

First Christian Church  
800 Beech Street  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter  
**NOVEMBER 2023**

Non-Profit Organization  
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**Email: [office@fccec.org](mailto:office@fccec.org) Facebook.com/FCCDOC Phone: (252) 338-6506**

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

Rana White, Admin. Assistant  
Nina Gregory, Choir Director  
& Organist

## All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

**Saturday, November 4th  
7:00 am—10:00 am**

**\$8.00/person**

**Purchase advance tickets from any member of the Christian  
Men's Fellowship. Proceeds to Men's Fellowship projects.**



Dear FCC Family,

I wanted to share with you a devotion within the book "My Utmost for His Highest" entitled "Individual Discouragement and Personal Growth." Since I have preached on the life of Moses a lot lately, I thought this would not only tie in with my preaching but I'm sure it will reach several of you on a deeper level.

"Moses saw the oppression of his people and felt certain that he was the one to deliver them, and in the righteous indignation of his own spirit he started to right their wrongs. After he launched his first strike for God and for what was right, God allowed Moses to be driven into empty discouragement, seeing him into the desert to feed sheep for 40 years! At the end of that God appeared to Moses and said to him, 'bring My people out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go?' (Exodus 3:10-11) In the beginning Moses had realized that he was the one to deliver the people, but he had to be trained and disciplined by God first. He was right in his individual perspective, but he was not the person for the work until he had learned true fellowship and oneness with God.

We may have the vision of God and a very clear understanding of what God wants, and yet when we start to do it, there comes to us something equivalent to Moses' 40 years in the wilderness. It's as if God had ignored the entire thing, and when we are thoroughly discouraged, God comes back and revives His call to us. And then we begin to tremble and say, 'Who am I that I should go?' We must learn that God's great stride is summed up in these words, "I AM WHO I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:14) We must also learn that our individual effort for God shows nothing but disrespect for Him. Our individuality is to be rendered radiant through a personal relationship with God, so that He may be 'well pleased.' (Matthew 3:17) We are focused on the right individual perspective of things; we have the vision and can say, 'I know this is what God wants me to do.' But we have not yet learned to get into God's stride. If you are going through a time of discouragement, there is a time of great personal growth ahead." - Oswald Chambers.

If you know my story, you'll know that this hit me like a spiritual ton of bricks. However, at the same time, it was very encouraging. I pray that whether this spoke to you in the same way or not, that you feel encouragement from being in God's will, even in times of discouragement.

Your Pastor & Friend,

*Rev. T.J. Long, Jr.*



To unsubscribe, please email [office@fccec.org](mailto:office@fccec.org) or call 252-338-6506 and request that your name be removed.

# OCTOBER 2023 BOARD REPORT

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on October 2, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. Teresa Moore, Moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Our pastor and 16 board members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Portia Copeland provided the September check register as well as account balances as of September 23rd. All insurances for the year, 9/2023-9/2024, were paid in September to include worker's comp., auto, liability, and building. (\$9300) During new business the board heard information to help determine whether or not to purchase wind/ hail insurance.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** The committee has not met since the September 10 meeting. Next one is planned for October 8 when we will be working on the upcoming calendar for Advent and other special celebrations.

- All Saints Day, Sunday, Nov. 5
- Veteran's Day will be held on Sunday, Nov. 12
- Thanksgiving Sunday either Nov. 19 or Nov. 26
- Season of Advent Nov. 26 or Dec. 3 : First Sunday (Hope), Second Sunday (Peace), Third Sunday (Joy), Fourth (Love)
- Christ Candle lighting will be discussed at next Worship Committee meeting.
- New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31

A brochure was made for our Homecoming celebration, and we hope that people enjoyed it as well as find it useful when talking with someone not familiar with our church and denomination. *Betty Sawyer, Worship Chairperson*

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Ashley James has led Children's Church most of September. There were three of our youngest in the nursery on Homecoming Sunday. Education will be sponsoring a Hayride/ Food/ Storytime at the Lassiter home on Sunday, October 29th at 5:00 P.M. Please R.S.V.P. to Norma James. Attendees may wear Halloween costumes, and our pastor will be telling ghost stories. *Norma James, Education Chairperson*

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Portia thanked everyone for the great help with Homecoming festivities. Approximately 70-75 people ate following the worship service. There will be a membership meeting in October to plan for the church Christmas dinner.

