

First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
April 2023

Non-Profit Organization
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Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Postmaster: Address Correction Requested



April 2023

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



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

office@fccec.org
Facebook.com/FCCDOC
(252) 338-6506

Upcoming Events for April 2023

Sundays	Sunday Morning Worship in Sanctuary & Facebook Live	11:00 am
Sundays	Sunday School in Fellowship Classroom	10:10 am
Tuesday-Fri	Next Generation Academy—Basketball	5:00-9:00 pm
Saturday	Next Generation Academy—Basketball	6:00-10:00 am
Wednesdays	Bible Discussion	5:45 pm
Wednesdays	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
April 1	Ordination of T. J. Long Jr.	3:00 pm
April 2	Rev. Bishop Valerie Melvin, Guest Minister	11:00 am
April 3	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
April 4	Constitution Meeting	5:30 pm
April 4	Republican Meeting	6:00 pm
April 6	Maunday Thursday Service	7:00 pm
April 10-17	Minister vacation	—
April 11	Card Ministry	Noon
April 15	Camp Caroline Cleanup Day	6:30 am
April 16	“Redeemed—Songs of Praise” cantata	11:00 am
April 16	Spring Fling 2023	12:30-2:00 pm
April 20	Christian Men’s Fellowship	6:30 pm
April 23	Card Ministry & Worship Committee	Noon
April 25	Prayer Gathering	6:00 pm
April 27	Backpacking Sorting	6:00 pm
April 29	Regional Assembly in Charlotte, NC	8:45 am
April 29	SOULS feeding	5:30 pm
May 4	National Day of Prayer Service	8:00 am

Greetings FCC Family!

Before you know it, we'll be celebrating Easter, our Lord's resurrection along with our unquenchable hope and victory over death and the grave! I'm honored to tell you that nearly every committee within our church has met within the past month and all of them are putting together services, events and outreaches that are not only for us but are fantastic opportunities to invite friends, family and neighbors.

It all starts with the Worship Committee which has invited our Regional Minister, Bishop Valerie Melvin to preach on Palm Sunday, April 2nd! If you've never met this magnificent, magnetic minister, we hope you take the opportunity to do so right here in our own sanctuary! A few days later will be our Maunday Thursday service at 7:00 pm. My favorite service of the year! And, of course, Easter Sunday (April 9) is arguably the best day to invite people to church since the holiday still holds a deep religious connotation to most Americans.

The following Sunday (April 16), in addition to our choir's presentation of **Redeemed: Songs of His Sacrifice**, our Education Committee is sponsoring a Spring Fling immediately following the morning service! What is a Spring Fling, you ask? It's the perfect opportunity to stick around after service with your families for an Easter Egg Hunt, a petting zoo (featuring miniature farm animals and an alpaca!), cornhole and a food truck! Kids 12 and under eat free!

Lastly, we're going to give our congregation an opportunity to meet and greet the directors of Kids First, Inc (on April 23) and Kairos Prison ministry (on April 30) on consecutive Sundays in observance of our monthly emphasis of Child Abuse Prevention and Second Chance ministries awareness!

Feel excited yet? I didn't even mention of all the great things coming in May and June! I'll leave that for next time. Until then, I pray you all have a great April and a blessed Lenten season. It's my pleasure and honor to serve you as your minister.

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



March, 2023 Board Report

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on March 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Teresa Moore, moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Our pastor and 15 board members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Portia Copeland provided the February check register as well as account balances as of February 28, 2023.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee met on Sunday, March 5, 2023. We opened the meeting by sharing positive worship-related things we have noticed or recognized since our last meeting. We then discussed many upcoming important dates and events within our duties and responsibilities. Those events are:

- April 1 Ordination Service
- April 2 Palm Sunday
- April 6 Maundy Thursday
- April 9 Easter Sunday
- April 16 Cantata
- April 23 Recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month
- April 30 Recognition of Second Chance Month

Due to the illness of Betty Sawyer, worship chairperson, the minutes of the March 5th meeting were provided by Tammy Sawyer, committee member.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Jessica presented several needs of Children's Church including volunteers to serve on a Children's Ministry Team. Among the weekly needs she listed: donations of snacks; possible use of van to pick up children for church; check in/ check out "safe kid" check at all functions including our children; more promotions of activities on social media; information packets for parents; possible splitting of age groups; and many other ideas for increasing interest and attendance in our ministry for children. Plans are underway for an Unforgettable Easter Egg Hunt which will provide fun but, also, help children and families discover the message and hope of Easter.

