



The Journey

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WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN WE MAKE?

Last week the Gulf Coast was beautiful. We almost had Mexico Beach to ourselves as the youth played in the waves and the adults enjoyed brief periods of rest. It was sunny and warm, but the breeze on the beach cooled us down quickly as we huddled under the umbrella and watched the tide come in. These moments seemed idyllic, with no cares and no worries to think of, almost like a Jimmy Buffet song.

Then we would get into the church bus and drive back to the home where we were staying. All around the highway we could see the signs of devastation. Houses in the midst of repair or just gone altogether. We would see foundations and the poles houses used to sit on vacant and waiting for new construction. Many homes still had tarps and plastic up on their roofs anticipating new shingles and those qualified to place them.

Tyndall Air Force base may have the debris cleared up, but its hangers and homes are still in need of a huge amount of repair. While there is some activity, most of the base stands silent waiting to be rebuilt. The base closing most of its operations has taken a large chunk of the surrounding population with it. When you add the fact that many of the beach homes are closed or in need of repair tourist dollars, so important to the local economy, are not coming in, and the surrounding towns are feeling the economic pressure.

Hurricane Michael left a lasting legacy in the Gulf Coast. A category five hurricane that hits the United States is already very rare. Hurricane Michael is only the fourth on record and it is clear that the damage done was extraordinary. Growing up in North Carolina we often saw the damage a Hurricane could cause, but this was beyond what I expected, nor did I expect to see the long term impact a storm like this could produce. Many people lost everything: their homes, possessions, loved ones, and even hope.

It made me wonder what impact we could make in a week. Don't get me wrong. Our youth worked hard, so hard that the United Methodist Disaster Response (UMDR) ran out of jobs to give us. At two of the homes where we worked, we found additional jobs we could do going well beyond the scope of the duties we were originally given. We cleaned up debris, pulled weeds, mowed lawns, installed blinds, moved furniture, painted, mudded sheetrock and sanded until our arms felt like they would fall off. We swept, installed new door handles, trimmed trees, pruned bushes and did whatever we could to make a difference. Even with all the work, we completed we only barely scratched the surface.

It seemed an impossible job, what difference could we make? Then we went into town, to the hardware store, the grocery store, or the Dollar General and everyone we met thanked us for what we were doing. The local Methodist Church and the older ladies whose homes we worked at called us angels, not something I am used to being called, and once again I realized that the labor we do on these mission trips is important but it is not our primary goal. Our goal is to build relationships, to comfort those in need, to show the world that the love of Christ is real and that the family of our faith reaches beyond all barriers, even those of such horrible devastation, to give the gifts of faith, hope, and love to the world. These gifts will live far beyond our attempts to repair and renovate homes because they are gifts of the Spirit that can never be destroyed. Thanks be to our God, who repairs lives and souls, makes us new in every circumstance, and reminds us that hope abounds where there is faith, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, June 13**, 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, JUNE 16

Scripture Romans 5: 1-5
Sermon "Hope Does Not Disappoint"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mike Lash & Dave Crockett
10:30 Frank Fitzgerald & Jan Mackenzie

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gayle Herber

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Duffy & Lee Boles
Donna Blair & Marilee Keim
10:30 Lisa Fitzgerald & Gayle Herber
Joe Allen & Bev Williamson
Lynn Abernathy

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Dinah Love

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of honor of
Roberta Shivers.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Story Time
Pastor Laura, Lee Boles,
& Joe Allen

YOUNG DISCIPLES

On Break

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	6/2	6/9
First Service Worship	37	37
Sunday School	31	36
Second Service Worship	76	86
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	NR	NR
Total Worship	113	123



YOUNG ADULT POOL PARTY!

Join us Saturday night, June 15, at 5:00 pm
for a pool party at Blossomwood Pool .

Supper will be provided and children
are welcome!

Lee and Duffy Boles leeboles@aol.com



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12 (9:00-11:30 am)

Ages 3 through 5th Grade

Neighbors are more than people who live next door. Neighbors are more than people in our families or communities. Children will go on a journey to discover more about God's great love, from looking at how to be a neighbor to diving into what it means to live out our faith. This interactive VBS leads children deeply into Bible stories focused on God's care and compassion for neighbors close at hand and around the world. Join us as we discover neighbors near and far!

To register your child or to volunteer to help please contact Pastor Laura (256) 881-0150 or laura@fcc-hsv.org

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at:

<https://www.twitch.tv/fchsv>

FOSTER CARE NEEDS OUR HELP

Community Outreach is asking your help in easing the burden of the Foster Care Unit of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). Please consider making a financial donation so we can purchase Walmart gift cards for the agency to use throughout the year for the children who come into care, through no fault of their own. The need could be as simple as snacks for when the children are in the building for visits with parents or waiting for a foster placement. Or, it could be a child might have a special immediate need. Funding is tight for DHR and more children are coming into care. We can help these children who have suffered so much by our donation. A check can be made to FCC with DHR in the memo line. FCC has shown compassion for our children in crisis before and we are again asking your help again because we can make a difference.

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NIGHT AT THE BIERGARTEN JUNE 20, 4:30-7:30 PM

Come and bring your friends and family to the US Space and Rocket Center on June 20 from 4:40 -7:30 pm for authentic German Cuisine! The Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) will receive a percentage of all food sold that night. So come on out and enjoy an evening of German food while helping your community.

Community Outreach

BAKE SALE HELP

I am looking for someone to help me run the bake sale that we have in the fall and possibly take it over sometime in the future when they are comfortable with running it. Last year we were able to give about \$2000 back to our community with the proceeds we made. It also serves as a mission to the community since they all seem to appreciate our baking skills and we sell out every year.



No experience is necessary: I will teach you all you need to know. Most of the work is done the day before and the day of the bake sale. A lot is delegated to helpers and you will always have lots of help.

If you are interested learning this position, let me know. You can call me at 256-337-5597 or email me at dmllove1543@gmail.com

Thank you, Dinah Love

