

First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
AUGUST 2023

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AUGUST 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



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT & Cookout!

**NEW
DATE**

**Saturday, September 9
6:00 pm**

Rain or Shine!

Mark your calendar and start practicing your cornhole skills now! We'll serve hot dogs and other refreshments while we compete at Cornhole in the gymnasium.

For more information, or to help set up, contact Portia Copeland at membership@fccec.org. So that we'll make sure we have enough refreshments for everyone, a sign up sheet is available in the church foyer for those who plan to attend. You are also welcome to email us at office@fccec.org and we'll sign you up. Make sure to include the number of people in your party and a contact telephone number in case there are any changes we need to communicate with you prior to the event.

Greetings FCC Family!

I pray this newsletter finds you doing well and praising God! I am thankful that I get to write this greeting to you all from the comfort of an air conditioned office. It has been brutally hot this past month. Nevertheless, I have been blown away that, despite the hot weather, many volunteers have given of their time and sweat to make so much happen in July. We raised nearly \$400 for Maritime Ministries in tickets for the Sunset Sail, over \$500 for the Breakfast Sale and ministered to over a dozen children each night for VBS!

We're not slowing down for August because school will be starting right around the corner! We began our School Supply Drive to support students in need at Pasquotank Elementary School on July 23rd. We need to raise \$800 to fill 25 backpacks! Please consider donating to support the least of these. Also, we'd love to have you come out on Thursday, August 10, to pack all the backpacks here at the church! It's a ton of fun!

I also wanted to invite you to consider one more thing. I've had a few people inquire about baptism recently and I'm putting together a group of people for a baptism service in September. If you or a family member may be interested in taking the next step in your/their faith journey, I'd love to help in any way that I can.

I pray that this newsletter brings a smile to your face and warmth to your spirit. Whether we see you weekly or you are "extended" family to this church, we are thankful for you and pray God's richest blessings on each of you.

Have a blessed August!

Your Pastor & friend,

- Rev. T.J. Long, Jr.



To unsubscribe, please email office@fccec.org or call 252-338-6506 and request that your name be removed.

JULY, 2023 BOARD REPORT

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on July 3, 2023, at 7:00 pm. 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 June check register as well as account balances. Bryan Weatherly, due to increased responsibilities at work, is not able to continue as FCC's lawn maintenance provider. Teresa Moore will ask Bryan to discuss with the new provider, Hunter Edwards, all of the extra lawn care duties that he has provided in addition to the basic mowing.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee will meet again in September. If anyone has something for the Worship Committee to consider, please let any member know and a meeting will be called. Current members are: Paula Crawford, June Gibbs, Nina Gregory, Teresa Moore, Melodi Robbins, Bill Ross, Linda Ross, Keith Sawyer, Tammy Sawyer, Betty Sawyer, Tom Sawyer, Nancy Tatum, Roberta Williamson. The committee has put changes into place in the order of service to help move smoothly into the worship portion of the service. Since this past Sunday was our first time, our minister instructed us on each change; however, that will not be necessary as we get accustomed to the changes. It is our hope that each of us will be able to quiet our minds, open our hearts, and let the Spirit of the Lord come to us in the peace of worship.

Betty Sawyer, Worship Chairperson

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Plans include:

- July 15th—Drive-Thru Breakfast Biscuit & Applejack Sale to benefit the budget. Times will be 8:00-10:00 A.M.
- August 5th—Cornhole Tournament with hot dogs & hamburgers, condiments, and chips. Watermelon will be provided by Linda and Bill Ross. Dessert will be an ice cream bar.
- October 1st - Homecoming meal following worship service with church providing fried chicken & ham. Church members will be asked to bring side dishes.
- December 9th - Christmas Dinner, 6:00 pm

Portia Copeland, Membership Chairperson

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: On June 8th a group of 23 met at Montero's for "Eat Out for Hunger." Ten percent of each person's meal total went to our local Food Bank. Approximately \$60 was raised. On June 12th, the Outreach Committee met to discuss the meal to be served at SOULS on July 29th. In honor of Juneteenth, a group of 14 people came out to pick up litter in the neighborhood around the church.

Melodi Robbins, Outreach Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: No report

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Tom Sawyer is getting estimates on replacing the air conditioning unit in the men's kitchen. So far, \$8,500 is the estimate provided by two companies. A mini-split unit has been suggested as well as replacing the outside unit. He will continue to get more estimates.

NEAAT will utilize the gymnasium the last week in July for practice. This will not interfere with our Vacation Bible School schedule.

Tom Sawyer, Property Chairman

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: No report

ELDERS: June Gibbs reported that the elders met and completed the minister's evaluation.

DEACONS: No report

DEACONESSES: No report

CMF: Eleven men attended the June meeting which included good food and a devotion. The next meeting is on July 20th.

Submitted by J. P. Rich

CWF: Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 6th at noon. All ladies are welcome.

Submitted by Portia Copeland, President

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

MINISTER'S REPORT: This minister's report covers accomplishments in the month of June. I made nine pastoral visits this past month. I am working toward my goal of 12 visits a month.

