

News



Views

March 2, 2011

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wilmington, NC

Italics indicate non-FCC group

Sunday, March 6

8:45 am Turning Point Service
9:45 am Fellowship Breakfast
11 am Traditional Worship
5-7 pm Youth at the Hickman's

Monday, March 7

12 pm Al Anon
6 pm Beth Moore Bible Study
6:30 pm Spiritual Growth Grp.

Tuesday, March 8

6:30 pm Financial Peace Univ.
7 pm Carolina Vocal Arts Ensemble

Wednesday, March 9

6 pm Pancakes and Ashes
Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 10

1 pm Sabbatical Comm. Mtg.
6 pm Worship Band

Saturday, March 12

7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, March 13

8:45 am Turning Point Service
9:45 am Fellowship Breakfast
11 am Traditional Worship
1:30 pm Field Studio Recital
4-5:30 pm K'Motion
5-7 pm Youth

Recent Attendance

	8:45	11:00
2/27/11	70	81



Special All-Church Breakfast Sunday March 6

9:45 am During the Sunday School Hour

Initiated by the Sabbatical Team and sponsored by the Elders, during breakfast the Elders will lead small group discussions about what spiritually renewing things we can do while Dr. Perry is on sabbatical in 2012.

Each table group will also have the opportunity to be a prayer group for Lent, praying for each other, our church, and our Stewardship Campaign that also begins March 6.

Plan to come for this important time together.

Pancakes & Ashes

**Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday
Worship at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**



As early as the third century, pre-Easter spiritual disciplines were practiced and the season we call Lent was first documented in the early fourth century at the Council of Nicea. References to Ash Wednesday observance have been found as early as the seventh or eighth century. The word "Lent" means to lengthen and alludes to the spring season with its longer daylight. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal for 40 days leading up to Easter in which Christians prepare themselves to welcome the risen Christ with lives renewed by the Spirit of God.

As far back as the year 1000, Christians observed a time of feasting before the somber time of Lent. Today it's called Shrove Tuesday. On Wednesday evening March 9 we will combine these two traditions with a pancake supper and an Ash Wednesday time of worship. Plan to be a part of this meaningful beginning to the season of Lent.

Notices and Reminders

Worship focus for Sunday is *Listening On the Mountain and Off*; Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 24:12-18



Lectionary Readings for use in your daily practice of payer and scripture.

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9



Pray for Our Missionaries

Betty & Ken Frank serving in Turkey.

Lenten Healing Service

Do you ever wake up at night worrying about the next day, a recent past event, or just the worries of your life now? Does stress seem to be getting the best of you during this time of recession? Sunday evening March 20, at 7:00 pm., our Worship Team is sponsoring a meditative service of prayer, scripture, song and communion for any who wants to come and find the peace and healing presence of God. The service will be held in the Fellowship Hall. A time of refreshments will begin at 6:30 pm. in Room 12 and refreshments will follow the service also.



Week of Compassion

Sharing Brings Joy:

To Us. To Others. To God.

Offering envelopes will be available in the welcome area on Sunday.

A Word from Lance, cont'd

spiritual director. My hope is to not only deepen and renew my own personal spiritual life, but also expand my understanding of spiritual guidance as a pastor. If I receive grant funding, I plan to spend a few weeks in Europe with Tena, Justin, and Lauren visiting cathedrals and beautiful and historic places of Christianity.

I also have no plans to leave upon the completion of my sabbatical. The grant and our church policy require the minister to stay at least one year after the sabbatical. Of course, I don't know what God has in mind, and my plan is to be intentionally listening to God while I am "away" from my duties and routines. However, I feel strongly about my calling to be at FCC and also believe that longer pastorates have great benefit for a congregation.

What a blessing that organizations like the Lily Religion Endowment and the Louisville Institute see the benefit of clergy and congregational sabbatical time for rest and renewal and provide resources to make it happen! I hope to see you at breakfast on Sunday!

In **March**, remember to bring **canned fruit** for the Food Pantry.



Put it in the Little Red Wagon.

Please do not bring items that have expired or are close to their expiration date. Thank you.

Who, what, where, when?

