



The Journey

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About ten years ago I took Abby to a retreat held at Camp Caroline in North Carolina. Patti was not able to go so we decided to make it a father daughter experience and we had a wonderful time. We took a boat out on the water with all the kids and did some fishing. I tried my hand at sailing once again. We even had a huge campfire on Saturday night and a wonderful meal, but the one thing Abby was really looking forward to was swimming in the pool.

Camp Caroline has a great pool, complete with a diving board and a slide. It is always the highlight of the camping day especially when it is hot and sticky. However, I did not anticipate how cold the pool would be in September compared to camping season in June. I walked to the pool, dipped my foot in, quickly took it out, and then started the painful process of walking down the steps one at a time to slowly get acclimated to the water temperature. It took awhile to get used to the water, but once I did it was not that cold anymore.

On the other hand Abby just jumped right in. Of course when she came up for air she yelled out, "It's cold!" but she started swimming and playing in the water and soon she was fine. As I watched her I had to think, maybe it would have been easier if I had just jumped in instead of taking my time and easing in gently.

I think that ministry and mission are other examples of experiences where it is better to just jump right in. We all like to be cautious and pick our timing, but we have to be careful that the timing does not pick us. If we sit and wait on the side of the pool only getting our feet wet we miss the experience of total immersion, the wonderful feeling of God's grace literally filling every pore and working through us for the good of the church. Sometimes this means taking risks, making changes, and doing something we have never done before. Not everything we try succeeds, but when they do they become new avenues for the church to grow and expand its commitment to God.

In the next few weeks jump into the ministry of First Christian Church. Take part in our Bible Studies, if you are not coming already try a Sunday School class, go to our Wednesday night activities, come to youth group even if you are an adult, participate in our Trunk or Treat and invite a neighbor, invite one of your coworkers to a worship service, come to a committee meeting and hear about the work they accomplish. Become a part of the mission of the church and you will feel the Holy Spirit filling you and calling you to a new commitment to God. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL OCTOBER 31

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 25**, 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 28

Sermon Scripture Job 38: 1-7
 Sermon "Searching for Answers"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Andy Herron & Dale Thomas
 10:30 Bob Senn & Gayle Herber

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Nancy Woodall

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Lee Boles
 Rick & Kay Shrout
 10:30 Sabrina & Hayley Beckman
 Marilee Keim & Tré Davis

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is Open.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Abram & Sarai
 Pastor Laura, Penny Jackman,
 Joe Allen & Tré Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES

God's Gift of the Holy Spirit
 Pam Clasgens, Ashley Rogers, & Troy Davis

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	10/14	10/21
First Service Worship	37	42
Sunday School	21	26
Second Service Worship	82	126
Young Disciples	NR	NA
Children's Church	9	NA
Total Worship	128	168



On Sunday night, October 28, from 5:00-7:00 pm we are opening our parking lot and our trunks to the families in our church, our ECM and community for a fun filled evening of "Trunk or Treat!"

At Trunk or Treat events, children make their way to the trunks of vehicles that have been turned into games and activities by gracious volunteers and are given prizes & candy. The event provides a safe family environment for trick or treaters.

We will also be serving a meal, providing fun carnival games & prizes, and offering face painting!

Last year we had between 600-700 people attend and we expect another large crowd this year. We need lots of help to make this event a fun and successful night.

We still need folks to provide and be responsible for a trunk, help with food, run the games and help with setup. We are also asking folks to donate bags of candy, small prizes for the carnival games, or money for expenses.

You can still sign up to help with this event at church on the paper sign-up sheets located outside the sanctuary or by going to Sign Up Genius and signing up online at signupgenius.com/go/20f084eaba72ea0fb6-trunk1

This is a great outreach event for the community of Huntsville! ~Reverend Laura West

CONGRATULATIONS to Justin & Michelle Givens, and sister Sadie, on the birth of Jonah Alexander Givens on Wednesday, October 17.

The 2018 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.

**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

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.

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



PROPERTY WORKDAY

Saturday, October 27

8:00 AM - Noon

Inside painting and yardwork (depending on the weather).

Please call the office, 256-881-

0150, if you plan on working.

