



The Journey

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No Wednesday Night meal on October 10 due to Fall Break. Wednesday night programs are not meeting except for the Men's Bible Study, Worship Committee, & Chancel Choir.

Six years ago Patti and I went on a mission trip to Jamaica. It was sponsored by the congregation I was serving, but they partnered with a local Methodist Church as well. We arrived in Falmouth, Jamaica, and worked in a clinic that saw hundreds of people a day. Of course Patti did most of the work: as a nurse she fit right in; but I was relegated to counting pills in the pharmacy or doing a few basic tasks at a children's refuge called The Place of Safety where we built a swing set and worked on storage lockers.

One of the things that surprised me was that it took time to reflect on the experiences that we had on this mission trip. It happened in stages. When we were in Jamaica we did not have time to think; there was always something to be done: a patient to be seen, food to make and then eat, a trip to take, and worship services to attend. When we got back to our regular lives we began to wonder if what we did made a difference.

Later that year Jamaica was hit by hurricane Sandy. While the area we worked in was not hit as hard as some, there was still damage to homes and property; and we knew that some of the people we worked with were affected. Again it made us wonder, what difference did we really make? It is like being a small drop of water in a lake. We may disturb the water around us and cause a few ripples, but in the end there was no distinguishable difference.

We struggled with this idea, and then I heard an old story in a new light that brought me hope. You may have heard it before; I certainly had, but it took on a different meaning after my experiences.

Adaptation of "The Star Thrower" By Loren Eisely

One day a man took a walk on the beach. It was in the afternoon, the sun was up, and it was a very hot day. In the distance he saw a boy running as fast as he could down the beach stopping and picking up things that he found and throwing them into the ocean. After each throw he would start running again, as fast as his legs would take him. He continued to stop and pick these objects up again and again.

The man was curious about this, and as he came closer he saw that the beach was covered with starfish. The boy was running as fast as he could, throwing them into the ocean. The man stopped the boy and said, "What are you doing?" The boy said, "There was a storm last night and the starfish washed up on the shore. If they do not get back into the water they will die"

The man with all his wisdom said, "Look around, there are thousands of them. You can't possibly make a difference." Looking into the man's eyes, the boy picked up another starfish and said, "Maybe not, but I can make a difference to this one," as he threw it into the ocean.

We can make a difference in the lives of others, and if enough of us work together we can change the world. That is the promise of our faith, that through Christ, we are united so that we can make the Kingdom of God a reality. That is one of the lessons I learned in Jamaica, and that is a lesson I hope we all learn. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 11**, 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, OCTOBER 14

Sermon Scripture Matthew 6: 19-34
 Sermon "First Things First"
 In the Pulpit Rev. Laura West

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Gayle Herber & Roger Sameck
 10:30 Dave Crockett & Jan Mackenzie

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Delores Edgeton & Nancy Waites
 Rick & Kay Shrout
 10:30 Charles & Pam Gilliland
 Roberta Shivers & Troy Davis, Jr.
 Troy Davis, Sr.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Rick & Kay Shrout

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Peyton Cook's birthday by Bobbye Riggs.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Noah Chuck Jackman, Margaret J. Vann,
 Abby Allen, & Greyson Rogers

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jesus Again Asks Peter to Follow Him
 Heather Black, Shea Brennaman, & Tré Davis

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	9/30	10/7
First Service Worship	NA	39
Sunday School	22	23
Second Service Worship	NA	69
Unified Service	103	NA
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	10	10
Total Worship	113	118

We want to thank our church family for the visits, cards, prayers, and concern you have shown Steve and our family at this difficult time. No words can express our love to all of you.
 Allison, Matthew, Carolyn, and family.



Community Fish (and Chicken) Fry - Sunday, October 21.
 Serving will begin at 4:00 pm. Fish, chicken, hush puppies, and drinks will be provided. If you plan to attend, please bring a side dish or dessert. Please feel free to bring a friend!

