



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 16
April 17, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 20**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

TRUE PROMISES

At a church I served as Pastor the Choir Director and I did something a little different once during the Choir Anthem time. As I recall it went over very well. The whole church sang the old hymn, "Standing on the Promises," and after each verse someone in the congregation (prearranged) would read some of the promises of God from the Bible. It was fun and it had a Christian education bent to it. I remember the worship theme was you can't stand on the promises of God if you don't know what they are. By the way, I had the congregation stand while they sang the hymn because I thought it to be too funny for the congregation to be sitting on their behinds while singing about standing on the promises. ;-)

Sometimes we may get confused about what actually is in the Bible about God's promises and what is not. I really like this poem that I shared with the congregation during that worship service.

True Promises

*God has not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our life through;
God has not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.*

*But God has promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way;
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.*

-Author Unknown

The promises of God have always been a grace-filled, loving support throughout my life. I may not have realized it during the periods of trial and tribulation, but looking back, I know my savior loves me and will never forsake me.

See You Sunday (I promise!),

Pastor Cameron

MEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2017!

The Men's Bible Study Group is having a pancake breakfast for the church family on April 30th after First Service. They will be providing plain, blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes along with fruit cups and orange juice and coffee. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fellowship!



If there are men who would like to volunteer to work setup, preparation, cooking, cleanup or teardown, please contact Monty Love via email @cmlove999@gmail.com or 256-337-5581.

There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, April 30**, following second service for the election of officers for 2017 - 2019, Vice Moderator for 2017, and Trustee for 2017 - 2023.

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, APRIL 23

Scripture John 20: 24-31
 Sermon "Believing is Seeing"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Nancy Waites & Roger Sameck
 10:30 Lisa Fitzgerald & Karen Ball

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Rick Shrout

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Chuck & Penny Jackman
 Ann Thompson & Margaret J. Vann
 10:30 Brad & Pam Clasgens
 Charles & Pam Gilliland

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gray & Theresa Killough

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Randy & Anita Wood's anniversary by the Holley's.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus Is Risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene
 Margaret Vann, Mary Ann Williams & Cara Sexton

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

Jesus and the Storm
 Christi Sexton, Christa Brockway, Sarah Brockway, & Ty Davis



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.

VINTAGE VAGABONDS will take a free tour of the new guest center and gift shop at the Huntsville Botanical Garden on Thursday, April 20, with lunch following at 11:30 at the new "Table in the Garden." Gather at 10:15 at FCC. If you drive yourself there so that you can stroll through the Garden afterwards, the tour of the new building starts at 10:45. (Garden admission is applicable for the afternoon garden stroll unless you are a member of the HBG.) Sign up sheet and menu are on the Volunteer Desk in the office. Please sign up by April 18 so we can give the restaurant a good number for lunch.
 Sue Seward

APRIL CWM PROJECT

The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the UCC and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books and training. Christian Women's Ministries has sponsored two children since last spring at \$360 each. You can see their photos on the CWM bulletin board across from McMains Hall. We hope to sponsor at least these two again this year and perhaps more through your generosity. Anyone can participate in this ministry of caring by designating your offering to CWM April project. Perhaps your family can share in this ministry as an Easter offering. So little can make such a difference!

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 April & May. We need loving hands to assist our attendants.

ATTENDANCE	4/9	4/16
First Service Worship	44	64
Sunday School	35	21
Second Service Worship	147	204
Children's Church	NA	NA
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Total Worship	191	268

Mission Family 1 Potluck Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, April 23, at 11:30 following second service in Family Services. Plan to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Your leadership team will provide meat for the meal.

CONGREGATION APPROVES CHURCH RENOVATION PLAN

On April 2, the congregation approved the two-phased renovation proposal presented by the committee. This identified some needed roof repairs to be made, the replacement of the FSA & Kitchen HVAC Units, the renovation of the Parlor & Parlor Kitchen, and \$100,000 of sanctuary upgrades.

The architect is currently preparing the financial agreement for the design phase of this project. This work could take about two years to complete. See the bulletin board in the narthex for more details. This program has been estimated to cost \$588,000. The church has \$504,000 in the bank account. There are over \$100,000 in Time Is Now unpaid pledges outstanding. Should these be fulfilled, the church will not have to borrow any money to pay for these renovations.

Please consider completing those pledges or make new pledges to help with this program.

Bob Senn, Renovation Committee Chair

COMMUNITY FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR POVERTY-LEVEL ADULTS

Community Outreach is seeking your support for the Free Dental Clinic, which treats the homeless, the elderly, veterans, or the working poor (those within 150% of the national poverty level). Because of the great need and limited resources, dental care is restricted to extractions. Since March 2013, the Clinic has served over 3800 patients and extracted over 9000 teeth. Think about having severe pain from a damaged tooth and nowhere to go - that's why the Dental Clinic is so important. Items we can donate to help: paper towels, copy paper for the office, and toothbrushes. Financial donations are equally important. Checks can be made to FCC with Dental Clinic in the memo line. Thank you for thinking of "the least of these."

THANK YOU!

Because of our church's generosity, CWM collected \$442 for the "Welcome Baby Baskets" for The Children's Advocacy Center's Healthy Family Program. We were able to assemble 20 gift baskets of needed items for these first-time mothers. We appreciate your generosity in supporting this worthy cause.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join the Interfaith Mission Service Annual Celebration and Awards Dinner on May 2, UAH Exhibit Hall, 6 p.m. First Christian Church was one of the founding churches of IMS.

This year, the theme of the Interfaith Mission Service's Annual Awards Dinner is...Diversity is Our Destiny.

In keeping with the theme, we will recognize leaders in the community who are celebrating diversity as being good for business, good for education, maybe even good for our souls.

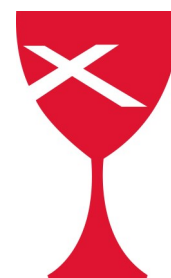
The keynote speaker is Greg Barsh, M.D., Ph.D., from HudsonAlpha Institute. In his keynote address: "The Genetics of Human Diversity," he will focus on the genetic mechanisms that underlie differences in individual appearance.

IMS hopes members of our congregation can join IMS in this celebration! The Annual Dinner is the cooperative's only annual fundraiser; tickets are \$100 per person. Your support will help IMS continue to promote interfaith and racial harmony, social justice, and direct service in the community.

Please call, email or visit us online with any questions you have: ims@knology.net, 256-536-2401, www.interfaithmissionservice.org. We hope to see you at the Dinner on May 2.

Warmest regards,

The IMS Annual Awards Dinner Team



EASTER LILY DONORS

Donna Blair in honor of Alice Crawford.

Gayle & Chuck Herber in honor of Kathy & Jason Maples; and in memory of the Lancaster and Herber families.

Louise & Chet May in memory of Jayna May Gillespie.

Ken & Bobbye Riggs in honor of their daughters and grandchildren; and in memory of their parents.

Michael Smith in memory of Charlotte Hall.

Ann Thompson in memory of Larry Thompson.

Margaret J. Vann in honor of Mack Vann.

Margaret J. & Mack Vann in memory of their parents Dorothy & Carl Jones and Carolyn & Herman Vann.

Mary Ann Williams in memory of Walter Williams, and Margaret & Don Conley.

Bev & Don Williamson in memory of parents Lorene & Rad Howard and Lorene & Floy Williamson; and sister of Bev, Wanda Boyd.

Anita Wood in honor of Maranda Wood Holley.

