

First Christian Church  
 800 Beech Street  
 Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter  
**JUNE2023**

Non-Profit Organization  
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**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

**MEMORIAL DAY**

**REMEMBER AND HONOR**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This Memorial Day we have recognized those who have served our nation and fallen...

- Garland Anderson, WWII*
- James Anderson, WWII*
- Alvin Arnold, Army, Vietnam*
- Kenneth Beals, Air Force*
- Donald Etheridge, Army*
- T.C. "Bill" Flood, Army*
- Dallas H. Gallop, Sr., Army*
- Francis A Hewitt, Army, WWII*
- Jack Horton, Army, Korea*
- Kenneth Humphries, Marines*
- Calvin W. Kirby, Army, WWII*
- Milford J. Lamb*
- Jim Mills, Air Force, WWII*
- Tom Parrish, WWII*
- Norman Pierce, Army, WWII*
- Albert Rhodes, Marines, Vietnam*
- Tommy Scott, WWII*
- Lois Shaw, RN, Army, WWII*
- Albert Wall, Jr., Navy, WWII*
- Norman Watts, Navy*
- Rufus J. White, Jr., Army*
- Luther White, WWII*
- Eugene Williams, Air Force*
- Cary T. Williams, Air Force*
- Thomas Williamson, Marines*
- Marion Royce, Army*



Dear FCC Family,

Welcome to summer here at First Christian Church! Our children have persevered through end of grade testing while our teachers and administrators will soon have a well-deserved summer break.

We are particularly excited for summer and the events we have planned. While we'd love to see every person at those events call FCC home, we're really hoping that we get to meet some of your family, friends, neighbors and colleagues. We have something going on nearly every day of the week. We have you covered, whether you're into sports (Open Gym on Mondays), movies and TV shows (The Chosen watch parties on Tuesdays), Bible study (Wednesdays), Men's & Women's Ministries (1st and 3rd Thursdays), fellowship (upcoming Friends & Family night) and, of course, worship on Sundays.

We want to give everyone an opportunity to invite your loved ones. Whenever we open the doors to our building, it should be for one specific reason; to give people an opportunity to worship God. Yes, it is also expected for us to grow, serve and fellowship but inspiring others to connect to God is our chief goal. However, before most people trust Jesus, they have to build a certain level of trust and comfort with genuine Christ-followers. One of the best ways to foster that kind of trust is to invite someone to a non-churchy, church environment, I like to call it.

For example, playing basketball or watching a TV show in a safe environment is a great example of a non-churchy, church environment. Some may not be ready to just start "going to church" on Sunday mornings. That's ok. Again, that's why we do so much more than just a Sunday service. So, whether you've tried to invite someone to a Sunday morning service or not, consider inviting them to another event here at First Christian Church.

All these events give people an opportunity to connect with Christ-followers and the LORD.

Hope to see you soon! Blessings to you & yours!

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



**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 is 19 people PLUS area pastors are now joining us! A small devotion has been added. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Come any Monday except the first Monday of the month. Contact Pastor TJ with questions at [minister@fccec.org](mailto:minister@fccec.org).



**Community Clean Up Day  
 Monday, June 19 (Juneteenth)**

We felt such a sense of accomplishment and our neighbors had such gratitude after the neighborhood clean up on Martin Luther King day. We're going to do it again on Juneteenth. Our Open Gym folks are coming to help as well as some other guests from outside the church family. This should be the most fun clean up day ever! No RSVP required but if you have questions, please contact Melodi Robbins at [outreach@fccec.org](mailto:outreach@fccec.org).





# MAY, 2023 BOARD REPORT

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on May 1, at 7:00 p.m. Our minister and 14 board members were present. Teresa Moore, moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Portia Copeland provided the April check register and account balances as of April 30.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** We are looking at the order of service for Sunday morning in order to make the service smoother and more worshipful. We examined four DOC churches and compared them with our service. We found similarities and differences; many still take up collection and most have communion at the end of the service. We are now in the second round of comparisons with three committee members developing a service order for us to consider.