IT'S BACK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bake Sale time is upon us. Before you know it, it will be November and the Bake Sale will be here. I am looking for volunteers. We need someone to decorate on Friday, November 16th, before we set up the baked goods. We need someone to do the church publicity, a second one to do some community publicity, as well as someone to mail our postcards before the sale. If you can help with any of these jobs please let me know ASAP. Call me at 256-882-1543 or email me at dmlove@knology.net. Please help make this a success and as always we will need lots and lots of baked goods, especially cakes.



Thanks in advance...Dinah Love

To our Federal employees who will participate in the Combined Federal Campaign this fall, please consider the **Vine Pastoral Counseling Center, Inc.** in Huntsville as your recipient. The Vine provides affordable, credentialed, faith-based counseling to individuals, marriages, and families and has been supported by FCC Community Outreach since 2002. **The Vine's CFC# is 53497.**
 For more information, contact Mary Ann Anderson at maryannanderson256@gmail.com or go to www.vinepcc.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL OCTOBER 17

Soul Food: Fried Chicken, Corn Bread, Mac N Cheese, Potato Salad, Collard Greens. For the children we will add chicken nuggets in place of Fried Chicken for them. Desert: Banana Pudding. Following the meal are small groups including Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Youth/Kids' Bible Study. Chancel Choir and Community Outreach at 7:00 pm. **Call in your reservation by Wednesday, October 10, at 256-881-0150**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OCTOBER PROJECT

In October, Community Outreach is collecting monetary gifts for Grateful Life Church. Please put your gift in the offering plate with Grateful Life on the memo line. Your contribution will assist in keeping this church for the homeless active and able to serve their congregation.

Thank you, Community Outreach

We have the opportunity to support the Neaves-Davis Center for Children during the month of October. Our very own Nancy Erskine was instrumental in starting this unique center decades ago. The Center houses and provides services for children 18 years and younger. The philosophy of juvenile probation is directed towards promoting accountability and providing rehabilitative assistance for children and families involved in the juvenile court system.

The Center is open 24 hours a day and the Intake department is responsible for determining whether alleged complaints brought on juveniles are handled through the use of informal means, referral to other agencies or official court hearings. Within 72 hours they decide whether the child should be admitted into secure detention pending a hearing. The Intake department provides walk-in assistance to parents seeking information on treatment programs for their children.

Please consider contributing to this very important service by making your check out to First Christian Church and designating it to the Neaves-Davis Center. The money will be used for services, recreation equipment and computers.

Louise May, CWM

Please give a warm FCC welcome to our newest member Malcolm Landreth who joined on September 30.

HUNGRY? Today there are many hungry individuals in Madison County.

First Christian Church and at least 50 other churches have joined together to support Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP). This is not a new program. The number of churches joining with support keeps increasing AND clients needing assistance keeps rising each year. What a dilemma. The food support for this program is not keeping up with the demand; when there is little food, HAP is giving out "Homeless Packs" so individuals have something to eat immediately.

Since the food shortage is so critical, our church is offering support of at least 50 packs to have on their shelves for distribution. The youth have volunteered to help assemble food packs if the congregation will provide the items listed below during **October**.

Our normal food collection is for any food item that you want to contribute. Every donation is used and appreciated. These donations are combined with other church donations and placed in sacks for families. November food donations will return to normal contributions AND begin the Sack Sunday drive.

Homeless Food Packs: Vienna sausage, tuna (foil pack or small can), beanie weenie (pull top cans), fruit cups, pudding cups, granola bar, p/b or cheese crackers, snack bag of cookies or chips, small juice boxes, Gatorade, or water, gallon zip lock bags.

COMMUNITY HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES

On Wednesday, October 17, IMS, Interfaith Missions Service, and CASA, Care Assurance for the Aging, will be presenting ideas for involvement in community projects. We can eat supper together with the church at 5:30, price \$5, and then hear the presentation at 6:15. If you are interested in doing some 'Hands-on' projects this is a great time for you to become more involved and knowledgeable about what needs are out there.

Be sure to let the FCC office know if you will be eating supper and bring your \$5.00. See you there.
Community Outreach