

First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
MAY2023

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid Permit # 9
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Postmaster: Address Correction Requested

MAY 2023



Email: 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

OUTREACH: Serving Our Community THE STOREHOUSE

Saturday, May 13th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Did you know that there is a ministry in Elizabeth City that collects gently used home goods, furniture, and other items specifically for those in need in our area? **THE STOREHOUSE** is a ministry that accepts referrals from other faith-based non-profits and government agencies to administer items needed by families for FREE!

We have an opportunity to bless them with help folding linens, sorting silverware, or organizing other home goods. Join us at 1214 US 17 South, Elizabeth City, for just three hours of fellowship while we bless others.

To donate furniture, appliances, rugs, curtains, linens, lamps, dishes, mattresses, cars, lawn mowers and more, contact Terry Long at 252-333-5868. For info about our serving time, email Melodi Robbins at outreach@fccec.org.



Hello, FCC Family!

I pray this newsletter finds you refreshed in Spirit and in your faith after this Lenten season. Thankfully God gives us that season every year and the Lord's table every Sunday to reflect on His unfailing, unconditional love. Truth is, the Lord's table is not reserved only for Sunday morning services. In fact, the phrase "breaking bread," although a modern phrase that people use to talk about sharing a meal has its origins in the Lord's Supper. That means that whenever we "break bread," no matter who we are with or where we are, we can constantly take opportunities to come close to God and share that moment with others.

Fellowship and breaking bread is part of our vision here at First Christian Church. We gather to grow, worship and serve, but we are also called to do life together. Fellowship can happen anywhere and should not be relegated only to the church building. We are called to worship, pray, study the Word, break bread and share in each others burdens. Simply meeting once a week, shaking a few hands and getting a few hugs is a good start, but doesn't encapsulate the life of a functioning church.

So as we march into May, consider when you can fellowship (which comes from the Greek word meaning to "commune" or "make community") with your brothers and sisters in the faith, not just your biological family. Consider praying with us for the National Day of Prayer (May 4 at 8am), joining us to minister to the homebound and more at Card Ministry (May 9 & 23 at 12pm), volunteering at our Storehouse Sort Day (May 13, 9am) or having fun at our Family Movie Night & Ice Cream Sundae Bar (May 26, 6pm).

Growing as a body of believers is supposed to be fun! It isn't all about the Bible study, sermons and prayers. It's also about spending quality time getting to know and love your brothers and sisters in the faith. I urge you to carve out some time this coming month to do just that!

Your friend & Pastor,

Rev. T.J. Long, Jr.



APRIL, 2023 BOARD REPORT

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on April 3rd, at 7:00 P.M. Teresa Moore, moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Our minister and 15 board members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Portia Copeland provided the March check register as well as account balances as of March 31, 2023.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Worship Committee wants to thank Teresa Moore as a committee member and board chairperson for the work she did with Rev. T. J. Long on the ordination service plans. The service was appropriately reverent and vibrant. The support shown to T.J. was a blessing.

The following points were covered in the meeting and have been executed:

- We worked with Education to have the children bring the palms into the service for Palm Sunday.
- The pastor is leading a 7PM Maundy Thursday service.
- We are asking the congregation to bring flowers for the cross on Easter Sunday.
- The choir will perform its Easter cantata on Sunday, the 16th. Teresa Moore will lead the service.
- Speakers have been secured for the 23rd and 30th of April to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month and Second Chance Month.

Thanks to Tammy Sawyer for conducting the March meeting in my absence. Our next meeting will be on April 23rd. *Betty Sawyer, Worship Chairperson*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: In the absence of Jessica James, Norma James provided a reminder of the Spring Fling to be held on April 16th, following worship. Plans include a petting zoo, a food truck, and an Easter egg hunt. Norma also encouraged Sunday School attendance which meets in the Fellowship Classroom each Sunday at 10:10 A.M.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Garage and Breakfast Sale was held on March 24th and 25th. Following are the results:

- Garage Sale Friday \$1170.50; Saturday \$415.65 Total: \$1586.15
- Breakfast Sale Friday \$439.50; Saturday \$437.00; Total: \$876.50 less expenses of \$175.00 equals a total of \$701.50

- Grand total for both sales is \$2,287.65. Funds will be credited to the general fund to support the budget. Thanks to all who donated items for the sale. A special thanks to the women and men who came various days and set up, sorted, and priced items and then worked each day of the sale as well as worked in the kitchen preparing and serving breakfast items. Without everyone's help, this would not have been a success.

