

# News



# Views

February 22, 2012 First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Wilmington, NC

*Italics indicate non-FCC group*

### **Sunday, February 26**

#### **Week of Compassion Ends**

8:45 Turning Point  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11 am Traditional Worship  
12 pm **Called Board Meeting**  
1:30 pm Youth Mission Day  
4:30 pm K'Motion & The Vibe

### **Monday, February 27**

8:30 am-4 pm *Quilters Workshop*  
12 pm *Al Anon*  
6:30 pm Lectio Divina Group  
7 pm *Quilters-by-the-Sea*

### **Tuesday, February 28**

6:30 pm Financial Peace Univ.  
6:30 pm Gospel of Mark Group  
7 pm Book Club  
7 pm *CVAE*

### **Wednesday, February 29**

5:30 pm Dinner  
6:30 pm Living a Generous Life  
7 pm Chancel Choir

### **Thursday, March 1**

10:30 am Centering Prayer Grp.  
1:30 pm *Silver Bees*  
6 pm Worship Band

### **Friday, March 2**

*Set up for Fashion Show*

### **Saturday, March 3**

*8 am - 3 pm Pilot Club Fashion Show*

### **Sunday, March 4**

8:45 Turning Point  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11 am Traditional Worship  
2 pm Pastor's Class  
4:30 pm Youth

#### **Recent Attendance**

	8:45	11:00
2/19/12	n/a	113



## Saints Alive!

### Living Generously

During the month of March, we will be celebrating the generosity of God that we see in all creation.

Through stories and scripture, we will affirm that in response to God's generosity our giving keeps us alive spiritually.

As part of our March emphasis, we will gather on Wednesday evenings for dinner and Bible study.

Our themes will be:

- February 29 Giving as Worship, Expression of Faith, and Spiritual Discipline  
Led by Dr. Perry.
- March 7 Giving as Faithful Living  
Led by Rev. González.
- March 14 Faithful Giving  
Led by Rev. Glenn Brigman.
- March 21 Tithing, Fair Share, Sacrificial Giving  
Led by Dr. Perry.

## Notices and Reminders

**Worship Focus** for Sunday is *The Spiritual Life: Worship as Spiritual Practice*.  
Psalm 95:1-7, Mark 12:28-34



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

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

### Pray for Our Missionaries

Lynnea Walker and Tom Morse serving in China.



### Volunteer with WARM

Our next WARM volunteer opportunity will be **Saturday, February 25**. WARM (Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry) uses volunteers to make basic home repairs for needy families and individuals. **Volunteers of all skill levels are needed, you just need the desire to help others!** If you are interested in volunteering that day please let Chris Furr know in person, by phone (392-0593), or by email ([dfurr1@ec.rr.com](mailto:dfurr1@ec.rr.com)).



### It's Not Too Late to Sign Up for the FCC Retreat

Registration forms are on the table in the welcome area! Because of Fort Caswell Assembly's registration deadlines, we need your form and registration by March 1. Plan to come!

## *A Word from Lance, cont'd*

Christians also have had some various practices of feasting before the fast. The idea of the feast is to give thanks to God who provides for all that we need. For several years now, on Ash Wednesday we feast with pancakes (and some sausage!). It's a heavy meal, that reminds us of how deeply God fills us and provides for our needs. It is a time of joy and fellowship for us. This year, following our feast, we will be invited into a time of personal worship and prayer through three worship stations set up in Sunday School rooms. The themes in these rooms will be water, oil, and growth. In each room there will be written guidelines including a scripture reading, questions for reflection and prayer, and response. After moving through these three rooms at our own pace, we will come back to the fellowship hall and receive communion and the imposition of ashes and depart in a spirit of worship.

The ashes are also an important part of our worship during Lent. Ashes, created by burning the Palm leaves we used last year for Palm Sunday, remind us that we are of the stuff of the universe. Carbon, ash, dust is that from which we came. In worship and in awe of the God who has made us we place ashes on our hands or forehead in the symbol of the cross, reminding us that we are given life by God and new life in Christ. God's blessings be with you on your spiritual journey this Lenten season. See you Sunday.

