

News



Views

March 9, 2011

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wilmington, NC

Italics indicate non-FCC group

Sunday, March 13

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

Monday, March 14

12 pm Al Anon
6 pm Beth Moore Bible Study
No Spiritual Growth Group

Tuesday, March 15

6:30 pm Cabinet
6:30 pm Financial Peace Univ.
6:30 pm AGO Dinner Meeting
7:30 pm Harpsichord Concert

Wednesday, March 16

6 pm Design Team
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 17

1:30 pm Silver Bees
6 pm Worship Band
6:30 pm CACS Team

Saturday, March 19

8:30 am Quilters Workshop
7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, March 20

8:45 am Turning Point Service
9:45 am Fellowship Breakfast
11 am Traditional Worship
12 pm Board Meeting
6:30 pm Refreshments
7 pm Healing Service

Recent Attendance

	8:45	11:00
3/6/11	62	77



Lenten Healing Service Sunday, March 20

6:30 pm Refreshments in Room 12
7 pm Service in the Fellowship Hall

Are you tired? Anxious?

Unsure or worried about someone or something in your life?

Come take a real rest. Experience the unforced rhythms of God's grace through prayer, scripture, song and communion at the Lenten Healing Service.

Enjoy the company of others during our time of refreshments starting at 6:30pm and following the service.



March 27, 2011

Notices and Reminders

Worship focus for Sunday is *Whispering Voices*; Psalm 32, Matthew 4:1-11



Lectionary Readings for use in your daily practice of prayer and scripture. Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Pray for Our Missionaries

Emily Goldthwaite Fries serving in Israel/
Palestine.



Lenten Devotionals are available in the welcome area.

Lenten Prayer Groups

This past Sunday morning at our breakfast we began forming Lenten prayer groups and there is room for more! Our prayer groups are being led by our Elders. These groups of up to seven people will meet twice during the next seven weeks. Designed for time of silence together, scripture reading together, listening for God together, and praying for each other and our church, the groups are a great opportunity for our Lenten spiritual journey. If you would like to be in a group please contact the church office.

The **CACS Team** will meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 17, in Room 13.

Week of Compassion Offering

Last year: \$2,464.26

This year: \$3,098.54

Thanks be to God for the generosity of our congregation and our passion for disaster relief and the suffering of our world.

A Word from Lance, cont'd

precipitate the blessing of food. Others may choose a new spiritual practice during this season. In some circles Lenten practices become trivialized (giving up chocolate, or soda, or trying to lose weight) "as a testing ground for our willpower," or a time of "voluntary if minor suffering to please the Lord." Spiritual practices are intended to deepen our connection to our faith and our Lord. A helpful question to ask ourselves is "what does God want to accomplish in me through my Lenten practice?"

I hope you are exploring what God would have for you during this season of preparation. I hope we all experience the light and joy of renewal during this meaningful season. See you Sunday.

Work on Wilmington

WOW what a difference we can make in our community. It's as simple as spending one Saturday morning in April working on a worthwhile project that will leave a visible and lasting impact. FCC members and friends will join our neighbors in the wider Wilmington community to volunteer across our great city. Mark the date, get your hammer and paint brush ready, and sign up to help. Work on Wilmington will take place from 8am - 12pm on April 16. Sign up on the mission board outside Room 12, or contact Ann Boston (762-6725) or Rev. González.

Join the helpful hands from across our great city and volunteer April 16.

Who, what, where, when?

Prayer Vigil Volunteer(s) are needed to head up our annual Prayer Vigil beginning at 6 pm April 15, and ending at 6 pm April 16. 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 - 5 am. You will be provided with all the information you need as well as planning ideas.



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.



Summer Camp for Children and 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.



Kim Hummell joined First Christian Church by transfer of membership from Hiram Christian Church in Hiram, Ohio, on March 6, 2011.

Welcome to our church family, Kim!

Please add Kim's information to your church directory.

2309 Camellia Drive, Wilmington, 28403
Tel: 216-396-0518

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.

Dear Christian Action Community Service Members,

On behalf of the Cape Fear Guardian ad Litem Association, please accept our sincere thank you for your donation of \$1,325.00 dated January 29, 2011,

With the support of caring individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations, CFGALA is able to fund positive educational and cultural opportunities for abused and neglected children in custodianship of the Department of Social Services in New Hanover and Pender counties.

