



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 27

July 2, 2017

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ON GENUINE CELEBRATION

There is an old story told about a certain cathedral somewhere in Europe. I think the story is based on fact although it may be embellished in telling it over and over again. In the entrance to the cathedral there was a well worn spot on one wall. Those who entered the cathedral to worship stopped at that spot and either touched or kissed the wall.

A stranger visited the cathedral and observed the ritual and was curious. He wondered why nearly everyone who entered went through the same motions at the wall. He asked someone who entered and they thought a moment, then said, "I don't know why. It has been part of our tradition ever since I can remember."

He asked another person who seemed to be older and he thought he might know. The answer was similar, "I came here as a child with my grandparents. They always touched the wall there and taught me to do the same."

The stranger asked another and another and another. None seemed to know the meaning of the rite. Finally he went to the priest, but he didn't know the answer to the mystery either.

The curiosity of the priest was stirred and he called the elderly bishop who had been in the parish many years before his retirement. He also did not know the answer to the question, but said he would investigate and report back to them

After a lengthy search the bishop discovered that in the original building there had been a painting of the Madonna and Christ Child on the wall the worshippers would so reverently touch. There was no record that the painting had ever been removed or painted over so they thought it might still be there. A little soap and water, and a soft cloth was used to wash away the dirt and grime of centuries and the painting was there in all of its loveliness.

The picture had been covered over for years, but the people had continued with the ritual by tradition. None knew what it meant, but they did it out of habit.

Now maybe this is a parable for us as we examine the things that we do by way of habit/ritual. It may be a very special parable for us as we celebrate the Fourth of July. There will be usual patriotic rhetoric, the noise of fireworks, the picnics, the parades, etc. Some of these will be only meaningless tradition. We may do them without remembering the sacrifices made by so many to bring this nation into being and to preserve it across the years.

We need to give some thought to what we do and why we do it on such occasions as the Fourth of July. The day was set aside as a national celebration, a time of remembering. May we not forget the struggle of those who gave this nation its life.

See You Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

The Touch of the Master's Hand will appear in next week's Journey.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 6**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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, JULY 9

In The Pulpit

Rev. Laura West

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Jan Mackenzie & Mark Stiles

10:30 Roger Sameck & Mike Lash

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Rick Shrout

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Chuck & Penny Jackman

Lisa Fitzgerald & Kathi Luzar

10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Matt Ball

Brad & Pam Clasgens

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Chuck & Penny Jackman

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of

Mom's (Iness Kellogg) 103rd birthday
by Marilyn Martin

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

TBA

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

TBA

FCC ON LINE

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at
www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com

MISS A SERMON? See previous sermons at
www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Share an hour or more of your time with our babies or toddlers once a month. Sign up poster is in the Commons for first service, Sunday School, or second service. If you are not on the Safe Church volunteer list, we can easily provide training.



Volunteers needed to serve in our Youth Sunday morning program from 9:15-10:15. Curriculum is biblically rooted and will allow for their spiritual growth and maturity in our Youth. Please consider volunteering.

Please contact Pastor Linda

SUMMER BLAST!

Summer Blast is Pizza, Bingo, & Gift Sacks, which makes this annual party special for the Aquarius club (Mentally Challenged Adults) and we need your help. You can participate by donating bingo prizes like hats (adult), small toiletries, items from hotels, pens, small note pads, costume jewelry, socks, books, men's belts, playing cards, etc. We need enough to fill 60+ bags. A large basket for your donations is located in the Commons Area. Thank you in advance for your continuing support in serving our community.



Jill Hall

Community Outreach

HOW TO GIVE ON LINE

Miss church, but would still like to give your tithe or offering? You may give online through PayPal by going to the church website <http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/> and scrolling down to the donate button. (You may also go to www.fcc-hsv.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the "How to Give" link.) You may designate your tithe or offering for the General Fund or specify a particular church ministry/fund. You may also designate if you would like this to be a recurring or single donation.

Donate



CHURCH DIRECTORY EMAIL ADDRESSES

We have had several requests to include email addresses in the church directory when it is published by the end of August. Our church management software will only allow us to use **one** family email address in the directory. **If you would like us to include an (as in one) email address for you or your family, email publisher@fcc-hsv.org with the one email address you would like to include in the directory.** We will respond to you that we have received your permission and the **one** email address that you would like to have included in the directory. If you submit an email address, and do not get a confirmation reply during normal office hours, that means that we did not receive your email for some reason and you will need to follow up with the office. This is voluntary and if you do not use email, or do not wish to share your email address, you do not have to do anything and we will not include an email address for you in the directory.



Email publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call 256-881-0150 if you have any questions.

2017 - 19 MISSION FAMILY ROSTERS

Next week we will publish the Mission Family Rosters for 2017-19 with the leadership for each Mission Family. The Mission Family Conveners are meeting this week to finalize the lists.

HABITAT NEWS

As Bob Senn told us in church, our 24th Habitat house was dedicated on June 24, and the keys were given to the 26-year old homeowner, Brittany Ford. When Brittany's mother died in October, 2014, Brittany was given custody of her three brothers and two sisters, and she has a daughter, too. While working at her job and investing the required hours of work on the Habitat house, Brittany also led this family. They are overjoyed to be in their new house. What a great work was done here!



As Bob said, next year will be our 25th house, and we will be able to do a great thing for another family.

FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

Next Sunday, July 9, 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

ATTENDANCE	6/25	7/2
First Service Worship	44	46
Sunday School	32	36
Second Service Worship	90	81
Children's Church	5	5
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Total Worship	139	132