Mission Fund and Pay Pal

Initiated by our Mission Team leaders and approved by our Stewardship Team, FCC now has a Pay Pal account connected to our Mission Fund! Check it out on our web page! If you have friends and extended family who love to help with tangible mission efforts, let them know! They can donate online and all proceeds go to our Mission Fund which supports Appalachia Service Project, Youth Mission Trips, and our El Salvador mission which includes child sponsorship for school.

Piano Duo Concert

Featuring Steve Field & Sharon Miller

Part of the Music on Market Fine Arts Series at St. Andrews Covenant-Presbyterian Church at 16th and Market, the concert is on **Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 pm**, and is free and open to all.

Prayer Vigil Volunteer(s) are needed

to head up our annual Prayer Virgil beginning at 6 pm April 15, and ending at 6 pm April 16. Linda Reinger, who has done this before, will provide information and planning ideas. Please contact Becky Shipton or the church office if you would like to do this. The Youth have already signed up for the hard to fill hours of 1 am to 5 am.



Vacation Bible School

Children Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to “carry out God’s recipe” at the *Shake it Up* Café, our Vacation Bible School, **August 1-5, 2011**. We will be joined by St. John’s Episcopal Church again this year. Mark your calendars and invite your friends. VBS is open to all children in our community.



Green Team Reminder

If you are the last to leave a room, **please remember to turn out the lights and fans**. There have been several lights left on lately in the Sunday School rooms, choir robe room, and bathrooms.



March Book Club Selection

The book for March is The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield. Looks to be a fun book about an elderly lady who hires a young author to write her biography. It appears there are many stories which have to be tied together to get at the truth. We will meet on March 22, at 7:00 pm at the church, hopefully in the Parlor. The books are in the Library, so get a copy and enjoy.

— Ann Respass

Summer Camp for Children & Youth

Summer is coming, and there are great opportunities for you to attend camp in June and July! Children as young as Kindergarten are eligible to attend one of our Regional camps at Camp Caroline. For the youngest children, Uno camp (K-1 grade) is the perfect first-time camp experience. Children attend with a parent and stay one night. Older elementary children have the option of a three day or week-long camp. Camps are also offered for middle and high school students, which include a unique camp for eighth graders. The camp schedule and registration forms are available on the Youth board and on the K'Motion board. First Christian pays ½ the camp fee for church members. Please turn in forms and fee (check made out to FCC) to Rev. González by May 15. Contact Rev. González, if you have any questions.

More who, what, where, when?



Want to participate in FCC's mission trips, but don't have the time? Stop by the board outside the sanctuary, where you can purchase food items to be used for our annual

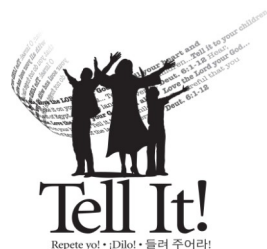
Chicken on a Mission fundraiser on Friday, March 25. The board shows the prices and quantity needed for chicken, bbq sauce, potatoes, green beans, rolls, and paper products. Donations can be placed in the box, and you can take off the item you have purchased, so others can see how many items are still needed. The more items we get donated, the more of the fundraising proceeds can go to benefit our Mission Fund. Also, if you would like to help with the fundraiser, please contact Kenny Morris, Jr. at 762-8054. We need helpers for chicken plate preparation and deliveries. If you are interested in selling chicken plates at your workplace, stop by the church office for a flier and tickets. We will serve plates during lunch (11-2) and dinner (5-7), and deliver to locations the purchase 10 or more tickets.

Tell It!: General Assembly 2011

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will gather Saturday, July 9 - Wednesday, July 13 in Nashville, Tennessee, and YOU ARE INVITED!

First Christian Church is allowed to send five voting delegates to the Assembly in addition to any ordained ministers who go. If you are planning to attend the Assembly and would like to be a delegate this summer, please contact Bonnie Brown before March 20. But you do not have to be a delegate to attend. All Disciples are invited to gather for worship, mission, great conversations, and excellent learning opportunities. For more information and to register, visit www.disciples.org.

