

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 12

Marilyn Lee, Editor
December 2017

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD – NOON**

**RALLY NIGHT
DECEMBER 6TH – 6PM
DECEMBER 13TH – 5:30PM*
*SANTA WILL VISIT!**

**CWF CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
AT CYPRESS GLEN
DECEMBER 11TH – NOON**

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DURING WORSHIP – DECEMBER 17TH**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DECEMBER 24TH – 5:30PM**



RALLY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 13th

5:30 p.m. – Catered Meal

6:15 p.m. – Activities Begin



Activities include: Crafts, Reindeer
Food Preparations, The Christmas Story,
and a Special Visitor
All Are Welcome!





Judy and Billy West came forward during the Hymn of Invitation on November 26th. Welcome, Judy and Billy!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING DECEMBER.



**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017
NOON
CYPRESS GLEN LUNCHEON**

Pay \$12 at the front desk for a ticket for the luncheon.

**LET'S CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND SHARE FAITH,
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.**

PRAYER MINISTRY GROUP
will meet Tuesday, December 19th

CMF BREAKFAST

No meeting in December. Next meeting: January 28, 2018.

FINE CRAFT & ART SALE THANK-YOU!

The Tenth 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!

Your support, presence and enthusiasm make these two days a positive event for all! THANK YOU!

6th – 12th Sunday "Salt & Light"

December's Salt & Light will meet, Sunday, December 10th @ the home of Dawn & Tim Manning! This will be an awesome night of Christmas shopping, fun games, great food, lots of laughs and great times as we celebrate the Christmas season!

WHO: All 6th-12th Youth

WHAT: Sunday Night Salt & Light

WHEN: Sunday, December 10th @ 4:00pm – 7:30pm

DINNER: TBA

WHERE: Meet @ the Cooks @ 4pm (sharp)

Will go to the Manning's after Christmas Shopping

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

Dawn & Tim Manning

Stacey & Jeremy Cook

Karen & Whit Brown

Jennifer & Jereme Blizzard

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS AND VISITS

IN ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME/ FACILITIES

Eleanor Bunting, Freda Kovalchick, Mardell Remick, Nell Speight, Maggie Smith, Bebe Tripp and Raye Troutman.

MEMBER / VISITOR CONCERNS

Jason Adams, Brayom Anderson, Dot Baverstock, John Bazzle, Muriel Bennett, Sheron Bennett, Bobby Boone, Dorothy Burkett, Carlton Corbett, Nancy Corbett, Sylvia Corey, Fannie Croom, Lester Everett, Crystal Gardner, Charles Godwin, Bob Gurganus, Wanda Cox Harrington, Howard Lee, Marilyn Lee, 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), Carrie Anzelmo (Adrienne Fornes' mother), Val Barnhart (Marla Harrell's sister), Rhett Barrett (Wanda Harrington's cousin's grandson), Elias Belmadani (Donna Whitley and Kacem Sebti's grandson), Ashlynn Bennett (Sheron Bennett's granddaughter), Josh Boyd (Gabrielle's brother-in-law), Becky Bundy (Dawn Manning's mother), Angie Byrne (friend of Lana & Chris Warren), Beth Ann Cole (friend of Sandy Steele), Kristey Coulter (friend of Marsha Griffin), Ed Diehl (Donna Diehl's husband), Carolyn Driver (friend of Wanda Harrington), Benton Edwards (friend of Marla Harrell), Tom Feldbush (Leslie's father), Savannah Ferguson (Sheron Bennett's granddaughter), Lindsey Gardner (Traci Anderson's sister-in-law), Warren Goff (Dawn Manning's grandfather), Janie Griffin (Marsha's mother), Mary Edna Haislip (Dynita Gottschall's mother), Luke Haithcock (friend of Lasseter Wooten), Edwin Hall (Jim Hall's father), Jean Hall (Jim Hall's mother), 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), Susan Lillie (Lester Everett's cousin), Gloria & William McGraw, Tina Martin (Michelle Smith's sister), Steve Milligan (friend of Marla Harrell), June Montgomery (Keith Montgomery's sister), William Henry Nuckolls (friend of Karen & Whit Brown; brother of Jack Nuckolls – Salt & Light), Barbara Pawlin (Dorothy Burkett's daughter), Neva Peaden (friend of Lana Warren), Bob Pinizzotto (Elizabeth Deasy's brother-in-law), Doug Reid (Robin West'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), Martha Sheriff (Karen Carraway's cousin), Mary Lee Smart (Wanda Harrington's cousin), Tim Summerlin (Muriel Bennett's son), Todd Swain (Brenda's son), Mindy Tysinger (friend of Mary Marshall Heckstall), Teresa Van Oordt (Sandy Steele's sister) Don Walter (friend of Sally & Howard Wheeler), Stan Walter (Marilyn Lee's brother), Kylie Ward (friend of the Bennetts), Billy West (Tim's father & Robin's father-in-law), Irene Wicher (Stephen Wicher's mother), Lynn Yarborough (Karen Carraway's cousin) and Jackie Yongue (Bonnie Perkins' niece).

