

First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
February 2022

Non-Profit Organization
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February 2023

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



Portia Copeland, Acting Admin Assistant
Nina Gregory, Choir Director &
Organist

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

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 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 February 6th)	6:00 pm
Tuesdays	Weight Watchers	12:30 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Discussion	5:45 pm
Wednesdays	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
February 2	Christian Women's Fellowship	noon
February 5	Souper Bowl of Caring—Food collection	11:00 am
February 6	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
February 7	Republican Party—Education Bldg	7:00 pm
February 12	Souper Bowl of Caring—Food collection	11:00 am
February 12	Super Bowl party—bring finger foods	6:00 pm
February 14	Card Ministry	12:00 pm
February 14	Prayer Gathering	6:00 pm
February 16	Christian Men's Fellowship	6:30 pm
February 21	Fat Tuesday—Pancake and Sausage Supper	6:00 pm
February 22	Ash Wednesday Service with light lunch	noon
February 22	Ash Wednesday—Chain of Pray Vigil	1-5 pm
February 26	Week of Compassion Soup Lunch	noon
February 28	Card Ministry	12:00 pm
February 28	Prayer Gathering	6:00 pm

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Dear FCC Family,

I pray this newsletter finds you and yours doing well this winter! With the Christmas season behind us and a new year already in full swing, we are already gearing up for a busy February. If you're a football fan, this is the best time of the year. If you're a fan of giving back, we have you covered, too!

On February 5th and 12th, we will be participating in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring drive where we will invite everyone to give non-perishables or monetary donations to the Food Bank of the Albemarle. (Side note: A monetary donation is preferred simply because the Food Bank can provide 3 meals for one person at their cost of \$1!) After we share food with the "least of these" we will get together on Sunday night the 12th to share appetizers and snacks while watching the Super Bowl in the Fellowship Hall! We will have door prizes to give away, too!

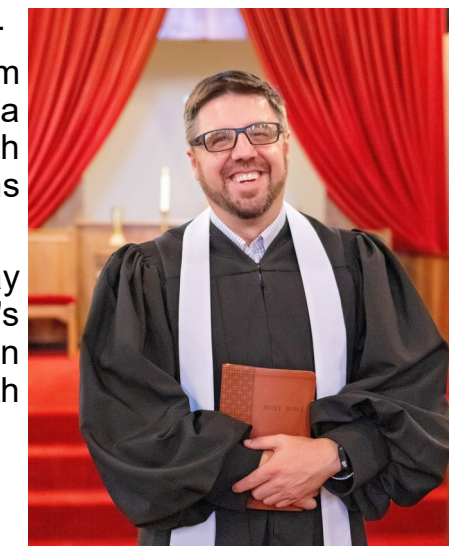
Towards the end of the month, as we transition to our annual Week of Compassion, we will all have the opportunity to support national emergency outreaches and third-world community stabilization projects through our denomination.

To top off February, we will begin a 3-week baptism orientation course on February 26th. We already have a couple who are taking the next step in their faith with baptism and welcome any others who may have questions or want to make their faith public and official.

As you can see, we have much more to offer than Sunday services. I didn't even mention the women's and men's ministries, our Prayer Gatherings and Bible Discussion nights. We invite any who read this newsletter to join with us as we "grow, worship, serve and do life together."

Your Pastor & friend,

- T.J. Long, Jr.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email office@fcec.org or call 252-338-6506 and request that your name be removed.

JANUARY, 2023 BOARD REPORT

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on January 2, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. Teresa Moore, moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Our pastor and 10 board members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Portia Copeland provided the December check register as well as account balances as of December 31, 2022. In addition, all members were provided a sheet showing our 2022 Budget vs actual money taken in during the year. Special notice was taken of this information and a discussion followed as the board discussed the amount of monthly income needed to meet our budget.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee is appreciative of the help provided during the Advent season and the participation of the children and their parents. Our next meeting will be on January 8th to begin planning for the Easter season. Betty Sawyer, Worship Chairperson

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: A Christmas dinner and party was held on December 10th. Estimated attendance was 55-60. The food was good and the fellowship was great. Membership is assisting with the Martin Luther King "Clean-Up Your Neighborhood Day." Volunteers are needed to carry a bucket and pick up trash in the church neighborhood on Monday, January 16th, from 3-5 pm. A Super Bowl fellowship is being planned for Sunday, February 12th, at 6 pm. Come join the fellowship, finger foods and enjoyment of watching the Super Bowl together. Portia Copeland, Chairperson of Membership

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: The Outreach Committee organized the meal and fed 22 people at S.O.U.L.S. on December 31, 2022. The committee and other volunteers will be assembling food backpacks for ECPPS school children on January 3, 2023 at 11:00 am. Melodi Robbins, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: No report

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Tom Sawyer, committee chairperson, had no new projects or repairs to report at this time.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Gail Hobbs, chairperson, reported three memorials given in the month of December.

ELDERS: JUNE GIBBS, elder representative, reported that the elders will meet with the pastor on January 5th.