"Tell it!" the 2011 General Assembly theme based on Deuteronomy 6:1-12, reminds Disciples to tell the Good News of God's healing love to world in the throes of great change. "We live in times of remarkable change," said Disciples General Minister and President Sharon Watkins. "What has worked in the past isn't working so well anymore. We find ourselves in a new context for mission and ministry, needing to step out before we know exactly where we are heading. In times like these, our strength will come in remembering the essential nature of the Gospel, communicating that Good News clearly to our children and to our children's children. If ever there were a time for Disciples to 'Tell it!' that time is now."



Worshipping God with Our Lives

Dear Friends,

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money that Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their income.

The theme for this year's Consecration Sunday is "Worshipping God with Our Lives" based on Romans 12:1-2.

The Consecration Sunday program is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. People are treated like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Disciples believe in proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, March 27, First Christian attendees and members will have their first opportunity to make 2011-2012 financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries in this community and around the world. (Any who are unable to attend on March 27 are welcome to make their commitments either before or after Consecration Sunday. [Our Financial Secretary, Myrtle Sanders, is the only person who knows what any of us contribute.])

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily. People who feel strongly opposed to completing a card are encouraged to attend. The

procedure is done in such a way that one doesn't feel awkward if he or she decides against making a definite pledge.

Participation in Consecration Sunday will be promoted through the Consecration Sunday team and General Board members. Since no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards will be made, the two groups will do their best to inform everyone of Consecration Sunday and invite them to Worship and lunch on Sunday, March 27.

I hope that you are able to join in the excitement and joyful participation of Consecration Sunday events!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jeffreys Brown
General Board Chair

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

FCC's Got Talent!

The Return of the Follies was a great success. Great food, good fellowship, and "over the top" entertainment was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who prepared delicious food, help set up and clean up, and also to Becky Shipton's stage hands. Thank you to all of the "stars" for sharing their time and talents with us. A special thank you to Jeremiah Johnson for being our emcee, and last but not least, to Rebecca Hall for supplying the sound equipment and being our sound technician.

— Joy Roberts and the Membership Team

I would like to thank my church family for all their support over the years. My roommates and I really enjoyed the care package. I could tell that a lot of thought and care was put into making them.

— Justin Perry

Thank you so much for my Valentine's Day goodies! It was the highlight of my week and is a nice treat while doing my work. My suitemate and friends have helped me enjoy it all! I am so glad to have a church family that remembers me. I am very thankful to have you all as a support system. I appreciate all that you have done for me during my college years. Many thanks and lots (and lots!) of love.

— Mallory Magelli

More who, what, where, when?



If You See Any of These Folks, Wish Them A Happy Birthday!

Take a few minutes to share your best wishes with the members of our church family who have birthdays this month.

Joan Adam
Taylor Bright
Hugh Cason
J.C. Davis
Ranny Gardner
Will Hodges
Wayne Howell
Amanda King
Cameron Knell
Kenny Morris, III

Pat Morrison
Myrtle Mae Padrick
Elizabeth Pierce
Troy Pierce
Ellen Shepard
Walter Sisson
Christina Swan
Lindsey Tarrant
Cathy Whitehead

If we missed anyone, we are truly sorry. Please let someone on the Membership Team know, and you will be added to the birthday list.

2011 NC Regional Academy Freeing Ourselves to Serve

The 2011 Regional Academy will take place Saturday, April 2, at Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina. Join disciples from around the state to hear keynoter Bill McConnell, and participate in a variety of workshops designed to strengthen the ministry of our church. For more information see the bulletin board by Room 2.

Prayer Concerns

Long Term Health Care Concerns

Helen Dunn, Rosa Gaylord, Foye Marshburn,
Betty Nash, Betty Snook, Jeanette Wolfe

Our Sympathy to:

- Donna Teed and family upon the death last week of her mother, Wilma Briggs
- Christy Brown and family upon the death of her uncle, Charles Beasley, on February 27

