



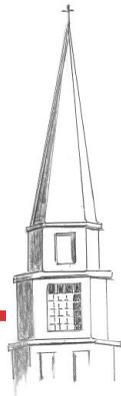
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# The Visitor

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

March 25, 2020



## VIRTUAL VIRTUES

Last night, Rev. Valerie Melvin hosted yet another of her weekly Zoom meetings with pastors from around the North Carolina Region. We shared some of the new and exciting ways we're learning to "shepherd our sheep" and preach to our people using technology. I've also read reports from Disciples pastors in other regions, as well as pastors from other denominations, some of whom strive for the highest quality of sound and video production. I see recommendations for doohickeys and gadgets to attach to micro-phones, but for now, I'm content to go low-tech using my simple iPhone 6 both for our daily "Quarantine Quietudes" and our Sunday worship. Even that has given me a learning curve to climb.

Since some people don't want to open Facebook, not even to view our church's page with these "broadcasts" live or recorded, we're transcribing them onto our church website to the extent that our technology permits. The learning curve on that is steeper, but we hope it helps us reach more people. The Elders and I have increased our telephone calling. It's very rewarding to find members at home and to hear how they're passing these days. If you have the capability to use FaceTime on a call, I would enjoy seeing you (and being seen by you).

There's a wide range of interest and savvy among us when it comes to technology. Some whom I call have no computer at all—no smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop. Others have all the devices with apps galore. If you know someone who should be reading this but who has no digital access, please let us know, and we'll print it out and send it by snail-mail. Early in last night's conversation, one pastor said,

**Rev. Melvin urged us pastors to urge you not to forget your church offerings while we're apart. I mention the GIVING tab on [fccgreensboro.org](http://fccgreensboro.org) at the offertory each Sunday. That, along with mailing a check or having your bank send a check, will work. We've worked out an agreement for picking up our mail at the post office while the office is closed.**

"We're realizing we should have doing things like this all along." And Rev. Melvin acknowledged that we should have started using technology long ago to connect our members and congregations. Someone else said, "We're discovering what the church of the future may look like." Not that we'll cease gathering, but with people on the move, traveling on weekends, working, accompanying children to sports events, and doing other things that keep us from having 100 percent attendance for gathered worship, we can carry the things we're doing now into the future when once again we're free to hug and break bread together.

- Phil Miller

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

# WE CHOOSE LOVE.

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

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In a recent communication from Room for Hope ministries, the following poem was included.

**Lockdown**

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness.  
 Yes there is even death.  
 But, They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
 You can hear the birds again.  
 They say that after just a few weeks of quiet. The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
 But blue and grey and clear.  
 They say that in the streets of Assisi  
 People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open  
 so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.  
 They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
 Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
 Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number  
 through the neighborhood  
 So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
 Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
 are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
 All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
 All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way  
 All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
 To how big we really are. To how little control we really have.  
 To what really matters. To Love.  
 So we pray and we remember that  
 Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.  
 Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.  
 Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.  
 Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
 Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
 Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
 Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic The birds are singing again  
 The sky is clearing, Spring is coming,  
 And we are always encompassed by Love. Open the windows of your soul  
 And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,  
 Sing.



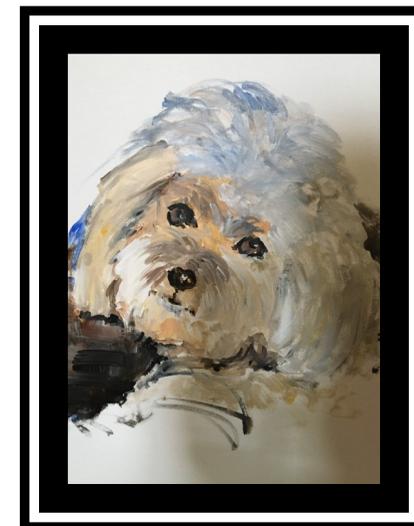
**March Birthdays**

Phyllis	Collins	03/06
Chris	Gooding	03/06
David	Barnette	03/07
H'sun	Rahlan	03/09
Ed	Poindexter	03/11
Bonnie	Stanley	03/12
Paula	Miller	03/16
Dan	Henley	03/19
Lee	Moses	03/24
Judy	Garrett	03/28
Larry	Collins	03/30



**April Birthdays**

Jimmy	Murray	04/02
Susan	Poindexter	04/06
Izaac	Myers	04/07
Spencer	Smith	04/09
Sue	Schultz	04/10
Anderson	Butler	04/12
Aba	Otoo	04/12
Mary Ann	Younts	04/14
Diane	Gillespie	04/16
Kay	Phelps	04/16
Bobby	Cook	04/24
Sandra	Woodruff	04/27
Mark	McDonald	04/30



Above: A painting of “Opie” the beloved fur-baby of Paula & Phil Miller. This work was done by Carol Moates during Paula’s birthday celebration.



