

First Christian Church  
800 Beech Street  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter  
March 2022

Non-Profit Organization  
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March 2022

T.J. Long, Jr, Pastor  
June Gibbs, Moderator  
Teresa Moore, Vice Moderator



Jacob Okerlund, Secretary  
Nina Gregory, Choir Director &  
Organist

office@fcec.org  
fcec.org  
(252) 338-6506

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH 2022**

Sundays	Sunday Morning Worship	Sanctuary & Facebook Live	11:00 am
Sundays	Sunday School in Fellowship Classroom		10:10 am
Mondays	Open Gym/Basketball		6:30 pm
Mondays	Weight Watchers		5:30 pm
Tuesdays	Weight Watchers		12:30 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study		5:45 pm
Wednesdays	Choir Rehearsal		7:00 pm
3/2	Ash Wednesday Service		12:00 pm
3/3	Christian Women's Fellowship		12:00 pm
3/6	Worship Committee Meeting		9:30 am
3/7	Board Meeting		7:00 pm
3/8	Card Ministry		12:00 pm
	Prayer Gathering		6:00 pm
3/17	Christian Men's Fellowship		6:30 pm
3/22	Card Ministry		12:00 pm
	Prayer Gathering		6:00 pm
3/26	Camp Caroline Cleanup Day		

fcec.org  
facebook.com/FCCDOC



Dear FCC Family,

February was such a great month! We spent 5 weeks in a series called "All Things New" in order to compare our vision statement (what we want to be) to our current reality (where we are) and where to go from here. Although sobering at times, I have definitely seen and felt a tangible rejuvenation throughout the congregation since! We saw the most in attendance for February's board meeting, the Card Ministry, CMF and even to the District Assembly in the eight months I've been here. Some committees have started to meet monthly and are focusing on what's next for their ministries, too.

March will have numerous opportunities for all of us to not only worship but to get involved in the community and region. We will have a noon Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd (with a free lunch!) and on the 26th we are getting a group together to head down to Camp Caroline for the annual Spring Work Day where we will plant trees, clean HVACs, cabins and buildings as well as some grounds maintenance. If you have never been or haven't been in a while, the camp has undergone a TON of upgrades since 2016! We'll be taking the church van down to Arapahoe and will even cover your lunch! Please consider coming with us to serve a vital ministry within our region. If you have kids (or grandkids) that would like to see the camp and consider going for the summer, this would be a great time to go!

Lastly, we are gearing up for a baptism service within the next month! We will, as a church, be taking a "dive" into a message series on baptism starting March 6th with a baptism service to be planned at its conclusion. This will give an opportunity for any other baptism candidates to partake in a short curriculum, with a mentor of their choice, leading up to a late-March or early April baptism. Reminder: we are still compiling every member's baptism dates. Even if you were baptized here at FCC, please email us (office@fcec.org) with the date in which you were baptized! We look to honor you at each 5-year increment and have that be a reminder that baptism is always available to new believers or to those who may consider joining our church.

I'm getting ecstatic just talking about all this stuff. Would you join me? I promise the excitement and joy of the Lord will rub off on you. To God be the glory!

Your pastor & friend,

- TJ Long, Jr.





# THANK YOU!

## First Christian Church's 2022 Collection

raised:

### \$211.50 and 94 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 13, 2022

Alison Reese  
Executive Director  
Souper Bowl of Caring

As you can see from the certificate issued to our congregation by the Souper Bowl, we have once again joined other churches, schools, businesses, and civic groups in tackling hunger by sharing our collections with hunger-relief organizations. The Food Bank of the Albemarle receives 100% of our Souper Bowl canned food and monetary gifts collected on Super Bowl Sunday each year. If you would like to follow the history and the amounts collected each year, Souper Bowl's website is TackleHunger.org. An amazing statistic found there is that since 1990 when this event was first started, over \$170 million has been reported donated to food charities across the fifty states. On the site, you can put our church's name and location in the search bar and see our information. We have participated 11 years and have donated \$2,600, 876 pounds of food, and 35 items. We are already registered for 2023! Outreach thanks all for the wonderful support.

