



The Journey

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THE WORK OF MINISTRY

I can still remember the year that I left Seminary and traveled to North Carolina to serve my first church. I had already been the pastor of a church in Chaplin, Kentucky, but I was a part time pastor and a full time student. First Christian Church in Chaplin was a very small congregation, but it helped me grow and taught some very important lessons. First Christian Church in Farmville was much larger and had been through some turmoil. I knew where I was moving, I was born fifteen minutes away, went to college in the area, and my family was from the town I would be serving, so I was not a stranger, but it would be different, something new, something challenging, and I have to admit that I was terrified.

What if the church was not a good fit for me, what if the church was not a good fit for Patti? Was I ready for a full time pastorate, maybe I should start with an associate pastor's position? How would I balance family life with the life of a minister? Could we find some place to live so we could move out of AC Turnage's guest room? Is this where God wanted me to be?

All of these questions kept swirling through my mind the first few weeks I was there, until it happened. One Sunday I arrived at the church, went into my office, began to prepare for the worship service and someone came in to ask the minister a question, and I realized that was me. I was no longer in school, although I knew that I would continue to learn about my vocation, I was actively participating in the work of ministry, I was the spiritual leader of a congregation, I was the person that people came to for wisdom and advice. That was a lot to think about but that day I began to understand the joy and the heartbreak that ministry can bring. I was a part of a community of faith, I was called to lead and I had to take up this challenge.

We are all called to lead in our own way. One of the foundational elements of our denomination is the priesthood of all believers, or the idea that we are all called to ministry and service. We all have different gifts, but these spiritual gifts are to be used to support the work of the church and the mission of Christ in the world. In this way we are all called to leadership and we are all challenged to move our congregation forward. How can we serve our members and the community better? How can we reach out to the lost, the hurting and the hungry? How can we become the church God wants us to be? These are all questions that can challenge us, but they also provide new life and purpose on our journey of faith. Together, let us take up the mantle of ministry and proclaim the living Christ, Amen.

Pastor Paul

The 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. Funds go to Huntsville Assistance Program.



Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, May3**, at Noon 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, MAY 6

Scripture John 15:9-17
 Sermon "Love One Another"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mike Lash & Justin Givens
 10:30 Jan Mackenzie & Mark Stiles

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Mack & Margaret J. Vann's anniversary.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper II
 Chuck & Penny Jackman, John Hall,
 Joe Allen & Tré Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

AV SUPPORT TEAM

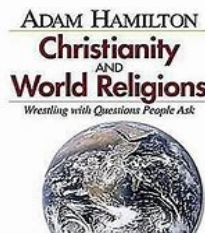
Technical Director - Chuck Herber
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith
 Sound- Michael Smith & Malcolm Landreth
 Stream Operator- Michael Smith



ATTENDANCE	4/22	4/29
First Service Worship	26	40
Sunday School	39	NR
Second Service Worship	103	85
Children's Church	7	14
Young Disciples	6	NA
Total Worship	142	139

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

SHORT TERM STUDY



Beginning May 9 at 1:00, Roberta Shivers will lead a short term study of Adam Hamilton's "Christianity and World Religions." The one-hour sessions will last for six weeks as we take an overview of the major religions practiced world-wide. If you would like to participate, contact Ann Thompson so we can determine the number of books needed.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AND

FELLOWSHIP AT FCC'S ANNUAL ALL CHURCH PICNIC

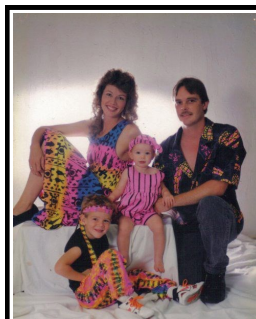
Where: First Christian Church in McMains Hall & the Family Services area.

When: May 20th 2018. Gathering will be at 4:00 p.m. Serving will begin at 4:30 p.m.

What to bring: It will be pot luck so bring your favorite covered dish or a dessert.

Drinks will be provided.

Entertainment: A sing-a-long for all and play time on the church playground for the kids.



Time to update that portrait?

Save the dates June 14 - 16!

Signups details on- following page.

Dear Church Family,

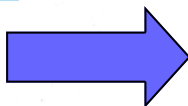
Thank you so much for the prayers, visits, food, and cards. Frist Christian is truly a blessing to us. So thankful that God has brought us all together.

It was good to have Pastor Paul visit, I've never had a minister visit before.

In Christ, Diane & Cameron Douglas

Tell Your Story

Be included in our upcoming photography event



For participating, each family receives a

complimentary 8x10 photograph & a free directory



Be yourself. Classic, casual, musical, sporty, fun—it's up to you. (No tie required!)



Make it special. Bring meaningful items and special people.

Share your story. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional photographs—makes great gifts for family and friends.



Schedule your professional photography session today!

GRATEFUL LIFE MAY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Christian's Women's Ministries and Community Outreach have chosen Grateful Life Community Church as their Service Project for the month of May. We are collecting toiletries and hygiene items for this Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation located at 207 Oakwood Avenue. You can bring in hygiene items and place them in our basket in the Commons Area, or make your check out to First Christian Church with Grateful Life in the memo line and place it in the offering bowl or drop it by the church office. Thank you for your contribution.

SIGNUPS FOR

CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

To schedule your online photography session, follow the following steps. Go to:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yckrp20e/10>

1. Select number in group. Using the drop down to the left, select the number in your group (larger families may require more time).

2. Select day. A calendar will now display showing the month and day of our photography sessions. If multiple months are available, an arrow next to the month will be displayed. Click on the arrow to advance to the next month.

3. Select photography session time. A list of available session times will be displayed. Click the Book it button next to the desired time. You will then be prompted to register for your photography session.

Waiting List

If you are unable to find a date and time that works for you, join the waiting list.

To change or cancel your photography session Use the login feature above to manage your information. Please call the office of your organization if you have any questions.

About your photography session

Plan on an hour for your professional photography session. Come prepared for your session and show the real you! We often photograph families and individuals with meaningful items: special keepsakes, sports equipment, musical instruments, etc. Many families wear coordinating colors for a unified look. We suggest solid colored shirts with long sleeves.



A TRIP TO THE CASA GARDEN

On **May 19th** FCC will be volunteering at the CASA Garden. We will be there from 8 am - 1 pm. Volunteers must be middle school age or older. Tools will be provided. If you are interested in helping, contact Heather Black at goldenrulepharm@gmail.com. There are limited slots and certain guidelines, so be sure and contact Heather by May 18th. Thanks so much for your help, Community Outreach