



The Journey

Volume XXIV No. 41
October 10, 2016
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 13**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL

Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 15 asks this church to collect an offering for the people of the mother church in Jerusalem. Disaster had struck Palestine, and the church in Jerusalem was in great need. The daughter churches of Asia Minor had the rich opportunity to give to those who had real need.

I admire the way Paul goaded the rich Corinthian church by telling them how generous the poor Macedonians (the churches in Galatia and Philippi) had already been. 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (NRSV) "*Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. ³And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem.*"

Paul writes a letter to the Macedonia church when he is in prison. These Christians go to great lengths to send tokens of care to Paul in prison. Paul's letter to the Philippians is a thank-you note for the care package that they sent.

The church at Corinth had plenty, more than enough to share. They were wealthy, but they constantly complained. They argued about preachers, they argued about church discipline, they argued about sharing their fellowship dinners with one another. Their lives were a constant whine and a grumble. While the poor Christians of Macedonia gave more than they could afford.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSV) "*We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ... ⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.*"

Then concluding in 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul writes, "*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*" A better rendering of the Greek word *cheerful* is "hilarious." God loves hilarious givers. This is the very nature of God—God's giving to us is scandalously generous. It's hilarious that God would give us so much! We don't deserve it. But the abundant gift is an opportunity God wants for us to learn to give with joy and without compulsion.

Remember who the real giver is. Paul is clear—we are not the original givers, as a matter of fact, what we give is merely what we have received. God provides for us so that we may give.

This time of year is a good time for us to consider what our pledge will be for the upcoming year. Ten percent (10%) is a tithe. A tithe is only the beginning. Your gifts are those things that go above and beyond a tithe. So consider where you are in your tithing to the church. There will be some more information about our stewardship campaign coming to you soon.

See You Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 Office Hours: 9am - 5pm M-F
Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages - 9:15 a.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Old Testament Proverbs 3:9-10
 Gospel Luke 18:1-8
 Sermon Text Philippians 4:10-13
 Sermon "Generous Living"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dave Crockett & Mack Vann
 10:30 Joe Brockway & Karen Ball

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Lynn Abernathy

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Lynn Abernathy & Delores Edgeton
 Chuck & Penny Jackman
 10:30 Nancy Adams & Matt Ball
 Beth Bailey & Marilee Keim

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Chuck & Penny Jackman

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is Open

SUNDAY'S FLOWERS are in honor of Peggy Sing-
 ton with love, the Daily family.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Margaret J. Vann

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Bible story and songs

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 3rd Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	10/2	10/9
First Service Worship	45	42
Sunday School	36	42
Second Service Worship	100	78
Children's Church	8	5
Young Disciples	NA	8
Total Worship	153	133

YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY!

Young Adult Lunch after second service on Sunday, October 16, in the Garden Room. Yummy Soups will be served. Bring a friend and join us. Email leeboles@aol.com for more information.

SMALL MEETINGS ON THE BUILDING PROGRAM

There will be five small meetings to discuss more details on the building program and the cost options available. These meeting dates are listed below. You can come and ask your questions and go home unless you want to see what others are thinking. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Tuesday, Oct 11, at 7 PM Family Services

Monday, Oct 17, at 7 PM Family Services

Saturday, Oct. 22, at 9 AM Garden Room

CWM, THE NEAVES-DAVIS CENTER, AND YOU

The October CWM project is financial support for the Neaves-Davis Center (also known as the D-Home). The Center opened many years ago when a group of citizens (including former FCC member, Nancy Erskine) were concerned that youth in legal trouble were housed in the adult jail; a juvenile center was then built. Funds are used to purchase items such as books for the Center's library, educational games, equipment for the gymnasium, and computer programs. The average age of the 20 children typically in the Center is 15 ½ with an average stay of 17 days. Our monetary donations can help provide positive activities for the teens and expose them to alternate ways to spend their time. This is a program that is often neglected in our community and where we can make a difference.

