

 **The Visitor**
First Christian Church
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) • GREENSBORO, NC

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GREENSBORO, NC 27403-1715

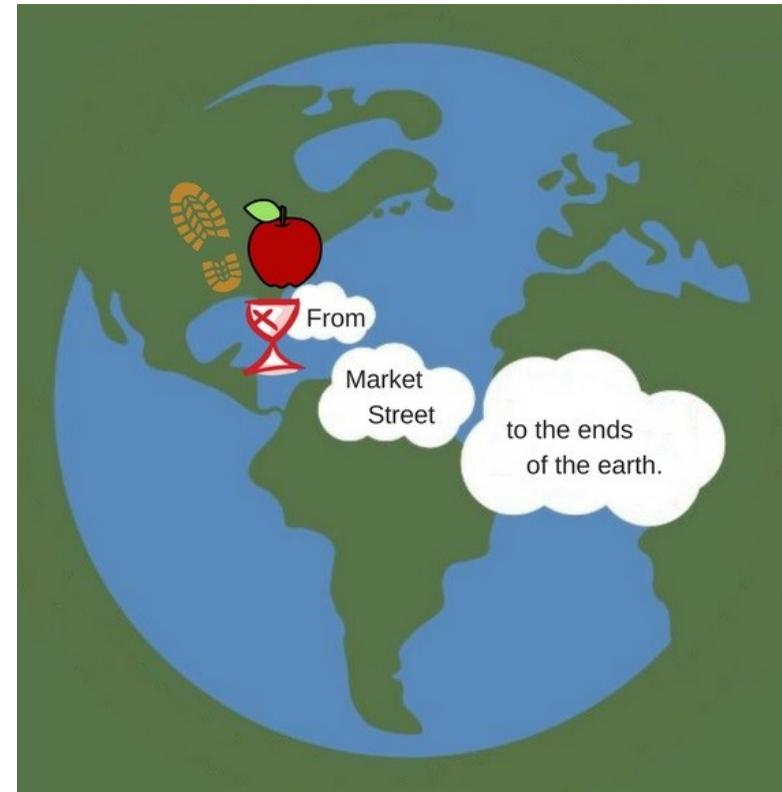
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The Visitor
A publication of
First Christian Church
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) • GREENSBORO, NC



September 28, 2016



Join us this Sunday, October 2, at 5 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall for our Centennial Celebration Apple Festival. A main dish and drinks will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share (apple-themed contributions encouraged!) Festivities include a photo booth, apple pie eating contest, and games.



The CROP Walk is Sunday, October 16, at 2:30 p.m., at New Bridge Bank Park. This is one of our favorite community activities. Sign up to walk with FCC or support walkers by making a donation. Funds raised by the CROP Walk help hungry people in Greensboro and around the world.



On Sunday, October 23, at 10 a.m., FCC will ordain Baylee Smith to Christian Ministry. Your presence and prayers are invited for this ordination celebration. A reception will follow at the church.

To know and love God, to nurture each other, and to reach out and welcome all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

FIRST
THINGS FIRST

love. serve. hope.

FIRST
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Rev. Lee Hull Moses, Senior Minister
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Website: www.fccgreensboro.org
Send newsletter submissions to info@fccgreensboro.org

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A Note from Our Pastor

Friends:

I've spent some time this week going through pictures from various church activities over the past year - last fall's CROP Walk, the Christmas pageant, youth mission projects, kids on the playground, Easter morning, Sunday worship... plus lots (and lots) of meals together. I'm putting together a slide show for our Ministry Celebration Sunday this week, and it's so fun to look back at what we've done this year.



One of the best definitions I've heard for the task of the church is this: "Gather the people, break the bread, tell the stories." It's no more complicated than that, really. Get together, share the feast, and tell the stories that give us life.

I thought of that two weeks ago during Dr. Mark Jensen's lecture on what the Bible says about hunger. He named so many stories from scripture (like the manna in the wilderness and the feeding of the 5,000 (just to name a few) that hold the truths I hold dear: God loves us and cares for us and provides enough.

