



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 10
March 6, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 9**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU: LOVE

This last Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent, I began a Lenten Sermon Series entitled, “The Gospel According to YOU.” Each Sunday during Lent I will preach a sermon on a particular aspect of our witness (testimony) to the world of who Christians are to be. My hope is that the sermons, and bulletin inserts with questions on them, will stimulate self-examination and introspection. That is, after all, what Lent is about.

The point of last Sunday’s sermon is that only when our words and our beliefs are translated into actions do they really take hold of the lives and change people. We can recite our creeds and study our Scriptures, but only when our faith is translated into action - only when our beliefs take root in our daily living - will our Christian faith become compelling to others. The most effective arguments for Christianity occurs when the truths of our faith are seen in the daily actions of Christians.

This Sunday I will be preaching on our witness of Christ in our LOVE. It may be the toughest of all of Jesus’ commandments asking us to, “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34-35). Interestingly love is not something that comes naturally. It is learned by observation and practice. We observe how God loves, and then we practice that love until we do it by heart. The Bible is right when it tells us, “We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

We can show our love by our words and deeds, but also by our attitudes. When we speak words of encouragement, appreciation and affirmation, we are expressing our love for others. A high school senior, invited by a friend, became involved in a Christian group in a church not far from her home. In time, she accepted Christ as her Savior and committed her life to him. But there was a problem: how would she tell her parents, who were non-church people? Here’s how she described what happened.

“Before Christ came into my life, I was spoiled and selfish. I was irritable and impatient. I was disrespectful to my parents. My room was a mess, and my attitude was worse. But after Christ came into my life, I changed. I was kind to my parents. I cleaned up my room. I helped with the housework. I spoke with tenderness and respect to my parents and I was loving toward everyone.

“My parents noticed and ask me, ‘What’s going on. You’re suddenly different?’

I told them, ‘Yes, I am different. I have been reborn! I have Christ as my Savior. I am a Christian now, and Christians are to live in love.’”

Well, that’s the way it works. We can express our love with words, with attitudes and, most powerfully and meaningfully, with actions.

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.

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12**

Sermon Text John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-11
Sermon “The Gospel According to YOU!”
Your “LOVE”

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Jan Mackenzie & Dave Crockett
10:30 Bob Senn & Nancy Waites

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Chuck & Penny Jackman
Mike & Becky Lash
10:30 Nancy Adams & Roberta Shivers
Mary Ann Anderson & Ruth Lackey

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gayle Herber

SUNDAY’S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Bob Edgeton by the Edgeton family.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus and the Children
Pastor Laura
Mary Ann Williams
Braly Beutjer & Troy Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

Jesus and the Tax Collectors
Christi Sexton
Pam Clasgens
Ty Davis & Anna Roberts

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.



SPRING FORWARD!

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour forward when you go to bed on Saturday, March 11, because Daylight Saving Time officially starts at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12.

BLESSING BOXES DUE

For 64 years Disciples women have been collecting spare change in small cardboard Blessing Boxes. This daily discipline has generated millions of dollars in mission support. Since 2007, one-half of the money collected goes to the mission of the church and one-half to ministries carried out by women of the church here and abroad through the International Disciples Women.

Your Blessing Box money is due this month to your group treasurer or in the church offering. Please write a check to First Christian Church with Blessing Box in the memo line. Then start collecting again for next year!

Ruth Lackey, Blessing Box Coordinator for CWM

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

ATTENDANCE	2/26	3/5
Ash Wednesday Service	NA	40
First Service Worship	50	46
Sunday School	47	51
Second Service Worship	105	116
Children’s Church	5	8
Young Disciples	NR	NA
Total Worship	160	210

Have you noticed our lovely interior courtyard? Alma and Dan Kingsbury, and Peggy Sington, have made it a place of beauty and spiritual nourishment with seasonal decorations that reflect the colors of the liturgical calendar. Please take a stroll, sit for a time of meditation, or take Easter photos in this beautiful hidden treasure at FCC. Doors from the Garden Room and Commons are locked with a slide bolt only. Please lock again when you leave. There might be a bunny out there when you visit!

CWM NEEDS YOUR HELP TO WELCOME BABIES

The March CWM project is to make gift baskets for the Healthy Families Program with the National Children's Advocacy Center. The program works with low income first-time mothers who do not have the support needed to help them through this experience. As well as providing basic baby needs, the gift basket shows someone cares. A list of needed items is posted in the Commons Area or financial donations may be made to CWM with "Baby Baskets" in the memo line. Thank you for caring about those in need.

VINTAGE VAGABONDS VISIT TEMPLE

On March 16, Pastor Cameron will take the group by bus for a tour of the historic Temple B'Nai Sholom in downtown Huntsville and for lunch (starters, sandwiches, salads) at Below the Radar housed in the Old Times Building downtown. The sign-up sheet and menu are on the volunteer desk in the church office. Gather at FCC at 9:30 for bus departure or meet at the Temple at 9:50 if you want to drive there directly. Return to FCC about 1:30. Please sign up for bus or car by March 14.



CAR BREAK IN AT CHURCH

On Tuesday, February 27, an ECM parent left her purse in her car while she ran in to drop her child off. While we are not in a high crime area, it is always best to be on your guard. Do not leave valuables sitting on your car seat, even if you are going to be gone for just a minute. Please be aware of your environment and take notice of people you do not recognize or suspicious activities. Do not leave the church at night unless someone else leaves with you. Make sure that cars are started and that no one is left behind.

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

