

February 21, 2018

Breaking news from Sixth Street Christian Church! Actually, I should call it “repairing the broken” news instead. Our sanctuary is going through a much-needed time of maintenance, and we’re getting a new coat of paint. The first step in the process is preparation, and last Sunday you would have had to look closely to see the changes. Before the sanctuary can be painted, cracks in the walls needed to be repaired. Regardless of how well it has been constructed or how level its foundation was laid, a building settles, and sometimes that leaves cracks. Had we opted to paint over the cracks without filling them to make the walls sturdy and complete, the cracks would continue to get worse and the church would become unstable. It occurs to me that the same is true about the church body. We begin with the firm foundation of Christ, but over time the church’s everyday beliefs and practices can start to settle, and our walls can begin to crack. The foundation of Christ was first laid in a time and upon a place unlike our own. The Jesus followers 2,000 years ago and living in the Middle East had different values and experienced different pressures than we do today. Frankly, you only have to go back a couple of decades to see stark evidence of change. I believe we must recognize that, though our foundation remains Jesus Christ, the land upon which it rests has changed and continues to do so. We must respond in kind. How does faith in Christ apply to the situation of our time and community now? What questions and struggles are people – both inside and outside the church – experiencing today? With the Holy Spirit filling us with confidence and creativity, I believe we can answer God’s call, mend the cracks, and become a source of God’s will for all.