Our minister will repeat the National Day of Prayer service; same format as last year. We will celebrate Pentecost on May 28th and Graduate Sunday on June 11th.

Our next meeting will be on September 10th unless there is a need to meet.

*Betty Sawyer, Worship Chairperson*

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** No report

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Graduates for 2023 (names, schools, and future plans) should be turned in by June 4th. Graduate Recognition Sunday will be June 11th.

Friends & Family Dinner is planned for Saturday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner.

*Portia Copeland, Membership Chairperson*

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** No report

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** No report

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and for the rest of the year, the Republican Party will use the social hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies will start using the gym on August 1, 2023. At this time the use of the gym on Monday nights is being negotiated due to our regularly scheduled "Open Gym" nights.

There are current plans to install new portico lights. New batteries and PADS have been installed in the AEDs (defibrillators).

CMF has installed a water softener for the new ice machine.

The county will stop collecting our recyclables by July 1.

*Tom Sawyer, Property Chairman*

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** Gail Hobbs, committee chairperson, reported one memorial was given in April.

**ELDERS:** June Gibbs, Head Elder, reported no problems at this time.

**DEACONS:** No report

**DEACONESSES:** No report

**CMF:** There were 14 men present at the April meeting. The next meeting will be May 18th.

*J. P. Rich, CMF Representative*

**CWF:** CWF met on April 7th at noon with nine ladies present. Our "Just Women" study was entitled "Can You Hear Me, O God? Are You Still With Me?" which focused on calling on God when life is filled with worry and anxiety.

We will meet at 11:30 a.m. for our next meeting, May 4th, to travel to Corinth Baptist Church for their noon National Day of Prayer service.

*Portia Copeland, CWF President*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Money being sent to the Community Care Collaborative was discussed. J. P. Rich confirmed a check was sent.
- Feelers have been sent out to MACU for a nursery attendant.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Nina Gregory asked about Vacation Bible School. She stated that planning must be started now.
- Tammy Sawyer reported that the constitution committee is meeting every other Tuesday and progress is being made.

**MINISTER'S REPORT:**

This minister's report covers April's accomplishments.

On April 1, I was ordained by the NC Commission on Ministry and our Regional Bishop, Valerie Melvin. It was a fantastic ceremony and I was blown away by the generosity and hard work of Nina, Betty, Tom and the Membership Committee in setting up for the service and reception. To complete the weekend, we had Bishop Melvin preach on Palm Sunday.

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, seven of us participated in the Food Bank's Sort-a-Rama in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Albemarle Region. We sorted and bagged over 800 lbs. of apples in 45 minutes!

On Maundy Thursday, we had a small service with 30 in attendance. We were blessed with many families visiting on Easter Sunday, as we had nearly 90 in attendance!

## June Birthdays

1	Jessica P Williams	17	Pam Anderson
2	Hunter Williams	19	Mary Sue Moore
3	Charles E. Hines, III	20	Summer Warden Pike
	Judy Nowell	21	Jonathan Brown
4	Lois King	23	Peggy Humphries
	Diane Watts		Mike Williams
5	Jack Hardison		Paul Pipkin
8	Jason Lassiter	30	Brett Tucker Carter
9	Michael Anderson		Leah Pierce
	June Gibbs		Kevin Bray
	Jordan Keaton		
14	Jessica James	4	Ken & Ella Pipkin
	Tyler Bright	6	Tim & Brenda Warden
16	Jamie Gibbs	10	Phil & Sophia Martel
	Carolyn Lenahan	11	Tom & Betty Sawyer
	Ashton Jeffries		
	Alison Huston		

## June Anniversaries

4	Ken & Ella Pipkin
6	Tim & Brenda Warden
10	Phil & Sophia Martel
11	Tom & Betty Sawyer



## In Loving Memory...

A memorial was given in loving memory of T.C. (Bill) & Wilma Flood by Nancy Tatum.