DEACONS & DEACONESSES: No report

CMF: A reminder of the January 19th meeting was given by a CMF member. The dinner and fellowship will begin at 6:30 pm in the cookhouse. Another date to remember is the Men's Pancake Breakfast on the second Saturday of March.

CWF: Nancy has ordered the 2023 "Just Women" Bible study books. CWF did not meet in December due to the hostess being sick. Our next meeting will be on January 5th at noon in the Education Building. If you desire, women may bring finger foods. We will celebrate Christmas in January. All ladies are welcome. Submitted by Portia Copeland, President

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The men of the church are in discussion about replacing the ice machine.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom Sawyer made a motion, seconded by Gail Hobbs, that our constitution be amended in order that elders, deacons, or deaconesses may be bestowed the honor of "Emeritus" for their years of administrative and spiritual leadership at First Christian Church without having to retire from their active responsibilities. As it is written in the constitution now, that must happen in order for them to be honored in this way. The board was in agreement and voted to submit the proposed change to the congregation which would have to approve the change by a 2/3 majority during a called meeting. Tom will write the letter to be sent to the congregation.

February Birthdays

2 Ann Turner
Pastor Donald Waltz
3 Frank Albert
Clay Etheridge
4 Jeremy Lassiter
5 Gabrielle Anne Wall
6 Carlton Berry
7 Jodi Cobb
Malachi Cartwright
9 June Melvin
10 Tommy Copeland
Adley Weatherly
12 Debbie Pipkin Foster
Ken Pipkin
14 Justin James
15 Tabitha Simpson
Dustin Riggs
17 Caleb Gibbs
19 Phil Martel
21 Samantha Warden
22 Susan Beals
Erin Riggs
Jerad Carter

23 Morgan Stevens
25 Darian Meads
Michelle Wall
26 Kolton Stevens
Beverly Blocker
28 Frank Wall
Connie Gibbs
29 Kelly G. Mitchell



February Anniversaries

13 Bill & Dollie Summerour
15 Kevin & Christie Bray
16 Jeff & Teresa Lassiter

Serving in February

Elder:	Paula Crawford	Joe Lassiter
Deacons:	Nancy Tatum	Jeff Bush
	Betty Sawyer	Teresa Lassiter
	Jeff Lassiter	
Deaconesses:	Kathy Gray	Melodi Robbins
Greeters:	Feb 5	Roberta Williamson & Gene & Mary Ann Scott
	Feb 12	Justin & Ashley James & Meg Bennett
	Feb 19	Jeff & Teresa Moore & June Gibbs
	Feb 26	Jean Etheridge & Peggy Humphries & Meg Bennett

Memorials

In Memory of:

Jimmy Scott
Jimmy Scott
Garland Anderson

Given by:

Kevin & Wendy Brickhouse
Douglas & Kathryn Cartwright
Martha Bundy

Finance Report November thru January 15th
If anyone has any questions, please call Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447.

December		January 1-18th	
Budget Income	\$ 14,664.00	Budget Income	\$ 19,054.74
Designated	\$ <u>1,196.01</u>	Designated	\$ 8,451.00
Total	\$ 15,860.01	Total	\$ 27,505.74
Expenses	\$23,665.53	Expenses	\$ 5,759.56
Attendance:		Attendance	
December (4 Sundays)	= 53 avg	January (3 Sundays)	= 50 avg
Children	= 5avg	Children	= 6 avg

Year 2022

Budget Income = \$125,505.66 Total Budget Expenses = \$167,611.59

Income Shortage to meet budget expenses: \$ 42,105.93

The total of expenses does not include the funds expended for the roof replacement and extra cost related to that job (organ cleaning; steeple removed; electrical damage repairs). Thanks to the forethought of our membership in years past, the church has saving accounts that carried us through COVID, our extra expenses of a new roof and major repairs and extra needed to meet our regular expenses this year. God has blessed us.

Altar Flowers

- 5th** The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. "Mutt" Scott and Mr. & Mrs. James E. White Sr. by Nina Gregory & family and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Scott & family.
- 12th** The altar flowers are given in loving memory of H. Alvin Arnold on the occasion of his February 3rd birthday by his wife, Bonnie.

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Shelton E. "Poss" Bunch by his daughters, Bonnie, Carolyn and Cynda.

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of the birthday of our aunt, Juanita Flood Del Vecchio, by Judy McKenzie and Nancy Tatum.
- 19th** The altar flowers are given in loving memory of the birthday of Mrs. Selma Scott and in memory of Diane Flowers by Jimmy Flowers & family.
- 26th** .The altar flowers are given in loving memory of the birthday of "Mutti", Wilma Williams Flood, by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Hilda and Henry Schanding by Janet Oller and Michele Hopkins.

MINISTER'S REPORT: This minister's report covers things accomplished in the month of December. I made six visits with Pete & Kathy Gray, Murlene Williams, Vance & Deloris Meads and Vivian Ashe.

For two weeks in December (12/6-12/16), I supervised a completion of a daily productivity log for Devin, our church secretary. The log was helpful in knowing what tasks he's completing and how much time it takes to do such tasks. This week is his last week of his second 60-day probationary period; however, we will be discussing ways to maximize his efficiency. The Stewardship Committee will meet soon to decide whether to make Devin's position permanent or not.