Thank you again for your support of CFGALA to help the children.

Best regards,
Kathleen Abrams
Secretary, CFGALA

More who, what, where, when?



Participate in FCC's Mission Trips Without Leaving Town!

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.

This opportunity to give is being offered to the congregation because there will not be a special offering taken for the Mission Fund.

If you would like to help on the day of the fundraiser, please contact Kenny Morris, Jr. at 762-8054, or sign up on the list outside the Sanctuary. 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.



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

Belk Charity Event

First Christian Church Wilmington is participating in the April 16, Spring Belk Charity Event. We have 200 shopping passes to sell. Each pass costs \$5.00. We are able to keep 100% of the ticket sale, and you get the \$5.00 off of your purchase.

The people that purchase a shopping pass are invited to attend the Charity Sale private shopping extravaganza on Saturday, April 16 between the hours of 6 am to 10 am at any Belk Store. There will be special savings, as much as 70%, on rarely, if ever, discounted brands. Belk's customers, who use their charge account, will also earn double or triple points. A person can purchase multiple tickets and use one with each separate purchase.

OUR GOAL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY IS TO RAISE AT LEAST \$1,000 DOLLARS.

If you are interested in raising money for our programs/ministries/general fund, please see Chris Wrede or Ann Boston for tickets. Proceeds from this event will go to our ministries to help make each of them and our church 'green'. We are focusing on Evangelism (getting the lighting for the beautiful stained glass window upgraded), Hospitality (replace Styrofoam plates with durable plastic), Property (putting in place various recycle initiatives, and energy conservation solutions). We know that these are very difficult financial times and our church is experiencing financial difficulties. This is an opportunity for us to raise money outside our church. This is a win/win/win event. You sell a ticket to a friend, co-worker, family member for \$5—FCC keeps the \$5, the purchaser gets his/her \$5 back on their purchase and Belk's obviously gets people in their stores.

Stewardship Emphasis 2011: Worshipping God with Our Lives

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, April 3, following both 8:45 and 11:00 am Worship, a Called Congregational Meeting will take place. Called meetings are for specific and publicized purposes.

The April third meeting is to:

1. Elect 2011-2012 Elders, Deacons and a Trustee, including Emeritus categories.
2. Hear about and vote upon the plans for our senior minister's Sabbatical during the summer of 2012. Dr. Perry is applying for a substantial financial grant that requires congregational participation and approval. There is a submission deadline. Therefore, time is of the essence. A Sabbatical Planning Committee of church members is helping him with research and input regarding the content and cost of his time away for renewal. And the grant stipulates the time for renewal, only. This is not a time for taking a course, writing papers or the like. Dr. Perry will receive his usual salary and benefits during the three-month Sabbatical, plus a budgeted stipend to help with expenses.

I hope that you will be able to attend one of the April third services. You will be requested and encouraged to ask any questions that you have.

Bonnie Brown
General Board Chair – 791-8360

MARCH GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Preliminary Announcement

Dear Friends,

The special event to which Board members are traditionally invited prior to Consecration Sunday will be in conjunction with the General Board Meeting, March 20, following 11 am Worship.

There are three other differences, this month:

1. Since the Board Meeting will follow Rev. Mark Opgrand's presentation, all First Christian members are invited to attend, not just Elders, Deacons, Ministry Team Chairs, etc.
2. For this particular meeting, everyone helps defray the food cost. The fee is \$5 per person.
3. The food will be bought in bulk prior to the meeting. Therefore, all who plan to attend are asked to make their plans known so that the proper amount of food can be purchased.

**** Do make reservations, please! If you are not a Board member and plan to attend, call me to reserve your place at the table by March 14! Your input is necessary and valuable. ****

Bonnie Brown
General Board Chair – 791-8360



Global Ministries

Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?

Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14b

Everyone jokes about African time, but I think the North American concept of time is a big joke. Have you ever noticed how often you hear the word 'busy' in a day? Being busy in North American culture is highly valued. By contrast, African culture does not value being busy. If you ask someone if they are busy, they look at you strangely. Don't even try to ask someone what time it is. They don't have watches. This culture values spending time with friends and family, and helping each other.