A reception was held after the Ordination Ceremony on April 1st. Finger foods were served to an estimated 90 people.

Portia Copeland, Membership Chairperson

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: The Outreach Committee met with Rev. Long on March 21st to discuss plans for the next three months. We also got together on March 27th to sort foods for the next four weeks delivery of school backpacks.

Melodi Robbins, Outreach Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: No report

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Weight Watchers has discontinued the use of our facility. It was an issue of retirement and no one in their organization wanted to take it over. Next Generation Academy has paid for the use of the gym for the month of April. The Republican Party has paid for the next three months use of the social hall. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Property purchased a new doormat for the front door. Still waiting for the brick mason. Property will be buying a few "plumber helpers" for each bathroom.

A question has come up about bed sheets for the nursery. (Who is in charge of cleaning the bedding and making the beds when they have to be changed?)

- During the report there were responses that the extra crib sheets have been found.
- No decision as to who will be in charge of this duty.

Tom Sawyer, Property Chairman

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: No memorials given in March. *Gail Hobbs, Memorial Chairperson*

ELDERS: June Gibbs reported all is running smoothly.

DEACONS: Sandra Riggs also reported that everything is going well with this group.

DEACONESSES: No report

May Birthdays

4	Marie Miller	21	Ralph Bristol
5	Catherine Basnight	24	Lindsey Moore
	Mary Jones Terry		Glenn Kaden
7	Charlene Pipkin	25	Patsy Caldwell
9	Terri Lynn Meads		Brant Thompson
	Grant Ryan Blocker	27	Lynette Hill
10	Kristopher Pipkin	28	Phil Wall
11	Ashton Balance		Ben Castelow
	Timothy Longest	30	Ellie Gordon
14	Bonnie Arnold		
15	Jerry Crain, Jr.		
	Randy Williams	3	Jack & Andrea Hardison
	Betty Sawyer		Kolton & Colleen Stevens
18	Don Lee Keaton	11	Jerad & Kimberley Carter
19	Rocky Pipkin		

May Anniversaries

3	Jack & Andrea Hardison
	Kolton & Colleen Stevens
11	Jerad & Kimberley Carter



Serving in May

Elder:	Portia Copeland, Joe Lassiter	
Deacons:	Nancy Tatum, Jeff Bush, Betty Sawyer, Teresa Lassiter, Jeff Lassiter	
Deaconesses:	Martha Best, Melodi Robbins	
Greeters:	May 7	Roberta Williamson
	May 14	Justin & Ashley James, June Gibbs
	May 21	Jeff Moore, Teresa Moore
	May 28	Jean Etheridge, Peggy Humphries
Acolytes:	May 7	Ryland Lassiter, Zoey James
	May 14	Ava Long, Asher Long
	May 21	Lilly Lassiter, Emily Gordon
	May 28	Allie & Morgan Stevens

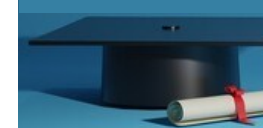
Graduate Sunday

June 11th

Do you have a graduate in your family this year? Let us know! Anyone graduating from

**Kindergarten
Middle School
High School
College**

Give us their full name, the name of their school, and if they can attend the church service on June 11th. Send to membership@fccec.org.



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 March 2023—April 16th, 2023
If you have questions, please call Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447.

