



# The Journey

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## WHAT RETURN SHALL I MAKE TO GOD FOR ALL GOD'S BOUNTY TO ME?

-Psalm 116:12

This verse is our theme for the 2023 stewardship campaign which begins October 16 and ends November 20. The cup of blessing will be a visual symbol and reminder of the overflowing of God's blessings in our lives. During this time you will receive the usual letter and estimate of giving card, hear speakers, and read Journey articles about the campaign, but more importantly you will be asked to reflect on all the blessings God has poured out for you and what you can return to God.

"What return shall I make to God for all God's bounty to me?" Psalm 116:12. What does this verse mean to you and me in a world of conflict and uncertainty? The meaning of this verse is very personal to each one of us, but we found in Joyce Rupp's, *The Cup of Our Life*, a meaningful interpretation of bounty as blessings:

"Anyone and anything that brings good or God-ness into our lives is a blessing. To bless is to bring the touch of God, the touch of love and goodness, to another by our presence as well as by our actions. Blessings are a greeting from God, saying 'I care about you. I desire what will be for your good. You are dear to my heart. I want your life to be filled with love'."

Each week we celebrate God's greatest gift through the cup of blessing, and we are given the opportunity to return those blessings through our gifts.

We have just celebrated the 75th anniversary of First Christian Church. We had time to reflect on a journey filled with so many blessings in the form of wonderful friends who enriched and continue to enrich our lives and those of our children. And now we look to the future of First Christian Church and how our lives are blessed by the new members and young families who choose to worship and lead here, and who allow us to share in the joy of their families and children. May God bless you individually and all of us in our endeavors to return a portion to God what God has poured into our cups of blessing.

Blessings to you all,  
Sue and Jeff Seward,  
Co-chairs 2023 Stewardship Campaign

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN OCTOBER

Our sister Disciples of Christ church in Huntsville, Grateful Life Community Church, provides ministry, food, clothing, tent housing, blankets, reading glasses, bikes, over-the-counter medicines, and toiletries to those within our community who have little in the way of material goods. Also, at this time, Grateful Life is searching for a place to worship together. In October, please give generously to this local need. Make your check to FCC with 'Grateful Life' in the memo line.

Thank you,  
Lynn Abernathy and Community Outreach

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 27**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802  
Telephone: 256-881-0150

### CHORAL WORKSHOPS

Karen Young will be presenting two workshops for the choir on Wed. Oct. 19th and 26th in the choir room during regular rehearsal time 7 pm.

The first workshop will be on singing and breathing techniques and the second will focus on vocal production tips.

Karen Young is an adjunct professor of voice at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. During her 21 years in this position, she has been actively involved in various different programs, such as the opera theater, the faculty jazz ensemble, as well as the musical theater productions. She enjoys singing many different genres of vocal music! During her spare time, she loves to paint pet portraits, and spend time with her wonderful husband, five grandchildren, and two adorable pups!!

#### SUPPORT THE CWM OCTOBER PROJECT

The Christian Women's Ministry's community project for October is support for the Neaves-Davis Center for Children. The Neaves-Davis Center houses juvenile court intake and probation services, detention services, community service programs, and the community placement and supervision program. Additional programs for detained juveniles include food services, medical services, recreational services, and library services. Religious services and activities are also provided, partially funded through community religious groups and civic organizations.

Please join CWM in supporting this worthy service. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting "Neaves-Davis Center" and the amount.

Thank you, Janet Sholes

#### ATTENDANCE

**October 9:** Worship Service: 103  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 70  
**October 16** Worship Service: 72  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 81

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU, CHURCH!

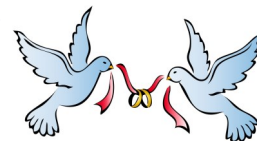
As chair of the 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration, I thank the Celebration Committee members for their hard work in making the celebration weekend a success. The members made my job an easy one. I also thank all those who volunteered to help and all the hard work that was done.

I so appreciate all the hard work everyone did to make the event a success.

Margaret J. Vann

Chair of celebration committee

Melissa McMahon (daughter of Dave and Patty McMahon) and Solomon Ortega will be married in a private ceremony on October 31 of this year. If you would like to join Mission Family 2 in wishing them much happiness, their address is 217 Brockton Dr., Madison, AL 35756. They are registered on Amazon.com for gift delivery to their new home.



#### JOY TO SHARE

Mission Family 3 is happy to share the joy of the recent marriage of Hayley Beckman and Jake Church on Saturday, October 15 at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. Hayley will add Jake's name to her own as Hayley Kathryn Beckman Church. The couple will reside in Hazel Green while Hayley continues pursuit of a Master's Degree in Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Jake serves as Deputy with the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Sabrina Beckman is the proud Mother of the Bride. Should you like to share a gift with the young couple, their registry is located at \*\*\*\*\*



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of Clara Green's first birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout, and in honor of Stan & Audrey Ball's anniversary by Matt & Karen Ball..

#### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Grace, Helena, AL  
First Christian, Montgomery, AL  
First Christian, Florence, AL

## COMMUNION SERVERS WANTED!

I'm working on organizing our return to the table, and I would be grateful to hear from anyone who is willing to serve in this way. I'll start pulling together a schedule that we can plan to, and we'll also organize some orientations to go through what needs doing and when. It's worth noting that everyone's schedules are busy, and often fluid, so we'll update that schedule as folks might need to switch out weeks for trips and illness.

Thanks in advance, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you! Andy Herron \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*



### Why not start a new habit this Sunday?

Bring one food item for the food pantry cart. Of course, more donations would be better. If each of us could get into the habit of donating each Sunday, the cost would not seem very much in dollars or labor. Are you up to the challenge of starting a new, beneficial habit?

As inflation continues to grow, many families are suffering from food shortages. Our food pantry cart is located to the right as you enter the church. Can you help your neighbor?

Community Outreach (CO) is supporting three schools with needs for girls without funds to buy these products. The schools are Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School

CO is asking for regular donations of hygiene products such as: sanitary pads, tampons, and/or period underwear (period-proof underwear is a relatively new period product that looks and feels like regular underwear.).

CO will have a collection site in the church and deliver the donations to the Health Officer, Jana Mason or Elizabeth Fleming, at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They will distribute the donations as needed to the schools.

Please consider helping with this needed project.

Margaret J. Vann

**Christian Women's Ministries ladies:** Are you blessed? Do you have a Blessing Box handy to make your thankfulness tangible? The beginning of a new Christian Women's Fellowship year is a great time to start or reinvigorate dropping a coin into your blessing box each time you are thankful for something. Blessing Boxes are available on the desk in the Narthex. Blessing boxes will be collected in the spring. Circles may also pass the blessing box during Circle meetings. There are many ways to participate.

Sue Seward, BB coordinator