#### Memorials

##### In Memory of:

Mary Woble  
Mary Woble  
Mary Woble  
Mary Woble  
Mary Woble  
Mary Woble  
Curt Rosa

##### Given By:

Portia & Julian Copeland  
Jean Etheridge  
Carlton & Louise Berry  
E. Spencer  
Murlene Williams  
Jack Fraker  
Julian & Portia Copeland

and the trees along the property line on the east side. There is a leak in a classroom on the second floor of the social hall. Travis James will contact the roofers to see if they can fix. Property repaired the ceiling tile outside the office, more to do.

Memorial: Gail Hobbs reported 3 memorials for January.

Deaconesses: The prefilled communion cups will be ordered by Jean Etheridge.

CMF: JP Rich reported their next meeting will be February 17th. The Albemarle District combined meeting will be February 22nd in Oak City. The Van will leave at 5pm.

CWF: Portia Copland reported that on February 3rd meeting was held in the Education Building of the Church. There were 6 ladies present. We opened with the CWF prayer. The treasurer report was given. We discussed Lunch for Week of Compassion that will be on February 27th after worship in the fellowship hall. Portia Copeland and Tom Sawyer will make vegetable beef soup; Gail Hobbs will bring crackers; Nancy Tatum will bring peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; and Melodi Robbins will make egg salad for sandwiches. After some discussion, Nancy will purchase a new Just Women's Bible Study for CWF. The cost will be \$15 each copy. She will order 12. Our 8th lesson in the Just Women's Bible Study was entitled "He Opened My Eyes—Seeing God's Healing Work". We closed with the CWF Benediction. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 3rd at noon. All ladies are invited to the meetings.

Unfinished Business: June Gibbs reminded everyone the Regional Assembly will be held in Charlotte, NC. It will be held the last Saturday in April. Those who want to go must turn their names in.

New Business: Tom Sawyer made a motion to hire RW Powell Electrical Service for electrical work mentioned in Tom's report. The estimate is for \$1206.51. Not included in the estimate is replacing the lights in the gym. \$1200 for six, if more are needed, a maximum of \$3500. Motion seconded by Gene Scott. Motion carried. Pastor Long asked if it was alright for him to take a one-day planning retreat, in town, on Friday. Approved. Pastor Long discussed the name domain change to be fcecity.com. The particulars are addressed on his new business handout. Pam Anderson made a motion that we purchase the standardized 10 email addresses for \$25 monthly to add the freed domain change. Seconded by Gene Scott. Motion carried. Pastor Long discussed the financial state of our Regional Ministry. Each region is asking each congregation

for a \$1500 one-time donation for this. Nancy Tatum made a motion to do this. Norma James seconded it. Motion carried.

Minister's Report: This minister's report will cover things accomplished in the month of January. During that time, I visited Cynda Bunch 3 times in conjunction with many emails, texts and phone calls to several other members and attenders. All 4 of my references have been received by the NC Commission on Ministry. My next meeting with the Commission will take place next month, date TBD. Ordination is possible by summer. In partnership with the Outreach Committee, we had 7 participants in our MLK Community Cleanup Day. We collected four 90-gallon trash bags of litter from the neighborhood to the north of our property. We will be planning another cleanup day in the spring. I attended a worship committee meeting on January 13 (which will now will be on the first Sunday of every month at 9:30am). I also attended and participated in a region-wide clergy zoom meeting that was hosted by the regional office on January 18 and I also went to the annual ECSU Clergy's Breakfast on Monday, January 31. We have been in the vision series called, "All Things New" for the past 4 weeks. I am preparing messages/service elements for the upcoming Week of Compassion Sundays and Ash Wednesday. We may be collaborating with Christ Episcopal Church and their Rector, Daniel Cenci for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. More updates to follow. My primary goal for February will be to complete the new Administrative Assistant job description. Upon completion, I will meet with Gene Scott (Stewardship) and Portia Copeland (Treasurer) to confirm the financial feasibility of the changes. I anticipate bringing the entire job description for the board's perusal and further discussion next month. Other goals for this month is to help execute a successful Super Bowl party, Souper Bowl of Caring food drive, revamping the "welcome table" in the parlor as well as creating new gift bags for visitors and promotional material to distribute. I would welcome any recommendations of potential oversights and additions to my list of priorities. Thank you for all of your support towards me and my family!

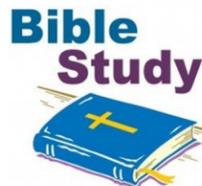
The chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Portia Copeland made said motion. Tom Sawyer seconded it. Motion carried. Betty Sawyer closed with prayer.