## Who, what, where, when?

### Week of Compassion

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

Giving is a sacred act of living out our confession of faith as followers of Jesus the Christ. Nowhere have I witnessed that confession of faith more generously displayed as when I was in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There is a Disciples church on stilts in a fishing village. Folks have set up a community of sorts along the mighty Congo River where they fish to make some semblance of a living. I preached that rainy afternoon—my sermon translated by one of the members into the local language of Lingala—and when I finished, I sat back down in my seat. I then watched the members of the church dance forward their offerings. I'm serious when I say that they danced their offerings forward. They were thrilled—delighted—overjoyed that they had something to give! This was the highlight of their worship experience! "Praise be to God for the opportunity to give what we have!" they exclaimed. I was overcome by their joy in doing so. And just when I thought it was over, the marvelous African beat continued. And they kept dancing. They were invited to give another offering. Another offering? I thought. This time they brought forward their gifts for me, the preacher. What? Me? An offering for me? I could hardly believe it. Their tradition to offer gifts of gratitude for the one who has shared a word from God was overwhelming to me. So I graciously—despite my disbelief—accepted three fish that were brought forward. And the long branch of plantains, the oranges, the papayas, and money. I felt strange about accepting it, I'll admit. But I know that to honor the giver you honor the gift. Let us now honor Our Giver, the Lord of Life, who is the Source of all, by giving back all that we are so that others in need might be honored.

Rev. Amy Gopp,  
Executive Director,  
Week of Compassion



### Christina Stakely and Heath

**Coffey** joined FCC on February 29, 2012, by transfer of membership from Black Mountain Christian Church.

**Welcome to our church family,  
Christina and Heath.**

### Living A Generous Life

If you were here for breakfast on Sunday, you likely heard Bruce Barkhauer mention some surprising things from the Bible about the stewardship of life and what God's ways of giving look like. We intentionally asked Bruce to give us lots of information so that we could meet on Wednesday nights and talk about it. We hope it raised some questions for you, but we did not have time for questions or discussion. Beginning Wednesday, February 29, we will take a look at some of those scriptures and discuss the often misunderstood notion of Christian stewardship. Presenters will provide introductory information and will lead small group discussion. The menu for week one is chicken and pastry, yams, green beans, and desert. There will be sign up cards in the church bulletin on Sunday. Nursery provided.

### Regional Assembly Coming Soon!

April 27-29 2012 will be the date for the 164<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in North Carolina. This year's theme is "That All May Be One." Held in Raleigh, this assembly will be a great opportunity for worship, fellowship and learning. As part of the business scheduled, our Regional Board is recommending a revision of the Design for the Christian Church in North C. They are also interested in feedback from members and congregations. Copies of the rough draft can be found in the Welcome area and questions or suggestions can be emailed to the Regional Office.

## An Invitation from the Board Chair

February 20, 2012

Dear Members of First Christian Church,

I want to inform the congregation that **I am calling a Board meeting for Sunday, February 26, following the 11:00 am worship service.** The Board will be gathering to discuss an opportunity to look into being a part of an exciting program sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

An appointed group from our church recently attended an informational program in Greenville, North Carolina, on January 29, to look into a leadership event called DARE to LEAD, which is a part of the Hope Transformation Partnership for Missional Transformation. This leadership program is sponsored by our Disciples of Christ Church Extension Ministry, Disciples Homes Ministry and Higher Education & Leadership Ministries. The two year program/process from our own denomination offers not only leadership training for lay leaders and clergy, but also begins with a spiritual foundation, includes demographic and step by step guidance, and its length provides enough time to generate ownership, understanding and excitement among congregational members. For several years now, our congregation has sought resources for facilitating congregational vision and direction, but nothing has felt right or appealed to the Vision Teams, and the costs of some of these programs have been prohibitive. The group that attended the meeting in Greenville took a week to sift through the information and met again on February 9, to discuss their thoughts and questions concerning DARE to LEAD. They concluded that this was an opportunity that we couldn't afford to pass up.

