

First Christian Church(Disciples of Christ)
2810 E. 14th Street, Greenville NC 27858
Phone: 252 / 756-3138
Mail: PO Box 2366, Greenville NC 27836-0366

fccpastor@embarqmail.com
fccadmin@embarqmail.com

The Voice

of First Christian Church

Rev. Reece Jones, Minister
Volume XIII, Issue 3

Marilyn Lee, Editor
March 2017

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
MARCH 1ST – 6:30PM**

**YARD SALE – 6AM – 11AM
SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

**LENTEN LUNCHEONS
NOON—FAMILY LIFE CENTER
MARCH 6TH, 13TH, 20TH, & 27TH**

**BACKPACK PALS PACKING EVENT –
NOON, MARCH 12TH**

**COMMITTEE OF 144 LUNCHEON
NOON, SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**

**YOUTH SUNDAY @ FCC
MARCH 26TH**

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017 – 10:30am—Church Parlor
Start or continue a tradition of Fun, Fellowship, and Faith.
Bring a friend!

CYPRESS GLEN LUNCHEON

Please plan to attend the Dutch-treat luncheon at Cypress Glen on **Thursday, March 16th, at noon**. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with our church members residing at Cypress Glen.

Jewelle Boone

RALLY NIGHT DATES

MARCH 1ST / 8TH / 15TH / 22ND / 29TH

5:30PM – SUPPER

\$5.00 – ADULTS

\$5.00 – CHILDREN 13 YEARS & OLDER

\$3.00 – CHILDREN 12 YEARS & YOUNGER

THERE IS A \$20 LIMIT FOR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

2017 RALLY NIGHT MEAL SIGN-UP

The March – May 2017 dates are listed on the easel in the narthex. Please sign up to do a meal or call the Church Office (756-3138) to get your name on the list.

DISCIPLE MEN'S (CMF) BREAKFAST

8am Sunday, March 26th – Family Life Center

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 ministry of prayer.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:30AM – CHURCH PARLOR

MARCH 8TH / MARCH 15TH / MARCH 22ND



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



LENTEN MEDITATION/LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

Please join us at noon in the Family Life Center on the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 6	Mike Goff
March 13	Elizabeth Deasy
March 20	Brian Hufford
March 27	Skipper McLawhorn
April 3	Reece Jones

JOHN GAINES GURGANUS

was born Saturday, February 11th, weighing in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21" long. Proud parents are Jenny and Daniel; proud grandparents are Weezie and Bob Gurganus and Sharon and Kevin O'Brien.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

8AM – 4:30PM

HOST CHURCH: FIRST CHRISTIAN, WILSON

The 169th Regional Assembly of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina Assembly to Include:
Workshops, Business Session and All-Assembly Lunch.

The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Sumney

Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II

The Thedford G. and Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lecturer

For more information contact valerie@ncdisciples.org or call
(252) 291-4047 ext. 207. Website: ncdisciples.org

2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JULY 8-12, 2017 INDIANAPOLIS

REGISTER TODAY AT discples.org/ga

EARLY REGISTRATION RATE EXPIRES MARCH 30, 2017

EASTER LILIES

To decorate the church for Easter, lilies can be purchased in memory or in honor of someone. **Please fill out the form below and turn into the church office by Monday, March 27th (last day to order) with \$12.00 for each plant ordered. Please make checks payable to First Christian Church.**

Person Ordering: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

of plants: _____ x \$12.00 = Total _____



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|----------|---|
| April 3 | Lenten Meditation/Luncheon |
| April 13 | Cypress Glen Luncheon |
| April 14 | Good Friday Service |
| April 15 | Community Day |
| April 16 | Easter Sunrise Service – Prayer Labyrinth |
| April 20 | Set up for Brushstrokes Art Show |
| April 21 | Brushstrokes Art Show – FLC |

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS AND VISITS

IN ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME/FACILITIES

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

MEMBER / VISITOR CONCERNS

Jason Adams, Brayom Anderson, Dot Baverstock, Muriel Bennett, Sheron Bennett, Bobby Boone, Carlton Corbett, Nancy Corbett, Sylvia Corey, Crystal Gardner, Charles Godwin, Bob Gurganus, Wanda Cox Harrington, John Heath, Robert Hill, Marilyn Lee, Melvin "Big Daddy" Moore, Mardell Remick, and Virginia Scales.

Stephen & India West Silverthorne are serving in the U.S. Army at Ft. Bragg, NC

OTHER CONCERNS

Audrey (friend of Karen Carraway), Sandra Allen (Karen Averette's niece), Carrie Anzelmo (Adrienne Fornes' mother), 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), Elias Belmadani (Donna Whitley and Kacem Sebti's grandson), Ashlynn Bennett (Sheron Bennett's granddaughter), Brenda Brown (Tim Manning's aunt), Becky Bundy (Dawn Manning's mother), Angie Byrne (friend of Lana & Chris Warren), Beth Ann Cole (friend of Sandy Steele), Blain Cargyle (friend of Deborah Price, brother-in-law of Sandra & Lester Everett), Kristey Coulter (friend of Marsha Griffin), A.E."Bud" Cox (Wanda Harrington's uncle), Ed Diehl (Donna Diehl's husband), Carolyn Driver (friend of Wanda Harrington), Benton Edwards (friend of Marla Harrell), John Faulstich (Beth Anne Stork's father), Tom Feldbush (Leslie's father), Savannah Ferguson (Sheron Bennett's granddaughter), Lindsey Gardner (Traci Anderson's sister-in-law), 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), 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 Schlien (friend of Wanda Harrington), Mary Lee Smart (Wanda Harrington's cousin), 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), Caleb Whitley (friend of Reece Jones), William Wood (friend of Marla Harrell), Robin Wooten (friend of Dawn Manning) and Jackie Yongue (Bonnie Perkins' niece).

