

News



Views

October 26, 2011 First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Wilmington, NC

Italics indicate non-FCC group

Sunday, October 30

8:45 am Turning Point
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship
12:30 pm Stewardship Special Committee

Monday, October 31

12 pm Al Anon

Tuesday, November 1

6 pm Circle Martha
6:30 pm Financial Peace Univ.

Wednesday, November 2

6 pm Jonah Study Group
6:30 pm Stewardship Team
7 pm Chancel Choir
7:30 pm Stewardship Workshop

Thursday, November 3

1:30 pm Silver Bees
6 pm Worship Band

Friday, November 4

Chicken Salad Lunch-delivery only

Saturday, November 5

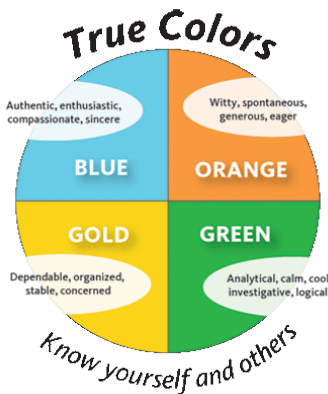
9:30 am - 3 pm Holiday Bazaar
7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, November 6

All Saints Sunday
8:45 am Turning Point
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 pm Traditional Worship

Recent Attendance

	8:45	11:00
10/23/11	70	77



True Colors Inventory

Friday, November 11
6 - 9 pm

Saturday, November 12
9 am - 12 Noon

Led by Rev. Santes Beatty, High School and Faith Formation Pastor at Kentwood Community Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

While in North Carolina, Santes was on staff at Guilford College and then moved into congregational ministry. Santes has led the True Colors Inventory for the Christian Church in North Carolina several times and twice with our elders.

Reservations begin this Sunday. Workshop is free of charge!

Opportunities for Thanksgiving & Christmas



**Thanksgiving Baskets
For Guardian ad Litem Families**



Operation Christmas Child



**Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, November 5, 9:30 am to 3 pm**

**See inside for more information about
these mission opportunities.**

Notices and Reminders

Worship Focus for Sunday is *Christians and War*, Deuteronomy 20:10-18, Matthew 5:38-48.



Lectionary Readings to use in your daily practice of prayer and scripture.

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Pray for Our Missionaries

Martha Mensendiek serving in Japan.



The church office will close at 3 pm on Friday, October 28.

Rev. González will be in Ashville September 28-30, to officiate at the wedding of Will Hodges and Liz Salas.

Christian Men's Fellowship will meet at 6 pm on Thursday, October 27. Dinner will be served

Interest Meeting for El Salvador 2012

There are two opportunities to find out more about our next trip to El Salvador. **Come out and hear about it at 6:30 pm on either Monday, November 7, or Wednesday, November 16, in Room 6.** We are looking forward to a trip in November 2012. The exact dates have not been set at this time. We will be doing a medical mission and need both medical and non-medical volunteers. There is a job for everybody!! We are in conversation with Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh, Central Christian Church in Lebanon, Indiana, and First Christian Church in Topeka, Kansas. Each of these congregations has expressed an interest in forming a partnership with us for this mission trip. Come to one of the interest meetings and find out what all the excitement is about. If you have any questions you may contact Lance Perry or Kenny Morris, Jr.

A Word from Lance, cont'd

Luse, and Carlotta Smith have decided to go ahead with most congregational plans and seek to do so with what resources we can secure. They will be working with our church Board to ensure meaningful opportunities for congregational renewal, as well as covering ministry needs during my absence.

I have also applied for a second smaller grant as well. This grant, submitted to the Louisville Institute in early September would provide funds for me for travel, lodging, books, and other renewal activities. I will know by the end of December if I am awarded this grant.

To be honest it has been a bit disappointing to not receive the large grant. It would have provided for some very special opportunities for my sabbatical and our congregation's time of renewal. Several people put a lot of time into its conception, as well as its writing and editing. However, I am confident, our Sabbatical Committee is confident, and I know you are confident that we don't have to have grant funds in order to have a special time of spiritual renewal. I continue to have great anticipation for what God is going to do in and among us, not only as we plan our time of renewal, but as we enter into it together. See you Sunday.

Bring macaroni & cheese boxed mix in October 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?



Thanksgiving Baskets For Guardian ad Litem Families

First Christian once again has the opportunity to share God's blessings with Guardian ad Litem families. **Please bring canned goods**—particularly those associated with the traditional Thanksgiving meal—and put them on the table in the welcome area. You may also choose to help with a **monetary donation** to purchase the turkeys and other perishable foods. A "Turkey Box" will be available in the welcome area for these donations. Please make your check out to First Christian Church and note that it is for Turkey Baskets.

