

First Christian Church(Disciples of Christ)  
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# The Voice



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## of First Christian Church

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Rev. Reece Jones, Minister  
Volume XII, Issue 12

Marilyn Lee, Editor  
December 2016

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG.  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – NOON**

**RALLY NIGHT – 5:30PM  
DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> – SANTA WILL VISIT!**

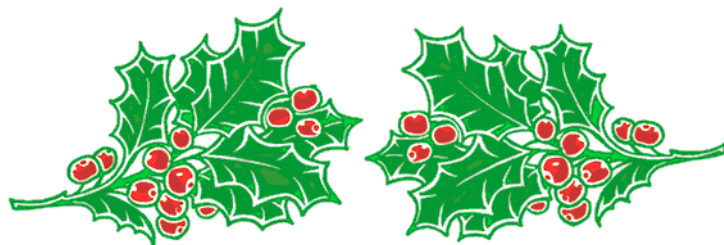
**CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
DURING WORSHIP – DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**ECU vs. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON  
BASKETBALL GAME – FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT  
WILLIAMS ARENA  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 7PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – 5:30PM**

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Annual 2016 Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service.** The agenda items will be the approval of the 2017 operating budget and the election of church officers for 2017.



**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

**CYPRESS GLEN AT NOON**

**COST: \$12      RSVP To Lee at 756-5787**

# DISCIPLE MEN'S (CMF) BREAKFAST

We will not meet in December. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017** – our next meeting.

## RALLY NIGHT DATES

DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> — Santa will visit!

### REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS AND VISITS

#### IN ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME/ FACILITIES

Freda Kovalchick, Scrappy Proctor, Mardell Remick, Nell Speight, Maggie Smith, Bebe Tripp and Raye Troutman.

#### MEMBER / VISITOR CONCERNS

Jason Adams, Brayom Anderson, Dot Baverstock, Muriel Bennett, Sheron Bennett, Bobby Boone, Vera Congleton, Carlton Corbett, Nancy Corbett, Sylvia Corey, Della Dayson, Charles Godwin, Bob Gurganus, Wanda Cox Harrington, John Heath, Robert Hill, Marilyn Lee, Louise McGinty, Anne Mattox, Melvin "Big Daddy" Moore, and Virginia Scales. Stephen & India West Silverthorne are serving in the U.S. Army at Ft. Bragg, NC.

#### OTHER CONCERNS

Sandra Allen (Karen Averette's niece), Val Barnhart (Marla Harrell's sister), Rhett Barrett (Wanda Harrington's cousin's grandson), Eric Batchelor (friend of Jennifer & David Lee and Mary & Harold Nau), Francis Bell (friend of Howard & Marilyn Lee), Elias Belmadani (Donna Whitley and Kacem Sebti's grandson), Ashlynn Bennett (Sheron Bennett's granddaughter), Norwood Bradshaw (co-worker of Alysia Bright & Crystal Gardner), Brenda Brown (Tim Manning's aunt), Becky Bundy (Dawn Manning's mother), Angie Byrne (friend of Lana & Chris Warren), Blain Cargyle (friend of Deborah Price & brother-in-law of Lester & Sandra Everett), Beth Ann Cole (friend of Sandy Steele), Kristey Coulter (friend of Marsha Griffin), A.E."Bud" Cox (Wanda Harrington's uncle), Ed Diehl (Donna Diehl's husband), Nicole Doty (Marla Harrell's niece), Tara Driver (friend of Wanda Harrington), Benton Edwards (friend of Marla Harrell), John Faulstich (Beth Anne Stork's father), Bonny Feldbush (Leslie's mother), Savannah Ferguson (Sheron Bennett's granddaughter), Lindsey Gardner (Traci Anderson's sister-in-law), Janie Griffin (Marsha Griffin's mother), Mary Edna Haislip (Dynita Gottschall's mother), Edwin Hall (Jim Hall's father), Marty Harrell (Marla's husband), Dale Harris (Sandra Everett's nephew), Chris Hill (friend of Chris Knight), Ruby Hodges (Joanne Ellington's sister), Lewis Keech (friend of Rebecca Chahid), Dottie Knight (Chris Knight's mother), Meg Lee (David Lee's stepmother; Nicolas Lee's grandmother), Susan Lillie (Lester Everett's cousin), Gloria & William McGraw, Mrs. Dallas McPherson (friend of Marla & Marty Harrell), Tina Martin (Michelle Smith's sister), June Montgomery (Keith Montgomery's sister), Barbara Pawlin (Dorothy Burkett's daughter), Neva Peaden (friend of Lana Warren), Sue Pennington, Doug Reid (Robin West's father), Newton Riggs (DeLane Knight's father), Martha Roberson (friend of Alysia Bright), Emily Robertson, Vini Rohrbaugh (Marla Harrell's brother), Logan Rumph (Theresa's grandson), Max Scheetz (Donna Diehl's father), Kimberly Schlienz (friend of Wanda Harrington), Tim Summerlin (Muriel Bennett's son), Mindy Tysinger (friend of Mary Marshall Heckstall), Kylie Ward (friend of the Bennetts), Kim Watson (friend of Don & Susan Edwards and Sandy Steele), Zach White (D.H. Conley student), William Wood (friend of Marla Harrell), Rex Woolard (Sara Kleinknecht's uncle), Robin Wooten (friend of Dawn Manning) and Jackie Yongue (Bonnie Perkins' niece).