As I look ahead to everything coming up in the next month, I'm in awe at the ways God is at work here at First Christian. We'll continue to celebrate our 100th year at this week's Apple Fest. We'll walk in the CROP Walk together and raise money for hunger relief. We'll host the ordination of Baylee Smith and give thanks for her ministry. We'll consider our financial gifts to the church and make plans for next year. We'll worship and sing and pray and work and care for each other. We'll love. We'll serve. We'll hope.

In other words: Gather the people, break the bread, tell the stories.

Glad to be the church with you,
Lee

Amanda Desselles joins staff

We are pleased to welcome Amanda Desselles to our ministry team as our new Children's Church Leader. Amanda has already been an active member of First Christian, and has volunteered with Children's Church over the past year. In this position, she'll provide some much needed consistency to our young worshippers as she leads them in age-appropriate worship each week. She brings a creative spirit and a passion for working with kids, and we are lucky to have her! Welcome, Amanda!



News, Events, and Church Notes

From the Property Team submitted by Cliff Greaves

Please accept our sincere thanks for your patience in waiting for the new sanctuary A/C system to be installed. The project was fraught with many stumbling blocks, not the least of which was a complete disassembly of the old attic air handler which was reduced to the smallest components possible (even those were very large) so that it could be removed. It took a full day and part of the next day to disassemble the new air handler to its smallest components, and then move the parts one by one up the stairs and into the attic. The outdoor unit was set in place after the old one was removed. Thursday was spent tying the new air handler into the existing duct system and finishing piping the outdoor unit. The electrician wired the equipment and installers spent all of Friday into the night completely rewiring the existing system to be compatible with today's equipment. The system was commissioned at 8:23 p.m. Friday night! We owe a great big thank you to our contractor, Sylvester-Cockrum, Inc., who was committed to having the system operational for services Sunday. They accomplished their goal and we are indeed grateful! This week will see the new ceiling service access door installed and the remaining ceiling diffuser outlet relocated. Thanks again for your continued support and trust in the Property Team as we continue to serve this community of faith to ensure that it is always mission ready.

From the Treasurer submitted by Vicki Simon

The good news is that we have replaced the air conditioner in the sanctuary! It was wonderful to be back in that worship space this past Sunday. The bad news: The cost of that repair and replacement was approximately \$41,000. More bad news: Our aging building has five additional air conditioner systems that have outlived their life expectancy and should also be replaced (although none have actually failed at this time) at a combined projected cost of another \$41,000. When these units fail, repair is not an option due to Federal requirements on the refrigerant, and we will have to replace them. We do keep reserve funds (Board Contingency Fund, Property Fund) for such contingencies, but after paying for the sanctuary air conditioner, our reserves are down to approximately \$61,000. After careful consideration, the Board decided that paying for the additional air conditioning units at this time would bring the reserves to an unacceptable level. We will continue to revisit this issue, praying the units do not fail in the interim, and will keep you informed.

From the Board submitted by secretary Ellen Smith

The Board met September 25, with 16 voting members present and conducted the following business:

- Hired Amanda Desselles to lead Sunday morning Children's Church retroactive to September 8, 2016.
- Voted to enter into a contract with Preferred ChildCare, Inc., to supply a teacher for Sunday night PYF and to supply nursery attendants as the need arises.
- Agreed against financing additional air conditioning repairs/replacements throughout the building at this time due to our current financial standing.
- Voted to allow the pastor and church staff to authorize use of the Church Growth Team funds for 2016 since there is no team leader. This money was intended for development of promotional materials by the Church Growth Team and will be used for such by office staff.
- Voted to move up to \$3,500 from the Board Contingency Fund to the Property Fund to offset the shortfall due to air conditioning replacement.

Talk to any Board member for details on these matters. The next scheduled Board meeting is October 16. All are invited to come to meetings.



Congratulations!

