



# FOCUS

October 19, 2018

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



## It's BBQ Time!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 11:00 a.m.

3:00 p.m. (or Sold Out!)

**Drive thru and take out or dine in!**  
**Only \$ 9 for a plate, or \$ 9 for a pound.**

Tell your neighbors and friends!  
Stock up for winter - it freezes well.

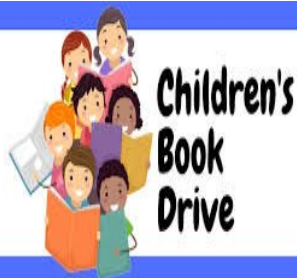
Proceeds benefit Regional Summer Camp  
scholarships for FCC youth.

### BBQ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Your help most appreciated for a variety of tasks,  
some of which can be done while sitting.

Help most needed between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (clean-up).

More info: Call Mary Helen Hughes, 704-351-5607 or  
Laura Hughes, 704-796-9868.



We are collecting new or gently used children's books for children ages birth to 14 years who live in a book desert. Books may be dropped off at the Church on Friday, October 19th or Saturday, October 20th during BBQ hours. Books may also be dropped off at the Church office **Monday, October 22nd thru Friday, October 26th between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.**

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## From the Pastor

*"Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other."*

*--Psalm 85:10*



Last week in worship, we were all introduced to a few songs in a video that was made for our Stewardship Drive this year. That video showed photographs of various events, gatherings, ministries, and friendships within First Christian Church. The photos were submitted by various members and friends of our church, seeking to describe how we've enjoyed our connection to our church over the past year. It is worth watching, so if you haven't had the chance to see it, we will be posting it on Facebook and on our website in the near future. Among the songs shared on that video, there is a song called "God is on The Move" by 7eventh Time Down. The words evoke some of our story as a church:

Anytime a heart turns from darkness to light,  
 Anytime temptation comes and someone stands to fight,  
 Anytime somebody lives to serve and not be served,  
 I know . . .  
 God is on the move, on the move, Hallelujah!  
 God is on the move in many mighty ways . . .  
 God is on the move, on the move today!

Our story as a church is less a story about us than it is a story about God's action among us. This is the church God decided wouldn't close back in the early 1990s, when the numbers got down to 14 or 15 on a Sunday. This is the church that, with very little money in the mid 1990s, decided to do a major renovation to salvage the Christian Education Building and secure it for future ministry. This church pioneered calling a woman pastor before many people had ever met or heard of one. Countless times, this church provided a welcome to people who were otherwise displaced or shunned or lost or hungry or broken. More than one sobriety story is connected to First Christian Church. This church has become family to people who have felt very much alone. This church learned about refugees before refugees were part of the national debate and we joined with people who had escaped religious persecution--not because we all decided to do the right thing, but because God decided to send us new friends who would become brothers and sisters in Christ just by walking through our doors. We were taught through our relationships with real people about the right thing. This church championed a dream to provide a soup kitchen (in Dilworth of all places!). Now, there are multiple soup kitchens in our area. This church decided to tackle literacy problems among schoolchildren and provided books for an entire first grade of a school with many at risk children. First graders have cheered and celebrated because of FCC's donations of books two years in a row. This church makes a difference consistently. It is a church with heart--and more often than we might realize, that heart of ours is evidence of God on the move right here. This church has sent people to camp and then to college. This church has encouraged wild hopes and fervent prayers as it has cheered its young people forward.

I received another email a few weeks ago from Dilworth Elementary School. They're having another field trip in the near future to our Fellowship Hall to donate supplies and decorations to our Dilworth Soup Kitchen. Dilworth Elementary is not the only one! We are a regular destination for St. Patrick's Catholic School as well. Could the renovators of the Christian Education Building imagine, back in the 1990s, that the Fellowship Hall would become a field trip destination with such relevance? Or, what's more, that hundreds of people would be fed weekly because of the generosity of this church in providing the place and the equipment and the environment for such an effort to thrive?

Over and over again, I see God on the move here. As you consider what you can share with the church for the coming year, please know that what you give makes an impact that reaches far beyond this congregation--beyond even the wonderful faces on that video. Why? Because God is at the heart of it, and has been for many years. May it always be so.

