



CAMERON'S CORNER

It Is With Gratitude

It has been wonderful to receive the life-affirming calls and personal good wishes from my friends at First Christian Church after announcing my resignation as your Pastor effective on December 31, 2024. We have faithfully journeyed together for almost a year and we have experienced large and small tasks, fun moments and serious moments, times of satisfaction and times of discouragement. Thank you all for your dedicated service to God through it all. Yet, for all of us, what we give to God is not finally work, but joyful service, not hard sacrifice, but delightful participation. So many of you have taught me by your words and actions the true meaning of being a follower of Christ, a lesson I will not forget. I thank God for you: Philippians 1:3–5 (NRSV) 3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

It is my intension to support my successor the Rev. Dr. Brad Henderson. Now that I bid farewell, I ask that you refrain from asking me to do anything that would break the ethical relationship by which I have attempted to guide my life as your minister and in my relationships with other ministers. Please give Pastor Brad the support and love with which you have graced my ministry and life. And please allow him to find his own niche in our congregation and personal life. Please allow him to be there for you in times of need, sorrow, and joy. Trust in his love, ability and faithfulness.

Our relationship as of January 1, will be different. I will no longer be your minister, but I will continue to be your friend. As I have told others in places where I have served previously, I can no longer officiate at your funerals, weddings, baptisms, or perform any pastoral duties. But I can be your guest, I can be your friend. I hope you will understand that this indicates no lack of love and concern on my part. You and your families will always be in my heart and prayers. You continue to be MY CHURCH. I simply want to bless you and your future pastor with my observance of this ethical principle.

Diane and I are planning to continue to attend FCC-HSV and I trust God, who holds the future, will guide us into new paths of ministry and service. God will work things out and I will accept with gratitude the outcome. Keep the faith and see you in church!

Pastor Cameron

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 22, following Worship Service regarding the call of the Rev. Dr. Brad Henderson as Senior Minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Huntsville. **Senior Minister Call Letter and Compensation Package on pages 4 & 5.**

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The submission **deadline** for the December 3rd *Journey* is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 2**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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256-881-0150 office@fcc-hsv.org

2024 Christmas Offering

God's Love Visible

Dear Friends in Christ,

The mission of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region is to encourage and equip its congregations and pastors for the ministry of Jesus Christ in local communities and throughout the world while seeking to nurture them into deeper relationships with God, with each other, and with the whole Church.

Greetings and blessings in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us! Our Christmas offering theme this year is God's Love Visible.

2024 has been a year of change in our Region. In April we celebrated my beginning as your Regional Minister and shared our love and celebration with Rev. Dale Braxton as he retired as Interim Regional Minister. In addition to regional changes, there have been national changes after a presidential election, changes in church leadership, and continuing changes around the world. And of course, in addition to these broader changes, change is a constant in our personal lives, in our friends, our families, and our various circumstances.

One of the joys of Christmas is that while the world has changed and continues to change, Christmas brings us year after year to hear anew the beautiful story of Jesus' birth, his incarnation and his coming to us as one of us.

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate the message of Jesus come to earth, to show God's love. And Christmas is a time to give thanks for all the ways in which we as Christians, as Church, and as Disciples make God's love visible. Whether it's through the work of our board and regional officers, camp directors and counselors, volunteers, pastors serving and retired, together we make God's love visible to our world.

What a gift to be able to remember and celebrate all that God has done in and through us. In the dark days of winter, God's love in us shines forth, bringing the light of Christ into a hurting and

Offering continued next column...

...Offering continued.

broken world. One person can make God's love visible, and how much more can 100s of us share God's love and light in the world!

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas offering. 100% of your Christmas gifts go to our Region. And thank you for all the ways you give to make God's love visible.

Merry Christmas and Blessings for the New Year!

Rev. Kerry Kesity
Regional Minister

This offering is received on December 22. You can note "Christmas Offering" in the memo line of your check or through PayPal on our website at fcs-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give. Please give generously!

THE MIDWIFE

A story I tell my children.

I was Mary's midwife.

She was so young to be bearing a child
travelling all that distance on a donkey.

But I was there when she needed help.

When her time came, Joseph called for me,
I slipped into the stable with swaddling cloths,
a bowl of water, and my small knife.

I held her hand, reassured her,
and quickly the babe was born.

He slipped into my arms.

I held God!

My children rapt ask me how I knew he was God,
I could feel the power. I remember the power.

I did my midwifery duties,
wrapped the Babe in the swaddling cloths,
and laid Him on His mother's breast.

I slipped out of the stable
and out of the story.

Margaret J. Vann, November 27, 2024



CHRISTMAS SEASON WILL SOON BE HERE

Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR), as noted in the name, is a year round locally founded nonprofit serving the area. In addition to providing assistance with basic living needs throughout the year, CCYR has Operation Believe providing gifts to children, home bound and seniors during the Christmas Season. Much gratitude for the quick response to shopping to fill these stockings which need to be returned by December 1st. Cash donations for their programs are also welcomed during this season and can be made by noting CCYR in the memo line of your check or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give.

