



# The Journey

Volume XXV No. 7  
 February 13, 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.**

## THE OYSTER

The Christian treatment of trouble is splendidly illustrated by the oyster, into whose shell one day there comes a tiny grain of sand.

By some strange circumstance, this tiny piece of quartz has entered into the shell of the oyster and there like an alien thing an intruder, a cruel, unfeeling catastrophe imposes pain, distress and presents a very real problem. What shall the oyster do?

The oyster could complain bitterly: "Why should this have to happen to me? Why should I suffer so? What have I done to deserve this? With all the billions of oyster shells up and down the seaboard, why did this grain of sand have to come into my shell?"

The oyster could conclude: There is no justice. But the oyster does not do that. It could call for a lot of fortitude and courage and determination.

The oyster could say: "Now that this hard calamity has overtaken me this thing that hurts and cuts, and stabs, this enemy that bruises and bleeds now that this has come upon me, I must endure to the end. I must remember that the darkest hour is just before the dawn."

That is noble but the oyster does not do that, in spite of all the denial, nothing can change the fact that the grain of sand is there. The oyster recognizes the presence of the grim intruder, and right away begins to do something. Slowly and patiently, the oyster builds upon the grain of sand—layer upon layer of a plastic, milky substance that covers each sharp corner and coats every cutting edge and gradually... slowly... by and by a pearl is made a thing of wondrous beauty wrapped around trouble.

The oyster has learned, by the will of God, to turn grains of sand into pearls, cruel misfortunes into blessings, pain and distress into beauty. That is the lesson we are to learn, the grace of God is sufficient, will enable us to make of our troubles the pearls they can become. One enters into the presence of the Lord through gates bedecked with pearls, a trouble, a pain, a heartache, a misfortune which has been changed into a beautiful lovely thing. - copied

See You Sunday,  
*Pastor Cameron*

ATTENDANCE	2/5	2/12
First Service Worship	47	46
Sunday School	34	31
Second Service Worship	106	95
Children's Church	7	5
Young Disciples	NA	5
Total Worship	160	151

**THANK YOU**

Well, the Community Outreach thanks everyone for the overwhelming response to our request for warm items for Grateful Life. Over 100 items were delivered just in time for this cold snap. Again Thank you!  
 Community Outreach

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 19

Old Testament	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Epistle	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Sermon Text	Matthew 5:21-37
Sermon	"My Little Black Book"

### SERVING AT THE TABLE

- 8:15 Dale Thomas & Mack Vann  
10:30 Nancy Waites & Joe Brockway

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

Mary Ann Anderson

### SERVING COMMUNION

- 8:15 Chuck & Penny Jackman  
Eddie & Valerie Parks  
10:30 Marie Bittle & Ruth Lackey  
Marilee Keim & Matt Ball

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Diane Douglas

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Maranda & Kyle Holley by Randy & Anita Wood.

### CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

*The Good Samaritan*

Pastor Laura  
Tara Thorne  
Braly Beutjer

### YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)



**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.

## RUMMAGE SALE!

This year's Rummage Sale to benefit youth missions will be February 24 and 25. Set-up, donation receipt, sorting, and pricing will begin February 19. Please consider how you can contribute to this church-wide event. The volunteer sign-up is in the Commons and we will have yard signs so you can let your neighbors know about the sale. **You may begin dropping off sale items on February 19** (call the office and leave your name and number for home pick-up of large items).. **We will NOT accept any tube style TVs or computer monitors.** We also will not accept any electronics or household appliances that do not work (unless the non-working part is identified), or that are extremely damaged. Items that belong together (remotes, lamp shades, etc.) should be boxed or taped together. Not only will this sale send our youth out to serve, it will also help our neighbors in need purchase quality items at very reasonable prices.

### SMALL GROUP STUDY

#### DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

*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.

**UPDATE: The study will be available at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM beginning February 28 for six weeks.** Contact Ann Thompson at 256-881-8168 or [abt4848@gmail.com](mailto:abt4848@gmail.com) 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.

### 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.

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](mailto: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

To our Church family,

Thank you very much for your prayers and cards while we were at our daughter's home in Texas. Having just had my 4th eye surgery, I am still in need of your prayers for healing.

We feel blessed to be members of this church, and thank you for your love and support.

Dorothy Montgomery

## THE CHURCH GROUNDS

I recently reported to the Church Board that, after many hours over many years, I am giving up my work on the church landscape. The 2017 Property Committee budget provides for professional care of the courtyard and all of the front gardens and islands.

Many thanks to Brenda Stroud for recommending Aurelio Sanchez and his team for the care of our landscaping. Perhaps you have already noticed the excellent results from the first day's work on Monday, Jan 30. They will work once a month throughout the year.

I have enjoyed this work and appreciate your trusting me to tend to the grounds.

Bob Senn

## 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.