## News from the Property Team

Even as the Corona Virus situation has developed to a pandemic, the Property Team has been busy. The church sign lighting, supplied and delivered by the vendor at no charge, has been re-placed with brand new LED weather proof light fixtures. Bill Wiley took care of the installation. While he was working around the sign, since Lee is no longer Pastor, he removed the letters of her name from the sign. Thanks, Bill, for spending your Saturday afternoon taking care of this. There is no doubt that you saved the church \$375.00 in labor to install the new fixtures. As I re-call, we had been quoted over a \$1000.00 to remove Lee's name from the sign, so we say "thanks so much, job well done"! We will fill the small holes left by the letter removal on the church sign. The letters are saved so that they might be used, if possible, for the future Pastor's name. At the last Board meeting, we requested funds to purchase pine needles for landscaping beds around the church. Those funds were approved and the pine needles will arrive sometime in the first week of April. When they arrive, to save a significant sum of money, we will sound the call of action to help spread them. Please watch for that opportunity to be of service to the church. For those participating in this church service project, pizza and cold drinks will be served for lunch. No experience needed for this "job opening"! Cliff Greaves, Property Team Co-Lead



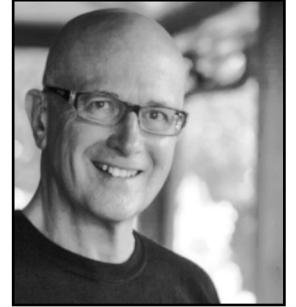
### FROM THE STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

#### 2020 SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND

	BUDGET			ACTUAL		
	Income	Expense	+/-	Income	Expense	+/-
January	22,764	-23,318	-554	18,182	-20,190	-2,008
February	22,764	-23,318	-554	26,756	-24,222	2,534
March	22,764	-23,318	-554			
April	22,764	-23,318	-554			
May	22,764	-23,318	-554			
June	22,764	-23,318	-554			
July	22,764	-23,318	-554			
August	22,764	-23,318	-554			
September	22,764	-23,318	-554			
October	22,764	-23,318	-554			
November	22,764	-23,318	-554			
December	22,764	-23,318	-554			
Total						
Budget	\$273,168	(\$279,816)	(\$6,648)			
Year-to-Date	\$45,528	(\$46,636)	(\$1,108)	\$44,938	(\$44,412)	\$526

## Sunday Preview

My final sermon in the series on the Ten Commandments comes from the verse, "You shall not covet." Here's how the sermon will begin:



Two dogs live in our apartment this year. You may know about Opie. He's 11 ½ years old, as far as we know. We discovered him at the Denver Animal Shelter 10 ½ years ago. They didn't know his name, his age, or much else. He's white—unless he's next to a truly white dog; then he's off-white. He's obviously part poodle, but we think he's also part Bichon Frise. He weighed less than 14 pounds when we got him, but within a few months, he'd gained eight more pounds and has stayed steady ever since. He has a gentle, laid-back spirit—almost all the time. We named him Opie but not because of Mount Airy or Andy Griffith. I'm not sure of one of Opie's ancestors was trained by a Prussian soldier, but it's possible. Opie believes in a rigid daily schedule. At 6:30 p.m., he stares at me, and I know he means it certainly would be nice if we could have supper. And after supper, he waits for me to wash the dishes and then stares at me again, which means it definitely would be a good idea to go for a walk. And after that walk, he expects to get the best treat of the day, which these days, consists of a small, soft, freeze-dried fish morsel squished into each end of a big, long dog bone. Mm.

