



The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 11

March 12, 2018

www.fcc-hsv.org

2018 MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH

During last week's Sunday services, Pastor Paul made the joyous announcement that Lauren Carter and Christopher McDonald have been promoted to Co-Directors of Music. I'd like to share with you how this decision has come about.

As you know, our Director of Music position has been vacant for many months...and for much of that time we have been blessed with Michael Beutjer taking those responsibilities on a volunteer basis. The congregation was also waiting until a new senior minister was named, before beginning the search for a new music director.

In mid-December, I was asked to lead the search for a new music director. It has been a few years since FCC has had an active music committee, and now that we have reestablished that group, we are able to bring several diverse perspectives to oversee our congregation's music efforts. We spent the past two months evaluating the musical needs of the congregation, and crafting a new job description for the music director that represents our needs as the congregation stands today. This involved weekly meetings of the five members of the committee, along with our personnel committee chair, the board moderator, and Pastor Paul.

While this process was going on, and without a music director, our two accompanists, Chris and Lauren, out of necessity, increased their time commitment to the church, sharing the duties of the music director. Those efforts have seen good results, with a broad focus on blended musical offerings, growth in the number of music participants, and a quality of music that the congregation is responding positively to.

Once the new position description was approved, Chris and Lauren came to the music committee with a proposal to share the music director's responsibilities and co-direct the church's music offerings, based on the current operating system that they've had in place since the Christmas season. On Sunday, February 25, the committee met with them and we agreed that rather than posting the position and interviewing candidates, our current structure was the best option to continue our current momentum.

We've all witnessed how well these two very talented musicians work together, and we are very pleased with the path that they have set for our future. The music committee will continue to meet with Lauren and Chris on a regular basis, to help them plan for the months ahead and give them whatever support is needed.

I'd like to thank the members of the committee for their efforts: Holly Ahlbin, Elaine French, Gayle Herber and Becky Lash, as well as Mack Blackman from the personnel committee, Moderator Beverly Cannon, and Pastor Paul.

Want to be a part of our music committee? Please let me or Pastor Paul know.

Brad Clasgens

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 15**, 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, MARCH 18

Sermon Scripture John 12: 20-33
 Sermon "There is no Life, Except by Death"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mike Lash & Mark Stiles
 10:30 Roger Sameck & Jan Mackenzie

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Delores Edgeton

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Anita Wood
 Rick & kay Shrout
 10:30 Gayle Herber & Abby Allen
 Marilee Keim & Nancy Woodall
 Patti Allen

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is Open

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus the King
 Pastor Laura,
 Holly Ahlbin
 Joe Allen
 Tré Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith
 Sound- Michael Smith &
 Malcolm Landreth
 Stream Operator- Michael Smith

ATTENDANCE	3/4	3/11
First Service Worship	51	31
Sunday School	37	41
Second Service Worship	93	87
Children's Church	7	7
Young Disciples	NA	4
Total Worship	151	129

LET'S TRY AGAIN IN MARCH

At the beginning of February, Community Outreach issued a challenge to each household to donate one food item per Sunday to the food pantry to total donations of 400 per month. The goal is for this to become a learned behavior and our food donations will continue at this level. Unfortunately, the February collection was less than 50% with 190 items. Counting was very generous. Eight snack crackers in a box were counted as eight items. Come on, high achievers; remind your family and friends! Let's try this again in March and reach the 400 count!



BAKE SALE UPDATE

I wanted to thank everyone that participated in the Bake Sale this year. We met March 4th to choose the charities that we would donate our funds to. We picked eight charities. They were Shop with a Hero, Grateful Life, HEALS, Hope Place, Down Town Rescue Mission, The Soup Van, Community Outreach and the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region. Each group will receive a check for \$362.50. Again, a big thank you to all that baked and those that bought, together we made this possible. Dinah Love

THANK YOU!

Because of your generosity, Community Outreach purchased 32 Walmart gift cards (\$25 each)! CASA, DHR, and Grateful Life were very appreciative of this generous donation. The cards can be used throughout the year to help the needy adults served by the three organizations. You continue to make a difference in our community through your giving spirit. Thank you!

The 2018 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is 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.

THANK YOU!

Our words cannot express our gratitude for your support from First Christian Church. Your prayers, cards, texts, phone calls and meals are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all, Donna and Campbell Blair

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4: 10

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

One way you can literally serve others is to serve Communion on Sundays. Please contact Gayle Herber if you are interested in serving Communion.

“The Lord’s Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all who are followers of Jesus Christ. The practice of Holy Communion has become the central element of worship within the Disciples tradition.”



disciples.org/our-identity/communion-and-baptism/

LENT & EASTER SERVICES



Palm Sunday Services

March 25

Procession of Palms

8:15 am Casual

10:30 am Traditional

with *Victory Cantata*

Egg Hunt and Church Picnic



Maundy Thursday Service

March 29 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

March 30

Noon Service with Pastor Paul at the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
228 Church Street

- or -

“Stations of the Cross” Noon at the Aldridge Creek
Greenway entrance Mt. Gap.

Easter Services

April 1

8:15 am Casual

10:30 am Traditional



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 demonstrates to the mother that someone cares about them and their new baby. 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. Someone will shop for you.



Thank you for caring for those in need.