The Guardian ad Litem program trains volunteers to be advocates for abused and/or neglected children in the courts. These volunteers will deliver the Thanksgiving baskets to the families they serve.



Operation Christmas Child

is a program of Samaritan's Purse which provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift. **Boxes are available in the welcome area** along with a brochure with gift ideas and a list of items not to be included. Labels for the boxes (indicating age and gender) are on the back of the brochure. Please read the instructions for packing. If you have any questions, please contact Patsy Emmart at 791-1713.

**Thanksgiving Baskets and
Operation Christmas Child boxes
will be dedicated Sunday, November 20.**



Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 5

9:30 am - 3 pm

Salad Lunch Beginning at 11 am
Proceeds Benefit Local Outreach

Volunteers Need for Bazaar

Help is needed the day of the sale. Please take a look at the **sign up sheets in the Welcome Area**.

Quilt Raffle: Stop by the Fellowship Hall and take a look at the beautiful quilt that has been donated to us by the *Quilters by the Sea*. If you are interested in buying or selling tickets please contact Ann Boston or Ellie Duckett.



Pecans Are Coming

Pecans have been ordered. We will be receiving 15 cases to start and an additional order later. The supplier of our pecans has increased their price by \$2.00 per bag but we are only going to increase our price by \$1.00 to \$11.00 per bag. The price increase comes as a result of the shortage of rain across the south central U.S. We hope to get them in time for the Holiday Bazaar, or earlier. Stay tuned for more information as it occurs.

— Grace and Pecans, Jerry Roberts



Church Workday Saturday, November 19 8 am to 12 Noon

A Church workday is planned for November 19, from 8 am until 12 noon. If you are able to assist please bring potato rakes or cultivators, spading forks, shovels, wheelbarrows and other tools which can help to get the weeds and grass out of the playground mulch areas. Please plan to come and help out. Thanks. — Alan Anderson, Property Chair

More who, what, where, when?

Planned Giving News

Why is it, at the end of a person's very faithful life, that none of the legacy giving goes to the church? More and more churches, whose mission is to transform lives, struggle with this question as church leaders—both clergy and lay—seek funding to enhance a congregation's witness. Helping congregations change the culture from being surprised to get end of life gifts to one in which they are surprised when they don't receive gifts can provide a wonderful opportunity for the congregation as well as the donor.

Southeast Zone Vice President Randy Johnson has spent the past two years working with the leadership of Sandy Springs Christian Church, near Atlanta. With support from its ministerial staff, lay leaders are working to create the culture where an end-of-life gift is the expectation, not the exception.

Leaders at the church worked to write and approve a permanent funds policy while one key lay leader, Linda Whitmire, worked on a plan to promote planned giving. Her plan was simple: Provide opportunities to invite church members to take part in the congregation's future by including a gift for ministry in their estate plans. So far, the church's "Fellowship of Legacy Builders," — recognizing those who have included Sandy Springs in their end-of-life plans — has grown from three to twelve.

"Keying in on the congregation's 50th anniversary, Linda and her husband, together with two other couples, invited a group of longtime members into her home for a time of fellowship and to discuss the Legacy Builders," Johnson recalled. "She arranged for a trivia game about the church, which provided an opportunity for people to recall spe-

cial memories from the church's rich history and the role it had in their individual lives."

She then offered words of personal witness of her own plans to provide gifts to the church at the end of her life. Next, she outlined the Legacy Builders program, introduced Johnson, who spoke briefly about the power of "legacy" in our own lives and in the life of the church. "The key was that Linda was able to link the church members love of their church and the power of legacy together with their own ability to make a difference through their gifts."

In the months that followed, Whitmire included articles in the church newsletter about the Legacy Builders and inheritance planning together with invitations to be come a part of this growing ministry in the life of the church. Johnson also visited the church, preached on two occasions and participated in scheduled meetings with individuals to discuss potential gift plans.

The church looks for opportunities to promote the Fellowship of Legacy Builders as part of worship and in fellowship activities. "While the church isn't yet getting a stream of income from this activity, Sandy Springs is planting important seeds that will one day grow to have a significant positive impact on the church," Johnson said.

"I am confident they will look back on this effort as life changing in their ministry and witness."

Reprinted from *Generation to Generation*, a publication of the Christian Church Foundation.



Global Ministries: Border Journey - Josseline's Shrine

I visited the shrine for Josseline Hernandez during a hike along the migrant trails on October 8. Josseline was a 14-year-old girl from El Salvador who was traveling with her 10-year-old brother. They were going to Los Angeles to reunite with their mother. After crossing Guatemala and the entire length of Mexico, they hiked 20 miles in the desert of southern Arizona. Josseline became ill and they were still 20 miles from the pick-up spot. The "coyote" (guide) left her behind because he had to get the group there on time to meet their ride. Her brother didn't want to leave but she told him "You have to keep going and get to Mom." Josseline died in the cold of winter in the desert on February 20, 2008.

