



“Your righteousness is like the mountains” ([Psalm 36:6](#)).

Growing up in Franklinville, where we get our share of snow, I felt like every winter I was always finding someone to help out of the snow. I remember so often getting behind a car with some others to try to get out of the rut they were stuck in. I feel like today the roads are cared for better and our cars can take the snow better, but years ago it was a fairly common winter activity. What about being “Spiritually Stuck”?

I read in a Lifeway news article the other day this statement, “a significant amount of Christians feel Spiritually stuck.” Now I know a general statement like “a significant amount” doesn’t really help us much, but let’s think for a few moments about this thought. If you do feel or if you have ever felt “Spiritually Stuck” it is not a good place to be but I think it is easier to get there than we think. What do we do when we don’t feel like God is hearing our prayers? When we are going through the motions and we sense that our love for God has grown a bit cold. It is actually pretty easy over time to feel a distance emerging between a desired self and a real self.

Here are some things that I have found helpful

1. Be honest with God. He knows where we are anyways. We can deceive ourselves that we are doing ok, but we don’t fool God. He can take us speaking honestly to him about where we are at. The truth is that God is faithful and His love is stronger than the times we are spiritually stuck.
2. Do a heart check. The temptation is to go through the motions. We get to living the Christian life so long; we can actually do it quite well. Come to church, worship, respond to the sermon, and get together with other friends. We often know what to say and how to act that others cannot tell our heart is wasting away. To get in touch with our heart is to get real about how is it going with God on a heart level.
3. Think about what you are thinking about. I know this sounds silly but sometimes whatever has gotten us in a stuck place, it is our thinking that keeps us there. We like to rehearse over and over again things that we think to be true, or previous hurts and wounds. The truth is that if we can fill our thought lives with the truth and promises of God, his may be a key to getting “spiritually unstuck”.
4. Reconnect with the Love of God. I wish it was not so easy to disconnect from the love of God. God’s love is steady, faithful, always there - - why do I miss it so easy sometimes. I have found one of the greatest keys to getting spiritually unstuck is to allow yourself to be loved by God. The old saying is love and be loved. In the Bible, the only way we are able to love is if we can receive God’s love first. People who are unable to receive God’s love are some of the most miserable people in the world. We must pursue with all our hearts how we might allow the love of God to pour into our lives.

I hope these things may help you the next time you find yourself stuck in a spiritual snowbank.

Be safe and stay warm. God loves you and so do I. God believes in you and so do I.

Winter Events & Happenings

VINEYOUTH EVENINGS (GRADES 6-12)

We will not be meeting this Sunday evening (1/14) due to the holiday. We look forward to seeing you next Sunday at 6pm in Baldwin Hall.

ENCOUNTER will be held every Tuesday from 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary. Bring your Bible and a notebook for this time of prayer and worship.

REFRESHED WOMEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Ladies, our next Women's breakfast will be held Saturday morning, January 20, 9am, in Baldwin Hall. Please join us for food, fellowship and an inspirational message. Circle **WOMEN'S BREAKFAST** on your connection card or sign up at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning. Please bring a breakfast dish to share.

WELCOME LUNCH

Sunday, January 21, following the 11 am service in the Ministry Center. This is a place to quickly and simply connect with what happens at the Vine. We will discuss the story of the Vine along with the vision God has given us to pursue. Please circle **WELCOME LUNCH** on your connection card by 1/14 so that we can plan accordingly.

THE VINE DANCE TEAM-Spring & Easter Dance

Beginning Monday, January 22 from 7-8pm in Baldwin Hall. All ages welcome. This team meets on Mondays and you will be required to attend The Vine's Easter services. Pink ballet shoes and pink short sleeve leotard required. Strong dance background not needed. See or contact Adrienne (901-4597) or Becky (901-3251) with any questions. If you are interested in participating please sign up at the Welcome Center or circle **DANCE TEAM** on your connection card on Sunday morning.

GUY'S NIGHT OUT

Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30pm, Baldwin Hall. Men, come join us for a fantastic evening with chili, soup, fellowship, a short message on how you can be all God wants you to be in 2018 and a cornhole tournament! If you would like to take part in helping with the food or by bringing soup or chili, please see or contact Steve Priola at 870-0903 or Bob Emser. Also, we would like to get an idea of how many will be playing in the tournament. If you would like to participate, please let Steve or Bob know. You can enter as a team or you will be paired up, if you would like. If you have a corn hole set that we can use, let us know as we will need multiple sets. This event is open to all gentlemen, teenage and above and we hope to see you there. Please circle **GUY'S NIGHT OUT** on your connection card on Sunday morning if you plan on attending.

GROWING DEEP: LOVING OTHERS WELL

Beginning Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30pm in Baldwin Hall. Part of the Vine's Discipleship Path, this powerful 8-week course will equip you with practical tools to really love people in difficult situations and mature into an adult follower of Jesus. To sign up circle **GROWING DEEP** on your connection card or email Amanda Hartrich at ahartrich@vinewc.org. Workbook & devotional \$22. Additional devotional books \$11.00. Pay at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning. Make checks payable to The Vine Wesleyan Church.

THE VINE SUPPORT GROUPS

The Vine is offering three support groups: DivorceCare, GriefShare and A Day's Journey Addiction Recovery Group. See the insert in the bulletin this Sunday or go to <http://vinewc.org/groups/support-groups/> for more information, dates and times. If you are interested in attending, please circle appropriate group(s) on your connection card on Sunday morning or sign up through the website.

FUSION CLASSES

Wednesday, February 8 & 15, 7-9pm, Ministry Center Conference Room. During this time we will share the story and vision of the Vine Wesleyan Church, how to live a life of holiness, how to share your faith in meaningful ways and how to become a member of the Vine Wesleyan Church. If you would like to attend, please circle **FUSION** on your connection card on Sunday morning.

VALENTINE'S DINNER

Saturday, February 10, 5:30 pm, Baldwin Hall. Enjoy a date night with your sweetheart. Evening includes fully catered dinner, games and prizes and great fellowship with other couples. \$40/couple (Make checks payable to The Vine). Purchase your tickets at the Welcome Center or contact the Vine office. Limited to the first 40 paid couples.

BAPTISM CLASS

Wednesday, February 15, 6pm, in the Ministry Center. If you would like to learn more about baptism or are interested in being baptized at our next Celebration Sunday—March 4, please circle **BAPTISM** on your connection card on Sunday morning and plan on attending this meeting.

WORSHIP SERVICE AND CELEBRATION OF DOWNSTAIRS RENOVATION

Please join us on Sunday, February 18 for worship service at 10am with special guest, Pastor Joey Jennings. A reception to celebrate the downstairs renovation will follow. (Please note that 10am is the only service that morning.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We have sent out a letter regarding our yearly Membership Renewal. We ask that you complete the postcard and return it to the church office by February 11. You can also renew your membership at the Welcome Center.

MORNING PRAYER

The first Thursday of each month from 10-11am, please join Pastor Tammy in the Prayer Room as we pray for our church and region.

SHOVELERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to clear the entryways of our church and Ministry Center of snow this season. Please circle **SHOVEL** and include your name and phone number on the front of your connection card on Sunday morning if you would be willing to volunteer your time. Thank you!

CHURCH CALENDAR

Check out our Vine calendar <http://vinewc.org/calendar/> for more upcoming events.

