The Journey

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Cameron's Corner

This is an Easter sermon illustration that I particularly like. I hope you do too.

"Have you ever been to the Colosseum in Rome? Did you see concealed beneath it a labyrinth of passages and cells, lifts and ramps, storerooms and concealed traps through which beasts, prisoners, gladiators and stagehands were deployed to engineer the pageants above, including palm trees and mounds of sand? Exploring this underworld is a very different experience from watching the spectacles in the arena above.

On a tour of the Colosseum an English botanist saw a flower he had never seen in Italy before. "Puzzled, he started to look closely at the other flowers growing between the flagstones in the old arena and the cracks in the stone seats of the terraces. The flowers weren't native to Rome, or even to Italy. The bemused botanist left the Colosseum to go and look at the patches of grass nearby-under the Arch of Titus, over the Capitoline Hill and in the stadium. He couldn't find a trace of these exotic flowers at all. When he took the flowers back to his Cambridge laboratory, he found that they had come from precise, verifiable places: Libya and Tunisia most-ly. The only feasible explanation he could come up with was that the flowers had grown from seeds that had lodged in the coats of lions brought from Africa to eat Roman prisoners in the Colosseum 2,000 years before."

The seeds fell off the lions as they tore into the Christians in the arena. The lions are long gone. The suffering is over. But those seeds are still bearing fruit, bearing witness to the power of life to win out over death."

Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life [2007] by Harry Mount.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

HELLO CHURCH FAMILY!

There are many opportunities for volunteering with in our children and youth groups. We need volunteers to help with young disciples, worship and wonder, nursery, Sunday school, youth group, special events, and VBS! One requirement to work with our children and youth programing is that volunteers must be safe church trained. Luckily, Sue Seward will be hosting a safe church training session on April 17th at 6pm. Please email Alyssa to let us know you are coming!

ECM TEACHER APPRECIATION

May 6th-10th is teacher appreciation week at ECM. FCC-HSV will be sponsoring a my favorite things snack cart. Please contact Alyssa for a list of items needed (or click on <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949AFA728A1FD0-48839808-ecmteacher</u>) to make this InReach activity a success!

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of the month. The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 11.** Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



A.J. Arisco, relative of Pam Clasgens
Ken Brown
Vonda Dihm
Gayle Herber
Bud & Linda Hooker
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Huber, friends of Debra Chandler
Lane Ingram, friend of Jean Patterson
Tom & Gail Killough
Stephen McCreary
Lisa Miller, niece of Monty Love
Petra Sue Richey
Mary Spencer
Jay & Cynthia Wright, parents of Holly Ahlbin

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. <u>Please</u> keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the list.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Primera Iglesia Hispana, Ft. Walton Beach, FL First Christian Church, Birmingham, AL



THE FOOD BASKET for April 7th is given in honor Matt Ball's birthday by Karen Ball.

HEALS CLINIC HELPING CHILDREN



In April Community Outreach is collecting small toys and other items, such as socks, for the HEALS Clinic. This clinic provides dental care for many school age children. The items

are needed to provide encouragement for these children as they undergo dental procedures. HEALS is now also bringing the clinic to children on a van. Over 1300 children were served by HEALS last year. A basket will be available in the Commons area for your donations. You can also write a check to FCC with HEALS on the memo line.

As always, thank you for donating, Community Outreach

HABITAT NEWS



Twenty-eight years ago, I did not know how to build a house from the slab up. In my years helping build homes for Habitat, I learned how to do that and became proficient in

many parts of that process. Of course, we build so that a working family has a home, but in the process, we learn how we can work on our own home as well. As Roselyn Carter beautifully modeled, women can join in this wonderful work as well. Please volunteer now to work on our 29th home. See me for details.

Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

BLESSING BOX \$\$\$\$ DUE



For 60 years Disciples Women have expressed their gratitude to God through the Blessing Box ministry. It is considered an over and above way to help fund the wider

mission of the church. Since 2007 50% of Blessing Box donations go directly to ministries carried out by women of the church through the International Disciples Women's Fellowship. What better way to support enterprising women around the world. Write your check to the church with "Blessing Box" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generous donations, Sue Seward & Ruth Lackey Blessing Box coordinators



THE FOOD BASKET for April 14 is given in memory of Katheryn Shrout by Rick & Kay Shrout.

ATTENDANCE

March 24: Worship Service: 115 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 141 March 28: Maundy Thursday Service: 55 March 31: Worship Service: 148 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 60