

First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
JULY2023

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JULY 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

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SAVE
the
DATE



Vacation Bible School

July 26-28 | 6:00 pm—8:00 pm | Ages 4-12

Theme: Stellar – Shine Jesus Light!

Contact Rev. T.J. with inquiries or to volunteer to help at minister@fccec.org.

Hello FCC Family!

I pray this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying this mild summer we've had so far. Summer is usually a downtime for most churches but not us! Here's four things that will be happening next month at First Christian Church.

Back by popular demand, on Saturday, July 8th, we'll have our 2nd Annual Maritime Ministries Sunset Sail from 4:00-8:00 pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to cruise on a sailboat on the Pasquotank River, eat and even swim (if you want) all while supporting a local non-profit that serves and ministers to boaters coming through our area. This year we're adding a picnic complete with kites, frisbees and footballs to enjoy before heading out on the water! We have space for 20. Reserve your space quickly by calling or emailing us (office@fccec.org)! Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for all under 18.

Secondly, I want you to register to come with me to the 175th Regional Assembly meeting of our statewide denomination in October on the campus of Barton College! As a member of the Arrangements Committee for the Assembly, I can assure you that it will be worth your time and funds to register beginning on July 15th! We will even give you a ride there in our church van for FREE! For more details check out the region's site at www.ncdisciples.org.

Next (and I know this sounds early) is our annual School Supply Drive to benefit students at Pasquotank Elementary School. Starting on Sunday, July 23rd, we will start taking monetary donations for our Outreach Committee to buy all the supplies needed to fully stock backpacks for all the students in need at PES. Other than donating to the drive, there are two other ways to get involved that cost \$0. Thursday, August 10th, we'll get together to have a Backpack Packing Party (say that three times fast), which was a blast back in 2021 when we did it! Also, you're welcome to come with us when we deliver them to the school sometime before August 16th!

Last but not least, Vacation Bible School is making a comeback this year! I'm so excited to help the Education Committee put on Stellar, a VBS that encourages children to shine the light of Jesus in our world. If you'd love to be a part (either as a volunteer or for your child), contact us in the office by phone or email! Children from our church are encouraged to invite any and all of their friends! It's FREE and will be 6:00—9:00 pm, Wednesday-Friday, July 26th-28th!

As you can see, there's a plethora of ways you can get involved and serve the Lord within our church. We do all this to show God's love to our community. We'd love to have you involved and growing in your relationship with Jesus by serving, too.

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



JUNE, 2023 BOARD REPORT

The official board of First Christian Church met in the Fellowship Classroom on June 5, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. Teresa Moore, moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Our pastor and 17 board members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

TREASURER' REPORT: Portia Copeland provided the May check register as well as account balances as of May 23, 2023. The treasurer answered questions about the copier service and the video license for our church to show movies. Both amounts cover service for the entire year.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee met in the Fellowship Hall on June 4th with 12 members present. The following were points on the agenda:

We have been working on a reorganization of the order of service to ensure smooth transition from morning greetings into the body of worship. The board was given copies of proposed changes to put in place July 2nd.

We discussed the results from the poll of the congregation about a possible time change for worship on Sundays. It was decided that the difference in the yes/no votes was not significant enough to act upon.

We made Father's Day plans and will help instruct our youth on the distribution of the gifts.

While the nursery is not within our responsibilities, we discussed that in many churches children of a certain age begin to remain in the worship service. This idea might not be the best solution for FCC as there is a need for our older children to bond and learn as a group and start forming groups such as Chi Rho (*middle school*) and CYF (*high school*).

We discussed the need in the near future to divide Children's Church into two groups as the age ranges currently are quite wide. Rev. T.J. is working with the Education Committee and our committee will support their efforts in any way we can.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th unless there is a specific need to arise.

