

First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
January 2022

Non-Profit Organization
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January 2023

T.J. Long, Jr, Pastor
Teresa Moore, Moderator
Tom Sawyer Vice Moderator



Devin Harrell, Administrative Assistant
Nina Gregory, Choir Director &
Organist

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2023

Sundays	Sunday Morning Worship in Sanctuary & Facebook Live	11:00 am
Sundays	Sunday School in Fellowship Classroom	10:10 am
Mondays	Weight Watchers	5:30 pm
Mondays	Open Gym (No open gym January 2)	6:00 pm
Tuesdays	Weight Watchers	12:30 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Discussion	5:45 pm
Wednesdays	Choir Rehearsal (No rehearsal January 4)	7:00 pm
January 2	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
January 3	Prayer Gathering	6:00 pm
January 5	Christian Women's Fellowship	Noon
January 6	Undecorate the Church / Epiphany	6:00 pm
January 8	Worship Committee meeting	12:00 pm
January 10	Card Ministry	12:00 pm
January 16	MLK community Clean-up Day	3—5 pm
January 17	Prayer Gathering	6:00 pm
January 19	Christian Men's Fellowship	6:30 pm
January 24	Card Ministry	12:00 pm
January 31	Prayer Gathering	6:00 pm

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Dear FCC Family,

...and just like that 2022 is gone. 2023 is here! I hope this newsletter finds you recounting the blessings of the year gone by. Yes, there were a lot of difficulties in 2022. Many times we have to live with the same mindset that Joseph had in Genesis 50:20. Many things are meant for our downfall, for evil, but our God can and will turn it for our good.

We have a lot of great plans to reach our community in 2023 and we would love to have each and every one of you involved. Our first Outreach event of the year will be a short community cleanup on Martin Luther King, Jr. day, January 16. We are going to show our love and care for our neighborhood by amassing as much trash from the streets as we can in a few hours.

Of course, many people take the beginning of the year as a time to craft resolutions and rejoice for a clean slate. One of the ways I'm going to be different in 2023, personally, is with my finances. I want to give more and not live with any sliver of a scarcity mindset. I would humbly encourage you to consider financially partnering with the ministries at First Christian Church with a consistent tithe. Our church is a great steward of funds and appreciates every gift and offering from every individually equally. They are tremendous blessings!

So, here's to 2023! I pray it is a year of growth for you and yours and for First Christian Church! Let us focus even more on growing, worshipping, serving and doing life together!

Your Pastor & friend,
- T.J. Long, Jr.



Board Report December 2022

The official board of First Christian Church met in the fellowship classroom on December 5th at 1p.m. June Gibbs, moderator called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. There were 20 members present.

Treasurers Report: Portia Copeland reported that \$70,000 was spent on the roof including all the expenses, inside and out; including steeple removal and lighting

Worship Committee: Worship has been using the children of the church in the celebrations of December beginning with the Hanging of the Greens in which they did the whole service. We thank Ava and TJ Long, Zoey James, Emily Gordon, and Lilly Lassiter for their participation so far. The second candle of peace was presented by Emily and Jacqueline Gordon. There are two more candles to be presented and they will be lit by Zoey James and Ryland Lassiter. Looking forward, the choir cantata will be on the 11th and the children's play will be on the 18th. We must thank so many for getting the children prepared for all they have done, parents for rehearsing them and participating, Norma James for helping with the parts they presented. The Christ candle is lit at the 11 o'clock Christmas Eve service and at this point we do not expect to have children participating at that hour. The Eve service will of course have communion; we will need to have communion prepared but we will not need deacons or elders. Through the generosity of four of our committee members we have added advent banners to our decorations for the season. Worship would like the record to show that we have appreciated June who has helped for three years, through cold and broken ankle. We will resume worship committee meetings during the month of January, date to be announced later.

Education Committee: Norma James is continuing to prepare the play featuring the children on December 18th.

Outreach Committee: Last month through the generosity of our church members and those that attend our church, we were able to donate 19 coats to the annual coat drive, we also turned in 19 shoe boxes to Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. First Christian Church also raised \$1,000.00 and 131 pounds of food to help the local Food Bank during the holiday season.

Stewardship Committee: No report

Membership Committee: Portia Copeland reported the Christmas party will be Saturday, December 10th

Property Committee: Ice machine has broken down again and it is at the point that making more repairs would be a waste. If we want a new machine, then we might consider a smaller machine that matches our need. The ones we have makes more than we use when it works. A larger regulator was put on the gas line in hopes of fixing an issue of one of the ovens going out while both ovens are being used at the same time. A new keypad was installed in the foyer at the cost of about \$300. Today Johns Brothers Security placed the delay on the keypad to keep the alarm going off upon entry. The custodian has requested a new duster attachment for the broom used for the gym floor. The Lassiter Group dismantled the steeple and gave \$450.00 to the church.

Memorial Committee: Gail Hobbs reported there were 6 memorials for November.

