

Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

Thursday morning,
 November 23, 2017
 at 8:00 am



All are welcome!

Bring a friend.

Celebrate
 WITH ALL THE BOUNTY
 THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD
 HAS GIVEN TO YOU.

DEUTERONOMY 26:11, NRSV

What are you thankful for this year?

ON THE INSIDE

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From the Pastor

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6



"And so it begins . . . Christmas music at work . . . I'm gonna lose my mind . . ." A cousin of mine posted that on Facebook on November 13th. The holidays are coming--and each year they seem to be coming sooner than they did the year before. A few folks in our congregation have told me they're not looking forward to the holidays this time around. It might be the intensity of the season and the feeling there's too much to do. It might be the empty chair at the Thanksgiving table no one in the family knows how to handle. Some of us aren't feeling well this year. Some of us never liked turkey in the first place. But if we dismiss the holiday season completely, we miss out on some really significant gifts that await us.

We lump Thanksgiving and Christmas together in this culture into a kind of overwhelming month of expectations and family connection that doesn't always fit with our lives. But perhaps that is the very point of these holidays. Taking a moment to give thanks, to stop and breathe, to spend time with others (maybe family, maybe friends) over a meal or at a holiday gathering, to reflect on the things that matter most, might, in the end, shape our lives for the better. This Thanksgiving, we will continue our longstanding tradition of a prayer service on Thanksgiving morning, followed by a wonderful breakfast. Why not start the day out with a moment to name what you're thankful for? It is always a meaningful moment in our life together. I hope you'll be part of it--whatever else you may be doing on that day.

Advent is another time for reflecting and considering where God has been in our experiences and making room for God to show up in our lives once again. The theme this Advent is "The Light is Coming," as we consider the coming of the Christ Child and the promise that Christ will come again. It is a time of preparation and hope. Each week during Advent, we'll be looking at a different kind of light--Reflected Light, as from a mirror; Light Brought into the Darkness, as with a lantern or a candle; Refracted Light of prisms and rainbows and glass; and The Light of Love is Here! Mixed into the Advent season is a collection of traditions many of us have found meaningful. Those traditions, including our Cantata on December 17 and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service on December 24, will accompany a new event on December 3rd, a brief service of holiday remembrance for those families that are grieving this year in particular. We're calling this remembrance service our "Blue Christmas" service, and we will be partnering with Hankins & Whittington as they have their lighting of their tree and as they host a reception afterward.

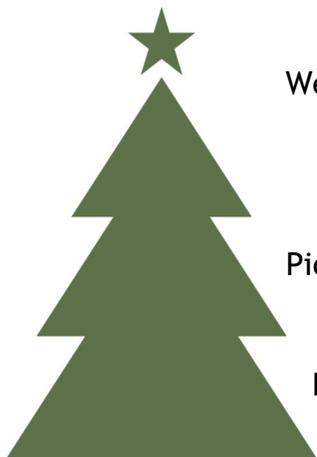
There are many ways to be involved, and also ways to be low key in the weeks ahead. The holidays are coming . . . But so is our LORD. Whatever we carry with us into the holiday season, our God brings hope, peace, joy and love. I give thanks for that.

Peace,

JOAN

Church Happenings

Christmas Tree



Order deadline by
Wednesday, November
29th

Pick up: Saturday,
December 2nd

Pick up between 12:00
to 2:00 pm

Call 704 619-1922
Robert Wiseman to
place your order

**Deadline
December 3rd**

Order Your

Poinsettias



YOUR GENERAL BOARD: NOVEMBER UPDATE

The last meeting of the General Board for 2017 was held on October 15. The next scheduled Board meeting is Sunday, January 28, 2018. This meeting will include new Board members to be elected at the Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19.

Finances. Through October, pledges and offerings totaled \$ 170,185. Expenditures totaled \$ 164, 564 or a positive difference of \$5,621. The recommended 2018 Ministry Finance Plan will be presented to the Congregation for approval at the November 19 meeting.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about any aspect of the Board's activities, please contact Julie Burch Board, Moderator, jburch6152@gmail.com.

Blue Christmas

December 3rd at 5:30 pm

"Blue" Christmas with Hankins & Whittington

Elvis sang the popular song, "I'll Have a Blue Christmas Without You," and some folks this time of year are thinking just that--especially while grieving someone dear to them. On December 3rd, we will be hosting a brief service of Christmas Carols and Reflection for people who are grieving losses this time of year. The service will be Sunday, December 3rd, at 5:30pm. We will begin here at First Christian Church's sanctuary, and then travel across the street to Hankins & Whittington Funeral Home for the lighting of their tree outside and then a reception with holiday treats at their location.



