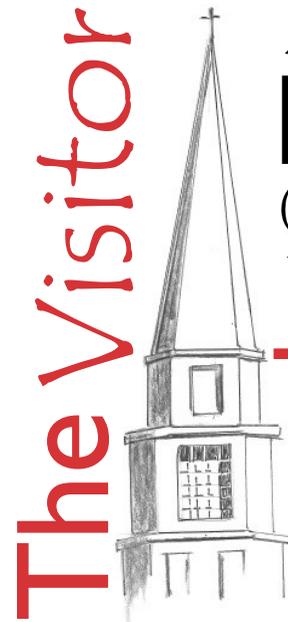




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A publication of
First Christian Church
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) • GREENSBORO, NC

1917-2017  January 25, 2017

Join us in celebrating our 100th anniversary

Come

Saturday, April 8, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

A simple prayer service at the site of our original location, now First Presbyterian Church, 617 N. Elm St. Followed by a prayer walk to our current location, 1900 W. Market St.

Saturday, June 3, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Family fun day featuring music, food, inflatables, and games.

Sunday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.

Centennial Celebration Worship with guest preacher Vy Nguyen, Director of Week of Compassion. Luncheon to follow.

Share

Each month until June, we are collecting 100 items for local and global agencies. See our website for a full list of projects.

In January, we collected not 100 but **200** hats, scarves, gloves, socks for the Interactive Resource Center (IRC).

During the month of February, we will create and distribute 100 handmade Valentine's Day cards for local assisted-living facilities. Details on this project on page 4.

Give

In celebration of our 100th year, we are raising \$100,000 for our Legacy Fund, an endowment that will provide a stream of income to support the ministries of First Christian Church in years to come. Your gifts are welcome, and can be sent to 1900 W. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27403 (marked Legacy Fund) or given online at fccgreensboro.org/giving.



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

Pastor's email address: pastor@fccgreensboro.org

Phone: 336-273-4725 Fax #: 336-273-7030

Website: www.fccgreensboro.org

Send newsletter submissions to info@fccgreensboro.org



A Note from Our Director of Congregational Life

Friends,

What one statement do you know to be true? On what do you stand?

*I
stand
on
love.*

God is love. 1 John 4:8 says this. (I'd argue the entire biblical canon says *God is love*.) Love. Love. Love. "That's what it's all about," sings my subconscious. "Cause God loves us we love each other..." (Do you know that children's song?)

Rev. Moses introduced a new sermon series January 22. She reviewed a little church history (and threw in some Greek—way to go, Lee!) She invited us to examine ourselves and scripture. Inspired by Martin Luther's statement, "Here I stand, I can do no other," we ask: What faith claim does (each) scripture lead us to, and how do we live if we proclaim that to be true?

*I stand
on love.*

I recently stood among men, women, and children who marched for equality. Perhaps you've viewed or heard news about the hundreds of demonstrations around the world, the Women's Marches (I hope you participated!) Never have I ever participated in such an event. While I didn't know what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised by the Greensboro event's peacefulness. The slightest misstep in the crowd or a clumsy move and one participant bumped into another. But the exchange that followed was "no problem, are you okay? let me help you, I love your sign, glad you're here..." Sure, some signs seemed less-than-nice but the tone of the day and the tenants to which we were called—*peace*.

Each speaker echoed invites to listen, to learn, and to engage. Listen to others: especially those who are different from you. Learn as much as you can from others. Engage.

I suppose we must first name that for which we stand...

I'm reminded of a NPR series titled "This I Believe." "This I Believe" is an international organization engaging people in writing and sharing essays describing the core values that guide their daily lives. Over 125,000 of these essays, written by people from all walks of life, have been archived, heard on public radio, chronicled through books, and featured in weekly podcasts. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow" (thisibelieve.org).

Continued on page 3



*My sign reads
God Bless Everyone
No Exceptions*



News, Events, and Church Notes

Words of Thanks

From the Congregation

Thank you to Fred and Genie Jones, Don and Barbara Moehring, Bess Lamson, Terri Drew, and Eleanor Bray (plus her dog Evie!) These folks cleaned the handbells.

From Martha Cargo

Happy New Year, the 100th anniversary of First Christian Church! I am appreciative of the pre-Christmas visits I received from Lee and Babs Gordon. Also for the poinsettia from Caring Friends that Babs brought. Thanks, too, for the many Christmas greetings received from church friends, especially the ones from "Charlie." My love to all!

