



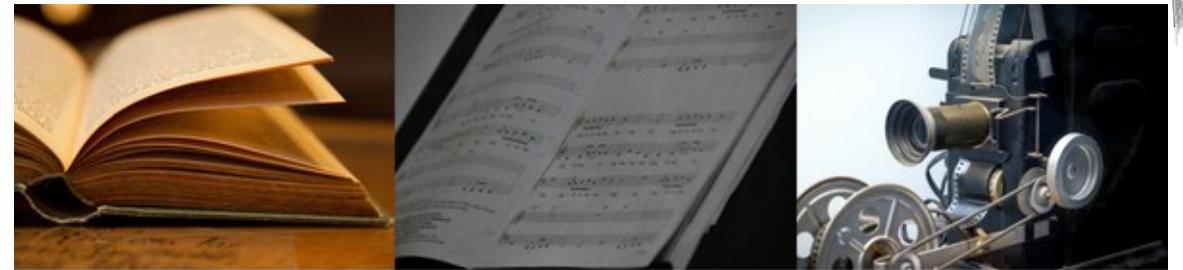
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The Visitor

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

May 23, 2018



Summer 2018: Stories, Songs, and Movies

June: Stories

Throughout his time on earth, Jesus told *a lot* of stories. Some are very familiar (think the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son); others, not so much (ever heard of the Widow and the Judge?). Can these ancient stories have anything to do with us? Turns out the answer is yes. Each week in worship we'll hear one of the stories of Jesus and listen for what God might be telling us today.

Want to go deeper? Sunday morning's Small Group Bible Study will be discussing the same stories, using a new resource by New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Join in the conversation at 9:00 each Sunday morning.

July: Songs

Music has a great influence on our culture. Every generation has seen the effect of the music of its time. Songs inspire us and instruct us. During the month of July we will look at the music of the Psalms and other songs. Love songs? Those are in the Bible, too. Join us as we sing (and dance) and make melody to the Lord in our hearts (Ephesians 5:18b-19).

Each Sunday will feature a well-known children's song and church members will share songs that have impacted their lives. Do you want to share a song that has had an effect on you? Please do! Email Melissa at admin@fccgreensboro.org.

August: Movies

As summer winds down, let's go to the movies! Each Sunday will feature a movie that challenges us to think about our faith in new ways.

Here are a few we're thinking of using this summer; *Come Sunday, The Greatest Showman, Wonder, Thunderstruck, Moana, Black Panther...* What do you think? Want to vote for one of these or suggest another film? Email Lee at pastor@fccgreensboro.org.

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

*love. serve. hope.
100 years!*

**FIRST
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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A Note from Our Pastor



Last Sunday, our congregation did two important things: we adopted an open and affirming statement that proclaims clearly that all are welcome at our church, and we revised our bylaws so that our organizational structures more accurately reflect who we are and how we do ministry together. Both items were the culmination of a lot of hard work and thoughtful conversation on the part of many, many people.

The next morning, I ran across an article by Peter W. Marty, the publisher of the *Christian Century* magazine, in which he uses a musical term to describe a healthy, thriving church:

“A *legato* passage in a musical score has a curved line above the phrase to indicate that it is to be sung or played in flowing manner. The job of the musician is to smoothly connect each note with the next, avoiding any and all space between them....”

“Christian congregations that know how to move with spontaneity, but which enjoy order within that spontaneity, are what I call *legato* congregations. They don’t obsess over rules, yet they understand good process. They don’t have a hierarchical plan for every new initiative, yet things get accomplished. They don’t expect everybody to know everybody else, yet groups of people do purposeful things and build intimate community. Through the interplay of believers trying to find their way together, *legato* congregations build a coherent and meaningful life.” (Christian Century, May 23, 2018)

I think that describes us pretty well, don’t you? At least, I hope, on our best days, that’s what we strive to be. I’m excited to see what possibilities are opened up by our new structures and how we can live more deeply into being a welcoming congregation.

A few other notes, in no particular order:

Goodbyes... Earlier this month, we said farewell to Paul Snyder, who has served as our ministry intern this year. Thankfully, it’s not a full goodbye—Paul and Kaitlyn will still be around while Paul completes his last year of divinity school. Sadly, though, we are saying goodbye to Amanda Kerr, who is graduating, getting married, and moving to Raleigh! Amanda’s been our youth ministries coordinator for the past two and a half years, and while we are excited for all that lies ahead for her, we will miss her dearly!

Summer’s almost here... Here’s something fun: I get to go to camp! We’re sending a bunch of kids to Christmount for church camp this summer, and I’m going along as the keynoter for the JYF and Chi Rho Camps, the week of June 11-16. There will be seven FCC campers there that week, and three the following week at CYF camp. I’m sure we’ll bring home lots of stories (and maybe some bug bites.) Later in the summer, I’ll be taking the month of July off. Melissa Loy will be here and will be leading worship and handling things in my absence.

