



# The Journey

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## STEWARDSHIP 2023



Greetings, my name is Anita Wood and I have been a member of this church family for 52 years. In all this time and of all the many positions in which I've served, this is the first time I've ever been asked to participate in the Stewardship campaign. Unbelievable, don't you think? Nevertheless, of all the amazing people who have come before me to make this campaign happen, I'm blessed and honored to be at the microphone and with you today for our last opportunity to share in this year's campaign.

So now what? What do I need to say? What do I need to share that hasn't already been said again and again? How can I possibly share all of my personal overflowing blessings and memories of God's goodness and grace? My cup truly is running over.

So I started with several Internet searches on the topic of stewardship to help me focus, here is one I'll quote that stood out to me:

*In a sense Biblical stewardship IS a responsibility, a duty, dare I say, an obligation of Christians. We're required to impact, care for, utilize, and manage the affairs of creation in whatever way God brings us into contact with it.*

*This isn't a silent partnership with God, either. Biblical stewardship involves going "all in" with our time, our effort, our sacrifice, our talents, and our resources — and when I say "our," the truth is, they're all His anyway. That's why being good stewards is such a crucial part of the Christian lifestyle.*

Nailed it, don't you think? Are you "all in"? Do you have a passion or desire to be a good Christian Steward in this world, in our community, in our congregation, at home? Are you impacting, caring for, utilizing, and/or managing God's gifts to you? Think about it? How would you answer today? Where can you say yes and go "all in"?

As good stewards, we all share a responsibility and are accountable to each other to go "all in" and use our God-given resources, gifts, talents and services to glorify Him and to let His Light reflect onto others through us. As stated above, there all His anyway. It's a use it or lose it mentality. Faith and service in action so to speak. Exercising those skills and gifts strengthen your stewardship of His work you are called to do. We all have been given spiritual gifts to use and we glorify Him when we do. Find a way. Just do it! What have you got to lose? I can guarantee that you have so much to gain.

When I did a session years ago learning my spiritual gifts, they were like reading my resume. I was "all in". Organized - check. Administration - check. Service - check. Leadership - check. It surprised me that those marketable skills in my resume were actually my God-given spiritual gifts unique to me and that my career was built by using them. Who would have guessed? What came so naturally to me through God's goodness, my

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The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.  
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 16**. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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

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customers were willing to pay for that service and skill set. I thought everyone was organized, administrative, served, and led others toward a common goal. My nickname at work was 'The Little General' and someone made a standup 18' foam board figure of General Patton with my face on it saluting. Yeah, what can I say? If you got that talent, use it for His glory, right?

Yet, reflecting over the years and seasons of life, those spiritual gifts, resources and talents from God have been utilized in different ways whether personally, professionally, or in this congregation. Currently, I'm "all in" again by caring for my 93yr old Mother-in-law by organizing her caregivers, administering her finances, and ensuring she has all her basic needs met to continue to be able to live alone. And more recently, my dearly loved 87yr old Aunt is in need for some assistance after a fall. My Aunt by the way is the one I share many spiritual gifts with - and for those of you who know me well and have seen me in action - 'yes' that makes us both little bulldogs (tenacious, efficient, etc. ok, you get the picture) in getting the job done but she is truly a blessing that keeps me on my toes. Bless her heart. But I'm certain that God has planned this for me for this season in my life to be a present and an available good steward for them. And for every caring service in action, there is a blessed reaction for such a time as this not only for me but for them, too, in their time of need. It feels so good to be loved and appreciated.

And as far as our church is concerned, I'm "all in" to be a caring good steward wherever I can in loving our young families and their precious children by volunteering in the nursery and Children Worship and Wonder. And in this season of my life, I just can't seem to get enough of their sweet faces. Because this feeds my soul and blesses me to see them weekly growing in faith and love. I'm so grateful and thankful that these parents share their babies with us to love and appreciate. I consider them to be my Church Grands and I hope that they can see and know that Ms. Anita loves them. I

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hope I am showing them I care and really do have good intentions.

So don't leave this world with anything clutched in your hands that God meant for you to give. Have no regrets. Go "all in" and live your life of stewardship as best as possible using and giving your time, effort, sacrifice, God-given talents, and resources - their all His anyway.

So in closing, as Deuteronomy 16:17 states: "Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." Let your cup run over onto/for others.

**Prayer** by Joyce Rupp

"Extravagant God, Generosity beyond comprehension, Bestower of all that I need, Thank you for the immensity of your kindness. Praise to you for the endless out-pouring of your love. My being proclaims your goodness."

In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

#### **GIVING STATEMENTS AVAILABLE**

Current giving statements, through October, are available by calling or emailing the Church Office (256-881-0150 or office@fcc-hsv.org) and we will mail or email you a copy.

Questions? Call 256-881-0150.

#### **NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!**

Hello FCC family,

We are excited to announce our new FCC Music Director, Nicholas Murphy. Choir practice will begin on Wednesday, November 8th, 7:00pm, in the choir room. Nicholas will be in service beginning on November 19th. Please join us for a meet and greet after service. A sign-up sheet for Sweet Treats, Salty Somethings or Drinks is in the Narthex. We are excited to welcome Nicholas to our FCC family!

A special thank you to the Music Search Committee, Roger Sameck, Monty Love, Caroline Heron, Holly Ahlbin, and Paul Allen.

Blessings, Stephanie Braly-Beutjer



**LONG TERM  
PRAYER CONCERNS**



**Not Listed Online**

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

**REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

First Christian Church, Valhermoso Springs, AL  
Young Adult Ministries

**THANK YOU FOR CARING!**

A total of \$800 was collected for the Community Outreach project, which was divided between DHR Adult Services and Enable. Both agencies were very appreciative of the funds to be used to help the elderly and disabled in our community. You are making a difference with your donations!



**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on Friday, November 10, in observance of the Veterans Day Holiday.

**CHRISTMAS CHARITIES STOCKINGS**



The annual drive for Christmas Charities stockings is under way at FCC. Beginning Sunday, November 5, the stockings will be available in the Narthex. A list of suggested items for filling are included with each stocking. In order for Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR) to deliver the stockings, it is necessary to return the filled stockings by Sunday, November 26, to the same table in the Narthex. An alternate way for supporting this project is financial support for CCYR. This can be accomplished by noting CCYR in the memo line of your check your desire to contribute to CCYR.

Thank you in advance for your generosity as this drive is a small, but vital, part of the larger mission of serving some 600 children and seniors in our community.

Christian Women Ministry



**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of Spencer Jenkins 2nd birthday by Beverly & James Cannon.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Oct. 22:** In-Person Worship Service: 87  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 94  
**Oct 29:** In-Person Worship Service: 100  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 252  
**Nov. 5:** In-Person Worship Service: 90  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 69