Church Family

- Ellie Duckett, participating in a clinical trial
- Dave Dutcher, seeking employment
- Ed Ferrier, Ann Boston's father, moving home to Bill & Ann's this week
- Allan Huband, undergoing chemotherapy
- Jim Lee, undergoing treatment and tests
- Trudē Rennick, injured her rotator cuff in a fall, undergoing blood pressure tests
- Kim Sibbach, stage IV cancer, cancer is in bone marrow, treatment begins in March
- Diana Wierse, recovering at home from knee surgery to repair torn ACL

Friends and Family

- Maxey Bunch, Teresa Bullock's father, broken pelvis, pack pain, internal bleeding
- Tami Estep, Jane & Ellie Duckett's granddaughter/niece, breast cancer
- Jeff Grimes, Joanne Stout's nephew, cancer
- Luis Guardiola, Rev. González' cousin, deployed to Afghanistan
- Katie, niece of Nancy & Andy Black, facing a long recovery time from a lung infection
- Bill Law, Jane & Ellie Duckett's nephew/cousin, major surgery for esophageal cancer
- Frank Ridgeway, Sherry Hickman's father, doing well, expects to go home soon
- Matthew Slaughter, Amanda King's fiancé, deployed to Afghanistan
- Warren, friend of Nancy Black, in intensive care with serious health issues
- Kathy Wirkus, Alicia Luse's sister, undergoing radiation and chemotherapy
- Community of Puente Azul, El Salvador
- People of Haiti and Chile

Serving March 6

11:00 Communion Table Prayers

John May, Millie Griffin

Home-Bound Communion: Chris Furr,
Sue Morris, Mike Capps

Deacons

Faye Hodges (captain), Julianne Black, Greg Kennedy, Jo Mills, Caroline Shepard, Bryan Young Hickman, Courtney Young Hickman

Communion Prep

Jo Mills, Lauren Perry

Children Worship & Wonder

Mar 6 Jamie Wrede & Kelly Ensign

Mar 13 Ailsa González & Andy Heath

Turning Point Kids

Mar 6 Millie Griffin & Stacey Adam

Mar 13 Bill & Linda Reinger

Minister On-Call Schedule

Mar 4-5 Dr. Perry 200-9507

Mar 11-12 Rev. González 395-5594

Greeters

8:45 Mar 6 Ron Gore & Tonya House

Mar 13 Val Moreau & Brie Carmo

11:00 Mar 6 Vivian Vaughan

Mar 13 Shirley West

Lay Reader

Mar 6 Lauren Perry

Mar 13 Jill Howell

Sunday Door Lock-up

Mar 6 Ellen Shepard

Mar 13 Bill & Ann Boston

Budget Update

Budget through 2/27/11 \$267,610.00

Income 262,837.60

Income Short of Budget \$4,772.40

News & Views
First Christian Church
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Wilmington, NC 28403

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Staff

Lance A. Perry, Senior Minister
Ailsa R. Guardiola González, Associate Minister
of Christian Education and Youth
Stephen Field, Music Director
Travis Price, Turning Point Music Director
David Heinzman, Organist/Accompanist
Myrtle Sanders, Financial Secretary
Tammy Connell, Nursery Attendant
Faith Dietrick, Secretary/Admin. Assistant
John Lanier, Janitorial Service
Tammy Connell, Cleaning Service
Robert Register, Grounds Maintenance
Russ & Carlotta Smith, Spiritual Directors 616-5846

Tel: 762-1389 **Care Line:** 772-9683

E-Mail: Lance Perry: fcclance@bellsouth.net
Ailsa González: fccailsa@bellsouth.net
Faith Dietrick: fccwilm@bellsouth.net

CareNet Counseling Center Partner: 799-1071

Web Address: fccilm.org

A Word From Lance

The questions about my sabbatical are beginning to come and I'm glad. It means that people are hearing the information and taking it in. Where will you go and what will you do? You aren't planning to leave after you come back are you? How long will you be gone? I plan to describe my sabbatical in more detail at our all-church breakfast on Sunday but I want to address these questions here.

I plan to begin and end my sabbatical with silent retreats and time with family including extended family. The sabbatical will be 12 weeks long as our policy allows and would be during June-August of 2012. The middle of the sabbatical will be time for some travel, hiking, and reading, with particular attention to spiritual practices including scripture reading, prayer, journaling, and conversations with my

[continued inside]