## Serving in June

<b>Elder:</b>	Vance Meads, Norma James	
<b>Deacons:</b>	Portia Copeland, Sandra Riggs, J.P. Rich, Tommy James, Gene Scott	
<b>Deaconesses:</b>	Kathy Gray, Mary Ann Scott	
<b>Greeters:</b>	June 4	Roberta Williamson
	June 11	Justin & Ashley James, June Gibbs
	June 18	Jeff & Teresa Moore
	June 25	Jean Etheridge, Peggy Humphries
<b>Acolytes:</b>	June 4	Ryland Lassiter, Zoey James
	June 11	Ava Long, Asher Long
	June 18	Lilly Lassiter, Emily Gordon
	June 25	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  
Trade School  
College**

**RSVP by June 6.** Give us their full name, the name of their school, and if they can attend the church service on June 11th. Email [membership@fccec.org](mailto:membership@fccec.org).



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

# Mother's Day Blankets

have been donated through gifts given

## In Memory of...

Norma Jean Bateman by Gail Hobbs  
 Ann Beals by Joy Rhodes  
 Mrs. Asa Beals by Stella Gallop  
 Louie Beals by Michelle Hopkins  
 Geraldine M Bruce by Arlene Bruce  
 Flora Bunch by Joy Rhodes  
 Thelma Dillon Bunch by Bonnie Bunch Arnold  
 Marie Casper by William & donna Casper  
 Gentry Copeland by Julian & Portia Copeland  
 Bertha Ferrell by Betty Sawyer, Jennifer Moore & Lisa Giarmono  
 Mary Ferrell Etheridge by Donna J. Etheridge  
 Wilma W. Flood by Nancy Tatum & Family  
 Glenda White by Gail Hobbs  
 Sadie Hobbs by Carlton & Louise Berry and Family  
 Sue Hopkins by Michelle Hopkins  
 Judith Jones by Martha Best  
 Grace Lamb by Murlene Williams  
 Barbara Lassiter by The Lassiter Family  
 Lucy McPherson by Martha Best  
 Elma Onley by Gail Hobbs  
 Helen Raby by Gail Hobbs  
 Rebecca Rhodes by Joy Rhodes  
 Mary Rich by J.P. & Carol Rich  
 Lois Shaw by Roberta Shaw  
 Hilda Schanding by Michelle Hopkins  
 Margaret Anderson Scott by Nina Gregory  
 Addie Spruill by Helga & Fran Spruill  
 Dee Weston by William & Donna Casper  
 Virginia White by Julian & Portia Copeland  
 Julia Williams by Murlene Williams  
 Vesta Williams by Nancy Tatum & Family  
 Anna Williamson by Joy Rhodes

## In Honor of...

Trista Bogardus by Joy Rhodes  
 Rena Clark by The Lassiter Family  
 Melissa Copeland by Julian & Portia Copeland  
 Paula Crawford by Jeff Bush  
 Paula Crawford by Tommy & Norma James  
 Paula Crawford by Travis, Jessica, Zoe & Aramis  
 Sam Delavergne by Vance & Deloris Meads  
 Mary Divino by Julian & Portia Copeland  
 Jean Etheridge by Her Children  
 Christy Forbes by Joy Rhodes  
 Stella Gallop by Michelle Hopkins  
 June Gibbs by Allie, Morgan & Adley  
 Jenna Hatfield by Nina Gregory  
 Gail Hobbs by Tommy & Norma James  
 Ashley James by Vance & Deloris Meads  
 Jessica James by Vance & Deloris Meads  
 Kathryn James by Travis, Jessica, Zoe & Aramis  
 Kathryn James by Tommy & Norma James  
 Norma James by Vance & Deloris Meads  
 Norma James by Travis, Jessica, Zoe & Aramis  
 Cassandra Lee by Julian & Portia Copeland  
 Tabitha Lee by Julian & Portia Copeland  
 Deloris Meads by Travis, Jessica, Zoe & Aramis  
 Deloris Meads by Tommy & Norma James  
 Lucy Midgett by The Lassiter Family  
 Kelly Mitchell by Nina Gregory  
 Janet Oller by Michelle Hopkins  
 Hilda Williams by Nancy Tatum & Family  
 Francis Wright by J.P. & Carol Rich