To give, write "Neaves Center" in the note/memo line of your check and turn in to the office or place in the offering bowl. To give using PayPal, go to our website www.fcc-hsv.org and scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "How to Give" under "Learn More About First Christian Church Huntsville." Scroll down and click on Donate. Type in "Neaves Center" in the "Purpose" box and follow the directions.

Dear Friends,

Yesterday Pastor Cameron and the Evangelism Team announced that Sunday, November 13, 2016, has been designated as Bring-A-Friend Sunday for First Christian Church. That Sunday we will enjoy a worship service and extended coffee and refreshment time in the church common's area.

First Christian shares a warm and inviting Christian fellowship. We enjoy celebrating Jesus as Lord and savior through our worship experience and in all our church activities. We are asking you to invite someone to come to church with you on Bring-A-Friend Sunday.

Persons you might wish to invite would include long-term prospective members who haven't committed themselves to church membership yet, immediate family members, other close relatives, friends at work, neighbors, social life friends, friends at school, community organizations friends, new people in the community, long-term acquaintances, business friends, customers, and clients. Start thinking and praying for someone you will invite.

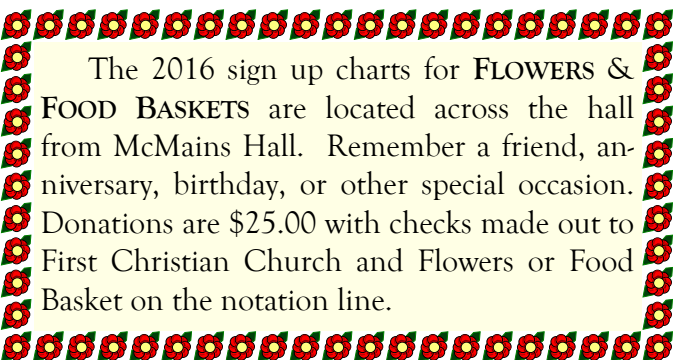
Someone from your Mission Family will personally contact you to secure your commitment to bring a guest and attend the morning worship and extended fellowship time scheduled for Bring-A-Friend Sunday, November 13, 2016.

The success of this endeavor depends upon the initiative and dedication of each individual member.

Sincerely,

Alma Kingsbury
Evangelism Chair

Cameron Douglas
Senior Minister, Interim

 The 2016 sign up charts for FLOWERS & FOOD BASKETS are located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and Flowers or Food Basket on the notation line.

CONGRATULATIONS to Monty and Dinah Love as they celebrate the marriage of their granddaughter, Alex, to John Wright. The couple married October 2, 2016.

**ROGER SAMECK REPORTS ON
MINISTER SURVEY RESULTS**

Anyone who has not heard the results of the recent congregational survey about our upcoming Senior Minister search is invited to join Mission Families 2 and 4 on October 30. We will gather in the front pews after second service to hear Roger's 15-to-20-minute summary of the results. All who would like to stay to comment and/or ask questions may do so.

GRATEFUL LIFE NEEDS

Community Outreach service project for October is in support of Grateful Life Community Church. The collection is for hygiene products, socks, and Depends (size L and XL). Small sizes of toiletry items, such as those from hotels, are perfect since individuals may not have access to storage. Some suggested items are: razors, soap, shampoo, deodorant, foot power or cream, tooth brush, floss, tooth brush, combs, and lotion or cream. If you prefer to donate money, please make check to FCC and note for Grateful Life. Needed purchases will be made for you.

Grateful Life provides ministry, over-the-counter medicines, food, clothing, and toiletries to those in need. They serve over 100 people each week that live on the streets or in local shelters. Thank you for your supporting this community in need.

FEED THE HUNGRY on the Salvation Army soup kitchen. One or two servers and a driver are needed each month to deliver meals to three locations in Huntsville on the third Tuesday of each month. The time commitment is 5:15 departing the Salvation Army mission on Seminole Drive until approximately 6:45. A sign up sheet is on the Community Outreach bulletin board across from McMains Hall. Please consider helping. Talk to Jeff Seward for more information.