JOHN

# Church Happenings

## MISSIONS NEWS - What's Happening?

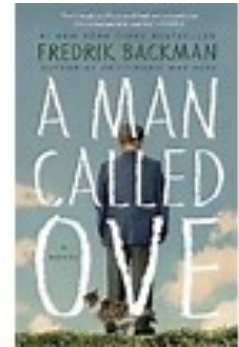
Thanks to ALL who have contributed new and gently used CHILDRENS' BOOKS so far. CHILDRENS' books will be collected during the church BBQ and will end October 26. We know there is a tremendous need for children to have their own books in their home.

We are again collecting THICK SOCKS as a Thanksgiving gift for our soup kitchen guests. We need NEW warm socks, mostly men's, a few women's and in varying sizes. Collection will run Oct. 28-Nov 18th. 180 pairs of socks will give each guest a pair. Double it and we can give them two! We need helpers to stay after church Nov. 18th to help us prepare the socks for giving away at soup kitchen on Nov 19th.

We have an exciting new project this winter. We will be contributing to St. Mark's Lutheran Church: ROOM IN THE INN. Our small role will be to every Tues afternoon in Dec and Jan, prepare and deliver 10 bag lunches for the Room In the INN guests to take when they leave St Marks the next morning. Mary Helen Hughes is our project coordinator and will be present each time. We need one helper to help prepare the lunches. Monetary donations to help buy food is welcome also: food cost is expected to be \$25 a week. Please mark your donation Room In the INN-lunches. WE NEED YOU! Each project is small but means a great deal to the recipients.. There aren't a lot of us, but as a team we do so much!

Sandee Wagoner  
Missions Chair

## BOOK CLUB



Book Club for November 11, 2018, "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrick Backman. Join us November 11th, (Sunday) 5:30 pm for a thought provoking discussion.

## 3 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

- OCT.** Children's book drive ends Oct. 26th
- NOV.** THICK SOCKS- collected through Nov 18th  
Nov. 18th stay after church, prepare socks for gifting  
L&F\* Think Thanksgiving yams, green beans, dressing
- DEC. 9 & 16** Special CHRISTMAS offering.  
L&F\* Canned meats
- DEC& JAN** Tuesday afternoons -Room in the Inn lunches  
Jan L&F\* All kinds of Beans, canned or dried



Hello All!

Remember that choir starts at 6:00 pm. Cantata rehearsal begins at 7:00-8:00 pm. Encourage your singer friends to join us for "Journey of Hope." All are welcome!

As we will have shortened choir rehearsals for chancel choir, let us all try to be there by 6:00 pm. We will be singing some old favorites while focusing on our most recent new pieces, "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" and "The Sweetest Sound I know."

Be blessed! See you Wednesday!

Marie

# Church Happenings

## YOUR GENERAL BOARD: OCTOBER UPDATE

The General Board met on Sunday, September 30.

**Finances:** Total offerings/ revenue year-to-date through the end of September were \$ 141,791. Total expenditures were \$ 146,393, or a difference of \$ 4,602.

Two serious concerns were discussed by the Board: 1) need for additional heating and air conditioning repairs of about \$ 1,800; and, most critically, 2) the church is not meeting the 2018 operating budget goal of 5% (\$ 10,000) for Missions giving. Year-to-date, no church operating budget funds have gone to Missions, due to other high priority expenses for payroll and facilities. Of course, the church provides a great deal of in-kind support to Missions, including Loaves and Fishes; school supplies for Classroom Central; books for children; Lenten Season of Service; and hosting the Dilworth Soup Kitchen. Most of this support is provided by individuals giving goods or time directly, and it does not flow through the church budget.

On October 5, a letter was emailed to members and friends regarding the need to give above and beyond normal offerings in order to support Missions giving through the operating budget.

The 2018 Stewardship Campaign, led by Steve Clifton, has been kicked off and will continue through October. A video prepared by Laura West will be sent out via email to help promote the campaign.