## Altar Flowers

- June 4 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Quinton Onley, Norma Jean Bateman, Quinton Only, Sr. and Glenda White, by the Gail Hobbs family.  
 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Melvin Cartwright, by his wife, Mrs. Velma Cartwright, daughter Cindy Wooten, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- June 11 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gladys Dubois, June 15, and loving memory of Christine Dillon Poulos on the occasion of her birthday, June 10, by their niece, Bonnie Bunch Arnold.  
 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Carolyn Bunch Lenahan on the occasion of her birthday, June 16, by her sister, Bonnie Bunch Arnold.
- June 18 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of the Spring birthdays of my grandchildren, Mallory, Noah, Aiken, Wilson, Luke, Benjamin and Libby by Nancy Tatum.
- June 25 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frank C.A. and Louise Van Dalsum, by the Jon and Melba Van Dalsum family.  
 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mayo and Virginia Price by the Jon and Melba Van Dalsum family.

From April 10-15, my kids and I went on a small road trip vacation to Asheville, Atlanta, Chattanooga and Knoxville. We had a great time and I consider it a great privilege to be provided paid time away with Ava and Asher.

On April 16, we had our first Family Spring Fling where the Education Committee and I invited Alpacawaka Farms from Moyock and Treat Me Goods from Parsonage Street to join us in serving our families food, entertainment and an Easter Egg Hunt. Special thanks go out to Jessica, Paula and Jeff for making this happen! We had 21 children in attendance!

Last week, I was asked by Bishop Melvin to create the PowerPoint slides for the Regional Assembly in Charlotte. I completed 60 slides and ran the multimedia portion of the business session and worship service. Julian, Portia and myself represented FCC and drove back late Saturday.

The last two Sundays in April we had the privilege of hosting Rhonda Morris, the Executive Director of Kids First, Inc. for Child Abuse Prevention Month and Michael Snowden, the chair of the Pasquotank Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry. Both of these individuals were honored to be invited and have partnered with a few members of the church in support of their non-profits.

I attended a CMF meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and tasted Rabbit Salad for the first time in my life. It was delicious, thanks JP!

Melodi and I met for lunch at Panera on the 27<sup>th</sup>, to select the items that we will serve for breakfast at the National Day of Prayer service. The General Manager of Panera offered us 50% off our order for the occasion. For the service itself, we will have Ganelle Sutton (Lifeway Church of Jesus), John Maurice (MACU), Daniel Spence (Victory Praise & Worship Center), Arthur Manigault (Riverside Methodist Church), Daniel Cenci (Christ Episcopal Church) and Matthew Harrell (Forerunner Church) as guest ministers. We have RSVPs from those who will represent the Police Department, City Council, ECSU and other entities.

Teresa Moore and I met to select six individuals to invite to join the Pastoral Relations Committee. We hope to have that committee in place by Mother's Day. Special thank you to Tammy Sawyer and Teresa Lassiter for making this happen.

We continue to see good participation in Open Gym. Last month we had an average of 16 in attendance each Monday night. We've seen recent growth in our Bible Discussion.

Here are my goals for May:

- 1) to help plan, publicize and execute a Family Movie Night and Ice Cream Sundae bar on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>,
- 2) to meet with the Membership Committee this month and help them plan ahead for an upcoming Family & Friends night and

- 3) to plan ahead with Scripture selections for the summer as to be better prepared for curveballs such as what happened with Regional Assembly. 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, Tom Sawyer motioned to adjourn seconded by Paula Crawford. Our minister dismissed us in prayer.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Hopkins, former board secretary, due to absence of the current board secretary.

NT/rw

Finance Report April 2023	
If you have questions, please call Treasurer, Portia Copeland, 252-335-4447	
<b>Monthly Budget</b>	\$ 15,312
Budget Income	\$ 9,096
Budget Shortage	\$ 6,216
Expenses:	\$ 12,524
<b>Attendance:</b>	
April (5 Sundays)	= 63 avg
Children	= 9 avg
Designated Income	\$ 482
Designated Bills:	\$ 8,773

## Wednesday Night Bible Discussion

5:45-6:45pm

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 [fcec.org](http://fcec.org).

