



# The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 2  
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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) FAMILY

My family is spread throughout the country. My Uncle and his family live in Muskegon, Michigan. One of my Aunts lives in Manhattan, New York, and the other lives in Winterville, North Carolina. My brother lives in Wichita, Kansas, with his family, my wife's family all live in Kansas, and I have cousins in North Carolina, Illinois, and Indiana. Therefore, it is always special when my relatives can get together for a family reunion.

Last Thanksgiving Patti, the kids and I were able to visit most of my family, on my mother's side. It was wonderful to see everyone again, hear about their exploits, celebrate my Uncle and Aunt's wedding anniversary, play with my cousins, and remember those who could not make the trip and those who are no longer with us. This visit was a rite of passage in many ways because it involved the toughest of tasks, keeping nine Adens, four Allens, and one Rushing, fed, rested, and happy.

In the church we often refer to each other as family. We call other Christians brothers and sisters, refer to our sister churches, and we read and talk about the family of God. Our faith calls us to form close ties with each other, but just like families who are tied by blood we get tired of hearing the same old stories and sometimes there are disagreements. Yet, throughout it all the connection remains because we are united by ties that cannot be broken.

But ours is a family that is called to grow. It is often said that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the best kept secret within the denominations of America. Our focus on ecumenism, reconciliation, hospitality, and personal education make for an interesting mix of ideologies and theologies. However, being the best kept secret is not a compliment. It means that those who are not associated with our denomination know nothing about us. If we are truly to be the family of God this must change.

One of our former General Minister and Presidents, Rev. William Chris Hobgood, writes "As different as we may be, as Disciples we share the most important thing - our belief in God and our confession of faith in Jesus Christ." He suggests that Disciples have five covenantal values that define us as a denomination. These five values are:

- 1) The confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.
- 2) The hospitality of the Lord's Supper.
- 3) The call to ministry for all believers.
- 4) The love of unity.
- 5) The justice of God that orders all our actions.

These values should guide our lives and should be shared.

How do you live out these five Disciple values in your life? How do you build the family of God each day? How can we make sure that the world's people are fed, cared for, rested and happy? As we continue through the season after Epiphany let us reflect on these questions and work to build the heavenly Kingdom together. Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 11**, at Noon [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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, JANUARY 14**

Sermon Scripture                      1 Samuel 3: 1-10  
 Sermon                                      "Calling in the Night"

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15    Roger Sameck & Mark Stiles  
 10:30   Jan Mackenzie & Mike Lash

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Lynn Abernathy

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15    Delores Edgeton & Linda Lykins  
          Lisa Fitzgerald & Margaret J. Vann  
 10:30   Nancy Adams & Marilee Keim  
          Mary Ann Anderson & Abby Allen  
          Nancy Woodall

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Donna Blair

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Ken Riggs' birthday by Bobbye Riggs.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*Jesus is Baptized*  
 Pastor Laura, Holly Ahlbin, & Abby Allen

**YOUNG DISCIPLES** (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

*Jesus and the Storm*  
 Christi Sexton, Dave Sexton,  
 Macey Johnson, & Cara Sexton

ATTENDANCE	12/31	1/7
First Service Worship	39	44
Sunday School	17	42
Second Service Worship	95	79
Children's Church	7	6
Young Disciples	NA	NA
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>129</b>

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.

**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

**DRAFT INTERIOR SIGNAGE**

Please take a look at the draft interior signs posted around the church. These are in response to several notes in the recent all-church survey stating that it was hard for new persons to find their way around the church. Contact Bob Senn if you have suggestions on location of the signs or the content.



Once they have been "approved," a professional sign company will make the final signs for installation.

Thanks, Renovation Committee

**CONDOLENCES** to the family of Charles Graff who died on Monday, January 1.



Volunteers needed to serve in our Youth Sunday morning program from 9:15-10:15. Curriculum is biblically rooted and easy to teach. Please consider volunteering.

Please contact Pastor Linda  
FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The youth ministry is in need of a few volunteers willing to serve one Wednesday a month so that Pastor Linda is able to attend the Worship meetings. Please contact her directly for more information at (256)529-1076 or at FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com

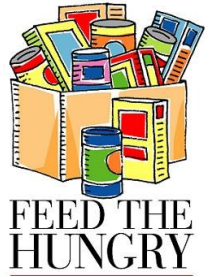
### **THANK YOU!**

Because of your generosity, Community Outreach purchased 32 Walmart gift cards (\$25 each)! CASA, DHR, and Grateful Life were very appreciative of this generous donation. The cards can be used throughout the year to help the needy adults served by the three organizations. You continue to make a difference in our community through your giving spirit. Thank you!

### **FOOD PANTRY REMINDER**

Sunday, January 14, is **Fill the Cart for the Food Pantry**. Please bring one non-perishable item or several. St. Paul's has empty shelves. Let's help fill them. As always your donations of food items are appreciated at any time.

Thank you,  
Community Outreach Committee



### **NURSERY OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

We will start offering a nursery on Wednesday Nights beginning on January 10. This will be for nursery and toddler age children and will be available from 5:45-8:15 pm. That way parents can attend one of the adult Bible studies and/or choir practice! We hope to see continued growth in our Wednesday night ministries.

### **YOUTH FUNDRAISER**

We still have car decals to purchase for \$5.00. All donations will go to Grateful Life Ministry.

