



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 4
January 23, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 26**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

SELF-MADE OR GOD-MADE

A certain man brought his boss home for dinner one evening. The boss was blustery, bombastic, very arrogant and almost rude. There was a young boy in the family and he kept staring at his father's boss throughout the evening. Finally the boss asked the little boy, "Why do you keep looking at me like that?"

The boy answered, "My father says you are a self-made man. Is that true?"

The man beamed and broke into a smile. He admitted that he was a self-made man, and was very proud of that fact. Then the little boy asked his father's boss, "If you are a self-made man, why did you make yourself like that?"

There is a parable of profound truth in this little story. First of all we need to be reminded that we are all made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). We are born into this world as babies who are innocent and without sin. That was the nature of Adam and Eve after they were created and put in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. They wanted to do their own thing and be their own person. If they ate of the forbidden fruit they would be like God and, therefore, would not need God.

Across all of the time since that beginning in the Garden of Eden men and women have chosen to disobey God. They have denied God's rule over their lives. The New Testament puts it this way: 20 Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; 21 for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools; 23 and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. (Romans 1:20-23 NRSV)

However, there is good news in the gospel. We read in 2 Corinthians: 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NRSV)

This means that we can cast off the old self-made, sinful person we have become and be reconciled, at one again with God as we were in the beginning. Thank God for that!

See You Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

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
JANUARY 29**



**February
Birthdays**



Old Testament Micah 6:12-8
 Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Sermon Text Matthew 5:1-12
 Sermon "Bless Your Heart"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Roger Sameck & Bob Senn
 10:30 Joe Brockway & Dave Crockett

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Rick Shrout

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Mike & Becky Lash
 Rick & Kay Shrout
 10:30 Nancy Adams & Roberta Shivers
 Beverly Cannon & TBA

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is and in memory of Tom Woodall by Nancy Woodall, and in memory of Barbara Keller by Walt Keller.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Leaven
 Pastor Laura
 Tara Thorne
 Braly Beutjer

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

HELP IS NEEDED in the Nursery and Toddler rooms on Sunday mornings. Please see the sign up poster in the Commons and sign up now for first or second shift on one Sunday in January - March. We need loving hands to assist our attendants.

1	Campbell Blair, Judith Hodge & Conner Klaehn
3	Jodi Crockett & Kathryn Shrout
5	Cowan Wilson IV
6	Don Coburn
7	Charles Herber & Michelle Givens
10	Lisa Fitzgerald
11	Matthew Brown
14	Justin Givens
17	Holly Ahlbin Jackie Sanford
19	Shelby Gillroy
20	Adler James Turner
22	Daniel Dixon
23	David Suggs
25	Shea Brennaman, Evan Sexton & Velma
26	Kelsey Beckman & Tom Craig

2017 FOOD BASKETS

The 2017 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is up and 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.

ATTENDANCE	1/15	1/22
First Service Worship	40	43
Sunday School	42	45
Second Service Worship	106	106
Children's Church	4	12
Young Disciples	NA	5
Total Worship	150	166

CONDOLENCES to the family of Margaret Shriver who died on Thursday, January 19.

KEEPING WARM

Now is the time for keeping warm. It is cold outside. Not everyone in our sister church, Grateful Life, has a coat, thick sweater, even a blanket, especially those without a place to live. Let us gather coats or blankets for those without.

Look in your closet for a clean, gently used coat or sweater that you are not using. Maybe you even have a blanket that is just gathering dust. Or if you wish, buy a used, warm coat to share. We can help keep the attendees of Grateful Life Church warm during this cold season. Check your closet for warm items you aren't using.

A box for collecting the coats or blankets will be in the Commons Area all January.

Thank you,
Community Outreach

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM

January has traditionally been blanket month for CWM service activity. Once again, CWM is partnering with Church World Service in their Blankets+ program. We are the "+" in the blanket project. FCC in Huntsville, Alabama, can make a difference all around the world as the need arises. \$10 can provide a warm blanket for anyone left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. Please consider a monetary donation to FCC with CWM "Blankets" in the memo line.

Margaret J. Vann



PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL ENRICHMENT AND RENEWAL FOR PASTOR LAURA WEST

As stated in Pastor Laura West's Call Letter, "First Christian Church understands the need for continuing education and professional development. We also recognize that it is important for a minister to nurture his/her own growth and development as an individual. Therefore, the church will support up to two calendar weeks (10 work days) of Professional development, continuing education, and spiritual enrichment per year."

In 2013, 2014, and 2015 Pastor Laura attended national children's ministries conferences as well as General Assembly in 2013. During 2016 she did not use these allotted days as the costs of conferences became prohibitive with the addition of travel and lodging costs. For both the mental health and development of our ministers, it is important that they receive the benefit of these days.

Therefore, for 2017, Pastor Laura presented a proposal to the Board of Elders. Her request was that she be allowed to take one day a month, specifically the third Thursday, excluding June and July, as her Professional/Personal Enrichment and Renewal Days. Her proposal is to use this time in dedicated study and prayer developing a plan for Sabbatical. In September 2017, Pastor Laura will have completed five years of ministry with FCC and will be eligible to apply for a paid sabbatical of up to three months. FCC Personnel Policies and Procedures outline a deliberate process of application and execution making the Sabbatical a time beneficial to both the minister and FCC.

Pastor Cameron is encouraging Pastor Laura in her efforts of personal growth and development, and the Board of Elders also provided a consensus of approval. All are encouraged to hold Pastor Laura in prayers of encouragement as she works to develop personally and to minister more effectively to the families of First Christian Church. Please understand that she will be out of the office on these specific days for this dedicated renewal and growth. Nancy Waites, Elder Representative