From Jody and Dan Henley

Thank you for much for your support during my nearly ten years here at First Christian. I will always fondly remember my time here, our special choir members, Genie's grand talents at our organ and piano, and all of your comments, cards and remembrances. Dan and I were touched by your love gift, card and flowers. What a blessing to be honored with J.T.'s clever poetry and Dottie's creative songs! Our journey here has come to an end, but we pray for our Lord to shower you with blessings! You will be missed.

From Pam Reese

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift you gave to me. I have enjoyed working at First Christian and getting to meet some of you. I hope to have an opportunity to meet more of you this year.

From Genie and Fred Jones

Thank you more than we can say for your "thank you and blessing" for our eight years of organ music and singing in the choir. The friendships made and the joy of music with you will always be with us! And thank you so much for the love gift for my retirement.

Regional News

The Executive Committee, appointed by the Regional Board to serve as the Search Committee for an Interim Regional Minister, took action at its meeting on January 4, 2017, to appoint Associate Regional Minister, Bishop Valerie Melvin as Acting Regional Minister. Her appointment is retroactive to January 1, 2017, and is effective through March 31, 2017.

Bishop Melvin has served the region with excellence for 10 years, and brings great passion and enthusiasm to serving our churches and our clergy. While she is most generous with her time and energy, we are calling on our region's churches and clergy to support Bishop Melvin with your patience, your prayers and a willingness to work alongside her to accomplish the ministry of the region. Please note Bishop Melvin will be in the Regional Office in Wilson on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Executive Committee continues to work through the process of calling an Interim Regional Minister, and expects to have further updates on that process in the near future. -Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II Moderator



BOOK LAUNCH FOR DR. MIKE SIMPSON

Dr. Mike Simpson will launch his new book, *Fix Your Family*, on **Thursday, February 16, from 7-8:30 in the Gathering Space of First Christian Church.** Mike served as Pastor of First Christian from August 1992, through November 2000. He launched his first book, *The Lazarus Project*, at First Christian in December 1999.



Fix Your Family is based upon the same psychological model—Family Systems—that Mike used as a minister and as a nationally known congregational renewal consultant. While the *Lazarus Project* applied the principles of Family Systems to churches, *Fix Your Family* is a manual intended to help individuals address the recurring, unyielding problems they face in their families and bring about meaningful, lasting change and growth. Much of the insight and several of the vignettes described in the book came directly from Mike’s work while at First Christian. In particular, there is a detailed section on the Advent event from 1997 entitled “The Christmas of the Special Child.”

Mike is a retired ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples). He is a published novelist, a marathoner, portrait artist and blues harmonica player. For more information about Mike or *Fix Your Family*, you can go to fixyourfamily.org.

JUST WONDERING...

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS BY RETIRED DISCIPLES MINISTER REV. JT MOORE

Jesus said that when he shared the Upper Room experience with his disciples, celebrating the Passover (Matthew 26:26-30) that the cup represented the blood of a "new covenant." What is the meaning?

First, we need to say that a covenant, generally speaking, is a relationship between two people. When two people enter into a covenant, they enter into a relationship with each other. The covenant of which Jesus is speaking did not refer to a covenant between people. It was a covenant between God and people, a new relationship between God and people. It was as if he were saying that because of his life, and subsequent suffering, God had shown something of himself and how much he loves us. The way is open now to all to enjoy a new relationship with God, living and sharing the same kind of love that is of God.

WE’VE GOT SPACE

Do you know of a community group or organization that needs a space to meet? We'd like to put this building of ours to good use. Check out our building use policies <http://fccgreensboro.org/building-use/> or email info@fccgreensboro.org for more information.

CAN YOU HELP?

Please consider donating food to fellowship hour: cookies, crackers, etc.



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

January 8: Snow Day Church January 15: 126 January 22: 115

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Angie Wethington | Marie Reaves Grant | JoAnn Alley | David Hodgin |
| Peggy Nance | Gary Yeager | Kenny Honeycutt | Billie Pierce |
| Letha Gant | Lib Tilley | Bonnie Stanley | Anne Early |
| Joe & Ann Fry | Burt Bennett | Jim Saveriano | Don Knibb |
| Rhe Markham | Bobbie Poston | Roger Stanley | |
| Leroy Bymaster | Chuck Jones | Bill Rayle | |

Continued from page 2

In one divinity school course with Barbara Brown Taylor (Lee and I have both referenced BBT before) I was required to compose my own 500-word essay. The titles are interchangeable: This I Believe and Here I Stand.