Looking ahead... Plans are in the early stages of forming a neighborhood ecumenical youth group with a couple of nearby churches. I’m excited about the possibility and eager to see where it goes. Are you excited about our ministry to children and youth? Would you like to help us dream and plan for next year? Let me know.

That’s it for now. I hope to see you soon, and I’m glad to be the church together with you. Lee



News, Events, and Church Notes

SERVING THIS MONTH...

JUNE 3, 2018

Elders: Barbara Gillespie and Jimmy Murray **Deacons:** George Manley, Anna Young, Leah Guthrie Loy, Robertson Rcham, Ken Garner and Les Rose **Acolyte:** George Manley

Children’s Moment: Melissa Loy **Children’s Church:** Amanda Desselles and Emily Viverette

Worship Leader: Sam Tucker **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley

JUNE 10, 2018

Elders: John Flynt and Cliff Greaves **Deacons:** Troy Desselles, Robin Lund, Bill Lund, Diane Gillespie, Jamie Cannady, and Cindy Boehling **Acolyte:** Bella Myers

Children’s Moment: Lee Hull Moses **Children’s Church:** Amanda Desselles and Meredith Cooper

Worship Leader: Dean McPhail **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley

JUNE 17, 2018

Elders: Cliff Greaves and John Flynt **Deacons:** Jason Myers, Judy Garrett, James Thomas, Susan Cox, Kasey Bogan, and Lewis Woodruff **Acolyte:** Harper Moses

Children’s Moment: Amanda Desselles **Children’s Church:** Amanda Desselles & Dona Norwood

Worship Leader: Darilyn Knibb **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley

JUNE 24, 2018

Elders: George Manley and Ellen Smith **Deacons:** Brad Light, Debbie Light, Olivia Steadman, Bill Wiley, Larry Collins, and Meredith Cooper **Acolyte:** Charlie Manley

Children’s Moment: Lee Hull Moses **No Children’s Church**

Worship Leader: Olivia Steadman **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/6 Judith Moore
- 6/7 Aedan Phelps
- 6/7 Rihanna Rahlan
- 6/8 Eleanor Bray
- 6/8 Lewis Woodruff
- 6/10 Glenn Huth
- 6/18 Patsy Edwards
- 6/21 Emily Sharpe
- 6/25 Jason Myers
- 6/25 Emily Viverette
- 6/29 Troy Desselles

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/1 Sandra & Lewis Woodruff
- 6/10 Dan & Jody Henley
- 6/19 Spencer & Ellen Smith
- 6/23 Darilyn & Dennis Knibb
- 6/23 Brad & April Murray
- 6/26 Dan & Suzanne Bymaster
- 6/29 Mike Wildman & Emily Viverette



It is good to be the church!
 Pictured above: Drumming circle during worship on Youth Sunday and Religion and Mental Health panel discussion, part of the Greensboro Bound Literary Festival. To the right: Youth enjoy Ozzie's Ice Cream and Josie Loy is dedicated.



Words of Thanks from Greensboro Urban Ministry

Your generous gift allows us to provide critical food assistance, shelter and solution-driven services to help men, women and families in crisis get back on their feet. Greensboro found itself in a state of emergency in April. We are welcoming a new group of clients as a result of Mother Nature. Thanks to you, they are not facing their struggles alone.

JUST WONDERING...QUESTIONS & ANSWERS BY RETIRED DISCIPLES MINISTER REV. JT MOORE
What are the values in our lives in picturing God as a shepherd and us as sheep? (Matthew 18:12-14)

The story is one of a shepherd (God), though he has 99 sheep, to seek the one that is lost ('away from where he should be'). No matter how many children a parent may have he/she cannot say there is one that does not matter. A sheep might be foolish and nibble his way lost but the shepherd would spend his time or risk his life to save it. We see that God is not content to wait for the sheep to come back. God's love is a seeking love. It is also a rejoicing love, indicated by a party rejoicing when the missing one has been found. There is no punishment meted out; there is joy. We see that in our foolishness or reckless living there is a love that protects and saves.

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

April 22: 98 April 29: 83 May 6: 120 May 13: 106 May 20: 114

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Angie Wethington | Chuck Jones | Betty Wilson | Steve Ball |
| Ann Fry | JoAnn Alley | Phyllis Collins | Amanda Oliver |
| Leroy Bymaster | Rita Saveriano | Ed & Emo Wagoner | Don Angel |
| Marie Reaves Grant | Roger Stanley | Robin Lund | Micky Tamer |
| Gary Yeager | Christian Holden | David Hodgins | |

NOTES FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation conducted the following business at its May 20, 2018, meeting:
 - Approved revised bylaws that reorganize our leadership structures.
 - Adopted an open and affirming statement.