Betsy Summerlin (Stacey Cook's mother) was called to Life Eternal on November 24th.

Please keep the Summerlin and Cook families in your thoughts and prayers.

Dorothy Burkett's address for the next two months and go fund me info:

c/o N.C. Jaycee Burn Center Room 5415

101 Manning Dr. C.B. #7600

Chapel Hill NC 27514 / www.gofundme.com Search for Robert Burkett

Brenda Swain's new address:

910 West 73rd Street

Indianapolis IN 46260



January 3rd

RALLY Night resumes

January 13th

Church Cabinet Retreat –
10am-2pm

January 14th

Installation of Board Officers
and Deacons (during worship)

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

The season of Advent is, along with the Easter season, the most meaningful time of the year for Christians. God has entered human history and now God's Kingdom is in our midst. Since it has been a while since I have put into writing what Advent is all about, I wanted to share some thoughts with you that define this time of the year.

The season of Advent is a great time for us to ask questions about what we need to do differently in order to better prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. During Advent we will focus on Christ's coming from two different perspectives. First, we look back in celebration of his first coming as a human baby. Obviously, Christmas is a time for the Bethlehem story, the manger, the dreams, the faith displayed by Mary and Joseph listening to their heart during a time of great uncertainty. But, Advent is also a time when we look forward in anticipation of Christ's Second Coming. While Christians might disagree on what that will look like, all Christians affirm that one day Christ will return. Advent, then, is a time to think about how we as Christians can participate in what God plans to do in the world.

During Advent, we will explore themes like hope, peace and joy. We will also explore the ways in which we can help bring about a world that is full of hope, peace and joy, and this is where theological reflection becomes so important. Should we view the kind of world that God tells us will one day exist as just a pipe dream or as a real possibility that will come about through God's provision and our commitment? In other words, are there things we can do in order to help bring about a world in which people get along, in which differences are dealt with in ways other than warfare, in which hungry people have food to eat, and in which hope replaces despair? That is an Advent question, and I think the answer to that question is yes. Rather than just sitting back waiting for God to fix everything, we are called to go out and work and make a difference. We are called to work for peace, we are called to feed hungry people, we are called to offer words and deeds of hope to people who are hopeless.

Yes, Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation, but it is a time of active rather than passive anticipation. As we wait for the coming of Christ, we are not to sit still and do nothing; rather we are to be out there in the midst of people, working, ministering, caring, loving, and doing. That is the spirit of Advent; that is the spirit of hopeful anticipation that just as Christ came once before, he will one day return again as Lord and king.

Grace and peace,

Reece

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE ...

- **Operation Christmas Child** – Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox this year!
- **Christmas Tag Tree** is up 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 three or four 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. If you do not want to shop, give the tag and money (for Pactolus gifts) to Deborah Price. **The gifts need to be back to the church by Sunday, December 17th. Be sure they are wrapped and the name is on the gift. Children's gifts should be wrapped separately if possible.**
- **Gifts for the 183 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 today, November 12th. **The gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 10th.**
- **Community Crossroads Shelter Honor (Christmas) cards** are available for sale in the Narthex or the church office. All proceeds will directly benefit the Community Crossroads Center (formerly Greenville Community Shelter). \$5/each or 5 cards for \$20.
- **Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina** – please place your nonperishable food items in the big basket in the Narthex.
- **Hope Lodge** – Please consider donating any items such as toilet paper, paper towels, wrapped to go plastic forks, spoons & Knives, etc. Place these items in the large container in the narthex.
- **Ronald McDonald House** – Please bag your **POP TOPS** from your drink cans and place in the cart in the narthex.

Jewelle Boone

Outreach Mission Team Chair

A ME\$\$AGE FROM OUR TREASURER. . . TOM GOTTSCHALL

As 2017 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 2017 contributions. Donors must deliver or mail and postmark contributions by December 30th, 2017 to claim a charitable contribution for 2017. Mailed contributions do not have to actually arrive in the church office by 12/30/2017, **but they must be**

postmarked in 2017. Contributions postmarked in 2017 will be credited as 2017 contributions. **The church office will be open Tuesday, December 26th, Wednesday, December 27th, and Thursday, December, 28th.**

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 2017

AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 121

MONTHLY		YEAR-TO-DATE	
Contributions:	\$ 18,797	Contributions:	\$ 198,674
Expenses:	\$ 24,661	Expenses:	\$ 242,475