



# FAITH UMC NEWS



Psalm 13:5-6 says, *“But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.”*

My good church, we have much to celebrate! We have seen God at work in our midst, and it has been incredible. If you have not heard, our three week matching funds campaign for the church roof was successful beyond what we could have dreamed. Through your faithfulness, the church raised over \$18,000, which was matched dollar for dollar. That gives us over \$69,000 to replace the roof and repair the interior water damage from the leaks. What a blessing!

We should take pause and rejoice, offering our praise to God, but we shouldn't let this milestone be confused with a finish line. Yes, we've achieved a goal—and a very big goal at that—but the work of the Lord continues. Let us not grow weary in doing good. Instead, let's use this great accomplishment as motivation to do even greater things!

I am excited about 2019. I believe with all my heart that God is doing a great work in us and through us here at Faith. I want to encourage you to jump in, too. We talked a couple weeks ago about growing together this year, and in the coming weeks I'll be talking more about some areas where we can grow. Any real growth starts with our own relationship with Jesus Christ. It's from that relationship that we grow in love for others, in service to others, and in mission to all the world. Let 2019 be a year of taking a step forward in your walk with Christ. Join a small group or Sunday school class; start a new class or group; get involved in an area of service; find a place to plug-in. It'll be a huge blessing to you, to your church, and to your community, and what better way to sing our song to the Lord!

Grace and peace,

Brandon

## Get Connected!!

We have three adult Sunday School classes that meet on Sunday morning.

Bob Scott teaches the class that meets next to Brandon's office.

A co-ed class meets in the first classroom off of the lobby. That class is just finishing an Adam Hamilton study.

A ladies class (tho all are welcome) meets in the second classroom off the lobby. This class is starting Susie Larson's "Your Powerful Prayers...Reaching the Heart of God with a Bold and Humble Faith".

Men's Emmaus meets on Wednesday at 5:30

HOPE meets on Wednesday at 6:30. This is a support group for single parents

Youth meet on Wednesday at 6:45

Brandon is planning a Wednesday night study that should start in January.

Second Tuesday of each month, a group goes to St. Martin's in the Pines to sing for the residents.

If you need guidance on getting connected with a Sunday School or small group, please talk to Brandon



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UP-COMING EVENTS

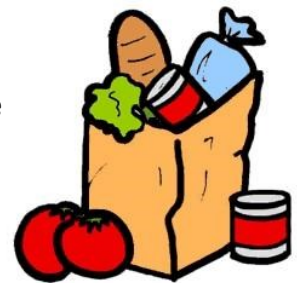
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| <b>JANUARY—22</b>      | <b>Faith will be hosting the Emmaus Cluster Meeting (Bham East). A covered dish meal will be served at 6:30. Worship will follow the meal.</b> |
| <b>FEBRUARY 8 or 9</b> | <b>Murder Mystery Dinner. More details to follow</b>   |
| <b>10</b>              | <b>Boy Scout Sunday. A covered dish meal to follow worship as we honor our scouts.</b>   |
| <b>10</b>              | <b>A snack meal to be prepared and served at the Firehouse</b>   |
| <b>12</b>              | <b>Church Council at 6:00 pm</b>   |
| <b>15-16</b>           | <b>Youth Retreat at the church</b>   |

### CLAY FOOD PANTRY

The first Sunday of each month has been designated "Bring a food item for the Clay Food Pantry" Sunday.

Items needed are:

- canned soups & vegetables,
- peanut butter & jelly,
- spaghetti sauce, and noodles,
- instant oatmeal,
- instant grits,
- boxed cereal,
- Canned chicken or tuna



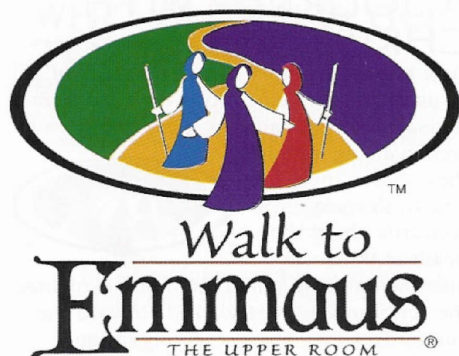
## *January Sermons*

Brandon has started January with a new sermon series based on the Apostle's Creed. This is the tentative plan for the series

