



# The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 28

July 8, 2019

[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## THE GREAT VINE

Assembly Local Arrangements Chair Rev. Sue Woods

About 15 years ago, Jerry and I had the privilege of traveling to London. He went there on business and I, an English major, went to look at British poets' graves. (It's a thing.) On one of my daytrips, I visited Hampton Court Palace, home to King Henry VIII whenever he wanted to escape London and/or the plague – basically the same thing.

Hampton Court has lots of hidden treasures, but one unexpected gem is The Great Vine – the largest and oldest grape vine in the world. It was planted over 250 years ago in 1768 by the Hampton Court Gardener, Lancelot "Capability" Brown. (Now, take a moment and imagine what you could accomplish if your nickname was Capability....!) The Great Vine is currently 13 feet around at the base and the longest branch is 120 feet, putting the puny grape vines in Iowa to shame.

But what is most amazing about The Great Vine is not how old it is, or how big it is. The amazing thing is how it has grown. The Victorians believed the best way to grow plants was to put them in glass houses. So they enclosed the Vine inside a wooden and glass building. But as the Great Vine grew, it became so entwined around the wooden structure that the only way forward was to build another structure over top of the whole thing. There have been five or six greenhouses built one-on-top of the other on that same spot over the past 250 years. Wooden beams and Vine branches essentially became one living thing, and you couldn't tell where the wood ended and the vine began.

Early on, only royalty could enjoy the fruit from The Great Vine. Queen Victoria had the grapes sent to which ever castle she called home that week. Later, the harvested grapes were sent to nearby towns and sold to locals - a sort of snobbish Victorian Farmers' Market. Eventually, the harvest made its way to halfway houses, hospitals, and other places where people who needed to feel a little like royalty could enjoy some blessing.

At Hampton Court, the gardeners who tend to the Vine wrap the "dead" (or at least the no longer productive parts) of the Vine in a protective film. That's because the nourishment for the newer parts of the Vine still flows through what looks to be dead. But the fruit no longer comes from those dead places. The gardeners manage the old so the new can thrive. Sometimes in the church, we keep hoping for the dead stuff to bear fruit. Maybe we need to wrap some things up: honor what has served us well, recognize that those traditions are what allowed for growth in the past, preserve them, but focus our attention on the new - where the fruit is.

And if you ever go to London, you'll see that the Vine is never satisfied with staying hemmed in. Everything the Vine needed was right there, inside the greenhouse: sunshine, fertilizer, caring hands, good soil. But that was never enough for the Vine. It would not allow itself to be walled off from the world. Instead, it absorbed what was trying to enclose it and went outward.

*Vine continued next page...*

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Wednesday, July 3**, 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, JULY 14**

...Vine continued

**Scripture** Colossians 1: 1-14  
**Sermon** "Live Lives Pleasing to God"  
**Second Service** VBS Celebration

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15 TBA

10:30 TBA

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Mary Ann Anderson

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15 Carl & Carol Jones

Rick & Kay Shrout

10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Ty Davis

Marilee Keim & Bev Williamson

Lynn Abernathy

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Diane Douglas

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of Kelsi (Shrout) & Jordan Green's anniversary by Rick & Kay Shrout.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

No CW&W

VBS Celebration Sunday

**YOUNG DISCIPLES**

On Break

**AV SUPPORT TEAM**

Technical Director - Chuck Herber

Assistant Director - Michael Smith

Sound - Michael Smith &

Malcolm Landreth

Stream Operator - Michael Smith

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (the Great Vine of the Disciples of Christ) will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 20 - 24. People from across the United States, Canada, and beyond will gather to immerse themselves in worship that lifts the soul, stories that touch the heart, mission that makes a difference, conversation and business that stretch your mind, messages that call you to action, and connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than any local congregation. The church is a Great Vine that will not be hemmed in. I hope that you will pray for those who attend the General Assembly, that you will read about it on the Disciples.org website, and that you will know that the Great Vine of the DOC is still alive and growing because you are alive and growing.

**SANCTUARY RENOVATION SCHEDULED**

The renovations of the chancel floor, lobby (Narthex), and new carpeting throughout will start on Monday, July 15. Completion date will be in four to six weeks around Labor Day. Sunday services will be held in McMains Hall using folding chairs and a temporary stage. Please be patient during this upheaval...the final result will be worth the inconvenience.

