



The Journey

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CHANGING WINDS

Now that Easter is here and spring is in the air we turn our attention to the new life that this season brings. I am always amazed at the natural beauty of spring, the flowers that bloom, the buds on the trees, and the wildlife that returns. One of the activities my family enjoys on a beautiful spring day is to go to an open area and fly kites. We have a wonderful time holding our kites up to catch the wind, running with them to get them into the air, letting out string so they can soar higher and higher, and even watching them crash to the ground when the wind gives out. I have even attached a kite to a fishing rod to see how far the wind would take it. It can tell you reeling it in was quite a challenge.

One of things I noticed last time we flew kites was how quickly the wind could change. One minute it was fast and strong pulling the kites into the sky and the next it would die down forcing us to reel in our lines as fast as we could. The wind even changed directions surprising us and leaving us to wonder where we needed to stand so we could keep our kites in the air.

All too often our world seems like the wind blowing us to and fro. We never know what to expect or how to plan and prepare for what is to come. In the past months our country has gone through a great deal of political turmoil. Families are divided, friends argue, and it is hard to feel secure as we face the next day. Even churches are becoming divided over how we deal with issues in our community and in our nation. It is easy to feel like a kite blown to and fro with no sense of stability.

In an unpredictable world how can we rise above our fear and desperation and move toward a sense of peace that we can share with others? How can we retain our focus, our willingness to share our resources and our drive to make the world better? I think it is remembering that we are not like kites we are more like trees. We may sway and bend when the wind picks up but this is because we are flexible and ready to adapt.

What keeps us strong is our solid roots, a foundation of faith that firmly plants us in what truly matters in life. We are called to love one another, pray always, learn about our faith, share our blessings, and continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. When we focus on our foundation the changing winds of the world no longer frighten us because we know that through the power of God we are given roots to grow and wings to soar. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 22**, 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.

1st Service Sermon "So Our Joy May Be Complete"
 1st Service Scripture 1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2
 Second Service Youth Sunday

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Andy Herron & Roger Sameck
 10:30 Youth

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bev Williamson

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Delores Edgeton & Kathi Luzar
 Nancy Waites & Anita Wood
 10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Marilee Keim
 Ruth Lackey
 Bev Williamson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Chuck & Penny Jackman

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Matt Ball's birthday by Karen & Stan Ball, and in memory of Jacob Lawyer by Kathy Lawyer.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

•Youth Sunday - No Worship & Wonder

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

•Youth Sunday - No Young Disciples

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	3/25	4/1
Maundy Thursday Service	NA	42
First Service Worship	52	57
Sunday School	40	28
Second Service Worship	144	204
Children's Church	19	NA
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Total Worship	215	294

HABITAT HOME NUMBER 25 NEWS


Four members of our church helped complete the walls for our home last week. When the slab is ready, we will take the walls out to the site and erect them and start the process of building a home for our homeowner, Shaniqua Gaillar, and her two sons, Todd, age 6 and Christopher, age 3. She is a member of the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church.



She works nights as a Certified Nurse's Assistant and is so thankful to everyone who is a part of her journey to home ownership, especially those volunteers who are pouring the time and love into building her home.

I have been told that it is ok if you want to donate more than \$25 to her home. Just mark your checks for "Habitat".

Thanks,
 Your Local Outreach Committee



**Save a life
Give Blood**

**Give Your Community Life
Give Blood to LifeSouth
First Christian Church
Sunday, April 8, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
All donors will be entered to win a
TUNDRA 50 YETI cooler!**

The 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. Funds go to Huntsville Assistance Program.



APRIL CWM PROJECT

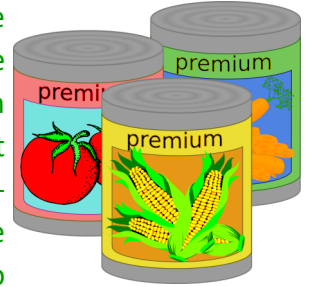
The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the United Church of Christ and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books and training. Christian Women's Ministries has sponsored two children at House of Hope in Haiti for the past two years 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 for a year and perhaps more through your generosity. Anyone can participate in this ministry of caring by designating your offering to CWM for the April project.

You can make a difference!

Pastor Laura West is on sabbatical and will return to the office on Monday, June 11. Please contact the office if you need assistance.

50%...AND GROWING

The March food donations for Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) were up to 228 items from the February total of 190. With the goal of 400, we are at 50% plus! Our youth faithfully joined the challenge during March to help to reach this total. Thank you to our caring youth.



Good habits are sometimes hard to develop, but our congregation is on the way to remembering to bring food items to donate to the collection for those less fortunate in the community. Could these habits become part of your giving and only 70% of the goal could be reached for April? **Let's give it a try.**

Dear First Christian Church Family,

No two people could have received more love and care than Frank and me during my time of surgery and recovery. And it is at the hands and hearts of the wonderful people of this church of which we are so proud and blessed to be a part. Thank you all for your prayers, cards, words of encouragement, visits and food. They meant so very much to us and we will treasure always your expressions of love.

Frank & Lisa Fitzgerald

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/