Focusing my attention on the task of taking photos allowed me to ignore any feelings about what had happened there. I pulled out the plants that were obstructing the view of the cross so that I could get a clearer picture. It felt as if I was doing something for Josseline, but it was more about soothing my own emotions.

I took the photos and put the camera back in my pack. That's when it hit me and I started to sob. Sonia, Josseline's mother, wrote a poem that is inscribed at the base of the cross: "When you feel that the road has turned hard and difficult don't give up in defeat. Continue forward and seek God's help. We'll carry you always in our hearts."

Josseline died alongside a dry streambed in a small canyon. As we were hiking up the hill, I looked back and was struck by the beauty of the scenery. The contrasting emotions of the sorrow for her death and the peace from that view are still with me.

The sorrow also alternates with anger about the policies that killed Josseline. Sonia was unable to find work in El Salvador and she went to Los Angeles to earn money to send

back for Josseline and her brother. She had worked for years in L.A. and finally saved up enough money to bring her children there. Her dream turned to tragedy when Josseline became the victim of a militarized border created by successive administrations in the U.S.

Bill Clinton began the policy that would lead to the death of Josseline and thousands of other unauthorized immigrants. He pushed the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) through congress in 1993, and that destroyed the livelihood of more than two million small farmers in Mexico [not to mention millions more throughout Central America].

His administration then started building border walls and placing more Border Patrol agents to block the flow of migrants through Tijuana-San Diego; Nogales, Sonora-Nogales, Arizona; and Ciudad Juarez-El Paso. This policy of "deterrence" funneled migrants away from the urban areas and into more remote and hazardous terrain. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, this militarization was escalated by George W. Bush and Barack Obama with the justification of "securing the border."

Not a single terrorist has been caught crossing the border from Mexico into the U.S. Yet, the government continues to "deter" people that are seeking work, or to be reunited with their families, by pushing them into the deadliest terrain along the border. That's a political objective which is pursued through the use of armed force and causes large numbers of civilian casualties—including 14-year-old girls from El Salvador.

In love and solidarity,
Scott Nicholson

Scott Nicholson, a member of University Congregational UCC in Missoula, Montana, serves with BorderLinks in Nogales, Mexico as a volunteer at the Community Center.

More who, what, where, when?

Special Opportunity

Do you wonder sometimes about what God wants from us? On Wednesday, November 2, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm, a special guest, Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, will be here to help!

Bruce was called as the first "Minister for Faith and Giving for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" in 2010. For twenty-five years he has led congregations in Ohio and Indiana in achieving high levels of financial support for local and global missions and he now shares his experience across the life of the whole church.

Bruce's theme for our time together will be "Stewardship is Not Fundraising!", but rather our life response to a generous God. He will lead us in an exploration of a theology of abundance, multiple ways of understanding stewardship, biblical stories that encourage and challenge us, and the nature of what it means to live generous and transformed lives as both the church and as individuals. Plan to come!

Dear FCC,

My heart is filled with thanks for the many cards, visits, calls and prayers received during my two hospital stays. Many tests were run over the 26 days, not finding the cause. After taking an external ultra sound and biopsy of the pancreas on Friday, October 17, a test that I demanded be done, we found the reason — a very small tumor in the pancreas, that is operable, and is malignant. So I have a few more jumps to make before full recovery is in sight. Thank God, I insisted on getting that test. I don't like to think what would have happened otherwise. Thanks and your continued prayers are most welcome.

Warm regards,
Doris Eakes

Alternative Gift Market

An Alternative Gift Market will be part of this year's Holiday Bazaar on November 5. You will have the opportunity to purchase a gift in the form of a donation to WARM and/or the Pretty In Pink Foundation. Each of these agencies will have a table at the bazaar with information and will be accepting donations. Volunteers are also needed to help at these tables. If you want to volunteer or have any questions please contact Chris Furr at 392-0593 or dfurr1@ec.rr.com. More information about these organizations is found below.

WARM – the **Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry** makes repairs and improvements to improve the safety and livability of homes of the elderly and the impoverished in New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender counties. It is a non-profit agency which is dependent on volunteers and donations from area churches and grants to accomplish its mission. We are also exploring opportunities for our congregation to volunteer with WARM, more to come about that in the near future.

Pretty In Pink Foundation – a national non-profit agency that provides support for women with cancer, especially breast cancer, and is relatively new to our area. The work of this foundation was of great interest to Kim Sibbach and she was looking forward to becoming one of their volunteers. They are holding their first Wilmington area volunteer training on October 12, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Landfall Executive Suites behind the Northeast branch of the New Hanover County Library. More information can also be obtained from Joy Wade, program manager, 620-9871 or jwade@prettyinpinkfoundation.org.