Jessica James, Education Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Committee met on February 27th and planned the activities for the year. Yard sale with breakfast biscuits will be on Friday, March 24th and Saturday, March 25th. Volunteers are needed March 13th-19th, 10:00am—2:00pm to set up, sort and price items for sale. Volunteers are needed to work dur-

ing the sale on the 23rd and 24th from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. each day.

A reception will be held after the 3:00 P.M. ordination for our pastor on April 1st. Finger food will be provided along with coffee, tea, and water.

Portia Copeland, Membership Chairperson

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: The first two weeks in February we worked toward raising money and non-perishable food products for the yearly Souper Bowl of Caring. This year our church family donated \$350 and 50 pounds of food to our local Food Bank. Thank you to all who made a contribution.

Melodi Robbins, Outreach Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The Stewardship Committee met two times in February to review applications for our vacant administrative assistant position. During the first meeting we reviewed applications we had received during the job application period. After much discussion we eliminated four of the applications for various reasons and moved to schedule interviews with the remaining two. Subsequently, one of our top two applicants withdrew from consideration leaving us with one remaining to interview. Fortunately, the one remaining was everyone's top choice. At the second meeting, we interviewed Mrs. Rana White who had much of the job experience we were looking for. We decided to move forward with her application. We contacted three of her references and all of them praised her job performance. All stated that she was trustworthy, dependable, knowledgeable of computers, worked well with others, and a hard worker. Collectively, the committee decided to bring Mrs. White's application to the board for approval to extend a job offer to her.

Gene Scott, Stewardship Chairman

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: The front doors of the church were sanded, stained, and varnished for the price of \$600. Property wanted to get this work done before the ordination ceremony on April 1st.

The ice machine in the men's kitchen was purchased and installed in February. We now have ice ready for use. The men will try to install a water softener that will service the ice machine to help minimize the buildup of calcium which can lower the lifespan of the ice machine.

April Birthdays

1	Steve Gibbs	21	Tammy Melvin
	Jordan Lee		John Lee
4	Natalie Scott	23	Kelly Sanders Raper
6	Jenna Hatfield	24	Kathy Gray
7	Alden Parrish		F. C. Twiford
	Cameron Meads	25	Jessica Flowers
9	Jeff Moore	29	Caleb R. Bray
10	Jerry Crain, Sr.	30	Vance Meads
	Jimmy Flowers		Michelle Twiford
	Holly Watts		
11	Paul Miller		
12	Lee Parrish		
	Hope Van Dalsum		
16	Eugene Scott		
	Mary Ann Scott	6	Tommy & Melissa Copeland
17	Andrew Lee	9	Ben & Dottie Anderson
18	Rhonda Kaden	10	Keith & Tammy Sawyer
	Guy Webb	11	Teresa & Jeff Moore
	Ray Raby	20	Randy & Gwen Williams
	Brittany Lassiter	23	Phil & Michelle Wall

April Anniversaries

6	Tommy & Melissa Copeland
9	Ben & Dottie Anderson
10	Keith & Tammy Sawyer
11	Teresa & Jeff Moore
20	Randy & Gwen Williams
23	Phil & Michelle Wall



Serving in April

Elder:	June Gibbs	Michelle Hopkins
Deacons:	Tammy Sawyer Jessica James Teresa Moore	Travis James Sophia Martel
Deaconesses:	Peggy Humphries	Jean Etheridge
Greeters:	Apr 2	Roberta Williamson, Gene & Mary Ann Scott
	Apr 9	Justin & Ashley James, Meg Bennett
	Apr 16	Jeff & Teresa Moore, June Gibbs
	Apr 23	Jean Etheridge & Peggy Humphries, Meg Bennett
	Apr 30	June Gibbs & Murlene Williams
Acolytes:	Apr 2	Ava Long & Asher Long
	Apr 9	Ryland Lassiter & Zoey James
	Apr 16	Lilly Lassiter & Emily Gordon
	Apr 23	Ryland Lassiter & Zoey James
	Apr 30	Allie Stevens & Morgan Stevens

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

Finance Report February—March 19th
If you have questions, please call Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447.

February		March 1-19th	
Budget Income	\$ 11,941.64	Budget Income	\$ 8,694.50
Designated	\$ <u>4,366.00</u>	Designated	\$ <u>950.03</u>
Total	\$ 16,307.64	Total	\$ 9,644.53
Expenses	\$ 15,972.24	Expenses	\$12,124.38
Attendance		Attendance	
February (4 Sundays)	= 50 avg	March (3 Sundays)	= 47 avg
Children	= 8 avg	Children	= 7 avg



EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING
Sunday April 2 and 9, 2023

We rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news. General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through so many ways. Go to disciplesmissionfund.org/give to give today or use the special offering envelope that will be provided on both Palm and Easter Sunday.

