July 19, 2019

1200 East Boulevard • Charlotte, NC 28203 • Tel: 704 334-3771 9:45 a.m. Sunday School • 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Farewell FOCUS Newsletter

This will be the last FOCUS newsletter with the current format. Due to changes of office staffing hours, we are planning an abbreviated version of the newsletter through December 2019, with limited mailings. As the church moves to a more economical and efficient practice, there will be fewer paper copies printed and sent via the US Postal System. If we have your email information, we will be planning on sending this shorter newsletter to you that way. Please contact the office at 704-334-3771 if you would prefer to continue with a paper copy sent to your home—we will continue to do that for the small number that don't have easy access to computers or technology. Of course, we will continue the practice of emailing the new abbreviated format to the current email list. As we discern how best to streamline communications through the church, we urge those of you with computer access to look at the website at www.fcc-charlotte.org, the First Christian Church facebook page at facebook.com/fcccharlotte (the public page), and for emails for updates on church schedule and happenings. Jolin's newsletter messages will now also be posted on our blog (also available through our website) charlottefcc.wordpress.com. We will still be using the 15th of the month as the target deadline for information to be compiled for updating the church calendar online as well as the various upcoming events on the website. These next 5 months will be a time of discernment for us as we try to shape church communications for the future. As this newsletter is changing, our website will be changing, too, with a more streamlined format over the next few months, providing connection to all these various online locations in one place and eliminating our need for the church app. Online giving will be handled through another company soon with less expense to us, and greater flexibility for achieving our goals. We are grateful for your patience and God's grace as we pace ourselves for the future God is planning for us.

Special Thanks to Anonymous Givers!

Thank you to two church families that have given substantial gifts to assist us in our ministry in the last month.

One gift, for the floor of our choir room, is waiting for some roof repairs and cosmetic wall repairs to be a far better solution for our flooring in that room than we've ever had before.

The second gift, to address our air conditioning needs for our kitchen and fellowship hall, came just at the right time. We were able to buy a new unit that was installed the week of July 15th. As other A/C units in that building are aging, we will be looking to replace and repair as we are able. This was a magnificent start.

ON THE INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor
- 3 Missions Board & Update
- 4 Thank You Notes & Book Club
- 5 Who's Who for **AUGUST**
- 6 **AUGUST** Calendar
- 7 Concerns, Birthdays & Anniver-



From the Pastor

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."—Colossians 3:17.

When I was a child, I regularly heard Peter, Paul, and Mary sing Bob Dylan's song "The Times, they are A-Changin.' "They weren't the only ones. It was an anthem for the 1960s and into the 70s about all the things in our society that were being upended and challenged. Simon and Garfunkel sang it, the Beach Boys sang it, the Byrds sang it, Bob Dylan "sang" it. And we all believed it. The times were changing, and fast!

The challenges of that time felt like the world was ending, but we look back now and know that our times are changing maybe even more quickly and with greater impact than ever before. I feel like, for the church, these days are times of enormous change. Nothing that used to be taken for granted can be assumed anymore. Old habitual and comfortable ways of operating as faith community that used to work well are now completely oreign to people who did not grow up with church in their lives. As the generations change and expect different things, we are hoping to position ourselves for the future that we cannot yet see. As the song goes, "You'd better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone," for the times, they are indeed changing.

This newsletter is a part of those old habitual and comfortable ways of operating. With changes in society, and the newer ways of getting information that have become first and second nature to some of the people around us, we are having to envision a day without a paper newsletter, or, at the very least, a day with very few paper copies sent to homes. These changes are also a result of changes to our office staffing, something I need to speak with you about now.