Based on their findings, we plan on discuss-

ing this opportunity with the Board to see how we can move forward and **we are encouraging all members of First Christian Church to attend the meeting** to hear from the group that attended the meeting. If we decide to move forward, our entire congregation will be involved and benefit from this program. We have a short window of opportunity to be a part of this program as the deadline is March 16, 2012.

I look forward to seeing you at the Board meeting and if you aren't able to attend, please keep us in prayer as we ponder decisions that guide our church.

Thanks to the team that attended this workshop and are presenting this opportunity to us. They are, Lance, Ailsa, Board members Kathy Jordan and Nancy Simcox-Cherry, Deacon chair Linda Reinger, upcoming Board chair Barry Jordan, and Margaret Jarman.

Blessing and Peace,

Tim Whitehead  
Board Chair

### Stewardship Corner

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now.*

St. Teresa of Avila

## More who, what, where, when?



**Bradley O Taylor  
&**

**Christina K Clark**

Request the honor or your presence  
at their wedding

on the 10th day of March 2012

at 7:00 p.m. Please arrive by 6:45.

First Christian Church

2035 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC

### Dear FCC Family:

It's hard to believe I am a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill and will be both graduating and being commissioned as an ensign in the Navy this May. These past four years have flown by, but one of the highlights of the cold winter days here have been the annual Valentine's Day care packages from First Christian.

Those candy bars, chips and cocoa got me through many exams and papers. Soon I will be leaving for Norfolk, Virginia, to serve aboard the USS Laboon. Some night while I'm standing watch on the ship's bridge in the middle of the ocean, I will remember fondly those wonderful care packages. Thanks too for the kindness you have also shown to my family with my grandmother's recent passing.

Sincerely,  
Grant Morine

### Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day box! It was a wonderful treat that my housemates and I all enjoyed. It always means so much to me to know what a thoughtful and loving community our church is. Thank you so much for your generosity and your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Maggie May

## Join a Small Group!

### Sign Up in the Welcome Area

#### Financial Peace University

Led by Andy Koester and Kenny Morris, Jr. Based on Christian values, and using a video presentation by Dave Ramsey, this group will learn how to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth.

Cost - \$95 includes workbook, audio CD library, budgeting forms, envelope system, bonus CD, and lifetime membership.

**Group starts: Tuesday, February 28,  
6:30 pm, in Room 12**

Childcare provided.

#### Serendipity Study of Philipians Recovering Our Joy

Led by Millie Griffin, this group **will begin March 5**, and will meet for 6 weeks, at 6:30 pm in the church parlor.

#### God Speaks Your Love Language

Learn how you can give and receive God's love through the five love languages: words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, acts of service and physical touch. Led by Russ and Carlotta Smith, this group **begins March 20**, for 6-7 weeks, and **will meet at the Jarman's** at 6:30 pm.

Bring **canned meats** (chicken, ham, Vienna sausages, Spam, etc.) in February for the Food Pantry.



**Put them 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, Linda Frost, Rosa Gaylord, Foye Marshburn, Betty Nash, Dick Oosterwyk, Betty Snook

### **Our Sympathy To**

- The Marshburn family upon the death last week of Foye Marshburn

### **Church Family**

- Jill Archibald, recovering from carpal tunnel surgery
- Steve Brooks, undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for throat cancer; scan showed tumor had shrunk, contact Charlie & Marty Prickitt for updates
- Mable Cooke, cracked clavicle
- Ellie Duckett, continuing cancer treatment
- Doris Eakes, recovering at home from surgery
- June Edwards, recovering from knee replacement surgery at the Hodges
- Allan Huband, continuing Parkinson's treatment
- Jim Lee, undergoing treatment & continuing tests
- Phyllis Powell, recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Vivian Vaughan, recovering from hip replacement surgery