Betty Sawyer, Worship Chairperson

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Norma James has assumed the role of Education Committee chairperson upon the resignation of Jessica James. Norma is adapting the adult Sunday School lessons using internet resources to make them age-appropriate. The children are being given the opportunity to see videos and sing as well by using the screen in the Fellowship Hall. There are plans to present another skit in the future with Jesus Blessing the Children. Sandra Riggs has volunteered to help with Children's Church and more volunteers are needed for this ministry. An additional teacher

is currently needed for the adult Sunday School Class as well. Movie Night was held on May 26th with 14 youth and 13 adults participating. There are no plans for Vacation Bible School at this time but a Saturday event will be held in August or September for the children.

Norma James, Education Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: A Friends & Family spaghetti dinner was held on June 3rd with an estimated 53 people attending. Thanks to J. P. Rich, Melodi Robbins, and Gail Hobbs for providing brownies for dessert. Thanks to all who helped. Upcoming plans include:

- **July 15th: Drive-through breakfast** to benefit the church budget. Will run from 8:00-10:00 A.M.
- **August 5th: Cornhole Tournament** with hot dogs, hamburgers, and chips. Watermelon will be provided by Bill & Linda Ross. Ice cream bar for dessert.
- **October 1st: 2023 Homecoming** Fried chicken and ham will be provided by the church, and church members will be asked to bring side dishes.
- **Christmas Dinner** was planned to serve butter beans and ham biscuits, but there were some suggestions that this menu might change. Those attending will be asked to bring items for gift baskets for our shut-ins.

Portia Copeland, Membership Chairperson

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: The last set of backpacks were delivered for this school year. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12th.

Melodi Robbins, Outreach Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: No report

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Activities this month included spraying for ants and setting out baits; purchasing and installing a new light fixture for the library; starting to trim the crepe myrtle trees. Thanks to June Gibbs for weeding the beds around the parking lot.

A reminder to put all church activities on the church calendar at least two weeks ahead so that other groups who rent from us can be notified. All rental agreements include a stipulation that says a church activity takes precedence over outside groups; however, we will give them two weeks notice. In the case of funerals, no advance notice is required.

Tom Sawyer, Property Chairman

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: No report

ELDERS: June Gibbs, head elder, reported that the elders will meet on June 22nd to do the minister's evaluation.

DEACONS: Sandra Riggs reported all going well.

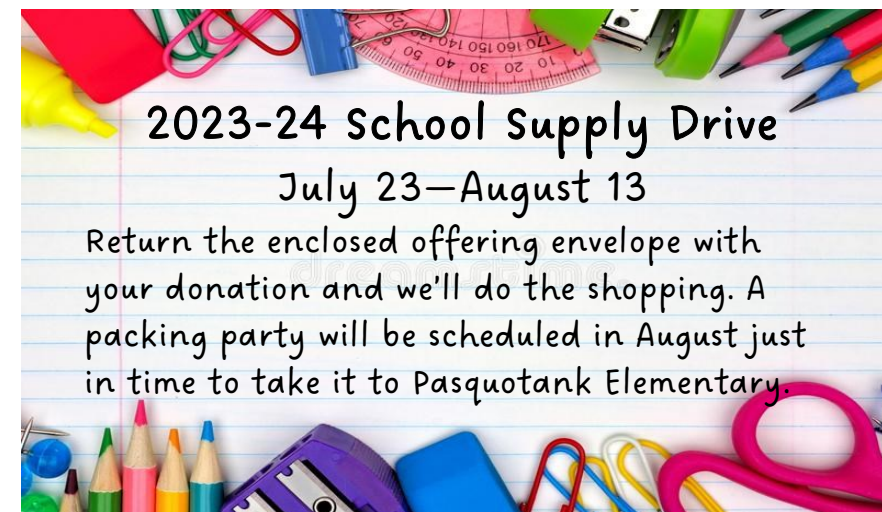
DEACONESSES: No report

July Birthdays

1	Michelle Hopkins	19	Gary Ambrose
3	Jeffrey Pierce	20	Amanda Merriman
	Keith Sawyer		Jaxson Bray
4	Michael White	22	Ethan Copeland
5	Raven Van Dalsum	23	Courtney Williams Cunningham
6	Abigail Bradshaw	23	Millie Sweetenham
7	Asher Long	24	Kara Pipkin Collins
8	Alexandria Segrest	24	Tim Warden
13	Mackenzie Rose Bryan	26	Randall Berry
15	Colleen Stevens	29	Ann Rene' Jennings
	Charles Gordon	30	Ashley Jones
16	Franziska Spruill		Janet Oller
17	Portia Copeland	31	Tyler Bray
	Kristi Pipkin Cartwright		Julian Copeland
18	Celeste Starlet Longest		

