



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 6
February 6, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 16**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

There will be a Congregational Information Meeting on Sunday, February 26, following the 10:30 service.

NEVERTHELESS

The other Sunday in my sermon I mentioned that Diane has been trying to change me since we were married for the last 42 years, 1 month, and 1 week exactly. In the tone of the sermon I was suggesting that it's a hard job to change anyone and Diane probably has not been too successful! I can be stubborn at times and hard-headed (oh my, say it isn't true ;-). Nevertheless, one of the simplest but wisest truths she has tried to teach me is this: It would be nice to deal with people as they should be, but our calling is to deal with people as they are.

Now such advice is not easy to follow, but it points to the basis of the gospel we proclaim and embrace. God came in Christ and dealt with us as we are instead of dealing with us on the basis of what we should be. The love of God revealed in Jesus Christ is unconditional, everlasting, and indiscriminate. God does not love us on the basis of how good, courageous, beautiful, or successful we are. God loves us as we are. That statement is so familiar within the church that it has almost become trite and hackneyed. But I know from my own experience that there are places in my heart that have yet to hear the Good News. In spite of the fact that I proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ week after week, I need to hear the "Old, Old Story" of Jesus and his love as much as that person who has never heard such a gracious message. And in my pastoral visits and conversations with you, I am aware that you need to hear you are loved just as you are — in all your weakness and strength, pride and prejudice, courage and fear, success and failure, compassion and apathy, righteousness and sin. None of us can hear enough the Good News that God loves us just as we are. Such grace is God's great "nevertheless" to our lives, and there is not a one of us who has not benefited from that nevertheless of God's acceptance and compassion.

The blessed irony is that only by such unconditional love can we become what we "should be." Only by such gracious acceptance and compassionate understanding can we be freed of the demons that possess us and let go of the idols that diminish our existence. And if that is true of us, it is equally true of others. It would be nice to love and to deal with people on the basis of what they should be, without the foibles and weaknesses that inconvenience and annoy us. But if our own experience with the grace of God has done any redemptive and transforming work in our hearts, we know our calling is to love and deal with people as they are. And once again the blessed irony is that by such love others will have more of an opportunity to become what they should be.

I know from experience that what I am writing is true. I often feel my life is summed up in the title of a book by Jesse Lair, "I Ain't Well, But I Sure Am Better." Believe it or not, I am a lot better than I was when Diane first met me. And much of that improvement has come from the steadfast, faithful, and patient love she has offered me no matter what I have been or done.

May God grant each of us the humility and the wisdom to do unto others as God has done unto us as we each hear in all the secret places of our hearts the Good News of God's unconditional and everlasting love for each and everyone of us.

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, FEBRUARY 12

Old Testament Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Epistle 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Sermon Text Matthew 5:21-37
Sermon "Just Say, 'No'"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dave Crockett & Jan Mackenzie
10:30 Dale Thomas & Lisa Fitzgerald

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Kathi Luzar & Ann Thompson
Rick & Kay Shrout
10:30 Nancy Adams & Roberta Shivers
Mary Ann Anderson & Beverly Cannon

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gayle Herber

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is open.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Sower
Margaret J. Vann
John Hall
Jacob Brockway

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

A New Teaching
Pastor Laura
Tara Thorne

HELP IS NEEDED in the Nursery and Toddler rooms on Sunday mornings. Please see the sign up poster in the Commons and sign up now for first or second shift on one Sunday in February and March. We need loving hands to assist our attendants.

2017 FOOD BASKETS

The 2017 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is up and 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 "Food Basket" on the notation line.

CONGRATULATIONS to Daniel & Ashley Rogers on the birth of their son, Beau Daniel Rogers, on January 30.

SMALL GROUP LENTEN SEASON STUDY

The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus explores the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Author, Adam Hamilton, leads readers through the places Jesus' ministry happened, explores the culture of Bible times, and considers what it means to be followers of Jesus. This is not just a study of history and geography, but a call to discipleship. Throughout the study the author challenges participants to foster a greater commitment to Jesus as Lord and King of their lives.

This study will be offered beginning Tuesday, February 28, 9:00 AM, for six weeks. An accompanying DVD will be used during the study. If you are interested, please contact Ann Thompson at abt4848@gmail.com or 256-881-8168 to register or for more information. The book is available from Amazon or help is available to order if needed. Each participant will need a book to gain the full value of the study.

ATTENDANCE	1/29	2/5
First Service Worship	46	47
Sunday School	21	34
Second Service Worship	77	106
Children's Church	3	7
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Total Worship	130	160

Dear Members of First Christian Church,

According to the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall request from the Membership suggestions for Nominees for office. To be eligible for Nomination to hold an office, an individual shall have been a member in good standing for at least six (6) months on July 1, 2017. Please make suggestions for the following Mission Family Leadership Team Officers:

Elder: The Elders are the Spiritual Leaders of the Mission Family. Elders serve at the Communion table and attend a monthly Elder's Meeting.

Convener: Conveners are the organizers of the Mission Family. They conduct monthly Leadership Team meetings and attend a monthly Convener's meeting.

Deacon: Deacons are the caretakers and communicators of the Mission Family. Deacons are elected Board Members, and attend a monthly Board Meeting.

Please send your suggestions to me at jvhome2@comcast.net, call me at 256-536-7816, or mail your suggestions to me at 2610 Quarter Lane, Hampton Cove, AL 35763. Please send your suggestions to me before February 20, 2017.

Thank you,
Jackie Volinski, Chair
Nominating Committee

The Building Renovation Committee will meet on Sunday, February 12, in the Garden Room following second service.

I'm looking for the Adam Hamilton DVD series, "Christianity and World Religions". It's on the inventory list in the cabinet upstairs where Sunday School materials are stored, but that particular study is not in the cabinet. If anyone has it or knows where it is, please contact Roberta Shivers at 256-859-5991. I don't need it for the next several weeks but would be interested in previewing it for the next study for our class. Thanks for your help.

FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

Sunday, February 12, is **Fill the Cart for the Food Pantry**. Bring one non-perishable item or several. St. Paul's has empty shelves. Let's help fill them. As always your donations of food items are appreciated at any time.

Thank you, Community Outreach Committee

HEALS DENTAL CLINIC DUEL SERVICE PROJECT

CWM will join Community Outreach as sponsors of the dental clinic in February. HEALS (Health Establishments at Local Schools) provides on-site dental care and makes an immediate difference in the lives of children, many of whom have never visited a dentist. After each dental visit, the children select a small toy as a reward for their visit. The rewards encourages a positive attitude for any return visits.

We can help by providing monetary donations for HEALS and/or small toys to be used for rewards. Please remember these items will go with the student back into the classroom and must be appropriate for this setting. Anything that goes in the mouth such as a harmonica, whistle, bubbles, or crazy straws is not encouraged since the children tend to try out the items before making a final selection. Unopened prizes available in fast food meals are perfect for this project. If you make a monetary donation, please list "HEALS/dental" on the item line.

MR. AND MRS. RONALD VOLINSKI, JUNIOR
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Courtney Maria Volinski

to

Christopher James Ronald Olsen

SON OF MR. AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER K. OLSEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIFTH
TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN
FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

Weatherly Heights Baptist Church

1306 CANNSTATT DRIVE
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Valley Hill Country Club

Kindly respond yes by February 10 to
patandchip@comcast.net