



The Journey

Volume XXVIII No. 30
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www.fcc-hsv.org

A TREASURE FOUND

by Brent Lamberth

⁴⁴ *'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'*

⁴⁵ *'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'*

⁴⁷ *'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

⁵¹ *'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'* ⁵² *And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'* ⁵³ *When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. Matthew 13: 44-53*

In 2010, author and art dealer Forrest Fenn published *The Thrill of the Chase: A Memoir*, which includes stories recounting his life. Within the book's pages, readers are given a poem containing clues to finding a chest of buried treasure, which Fenn had hidden north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the Rocky Mountains. Over the course of 10 years, thousands of people trekked into the wilderness in search of the gold. During that time, at least five people died in the pursuit. Through the years, Fenn offered more clues on his personal blog, yet it seemed the treasure might stay hidden forever.

Finally, on June 6, 2020, an anonymous treasure hunter uncovered the treasure chest and quickly sent pictures of the chest and its contents to Forrest Fenn. The author confirmed the find, stating that the box was in the forested vegetation of the Rocky Mountains, where he had buried it more than 10 years ago. Based on photos of the treasure, experts believe it to be valued at around one million dollars.

Treasure that matters

Jesus had much to say about the treasures of life, and specifically about which are worthy of our heart's pursuit. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as buried treasure that is discovered by a person, who then sells everything to buy the land that holds the treasure. That treasure, Jesus tells us, is found within our hearts. It is the gift of knowing God and being in communion with the divine. It is the only treasure that holds eternal and infinite value.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 30**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**



**AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS**



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Not Listed Online

Not Listed Online

CONDOLENCES to the family of Leslie Putnam, niece of Nancy Woodall, who recently passed.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST
Little Union Christian Church, Hayneville, AL



**9:00 AM SUNDAY DRIVE-IN/TAILGATE
WORSHIP SERVICE**
You are invited to come in your vehicle as a family unit and you can stay in your car or you can bring chairs to sit in your parking space. We will be broadcasting the service on an FM transmitter, so you will be able to tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. We will also have a public address system for those sitting outside their vehicles. We ask that you maintain social distancing and that if you leave your car you will wear a mask. Please bring your own communion elements, they will be blessed and we will partake together.

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually listed in the Sunday bulletins. Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update. Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150 and leave a message.
Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Greg & Brenda Perkins' anniversary.



FCC ONLINE

If you use Facebook, be sure to click Like and Follow (when you click on Follow, select See First) to keep up-to-date with church activities. www.facebook.com/fcchsv/

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscribe and the Bell icon to get notifications when a new video is posted) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pg/fcchsv/videos/ (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

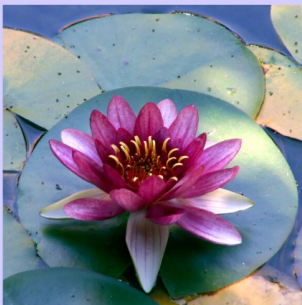
JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2020

GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive a FCC giving statement with your donations from January 1 until June 31 you will need to contact the church. You can email us at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or phone the office at 256 881-0150.

We can email your statement if you include the email address you want it sent to, or we can mail it to your physical address. We realize that many people do not care about receiving this information so we will only send it to those who request it. Thank you for continuing to support First Christian Church during these challenging months.

The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center



We are available for telephone or video conference counseling sessions. Call our office today to schedule your session.

256-270-7399

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

TEST EVERYTHING

By Chris Mereschuk

But test everything; hold fast to what is good.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NRSV)

My daughter is the Total Skeptic variety of PK (Pastor's Kid): not interested in church, not inclined to simply accept what she is being taught or what her father is preaching about.

Once she asked me about the Holy Spirit, and I brought her to the window to point out the swaying trees, attempting some poetic apologetics: "Ah! The Holy Spirit is like the wind. We can feel the wind, we can observe how it moves the trees, but we can't see the wind itself." Yadda yadda.

I was greatly impressed with my object lesson. She was unconvinced. Same with the bedtime Bible lessons.

While her skepticism sometimes makes me question if I'm really any good at my job as a pastor, I am encouraged by her instinct to test everything she reads, hears, and experiences because it seems to be leading her to find deeper meaning.

She doesn't enjoy coming to worship – but she knows church is a place where many different people love each other.

She doesn't believe in healing miracles – but she knows we must help people who are sick and hurting.

She doesn't believe in the feeding miracles – but she knows we need to help people who are hungry, and she knows it's wrong that there is hunger.

She doesn't believe that God literally created humans in God's image – but she knows every person is worthy of dignity and love.

Yes, there are times that I kind of wish she'd simply accept my lessons without question. But that's about me and not her. She is testing everything, and she is holding fast to what is good. And that sounds a lot like the faith and discipleship that I pray for.

Prayer - Holy One, guide us in our questions and doubts, and help us to hold fast to what is good and true.