### Bible Study on Wednesday Nights

5:45-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall

Our goal is to read through the whole Bible by reading 6 chapters a week together. No lectures, no curriculum! We will use discussion questions to delve into those chapters and learn from each other!

Come learn about this new format!



### Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, March 3rd, in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to bring a bag lunch to eat during our Bible study if you are able to join us during your lunch hour. All ladies of the church are welcome.

### Christian Men's Fellowship

Christian Men's Fellowship has resumed the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm! The next meeting is March 17th at 6:30 pm. Dinner is provided!

### Open Gym Basketball

Come out every Monday (except for the first Monday of each month) to participate in open gym basketball from 6:30 to 8:30 pm! There will be games of 21, half court or full court for all ages!



### Church Text Messaging Group

We have started using a texting service to send text messages to members to stay updated on church events and information! We have automatically added everyone who has given us their cell number in the directory, but if you would like to be added please contact the church office. There is an option to opt out if you would like!



### Regional Assembly

The Christian Church in North Carolina will hold a one day Regional Assembly at SouthPark Christian Church, Charlotte, NC on Saturday April 23, 2022. The theme of this assembly will be "Vital Conversations: Hearing Other's Stories!" We should have 3 voting Delegates and 3 alternate Delegates attend this meeting. If you would like to serve as a delegate representing Elizabeth City at this gathering please let the moderator, June Gibbs, or the minister know as soon as possible (Before February 22nd) so that arrangements can be made for this trip.

### CAMP CAROLINE

Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center  
Owned and Operated  
By  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
In North Carolina

### Camp Caroline Cleanup Day

We will be taking the church van down to Camp Caroline on Saturday March 26th to help with their yearly cleanup day! Please email membership@fceec.org or speak with Portia Copeland if you are interested in helping!

### Ash Wednesday Service & Lunch

The season of Lent is one of the two most important seasons of the Church year. Whereas Advent leads up to the birth of Christ, Lent marks the final days of Jesus' life and ministry. The season lasts for forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday (the day before Easter) excluding Sundays. Lent is known for visual or conspicuous expressions of penitence, humility, or sorrow. This is because of the association made between the crucifixion of Christ and human sinfulness. One example of such expression is the placing of ashes on the foreheads of believers on Ash Wednesday. Throughout the time of Lent, sacrificial choices are emphasized. Such choices may include dietary changes, giving to the poor, or relinquishing personal luxuries. With the coming of Easter, which is technically beyond

Lent, there is a shift from remorse to joy. Jesus, who died for our sins, is triumphant over sin. God's people are granted a reprieve and a new covenant. **Our Ash Wednesday Service will be March 2nd at 12 pm. There will be Sub Sandwiches available that you can take to go.**



### Superbowl Party 2022!



### Finance Report January thru February 20th

If anyone has any questions, please call Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447.

January, 2022	
Income:	
Budget	(1/2) \$ 2,535.00
	(1/9) 1,799.00
	(1/16) 1,170.00
	(1/23) 0.00
	(1/30) 2,074.00
Total	\$ 7,578.00
Designated:	
	(1/2) \$ 10.00
	(1/9) 10.00
	(1/16) 254.95
	(1/23) 0.00
	(1/30) 85.00
Total	\$ 359.95
Credit Cards:	\$ 584.90
Total Income:	\$ 8,522.85
Expenses:	
Payroll:	\$ 7,804.53
Guest Minister	527.68
Angel Tree/Outreach	500.00

(Donate Stoll family)	
W of Comp	7,500.00
Christmas	84.95
Reg Expen	2,568.19
Total	\$18,985.35
February 1-21, 2022	
Income:	
Budget	(2/6) \$ 3,393.00
	(2/13) 1,439.00
	(2/20) 841.00
Total	\$ 5,673.00
Designated:	
	(2/6) \$ 158.96
	(2/13) 626.50
	(2/20) 110.00
Total	\$ 895.46
Credit Card:	\$ 342.45
Total Income:	\$ 6,801.91
Expenses:	
Payroll:	\$ 4,056.61
Food Bank	211.50
(Souper Bowl)	
Reg. Expense	2,699.93
Total	\$ 6,968.04