Altar Flowers

2nd—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Tommy & Melissa Copeland, on their 22nd Wedding Anniversary.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Geneva Lewis, by her daughter, Melodi Robbins.

9th—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Keith & Tammy Sawyer, on their 13th Wedding Anniversary.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Tommy's mother on the occasion of her birthday by Tommy & Melissa Copeland and family.

16th—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Beals, Joey Oller, and Henry & Hilda Schanding, by Stella Gallop.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William M. Norris, by Sandra & Darrell Riggs.

23rd—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Jessica Flowers on the occasion of her birthday, by her granddaddy, Jimmy Flowers.

30th—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Grover & Mrs. Gentry Copeland, and in memory of Mr. Rufus & Mrs. Virginia White by Mr. & Mrs. Julian Copeland.

Thank You!

Christian Men's Fellowship would like to thank all those who helped and supported us. During our March Sausage & Pancake Breakfast, the meal, attendance, and fellowship were outstanding. The proceeds will go toward a water conditioning unit for the new ice machine and to get the cook house freezer up and running.

A Garage Sale and Breakfast Sale was held on March 24th & 25th. The grand total of donations for both sales on both days is

\$2,287.65!

Funds will be credited to general fund to support the budget. Thanks to all the people who donated items for the sale. A special thanks to the women and men that came various days to setup, sort and price items and then worked each day of the sale! Without everyone's help this would not have been a success.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation held its public meeting for their clean transportation plans in the gymnasium. The Republican Party will be using the social hall on March 16th, 6:00 P.M. There will be no conflict between the use of the gym for either the pancake breakfast or the yard sale.

Please contact property with any suggestions for items that need to be taken care of prior to the ordination on April 1st.
Tom Sawyer, Property Chairman

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: There were no memorial gifts given in February.

Gail Hobbs, Memorial Chairperson

ELDERS: June Gibbs, head elder, reported that all is running smoothly at this time.

DEACONS: No report

DEACONESSES: No report

CMF: J. P. Rich reported that the spring Pancake/ Sausage Breakfast will take place on March 11th. The next meeting of CMF is on Thursday, March 16th.

CWF/Disciples Women's Ministry: CWF met on March 2nd at noon in the Fellowship Hall with 10 ladies present. Volunteers are needed for the Yard/ Breakfast Sale. Nancy Tatum led a lesson from our new "Just Women" Bible study entitled: "God, Where Are You & Why Is This Happening?" All ladies are welcome to attend our monthly meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Gene Scott, stewardship chairman, moved to accept Rana White as the new administrative assistant. The motion was seconded by Tom Sawyer.

MINISTER'S REPORT: This report covers things accomplished in the month of February.

I attended a Worship Committee meeting on the 12th where we finalized plans for the upcoming ordination service as well as plans for Week of Compassion. I attended a CMF meeting on the 16th with 10 total in attendance. I attended a Stewardship Committee meeting on the 27th where it was the consensus decision to offer the Administrative Assistant position to Rana White, if approved by the board. I attended a Membership Committee meeting on the 28th where we planned two future

Friends & Family nights in May and August as well as a fundraiser in November.

We have seen a steady growth in Open Gym. In February we had an average of 18 students and young adults present (ages 14 to 25). Our Bible Discussion group is currently reading through 1 Chronicles, 2 Samuel and the book of Psalms.

Within our Prayer Gatherings, we have completed eight chapters of the book "How to Pray." We had 9 participants in our Chain of Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday with 30 in attendance at the service.

We had 16 in attendance for our Super Bowl party on Sunday evening, February 12th in the Fellowship Hall.

Over the past two weeks, I have been in communication with the Regional Minister, in conjunction with the Worship Committee to make arrangement for my ordination service on Saturday, April 1st. Meg Bennett created the invitations and just over 80 were sent out on March 3rd. Bishop Valerie Melvin will be presiding over the ordination, while Rev. Karen Kelly will be the host pastor, Pastor Gorden Dove will be the guest speaker and we will have the ECSU Gospel Choir perform an anthem during the service with a reception to follow.

As an added bonus, Bishop Melvin will be staying in Elizabeth City overnight and will preach the Word on Sunday, April 2nd.