*Portia Copeland, Committee Chairperson*

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** S.O.U.L.S. was served on Saturday, Sept. 30. Twenty-one people were served butterbeans, fruit cocktail, biscuits and ham. A thanks to J.P. Rich for preparing the ham.

*Melodi Robbins, Outreach Chairperson*

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Stewardship Committee met to prepare the new budget for 2024. A few entries were adjusted either up or down, but for the most part, the new proposed budget has little change from the 2023 evolution. The only exception to this is the line item for insurance. The property insurance has increased due to the separation of wind and hail coverage with a concurrent, significant increase in our yearly premium. We raised the budget item for insurance \$6,000 which has turned out to be not nearly enough. To cover our property just for wind and hail damage will cost us roughly \$15,000/year in addition to the roughly \$9,000 we have already paid. The full board needs to discuss this and decide whether to pay the increased amount or just do without wind/hail coverage and take our chances.

At the last board meeting, it was decided to make Nick Crouse an offer as our children's ministry. Before that offer was made, he withdrew from consideration.

*Gene Scott, Committee Chairman*

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** Made the following purchases: two LED fixtures (portico); one light fixture (office entrance); LED 100 watt equivalent light bulbs for sanctuary; fire ant bait and Roundup spray Alarm system needs attention. Service representatives are due to come on Oct. 3. Powder post beetle inspection soon. Descaling of ice machine soon, Travis James replaced burned-out bulbs in the sanctuary and J.P. Rich installed the portico light fixture.

*Tom Sawyer, Committee Chairman*

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** No memorials in September

*Gail Hobbs, Committee Chairperson*

**ELDERS:** June Gibbs, head elder, reported that a meeting was held with our minister to discuss some concerns.

**DEACONS:** All is going well.

*Sandra Riggs, Head Deacon*

**DEACONESSES:** When Mary Ann Scott, head deaconess, recently went to purchase communion bread, a different type was available.

**CMF:** Thirteen men attended the Sept. 21st meeting. The devotion was given by Claudio Divino. The next meeting is

## November Birthdays

1	Jackie Gordon	23	Terry Cahoon
2	Rehanna Van Dalsum	24	Melissa Copeland
	Blakely Nicole James		Brenda Warden
4	Joanne Neal		Taylor James
8	Jason Pipkin	27	Christine Ambrose
	Cole Gibbs	30	Ricky Manning
10	James Flowers		Jodie Castelow
11	Michelle Godfrey		
	Jimmy Ray Watts		
13	Teresa Moore		
14	Tommy James		
15	Zachary C. Hardison		
18	Bethany Waltz		
21	Amanda Crain		

## November Anniversaries

9	Danny & Sue Beals
17	Frank & Paula Wall
28	Tommy & Norma James



## Serving in November

**Elder:** Paula Crawford, Joe Lassiter

**Deacons:** Nancy Tatum, Jeff Bush, Betty Sawyer, Teresa Lassiter, Jeff Lassiter

**Deaconesses:** Martha Best, Melodi Robbins

**Greeters:**

Nov 5 Roberta Williamson,  
Gene & Mary Ann Scott

Nov 12 Justin & Ashley James

Nov 19 Jean Etheridge, June Gibbs

Nov 26 Jean Etheridge, Peggy Humphries

**Acolytes:**

Nov 5 Ryland Lassiter & Zoey James

Nov 12 Ava Long & Jessie Spivey

Nov 19 Lilly Darling & Emily Gordon

Nov 26 Allie & Morgan Stevens

## Altar Flowers

*Nov 5* — The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Dallas Gallop, by his wife Stella Gallop

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph & Irene Morse, by Mary & Douglas Pritchard.

*Nov 12* — The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Mr. Walter Williams, by his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Frank O. Williams, and in memory of Julia Williams and Frank E. Williams, by Murlene Williams.

*Nov 19* — The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. W.E. "Mutt" Scott and Mr. & Mrs. James E. White, Sr. by the Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Scott family and the Nina Gregory family.