In June, the Board took a very difficult vote about our staffing. For many years, we've relied on Trustees Funds to help shore up budgetary shortfalls. With hits to the Trustees Funds including the recent remediation of the choir room and air conditioning woes, we are seeing those funds dwindle to uncomfortable levels. To make changes that align us with Our Story (formerly known as our Future Story!), we have realized that there are other kinds of expertise we need to put into place to get to where we need to go. So, in addition to Tami Toler as our Office Manager, we will need to look seriously at having a Seminary Intern (or very-part-time Associate Minister) again, and even some help with our marketing/technological challenges that need to be addressed in order for us to serve people well. We looked at other churches our size and their staffing and came to realize that it is a rare church with our size worship attendance that has someone in the office 9-5 every day. And we can no longer afford that luxury. We have found a local congregation that will partner with us in offering Tami a part time position there in addition to the 20 hours/week we will be employing her here. It seems a good solution for her and for us for the time being. Her new schedule, depending on the vote of the other church, will begin on August 12th. We have tentatively put it in the calendar (p.6), but depending on their vote, those hours may change. Again, the website calendar will be the best way to confirm times and dates moving forward. Once the other church had their Board Meeting approving this new hire, I'll be able to tell you all about the partnership. It might be more of a blessing than we could have envisioned—for all parties involved. For the days Tami will not be in the office, we are contracting with an answering service to take calls that will direct them to proper mailboxes and will even text or phone me if there's an emergency among one of our members or friends that comes as a call to them.

While changing times are really scary, I know that if God is in those changes, we can and will find our way through them. I believe God is in these changes, as difficult as they are, right now. Members of our leadership team are adamant that the world needs our church now more than ever—a safe place for diversity, a voice of compassion and care, and a way of understanding God that forces us to love our neighbor as well as we love ourselves. It is a risky thing today, to be a church that seeks to love as Jesus does. Come what may, I pray we will always, in word or deed, do what we do in the Name of Jesus and continue to give thanks to God for the gifts we've been given.

Peace,

Church Happenings

MISSIONS MOMENT.....

In August we will have a new project.... Collecting Hygiene Supplies for students at Ranson Middle School. The pressing need at some schools for basic hygiene supplies, including many items from deodorants and tooth brushes to bandaids was brought to us by one of our members. The Missions Team wants you to help make that happen.

You will find a bucket marked Hygiene Supplies outside the Sanctuary in August.

In September we will again be collecting new and gently used books for children in homes with few books. As a part of the Reach Out and Read program we will collect books for children from BIRTH thru age 14. We will have a table set outside at the church Sat. Sept 14 from 10-2:00 in conjunction with the Dilworth Tour of Homes. Please ask your friends and neighbors, post on your neighborhood website and collect books to contribute. We would love to have FCC volunteers to help the committee man this table. This will be an opportunity to share this project and the need it addresses with our neighbors passing by.

Thanks for Caring, Your Missions Team



3 Months @ a glance

AUGUST

Hygiene Supplies Collection

L&F* Child friendly foods for help families with kids

out of school for the summer....

SEPTEMBER

Children's books collection all month

9/14 FCC Book Collection Table

OCTOBER

TBD

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

4x4 gauze

Band aids small and large

Kleenex

Kerlix gauze bandages

Saline

Toothbrushes and toothpaste (travel size)

Sanitary napkins

Female and male deodorant (travel size)

Ear buds

Snacks (chips, gummies, fruit bars, etc)

Pencils

Folders

Binders

Notebook paper

Any donations will be greatly appreciated thank you!!!

Church Happenings

Camp Lakey Gap

June 20, 2019

Dear Congregation of First Christian Church,

Thank you for your incredibly generous donation to Camp Lakey Gap. It is through gifts like yours that we are able to offer the camp experience to campers with autism who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

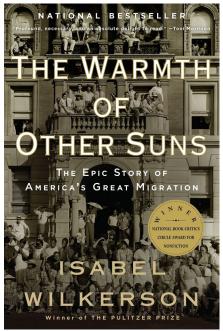
Thank you again.

Sincerely, Jon Blalock, Camp Lakey Gay Director

P.S.

Thank you for thinking of us and donating to our campers. Being in the position of telling families about scholarship awards, I can assure you that your gifts are received with tremendous gratitude.

Thank you again Jon



June 20, 2019

Dear Friends,



Thank you for your prayers for my brother Roger Stahl and for your many expressions of sympathy and support for me over the past weeks.