Prayer Concerns

Long Term Health Care Concerns

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

Our Sympathy To

- Tricia Heath and her family upon the death of her mother, Marie Everett, in Kinston

Church Family

- Sara Brown, tests for numbness in hands and legs
- Betty Davis, being treated for depression
- Ellie Duckett, continuing chemotherapy treatment
- Doris Eakes, facing surgery to remove malignant tumor in pancreas
- Allan Huband, receiving treatment for cancer
- Ned Lavengood, at Silver Stream for physical rehab
- Jim Lee, undergoing treatment and tests
- Dick Oosterwyk, facing kidney stone surgery
- Kathy Viveona, facing procedure to insert stent in leg, and undergoing tests on heart blockage
- Diana Wierse, continuing physical therapy on her knee

Friends and Family

- Barbara Ables, Roy Archibald's sister, lung cancer
- Daniel Boyd, Tena Perry's nephew, deployed to Afghanistan
- Kevin Frawley, friend of Bill & Ann Boston, diagnosed with lung cancer
- Luis Guardiola, Rev. González' cousin, deployed to Afghanistan
- Mildred Hickman, Sherry Hickman's mother-in-law, continued difficulty adjusting to living at Champions
- Daniel Kennedy, Greg Kennedy's father, dementia has progressed causing additional issues and concerns
- Aaron Martin, friend of Bill & Ann Boston, diagnosed with liver cancer
- Joe Martin, Bruce & Sherry Johnson's friend, throat cancer
- Linda Maynard, Tammy Connell's mother, recovering at home from heart attack
- Peggy Pridgen, friend of Bruce & Sherry Johnson, stage 4 lung cancer
- Elsie Stocks, Dava Bright's mother, health issues
- Callie Watkins, Mable Cooke's sister, recovering at home from a stroke
- Kathy Wirkus, Alicia Luce's sister, undergoing additional chemotherapy
- Community of Puente Azul, El Salvador
- Natural disaster victims around the world

Serving October 30

11:00 Communion Table Prayers

John May, Harry Griffin

Home-Bound Communion: Chris Furr, Bill Reinger, Becky Shipton

Deacons

Linda Reinger (captain), Brad Dean, Zach Dean, Nicole Holliday, Ellen Shepard, Marion Vernon

Communion Prep

Brad Dean, Zach Dean, Nicole Holliday

Children Worship & Wonder

Oct 30 Bridgette Johnson & Tricia Heath
Nov 6 Tena Perry & Kelly Ensign

Turning Point Kids

Oct 30 Kelly Ensign & Lindsey Tarrant
Nov 6 Joy Roberts & Stacey Adam

Minister On-Call Schedule

Oct 28-29 Dr. Perry
Nov 4-5 Dr. Perry

Greeters

8:45 Oct 30 Don & Valerie Hartsell
Nov 6 Steve & Dava Bright
11:00 Oct 30 Sue Hunley
Nov 6 Kenny & Sue Morris

Lay Reader

Oct 30 Fern Huband
Nov 6 Ned Lavengood

Sunday Door Lock-up

Oct 30 Brad & Jennifer Dean
Nov 6 Duane & Alicia Luse

Budget Update

Budget through 10/23/11	\$116,480.43
Income	<u>105,584.51</u>
Income Short of Budget	\$10,895.92

News & Views
First Christian Church
2035 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403

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Staff

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Ailsa R. Guardiola González, Associate Minister
of Christian Education and Youth
Stephen Field, Music Director
Travis Price, Turning Point Music Director
Myrtle Sanders, Financial Secretary
Tammy Connell, Nursery Attendant
Elizabeth Dawsey, Assistant Nursery Attendant
Stacey Sibbach, Assistant Nursery Attendant
Faith Dietrick, Secretary/Admin. Assistant
John Lanier, Janitorial Service
Tammy Connell, Cleaning Service
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A Word From Lance

As many of you know, by congregational policy and by agreement with me when I was called here in 2004, I am eligible for a 12 week sabbatical leave in 2012. Our church has chosen to approach this time as not only for spiritual renewal for me, but also for our congregation. We have had good congregational feedback about congregational renewal activities and plans, and have had a committee working on grant and sabbatical details.

As part of the plan I have applied for two sabbatical grants. The first grant was submitted to the Lilly Religion Endowment in May of 2011, and would provide funding for me as well as for congregational sabbatical plans. I recently was informed that I was not chosen as a recipient. The current Sabbatical Committee, Chris Furr, Margaret Jarman, Duane

[continued inside]