July Anniversaries

11 Michael & Pam Anderson



2023-24 School Supply Drive

July 23–August 13

Return the enclosed offering envelope with your donation and we'll do the shopping. A packing party will be scheduled in August just in time to take it to Pasquotank Elementary.

Serving in July

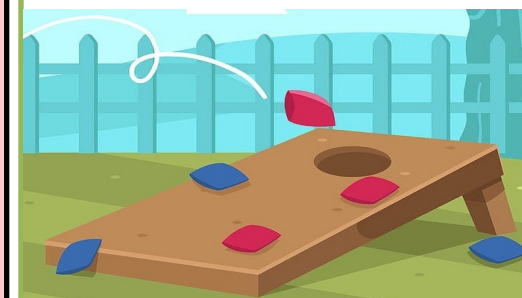
- Elder:** June Gibbs, Michelle Hopkins
- Deacons:** Tammy Sawyer, Travis James, Jessica James, Sophia Martel, Teresa Moore
- Deaconesses:** Peggy Humphries, Jean Etheridge
- Greeters:** July 2 Roberta Williamson, Gene & Mary Ann Scott
July 9 Justin & Ashley James
July 16 Jeff & Teresa Moore
July 23 Jean Etheridge, June Gibbs
July 30 Arlene & Larry Bruce
- Acolytes:** July 2 Ryland Lassiter & Zoey James
July 9 Ava Long & Jesse
July 16 Lilly Lassiter & Emily Gordon
July 23 Ava Long & Zoey James
July 30 Allie & Morgan Stevens



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT and Cookout!
Saturday, August 5th 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.

Contact Portia to help at membership@fccec.org. A sign up sheet is available in the foyer for those who plan to attend. You are also welcome to email office@fccec.org and we'll sign you up.



FATHER'S DAY TOOL DRIVE

DONATED IN MEMORY OF...

Garland Anderson by LaClaire & Family
 Mrs. Asa Beals by Stella Gallop
 Mrs. Asa Beals by "The Family"
 Fearing Beals by "The Family"
 Charles Bruce by Arlene & Larry
 John Christian by "The Family"
 Grover Copeland by Julian & Portia Copeland
 Herbert Ferrell by Tom & Betty Sawyer
 Donald Etheridge by "His Children"
 Ludford Etheridge by Donna J. Etheridge
 T.C. "Bill" Flood by Nancy Tatum & Family
 Dallas Gallop by "The Family"
 Oscar Hobbs by Carlton & Louise Berry
 Ray Hopkins by "The Family"
 Judson Lamb by Murlene Williams
 Larry Oller by "The Family"
 Quinton Ray Onley by Gail Hobbs & Family
 Quinton S. Onley by Gail Hobbs & Family
 W.E. "Jack" Raby by "His Children"
 Al Rhodes by Joy Rhodes
 William Robinson by "The Family"
 Thomas A. Sawyer, Jr. by Tom & Betty Sawyer
 William E. "Mutt" Scott by Nina Scott Gregory
 William E. "Mutt" Scott by Gene & MaryAnn Scott
 David Spruill by Franziska Spruill
 James E. White by Gene & MaryAnn Scott
 Rufus White, Jr. by Julian & Portia Copeland
 Frank E. Williams by Murlene Williams
 Frank O. Williams by Murlene Williams
 Wilson Williams by Nancy Tatum & Family

DONATED IN HONOR OF...

