



THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF THE CHURCH

In my last class at Lexington Theological Seminary, we were tasked with the task of untangling our understanding of what the role of the, as I call it, the capital C church is in society today. Hundreds of pages were read with discussions and lectures sprinkled in. However, the reading that stuck out the most to me happened on the first day of class. While reading a selection from Dorthey Sölle the passage seemed to be straight from my minds understanding of what church should be. The concept is called “The Three Dimensions of the Church”. The three dimensions are kerygma, diakonia, and koimonia.

Kerygma refers to the teaching and proclamation of the Gospel. Churches are called by God to spread the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For church members this can look like participating in Christian Education or volunteering to teach a class. It can also take the form of speaking to a friend about what you have learned. All these things increase our connectivity to the spirit of kerygma.

Diakonia simply put means in service to others. Who are we but the helping hands of the body of Christ on earth? A song by the Casting Crowning says, “But if we are the body Why aren't His arms reaching?” This song connects to the loss of this concept by some churches today. Being too focused on the needs of ourselves than those around us can lead to a departure from the important task of being a beacon of hope to those who need it most.

Finally, koimonia is the process of being in community with God and each other. An overarching theme in most of my courses has been that God created people with the intention of us being in community. We must also work to create a community that is loving and intentional meeting the needs present.

When we work to meet these characteristics, we work to further God’s mission for the church. Let us move forward intentionally to demonstrate kerygma, diakonia, and koimonia.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Rev. Alyssa Burton

SEARCH & CALL UPDATE

The Search & Call committee has been busy working on our church profile which is the first step in the process to select our new Minister. We are currently working on a church wide survey to help us determine the characteristics and talents that our new minister needs to best serve our church and our community.

Please be in prayer for our church and our committee. When we ask for your input through this survey, please be diligent in answering our call for your input. We will probably have several different ways for you to contribute your views. So, be on the lookout for that!

Shalom

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of the month.

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 30**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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CHILDREN IN DESPERATE NEED GLOBALLY

We know there are children living in desperate conditions all over the world. Please join CWM in sponsoring at least two children who are being helped by Global Ministries - co-sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. The Children's Program in Zimbabwe and Family Village Farms in Panni, India both provide programs that educate, feed, house, and provide a safe, nurturing environment for children at risk. It costs \$30 a month per child in Zimbabwe and \$35 a month in India. It is our goal to sponsor at least one child for a year at each locale. Please join CWM by donating to make life better for a child in a far away land so different from ours. Checks can be made to FCC with CWM April project in the memo line or through PayPal on our website at: fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/.

Thank you for caring about children in need wherever they are.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hello Church family! Summer is quickly approaching and with summer comes VBS! VBS is such a great way for us to reach out into our community and provide children with high quality Christian Education in a safe and loving environment. This year our theme is Seeker in Sneakers and will take place from July 8-13th from 9-11:30am. The church cannot make this happen without your help! We have several volunteer slots open. We have jobs for all levels of mobility. Another way you can help is through purchasing items for VBS from our amazon Wishlist. This was a big hit last year; I love to see everyone coming together for a great cause in the church! If you want to sign up to volunteer please email me at alyssa@fcc-hsv.org or call 256-881-0150. Follow this link to the Amazon Wishlist. www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/V4CROVKVRTGK?ref=wl_share

Thank you for all you do to support the children's ministry of this church,

Rev. Alyssa Burton



SUPPORTING GRATEFUL LIFE MINISTRY

Christian Women's Ministries and the Outreach Committee are working together for the month of May on a joint project to help support the Grateful Life Community Christian Church - our sister church. Its focus is the homeless population of Huntsville pastored by Reverend Sherry Birney. Please give as you are able. Checks are to be made out to First Christian Church with Grateful Life in the memo line or online through the church's PayPal account at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give

Thank you for your support of this worthy project. If you have questions, please contact Karen Ball or Roberta Shivers.

LET'S PRAY FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our Search Committee has begun their search for our new Senior Minister. It is an exciting time for us at FCC.

How can we help? Pray! Pray for who God wants us to be, what qualities a Senior Minister needs to help us achieve God's Purpose, and how we as a congregation can grow in God's Purpose. Please join me as we pray together for God's Wisdom. Email me at to be a part of our prayer chain.

Lee

THANK YOU FOR CARING!

Your generosity to the CWM project for April brought in over \$1000! That means we can sponsor one child for an entire year at both the Family Village Farm in India and at The Children's Program in Zimbabwe plus extra for other needs within the programs. Two children in distant lands will benefit from your gift in ways that will be life-changing. CWM is grateful to all who donated so generously to such a worthy cause.

Thank you.



HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MAY PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Fruit, Macaroni & Cheese, Shelf-Stable Milk, Spaghetti Sauce, Dried Black Beans, Chef Boyardee, Crackers, and Bar Soap

ATTENDANCE

May 12: Worship Service: 96
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 85
May 19: Worship Service: 96
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 73

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Macedonia Christian Church, Tallassee, AL
Mt. Zion Christian Church, Hayneville, AL
First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach, FL



The 2024 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email publisher@fcc-hsv.org to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give and click on the Donate button.



THE FOOD BASKET is given in memory of Bob Abernathy by Lynn Abernathy.

