we will be implementing **KidCheck** as our children's check-in solution to bring you the best check-in and drop-off experience and to allow us to partner with you to keep your children safe.

We will go live with KidCheck on **Sunday, January 7, 2018**. It is important you create your account prior to this date.

Create a free account at go.kidcheck.com and select "Create Your KidCheck Account." You can also download the KidCheck Mobile App from the App Store or Google Play Store to create, manage, and update your account right on your mobile device.

Create your account from the comfort of home; it's simple and will only take a few minutes. Creating your account prior to the above date helps us have a smooth transition and helps your first check-in go more quickly so you can get on your way.

Once you've created your account, simply use your 10-digit phone number to check in with us. If multiple people will be picking child up, the account phone number needs to be shared. Your account is private. We will have no way of knowing each individual's check-in phone number.

Additionally, we're excited to share we will be using KidCheck Express Check-In, which allows you to check-in right from your own phone - no waiting in line, no check-in station! You will need to check in for the first time with your 10-digit phone number at a check-in station.

You will need to check in one time at the Fountain Kids check-in station before being able to use the express. There will be two check-in stations: one located in Early Childhood and one located at the Large Group Elementary Room on the second floor.

For more information on KidCheck and our new system, please contact Donna Lewis at (865) 689-5175.



the night with each child leading the congregation in *Be a Candle of Hope*. Jesus is our hope of the season; these kiddos are the hope of the Church's future indeed!

As FCUMC member and mom of two Angela Lemmons put it: "If you haven't heard the joyous sounds of little ones singing and laughed a little at their antics, is it even Christmas?"



CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS

BY LESLIE HILL

Another Christmas program has come and gone, and I'm left feeling perhaps a little tired, but mostly grateful. The Thanksgiving season has passed, but my heart is so full that gratitude just keeps spilling from it.

I am grateful for people who give of their time and talents not only to glorify God, but to add beauty to a world that sometimes seems so ugly. I am grateful for people who support the music ministry with their financial gifts; our music reaches so many because of your generosity. I am grateful for those who support us by their presence, sitting in the pews of our church and listening as we sing.

I am grateful for the art of music, and how God speaks to us through it. I am grateful for opportunities to conduct music my choir members love, and to look into their faces as they sing their favorite phrases. I am grateful for arrangers like Dan Forrest who help us hear with fresh ears the powerful texts of traditional carols. *"Where meek souls still receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in."* My eyes still tear at the thought of that phrase I had sung so many times in my life, but never actually heard.

So, I am blessed to be your Director of Music, and I am grateful you allow me to share my love of music with you. Thank you. My heart is full.

MAY IT BE A SWEET SWEET SOUND

I may be biased, but I think FCUMC excels at a great many things. And one particular area is in our music ministries. Each year, our various Christmas programs draw hundreds of attenders, members and non-members alike, into our Sanctuary to hear the good and beautiful news of a Christ child born to save the world: *Emmanuel, God with us*. We hope you were able to witness one (or all!) of these wonderful choir programs this past Christmas season!

CHRIST THE KING WORSHIP FESTIVAL

We kicked off the Advent season with Christ the King Worship Festival. Our gifted organist Josh Bracken planned and conducted the entire worship service as partial fulfillment of his graduate degree in Church Music from Lee University. It was a meaningful service of Lessons and Carols presented by our talented choir, musicians, and special guests under Josh's direction.



Josh plays during our Traditional worship services on Sundays. If you haven't heard his gift of music firsthand, we encourage you to join us one Sunday!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ENSEMBLES

This Christmas, our kids' choir & bells ensembles sang, danced, & tolled their hearts out! We were treated to fun, familiar renditions of Christmas songs, and ended

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS COLLECTIONS FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES

Who doesn't love a comfy pair of pajamas? (*Editor's note: I'm currently raising my hand.*) During the month of December, our FCUMC preschoolers, staff, and church staff collected pajamas for folks in the Knoxville area this Christmas season. In addition, Scholastic Books generously provided a book per pair of pjs collected. Together, these kiddos, teachers, and staff donated 119 pairs of pajamas!



Thank you for sharing in the Christmas spirit!

And our preschoolers weren't the only ones spreading Christmas cheer this season. Many of you noticed the "Red Bow Tree" in main hallway and answered the call for men's and women's underwear and socks for Lost Sheep

Ministry. Lost Sheep serves Knoxville's most vulnerable homeless population. Once a week Lost Sheep hosts Under the Bridge, offering our homeless neighbors a hot dinner and bagged sandwiches to take with them.

Because of our generous congregation, Lost Sheep was also able to offer brand new underwear and socks to these men and women during Under the Bridge.



As always, thank you for your generosity and genuine love and concern for our brothers and sisters. We love finding ways to make disciples and change lives!



CR CORNER: PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN GARGIS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF EVANGELISM

A new year always brings reflections. This new year brings perspective.

This past year, individuals and families that attend Celebrate Recovery North counted down the New Year living with wholeness of life. For some of our attenders, this may be the first New Year living in the "fruit of the Spirit". The CR North leadership team celebrates with them.

This past year, those who have chosen not to "do the work" to find wholeness will have another very difficult New Year. Some even ended their struggle and went to be with Jesus. The CR North leadership team laments with them and their families.

The New Year has a way of intensifying our struggles. These intense feelings provide this same person yet another excuse to self-medicate. Perspective can be the best gift of the New Year. We reflect on those who come to CR North each week from Knox Area Rescue Ministries. We reflect on the ladies who come each week from the "halfway house". Many of these people have families counting down the New Year without them. The CR North leadership team is very proud of them for doing the work to get their life back. We pray that this is the year they move to the first category.

Whatever season of life this note finds you right now, take this perspective as your first gift of the New Year. If you are struggling, come and join us. The CR North leadership team is ready to walk with you.

Happy New Year from your Celebrate North! God bless you!