*The Board is grateful to all who support and sustain the ministries of our church.*

**Assistant Treasurer responsibilities.** The Board approved unanimously the appointment of Pam McKnight and Tammy Pereboom as Co-Assistant Treasurers to serve the remainder of 2018.

**Finance Team:** The team will present the proposed 2019 Ministry Finance Plan for approval by the Board at the October meeting, and approval by the Congregation in November. Members of the team are: Julie Burch Board, Julie Bogguss, Steve Clifton, Chip Givens, David Knight, Connie Marchbank, Diane Vogt, and Paul West.

**Nominating Committee:** The Committee is developing the 2019 Slate of Officers and Board members for approval by the Board in October and approval by the Congregation in November. Members of the Committee are: Julie Bogguss, Chair, Karen Artz, Chip Givens and Laura Hughes.

**Constitution and By-Laws Revision.** Julie Bogguss presented draft revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws for review. Steve Clifton and Chip Givens, past Moderators, have assisted in the revision effort. Neither document have been revised since 2008 so it is way past time. A major goal is to reduce the size of the Board and to update the Committee structure. With Board approval of final changes in October, they will be presented to the Congregation for approval in November.

**Garden Team.** The team has begun its work to develop a plan to revitalize the old playground area into a beautiful garden. Team members include: Julie Bogguss, Chair, Steve Clifton, Laura Hughes, David Knight, Michelle Daigler, Nancy Carol Stahl and Carol Tarcza. Others are invited to join them! This is a long-term project for which funding will need to be identified. *The team is looking for help in writing grant applications so if you have this experience or know of someone who does, please contact Julie Bogguss.*

**Next Meeting:** The Board will meet on Sunday, October 21, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Please note this is a change from the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and the last scheduled meeting for 2018. Board meetings are open to all. *Beginning with the October meeting, the Board agenda will be posted in the church entryway and choir room on the day of the meeting.* Minutes of meetings are available to anyone who would like a copy. If you have questions, wish to address the Board on any matter, or would like a copy of the Agenda when it is emailed to the Board, please contact Julie Burch Board, Moderator, [jburch6152@gmail.com](mailto:jburch6152@gmail.com).

# Church Happenings

## Support our Soup Kitchen Partner

### An Update for Room in the Inn from Mary Helen Hughes

Starting Tuesday December 4th, we will be preparing bag lunches to be delivered to St. Mark's Church for *Room in the Inn*.

A sign-up sheet will be located in the narthex with dates and items needed. Your participation will be greatly appreciated, however, if you prefer to make a monetary donation, please mark it for *Room in the Inn*.

The lunches will consist of 2 meat and cheese sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies or snack cake.

We will meet at the church on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm to make the sandwiches, assemble the bag lunches, and deliver to St. Mark's.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 704-351-5607 or [neuronut54@carolina.rr.com](mailto:neuronut54@carolina.rr.com)

**Thank you for your participation in this ministry .**



## “Serving the Lord with Gladness . . . ”

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

**Steve Clifton** – assisting with counting the offering on Sunday, September 23.

**Pam McKnight and Tammy Pereboom** – assisting Connie Marchbank in the Assistant Treasurer role through the end of the year.

**Tami Toler** – for her commitment and dedication to serving the church as Office Manager – congratulations on her 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with FCC!

**Laura West** – preparation of the special video for the Fall 2018 Stewardship campaign.

If you would like to recognize an individual or group for service on behalf of our church, please contact Julie Burch Board, [jburch6152@gmail.com](mailto:jburch6152@gmail.com).

## Poinsettias for Christmas



Please fill out the following information and return it, along with \$10 per poinsettia (cash or check), in the offering plate. For more information, please call the Church Office at 704 334-3771. **The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 2, 2018.**

**poinsettias is Sunday, December 2, 2018.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Church Happenings



**ADVENT IS COMING!  
CHRISMONS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Years ago, Ms. Frances Johnson began the ministry of making Chrismons to decorate the Sanctuary tree and to give to children during Advent. Chrismons are Christmas ornaments with Christian symbols. A team of dedicated people, chaired by Diane Vogt, continues the tradition. The beaded ornaments are lovingly and painstakingly made by hand. On Sundays during Advent, a new ornament is added to the tree, and each child receives one during the Children's Moments.

