



The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 17
April 23, 2018
www.fcc-hsv.org

Spring fever is in full swing as students' heads turn toward the windows, teachers begin to feel the strain of testing and grading, and everyone cannot wait for the school year to be over. When I was a child the end of school was the beginning of the freedom of summer. I can still remember sleeping in, going fishing with my grandfather, playing football in the backyard, and enjoying the feeling of having no responsibilities, except to be home before dinner.

Our world has certainly changed. Now young people are just as busy during summer as they are during the school year. Extracurricular activities take up more and more time and often I wonder if children feel the same sense of freedom that I had when I was their age. This is why I am such a strong advocate for Camps, Mission Trips, and other opportunities for young people in the church.

I have been to Church Camp, in one role or another, since I was born and camping remains an important part of my life. It is also important to understand the role camping ministry has in our denomination. According to a recent survey, two-thirds of all ministers heard their initial call to ministry while attending camp. Seventy percent of all teens make a decision to follow Christ while at camp and eighty percent of all people who become Christians, in our culture, do so by the age of 18. This shows the importance of our camping ministries and I hope many of you will attend, volunteer to counsel, or send a child to camp.

Please remember that we have camp scholarships for children and youth who have participated in church events throughout the year. We want to send our young people to camp. Usually, these scholarships pay for half of the camp fees. There are also regional scholarships and other opportunities for those who may need more assistance. Our goal is that any child who wants to go to church camp can do so. There are already several adults who will be participating this year so there will be friendly faces at the campground and opportunities to carpool.

I hope that we can all find some summer fun this year, but more importantly, I hope that our lives will remain full of wonder, we will continue our journey of faith, and experience the family of God that loves each other and works so well together here at First Christian Church. May the grace, the love, and the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you now and forevermore. Amen.

Pastor Paul

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/

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 29

Scripture Acts 8: 26-40
 Sermon *What Prevents Us From Sharing the Gospel?*

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dale Thomas & Frank Fitzgerald
 10:30 Justin Givens & Dave Crockett

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gayle Herber

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Nancy Waites
 Rick & Kay Shrout
 10:30 Lynn Abernathy & Marilee Keim
 Brad & Pam Clasgens
 Gayle Herber

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gayle Herber

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Karen Ball's birthday by Matt & Stan Ball.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper
 Chuck Jackman, Penny Jackman
 Abby Allen & Greyson Rogers

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

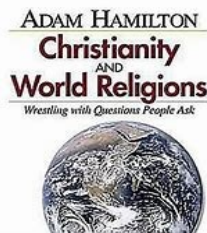
AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	4/15	4/22
First Service Worship	44	26
Sunday School	NR	39
Second Service Worship	88	103
Children's Church	8	7
Young Disciples	NA	6
Total Worship	140	142

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

SHORT TERM STUDY



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.

EASTER LILIES FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Thank you to the following people for purchasing Easter Lilies:

Petra Sue Richey - In memory of her parents, Ralph and Edna.

Jackie Sameck - in honor of Linda Lykins

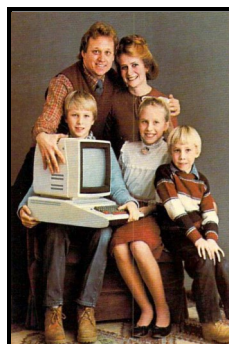
Roger & Jackie Sameck in honor of Draper & Avery Newton.

Mack Vann - in honor of Margaret J. Vann's birthday.

Anita Wood - in honor of Pastor Paul and family.



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.



Has it been awhile since you last portrait was taken?

Save the dates June 14 - 16!

Signups begin Sunday, April 29.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Christopher Brewer, grandson of Jan Mackenzie
Steve Brown
Thomas Burns, father of Karen Ball
John Busby, brother-in-law of Monty & Dinah
Love
Burl Chandler, father of Chris Chandler
Carroll Keller, brother of Walt Ketter
Iness Kellogg
Carey Link, friend of Margaret Vann
Bobby & Janis Moore
Joyce Neighbors
Jo Thomason
Mack Vann

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. Please keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

“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/



May Birthdays



1	Joe Brockway
2	Karen Ball & Brenda Stroud
6	Abby Allen
8	Kathi Luzar
9	Kerry Williams
11	Delores Edgeton, Walter Keller, & Emma Millich
12	Nancy Adams, Areesa Browning Patrick, & Annie Davis
16	Justin Brown, Glen Hiller, & Doris Paul
18	Mary Anderson, Pat Crouse, & Gary Jordan
21	Letha Lanier
23	Bob Abernathy, Christa Brockway, & Mike Wright
25	Matthew Beutjer, Brad Clasgens, Tré Davis, Troy Davis, Jr., & Phyllis Leonard
28	Joan Goodson
29	Jeremy Millich, Brian Sanford, & Reynolds Wilson
30	Charles Gilliland
31	Bill Sholes

MEN’S PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2018!

The Men’s Bible Study Group is having a community pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 29th from 8 - 11 am. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fellowship!



If there are men who would like to volunteer to work setup, preparation, cooking, cleanup or teardown, please contact **Pastor Paul** at 256-881-0150 or paul@fcc-hsv.org

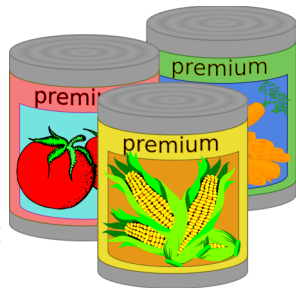
**GRATEFUL LIFE MAY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM
AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Christian's Women's Ministries and Community Outreach have chosen Grateful Life Community Church as their Service Project for the month of May. We are collecting toiletries and hygiene items for this Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation located at 207 Oakwood Avenue. You can bring in hygiene items and place them in our basket in the Commons Area, or make your check out to First Christian Church with Grateful Life in the memo line and place it in the offering bowl or drop it by the church office.

Thank you for your contribution.

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.**



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!