Pete Bogardus by Joy Rhodes
 Stevie Forbes by Joy Rhodes
 Justin Hatfield by Nina Scott Gregory
 Rev. Charles McKenzie by Nancy Tatum & Family
 Justin Mitchell by Nina Scott Gregory
 William E. "Gene" Scott by MaryAnn Scott

Altar Flowers

July 2 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Shelton "Poss" Bunch, July 6th, by his daughter, Bonnie Bunch Arnold.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her sister, Theo Bohn and her brother, Wesley Norriis, by the Sandra & Darrell Riggs family.

July 9 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Irene and Joseph Morse, by Douglas & Mary Pritchard and John & Doris Daems.

July 16 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J.C. "Bill" Flood's birthday by Nancy Tatum and Judy & Charles McKensie.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthdays of Thomas and Daphene Parrish, by Virgil & JoAnne, T.J. & Kay, and Justin, Lee and Alden.

July 23 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthday of Rev. A. Lynn Robbins, by his daughters, Melodi and Mary.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. "Jack" Raby and Mrs. Evelyn Sawyer Raby by their children.

July 30 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 Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Scott family, and Nina Gregory family.

CLASS of 2023



Thomas A. Giarmono
 Graduate of NEAAAT and early college at COA
Parents: Lisa & Anthony Giarmono
Grandparents:
 Tom & Betty Sawyer



Kyndall Alexis Meads
 Graduate of ECP Early College (Cum Laude), College/UNC endorsement and ECPPS Senior Scholar, associate degree from COA, plans to attend ECU (Nursing)
Parents: Kris & Anna Meads
Grandparents:
 Vance & Deloris Meads

CMF: J. P. Rich, CMF representative, reported that 11 men attended the May meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 15th at 6:30 P.M.

CWF: CWF met on June 1st at noon with 12 ladies present. Our Just Women study was entitled "Grief, Joy and the Importance of Ritual." Portia announced that a fundraiser on July 15th of breakfast biscuits and applejacks will benefit the budget. Roberta provided information that the Albemarle Commission on Aging is providing (free) 10 hours per week of care for persons needing personal assistance. Also discussed was the question of whether our carillon bell system can be reestablished. *Portia Copeland, President*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The committee to update the church constitution and bylaws is continuing to meet. In September the board will receive the proposed changes. The board also continued its discussion about the ongoing need for a nursery worker.

NEW BUSINESS:

Portia Copeland moved to appoint Norma James as the chairperson of the Education Committee. Tammy Sawyer seconded the motion, and the vote approved the motion.

Our pastor provided information about upgrading our sound system. Using a generous donation from a church member specifically for this area of need, \$1750 was spent upgrading our wifi, and moving the security monitor in the church office. The additional \$250 will be spent in training Keith Sawyer, our church's audio-visual volunteer, in the upgrades.

MINISTER'S REPORT: This minister's report covers things accomplished in the month of May.

I made nine pastoral visits this past month and will make weekly visits on Monday mornings. I will see all of our shut-ins at least once a month with an informal goal of at least 12 visits a month.

On May 4th we hosted our 2nd Annual National Day of Prayer service with 42 in attendance. This year along with Corinth Baptist Church hosting their usual service at noon, Evangelical Methodist Church also hosted an evening service.

Last month we averaged 16 each Monday night we offered Open Gym. Pepsi Bottling Ventures kindly donated 200 bottles of Aquafina water to Open Gym. Since we've began watching The Chosen on Tuesday nights, we have averaged 10 in attendance. Our Bible Discussion group has completed nearly 40% of the Bible and are now reading through the book of Proverbs, 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles.

Last month, Teresa Moore and I selected 6 individuals to invite to serve on the Pastoral Relations Committee. Those individuals on the committee are Julian Copeland, June

Gibbs, Arlene Bruce, Sandra Riggs, Joe Lassiter and Jackie Gordon.

On the 26th the Education Committee sponsored a free Family Movie Night & Ice Cream Sundae bar. We had 26 in attendance and had a great time.

On May 31 I was asked by Bishop Valerie Melvin to serve on the Local Arrangements Committee to help plan the second half of the Regional Assembly in Wilson coming up in October. My first zoom meeting with that committee will occur next Monday, June 12th at 6pm.