Our second dog belongs to our daughter Emily. He's a year older than Opie. We found him with a family in Georgia. Their little Yorkie boy had accommodated Senorita Chihuahua who'd crossed the street, and this resulted in a litter of puppies called Chorkies. We gave one to Emily. He was no bigger than a checkbook back then. She named him Charlie, and he's been her best friend ever since—all five or six pounds of him.

So, here's 22-pound Opie, and here's 6-pound Charlie, and I've come in from walking Opie, and Emily has come in from walking Charlie. Opie gets his special dog bone treat with the freeze-dried fish squished into the ends, and Charlie gets a few little tricky-crunchy salmon nuggets, no bigger than my pinkie nail, tucked into a rubbery toy.

Can you see where this is going? (Tune in on Facebook at 10 a.m. Sunday to find out, or catch up with the service later and learn.)

- Phil Miller

## RECENT ATTENDANCE

March 1: 97    March 8: 92    March 15: On Line Worship    March 22: On line Worship

## PRAYER CONCERNS Contact the church office if you would like a name added to or removed from the prayer list.

Angie Wethington Ann Fry Leroy Bymaster Gary Yeager	Roger & Ann Stanley Phyllis Collins Amanda Oliver James Alley	Bev & Dick Isaacson Karen Watson Robin Lund Steve Ball	Billie Pierce Doug Sumerford Betty Reynolds
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### *Sympathy*

Our deepest sympathy is with Janet and Bill Inmon and all of the family of Emo Wagoner, who passed away at Wesley Long Hospital on March 24th. A memorial service will take place at First Christian at a future date when all can come.

### JUST WONDERING..... **Questions and Answers from Retired Disciples Minister J.T. Moore**

**What are some of the truths we learn about our God from the parable story of paying workers a certain salary for the day and then the same for one who worked one hour? (Matt.20:1-16)**

This story was probably based on the season of the Palestine year when grapes were ripening and harvesters were needed in a hurry before the rains came. This scene took place in the market place, somewhat like a labor exchange, and now the lessons: (1) No matter when one comes to God, late or soon, he is dear and welcomed by God. (2) God is compassionate, remembering he hired the late-comer and knew how important a wage was to the family even though the man did not know what his pay would be. (3) Our God is generous. So long as our service is all we have to give, all service is the same with God. (4) We cannot earn what God gives us. What God gives is from the goodness of God's heart. (5) The whole point of work is the spirit in which the work is done. A Christian's first concern is not what do we get out of this. One's labor is done for the joy of serving a loving God. The one who aims at reward loses reward, and the one who forgets reward finds reward.

## Don't Forget Lenten L.O.A.V.E.S.

Although the church is closed for day-to-day events, One-Step-Further Food Pantry is still operating. We are heading into week 5 of the Lenten season in the midst of a global pandemic. Even though many are shut-in the Food Pantry is working tirelessly to serve those in need. If you have the time or resources donations of any kind are appreciated.

<b>Week 1 – Breakfast</b> Cereal ... Shelf Stable Milk ... Grits ... Pancake Mix ... Small bag of coffee ... Oatmeal ... Breakfast bars ... Muffin mix ... Syrup	<b>Week 4 – Condiments</b> Ketchup ... Salad dressing ... Small bag of cornmeal ... Small bag of sugar ... Mrs. Dash seasonings ... Mustard ... Cooking oil ...
<b>Week 2 – Proteins</b> Canned tuna ... Dry beans ... Canned pasta ... Canned beans (pinto, black, northern, etc)	<b>Week 5 – Pasta/Rice</b> Spaghetti noodles ... Lasagna noodles ... Penne noodles ... Macaroni and cheese ... Brown rice
<b>Week 3 – Vegetables/Soups</b> Canned green beans ... Canned carrots ... Canned peas ... Canned greens (turnip, collard, etc) ... Canned corn ... Canned mixed vegetables ... Canned spinach ... Instant potatoes ... Tomato Soup ... Chicken noodle soup ... Other soup you choose	<b>Week 6 – Fruit</b> Fruit cups ... Canned fruit (in juice or light syrup) ... Apple sauce ... Juice (apple, grape, orange, etc) 

### A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Phil

I really appreciated one of the elders calling me and checking on me. During this time of uneasiness it is good to know the church family is showing concern. As you know not getting out alit these days so it really meant a lot.

Sincerely

God Bless everyone  
Please keep praying for everyone  
I will certainly do the same.

ERVIN