### **Friends and Family**

- Barbara Ables, Roy Archibald's sister, lung cancer
- Ralph Arone, Sherry Johnson's uncle, cancer
- Barbara Blake, friend of Libby Stanton, lung cancer, recovering from surgery to remove portion of her lung
- Daniel Boyd, Tena Perry's nephew, deployed to Afghanistan
- Phipps Dean, Brad Dean's father, recovering at Davis Health Care following bladder cancer surgery
- Wayne Fanelli, Vicki Vaughn's boyfriend, and family upon the death of his brother, Allen Fanelli
- Kevin Frawley, friend of Bill & Ann Boston, diagnosed with lung cancer
- Aaron Martin, friend of Bill & Ann Boston, diagnosed with liver cancer
- Joe Martin, Bruce & Sherry Johnson's friend, throat cancer
- Daynnea Peele, Sherry Johnson's cousin, cancer
- Peggy Pridgen, friend of Bruce & Sherry Johnson, stage 4 lung cancer
- Jim Riley, Travis Princes' brother-in-law, deployed to Afghanistan for the 4th time
- Pam Sisson, daughter-in-law of Walter & Mary Sisson, diagnosed with lymphoma
- Elsie Stocks, Dava Bright's mother, health issues
- Wallace West, Shirley West's step-son, recovering at home from heart valve surgery

## Serving February 26

### **11:00 Communion Table Prayers**

Bill Reinger, Jerry Roberts

**Home-Bound Communion:** Charlie Vaughan, Mike Brown, Becky Shipton

### **Deacons**

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

### **Communion Prep**

Thomas & Sue Hunley, Linda Reinger

### **Children Worship & Wonder**

Feb 26 Bridgette Johnson & Ron Gore

Mar 4 Tena Perry & Sue Morris

### **Turning Point Kids**

Feb 26 Steve & Pat Brooks

Mar 4 Jane Coleman and Sam Rose

### **Minister On-Call Schedule**

Feb 24-25 Rev. González

Mar 2-3 Dr. Perry

### **Greeters**

8:45 Feb 26 Don & Valerie Hartsell  
Mar 4 Steve & Dava Bright

11:00 Feb 26 Patsy Emmart  
Mar 4 Kenny & Sue Morris

### **Lay Reader**

Feb 26 Harry Griffin

Mar 4 Duane Luse

### **Sunday Door Lock-up**

Feb 26 John & Jeannie May

Mar 4 Ellen Shepard

### **Budget Update**

Budget through 2/1912 \$232,960.86

Income 234,603.81

Income Over Budget \$1,642.95

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

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## FCC Wilmington

### 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  
Myrtle Sanders, Financial Secretary  
Tammy Connell, Nursery Attendant  
Elizabeth Dawsey, Assistant Nursery Attendant  
Stacy Sibbach, Assistant Nursery Attendant  
Faith Dietrick, Secretary/Admin. Assistant  
John Lanier, Janitorial Service  
Tammy Connell, Cleaning Service  
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### E-Mail

Lance Perry: [fcclance@bellsouth.net](mailto:fcclance@bellsouth.net)  
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**CareNet Counseling Center Partner:** 799-1071

**Web Address:** [fccilm.org](http://fccilm.org)

**Facebook:** First Christian Church of Wilmington, NC

## *A Word From Lance*

This Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. This ancient Christian observance is really about a Christian's spiritual journey. As early as the third century, Christians observed intentional spiritual practices in preparation for the celebration of resurrection at Easter. Christians would observe times of fasting so that their understanding of dependence upon God would grow. At the end of the fast when they did eat, the sense of the blessing and gratitude to God for the gift of food was enhanced. Christians would also observe special practices of prayer, and care for the poor. These practices were observed for 40 days, not including Sundays, leading up to Easter reminiscent of the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness and Jesus 40 days of fasting in the wilderness as he prepared for his public ministry.

*[continued inside]*