Elders: The elders met twice this past month in keeping with our duty to receive issues of concern from the congregation and to make the minister aware of those concerns. The elders met first to discuss the issues to determine if they needed attention. After consideration we met with the minister make him aware of those issues. By the time we met with the minister some of those concerns had been addressed.

Deacons: No deacons are needed on Christmas Eve.

Deaconesses: A training session was held for the elders, deacons, and deaconesses who will be coming on in 2023. Communion will continue as it is now, the offering will still be put in the wooden box in the foyer.

January Birthdays

4 Ann Merriman
Jeff Lassiter
6 Pam Cobb
Micah Cartwright
10 Stormi Leann Balance
K.J. Pipkin
11 Wanda McMullen
13 Sophia Martel
Kenneth Hall
14 Hayley Hopkins
15 Ashley Lee Guajardo
Brandy Lee Vines
22 Tommy Lee
23 Kris Meads
24 Bobbie Boynton
Deanne Boyce
26 Travis James
29 Darrell Riggs
31 Virgil Parrish

January Anniversaries

1 J.W. & Hope Van Dalsum
20 Don & Pam Keaton
30 Ryan & Beverly Blocker



Upcoming Events

Dec.25-Jan. 5 Christmas Tide
Jan. 6 Epiphany / Undecorate The Church
Jan. 16 MLK Cleanup Day, 3—5 pm
Feb. 5 & 12 Souper Bowl of Caring
Feb 12 Super Bowl Party, 6 pm
Feb 19-26 Week of Compassion
Feb 22 Ash Wednesday
Mar 11 All-You-Can-Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
Mar 24 & 25 Yard and Breakfast Sale

Memorials

In Memory of

Jimmy Scott
Jimmy Scott
Louis & Isolan Anderson

Given

R. O. Givens Sign Inc.,
Sander's Company Inc.
Anonymous

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are still needed to help with Children's Church on Sunday mornings during the Worship Service. If you are able to help, please contact Norma James or you can email her at education@fccec.org

Finance Report November thru December 18th
If anyone has any questions, please call Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447.

November		December 1-18th	
Budget Income	\$ 8,008.52	Budget Income	\$ 9,467.00
Designated	\$ 2,829.00	Designated	\$ 1,145.00
Total Income	\$10,837.52	Total	\$10,612.00
Expenses:	\$27,482.19	Expenses	\$18,145.33
Attendance:		Attendance:	
November	= avg 58	December (3 Sundays)	= avg 57
Children	= avg 5	Children	= avg 6

Altar Flowers

- 1st** The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Grover and Mrs. Gentry Copeland and in memory of Mr. Rufus and Mrs. Virginia White by Mr. & Mrs. Julian Copeland
- The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eugene Williams by his wife, Murlene Williams
- 8th** The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the January 13th birthday of Brenda Harris Clark by her forever friend, Bonnie Arnold. Brenda went home to be with the Lord on January 17, 2006.
- The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Doris and Sunny Warden by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- 15th** The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving honor of Ella's brother and sisters, W. L. "Buddy" Onley, Diane Onley, and Sheila Norfleet by Ella and Ken Pipkin family
- 27th** The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ferrell by Betty and Tom Sawyer, Jennifer and Lisa.
- 29th** The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving honor of Darrell Riggs on the occasion of his birthday by his wife Sandra and family.
- The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving honor of Dustin and Erin Riggs on the occasion of their February birthday by Darrell and Sandra Riggs.

CMF: J. P. Rich reported hoping attendance will improve. The next meeting is December 15th

CWF: Portia Copeland reported their scheduled meeting was postponed due to illness, it will be rescheduled.

Unfinished Business: None

New business: The issue of the ice maker is tabled until further pricing of a new one is done. June Gibbs Thanked everyone for all their help. She was thanked for all her hand work. Devin Harrell will be taking an unpaid vacation in December.

Ministers report: This minister's report covers things accomplished in the month of November. I made four visits with Vivian Ashe, Martha Bundy, Jimmy Scott as well as John & Patrice Scott. I've also had multiple contacts with Velma Cartwright and Bonnie Arnold this month. On Thursday, November 3rd I attended a Stewardship Committee meeting where it was decided to give our current secretary, Devin Harrell, another 60-day probationary period extension. During that period, I am charged to keep notes on his performance. Starting Tuesday, December 6th, Devin will be completing a daily productivity log to help me keep him accountable to his daily schedule and to assess his performance.

Within our Prayer Gatherings, we have completed two chapters of our new book "How to Pray." We have 7 regulars who attend our Prayer Gatherings. I warmly welcome and encourage our leaders to come learn the basics of prayer in this insightful little book. Our Bible Discussion group is currently reading through 1 Chronicles and Psalms. This month in Open Gym we had inconsistent turnouts that ranged from none to 10 in attendance.

