



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 37
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MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCES

On Labor Day weekend, my family, some friends and I took a camping trip in the mountains for a couple of days. We packed up our tents, food, hammocks, and all of our necessities, set up our campground, and enjoyed time in nature. I have always loved camping and fishing, opportunities to get away from the ordinary and move into a place where you can find peace in simple work. There is nothing like setting your own fire and cooking over it. Pulling fish from a creek for your dinner or hiking a trail you have never been on and finding a natural garden, a beautiful waterfall, or the glory of a sweeping meadow.

Our camping adventures also give us a chance to put away our phones, turn off the TV, and talk to one another face to face. When you do not have a device to hide behind it is amazing where conversations will lead and what you will learn about those you are close to and yourself. I feel close to God in church and when I am around other people but I learn more about my relationship with God when I am alone, when I have time to pray, when my mind can wander, and when I can hear the voice of God in the trees, rocks and streams.

We all need time to reflect and rest; in the scriptures it was mandated and called the Sabbath. The Sabbath was more than the day you went to the temple; it was an opportunity to devote an entire twenty-four hour cycle to God. During that time the Jewish people were called to pray, worship, study, share, take time with family and yes, rest, just as God did on the seventh day.

I wonder if we have lost this sense of Sabbath in our world. Even when we are not at work we are still working, answering emails and phone calls, or completing projects we did not have time for in the office. Or we find work at home, mowing the lawn and trimming the bushes, fixing the gutters or completing the project we started a few weeks ago. When do we find time to rest and to open ourselves to God?

I hope in the weeks ahead you will find time for Sabbath rest, a time to renew your faith and listen for God's voice. It may be in the wilderness, or in your home, it could even be in church. But wherever you choose let the Spirit of God fill you, so that you will be refreshed, and then let God's call guide you so that you can spread the good news of Christ in all that you do. I hope you will share your Sabbath experiences with your church family and with me in the days ahead.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Save The Date

There will be a congregational information meeting on Sunday, September 17, following second service. Please plan on attending!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 14**, 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, SEPTEMBER 17

Sermon Scripture Matthew 18: 21-35
 Sermon "The Hard Work of Forgiveness"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dale Thomas & Justin Givens
 10:30 Bob Senn & Andy Herron

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Nancy Waites

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Linda Hooker & Ann Thompson
 Eddie & Valerie Parks
 10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Kathi Luzar
 Sabrina Beckman & Marilee Keim
 Carolyn Brown

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Diane Douglas

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Chuck Jackman's birthday by Penny and the girls.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Creation
 Margaret J. Vann
 Mary Ann Williams
 Matthew Beutjer
 Ty Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	9/3	9/10
First Service Worship	43	51
Sunday School	39	40
Second Service Worship	95	82
Children's Church	7	8
Young Disciples	NA	8
Total Worship	145	149

WE JOIN FORCES WITH HEROES TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN

In September Community Outreach and CWM are working together to support Shop With a Hero, a project designed to give less fortunate children in our community a Merry Christmas. The children will be given \$100 gift cards and will shop with the aid of a Hero. These Heroes are either active or retired military, police, fire fighters, first responders, teachers, medical personnel, etc. You can give toward this project in September by writing a check to FCC with Shop With a Hero on the memo line. Any amount is appreciated. As always, thanks for helping the less fortunate in our community.



Community Outreach and
 Christian Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2017

YMCA Camp Chandler. Wetumpka, AL

"Retreat to Refresh" Resource Leader - Rev Mary Beth Harper. Application forms are available in the Commons Area. Contact Mary Ann Anderson for more information.

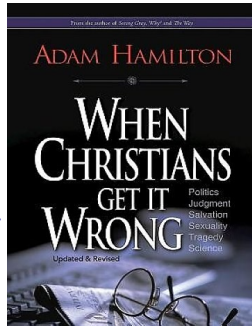


CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at: www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com
MISS A SERMON? See previous sermons at: www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/

COMBINED SERVICE ON SEPT. 24
 First Christian Church will have a combined service at **10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 24**. Our Regional Minister John Mobley will conduct an installation service for Pastor Paul Allen and will have a commissioning service for Pastor Linda Davis. Plan to attend and support our ministers.
 Margaret J. Vann,
 Worship Chair

WHY DO PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH?

Do you wonder what keeps people away from church? Adam Hamilton offers some insightful ideas in his book "When Christians Get It Wrong." A short-term study of the book and DVD will be offered Tuesday mornings at



9:00 a.m., beginning Sept. 26. This study may take you out of your comfort zone as we examine our attitudes toward politics, salvation, sexuality, and science. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office and on the table by the Commons Area (**deadline is Sept. 20**). Contact Ann Thompson if you need further information.

CONDOLENCES to the family of John Dorough who recently died.

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 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.