Thank you in advance for your generosity with the joy brought to our friends in the local area. ccyr.org Community Outreach

IRS CREDIT FOR 2024 GIVING

Thank you so much for your tithes and offerings; they have a tremendous impact on the missions and ministries of our church. Please remember that all contributions to be credited toward 2024 giving must be received by the church office **before 12:30 pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2024** (that is when the office closes for New Year's Eve) or in the **collection plate on Sunday, December 29**. Mailed contributions may be credited toward your 2024 giving as long as they are **postmarked by December 31, 2024**.

IRS regulations require that checks received **after December 31, unless received by mail post-marked December 31 or prior, will be credited to your 2025 giving and not 2024**.



HAP Pantry Wish List

Shelf-Stable Milk	Jelly
Potato Flakes	Cereal
Boxed Stuffing	Gravy Packets
Rice (1-lb bags)	Crackers
Beans (1-lb bags)	

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Please deliver by Dec 18th



FOOD BASKETS are given in honor of Rhianna & Chris Clark and in memory of Mack Vann's birthday by Margaret Vann. In honor of Colleen Cannon's birthday by Beverly & James Cannon, and in honor of Dick Christiansen by Roberta Shivers.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian Church, Meridian, MS
Regional Office, Helena, AL

ATTENDANCE

Dec. 8: Worship Service: 80
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 85
Dec. 15: Worship Service: 78
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 163



The 2025 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may contact the office at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150 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 on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give

Senior Minister Call Letter and Compensation Package on following pages.

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH AND CALL UPDATE

Good News!

The Search & Call committee is delighted to announce that we have unanimously selected a candidate to nominate as our next Senior Minister. He has been presented to the Board and has been approved for a congregational vote. **We will have a congregational meeting on December 22, 2024, to formally vote on his call to our church.**

He is Rev. Dr. Brad Henderson of Decatur, Alabama. Brad has been the pastor at Grace Christian Church in Helena, Alabama for approximately 10 years. He was a wonderful administrator and pastor and was instrumental in shepherding Grace Christian through some extreme financial conditions to bring that congregation back to health financially. He is very personable and believes that relationships are key to ministry and bringing the Gospel to life.

I would like to thank the committee members for their dedication and faithful commitment to making sure that we select the person we believe that God is calling to us. We believe that great things are in our future.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the prayer circle and all of those who prayed for our guidance and discernment. We believe that God's hand is at work in the calling of Brad to our church.

Upon approval, we will be welcoming Brad and his wife Jeannie soon and I'm sure you will want to meet them. That announcement will be coming later when the details are finalized. We believe that you will love them both. One of the gifts of our congregation is welcoming and bringing new members into the fold and making them feel a part of our family.

The Search & Call Committee,

Monty Love - Chairman, Lisa Fitzgerald - Secretary, Mary Ann Anderson, Chris Clark, Andy Herron, Sharifa Love Rutledge, and Anita Wood.

Link to audio, not video, sermons. <https://gracechristianchurch.org/audio/>

SENIOR MINISTER COMPENSATION PACKAGE

- Compensation shall be in the all-inclusive, annual amount of \$. This amount includes salary, housing, social security, and pension along with reimbursable amounts as listed below.
- Base Salary, Housing and Social Security offset (to be segregated by you upon employment) is \$
- The monthly pension amount is 14% of Base Salary, housing allowance, and social security beginning in 2025 amounting to \$annually.
- Reimbursable expenses are as follows:

Cell Phone: \$yr.

Mileage: \$yr.

Included in the total compensation, church business mileage reimbursement, not including daily commute, will be reimbursed at the current IRS rate per mile. A daily itemized, ministry mileage report will be submitted each month for reimbursement.

Assembly: \$yr.

First Christian Church will pay for attendance at Regional Assemblies including registration, assembly-sponsored meals, room, etc. Similar expenses will be covered for the General Assembly.

Professional: yr.

Package continued on page 5...

...Package continued.

All of the reimbursable categories are estimated, budgeted items and as such may be adjusted according to need.

- Also as part of the total compensation package, the Senior Minister will be provided a paid sabbatical of 3 months duration after 5 years of service as part of this agreement. If the Senior Minister leaves within 1 year after taking a sabbatical, the Senior Minister will be required to reimburse First Christian Church, Huntsville, Alabama for the 3 months' pay dispersed during the sabbatical.
- Your normal office work schedule will be Monday through Thursday including Wednesday evenings when appropriate (For evening supper/fellowship and study groups) and Sunday worship. You may also be called upon to deal with urgent matters at other times of the week.
- Paid vacation will accrue at the rate of one week per quarter. It is preferred that no more than one week be taken per quarter, or with sufficient notice to the board and elders, two weeks per six months.
- Termination of this agreement may be done by either party with 30 days 'notice.
- This agreement may be modified if mutually agreed upon by both parties. In the case of any situations not covered in this call letter, the church's personnel policies will govern.