John "Quinn" Riley V arrived on September 26, at 7:48 p.m. Weighing in at 6 lbs 5 oz and 20" long. Mom, dad and baby are doing great. Grandpa Chris and Gramma Leslie Gooding are thrilled with their newest family member.

Words of Thanks

Dear Friends at First Christian, thank you for the cards and calls I received for my 99th birthday. I thank Lee for inviting me and providing transportation to the Sunday night meeting when the young people gave their account of the summer mission trip to Chicago. I really did enjoy the covered-dish dinner and the beautiful—delicious—birthday cake with the "99." Thank you all for everything and for welcoming me 11 years ago when I came as a stranger. Sincerely and with love, Martha Cargo

Upcoming Celebration

Timing is everything. We are a people who like to be on time and finish on time. We keep up with the time and try not to waste time. We sing, "time is on my side." And, Ecclesiastes tells us that, "for every-thing there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." What time is it in our region? It is time to recognize and celebrate the ministry of Rev. John Richardson as he prepares for his retirement effective December 31, 2016. Rev. Richardson has served as our regional minister for almost 14 years. He has led us and ministered with us through easy times and challenging times and "times to weep, times to laugh; times to mourn, and times to dance." He leaves us with a legacy of love and endurance. Now is our time to rejoice with John and Jeannine as they remember old times, celebrate good times, and embark on a new time in their lives. Now is our time to thank John for all the time he has shared with us, for his persistent faith that has steadied us and inspired us. Now is our time to bless John and Jeannine as we pray that their new endeavors will lead them into the time of their lives. Save the date! We look forward to seeing you at the celebration as we honor our Regional Minister. All are welcome at the Table!

**A Retirement Dinner for The Rev. John R. Richardson
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC Celebrates A "Legacy of Love"
November 5, 2016, 5:00 pm
First Christian Church, Wilson, NC**

JUST WONDERING...

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS BY RETIRED DISCIPLES MINISTER REV. JT MOORE

Did Jesus have a home?

The scripture (Luke 9:58) says that Jesus had nowhere to lay his head, that he seemed to always be on the go, and among friends. He does, however, seem to have had a "favorite" place to visit—the home of Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus in the village of Bethany, a short distance from Jerusalem (read John 11 and 12). It's a very precious thing for one to have a home into which he can go at any time and find rest and understanding. The home of the above seemed to have become a place where Jesus could rest when things around him were tense.



First Christian Church is a place where thoughtful people **think**. It is also a place where thoughtful people **do**. We take seriously Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors. It is our mission to know and love God, to nurture each other, and to reach out and welcome all people in the name of Jesus Christ.



RECENT ATTENDANCE

September 18: 90

September 25: 105

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please contact the church office if you would like a name added to or removed from the prayer list.

Angie Wethington
Peggy Nance
Letha Gant
Joe & Ann Fry
Janet White
Jade Fletcher
Don Bowman

Rhe Markham
Leroy Bymaster
Bill Roberts
Marie Reaves Grant
Emerson Roberts
Gary Yeager
Betty Wilson

Lib Tilley
Burt Bennett
Bobbie Poston
Chuck Jones
JoAnn Alley
Kenny Honeycutt
Chris Johnson

Bonnie Stanley
Jim Saveriano
Martha Cargo
Roger Stanley
Vicki Vaughan
Bill Rayle
Steve Fisher

Caring Friends needs you

For more than 20 years, a group of FCC members called Caring Friends have made calls, visits, and sent cards to keep in touch with church members who are unable to attend church services. Such contact helps people stay in touch with the church and provides love, support, and prayers.

Caring Friends member Bess Lamson offers this simple suggestion about how you can help: Write a note or call a few of the people listed under prayer concerns in each issue of *The Visitor*. This support means so much to these shut-ins and those with health concerns.

Caring Friends is also looking for new friends who would like to visit some of our homebound members. If you're interested in learning more, please contact the church office.

SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Fellowship, Coffee Hour, Sermon Talk-Back
5 p.m. Sunday Night Youth

BIG QUESTIONS
 A Back-to-Basics Conversation
 about the Christian Life
FALL 2016



**SUNDAY
 SPEAKER SERIES**

BIG QUESTIONS worship series, sermon talk-back, and speaker series continue

Religion scholars supplement our BIG QUESTIONS worship series by addressing specific questions about the Bible. Coffee and gathering at 8:45 a.m. on the scheduled dates. Presentations begin at 9 a.m. Invite friends and neighbors to participate in these opportunities. Coming up:

October 16, 2016, Dr. Sandie Gravett

*Professor of Philosophy & Religion,
 Appalachian State University*

What does the Bible say about politics?

November 20, 2016, Dr. Jill Crainshaw

*Professor of Worship & Liturgical Theology,
 Wake Forest University School of Divinity*

What does the Bible say about Advent & worship?



Doing Our Work: Series on Race, Racial Inequity, and Our Future in Greensboro

Session 1: What do white people gain from doing anti-racism work?

Tues., Oct. 4, 7-8:30 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro
 5603 Hilltop Rd, Jamestown, NC 27282

Doing Our Work is a series of monthly presentations from Fall 2016-Summer 2017, focusing on the institutions and structures that have created and maintained the racialized society in which we live. Although the series intends to provide opportunities for white people to learn about the historical origins and roots of racial inequality, ALL ARE WELCOME. We are thankful for the on-going guidance, support, and collaboration of our colleagues of color. Workshops are free of charge.

Vintage Bunch “leaves” October 12 for Pegg House Tea Room

The Vintage Bunch gathers monthly on the second Wednesday for lunch and a program. Join the group October 12 for a beautiful drive through fall leaves followed by lunch at the Pegg House Tea Room in Kernersville. RSVP and/or get more info at the church and on our website. All are invited to join the Vintage Kings & Queens to play cards Monday, October 24, at the church, beginning at 9:30 a.m. In November the group will meet at the church to learn about making bedrolls and crafts with “plarn.” What’s this? Crocheting and knitting with plastic bags! Save the date: November 9. Please save your plastic bags—don’t use more or purchase more (use those red FCC bags!) Just save and share any plastic bags you already have. The Vintage Bunch will be using plastic bags as “plarn” for crafting. A collection bin is in the gathering space at the church.

Our Path to Commitment at FCC: love, serve, hope.



During the month of October, all of us are asked to consider how we can financially support the ministries of First Christian Church. Everything we do around here—from the music in worship to the paper this bulletin is printed on—is paid for by the generous gifts of our members and friends. Over the next several weeks, you’ll be hearing from church members about why they give, and why this church is important.

Why do you give? Why is this church important to you?

Here’s how you can help in this next month:

- Attend the October 9 financial information session and learn more about how the church finances work.
- Read the letters and emails you receive, and listen to the ministry moments in worship.
- Pray about your own giving. Are you living as generously as you’d like to be?

Every gift matters; yours too. Thank you for your generosity. Let’s “stick” to our path in 2017.

Camp Caroline Grillin', Chillin', and Reelin' Weekend Fundraising Event October 21-23

Join us for our first annual Fishing Tournament / BBQ Cook-Off Fundraiser for Camp Caroline. We will have a weekend of fun, fellowship, and some GOOD EATING! A flyer with all details is available in the church office. Come by or call for full information! Details also posted on our website.

CWF Holiday Marketplace Saturday, November 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

CWF would love to have more FCC members participate with arts and crafts or food items such as homemade baked goods and pickles, etc. The cost to rent an 8 x 8 ft. booth inside the fellowship hall is \$30. Items must be handmade or new items that an organization distributes such as Tupperware, Avon, etc. An outside booth is \$20 and yard sale/resale items are allowed in designated areas. Exhibitors are asked to contribute one item for a raffle table. Proceeds will be retained by FCC-CWF for outreach projects. Contact Laura Tebow at lgst1969@gmail.com for more information.

*Holiday Marketplace
 on Market Street*