On Sunday, November 6th, our greeting team started serving again with 11 volunteers with 2-3 greeters serving each Sunday.

For the month of November, we had a total of 16 new visitors and 4 connect cards turned in! I have contacted each family regarding their interests of our church. (This total does not count the visitors from the children's Halloween event.)

I was not scheduled for this month's meeting for the NC Commission on Ministry and my next meeting with the Commission should be mid-January (not scheduled yet) with a probable timetable for ordination in March.

I completed free online training called, "Who Moved My Pulpit" on Monday, November 14th. I officiated the graveside service of Jimmy Scott on Friday, November 18th.

Regarding the goals I set last month, I have now selected Scripture from the lectionary for services all the way until January 22 so that I can begin planning and writing sermons in advance. I have also read and planned when it comes to the book for the Prayer Gathering and Bible chapters for Bible Discussion nights. I am a week ahead in both of those areas as of now. The church's Christmas Dinner & White Elephant Gift exchange has been promoted and planned for Saturday, December 10 and we have secured Randy & Gwen Williams' services to go caroling in our neighborhood again on Wednesday, December 21st.

My goals for December are simple: 1) To assist the Stewardship Committee in monitoring Devin for the remainder of his probationary period, 2) to continue to forge ahead with planning ahead for the weeks ahead and, finally, 3) to start creating an events calendar for 2023.

As always, I'm open to all feedback and am appreciative of your service to First Christian Church!

Your Pastor & Friend,
 - T.J. Long, Jr.

There being no further business Portia Copeland made a motion to adjourn seconded by Gail Hobbs.

Our pastor dismissed us in prayer.

From the Worship Committee....

We want to thank all the young people who participated in the Advent celebration. You were are so very good and the committee appreciates all the studying you did to perform your parts. However, we hope that by participating you have come to know more about the Advent season. The focus is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to remind us of the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in His second Advent.

Worship also wants to thank the Education Committee for all the assistance with Advent and with the direction of the kids Christmas play. Norma James works tirelessly with the kids to make sure they have a Sunday School and that they have the opportunity to learn the scriptures and stories of the Bible. Each year, we look forward to their Christmas play and it just gets better and better. Thank you!

Bible Discussion on Wednesday Nights

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

This month we will dive into 1 Chronicles, 2 Samuel & Psalms. We are reading through the whole Bible by reading 6 chapters a week together. No lectures, no curriculum! We discuss and question various aspects of each chapter. We laugh some and learn from each other! Come and join us!



Christian Women's Fellowship



The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet at noon on Thursday, January 5th. You can bring finger foods and we will celebrate the new year. We will continue our Just Women Bible Study. Feel free to come and join us.

Christian Men's Fellowship

Christian Men's Fellowship meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm! The next meeting is January 19th at 6:30 pm. Dinner is provided!



Open Gym Basketball



Come out Mondays January 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th, to participate in open gym basketball from 6:00 to 7:30 pm! There will be cornhole, foosball, games of 21, half court or full court for all ages!

Church Text Messaging Group

We have 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 a 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!



ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

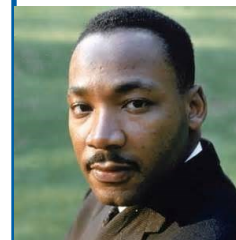
Mark your calendar. The Christian Men's Fellowship will be having an All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes and Sausage on Saturday, March 11 from 7 am until 10 am at \$8 each. You can get advance tickets from any of the CMF men or the Church office. Come out and enjoy the great fellowship and food. Invite your neighbors, friends, co-workers and strangers you meet.



Yard and Breakfast Sale – March 24-25, 2023

The church is planning a yard sale for Friday and Saturday, March 24 & March 25, 2023. Save and box up your items that you would like to donate. It would be a great help if you price them for us. Items will be accepted two weeks prior to the sale. Volunteers will be needed to up set-up and work that Friday and Saturday. In addition, we will have breakfast items – sausage biscuits; cheese biscuits; coffee and apple jacks for sale. Looking forward to receiving your items and your help.

MLK Community Cleanup Day



Everyone is invited on Monday, January 16th from 3—5 pm as we walk the surrounding neighborhoods of the church and pickup trash in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The Church will provide trash bags, buckets, wagons and grabbers to complete the work. We will meet at the church parking lot and will clean a 3-block radius.

Serving in January

Elder:	June Gibbs	Michelle Hopkins
Deacons:	Tammy Sawyer	Travis James
	Jessica James	Sandra Riggs
	Sophia Martel	
Deaconesses:	Peggy Humphries	Jean Etheridge
Greeters:		
Jan 1	Roberta Williamson, Gene & Mary Ann Scott	
Jan 8	Justin & Ashley James, Meg Bennett	
Jan 15	Jeff & Teresa Moore, June Gibbs	
Jan 22	Jean Etheridge, Peggy Humphries, Meg Bennett	
Jan 29	June Gibbs, Murlene Williams	