



The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 16

April 16, 2018

www.fcc-hsv.org

THE LEAP OF FAITH

This past Sunday the members of our Youth Group came together to do something that filled me with hope for the future. They led our worship service, spoke from the pulpit about their experiences at Youthtopia and within our congregation, sang, danced, and provided the communion meal. Some of you may wonder why I am so impressed with their actions. The service certainly was not perfect, it was full of laughter, nervous shuffling, head scratching and mistakes. Yet, it was still worship; the presence of God filled the room. Through their words and actions we heard of their great love for this congregation, their youth group and their region. They had the courage to share a part of their faith story with us and it made my heart swell with pride.

We do not live in a perfect world. There will always be things that make us scratch our heads and wonder what people are thinking. Sometimes the simplest tasks take forever because of a lack of planning or design. Or perhaps it is the mistakes of the people around us that cause us to become frustrated and impatient. As a people of faith we know that we are imperfect, sinful and broken, but still God calls us, Christ provides us new life and the Holy Spirit continues to empower us. The work that we do and the interactions we have with others may be far from perfect and yet they are still the work of God. Our Creator works through us to make a difference in the lives of others and in the world. We are called to be a part of the great creative plan that started at the beginning of time and continues to this day. We are a part of the story of faith not because we are perfect, but because we try.

I remember a time when I was a child when I was learning how to dive. I would go to the edge of the pool, put my arms over my head, bend my knees and lean forward hoping that I would glide into the water head first. Inevitably, I would get scared, jerk my head up, and fall into the water in an ungraceful crouch. I did this over and over again, failing each time, until one day I let go of my fear and I jumped in head first. Since that day I have always been able to dive, it may not be perfect, but I have never been afraid to jump in head first. Perhaps we can take a lesson from our youth and jump into service. There are plenty of opportunities to reach out to others, to participate in worship, to work in the community, and to share our faith. What it truly takes is trust, trust that God will empower you, that you can make a difference, and that through the love of Christ our broken lives are mended and made holy. Let us take the leap together, thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 22, following second service to elect Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 19**, 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, APRIL 22

Scripture John 10: 11-21
Sermon "The Good Shepherd"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Gayle Herber & Dale Thomas
10:30 Bob Senn & Mike Lash

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Lynn Abernathy

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Linda Hooker & Margaret J. Vann
Eddie & Valerie Parks
10:30 Beverly Cannon & Ruth Lackey
Charles & Pam Gilliland
Carolyn Brown

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Diane Douglas

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Randy & Anita Wood's 43rd anniversary.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Good Shepherd and the Wolf
Nancy Woodall & Brady Johnson

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

The Parable of the Two Sons
Christi Sexton, Carrie German,
Macey Johnson & Cara Sexton

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	4/8	4/15
First Service Worship	33	44
Sunday School	38	NR
Second Service Worship	91	88
Children's Church	NA	8
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Total Worship	124	140




House of Hope Haiti

APRIL CWM PROJECT

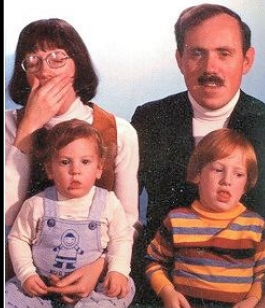
The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the United Church of Christ and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, 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!

MISSION FAMILY 1 BAKED POTATO LUNCHEON



will be held in the Garden Room on Sunday, April 22, following the Congregational Meeting at 11:30. Baked potatoes with the basics (butter, sour cream, grated cheese) and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite topping, salad or dessert to share.



Has it been awhile since you last portrait was taken?

Save the dates:
June 14 - 16!

Watch for details!

“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/



CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

SHORT TERM STUDY

ADAM HAMILTON
**Christianity
AND
World Religions**
Wrestling with Questions People Ask



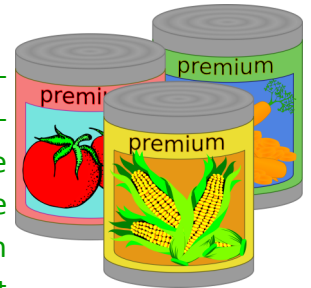
Beginning May 9 at 1:00, Roberta Shivers will lead a short term study of Adam Hamilton’s “Christianity and World Religions.” The one-hour sessions will last for six weeks as we take an overview of the major religions practiced world-wide. If you would like to participate, contact Ann Thompson so we can determine the number of books needed.

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.**



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.

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/