**December 17th
at 7:00 pm**

Church Happenings

“Serving the Lord with Gladness. . .”

On behalf of a grateful Congregation, the General Board wishes to recognize the following individuals this month for their dedication and service:

Laura Hughes, coordinator, and all those who assisted and contributed food: Julie Bogguss; Michelle Daigler; Charlotte Dreibelbis; Eddie Hughes; Danyse Kingsbery; Betty McKnight; Pam McKnight; Sally Naylor; Connie Nelson; Tammy Pereboom; Jupy Puckett; Tara Romine; Andy Smith; Nancy Carol Stahl; Carol Tarcza; Leslie Therrien; Forrest Tindell; Tami Toler; Sandee Wagoner; Bob Ward; Misty Warden – Reception for Jolin as part of Clergy Appreciation Month.

Ted Fraley – outstanding service as Chair of the Deacons, ensuring that there are Deacons to serve each Sunday, and making the entryway an inviting space for members and visitors when they arrive (like sweeping leaves!)

Sarah Smith, Marie Graham, Christian Pann, Nancy Carol Stahl, for presence and help during the November 3rd, Art Show.

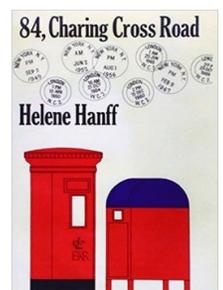
Warm Hats and Socks



Book Club

Sunday, January 21,
2018

At 5:30
pm at the
home of
Julie
Bogguss.



We
moved to
the third
Sunday due to the
Martin Luther King holi-
day the week before.
Our book for *January*
2018

Church Happenings

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FCC

Pastor Appreciation Luncheon October 29, 2017

What a big surprise it was for me to experience the Pastor Appreciation Luncheon you all had put together for me on October 29th! It was COMPLETELY unexpected. Tom and I were so blessed by the notes and cards and gifts--and all that food! Not only did I feel appreciated --I felt appreciative, too. I'm grateful for a congregation that is willing to take risks, for a community of faith that provides a consistent welcome, for a family in Christ that loves beyond barriers. It is an honor to serve with you and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindnesses to me and to my family.

--Rev. Jolin McElroy



*Thanks,
Everyone!*



Emilee Syrewicze



Joined
First
Christian
Church
on

Welcome
Our New
Members

November
5, 2017

Linda Clarkson



Joined
First
Christian
Church
on

Welcome
Our New
Members

October
29, 2017

Jerry Maschke



Joined
First
Christian
Church
on

Welcome
Our New
Members

October
22, 2017



“*Ordinary Saints*” Art Show

"Ordinary Saints" Gallery Night--an evening of connection and joy!

It was a wonderful experience to come together on November 3rd for the exhibit of the artwork of Rev. Helms Jarrell of the "saints" Helms had painted from her Enderly Park neighborhood. Great music, wonderful conversation, new connections made while being challenged by questions of, "What makes a Saint?" "How are our lives similar and different to these lives on canvas?" "Who would we call 'Saints'?" In addition to the paintings, Helms provided poetry written by some of her neighbors especially related to her ministry at the Queen City Family Tree in Enderly Park. The exhibit is up in our sanctuary through November 30th.



Church Happenings

DECEMBER MISSIONS HAPPENINGS

THICK SOCKS, WARM HATS Drive, a big success!

Thanks to everyone who participating in providing our Dilworth Soup Kitchen guests with a pair of thick socks and a warm hat. Many people bought and contributed the items...a team assembled them ready for delivery, the children and church dedication is Sunday, Nov. 19th and they are being given to each guest on Nov. 20th. Thanks to all for your generosity and participation.

LASAGNA CASSEROLES FOR NEW YEARS DAY:

Soup Kitchen will be open for guests as usual on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. To make preparation on this holiday a little easier for all our dedicated volunteers, FCC members are invited to contribute frozen LASAGNA CASSEROLES. Whether homemade or store bought, your casseroles are needed. We hope to have 200 servings in the freezer. There will be some freezer space to begin accepting these Sunday, December 10th and more room after that. Please sign up so we can be sure we have enough.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Dec. 10th and 17th.