*Nov 26* — The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Gracie White by her children, Tom & Martha White, and Millie Sweetenham.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nathan & Mary White and Kenneth & Ann Hall, by Mary Sue Moore, Marlene Whitehurst and the Buddy Hall family.

*If you are interested in sponsoring the altar flowers, contact Mrs. Ella Pipkin at 252-335-4245. Flowers are sponsored at least one month in advance in most cases.*

## In Loving Memory...

No memorials were received in October.

*If you are interested in making a memorial donation, contact the Memorial Committee Chairperson, Gail Hobbs.*

# 2023 Homecoming Celebration

We had a great time coming together as a family on Sunday, Oct 1st. For those of you who could not make it, here are a few photos for you to enjoy. If you are in these photos and would like a copy emailed to you, simply send a request to office@fccec.org and we'll email back it to you.



## Christmas Dinner, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm

Meat Loaf & Chicken in mushroom sauce dinner with rice and gravy, green beans, glazed carrots and rolls with coffee, tea and water. Dessert will be cake. There will be no gift exchange. Everyone is asked to bring a small gift for the residents of Waterbrooke in Elizabeth City or Brookdale Assisted Living. Suggestions will be provided in the upcoming bulletins. Signup sheets for dinner will be in the lobby or call/text the church office, 252-338-6506. Contact Portia Copeland with questions or to volunteer to help.

on Thursday, Oct. 19th. A Pancake/ Sausage Breakfast is scheduled for Nov. 4, 2023. *J.P. Rich, CMF President*

**CWF:** Next meeting is October 5th at noon.  
*Portia Copeland, CWF President*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The final copy of the newly-revised constitution/by-laws was presented to the board for approval. Sandra Riggs moved to accept it and Gene Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Constitution as well as the proposed 2024 budget and the slate of officers will now be presented to the congregation for approval. The yearly meeting and voting will be held on October 29th immediately following worship.

There will be two babies dedicated this fall.

**NEW BUSINESS:** During this portion of the board meeting there was an extended discussion about whether or not to purchase the wind /hail insurance (due to the expense) as mentioned in both the treasurer's report and Gene's stewardship report to the board. A vote by the board was in favor of purchasing it since that particular insurance covers severe damage to the building and contents caused by thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes. The board then voted to include an increase to the budget so as to cover the hail/wind insurance costs. There was a suggestion that this matter be included in a cover letter which will go out to the congregation before the congregational meeting on Sunday, Oct. 29.

Our church has Bibles which are not being used due to the very small print. There was a discussion about donating them. Nancy Tatum volunteered to contact our denomination's Week of Compassion.

Nancy Tatum read a message from Patsy Pierce thanking our church for recognizing Mrs. Emerald White, her aunt, at our Homecoming worship service.

There was an announcement to the board about Paula Crawford being hospitalized yesterday.

**MINISTER'S REPORT:** This minister's report covers things accomplished in the month of Sept. I made nine pastoral visits this past month.

We started Open Gym back after a seven-week hiatus with seven teens in attendance. We have averaged ten in attendance to watch season three of The Chosen. Our Bible Discussion group is currently reading through the books of 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles and Jonah.

I will participate in a Blue Card Training coming up on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> in order to volunteer with the

Pasquotank County Chapter of Kairos. The kickoff for the Pasquotank Ministers Council for Education is also scheduled on that evening. The 300<sup>th</sup> District Assembly/CMF meeting will also occur on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> at First Christian Church Washington. There will be no business session but an extended time of worship. I will also be giving Rana White, our Administrative Assistant, her six-month performance review this month.

Each of the first three weekends of this month I'll be out of the Albemarle area (20-year college reunion, the Regional Assembly in Wilson and a wedding in Siler City, NC on the 21st). I have humbly asked that elders be on-call to help with any crisis visitations that may need to be made on Friday or Saturday of those weekends. I will not miss any of the Sundays, of course.

Here are my goals for October:

- I will be ratcheting up my responsibilities with the Technology Subcommittee for the upcoming Regional Assembly to ensure that all audio/visual/printed media are taken care of
- I will focus more time on visitation with the goal of visiting 12 or more people and
- I will plan a baby dedication for the 29<sup>th</sup> as well as a baptism in the near future.