Here are my goals for June: 1) help in coordinating church-wide events such as the Dine Out to Help Out fundraiser on June 8th, the Community Cleanup day on June 19th and the upcoming Maritime Ministries Sunset Sail currently scheduled for Saturday, July 8, 2) meet with the Education Committee to select a date, build a volunteer team and start planning for an early August VBS (Forest Park Church will be donating their curriculum and some decorations) among my regular duties.

I humbly ask for your patience this summer as both of my kids are attending multiple camps for basketball, football, gymnastics and outdoor education in addition to going to Camp Caroline and Camp Cale. The weeks in which I have my kids, my presence in the office will vary greatly as some camps end at 1pm while others go all day. I assured the board that Rana will always be privy to my schedule and that this will not affect my work performance.

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, Gene Scott made a motion to adjourn. Our pastor dismissed us in prayer.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Tatum, Board Secretary

Finance Report MAY 2023

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

Monthly Budget	\$ 15,312
Budget Income	\$ 10,179
Budget Shortage	\$ 5,133
Expenses:	\$ 9,605
Designated Income	\$ 3,305
Designated Bills:	\$ 1,960
Attendance:	
May (4 Sundays)	= 52 avg
Children	= 6 avg
National Day of Prayer Service	= 42
The Chosen	= 10 avg



Sunset Sail & Picnic

Saturday, July 8, 2023
4:00 pm—8:00 pm

Adults \$25 / Child \$15
(18 & under)

Bring a friend to a summer picnic and sunset sail and help support a local Christian ministry. Email office@fccec.org or call the church office for more information or to sign up. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer.



July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	3 7:00 pm Board Meeting	4 Church Office Closed Independence Day	5 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	6 12:00 pm CWF	7	8 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Maritime Ministries Sunset Sail & Picnic (\$25/\$15)
9 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	10 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	11 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:00 pm The Chosen	12 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	13	14	15 8:00 am - 10:00 am Breakfast Biscuit & Applejack Sale Regional Assembly Registration Opens*
16 <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i>	17 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	18 6:00 pm The Chosen	19 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 7:00 pm Choir	20 6:30pm CMF	21	22
23 School Supply Drive Begins (Ends 8/13)** <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	24 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym Newsletter Submission Deadline	25 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:00 pm The Chosen	26 5:45 pm Bible Discussion 6:00 pm—8:00 pm VBS: STELLAR No Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00 pm— 8:00 pm VBS: STELLAR	28 6:00 pm— 8:00 pm VBS: STELLAR	29 3:30 pm SOULS
30 <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	31 6:00-7:30 pm Open Gym	* Regional Assembly Registration: Go to www.ncdisciples.org to register. **School Supply Drive 7/23-8/13—Envelopes distributed through July Newsletter, Bulletin 7/23, and supplied on the table in the foyer. Donations will be used to purchase the necessary items. A Backpack Stuffing Night will be scheduled in August.				

Rev 0621

Breakfast Biscuits & Applejack Sale

Saturday, July 15th
8 am to 10 am

Sausage Biscuits \$1.50
Cheese Biscuits \$1.00
Applejacks \$3.00

Drive-thru orders are welcome.
Advance orders taken by signup
or calling Portia. Funds to support
the General Fund of FCC.

Place Advance Orders Now!



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!
Next Episode:
July 11—Episode 8: "I Am He" (S1)

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! 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, June 29 – 1 Kings 7
Friday, June 30 – 2 Chronicles 4
Saturday, July 1 – 1 Kings 8
Sunday, July 2 – Day off
Monday, July 3 – 2 Chronicles 5
Tuesday, July 4 – 2 Chronicles 6
Wednesday, July 5 – 2 Chronicles 7

SAVE
the
DATE

Sunday, October 1, 2023
HOMECOMING



Christian Women's Fellowship July 6 - 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 July 20 - 6:30pm



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

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 17 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 with questions at minister@fccec.org.