### Sample of One Week's Schedule

- Thursday, June 1 - Proverbs 5
- Friday, June 2 - Proverbs 6
- Saturday, June 3 - Proverbs 7
- Sunday, June 4 - Day off
- Monday, June 5 - Proverbs 8
- Tuesday, June 6 - Proverbs 9
- Wednesday, June 7 - Proverbs 10





Help the food bank and have a nice meal out with friends. Each participating restaurant will donate 10% of their proceeds to the Food Bank of the Albemarle. For every \$1 raised, they can provide the equivalent of four meals to families who are faced with hunger!

**We will be going as a group to Montero's Restaurant on Thursday, June 8, at 5:30 pm.** Let Pastor T.J. know you're participating at [minister@fccec.org](mailto:minister@fccec.org) so we can know when

our limit is reached. If you can't make it with us on the 8th, the following restaurants are participating:

Albemarle Plantation, Awful Arthur's, The Bank Bistro, Big Boss Burritos, B.J.'s Carolina Café, Circle II, Cypress Creek Grill, Jolly Roger Restaurant, Kathy's Kreation, McDonalds (Ahoskie, Elizabeth City-Ehringhaus, Grandy), Montero's Restaurant, Muddy Waters Coffeehouse, The Mulberry House, Mr. Lu Chinese Food, The Nicholson House, Panera Bread, Paradiso Roma Ristorante, Planters Ridge Farm Market, Ribeye's of Washington, Stack 'Em High Pancakes & So Forth, Tommy's Pizza, Waterman's Grill, Volcano.

Visit <https://afoodbank.org/events/dineout/> to see more restaurants that are added daily.

## June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 pm CWF	2	3 6:00 pm Friends & Family Night
4	5 7:00 pm Board Meeting	6 5:30 pm Constitution Mtg 6:30 pm The Chosen District Mtg— Williamston	7 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	8 5:30pm "Dine Out to Help Out" at Montero's - RSVP to Pastor	9	10
← Dine Out to Help Out Fundraiser →						
11 Graduate Sunday Deadline: Father's Day Tool Drive	12 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	13 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:30 pm The Chosen	14 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	15 6:30 pm CMF	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 5:30 pm Community Cleanup  Juneteenth	20 5:30 pm Constitution Mtg 6:30 pm The Chosen DEADLINE: Newsletter Submission	21 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	22	23	24
25	26 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	27 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:30 pm The Chosen	28 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	29	30	



## The CHOSEN

TUESDAYS | 6:30 PM

Watch one episode each week with a group discussion and a closing prayer.

All ages are welcome!

Family friendly with snacks!

June 6—Episode 4: "The Rock on Which it is Built"

June 13—Episode 5: "The Wedding gift"

June 20—Episode 6: "Indescribable Compassion"

June 27—Episode 7: "Invitations"

July 4—Happy Independence Day!

July 11—Episode 8: "I Am He"

## Christian Men's Fellowship June 15 - 6:30pm



CMF meets monthly on the third Thursday. Dinner is provided! For more information or to help with setup, contact Julian Copeland at [jhpcwc@gmail.com](mailto:jhpcwc@gmail.com)



## Christian Women's Fellowship

June 1 - 12:00 pm

The CWF meets at noon on the first Thursday of each month. Enjoy a brief Bible study and fellowship. Feel free to come and join us. For information please contact Portia Copeland at [membership@fccec.org](mailto:membership@fccec.org).



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## Father's Day Tool Drive

Remember or honor a loved one with a donation toward beekeeping tools. Donations will be taken on **June 11th**, drop it off at the office or mail it in. An envelope has been inserted in this newsletter. Examples of those tools and their cost are: gloves-\$5, smoker-\$12, Hat/Veil-\$20, Suit-\$25, Complete Hive-\$120.

## Friends & Family Supper

June 3 | 6:00 pm | Sign Up Now!

everyone is welcome to the table

## SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT!

Sam Morris will be bringing the music for us! Most recently, Sam performed at The Onley Place for their Spring Show, "An Evening with Sammy Morris and Friends." This will be a special treat you won't want to miss!