Here are my goals for March: 1) To complete the planning of the ordination service in conjunction with the Regional Minister, host pastor and Worship Committee, 2) plan and execute Lent services, including a Maundy Thursday service, 3) to assist in the execution of the Spring Yard Sale and 4) plan meetings with the Outreach & Education Committees

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 moved to adjourn, seconded by J. P. Rich. Our pastor dismissed us in prayer.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Tatum, Board Secretary

Wednesday Night Bible Discussion

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

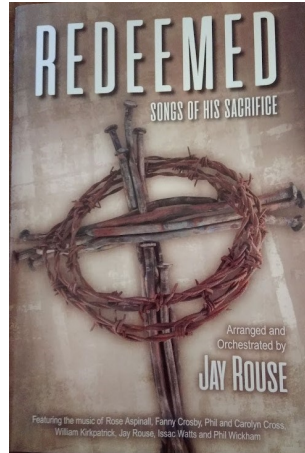
This month we will dive into 1 Chronicles, 2 Samuel & Psalms. We are reading through the whole Bible by reading six chapters a week together. No lectures, no curriculum! We discuss and question various aspects of each chapter. A list of scriptures for each week can be found in the lobby. We laugh some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

MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

If you would like to order a brick in memory or honor of a loved one for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day or Graduation, please place your order by Sunday, April 16th. Order forms can be found in the parlor or on the church website www.fccec.org. For questions, you can call the church office (252-338-6506) or email office@fccec.org.

REDEEMED: Songs of His Sacrifice Sunday, April 16th

A Morning Like This, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, The Solid Rock...these are a few of the familiar songs, along with new tunes you will hear during the Chancel Choir's Easter celebratory program on Sunday, April 16th. Through the spoken word, the beautiful melodies and harmonies



infused in the creation of this collection of beloved songs, we are assured you will be filled with the love of God's greatest gift to mankind, His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please come and enjoy a spiritual service that will begin to inspire you and your family.



SUNDAY, APRIL 16
12:30-2PM

Easter Egg Hunt, Alpacawaka Petting Zoo,
Treat Me Goods Food Truck & more!

Kids 12 & under eat FREE!

Everyone is invited to stay directly after the service on the Sunday after Easter! The Education Committee is sponsoring a community Spring Fling complete with an easter egg hunt, a petting zoo with an alpaca and miniature farm animals from Alpacawaka and cornhole for the grown-ups! To top it all off, **all kids 12 and under eat free** from Treat Me Goods, who will also offer hamburger steak, baked chicken and sides for sale! Come as we continue to celebrate Easter! For more info contact our minister, TJ, at minister@fccec.org

SAVE THE DATE

CAMP CAROLINE
CAMP, CONFERENCE, AND RETREAT CENTER



APRIL | 15TH | 2023

If you have two hands and a willing heart, we'd love for you to join us for a drive down to Arapahoe to Camp Caroline for a Spring Cleanup Day, **April 15th**. There are jobs for all skill levels! Lunch and transportation with the church bus will be provided free of charge. Come for a fun day of serving and fellowship as we help provide a camp ready to serve children this summer! Projects will begin Saturday morning around 9:00 am. For information or to reserve your spot, contact Portia Copeland at membership@fccec.org

Child Abuse Prevention & Second Chance Awareness Month

COMMUNITY MEET & GREET

Sundays, April 23 & 30



We are going to give our congregation an opportunity to meet the directors of Kids First, Inc. (April 23rd), a child abuse treatment center here in Elizabeth City, and Kairos Prison Ministry (on April 30th) on consecutive Sundays in observance of our monthly emphasis of Child Abuse Prevention and Second Chance ministries awareness!

Kairos Prison Ministry is a Christian faith-based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth and their families.



Christian Women's Fellowship April 2 - 12:00pm



The CWF will meet at noon on Thursday, April 2nd. We will continue our Just Women Bible Study. Feel free to come and join us. For information contact Portia



Christian Men's Fellowship April 16 - 6:30pm

CMF meets monthly on the third Thursday. The next meeting is April 16th at 6:30 pm. Dinner is provided! For more information, contact Julian Copeland.

Open Gym Basketball



Open Gym is an opportunity to spend time with our youth and have fun (and exercise!). It will resume on Monday, April 17th, 6-7:30 pm! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Contact Pastor TJ with questions at minister@fccec.org.



National Day of Prayer

We will be hosting our 2nd Annual National Day of Prayer service here at FCC on **Thursday, May 4th at 8:00am**. Come as we host six local ministers and pray through seven emphases over our nation. It will be a powerful time of worship and prayer to God. We will provide a to-go breakfast for all in attendance. *Corinth Baptist Church will have their service on the same day at 12pm*. Our church van will be available to take anyone who would like a ride to Corinth. Meet at FCC at 11:30 and the church van will leave at 11:45am. Come, join us in one of these services to pray over our nation! For info, contact Pastor TJ, at minister@fccec.org