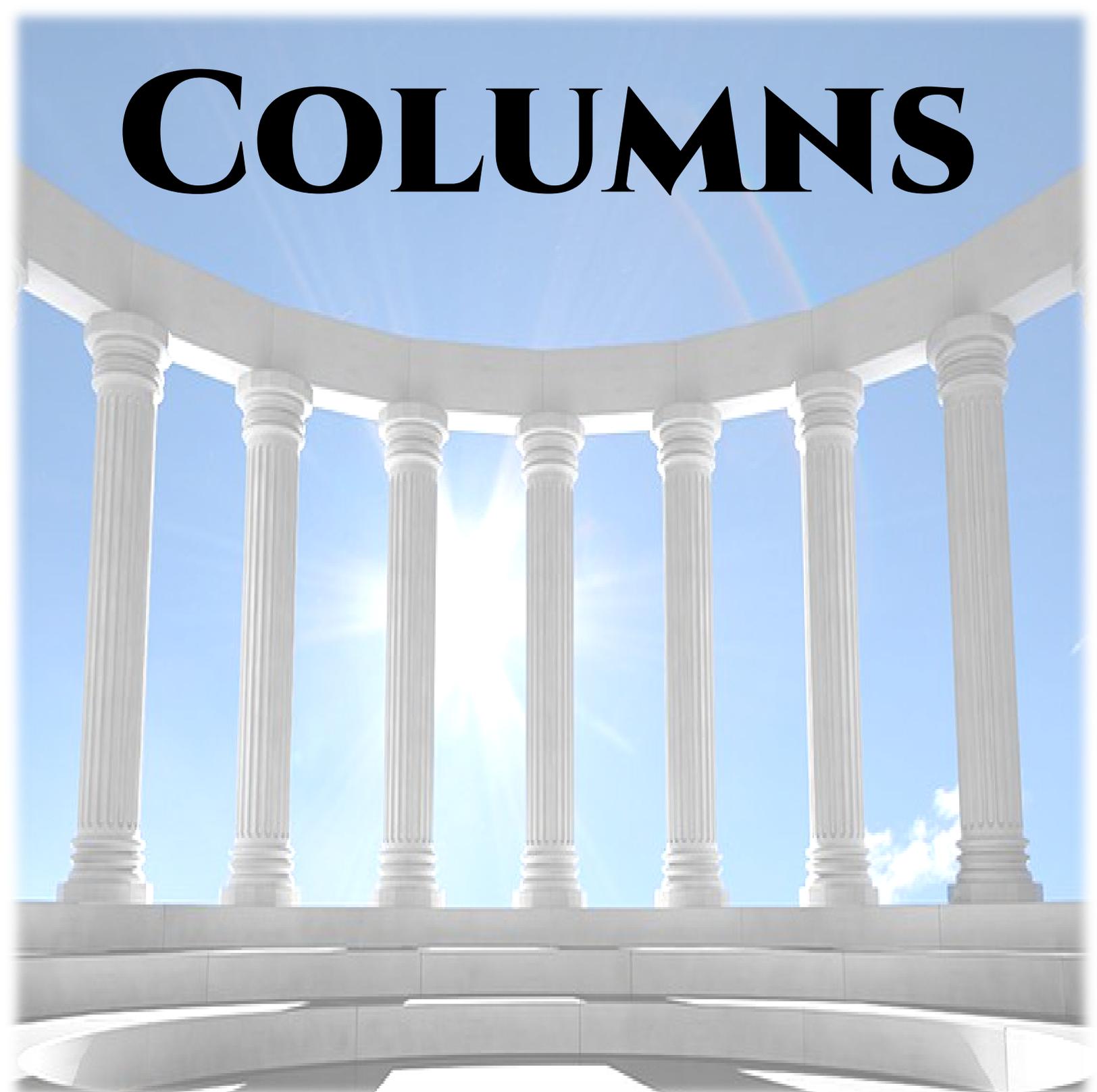


# COLUMNS

A photograph of a circular classical building with eight white columns under a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect. The columns are arranged in a circle, and the sun is shining brightly through the center, creating a lens flare effect. The building has a curved roof and a circular base.

***PUBLISHED BY***

**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ©**

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

***OCTOBER 7, 2018***

I have been writing almost ever since I learned to hold a big # 3 pencil on a Big Chief tablet. In each and every one of my 44 years in the ministry, throughout all 3 churches I have preached for and the one where I was an assistant, I have written an article for the church bulletin. A few months ago, I hit a block. For the first time in over four decades I hit a spell of time in which I literally couldn't and wouldn't write to my church. It's not that we don't talk, and Lord knows you hear from me in other ways and through other mediums of communication. However for that point and length of time—believe it or not—words escaped me.

My writer's block could have been caused by anything, and most likely it was a combination of things from personal to my mind being overloaded with the community issues I am entrenched in at present. Or—it could be that I was due for a break from certain taxing things after serving and enjoying public life as a city councilman.

In some kind of way, I believe I've found my written voice, but have decided that after 44 years (the last 20 at SouthCentral), maybe I shouldn't do this penning of the SouthCentral story all by myself. As you know, I don't mind thinking outside of the box, coloring outside the lines and trying the different and non-simple. Consequently, I am enlisting the aid and assistance of the gifted and talented writers within the church family. A couple of you have already been drafted, others I am asking to volunteer before I draft you! Granted, writing is a gift and for most it is hard work. But—we are here to help and complement one another.

I want to turn the next generation of our church publication into a digital newsletter that is unique to us and totally SouthCentral Church. I want to our leaders, ministry leaders, ICU's, young people in the church and even the little children. I, of course, will continue to edit it, but making it an inclusive effort can yield some unbelievable and unforgettable results. I see this thing growing and taking on life of its own with photographers and poets, artists and graphic artists sharing their given gifts and talents.

### **A NEW NAME...**

For 20 years our bulletin has been known as THE SKYLIGHT. In my ministry I have always developed the name of the church bulletin around some central or prominent physical thing about the church building. (At North Tenneha, it was The Steeple. Here at SouthCentral, the Skylight seemed appropriate because of its location in the sanctuary. Now, however, I have decided to leave our old format as it is and start all over with a new and fresh name and approach. The Skylight (1998-2018)

“COLUMNS” seems a more than appropriate heading under which to continue the story of SouthCentral Church of Christ from this point—and who knows what we will do after that?