March		April 1-16th	
Budget Income	\$ 11,181.62	Budget Income	\$ 6,946.00
Designated	\$ 900.03	Designated	\$ 1,055.63
Credit Card	\$ 703.50	Credit Card	\$ 300.00
Total Income	\$ 12,785.15	Total Income	\$ 8,301.63
Expenses:	\$ 16,382.60	Expenses:	\$ 16,152.36
Attendance:		Attendance:	
March (4 Sundays)	= 49 avg	April (3 Sundays)	= 69 avg
Children	= 7 avg	Children	= 11 avg

SPECIAL OFFERING
Mother's Day Blankets
Sunday May 14

For those experiencing difficult times, CWS blankets serve as a warm and comforting reminder that they are loved. Blanket the world with love and provide a feeling of warmth and security to those who desperately need it by sponsoring a blanket in honor or in memory of your mother. Just \$10 per fleece blanket! An envelope has been provided in this newsletter that can be returned to the church by Sunday, May 7th.

SPECIAL OFFERING
Pentecost
Sunday May 28

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining a new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given. Return your envelope on **Sunday, May 28**, or drop it by the office. You can use the mail slot if it is after hours. Please be sure to use the inserted envelope and return it by May 28th.

Altar Flowers

May 7 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Mr. Tommy Scott, and in memory of Diane Flowers by the Jimmy Flowers family.

May 14 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. "Mutt" Scott, and Mr. and Mrs. James E. White, Sr. by the Eugene & Mary Ann Scott family, and the Nina Gregory family.

May 21 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Mr. Willard White, by his children Tom and Martha White, and Millie Sweetenham.

May 28 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of our children and grandchildren Kacey, Brian and Adley Weatherly, and Kolton, Colleen, Allie and Morgan Stevens, by Teresa and Jeff Moore.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gibby Gibbs on the occasion of his birthday by Suzy, Pam, Beverly, Steven, and Connie.

If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Mrs. Ella Pipkin at 252-335-4245. Your donation may be paid via our website or by check/cash.

CMF: Ticket sales for the March Pancake Breakfast amounted to about \$2,280 and \$1,200 was cleared. The men are now looking toward scheduling a November breakfast. The freezer is up and running and a water conditioner is being installed for the ice machine. There were 11 men at the March CMF meeting.

J.P. Rich, CMF Representative

CWF: CWF will meet on Thursday, April 7, at noon. All ladies are welcome.

Portia Copeland, CWF President

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: We still have no leads for a nursery worker; however, Rev. Long has contacted the MACU president for suggestions of how to reach college students who might possibly want to fill the position. He was given a name to contact.

Julian & Portia Copeland are representing our congregation as voting members at the Regional Assembly to be held in Charlotte. Rev. Long will also attend and, upon ordination, will be able to vote this year.

NEW BUSINESS: Rev. Long has been contacted by Donald Waltz of Community Care Collaborative (CCC) who asked us to consider increasing our financial help for the Collaborative. CWF currently provides \$105 quarterly from its monies or \$420 annually. Our pastor suggested that other entities such as CMF and Local Outreach might combine to make it \$1,000 annually from our church. J.P. Rich will bring it before CMF in April. Melodi Robbins will bring it before the Outreach Committee. The CCC is supported by the local faith community and provides assistance to those facing temporary emergency crises. For example, a person whose car breaks down can receive help with repairs to keep them working and providing for their family.

MINISTER'S REPORT: This minister's report covers accomplishments in March. I made multiple visits this month to Carlton Berry, Mary Ann Scott, Jeff Lassiter, Bonnie Arnold, Cynda Bunch and Cecil Speight.

The elders and I met Sunday, March 19th after the service regarding our unwavering support for the Lassiter family among other issues we may share with the board for input at a later date.

Open Gym will resume on Monday, April 17. To further relationships with the attending youth, I'll have three local pastors from predominantly African American

churches give an encouraging devotion halfway through our 6:00-7:30 pm timeframe. We hope to become a draw and a ministry spot for these young people. Best case scenario, it turns into a youth ministry.

Our Bible Discussion group will finish 2 Samuel & 1 Chronicles in April along with several corresponding Psalms. We will start 1 Kings in May. Within our Prayer Gatherings, we have completed ten chapters of "How to Pray." I have secured three pastors for our upcoming National Day of Prayer service on Thursday, May 4, at 8am. We will have six guest ministers pray over seven emphases for our country. The guest ministers are: Daniel Cenci (Christ Episcopal), Matthew Harrell (Forerunner Church), Arthur Manigault (Riverside Methodist), John Maurice (MACU), Daniel Spence (Victory Praise & Worship Center), and Ganelle Sutton (Faithway Church). We will provide a free "to-go breakfast" from Panera for all who attend.