Within our Prayer Gatherings, we have completed three chapters of our new book "How to Pray." I have also added our prayer list to our website. Our Bible Discussion group is currently reading through 1 Chronicles, 2 Samuel and the book of Psalms.

In the month of December, we had multiple visitors but only one connect card submitted. We had 50 in attendance for our Christmas Party, 19 people participated in our Christmas Caroling ride through our neighborhood and we had 32 in attendance on Christmas Eve.


I was not scheduled for this month's meeting for the NC Commission on Ministry; however, my next meeting with the commission is scheduled for January 10 where I will be presenting my final paper for review. An ordination service in March is still probable.

In regards to the goals I set last month, I have been assisting the Stewardship Committee in monitoring Devin's performance, use of time and assisting him with feedback (and will for another week) and time-saving strategies. I have also touched based with the Outreach, Education and Membership committees about scheduling regular meetings for 2023. Dates have not been set but I am confident that each committee has a leader that will effectively gather their teams in regular meetings.

Here are my goals for January: 1) To assist the Stewardship Committee in deciding whether to make Devin's position permanent or not, 2) instigate meetings with the three committees mentioned above and 3) to complete the final steps with the COM before ordination.

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

There being no further business, June Gibbs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Portia Copeland. Our pastor dismissed us in prayer.



Week of Compassion

The Week of Compassion will be February 19 thru 28 with Moments for Missions from Nancy Tatum or Melodi Robbins each Sunday to remind us of the importance of our Church work world-wide as well as at home. As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. A Week of Compassion flyer and contribution envelope are enclosed in this newsletter. Our congregation is well know for its generosity through the years. This event will end with our annual **Soup Lunch on Sunday, February 26th** immediately after worship. The soup will be provided by the Christian Women's Fellowship.

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.

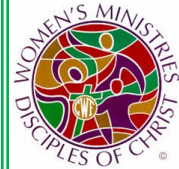
Bible Discussion on Wednesday Nights

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, February 2nd.** 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 February 16th at 6:30 pm. Dinner is provided!



Open Gym Basketball



Come out Mondays February 13th, 20th and 27th, 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!



Looking forward with Worship

The Church has had a busy January with the Martin Luther King day trash cleanup, the Week of Laity service and the Installation of the church officers for 2023. We are now looking forward to programs to come—Souper Bowl of Caring on February 5th and 12th to benefit the local food bank; Super Bowl party on February 12 at 6 pm with everyone bringing a light snack; Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at noon with a light lunch followed by a Disciples Prayer Vigil from 1-5 pm; and Week of Compassion, February 19th thru 26th with a soup lunch on the 26th.

SPECIAL event Fat Tuesday—a first for us this year, we will be celebrating Fat Tuesday on February 21st, the day before Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent. We will prepare for the sacrifice for Lent by filling ourselves with a pancake and sausage supper at 6 pm. Be sure to come out for the great fellowship.

More to come—In March there will be a Baptism class and service; April 2nd is Palm Sunday and the Choir will perform a cantata; April 6th is Maundy-Thursday service at 7 pm and April 9th is Easter Sunday service.

Souper Bowl of Caring!

What if everyone watching the Super Bowl on February 12th gave just one dollar to local charities? We would have a lot less food insecurity in our country! On **Sunday, February 5th and 12th**, our church will have baskets to collect cans of food and a kettle in which to place monetary donations. All of our contributions will be given to the Food Bank of the Albemarle and posted on the Souper Bowl of Caring website.



Super Bowl Party!



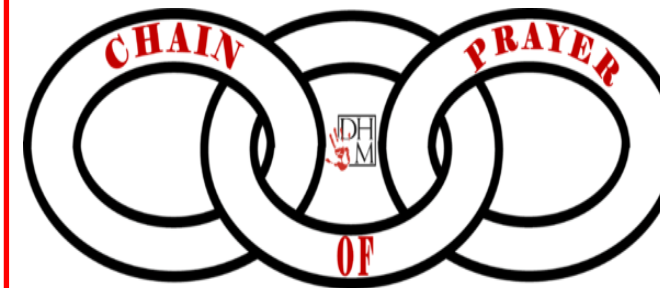
We will be having a **Super Bowl Party on February 12th at 6 pm.** Come out and enjoy the game and bring finger foods to share. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 22nd, 12pm

Come join us as we kick off the season of Lent with a short, intimate time of worship and a laying on of Ashes at our Ash Wednesday service. It's the best way to prepare your heart and spirit for Easter. We will offer all those in attendance a light lunch after the service that can be taken to go for those who need to return to work.



Ash Wednesday 2023 Chain of Prayer Vigil 1-5pm



The Chain of Prayer is a 24-hour Prayer Vigil that partners together DOC congregations nationwide to create a time of uninterrupted prayer to God from January 1 until Easter Sunday. We have committed to be a link of this chain and to pray over the mission and ministry of the DOC and our churches on Ash Wednesday from 1-5pm. Our sanctuary will be open and prayer guides will be provided.

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 Breakfast 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 from 8 am to 2 pm.** 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.