On June 1, I hosted our first Pastoral Relations Committee meeting at my home with June Gibbs, Julian Copeland, Sandra Riggs, Arlene Bruce, Joe

August Birthdays

2	Zoey James
4	T.J. Parrish
	Thomas Sawyer
11	Rachael Marliese Revels
13	Justin Parrish
	Kiley Gregory
15	Tim Longest
16	Bettie Duncan
17	Tony Jennings
	Blake Copeland
18	Ella Pipkin
	Jason Warden
20	Helga Spruill
21	Brian Gray
	Melissa Van Dalsum
	Aramis Warden
22	Teresa Lassiter

24	Ben Albert
25	Trenton Twiford
27	Jonathan Watts
28	Grace Williams
29	Richard Cobb
	Nina Gregory
	Caden Luke Pipkin
	Charlie W. Gregory

August Anniversaries

7	Vance & Deloris Meads
	Mary & Claudio Divino
16	Ricky & Peggy Manning
19	Darrell & Sandra Riggs
21	Patsy & Charles Caldwell
29	Julian & Portia Copeland



Serving in August

Elder:

Paula Crawford, Joe Lassiter

Deacons:

Nancy Tatum, Jeff Bush, Betty Sawyer, Teresa Lassiter, Jeff Lassiter

Deaconesses:

Martha Best, Melodi Robbins

Greeters:

August 6 Roberta Williamson, Gene & Mary Ann Scott
 August 13 Justin & Ashley James
 August 20 Jeff & Teresa Moore
 August 27 Jean Etheridge, June Gibbs

Acolytes:

August 6 Zoey James & Emily Gordon
 August 13 Ryland & Lilly Darling
 August 20 Ava Long & Jessie Spivey
 August 27 Allie & Morgan Stevens

Altar Flowers

August 6—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of our grandchildren, Kiley, Kristi, Kristopher, Kara, Keifer, Caden, Trot and our great-grandchildren, Malachi, K.J., Micah, Finn, Charlie, Maylin, Kole, Kohen and Ezekiel, on the occasion of their birthdays by Ken and Ella Pipkin.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our grandson, Hunter Whit Pipkin, on the occasion of his birthday by Ken and Ella Pipkin.

August 13—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthdays of Julia T. Williams, Elisha "Mac" McDonald, and Grace Lamb, by Murlene Williams.

August 20—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthdays of Sadie and Oscar Hobbs, by the Carlton and Louise Berry family.

August 27—The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Hester Holmes by his daughter, Glenda Guthrie.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Mrs. Thelma Dillon Bunch, August 31st, by her daughters, Bonnie Bunch Arnold, Carolyn Lenahan, and Cynda Bunch.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina

The 175th Regional Assembly

Part II - Barton College, Wilson, North Carolina



Pre-Assembly Opportunities - October 12-13 (Barton College and FCC, Wilson)

- Racial Equity Training
- Boundaries Clergy Training
- Trauma Training
- So You're interested in Regional Ministry
- Technology Training 101
- Laity Bootcamp: empowered and equipped to serve the local church

Assembly Events - Saturday, October 14 (Barton College)

- A Historical Walk with NC Disciples: A Vibrant Menagerie
- A Visionary Business Session
- Lunch with Parker's Barbeque (vegetarian options available)
- Educational Displays & Book Signings
- Young Adult, Youth, and Children's Engagement
- Meaningful Worship, Memorial Service & Communion

Keynote - The Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister, and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada

Contact Us at

www.ncdisciples.org
Regional Office - 252.291.4047



He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

During the worship service on Sunday, July 16, our kids led us in singing, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." They sang the first verse and we joined in to sing with them for the rest of this four-stanza children's favorite. It's quite a catchy tune!

Pictured right to left are *Ryland Lassiter, Asher Long, Zoey James, Jessie Spivey, James Spivey, Emily Gordon, Lilly Darling, and Ava Long.*

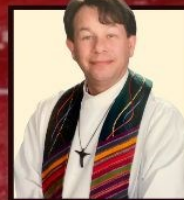
Bishop
Valerie J. Melvin,
Regional Minister



Rev. Terri Hord
Owens
General Minister
& President



Your Regional Assembly Planning Co-Chairs



Rev. Bruce Baker-Rooks
RA Commission Chair
bbaker1119@gmail.com



Rev. Addie Rawls
RA Commission Co-Chair
merawls92@gmail.com

Lassiter and Jackie Gordon in attendance. Our next meeting is Thursday, the 6th, 6:00 pm.

On June 4th, I attended a Worship Committee Meeting where we decided to make changes to the order of service. On June 25th, I attended a Stewardship Committee meeting where we discussed the idea of rerouting the budgeted funds for a nursery attendant to hire a Children's Ministry Intern from Mid-Atlantic Christian University. That discussion is in progress and we may have more to report at August's board meeting.

I attended two Local Arrangement Committee meetings this month, which are sponsored by the region in preparation for the assembly in October on the campus of Barton College. I was asked to serve as the Technology Subcommittee Chair, which will create and oversee all audio/visuals for the upcoming assembly. Registration for the Regional Assembly opens on Saturday, July 15.