In North American culture, I may have had six or seven meetings a day. A typical day in Africa consists of 'footing' to my office and waiting until someone walks in and wants to talk to me. Sometimes there is a meeting scheduled although it's rare to have an appointment. No one has a watch, let alone a phone to call ahead. A meeting scheduled for nine, generally starts at 9:30 but sometimes it gets underway at ten or even eleven. This culture values discussion and consensus building. Decision making by consensus takes time, so there is no predicting when a meeting will end. The more people that attend, the longer the meeting.

Waiting, such as waiting in line or a "queue" is something we in North America abhor. But it is expected in Africa. Why hurry? We in North America never loiter, dawdle or linger around. We are busy. In my former life I was so busy I had to schedule a phone call with my friends. There were never enough hours

in a day. When my children were young I often missed their sporting events or dance recitals because I was busy. But here, loitering is a way to chat and connect with friends and family. (And everyone is family.) In Africa, I loiter. I meet a lot of people that way. I learn about their life, their families, and their values. Maybe we in North America have it all wrong. Maybe the joke is on us. Maybe we should loiter more often.

Donald and Maryjane Westra are missionaries with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.

Donald serves as staff to the Micro-Enterprise and Strategic Planning/Management Program at Mt. Selinda. Maryjane serves as a health and child care consultant at Mt. Selinda.

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.

Prayer Concerns

Long Term Health Care Concerns

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

Our Sympathy to:

- Family of Don Carlos Flamenco, husband of Transito and father of 5 children, friend of El Salvador mission teams. Don Carlos died of pneumonia on February 23

Church Family

- Ellie Duckett, participating in a clinical trial
- Dave Dutcher, seeking employment
- Ed Ferrier, Ann Boston's father, recovering at home
- Allan Huband, taking a pill for treatment
- Margaret Jarman, recovering at home after hospitalization on the weekend for bleeding ulcers
- Jim Lee, undergoing treatment and tests
- Trudē Rennick, injured her rotator cuff in a fall, undergoing 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
- Jimmy Childers, Tena Perry's father, recovering at home from procedure to insert two stents
- 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
- Jimmy White, Alen White's father, pancreatic cancer
- Kathy Wirkus, Alicia Luse's sister, undergoing radiation and chemotherapy
- Community of Puente Azul, El Salvador
- People of Haiti and Chile

Serving March 13

11:00 Communion Table Prayers

Margaret Jarman, Sue Morris

Home-Bound Communion: Kenny Morris Jr., Jeannie May, Harry Griffin

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 13 Ailsa González & Andy Heath

Mar 20 Bridgette Johnson & Tricia Heath

Turning Point Kids

Mar 13 Bill & Linda Reinger

Mar 20 Jeff & Diana Wierse

Minister On-Call Schedule

Mar 11-12 Rev. González 395-5594

Mar 18-19 Dr. Perry 200-9507

Greeters

8:45 Mar 13 Val Moreau & Brie Carmo

Mar 20 Shawn & Michelle Allen

11:00 Mar 13 Shirley West

Mar 20 John & Christie Reaves

Lay Reader

Mar 13 Jill Howell

Mar 20 Charles Vaughan

Sunday Door Lock-up

Mar 13 Bill & Ann Boston

Mar 20 Greg & Marcia Kennedy

Budget Update

Budget through 3/6/11 \$275,256.00

Income 269,432.36

Income Short of Budget \$5,823.64

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

This week is the beginning of the ancient Christian observance of preparation for Easter. Although every Sunday is a celebration of resurrection, we will observe Easter in just seven weeks. Early on, Christians learned the value of reflecting on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem as they prepared for Easter. The destination is much more meaningful if we pay close attention to the journey.

We can prepare ourselves in different ways. Some will commit themselves to a time each day to read, pray and reflect using the lectionary scriptures from the newsletter or our Lenten devotional book. Some may practice brief periods of fasting. One Christian writer notes that "fasting reminds us of our dependence on God ... and can reveal our excessive attachments and assumption that lie behind them." Fasting can also make us greatly ap-