The fund for purchasing materials needs replenishing. If you would like to contribute, you may do so online via the FCC app or website, or place a check in the offering plate marked Chrismons. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please contact Diane if you have any questions or would like to be part of the team.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18th  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP**

Election of 2019 Officers and  
General Board

Approval of 2019 Ministry  
Finance Plan

Updates on Church Ministries

## CHURCH COMPUTER NEEDS CAN YOU HELP?

### Laptop Need



The laptop used in conjunction with the Sanctuary audio-visual system is several years old and on its last legs. Can you help? If you have a new or gently used Mac book to donate – or know of reasonable cost options to repair or replace the old one – please contact the Church Office or Skip Lombard. The software is Apple compatible, so the laptop must be an Apple.

### Computer Maintenance

The church is also looking at options for maintaining and troubleshooting the church computers, such as contracting with an outside vendor at a reasonable cost. If you have ideas or recommendations, please contact the Church Office.

On October 10, 2018

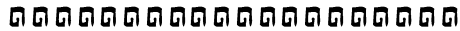
**Angela Rose  
Rahlan Eban**



was born at 5:05 am at 6lbs,  
8 oz. Proud parents Hien  
Rahlan (Mom) and Thich  
Eban (Dad).



**NOVEMBER SERVERS**



**Elder of the Month:**

**Lead  
Co Lead**

**Neal Harpe  
Laura Hughes**

**Deacons**

**Mike Richey, David Kingsbery  
Ted Fraley, Cliff Black**

**NOVEMBER SERMON SCRIPTURE**

- NOVEMBER 4:** Psalm 146 & Hebrews 11:29-12:2
- NOVEMBER 11:** Psalm 25 & Mark 12: 38-44
- NOVEMBER 18:** Hebrews 10: 19-25 & I Samuel 2: 1-10
- NOVEMBER 25:** Rev. Timothy Moore, Guest Preacher

**Liturgist**

(reading scripture)

- NOVEMBER 4:** Julie Burch Board
- NOVEMBER 11:** Julie Burch Board
- NOVEMBER 18:** Julie Burch Board
- NOVEMBER 25:** Julie Burch Board



**Junny Ksor  
Tommy McElroy  
Delaney Moore**

**Children's Moment**

- NOVEMBER 4:** Rev. McElroy
- NOVEMBER 11:** Rev. McElroy
- NOVEMBER 18:** Rev. McElroy
- NOVEMBER 28:** TBD



*Paul & Laura West, Treasurer*

**2018 Weekly need to meet the Budget      \$ 3,933.00**

- Offering for October 14 , 2018      \$ 4,540.10
- Offering for October 7, 2018      \$ 3,705.00
- Offering for September 30, 2018      \$ 3,674.00
- Offering for September 23, 2018      \$ 4,111.29

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



**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

# NOVEMBER 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						
<b>4</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship All Saints Sunday	<b>5</b> 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK 5:00 pm Quilter's Bee 6:30 pm Hope Home Meeting <b>7:00 pm Missions mtg</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30 am YOGA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11:30 am to 2:00 pm Quarterly Elder's Gathering and Meal
<b>11</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship <b>5:30 pm Book Club</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK 6:30 pm Hope Home Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>6:30 pm Charlotte Symphony Guild</b>	<b>14</b> 10:30 am YOGA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA <b>6:00 pm 1315 East meeting</b>	<b>15</b> <b>FOCUS Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> <b>FOCUS MAILED</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship 12:15 PM Congregational meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK 5:00 pm Quilter's Bee 6:30 pm Hope Home Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:30 am YOGA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA	<b>22</b> 8:00 am Thanksgiving & Prayer Breakfast  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Montagnard Church 11:00 am Worship	<b>26</b> 9:00 am YOGA 11:30 am DSK 6:30 pm Hope Home Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:30 am YOGA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 8:00 pm Mindful Meditation AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	Cantata is Sunday, December 16th at 7:00 pm.