Each December, FCC collects a special consolidated offering to support important work of our denomination. This money goes to: Reconciliation ministries / anti-racism work, Disciples Regional work, Disciple colleges, universities and seminaries, NAPAD and our pension fund.

Please prayerfully consider a donation above and beyond your pledge for this important work.



FOOD DRIVE



LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

The Loaves & Fishes pantry of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter.

Thank you for your kind and generous contributions. You have surely helped our neighbors in need.

Thank you for your support.
10-24-2017 63.8 lbs

Dilworth Soup Kitchen

Monday
First Christian Church
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
1200 East Blvd,
Charlotte, NC
704 334-3771

Tuesday
Ascension Lutheran Church
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
1225 E Morehead St,
Charlotte, NC
704 372-7317

Wednesday
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
917 Clanton Road,
Charlotte, NC
704 523-7483

Thursday
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 pm
1001 Queens Rd,
Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 375-9185

Saturday
Sacrifice of Praise Ministries
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2806 L.D. Parker Drive, Charlotte, NC
704 333-3367



no requirements.
no charge.
just come and eat.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy our Soup Kitchen, located in the Fellowship Hall on the Dilworth Road, East side of the building from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Monday.

We are grateful for help from so many of our neighbors in Dilworth for support and help of this effort. Because of the generosity of the citizens in Dilworth, this soup kitchen truly has come from the heart of an entire community. If you would like to join us for a free Monday lunch, please come. If you would like to be a part of this as a volunteer or donor, you're welcome to eat with us on Monday and envision how you might be able to help.

Sign up on-line at www.dilworthsoupkitchen.org.

Church Happenings



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP

The Congregation will be asked to approve General Board recommendations for 2018 Officers and Board Members and the 2018 Ministry Finance Plan. Other agenda items include: an Update on the Future Story; the new Wedding policy; and Church Security. Please plan to attend this important meeting as we make plans for the new year.



Eddie and Laura Hughes

SHARE YOUR FAITH - SHARE YOUR CHURCH INVITE A FRIEND!

Advent is a very special time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Share this time and your faith with a friend! Invite someone to church so they can experience the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of Advent.



CHURCH SECURITY

In light of the recent tragedy at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, an ad hoc team has come together to discuss what FCC might do to improve security for our facilities. This team, convened by the Moderator, also includes Julie Bogguss, Steve Clifton, Ted Fraley, Chip Givens, David Knight and Pastor McElroy. Another driver for reviewing security is the church's desire to rent underutilized space to outside parties. As more people are given access to the buildings, we want to keep our staff and all users safe as well as protect our assets. At the November 19 Congregational meeting, we will be seeking comments and ideas. Any major changes in security would require Board approval.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>DEADLINE December 3rd</p>		<p>1 WORLD AIDS DAY</p>	<p>2 10:00 am Hanging of the Greens</p> <p><i>Christmas Tree pick up 12- 2pm</i></p>
<p>3 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Jrai Church 11:00 am Worship Poinsettia Deadline 5:30 pm Blue Christ- mas</p>	<p>4 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am Dilworth Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm Quilter's Bee 6:30 pm Hope Home mtg 7:00 pm Missions meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Elder's mtg at Leslie Therrien's</p>
<p>10 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Jrai Church 11:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Ms Melody's class trip</p>	<p>11 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am Dilworth Soup Kitchen 6:30 pm Hope Home mtg 6:30 pm CMF meet- ing and a meal</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 FOCUS Deadline</p>	<p>16 10:00 am Cantata practice 1:30 pm Prayer and Fellowship</p>
<p>17 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Jrai Church 11:00 am Worship 7:00 PM </p>	<p>18 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am Dilworth Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm Quilter's Bee 6:30 pm Hope Home mtg</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 FOCUS Mailed</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Jrai Church 11:00 am Worship 5:30 PM Candlelight service</p>	<p>25 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am No Dilworth Soup Kitchen ~ today 6:30 pm Hope Home mtg</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 10:30 am YOGA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>					

CONCERN:

