



The Journey

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TAKING THE RIDE

Time is a precious commodity in our household. There is always something going on, a meeting to attend, a practice to go to, homework to be done, laundry to be sorted, not to mention all the surprises. Like most families we try to prioritize the things that are important to us, which means that sometimes we have to say no, or at least not right now, to activities in which we want to participate. We also find ourselves engaging in activities that we never expected to do.

Zip-lining is one such activity. A couple of summers ago we took a few days of vacation before General Assembly as a family. We let the kids choose one thing that they wanted to do, within reason. Joe decided he wanted to go to an amusement park, but Abby told us she wanted to go Zip-lining. If you have never heard of this, basically you climb a tower, are strapped to a steel cable with a pulley, and then sent hurtling out into space, sliding down the cable until you reach the end. One of the rides we went on was over 100 feet in the air, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long, and the guide said I was going well over 40 miles an hour when he hit the brake.

I loved it, Abby had a blast, Joe enjoyed it, but Patti was terrified. She had to psyche herself up every time she climbed a tower. When I asked her why she was doing this she said, "It is for the kids!" and that was true, but I also believe that Patti went zip-lining to overcome her fear of heights and falling. She had to trust her guide to prepare her pulley, use the brake to slow her down, and keep her safe. I know how terrified she was but she went down every zip-line. She was amazing.

There are many things in life that terrify us. Some things we should be scared of, but other fears are only in our minds. Often we become so obsessed with what might happen that we convince ourselves to never take a risk, to stay with what is comfortable or safe, and let the world pass us by. If we never try to confront our fears, or look beyond them, we limit ourselves and let our fear control us. Patti loved the first zip-lining experience so much we went again and it was great, especially because she enjoyed the experience. She did not look terrified, she looked exhilarated. Again, she amazed me.

First Christian Church has undergone a great deal of change in the last few years and for many this can be terrifying. Yet, the church has always moved forward in the face of difficulty because we worked together and sought God's will for our congregation, not our own. We have already made several courageous decisions, not the least of which is sharing space with another congregation and renovating our existing structure. I am amazed and humbled by the faith of our congregation. Together we will walk out into the unknown, let our great Guide prepare us, and then wait for the ride. I guarantee you, it will be worth it.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 28**, 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, OCTOBER 1

Sermon Scripture Exodus 17: 1-7
Sermon "A Rock and a Hard Place"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mark Stiles & Andy Herron
10:30 Mike Lash & Gail Herber

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Nancy Woodall

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Delores Edgeton & Linda Hooker
Chuck & Penny Jackman
10:30 Abby Allen & Marilee Keim
Marie Bittle & Beverly Cannon
Pam Clasgens

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Bobbye Riggs' birthday.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Abraham and Sarah
Linda Lykins
Lee Boles
Tré Davis
Anna Roberts

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

| ATTENDANCE | 9/17 | 9/24 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| First Service Worship | 56 | NA |
| Sunday School | 45 | 31 |
| Second Service Worship | 86 | NA |
| 10:00 Unified Service | NA | 104 |
| Children's Church | 10 | 7 |
| Young Disciples | NA | 10 |
| Total Worship | 152 | 121 |

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

THANK YOU!

I want to thank all of the church members who helped with the reception on September 24. This gathering honoring Rev. Paul Allen's Installation and Rev. Linda Davis's Commissioning marked a very special time in the life of First Christian Church. We also wanted to recognize Alma Kingsbury, a long-time member, who is moving away from Huntsville after years of serving this congregation in many capacities, including rejuvenating our courtyard garden. A special thanks to all who brought refreshments and all those who stayed for the reception. I think it was well received by all and is a testament to our Church's welcoming attitude.

Gayle Herber,
Elder MF3

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/

JOIN THE COFFEE CREW

Looking for a way to serve the church? Join the Coffee Crew! It is not rocket science, but rocket scientists are welcome. Drop a coffee pouch in the machine, press brew, and bring some snacks. Bingo! You've helped to facilitate fellowship at the church. You serve about once every other month. Call 256-881-0150, or email publisher@fcc-hsv.org, and say that you want to sign up for the Coffee Crew.



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.

MONETARY FUNDING FOR GRATEFUL LIFE

Even the very best monetary planning and budgeting can have major upsets for all of us. Grateful Life has had three events in the last two months that have caused an extreme financial shortage. The GL van used to transport the disadvantaged to and from church needed two new tires and other repairs costing over a thousand dollars. Another major expensive event was a problem with the freezer when it was discovered the door had not been properly secured and the freezer of meat was defrosting. One of the GL volunteers spent a day trying to salvage 60 lb. of meat by cooking all day.

Manna House shares any extras they receive with groups such as Grateful Life. The last few months, Manna House has not had any extra protein to provide to others outside their own needs. Grateful Life needs to purchase meat that normally was acquired through Manna House. This has caused another major expense.

Please make your check to FCC with GL in the memo line if you can help out Grateful Life this month.

Thank you, Community Outreach

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.