Bob Senn,

Renovation Committee Chair

**SUMMER BLAST FOR THE AQUARIUS CLUB**

Summer Blast is Pizza, Bingo, and gift sacks which make this annual party special for the Aquarius Club (mentally challenged adults), and we need your help. You can participate by donating Bingo prizes like hats (adult), small toiletry items from hotels, pens, small note pads, costume jewelry, socks, books, men's belts, playing cards, etc. We need enough to fill 60 + bags. A large basket for your donations is located in the Commons area. Thank you in advance for your continuing support in serving our community.

Jill Hall and Community Outreach

ATTENDANCE	6/30	7/7
First Service Worship	NA	39
Sunday School	12	35
Combined Service	97	NA
Second Service Worship	NA	76
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	6	3
Total Worship	103	118

**CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?** Stream it live at:  
<https://www.twitch.tv/fchsv>

### **FOOD PANTRY REMINDER**

Please remember to bring a non-perishable item, or several, for the food cart outside of McMains Hall on a Sunday. Pick your own Sunday and make it a habit. Let's help keep the pantry full at the Huntsville Assistance Program.

Thank you, Community Outreach Committee

First Christian Church owns four cemetery lots in Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, AL 35811). These lots are available at market value, either in pairs or four total. We are offering these to our members and friends before advertising through various outlets. If you would like more information, please contact [Leeboles@aol.com](mailto:Leeboles@aol.com)

Lee Boles, Trustee.



**2019 - 2021 Mission Families listed on the following pages**

## Mission Family #1

Convener-Mary Ann Anderson

### Elders

Lee Boles (Duffy)  
Merrill  
Lisa Fitzgerald (Frank)  
Monty Love (Dinah)

### Deacons

Frank Fitzgerald (Lisa)  
Allison Landreth (Malcolm)

Nancy Adams  
John & Cindy Allen  
Paul & Patti Allen  
Abby & Joe  
Sandra Austin  
Chris Barr  
AJ  
Michael & Stephanie Beutjer  
Matthew, Braly  
Marie Bittle  
Raynor & Madeline Boles  
Ken & Georgia Bramlett  
Allison Brown  
Matthew  
Carolyn Brown  
Justin & Paige Brown  
Shelby  
Glenn Carr  
Chris & Debra Chandler  
Don & Karen Coburn  
Gene Cowart  
Josie Craig  
Tom & Annelle Craig  
Jodi Crocket  
Cameron & Diane Douglas  
Elizabeth Earnest  
Elaine French  
Don Hartup

Chuck Herber  
Judith Hodge  
Chuck & Penny Jackman  
Alli, Amberly  
Bill Johnson  
Carl & Carol Jones  
Chase Jones  
Carrie Lewis  
Patrick Love  
Emil & Glenda Luft  
Marilyn Martin  
Stephen McCreary  
Leonard Patterson  
Doris Paul  
John Robinson  
Flora Salisbury  
Bob & Nina Senn  
Michael Smith  
Bob & Mary Spencer  
Mark Spencer  
Velma Strong  
Jo Thomason  
Ann Thompson  
Chase Volinski  
Chip & Pat Volinski  
Ron & Jackie Volinski  
Alice Watson  
Cowan & Sandra Wilson

**Mission Family #2**  
**Convener-Nancy Waites**

**Elders**

Justin Givens (Michelle)  
Sadie, Jonah  
Gayle Herber  
Margaret J. Vann

**Deacons**

Sharifa Love-Rutledge (Brandon Rutledge)  
Mary Ann Williams

Jon & Holly Ahlbin  
James, Jacob  
Michelle Ammons  
Serenity, C.W.  
Mike & Patsy Ammons  
Grace Burks  
Bobby & Velma Chaney  
Dick Christiansen  
Bob & Marie Cloyd  
Andrew Collazzi  
Dave Crocket  
Charles & Pam Gilliland  
Jordan & Kelsi Green  
Susan Griffin  
Jennifer Hayes  
Ethan Radke  
JB Hodge  
Bud & Linda Hooker  
Don & Marilee Jones  
Aaron & Mary Langevin  
Letha Lanier  
Phyllis Leonard  
Trey  
Jan Mackenzie  
Ken & Susan Mackenzie  
Rachael, Katherine  
Roshen Mathew & Winnie Roy  
Jayden, Eyan

