



# The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 30

July 22, 2019

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

## LISTENING TO GOD

If someone comes to my home, even if they are uninvited, you can be sure that by the time their visit is over we will have offered them something to drink or something to eat. This comes from both of my parents. When they were living in Wilson, NC, my mother worked as the Chaplain at Barton College (then Atlantic Christian College) and my father was a local pastor. Since the College was close to their hearts, they would often contact people to visit the campus to give lectures, concerts, etc. Wilson was a small town at the time, and it did not have a great hotel, so often these people would come and stay at our home.

That is how I got to know a violinist from Japan who introduced us to Sushi and flautist who also played the penny whistle, much to my delight. Authors, professors, musicians, poets, ministers, all stayed at my home and usually shared their insights over our dinner table or in the evening. My father knew how to throw a dinner party and would cook up a storm while my mother was a wonderful hostess always keeping the conversation going. They understood hospitality.

Sometimes we forget how important hospitality is to the church. It was certainly important in Jesus' time where a visitor to a home would need water to clean themselves and to drink, and might need food after a long and harrowing journey. Yet in the story of his visit to Mary and Martha's home, Jesus seems to reverse course on the idea of the importance of hospitality. Jesus did the unthinkable in that time: he permitted a woman to sit at a rabbi's feet. We do not understand how shocking this was; it overturned religious convention. Jesus is still unravelling the primal commandment to love God and love neighbor. First, he picks up love of neighbor with the Good Samaritan story. Now, he dovetails back to the love of God.

Strangely enough I sympathize with Martha and her plea. It is probably around the Feast of Tabernacles; so she was not only doing what is right, but also her religious duty, providing a festive, complex meal. Quite rightly, she complains that Mary is doing nothing, and we know how she feels. It is frustrating to feel as if you are the only one doing what is needed. Cleaning, cooking, preparing, making sure everyone's needs are met can actually be a lonely task because you are concentrating on everyone else and not on yourself. Martha needed help, she needed support and

However, Jesus wants more from us than work. Jesus wants us to be with him, to listen to him, to adore him, to sit at his feet and wonder at the love and joy that are provided. How can we understand what God wants of us if we refuse to listen or if we are so busy doing what we think is important that we forget our relationship with God and with each other is of primary importance?

*Listening continued next page...*

**DUE TO A CONSTRUCTION DELAY, Sunday services will continue in the Sanctuary until further notice.**

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 25**, 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 28**

...Listening continued

**Scripture** Luke 11: 1-13  
**Sermon** "Persistently Praying"

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15 Monty Love & Lee Boles  
10:30 Pam Clasgens & Justin Givens

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Delores Edgeton

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15 Frank Fitzgerald & Margaret J. Vann  
Nancy Waites & Anita Wood  
10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Glenda Luft  
Troy Davis, Sr. & Tré Davis  
Roberta Shivers

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Chuck & Penny Jackman

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of the  
General Assembly.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*Story Time*  
Holly Ahlbin, Lee Boles & Abby 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

Robert Caro, the Pulitzer-prize winning writer, wrote in his memoir of being a biographer, "Working," that the key to research is leaving long, awkward silences during interviews. People will eventually fill the void. In the same way we need to listen to God, to relish the silence with Jesus. Instead of saying, "Lord, hear our prayer," we should respond, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!"

Mary listened; the Greek is *ekouen*, the imperfect tense, implying "she kept listening." We need to keep listening to God and to one another, treating all people with reverence and respect; because it is in listening that relationships are built, new ideas are shared, and God's vision is found.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

**JULY CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Now that the Mission Family assignments have been made, we will soon be publishing a new church directory. But, before we do, we need to have some information updates from some of you **if you have moved or changed phone numbers or changed your "family" email address since November.** We can publish a single phone number or two numbers (signify who has which number) and a single email address if you wish to have a published email address. **Please call 256-880-0150 or email publisher@fcc-hsv.org if you need to change your directory information by Friday, July 26.**

**SUMMER BLAST FOR THE AQUARIUS CLUB**

Summer Blast is on July 29. Time is running out to collect Bingo prizes for the party. We still need your help in collecting hats, small toiletry items, pens, small note pads, costume jewelry, socks, books, flashlights, men's belts, cards, etc. Cash donations will always be appreciated. If you wish to volunteer the day of the event to help players with Bingo or to serve pizza, please call Jill at 256 883-1193.

Jill Hall and Community Outreach

| ATTENDANCE             | 7/14 | 7/21 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| First Service Worship  | 39   | 26   |
| Sunday School          | 29   | 13   |
| Second Service Worship | 87   | 66   |
| Young Disciples        | NA   | NA   |
| Children's Church      | NA   | 5    |
| Total Worship          | 126  | 97   |

### SANCTUARY RENOVATION UPDATE

The renovations in the sanctuary and narthex (lobby) have been delayed. We will let you know as soon as possible when the renovations will begin. Once the renovations begin, Sunday services will be held in McMains Hall using folding chairs and a temporary stage. The renovations are expected to take four to six weeks. Please be patient during this upheaval...the final result will be worth the inconvenience.

Bob Senn,  
Renovation Chair



**MISSION FAMILY 4** will have our first Social by attending Concerts in the Park at Big Springs Park on 29 July. Meet at 6p under the giant Flag on Williams Ave near the flame memorial and look for the MF#4 sign so we can sit together. Food trucks are available or you can bring your own food and drinks along with lawn chairs. If you don't see our sign, call me 256-527-8059. Anita Wood, Convener

**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

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