Although Roger was three years younger than me, in many ways he was like an older brother. He was a good friend and my advisor on many occasions. My life and the world are better because he lived. He genuinely cared about people and advocated for social justice. He wasn't a regular church-goer but he lived his faith. Roger was a volunteer for innumerable organizations and will be greatly missed by many.

Your love and kindness are greatly appreciated. I'm glad to be back home with my church family.

Love and God's Blessings, Nancy Carol Stahl

Thank you for your recent contribution to Christmount. Through the generosity of folks like you, we are able to respond to provide programs like Camp Lakey Gap and Camp Sunshine, respond to needs in our communities, and offer a place where people are reenergized by the natural beauty of the mountains, streams, and trees her at Christmount.

Because o f you, more people are recognized the importance of camps, retreats, and conferences—and are rediscovering the best parts of themselves and one another. Speaking of ... let me know when you plan to be at Christmount. I would love the opportunity to visit with you and to show you some of the wonderful things that are happening here.

Thanks again for sharing you passion for this place—you are deeply appreciated.

With Gratitude,

Rev. Rob Morris, executive Director

P.S. With friends like you ... there will always be lots of happy people!

Thank you! R

BOOK CLUB

September 8, 2019
The Warmth of Other
Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

AUGUST SERVERS

Elder of the Month:

Chip Givens Lead

Co Lead **Nancy Carol Stahl**

Stacey Newton, Misty Warden **Deacons**

Tammy Pereboom, Michelle Daigler

Liturgist

(reading scripture)

AUGUST 4: TBA

AUGUST 11: TBA

AUGUST 18: TBA

AUGUST 25: TBA

AUGUST SERMON SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32: 22-32 & Hosea 11: 1-11 **AUGUST 4:**

AUGUST 11: Hebrews 11:8-16 & Genesis 45: 1-15

AUGUST 18: Guest Preacher

AUGUST 25: Luke 13: 18-21

Children's Moment

AUGUST 4: Rev. McElroy

AUGUST 11: **Rev. McElroy**

AUGUST 18: Rev. McElrov

AUGUST 25: **Rev. McElroy**

FINANCE REPORT

2019 Weekly need to meet the Budget \$ 3,798.85

Offering for July 14, 2019 \$ 3,512.14 Offering for July 7, 2019 \$ 4.176.41 Offering for June 30, 2019 \$ 4.063.00 \$ 2113.24 Offering for June 23, 2019

Paul & Laura West, Treasurer



ACOLYTES



Julianna Ksor **Janice Ksor Junny Ksor** Tommy McElroy **Delaney Moore**

Note from Elders: Please let an Elder know if you have a special prayer concerns

On July 1, 2019 Chloe Kpa Adrong



It's a Girl!

was born at 7lbs, 14oz and 1/4 inches long. Proud parents Trang Adrong (Dad) and Doi Kpa (Mom). Proud grandparents Wi Ksor (G'Pa) and Mut Adrong (G'Ma). Proudest big brother Calvin.



First Christian Church

First meeting is scheduled on September 29th 6 pm to 8 pm



Below is a picture of the super Italian Ice!! At the Dilworth Soup Kitchen.

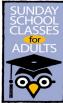
First Christian Church

1200 East Blvd. * Charlotte, NC 28203 Tel: 704 334-3771 * Fax: 704 334-3774 Email: office@fcc-charlotte.org Website: www.fcc-charlotte.org

AUGUST 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|----------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship | 5 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK 5:00 pm Quilter's Bee 7:00 pm Missions mtg | 6 | 7 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA | 8 | 9 | 10 Quarterly Elders Gather- ing |
| 11 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship | 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK | 13 | 14 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA | 15 Communication Deadline | 16 | 17 |
| Ne | w office Hours b | egin: 8:30—5 M | londay and Wedne | sday, and 8:30- | - 12:30 on Frid | ау |
| 18 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship | 19 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK 5:00 pm Quilter's Bee | 20 | 21 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm General Board meeting | 26 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |





Please join the Adult Sunday School class each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM on the first floor of the Fellowship building. We are reviewing the Book of AMOS. Tara Romine and Michelle Daigler will lead us through this wonderful study.