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

There being no further business, Paula Crawford made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gail Hobbs. Our minister dismissed us in prayer.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Tatum, Board Secretary

Christian Women's Fellowship
May 4 - 11:30 am



The CWF will meet at **11:30 am on Thursday, May 4th**. We will join with others to take the bus to Corinth Baptist Church for their recognition of National Day of Prayer. Feel free to come and join us. For information please feel free to contact Portia Copeland at membership@fccec.org.

Christian Men's Fellowship
May 18 - 6:30pm



CMF meets monthly on the third Thursday. The next meeting is **May 18th at 6:30 pm**. Dinner is provided! For more information or to help with setup, contact Julian Copeland at jhcopwc@gmail.com

First Christian Church Outreach

On April 5th, 2023, seven of us participated in bagging apples at the Food Bank. After 45 minutes we had bagged 800 lbs. of apples! This day marked the 40th Anniversary for the Food Bank. We were also there for the ribbon cutting of their new facility. Thanks to all of you who came out to help with this event.

If you would like to get involved in our Outreach Ministry, contact Melodi Robbins at outreach@fccec.org. Our next activity will be on April 29th. We will be serving a meal at S.O.U.L.S., a local soup kitchen outreach to the homeless and under nourished in our community.



Pictured are Rev. T.J. Long, Jr., Larry Bruce, Joy Rhodes, Melodi Robbins, Arlene Bruce, Kathy Gray, and Nancy Tatum.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 pm Board Meeting	2 6:00 pm Prayer Gathering	3 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	4 8:00 am NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	5	6
7 <i>Deadline: Mother's Day Blankets</i> 5th Sunday of Easter	8 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	9 12:00 pm Card Ministry	10 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	11	12	13 9:00-Noon Storehouse Sorting
14 MOTHER'S DAY 6th Sunday of Easter	15 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	16 6:00 pm Prayer Gathering	17 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	18 6:30pm CMF	19 POTATO FESTIVAL	20
21 <i>Deadline: RSVP Movie Night</i> 7th Sunday of Easter	22 2:00 pm Membership Committee 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	23 12:00 pm Card Ministry <i>Deadline: Newsletter</i>	24 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	25	26	27
28 DAY OF PENTECOST	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30 6:00 pm Prayer Gathering	31 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	The gymnasium is in use by Next Gen Tues-Sat, 6-9pm weekly throughout the school year. Summer schedule to be determined.		

National Day Of Prayer

Thursday, May 4th 8:00 am

Daniel Cenci (Christ Episcopal), Ganelle Sutton (Faithway Church), John Maurice (MACU), Daniel Spence (Victory Praise & Worship Center), Arthur Manigault (Riverside Methodist), and Matthew Harrell (Forerunner Church)



This year is our 2nd Annual National Day of Prayer Service. 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. A "to-go" breakfast will be provided.

Also, *Corinth Baptist Church* will have their service on the same day at 12pm. Meet us at FCC at 11:30am and we'll take the church bus to Corinth at 11:45am. Join us as we pray over our nation! For info, contact Pastor TJ, at minister@fccec.org.

Wednesday Night Bible Discussion

5:45-6:45pm
Fellowship Hall

We are reading through the whole Bible by reading six chapters a week together. We discuss and question various aspects of each chapter. No lectures, no curriculum! 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! Reading schedule can be found on our website at fccec.org.

Open Gym Basketball 6:00 pm

Open Gym is an opportunity to spend time with our youth and have fun (and exercise!). The average attendance so far has been 16 people to play. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Come any Monday night except the first Monday of the month and holidays. Contact Pastor TJ with questions at minister@fccec.org.



First Christian Church Friday, May 26 @ 6:00 PM



Bring the whole family! Have fun with our **FREE** Ice Cream Sundae Bar and enjoy a newly released family-friendly movie. Questions? Email us to office@fccec.org by May 21 at

800 Beech St
Elizabeth City, NC



Will Mario save Princess Peach?