



The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 27

July 1, 2019

www.fcc-hsv.org

THE THEOLOGY OF FLEXIBILITY

Volunteering for Church Camps and Conferences holds its own unique blessings. I have been a counselor or a director since I was fourteen years old but I always learn something new from the youth who attend camp. There is something special about setting aside a week for spiritual growth and development. Notice I did not say for the spiritual growth and development of youth alone, because the first thing you learn as a counselor at Church Camp is that you learn and grow just as the youth do.

This year I learned that at camp you need to be flexible. Of course this is a word that is often used in camp settings, and even in the business world, to remind ourselves that things do not often go according to our plans and we need to be able to weather the unexpected, but this year took the idea of flexibility to the extreme. However, when I talked to the youth about what was going on they all took it in stride. We have to change the schedule, no problem, just let us know what we are going to do next. It is raining during our free time, okay we will just go to the game room or even play in the mud. We forgot communion for the worship service, we will just have it when we get back to the lodge. The youth at our camp always tried to make the best of any situation because they enjoyed being there with each other and they wanted to make sure that everyone was welcomed and had fun.

They also took this time seriously as they worked to develop a worship service every night, learned more about the scriptures, and their relationship with God. Taking this time to get away from the world and focus on your life of faith can be challenging. It takes effort to prepare, study, and learn. When you arrive at camp it takes time to build community and learn to trust one another. Usually Wednesday is that magic day for camp, when things just seem to come together. When this happens we find a sense of peace and purpose that is often missing in our lives. Getting away from the everyday helps us to look back and realize that God has blessed us and has a plan for us.

In the next few weeks First Christian Church will see a great deal of change and we will need to learn to be flexible. Vacation Bible School is next week and we will soon attend our trainings, begin decorating our rooms, and readying our church for an event that welcomes children throughout our community. This is another week of hard work that is very satisfying when you hear the kids singing VBS songs and telling the stories they heard from the Bible to their friends.

In the next few weeks we will also begin our Sanctuary and Narthex renovation project which means our worship service will be moving to McMains Hall. We already have a plan to make this move and hopefully we will be able to overcome some of the challenges we know we will face, but I ask for patience and good humor as we work out the bugs and hold our worship service in a different location.

It is my hope that these events and changes will lead to a sense of excitement and that we will keep that feeling throughout the summer and beyond. Let's build on the joy that these changes can bring, continue to invite new people to experience the presence of Christ in our community, and thank God for what is right in front of us, a wonderful church family that has a vision for the future and continues to work for the glory of God. Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Wednesday, July 3**, 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, JULY 7

Scripture Galatians 6: 1-16
Sermon "Taking God for Granted"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Karen Ball & Dale Thomas
10:30 Bob Senn & Jan Mackenzie

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Delores Edgeton
Marilee Keim & Kathi Luzar
10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Marie Bittle
Troy Davis, Jr. & Roberta Shivers
Lynn Abernathy

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gayle Herber

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of honor of
Carl Jones' birthday by Carol Jones.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Story Time
Abby Allen, Penny Jackman, & Joe Allen

YOUNG DISCIPLES

On Break

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

| ATTENDANCE | 6/23 | 6/30 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| First Service Worship | 33 | NA |
| Sunday School | 25 | 12 |
| Combined Service | NA | 97 |
| Second Service Worship | 80 | NA |
| Young Disciples | NA | NA |
| Children's Church | 4 | 6 |
| Total Worship | 117 | 103 |



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12 (9:00-11:30 am)

Ages 3 through 5th Grade

Neighbors are more than people who live next door. Neighbors are more than people in our families or communities. Children will go on a journey to discover more about God's great love, from looking at how to be a neighbor to diving into what it means to live out our faith. This interactive VBS leads children deeply into Bible stories focused on God's care and compassion for neighbors close at hand and around the world. Join us as we discover neighbors near and far!

To register your child or to volunteer to help please contact Pastor Laura (256) 881-0150 or laura@fcc-hsv.org

SANCTUARY RENOVATION SCHEDULED

The renovations of the chancel floor, lobby (Narthex), and new carpeting throughout will start on Monday, July 15. Completion date is four to six weeks later around Labor Day. Sunday services will be held in McMains Hall using folding chairs and a temporary stage. Please be patient during this upheaval...the final result will be worth the inconvenience.

Bob Senn,
Renovation Committee Chair



CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at:
<https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4, for Independence Day.



FOSTER CARE NEEDS OUR HELP

Community Outreach is asking your help in easing the burden of the Foster Care Unit of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). Please consider making a financial donation so we can purchase Walmart gift cards for the agency to use throughout the year for the children who come into care, through no fault of their own. The need could be as simple as snacks for when the children are in the building for visits with parents or waiting for a foster placement. Or, it could be a child might have a special immediate need. Funding is tight for DHR and more children are coming into care. We can help these children who have suffered so much by our donation. A check can be made to FCC with DHR in the memo line. FCC has shown compassion for our children in crisis before and we are again asking your help again because we can make a difference.

FOOD PANTRY REMINDER
Please remember to bring a non-perishable item, or several, for the food cart outside of McMains Hall on a Sunday. Pick your own Sunday and make it a habit. Let's help keep the pantry full at the Huntsville Assistance Program.
Thank you, Community Outreach Committee

SUMMER BLAST FOR THE AQUARIUS CLUB

Summer Blast is Pizza, Bingo, and gift sacks which make this annual party special for the Aquarius Club (mentally challenged adults) and we need your help. You can participate by donating Bingo prizes like hats (adult), small toiletry items from hotels, pens, small note pads, costume jewelry, socks, books, men's belts, playing cards, etc. We need enough to fill 60 + bags. A large basket for your donations is located in the Commons area. Thank you in advance for your continuing support in serving our community.

Jill Hall and Community Outreach

BAKE SALE HELP

I am looking for someone to help me run the bake sale that we have in the fall and possibly take it over sometime in the future when they are comfortable with running it. Last year we were able to give about \$2000 back to our community with the proceeds we made. It also serves as a mission to the community since they all seem to appreciate our baking skills and we sell out every year.



No experience is necessary: I will teach you all you need to know. Most of the work is done the day before and the day of the bake sale. A lot is delegated to helpers and you will always have lots of help.

If you are interested learning this position, let me know. You can call me at 256-337-5597 or email me at dmllove1543@gmail.com

Thank you, Dinah Love