CONCERNS:

- Emily Henderson and family
- Family & Friends of Angel Rivera (friend of Chip
- Christine and Ella Mazza (niece & great niece of Tom McElroy)
- Family & Friends of Roger Stahl (brother of Nancy Carol Stahl)
- Family & Friends of Doug West (uncle of Paul
- Eddie Hughes & Laura Hughes Misty Warden, Connie Nelson and family
- Kyle Hester
- Nancy Carol Stahl
 Family & Friends of Dwayne Drafahl (cousin of Leslie Therrien and Laura Hughes)
- Connie Marchbank
- Renee Estep and Beth Vroman (friend of Tammy Pererboom)
- Rev. Dara Cobb Lewis
- Family & Friends of Gale Overcash
- Stephanie Wells (friend of Ann Rowell & Tammy Pereboom)
- Judy Diamond (aunt of Deb and Curtis Overcash)
- Family & Friends of Jessie Black (mother of Cliff
- Nkraih Dieu
- Family & Friends of Samantha Keithley (niece of Fraley)
- Family & Friénds of Elsie McLendon
- Jim & Elizabeth Marchbank, Beverly & Gary Marchbank (family of Connie Marchbank)
- Jarod Bailey
- Carol Tarcza



- Mary Campbell & Mike Pyle (cousins of Steve
- Bailey)
 Jean Bick, Tommy Pickney, Doug West, Jayme & Bryan Rothwell, & Marie Digiovanni (family of Paul & Laura West)
- Diana O'Keefe & Leigh Evans (friends of Paul West)
- Evie Wahl (sister of Mary Clifton)
 Gilbert Edwards & Beth Bentolila (family of Steve Clifton)

- Ongoing Concerns:

 * Tom & Judy Caldwell (friends of Leslie Ther-
- Ione Pereboom (mother of Tammy Pereboom)
 Grace Chanken, Lana Dellinger, Terry Davis &
 Mark Davis (friends of Connie Marchbank)
- Gary Canfield, Andrea Raby & Jon Raby
- Tom McElroy
- Mika Bulu
- Carl Bredow
- Mary Boyer (mother of Ann Wright)
 Kerry Weesner (son-in-law of Diane Vogt)
 Howard Johnson
- Military Overseas
- Phil Bauer & Family
- Connie Mead (mother of Julie Bogguss)
- Montagnard families & Religious freedom in Vietnam for all Bunong Christians in Cambodia



03/Chiuen Thi 04/Caroline Shaw

05/Julie Bogguss

05/Amanda Vogt Tyson

06/Diane Vogt

08/David Adrong-Ksor

18/Andrew Rahlan

18/Abbey He

19/Paul Hanneman

20/Leslie Therrien 20/Kathy Paige

22/Laura Hughes

22/Brianna McMahan

24/Bonnie Herdt

28/Mary Kate Carney

28/Ted Fraley

31/Sally Naylor



12/Jeff & Amanda Vogt Tyson

19/Robert & Tiffany Miller

21/Minh Rmah & Pyin Rolan

26/David & Sandee Wagoner

If your name is missing from the list of birthdays or anniversaries, please give the Church Office a call. Thank you!



Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

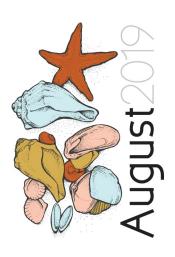
Hebrews 11:1, NRSV



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1200 East Boulevard Charlotte, North Carolina 28203



"In opinions, liberty; in essentials, unity; and in all things, love"





Jolin Wilks McElroy, Pastor Grant Lombard, AV Engineer Andy Smith, Interim Pianist Tami Toler, Office Manager Meredith Salyer, Nursery Attendant

Office Hours beginning August 12th 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am. - 12:30 pm.

Telephone: (704) 334-3771 *** Fax: (704) 334-3774