Last month we saw attendance drop at Open Gym to an average of nine over two Monday nights. This attendance is normal on months when we don't meet every Monday.

In June we had an increase in attendance to 12 people watching The Chosen on Tuesday nights.. We just completed Season one.

Tuesday, July 11, our Bible Discussion group is currently reading through the books of Proverbs, 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles.

On Saturday, June 17, Keith Sawyer began audio/visual training under the tutelage of Morgan Hague, who is an independent contractor who handles all the livestreams for Pasquotank and Camden County City Council and town hall meetings. Morgan is offering us 8 hours of training at a reasonable rate that will be paid for by the last \$250 of the funds that were anonymously donated for the Wifi upgrade.

On Monday, June 19th we had another Community Cleanup day where we had 14 volunteers present, eight from our church, one representative from Kairos, two from Next Generation Academy, one from the non-profit Green Saves Green as well as two additional visitors who saw our ad in the Daily Advance. With the additional help, we were able to clean seven streets in the neighborhood surrounding the church.

The dates for the VBS will be July 26-28 from 6-8pm. So far we have a team of nine volunteers and we're in the process of recruiting the last few

that we need. All of our decorations, curriculum and media were donated by Forest Park Church. I'm thrilled to see the finished product and have three awesome nights with the kids and volunteers.

Here are my goals for July:

- 1) Help Melodi and the Outreach Committee in executing the upcoming Maritime Ministries Sunset Sail,
- 2) Make preliminary plans with Pasquotank Elementary School and the Outreach Committee before launching the School Supply Drive on July 23rd,
- 3) Meet with all the VBS volunteer teams again before we decorate and execute our VBS,
- 4) Add team members from the region to my Technology Subcommittee on top of my other responsibilities.

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

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

There being no further business, Portia Copeland made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Melodi Robbins. Our pastor, T. J. Long, dismissed us in prayer.

Minutes were submitted by Nancy Tatum, Board Secretary

NT/rw

Finance Report JUNE 2023

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

Monthly Budget	\$ 15,312
Budget Income	\$ 10,023
Budget Shortage	\$ 5,286
Expenses:	\$ 18,631
Designated Income	\$ 707
Designated Bills:	\$ 2,499
Attendance:	
May (4 Sundays)	= 53 avg
Children	= 5 avg
The Chosen	= 11 avg
Open Gym	= 14 avg

2023-24 School Supply Drive

July 23–August 6

As supporters of Pasquotank Elementary School, we will be collecting monetary donations this year to purchase school supplies. The principal has identified 24 students that need our help. Use a designated envelope found in the church foyer. Drop it in the offering box or you can mail in a check to the address on the front of this newsletter. Write checks to First Christian Church notated "School Supplies." We'll do the shopping! Come help us pack backpacks at the Packing Party on Thursday, August 10, 6:30 pm.



BACKPACK PACKING PARTY!

Thursday
August 10
6:30 pm



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!



Christian Women's Fellowship August 3 - 12:00 pm

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

Christian Men's Fellowship August 17 - 6:30pm

CMF meets monthly on the third Thursday. Dinner is provided! For more information or to help with setup, contact Julian Copeland at jhcpwc@gmail.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NEAAAT Gymnasium Schedule: Mondays –3:30pm–5:00 pm Tuesday-Friday 4:00 pm-7:00 pm		1 5:30 pm –9:00 pm <i>Social Hall Reserved</i> 5:30 pm Constitution Meeting	2 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	3 12:00 pm CWF	4	5
6 School Supply Drive Ends <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	7 7:00 pm Board Meeting	8 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:30 pm The Chosen	9 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	10 6:30 pm School Supply Drive: Packing Backpacks	11	12
13 <i>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</i>	14 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	15 6:30 pm The Chosen	16 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	17 6:30pm CMF	18	19 1:00-4:00 pm <i>Social Hall Reserved</i>
20 <i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	21 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	22 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:30 pm The Chosen Newsletter Submission Deadline ←	23 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir Rev. T.J. Vacation →	24	25	26 10:00 am-4:00 pm <i>Social Hall Reserved</i>
27 <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	28 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	29 6:30 pm The Chosen	30 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	31	SAVE THE DATE: October 1—HOMECOMING	

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 fccec.org.

Sample of One Week's Schedule
 Thursday, July 27 – Ecclesiastes 5
 Friday, July 28 - Ecclesiastes 6
 Saturday, July 29 – Ecclesiastes 7
 Sunday, July 30 – Day off
 Monday, July 31 – Ecclesiastes 8
 Tuesday, August 1 – Ecclesiastes 9
 Wednesday, August 2 – Ecclesiastes

Open Gym Basketball 6:00 pm —7:30 pm

Open Gym is an opportunity to spend time with our youth and have fun. The average attendance is 15 people plus area pastors are now joining us! A small devotion has been added. No registration is required. Come any Monday except the first Monday of the month. Contact Pastor TJ at minister@fccec.org for info.