- ✦ Family & Friends of Hayden Rchom Rahlan (daughter of Hu Rahlan & Kelly Mary)
- ✦ Debbie Mummert and Connie Marchbank
- ✦ Lana Dellinger
- ✦ Sue Kelly
- ✦ Lone Pereboom (mother of Tammy Pereboom)
- ✦ Lillian Anderson (mother of Stacey Newton)
- ✦ Denver Board
- ✦ Joseph Park Nunn (father of Susan Scholle)
- ✦ Family & Friends of Virginia Marchbank
- ✦ David Tanner
- ✦ Buddy Artz (brother of Karen Artz)
- ✦ Mika Bulu
- ✦ Family & Friends of Teresa Norville
- ✦ Margie Street (sister of Dot Norville)
- ✦ Kerry Weesner (son-in-law of Diane Vogt)
- ✦ Chuck Harpe (brother of Neal and son of Shirley Harpe)
- ✦ Mary Boyer (mother of Ann Wright)
- ✦ Family & Friends of Jenny Givens
- ✦ Tom McElroy
- ✦ Family & Friends of Kemp Ewing (friend of David & Sandee Wag-
oner)
- ✦ Norma Nance (friend of Laura Hughes)
- ✦ Mark Troughton (friend of the Hughes and Therrien families)
- ✦ Mary Campbell & Mike Pyle (cousins of Steve Bailey)
- ✦ Joan Messite, Grady Alexander (friends of Leslie Therrien)
- ✦ Tommy Pickney, Doug West, Jayme & Bryan Rothwell, Marie Di-
giovanni (cousins of Paul & Laura West)
- ✦ Family & Friends of Clint Franklin
- ✦ Family & Friends of Jane Pixley (grandmother of Sarah Beth
Smith)
- ✦ Emily Henderson and family
- ✦ Diana O’Keefe & Leigh Evans (friends of Paul West)



- ✦ Beth Vroman and Renee Estep (friends of Tammy Pereboom)
- ✦ Evie Wahl (sister of Mary Clifton)
- ✦ Forrest & Marjorie King, Tracey Taylor (friends of Janet Baugus)
- ✦ Garrett Pope and family (friend of Carol Tar-
cza)
- ✦ Bob & Hazel Freeman (uncle & aunt of Leslie Therrien & Laura Hughes)
- ✦ Dale Rudsill (aunt of Jessi Hughes)
- ✦ Gilbert Edwards & Beth Bentolila (family of Steve Clifton)
- ✦ Montagnard families & Religious freedom in Vietnam for all
- ✦ Jon Raby (step brother of Andrea Raby)
- ✦ Gary Canfield
- ✦ Bunong Christians in Cambodia

Ongoing Concerns:

- ✦ J.C. Parke
- ✦ Paul Webb (grandfather of Tiffany Miller)
- ✦ Kathy Mellen (daughter of Nancy Carol Stahl)
- ✦ Howard Johnson
- ✦ Military Overseas
- ✦ Elsie McLendon
- ✦ Phil Bauer & Family
- ✦ Connie Mead (mother of Julie Bogguss)
- ✦ Jessie Black (mother of Cliff Black)

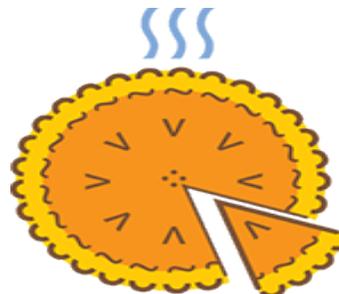


- 02/ Andrea Raby
- 04/ Pat Horne
- 04/ Michelle Daigler
- 06/ Bobbi Bailey
- 06/ Olivia Diaz
- 12/ Ricky Bubong
- 12/ Rommy Bubong
- 12/ Charlie Wagoner
- 12/ Caroline Wagoner
- 13/ LinDa Siu
- 15/ Thach Rahlan
- 18/ Billy Bubong
- 20/ Charlotte Dreibelbis
- 23/ Pam McKnight
- 24/ Philip Bauer
- 26/ Mary Clifton
- 29/ Jim Henck
- 29/ Hope McFarland



- 06/ Rick & Cathy (Harris)
Justice
- 15/ Mike & Carolyn Richey
- 18/ Neal & Vicki Harpe
- 27/ David & Danyse Kings-
bery

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



Thanksgiving is a time to share. A roasted turkey stuffed with care, potatoes, yams and buttered rolls are passed around in festive bowls. But first we thank our God above and share with others his great love. The dish served last is always best – a slice of pie for every guest.

—MaryAnn Sundby

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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
Marie F. Graham, Minister of Music
Grant Lombard, AV Engineer
Andy Smith, Interim Pianist
Tami Toler, Office Manager
Meredith Salyer, Nursery Attendant

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: (704) 334-3771

Fax: (704) 334-3774

Email: office@fcc-charlotte.org Website: www.fcc-charlotte.org



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