



MEMORIES MOVE US FORWARD

It is always amazing how pictures can bring back memories. A few weeks ago I was looking through a closet and stumbled upon a scrapbook, made by my mother, which contained pictures, newspaper articles, and remembrances of my time at my first church in Farmville, North Carolina. As I turned the pages I saw friends and family, former church members, ministers, and members of the community who were and still are a part of my life and ministry. I laughed when I glimpsed people with their eyes closed or their mouths full, surprised that the picture was taken, and my heart grew heavy when I saw friends who have passed away. I lost track of time looking through that book and remembering the past.

Memories are a wonderful blessing. They sustain us in times of distress and increase our joy when we celebrate together. Every time we meet as a congregation we build memories that will last. We remember those people who taught us in Sunday School, provided food for wonderful meals, served the Lord's Supper, lead in times of change, and worked behind the scenes to make sure that our church's mission continued.

As our 75th Anniversary celebration comes closer I hope you have had time to remember the past. We all have stories of how this congregation has changed our lives, taught us about our relationship with Christ and with each other, sustained us in times of grief, and encouraged us in times of joy. We should celebrate the past, but our anniversary should also move our vision forward. How are we as a church going to move through the next 75 years? To what ministries is God calling us now and how can we invite others to join our family of faith?

The first thing we should do is pray, pray for direction, and for God to lead us to those who are searching for a church home. Then we are called to invite others, not just to church, but to have meaningful conversations about faith. We should sit with our prospective members, discuss what they thought about the church service or event they attended, and check back with them to see if their experience was meaningful. Our church grows through the grace of God but also through the actions of its members. If we do not invite others, why will they come?

As we move forward, let us also remember the Saints of the church who worked for this congregation throughout their lives and express our gratitude to God for the blessings we have been given and continue to experience. Dwell upon these gifts, let the memories embrace you, and with thanksgiving continue to serve our God who is with us now and forevermore, Amen.

CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH and Our Journey to the Future!

On Saturday, October 8, at 3:00 pm, Dr. Rolf Goebel will have an organ recital on our wonderful Allen organ in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, October 9, our Interim Regional Minister Rev. Dr. Dale Braxton will be our main speaker. We will have a reception at 11:00 am following a special 10:00 am worship service.

Please join us in celebrating our church and history!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 13**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150

Please give a warm FCC welcome to new member Todd Long who joined our church on September 25.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14TH 5 TO 7PM

All Church & ECM Families Dinner- serving Fried Chicken & Tater Tots. Asking Church families to share a salad. Desert by ECM families. Please help us welcome these families to our church. We will also have the 25th Anniversary/Rededication of the playground Ark.

Thanks, John Hall

SUPPORT THE CWM OCTOBER PROJECT

The Christian Women's Ministry's community project for October is support for the Neaves-Davis Center for Children. The Neaves-Davis Center houses juvenile court intake and probation services, detention services, community service programs, and the community placement and supervision program. Additional programs for detained juveniles include food services, medical services, recreational services, and library services. Religious services and activities are also provided, partially funded through community religious groups and civic organizations.

Please join CWM in supporting this worthy service. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting "Neaves-Davis Center" and the amount.

Thank you, Janet Sholes

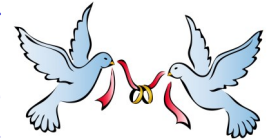
The 2022 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may contact the office at 256-881-0150 or publisher@fcc-hsv.org to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion.** Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket through our website fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/

On Saturday, October 8, at 3:00 pm, Dr. Rolf Goebel will perform an organ recital at First Christian Church. The concert is part of the Church's 75th anniversary celebrations. On the program will be music by Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Renaissance composers, and an improvisation. The event is free and open to the public.



Bring a friend and we hope to see you there!

Melissa McMahon (daughter of Dave and Patty McMahon) and Solomon Ortega will be married in a private ceremony on October 31 of this year. If you would like to join Mission Family 2 in wishing them much happiness, their address is 217 Brockton Dr., Madison, AL 35756. They are registered on Amazon.com for gift delivery to their new home.



REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Madison Christian Church, Madison AL
First Christian Church, Robertsedale, AL

Community Outreach (CO) is supporting three schools with needs for girls without funds to buy these products. The schools are Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School

CO is asking for regular donations of hygiene products such as: sanitary pads, tampons, and/or period underwear (period-proof underwear is a relatively new period product that looks and feels like regular underwear.).

CO will have a collection site in the church and deliver the donations to the Health Officer, Jana Mason or Elizabeth Fleming, at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They will distribute the donations as needed to the schools.

Please consider helping with this needed project.

Margaret J. Vann



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of our ministers by Marie Bittle

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN OCTOBER

Our sister Disciples of Christ church in Huntsville, Grateful Life Community Church, provides ministry, food, clothing, tent housing, blankets, reading glasses, bikes, over-the-counter medicines, and toiletries to those within our community who have little in the way of material goods. Also, at this time, Grateful Life is searching for a place to worship together. In October, please give generously to this local need. Make your check to FCC with 'Grateful Life' in the memo line.

Thank you,
Lynn Abernathy and Community Outreach

NAOMI CIRCLE

"A circle/safe space to support bereaved women" will have our first Wednesday night meeting October 12, 2022 at 6pm in the Church Library. There will be plenty of discussion, reflection and support to go around!

We hope to see you there.

HABITAT HOME NUMBER 28 is close to completion. The church received a thank you note from Habitat recognizing our \$4,000 contribution for this current home. The sod has been spread around the outside. The inside flooring is installed. The kitchen shelving is nearing completion. Final wood trimming is to be completed soon. The electricians will soon start their work. Just a few finishing touches before the dedication. I have successfully stayed off any ladders on this project!

Thanks for your support and prayers for our workers. Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

Why not start a new habit this Sunday?

Bring one food item for the food pantry cart. Of course, more donations would be better. If each of us could get into the habit of donating each Sunday, the cost would not seem very much in dollars or labor. Are you up to the challenge of starting a new, beneficial habit?

As inflation continues to grow, many families are suffering from food shortages. Our food pantry cart is located to the right as you enter the church. Can you help your neighbor?

Christian Women's Ministries ladies: Are you blessed? Do you have a Blessing Box handy to make your thankfulness tangible? The beginning of a new Christian Women's Fellowship year is a great time to start or reinvigorate dropping a coin into your blessing box each time you are thankful for something. Blessing Boxes are available on the desk in the Narthex. Blessing boxes will be collected in the spring. Circles may also pass the blessing box during Circle meetings. There are many ways to participate.

Sue Seward, BB coordinator

THE WAVE OF LIGHT REMEMBRANCE is observed yearly on October 15th. This is an event for loved ones and friends to come together and honor babies gone too soon and support their families. Naomi Circle is currently organizing a Virtual Ceremony of Remembrance. More details about the ceremony are coming, but if you would like to submit a child's name to be read out loud during the program, please contact Sharifa Love-Rutledge. **Names need to be submitted by 10/12/2022** to ensure that each little one is properly recognized during the program.

COMMUNION SERVERS WANTED!

I'm working on organizing our return to the table, and I would be grateful to hear from anyone who is willing to serve in this way. I'll start pulling together a schedule that we can plan to, and we'll also organize some orientations to go through what needs doing and when. It's worth noting that everyone's schedules are busy, and often fluid, so we'll update that schedule as folks might need to switch out weeks for trips and illness.

Thanks in advance, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Andy Herron

ATTENDANCE

September 25 Worship Service: 60
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 49
October 2 Worship Service: 73
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 52