## DEAR FRIENDS OF FCC,

**FIRST:** Sam and I miss everyone, we think of you often.

**SECOND:** I want to thank all of you for the many prayers which have been offered on my behalf. Guess what – they work.

**THIRD:** Also, thank you for all of the beautiful cards you have sent – there was so much love in them.

I am making a good recovery and all is well with Sam and me. Please come to see us.

Love, Suzi Pennington and Sam, too

## **FINE CRAFT & ART SALE THANK-YOU!**

The Ninth Annual Fine Craft and Art Sale was a successful and fun event. The dedication and support of the congregation and the public is gratefully acknowledged. We experienced our largest crowd of shoppers this year and can expect the event to grow because of the positive environment. The bake sale items were quickly snapped up by enthusiastic buyers. We sold all of this year's Brunswick Stew!

The combination of the Sale and the BBQ filled the FLC on Saturday. Your support, presence and enthusiasm make these two days a positive event for all! **THANK YOU!**

## **PRAYER MINISTRY GROUP**

All are invited to attend the Prayer Ministry Group on Tuesday mornings at 9:00AM in the Board Room at First Christian Church. We are gathering weekly to pray by name for all those listed in the concerns of the church as well as other personal and global intentions. The facilitators, Brian Hufford and Rev. Elizabeth Deasy, welcome all who want to participate in this new ministry of prayer.

## **HONOR (CHRISTMAS) CARDS**

are available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the weekdays. Cards are \$5.00/ea. or 5 for \$20. All proceeds benefit the Community Crossroads Shelter.

**ECU vs. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON  
BASKETBALL GAME – FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT  
WILLIAMS ARENA  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 7PM  
FCC CHURCH OFFICE HAS TICKETS FOR \$5 EA.  
SEE MARILYN OR CALL 756-3138**

# **RADIAE**



**Children's Fellowship Group  
First Christian Church (DoC)  
Greenville, NC**

Radiate Children's Fellowship (Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, after worship** in the FLC. We will be working on a holiday service project for the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital families. The children will have lunch and work on the outreach project. Pick up is at 2pm. Check your email to RSVP.

The Radiate Children's Fellowship Group is selling vinyl chalice decals for \$5. Funds raised will benefit the children's fellowship activities and outreach mission projects. Please purchase yours from the children in the narthex before and after church or see Adrienne Fornes.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY “SALT & LIGHT”**

December's Sunday Salt & Light will meet on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, @ 5:30pm at the home of Karen & Whit Brown! This will be an awesome night, so make plans to attend! Bring a friend, a healthy appetite and an open mind!!! Be ready to grow spiritually through new relationships & fellowship! See you on December 11<sup>th</sup>!!

**WHO: All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Youth**

**WHAT: Sunday Night Salt & Light**

**WHEN: Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm**

**(We will be shopping for our Christmas Family)**

**DINNER: Jersey Mike's Subs, Chips, Pasta Salad and Dessert**

**WHERE: Karen & Whit Brown 726 Butterfly Ct. Winterville, NC 28590**

**\*\*If you need transportation, please let us know – don't miss out\*\***

**Dawn & Tim Manning**

**Karen & Whit Brown**

**Jennifer & Jereme Blizzard**

**Avis & Stephen Wicher**

**Stacey & Jeremy Cook**

**Emma Brothers**

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE . .**

- **Operation Christmas Child** – Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox this year!
- **Christmas Tag Tree** is in the narthex. These gifts will go to Pactolus School students and participants of the Creative Living Center. Each tag will list the name of the recipient on the back along with gift suggestions. Please purchase ALL gifts listed. **Fill out the perforated bottom portion of the tag and leave in the box.** We need to know who took the tags. **The gifts need to be back to the church by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.** If you do not want to shop, give the tag and money (for Pactolus gifts) to Deborah Price.
- **Gifts for the 145 Foster Children in Pitt County** (Foster Children's Holiday Cheer Fund) can be placed in the big box in the Narthex (**new, unwrapped gifts**) beginning November 6<sup>th</sup>. **The gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina** – please place your nonperishable food items in the big basket in the Narthex.
- Last, but not least: **Hope Lodge** – Some of the needs are: waterless hand sanitizer, 23 watt light bulbs, white copy paper, WHITE bath and hand towels, white washcloths, individually wrapped snacks, hand soap in pump bottles, WHITE twin sheet sets, Clorox wipes, phone cards, canned goods. As always, there is a need for toilet paper, WHITE dishtowels, napkins, paper towels, plastic knives, forks and spoons, WHITE twin blankets, Zip-lock bags – all sizes as well as grocery/gas/pharmacy gift card, restaurant gift cards and Bingo prizes.

