



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 11
March 13, 2017
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 16**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU: FORGIVENESS

I am preaching a Lenten Sermon Series entitled, “The Gospel According to YOU.” Each Sunday during Lent I will preach a sermon on a particular aspect of our witness (testimony) to the world of who Christians are to be. My hope is that the sermons, and bulletin inserts with questions on them, will stimulate self-examination and introspection. That is, after all, what Lent is about.

This Sunday I will be preaching on our witness of Christ in our FORGIVENESS. The sermon text is Matthew 18:21-35 and Ephesians 4:32. Forgiveness is never an easy thing, but I truly believe it is a necessary quality of Christian character.

When it comes to forgiveness, we, as Christians, are called to imitate the forgiving spirit of God. Scripture points out very dramatically that we are to forgive others as graciously, lovingly, mercifully, and thoroughly as God in Christ forgives us. Throughout his teachings, Jesus seemed to make it quite clear that forgiveness was the second most God-like act of which we are capable, surpassed only by our capacity to love!

Jesus knew how natural it was to want to refrain from forgiving, and to hold onto grudges and to luxuriate in wounded pride. Perhaps that is why he talked about forgiveness so much, and why so many have come to feel that the size of a Christian is in proportion to his or her readiness and willingness to forgive.

Christian writer Rod Wilmoth tells about a woman in a large city who left her apartment one morning for a trip downtown on the bus. She put on one of her most fashionable outfits and her favorite perfume and headed out the door to catch her bus. As she hurried out the door, she remembered to pick up a small sack of garbage that had accumulated in the kitchen, which she planned to toss in the container at the curb.

She became preoccupied, however, and forgot she had the sack of garbage in her hand, along with her other packages containing items she was returning. So she carried the garbage unwittingly onto the bus. Immediately, as she took her seat, she noticed a terrible stench and thought how terrible it was that a city bus should have such stench. She considered writing a letter to her city council representative to protest the filth of the bus.

When she arrived at the shopping district, she encountered a horrible stench in every store she visited. It wasn't until she finally returned home and opened her packages that she discovered where the terrible odor was coming from!

Wilmoth concludes: “Maybe we would be more inclined to forgive others if we first would recognize the garbage we are carrying around in our own lives.” Whenever we have a difficult time forgiving someone hurtful to us, it helps to remember that the first step is to recognize our own need to be forgiven.

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, MARCH 19

Scripture Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:32
Sermon "The Gospel According to YOU!"
Your "FORGIVENESS"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dale Thomas & Nancy Waites
10:30 Bob Senn & Roger Sameck

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bev Williamson

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Lynn Abernathy & Ann Thompson
Eddie & Valerie Parks
10:30 Marie Bittle & Ruth Lackey
Marilee Keim & Matt Ball

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Bob Edgeton by the Edgeton family.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus and Bartimaeus
Nancy Woodall
Pastor Laura & Brady Johnson
Evan Sexton & Tré Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, April 2
Presentation and Vote on a Capital Improvement Program.

BLESSING BOXES DUE

For 64 years Disciples women have been collecting spare change in small cardboard Blessing Boxes. This daily discipline has generated millions of dollars in mission support. Since 2007, one-half of the money collected goes to the mission of the church and one-half to ministries carried out by women of the church here and abroad through the International Disciples Women.

Your Blessing Box money is due this month to your group treasurer or in the church offering. Please write a check to First Christian Church with Blessing Box in the memo line. Then start collecting again for next year!

Ruth Lackey, Blessing Box Coordinator for CWM



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, MARCH 19
8:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

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

ATTENDANCE	3/5	3/12
Ash Wednesday Service	40	NA
First Service Worship	46	36
Sunday School	51	50
Second Service Worship	116	93
Children's Church	8	8
Young Disciples	NA	9
Total Worship	210	146

CWM NEEDS YOUR HELP TO

WELCOME BABIES

The March CWM project is to make gift baskets for the Healthy Families Program with the National Children's Advocacy Center. The program works with low income first-time mothers who do not have the support needed to help them through this experience. As well as providing basic baby needs, the gift basket shows someone cares. A list of needed items is posted in the Commons Area or financial donations may be made to CWM with "Baby Baskets" in the memo line. Thank you for caring about those in need.

We received a call from someone who purchased a piece of jewelry at the Rummage Sale. The piece was a dated NASA pin and in a nice box. She is afraid that the donation may have been a mistake. If you think it may be yours, and you do want it back, please contact the FCC office.

Family Camp

April 28 - 30

Oak Mountain State Park

Please see Pastor Linda for more information.

Registration Deadline is April 1

HABITAT HOME # 24

We are building a 5-bedroom home on Maywick Road in north Huntsville. Maps to the home site are on the bulletin board outside the Parlor. Come on out and help us do this! If you cannot come out, please consider writing a check to FCC with Habitat in the memo/note line.

Our homeowner is Brittany Ford. She is 26 years old and is a single mother of her daughter Harmonie. She is also raising three of her brothers and two sisters. What a responsibility! She writes that having a Habitat home is a blessing and a wonderful experience. Given the opportunity to raise her family in a safe environment and a home she can call her own is a wonderful gift she is receiving and is most grateful to all who are helping this come true.

Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