✦CONCERN:

Family & Friends of Jessie Black (mother of Cliff Black)  
 Family & Friends of Lubov Kozelskaya (friend of Nancy Carol Stahl)  
 Nkrah Dieu  
 Family & Friends of Ricky Alexander (uncle of Jessie Hughes)  
 Brianna McMahon (grand daughter of Eddie & Laura Hughes)  
 Family & Friends of Samantha Keithley (niece of Ted Fraley)  
 Family & Friends of Ray Stafford (brother of Shirley Harpe)  
 Connie Marchbank  
 Family & Friends of Doreen Cooley (friend of Carolyn Richey)  
 Family & Friends of Joe Nunn  
 Eddie Hughes  
 Family & Friends of Winifred Rehm (mother of Darren Borrilez)  
 Jean Bick (grandmother of Laura West)  
 Tom & Judy Caldwell (friends of Leslie Therrien)  
 Family & Friends of Elsie McLendon  
 Family & Friends of Brook Haynes (family of Sarah Smith)  
 Family & Friends of Mary Elliott (aunt of Steve Clifton)  
 Family & Friends of Kathy Mellen & Billy Seagle (family of Nancy Carol Stahl)  
 Hugh Whaley, Steve Dennis, & Roger Stahl (family and friends of Nancy Carol Stahl)  
 Jim & Elizabeth Marchbank (family of Connie Marchbank)  
 Rev. Dara Cobb  
 Rev. Valerie Melvin  
 Rina Rabussa & Jill Quinn (friends of Chip Givens)  
 Jarod Bailey  
 Carol Tarcza  
 Jackie Lingle (sister of Debbie Mummert)  
 Family & Friends of J.C. Parke  
 Grace Chancken, Lana Dellinger, Terry Davis & Mark Davis (friends of Connie Marchbank)  
 Family & Friends of Mary Givens (mother of Les Givens)  
 Norma Nance (friend of Laura Hughes)  
 Mary Campbell & Mike Pyle (cousins of Steve Bailey)



Judy Haney, Joan Messite, Grady Alexander (friends of Leslie Therrien)  
 Tommy Pickney, Doug West, Jayme & Bryan Rothwell, Marie Digiovanni (cousins of Paul & Laura West)  
 Diana O'Keefe & Leigh Evans (friends of Paul West)  
 Beth Vroman & Stephanie Wells (friends of Tammy Pereboom)  
 Evie Wahl (sister of Mary Clifton)  
 Gilbert Edwards & Beth Bentolila (family of Steve Clifton)  
 Montagnard families & Religious freedom in Vietnam for all  
 Bunong Christians in Cambodia

Ongoing Concerns:

Nancy Carol Stahl  
 Tom McElroy  
 Mika Bulu  
 Carl Bredow  
 Emily Henderson and family  
 Mary Boyer (mother of Ann Wright)  
 Paul Webb (grandfather of Tiffany Miller)  
 Ione Pereboom (mother of Tammy Pereboom)  
 Kerry Weesner (son-in-law of Diane Vogt)  
 Chuck Harpe (brother of Neal and son of Shirley Harpe)  
 Howard Johnson  
 Military Overseas  
 Phil Bauer & Family  
 Connie Mead (mother of Julie Bogguss)



11/Laurie Tanner  
 11/Dreo Y  
 12/Steve Bailey  
 13/Sandee Wagoner  
 19/Neal Lauber  
 19/Danyse Kingsbery  
 24/Robert McKnight  
 24/Knox Miller



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

## "God is nigh"

The earliest official reference to using "Taps" at a military funeral is described in an 1891 manual. During the Civil War, a Union soldier "was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods." Because it wasn't safe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, Captain John Tidball decided the sounding of "Taps" would be an appropriate substitute ceremony.

Previously, "Taps" signaled the end of a soldier's work day, but it has since come to honor the end of his or her earthly life. Horace Trim's lyrics remind us of God's constant presence:

Day is done, gone the sun  
 From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky  
 All is well, safely rest  
 God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days  
 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky  
 As we go, this we know  
 God is nigh.

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**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**

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Facebook

**Email: [office@fcc-charlotte.org](mailto:office@fcc-charlotte.org) ☩ Website: [www.fcc-charlotte.org](http://www.fcc-charlotte.org)**

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