Chet & Louise May  
Lee McCombs  
Brenda Mc Dowell  
Dave & Patty McMahan  
Melissa  
Bobby & Janis Moore  
Phyllis Nicaise  
Eddie & Valerie Parks  
Jim & Jean Patterson  
Greg & Brenda Perkins  
Mark & Diane Pettitt  
Rodger & Mona Qualls  
Morgan & Wendy Qualls  
Sonja, Evelyn  
Betty Rogers  
Jeff & Sue Seward  
Bill & Janet Sholes  
Kathryn ShROUT  
Rick & Kay ShROUT  
Lloyd Unfred & Cathy Rosol  
Jennifer Vann  
Joseph & Anne Vann  
Tom Vann  
Laura West  
Rob Williams  
McKenzie  
Mike & Mary Beth Wright  
Jena Louise, Noah

### Mission Family #3

Convener-Lynn Abernathy (Bob)

#### Elders

Pam Clasgens (Brad)  
Christy & Jane  
Mike Lash (Becky)  
Nancy Woodall

#### Deacons

Ruth Lackey  
Carrie German-Love (Kyle)  
Kyle Love (Carrie)

Mary Anderson  
Peggy Arnston  
Bryan Bergeron  
Kayla Boyd  
Joe & Christa Brockway  
Jacob, Sarah Grace  
David & Carolyn Browning  
Debbie Brunhoeber  
Harold Buie  
Lucy Burdine  
James & Beverly Cannon  
Kitty Durham  
Delores Edgeton  
Ted & Irmgard Elston  
Betty Estes  
Melanie Felker  
Shelby Gillroy  
Christine Gordon  
Nathan, Jasmine  
Elaine Jordan  
Marilee Keim  
Scott & Ginny Kennedy  
Geordie  
Doris Kennemer  
Miles Kleinert  
Jamison Kraus  
Kathleen Lawyer  
Robert & Kathleen Luzar

Shirley McCann  
Chris McDonald  
Ann McNaron  
Dorothy Montgomery  
Wana Orr  
Areesa Patrick  
Raylen, Peyton  
Meghan Phelps  
Bobby Reese  
Ed & Quilla Rice  
Petra Sue Richey  
Bobbye Riggs  
Brian & Cynthia Roberts  
Ella, Anna  
Gaylia Roberts  
David & Christi Sexton  
Cara, Evan  
Peggy Sington  
Nancy Stayman  
Mark & Sheryl Stiles  
Shawna Stiles  
David Suggs  
Terry Sullivan  
Dale & Susan Thomas  
Ashley  
Gary & Vickie Wright  
David

**Mission Family #4**

**Convener**-Anita Wood (Randy)

**Elders**

Sabrina Beckman  
Andy Herron (Caroline)  
    Miranda  
Kerry Williams (Phil)

**Deacons**

Troy Davis (Linda)  
    Ty, Troy Jr., Tré, Iman  
Caroline Herron (Andy)  
    Miranda  
Roberta Shivers

Matt & Karen Ball  
    Stan  
Hayley Beckman  
Kelsey Beckman  
Mack & Melinda Blackman  
Pat Blackman  
Campbell & Donna Blair  
Alan & Melanie Brennaman  
    Lindsey, Shea  
Cindy Burger  
Frank & Gwen Camaratta  
Lauren Carter  
    Muriel  
Judy Chaney  
Pat Crouse  
Jim & Barbara Daniel  
Henry & Vonda Dihm  
Ace & Cravens Gibbs  
Grad & Joan Goodson  
John & Jill Hall  
Chris Haury  
Glen & Laura Hiller  
    Alice, Isobel  
Laura Hurst  
Tricia Hutchinson  
    Tyler  
Matt & Jania Johnson  
    Brady, Ashlyn, Macey  
John & Billie Jordan  
Ken Jordan  
Walt Keller  
Gray & Theresa Killough  
    Lauren

Tom & Gail Killough  
Betty Landrith  
Nathan & Clara Reed Lee  
James Mason  
JoAnn Matthews  
Arloe & Linda Mayne  
Dayna McGee  
    Mariah Martin  
Joyce Neighbors  
Muriel Pinkham  
Mary Propes  
Daniel & Ashley Rogers  
    Greyson, Riley, Beau  
Roger & Jackie Sameck  
Art & Jackie Sanford  
    Brian  
Christopher Sanford  
Bess Smith  
Tereca Spain  
Max & Susan Sulkowski  
    Bailey Coggin  
Belinda Thomas  
Larry Thomason  
Steve Tidwell  
Greg & Kristen Tumminello  
    Vince, Cecilia  
Zack & Melissa Turner  
    Lucas, Adler  
Don & Beverly Williamson  
Anthony & Sally Wilson  
    Reynolds, Walker