1/6 We Believe...in God the Father Almighty	Romans 8:15-17
1/13 We Believe...in Jesus Christ	Hebrews 1:1-4
1/20 We Believe...in the Holy Spirit	John 14:25-27
1/27 We Believe...in the Church	Galatians 3:26-29
2/3 We Believe...in Life Everlasting	John 3:16-18

### **Church Leadership**

Church Council	- Teann Yeager—Chair	Eric Roberson	Lori Ennis	Sherri Swickard
	Jennifer Jones	Cindi Patsios	Bob Scott	Paulette Odeneal
	Norman Odeneal	Martha Sargent		
SPRC	Eric Roberson—Chair	Carol Hobby	Lise Van Winkle	Teann Yeager
	Cindi Patsios	Rev. Brandon Rodgers		
Trustees	Norman Odeneal—Chari	Lori Hebson	Jacob Lucia	Norman McClure
	Ron Creamer			
Nominations	Rev. Brandon Rodgers—Chair	Teann Yeager	Robbie Hall	Carol Hobby
	Rebecca Brayman	Meliaha Desmond		
Finance	Sherri Swickard—Chair	Rev. Brandon Rodgers	Teann Yeager	Eric Roberson
	Cathy Wycoff—Finance Secretary			
Staff	Josh Apodaca—Worship Leader	Lori McKoy—Pianist	Angela Brooks—Youth	
	Bill Riddle—Custodian	Cathy Wycoff—Adm. Assistant		
Annual Conference Representative	—Cindi Patsios			
Kitchen/Hospitality	Tammy Kittrell	Melinda Varner		



## EMMAUS NEWS

**The Birmingham East Emmaus Cluster will meet at Faith UMC on Tuesday Jan. 22 at 6:30. We are the host Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will eat at 6:30 and worship will start around 7:15.**

**We need help with food! It is a Pot Luck! We are anticipating around 60-80 people. Bernie will encourage the Emmaus community to bring food however the bulk will be on us.**

**Please talk to Tammy or Melinda if you can help with this.**

## Notes from Church Council

A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, starting at 6:00 pm.

In attendance: Teann Yeager, Eric Roberson, Bob Scott, Jennifer Jones, Cindi Patsios, Martha Sargent, Ron Creamer, Rev. Brandon Rodgers, Tammy Kittrell, Melinda Varner, Carol Hobby, Lori Ennis, Cathy Wycoff, Norman Odeneal and Paulette Odeneal.

Discussion:

- Known events and activities were entered on the Master Calendar
- Duties and responsibilities of the various committees were reviewed for the new members of the Council
- Trustees discussed the status of the roof and additional work that might need to be done because of water damage.

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*Worship Committee will have a meeting immediately after Worship this  
Sunday, January 13,*

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**Pledge Cards**—It is not too late to complete and submit a pledge card for 2019. There are cards on the table in the lobby. You turn your pledge into the office.

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As a service project for January, the ladies in Polly's Sunday School class will be preparing meals for various members of our church. This project is opened to everyone! If you would like to participate, please contact Polly. If you need Polly's email or cell number, please call the church office.

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Notary Public—If any of you have need for a Notary, Cathy is now a Notary Public.

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### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried  
On the third day, He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth at the right hand of God, Father Almighty  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen**



## The Season of Epiphany

In western Christian tradition, **January 6** is celebrated as **Epiphany**. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as **Three Kings' Day**

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the [Twelve Days of Christmas](#), which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the **Twelfth Night**

In traditional Christian churches [Christmas](#), as well as [Easter](#), is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of the Church Year associated with Christmas actually begins with the first Sunday of [Advent](#), four Sundays before Christmas Day. Advent is marked by expectation and anticipation in preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

[Christmas](#) begins with Christmas Day December 25 and lasts for [Twelve Days](#) until [Epiphany](#), January 6, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called **Christmastide**.

The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. \*

January 6—Epiphany Sunday

March 3—Transfiguration

March 6—Ash Wednesday

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 21—Easter

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