Both the revised bylaws and the O&A statement are available on our website and in the church office, along with minutes of the meeting.

A NOTE FROM OUR OUTREACH TEAM LEADER

By now I suspect you have heard of the deaths of five children due to an apartment fire in Greensboro. Two of the children attended Rankin Elementary where I teach. One was a first grader (down the hall from me), and one was a second grader. This Congolese immigrant family arrived in Greensboro about two years ago. There is nothing left of the apartment, furnishings, clothing, etc.; not to mention the horrible emotional loss. I want to offer you the opportunity to donate to a fundraising effort for the parents. Your donations would be in addition to a donation from the Outreach budget. These donations will go toward housing and living expenses. It would be great if enough is raised that the parents can have some time to grieve and not worry about going back to work so quickly.

If you care to make a donation, please make the check to First Christian and write "Rankin Family" in the memo line.

Thank you for any help you give.
 Lisa Barnette, Outreach Team

SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

9 a.m. Small Group
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

WEEKLY GATHERINGS AT FCC

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. — Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays at 7 p.m. — Table Talk

JUNE CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Graduation Sunday, June 3
Property Team Meeting, Sunday, June 3, 11:15 a.m.
Youth Banquet and Pool Party, Sunday, June 3, 5:00 p.m.
Elders Meeting, Monday, June 4, 7:00 p.m.
Men's Coffee Group, Wednesday, June 6, 9:00 a.m.
Newsletter Mailed, Wednesday, June 20

Find the full calendar online at fccgreensboro.org/calendar

Table Talk revamped; something for everyone

On Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., a group gathers at a local restaurant or pub or at someone's home for casual, informal conversation. There is not a planned topic for Thursdays. We show up: some of us eat dinner, some of us have a drink, some of us eat at home and stop by for conversation (or hugs), some of us bring our dog when we're outdoors. Table Talk serves a meal at a local family shelter once a month. Through our gatherings we hope to sustain and nurture relationships, serve in our community, and engage our community. We understand that various environments work better for different folks. Join us every week or when it works for you. We will follow the schedule listed below. Our online calendar will list each week's restaurant/pub/home location.



1st Thursday: TT at a local restaurant



2nd Thursday: TT Serves Dinner



3rd Thursday: TT on Tap



4th Thursday: TT at Home
 Potluck dinner.

If there's a 5th Thursday: No Table Talk. On the fifth Thursday we rest.



Property Team Update from Sue Hulighan, Team Leader

Water! The Property Team has had its hands full dealing with water issues this spring. First in the elevator pit: it was noticed during a regular elevator inspection that the pit had almost a foot of water in it, and the sump pump in the pit was defective. A new and more powerful sump pump has been installed to keep the water out of the pit.

The next water issue happened in April after several days of heavy rain. We again ended up with water in the Fellowship Hall. This was actually one year to the date from the last flooding problem in Fellowship Hall. After Disaster was called to pump out the water and proceed with drying out the area under the ramp, stage and the floor area. They have completed their work and the Property Team is meeting to consider next steps to avoid having this happen again.

The faucet in the janitor's closet and the urinal in the basement hallway men's room both were leaking. The urinal issue was repaired; at the same time an attempt was made to "fix" the sink. Melissa and one ARC participant can attest to the fact that it didn't solve the problem...both were drenched when trying to use it! The plumber was able to locate a faucet for the old fittings and successfully attached it. We now have a working utility sink and a urinal that doesn't leak.

You may have noticed that one of the Bradford Pear trees next to the playground has been removed. A large branch had broken off and fallen across the playground fence. It was determined that the tree was rotting and needed to be removed. The other Bradford Pear will probably need to be removed as well to prevent it from splitting and falling into the playground.

Now for some good news!! The church is the recipient of some clean-up and maintenance help from the ARC, the group who meets downstairs during the week. The ARC was awarded a BB&T Lighthouse grant, so some of the grant was put towards a repainting of the two restrooms in the hallway downstairs, as well as the hallway itself.

The Property Team will be meeting on June 3 after church to discuss many projects. If there is anything you see that needs attention, please let me know prior to that meeting so we can add it to our agenda. You may email me at hulighancentral@gmail.com. Thank you!

For Sale

A church member donated two cemetery plots which the trustees are selling: Two Cemetery Plots, Side by Side - \$9000 at Westminster Gardens in Greensboro. Time Lot 287, Spaces 3 and 4. Plots purchased directly from the cemetery in this section are \$5295 each. Buyer pays the cemetery a transaction fee of \$295 per plot, so total savings is \$1000. Contact a trustee or the office.

Invitation to Rev. Ronald Glover's 15th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration

All are invited to Mount Pleasant Christian Church to celebrate the 15th Pastoral Anniversary of Ronald K. Glover. The celebration kicks off at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, with a musical concert. Join in fellowship as Rev. Glover celebrates 15 years of service.