6TH – 12TH SUNDAY "SALT & LIGHT"

March's Sunday Salt & Light will meet on Sunday, March 12th, @ 5:30pm at First Christian Church! 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 March 12th!

WHO: All 6th-12th Youth

WHAT: Sunday Night Salt & Light

WHEN: Sunday, March 12th @ 5:30pm

DINNER: TBA

WHERE: First Christian Church

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

Dawn & Tim Manning

Avis & Stephen Wicher

Karen & Whit Brown

Stacey & Jeremy Cook

Jennifer & Jereme Blizzard

BACKPACK PALS PACKING EVENT AFTER WORSHIP MARCH 12TH!

Please plan to stay a few minutes after the service on March 12th to pack bags for Backpack Pals. We can share our resources and our physical energy to fill many bags to feed the 62 children we serve each weekend. This simple act of packing bags proves our commitment to helping those in need. It is also a way to share our love. Afterwards you may find your own lunchtime meal to be most enjoyable knowing that someone else has been fed.

Brandon, Judy, Sally & Wanda

COMMITTEE OF 144 LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP ON MARCH 19TH!

Lunch will be catered and the drawing will occur concurrently with the meal. Here are some changes that will be implemented:

1. After your number is drawn, you may take up to 3 months to fulfill your commitment.
2. Each person will receive a confidential envelope, corresponding with the number drawn, with a pledge card indicating your intent on how you want to pay your commitment.
3. The "tally" spreadsheet will not be projected on the wall.

We look forward to seeing you on March 19th!

Elizabeth, Deborah, David, Charles and Waightly--Committee for the Committee

It's That Time of Year Again!

The Annual Children & Youth Fundraising

YARD SALE!!!

March 4th! 6am-11am



Start cleaning out your closets, attics, and garages! We will begin accepting donations in the Family Life Center between now and Friday, March 3rd. If you need assistance bringing your items to the church, please contact Adrienne Fornes

(252) 375-7590.

Want to help? We are in need of pricers, set-up, take down, customer assistance, cashiers, and most of all...DONATORS!!



COMMUNITY DAY

**Saturday, April 15th, 2017
10:00am – 12:30pm**



We need everyone to help make this event Great! This is our "want list":

Plastic Easter Eggs

Lots of candy to go in the eggs

10 dozen (confetti batter) cupcakes – no icing

Bingo prizes – gift cards, pies, brownies, keychains, small toys (Dollar Tree)

Volunteer to help that day! Look for sign-up sheets!

Deborah Price, Evangelism Mission Team Chair

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

Well, it is almost time for the Lenten season and every year during Lent, I encourage you to take advantage of this time to reflect on your spiritual journey and to think about where you are in your relationship with God through Jesus Christ and where you would like to be in that relationship at the end of this Lenten journey. It is a time for us to ask ourselves hard questions and to think about the previous commitments we have made and whether or not we are living up to those commitments.

Lent is also a time to get ready to experience the resurrection of Jesus in a personal way. Some people prepare by giving something up – sweets, or soda, or something else that they enjoy doing; others prepare by taking something on – maybe patience or forgiveness or some other attitude that has been lacking in their lives. Actually, both are appropriate, giving something up and taking something on, and both should be practiced together.

Although I was much more familiar with practice of giving something up, in recent years I have focused more on taking something on, and over the last couple of years, my sermons during Lent have emphasized how we do that. Taking on, or being more intentional about things like practicing compassion, forgiveness, patience, empathy, or selflessness have been a part of some of those sermons. This year is no different. As we spend time together over the next several weeks, leading up to Easter, I plan to do the same thing.

But I also want to encourage you to work hard during Lent on the things that are important to you. We have a number of different resources to help you. We have a Lenten devotional that will be available to assist you; we will have our Lenten luncheons every Monday during Lent, where a different speaker will share; we have a Palm Sunday service; a Good Friday service; a sunrise Easter service in the labyrinth; and our Easter service in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. All these activities and worship services are not just things we do because we are supposed to do them. Rather, we believe that as we study, and pray, and worship together during Lent, we are able to collectively journey toward a better understanding of the significance of the Jesus' death and resurrection. And in the process, we become better Christians. Hope to see you a lot during Lent.

Grace and peace,

Reece



ATTENDANCE / COMMITMENT/ EXPENSES IN JANUARY 2017

AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 155

MONTHLY		YEAR-TO-DATE	
Contributions:	\$ 22,020	Contributions:	\$ 22,020
Expenses:	\$ 22,793	Expenses:	\$ 22,793