I am sure there is something on this list you can bring to church and put in the big bucket in the narthex to help with this project.

Jewelle Boone

Outreach Mission Team Chair

## **FROM OUR MINISTER . . . CELL: (252) 883-4495**

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have begun the season of Advent. Over the last five years, I shared with you some of the characteristics of Advent and the way that this season provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what it means to live in an in-between time; on one hand, looking back to Jesus' first coming and on the other hand, looking forward to his Second Coming in power and glory. During Advent, our worship services will revolve around this theme and attempt to help us as we live into the meaning of the Advent season.

Of course, Christmas then is right around the corner. And for many of us, Christmas is a challenge. We love the fun and festivity, the presents and the carols, the family and the trees. Christmas is a lot of fun. As Christians, though, it is important that we not lose sight of what Christmas is really all about. Christmas is when we celebrate and acknowledge that God, in human flesh, entered our world in the person of Jesus. He came to us, not as a king or conquering hero, but rather as a little baby in a manger. For so many reasons, how he came is important. For one thing, it signifies God's desire to identify with us in our humanity. One of the cardinal doctrines of our faith is that Jesus was fully divine, but he was also fully human. And as a human being, he discovered what it's like to be us; to hurt like we hurt, to cry like we cry, to struggle like we struggle, to have fun like we have fun. In other words, Jesus became one of us so that we could understand better who God is and how we can know and love God in a personal way.

This year at Christmas, I want to encourage you to focus on the theological meaning of Christmas. Have fun, open presents, drink eggnog, hang out with friends and family members; but stay involved at First Christian Church as well, reflect on what Christmas is all about, take time to thank God for the gift he gave when he gave us himself. As I mentioned in the first paragraph, our worship services during Advent and Christmas are a great way to stay focused on and involved in the meaning of Advent and Christmas. Take advantage of those opportunities. Each Sunday, we will emphasize an important aspect of Advent and then on Christmas Eve, we will bring all that together. So, have a Merry Christmas and I hope to see you a lot during the month of December.

Grace and peace, *Reece*

The logo features the word "UP" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with a small star above the "U". To the right of "UP" is the word "COMING" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. Below "COMING" is the word "EVENTS" in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black border.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January 4<sup>th</sup> – RALLY Night Resumes
- January 8<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Board Officers and Deacons  
(during worship)
- January 14<sup>th</sup> – Church Cabinet Retreat 10am-4pm
- February 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – CYF Midwinter 2017 Retreat-Camp Caroline
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – Chi Rho Retreat-Camp Caroline

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY – JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> – INDIANAPOLIS**

Register today at [disciples.org/ga](http://disciples.org/ga)

Early registration rate expires March 30, 2017



*The Story of Christmas,  
 Relived and retold. . .  
 The Bethlehem miracle,  
 Centuries old. . .  
 God's gift of His Son  
 Free to all who receive. . .  
 Beyond understanding. . .  
 And still we believe*



**OUR STATEMENT OF CALLING**

First Christian Church is called to share the word of God by living God's peace.

- People who love God and each other
- Emphasis on God through Jesus Christ
- All are welcome
- Compassion for all
- Engage in building the community of faith through Jesus



**A ME\$\$AGE FROM OUR TREASURER. . .**

**TOM GOTTSCHALL**

As 2016 is drawing to a close, I hope that you will find this information useful.

**Monetary Contributions:** FCC will comply with IRS regulations regarding the crediting of 2016 contributions. Donors must hand deliver contributions to the church office by December 29<sup>th</sup> or mail and postmark contributions by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to claim a charitable contribution for 2016. Mailed contributions do not have to actually arrive in the church office by 12/31/2016, **but they must be postmarked in 2016.** Contributions postmarked in 2016 will be credited as 2016 contributions. **The church office will be open Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, December, 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Stock Contributions:** At this time of year, some people complete their planned giving by donating shares of stock. After completing the process with your broker, please call either me (258-9623) or Marilyn at the church office (756-3138) to let us know your gift is coming. This will ensure that you receive the appropriate credit. Otherwise, we will not know who gave the gift.

**Staff Gifts:** When presenting a financial gift to a church employee, please consider giving it directly to the individual rather than giving it to that person through the church. Here's why:

Based on Internal Revenue Code, the only way your gift can be considered a "true gift" is for you to give it directly to the employee with "no strings attached."

If you make a check payable to the church and ask that the amount be given to a staff member, you get credit for the gift on your record of contributions. The church then honors your request regarding distribution. The IRS considers a "gift" given to an employee in this manner not to be a "gift" at all, but supplemental income for which the employee must claim as income.

If you give a gift directly to the employee without going through the church, it will not show up on your record of contribution and the employee will not incur any additional tax liability.

***Please call me at 258-9623 if you have any questions.***



**ATTENDANCE / COMMITMENT/ EXPENSES IN OCTOBER 2016**

**AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 148**

**MONTHLY**

Contributions: \$ 18,962  
Expenses: \$ 20,583

**YEAR-TO-DATE**

Contributions: \$ 177,791  
Expenses: \$ 217,840