



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 9
February 27, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 2**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY

March 1 is Ash Wednesday. This begins the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays). For many Christians this is a season of fasting, which represents penitence and self-discipline, enacting Christ's forty days in the wilderness, and culminating in the remembrance of his passion and death. The color that symbolizes Lent is purple — representing penitence, except Good Friday is black. The ashes symbolize sorrow and repentance.

Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon LENCTEN, meaning spring; it is a derivative of LANG, meaning long (as in the days are getting longer). The important aspect of our Lenten pilgrimage is not so much that we give up something but that we take up something positive. However, denying ourselves of something very special during these forty days reminds us of the discipline of a Christian lifestyle and an everyday reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

We can give up negative aspects of our life, but let us remember to fill the void by replacing it with positive things. For instance, we could GIVE UP criticizing and TAKE UP complimenting one another. We could GIVE UP grudges and TAKE UP gracious acts of forgiveness. We in the church can fill in our own "give ups" and replace them with our "take ups."

This Lenten season I will be offering many opportunities for you to take up some Spiritual disciplines. One center piece for Lent is going to be a Lenten Sermon Series entitled, "The Gospel According to YOU." Each Sunday I will preach a sermon on a particular aspect of our witness (testimony) to the world of who Christians are to be. In our Sunday bulletin there will be a set of reflective questions about the sermon topic for personal or group prayer and contemplation. Each week in *The Journey* there will be a short cover article concerning the upcoming Sunday's sermon topic hopefully to peak your interest and attendance.

There will be more to come on all this, but for now, our Lenten journey is a time of reflection upon the activity of God in the world and in the life of God's people. It is also a time of introspection when we take a serious look at ourselves and our community of faith in light of God's love for us, our love for neighbors (others), and our world.

See You Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Andrew Collazzi

and

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew and Caroline Herron

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.

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.

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 5**

Sermon Text Acts 1: 8
Sermon "The Gospel According to YOU!"
Your "Witness"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Karen Ball & Roger Sameck
10:30 Dave Crockett & Dale Thomas

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Lynn Abernathy

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Carl & Carol Jones
Kathi Luzar & Linda Lykins
10:30 Brad & Pam Clasgens
Bev Williamson & Nancy Woodall

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Chuck & Penny Jackman

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of
Jonathan's birthday by Rick & Kay
Shrout.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

TBA

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	2/19	2/26
First Service Worship	54	50
Sunday School	33	47
Second Service Worship	104	105
Children's Church	12	5
Young Disciples	NA	NR
Total Worship	170	160

LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Service
March 1 at 7:00 pm



Sunday Services

8:15 am Casual
10:30 am Traditional
Lenten Sermon Series
March 5 - April 9

The Gospel According to You

Palm Sunday Services

April 9
8:15 am Casual
10:30 am Youth Sunday
Procession of Palms



Maundy Thursday Service

April 13 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

SE Huntsville Clergy Association Observance
Gather at noon for an outdoor "Stations of the
Cross" at the Aldridge Creek Greenway.

Easter Services

April 16
8:15 am Casual
10:30 am Traditional



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.

SAVE THE DATE
Blood Drive
March 19
First Christian Church

HISPANIC MINISTRY BEGINNING

It is exciting that First Christian Church is engaged in offering a Hispanic Ministry to the Huntsville community. Iglesia Cristiana, Disciples De Cristo, began meeting here a few weeks ago (January 29). We are working on an agreement/covenant/contract for a trial period of three months to see how things go. This ministry began with full General Board and Elders consent and approval.

We are in need of some volunteers from FCC to be present during the Hispanic worship service time, Sunday evenings 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. We are blessed to have our Youth Director, Linda Davis, as a bilingual (Spanish/English) member of the church staff. She has been a most valuable liaison with the Hispanic Ministry up to this point. However, Linda's primary responsibility is to our youth who meets here Sunday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. There is an hour overlapping time that needs your attention.

I am looking for eight to ten adults who will simply be present in the church for help if the Hispanic Ministry needs anything and to supervise the church facility. There will be a short training class on (1) where things are located, (2) what you are to do and (3) what the terms and conditions are in our agreement/covenant/contract. Your commitment is only one Sunday evening every two or three months from 5:30 p.m. to unlock the church and stay until 8:30 p.m. to lock the church up. Linda Davis will be available, although she will be with the youth until 7:00 p.m., if language is an issue or a barrier. So, you do not need to know Spanish to volunteer.

Please pray about the Hispanic Ministry, your volunteering to help, and let me know if you will be a volunteer by calling the church office 256-881-0150, my personal cell, or email me cameron@fcc-hsv.org. This ministry needs you, your prayers, and a chance to flourish in the Lord.

The Informational Congregation Meeting was held on Sunday, 26 February. Thank you for your attendance. I hope that you all were encouraged to plug into at least one of the many areas that need you. This is our valley of service opportunities. If you were unable to attend or want a copy of the minutes, Z-fold pamphlet, and/or the slides presented, let me know. Anita Wood prayoftenaw@yahoo.com

Many thanks to our Audio/Visual Team for their support for the informational Congregation Meeting on Sunday, 26 February. Good job!

HABITAT HOME # 24 BUILD STARTS MARCH 7

We will be in the Habitat warehouse the week of March 7 building the walls for our home. Work starts at 7 AM and ends around 1 PM on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of that week. We are building a 5 bedroom home on Maywick Road in north Huntsville. Maps to the warehouse and home site are on the bulletin board outside the Parlor. Come on out and help us do this!

Our home owner is Brittany Ford. She is 26 years old and is a single mother of her daughter Harmonie. She is also raising three of her brothers and two sisters. What a responsibility! She writes that having a Habitat home is a blessing and a wonderful experience. Given the opportunity to raise her family in a safe environment and a home she can call her own is a wonderful gift she is receiving and is most grateful to all who are helping this come true.

Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