I believe God is love. And I stand on love. (For some reason the professor required more words than this.)

What do you think? What one statement do you know to be true? On what do you stand?

We would love to know your thoughts. There is space in each week’s worship bulletin to ponder the scripture and the sermon (and sermons are posted online!) There are spaces throughout the week to gather together for conversation. Table Topics. Table Talk. Small group. Sunday Night Youth. Our website and Facebook page.

Perhaps we will all commit or recommit to listening and learning and engaging—and doing all of this deeply and faithfully—each day this year.

Standing on love,

Melissa

SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
5 p.m. Sunday Night Youth

Here I STAND



What one statement do you know to be true? On what do you stand? (Did you read Melissa's letter on page 2?)

Our current worship series is inspired by Martin Luther's statement as he defended his faith: **"Here I stand, I can do no other."** Each week we ask: What is the faith claim each scripture leads us to, and how do we live if we proclaim that to be true?

Follow the sermon series online too: fccgreensboro.org

Our Sunday Speaker Series resumes

We are excited to continue the conversation with our theme **"What does the Bible say about...?"** on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., in the Friendship classroom. Coffee and gathering at 8:45.



This Sunday, January 29, Dr. Sandie Gravett, professor, **"What does the Bible say about living faithfully in politically complicated times?"**

March 19, Jennie Belle, Director of Immigration and Farmworkers with North Carolina's Council of Churches, **"What does the Bible say about immigrants and refugees?"**

April 2, Dr. Mary F. Foskett, professor, **"What does the Bible say about resurrection?"**



Thank you to all of the individuals and families who have signed up to provide a meal for Sunday Night Youth! If you are interested in providing a meal for our youth one Sunday evening, there are three dates remaining: this Sunday, January 29, February 12, and April 30. Please contact amanda@fccgreensboro.org for more information!

First Christian Church is attending the Interfaith Youth Tour!

Adults and families are invited to join CYF on Sunday, February 19th from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. as we visit the Greensboro Bahá'í Center, Beth David Synagogue, and the Islamic Center of Greensboro. If you would like more information or would like to RSVP, please reach out to Amanda Kerr by email at amanda@fccgreensboro.org

Enjoy a bowl (or two) of good soup for a great cause

FCC's Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) will host this annual event following worship Sunday, February 5. Youth serve delicious soup as part of a national program to increase awareness of food insecurities and to raise money or collect food for local pantries. Monetary donations and canned goods accepted. Join us February 5!



Get crafty—share a little love (No art skills required!)

As a part of the Centennial mission projects, we will create and distribute 100 handmade Valentine's Day cards to local assisted-living facilities in February. Ellen Smith will provide materials for individuals to make their own cards. This craft station will be set up during the February 5 Souper Bowl of Caring. Stop by this table to share your love.



Special Guest

Chris Dorsey, President of Disciples Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, will be preaching on Sunday, February 12. Join us for worship with this special guest.

Welcome Gathering (Are you new around here? Not new but want to get more connected?)

This is a perfect opportunity for new members or anyone who just wants to learn a little more about First Christian Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Hor d'oeuvres will be followed by a presentation and conversation with our pastor and other church leaders. Sunday, February 12, at 5 p.m., at Lee's home, 221 N. Elam Ave. Please RSVP to admin@fccgreensboro.org or 336-273-4725. Childcare provided if requested in advance.

Outreach will meet Sunday, February 19, after church

All are invited to participate in the conversation about Outreach. Questions? Want to know more? Contact Team Leaders Anna Young or George Manley or the church office.

Elders and Deacons Retreat at Christmount March 3-4

Elders and deacons are invited to this training; our Director of Congregation Life, Melissa Guthrie Loy, will lead some of the workshops. Keynote speaker is Dr. Charisse Gillett. All details are available in the church office.

March 5 First on First Dinner

Dinner with First Christian on the first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.. Plan to gather with us and our friends from Mount Pleasant Christian Church and Shalom Community Christian Church, with guest speaker Rob Morris, the new executive director of Christmount.



Vintage Bunch Myrtle Beach Trip March 7-9

Oceanfront fun and fellowship. Yes, please! If you'd like to join the Vintage Bunch for this getaway, a deposit needs to be paid no later than Sunday, Jan. 29, check made payable to Mary Ann Wood for \$100. Total cost is \$258. Contact MaryAnn at 336-314-5482 for all the details!