I'm open to all feedback and I greatly appreciate all that you all do in service to First Christian Church!

*Your Pastor & Friend, Rev. T.J. Long, Jr.*


There being no further business, Portia Copeland moved to adjourn, seconded by Melodi Robbins. Rev. Long dismissed us with prayer.

NT/erw

### Finance Report SEPTEMBER 2023

If you have questions, please call  
Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447

<b>Monthly Budget</b>	\$ 15,312
Budget Income	\$ 11,581
<b>Budget Shortage</b>	<b>\$ 3,731</b>
Expenses:	\$ 26,431
Designated Income	\$ 440
Designated Bills:	\$ 1,417
<b>Attendance:</b>	
Sept (4 Sundays)	53 avg
Children	6 avg
<b>Attendance:</b>	
The Chosen	8 avg
Open Gym: <i>Closed in September</i>	



# SOUND OF FREEDOM

ANGEL STUDIOS

## Movie Night

Tuesday | November 14 | 6:00 pm

This movie is rated PG-13. According to the Kids-In-Mind.com evaluation, it includes many scenes of implied sex acts, discussions of sex trafficking, gunfire exchanges and acts of violence.

# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>NEAAT Gymnasium Schedule:</b> Mondays –3:30pm—5:00 pm Tuesday-Friday 4:00 pm-7:00 pm			<i>1</i> 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	<i>2</i> 12:00 pm CWF	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <b>7:00-10:00am</b> <b>AYCE Pancake &amp; Sausage Breakfast</b> <b>\$8/person</b>
<i>5</i> <b>Baby Dedication Service</b> <i>All Saints Day Recognition</i> <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>6</i> 7:00 pm Board Meeting	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	<i>9</i> 5:30 pm –9:00 pm Social Hall Reserved <i>(Republican Party)</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> <b>Thanksgiving Offering</b> <i>Veterans Day Recognition</i> <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>13</i> 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	<i>14</i> 12:00 pm Card Ministry <b>6:00 pm MOVIE NIGHT!</b>	<i>15</i> 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	<i>16</i> 6:30pm CMF	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> <b>Thanksgiving Offering</b> <b>Baby Dedication Service</b> <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>20</i> 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	<i>21</i> <i>Newsletter Submission Deadline</i>	<i>22</i> 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	<i>23</i> <b>Thanksgiving (office closed)</b>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> <i>26th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>27</i> 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	<i>28</i> 12:00 pm Card Ministry	<i>29</i> 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	<i>30</i> Social Hall Reserved <i>(Food Delivery/Sorting)</i>	<b>SAVE THE DATE!</b> <b>Christmas Dinner</b> <b>Sat, Dec. 9   6:00 pm</b> More info coming soon...	



## Good News! Great Joy!

Pack a box. Impact a life.

It's time to pack shoeboxes for kids in need of Jesus' love and this holiday season. Pick up as many boxes as you like (in the foyer) and return them by Sunday, November 12. Contact Melodi Robbins or any member of the Outreach Committee with questions.



## Wednesday Night Bible Discussion

### 5:45-6:45pm Fellowship Hall

We are reading through the whole Bible by reading six chapters a week. We discuss and question various aspects of each chapter. No lectures, no curriculum! We laugh some and learn from each other! Come and join us! A list of scriptures for each week can be found in the lobby or on our website at [fccc.org](http://fccc.org).

### Sample of One Week's Schedule

**Wednesday, Nov 1 – Isaiah 9**  
**Thursday, November 2 – Isaiah 10**  
**Friday, November 3 – Isaiah 11**  
**Saturday, November 4 – Isaiah 12**  
**Sunday, November 5 – Day off**  
**Monday, November 6 – Micah 1**  
**Tuesday, November 7 – Micah 2**  
**Wednesday, Nov 8 – Micah 3**



# World Vision

PROUD SUPPORTER

We are so proud of our Vacation Bible School kids this year! Thank you, kids, for your generous support of World Vision.

You raised  
\$297.61!  
 That's pretty amazing!




It's almost time to start ordering your Christmas Poinsettias. We have heard from our supplier that the price is now \$11.50 each.

We will make another announcement when we are ready to start receiving orders.

Contact Jean Etheridge with questions.