



# First Christian Church

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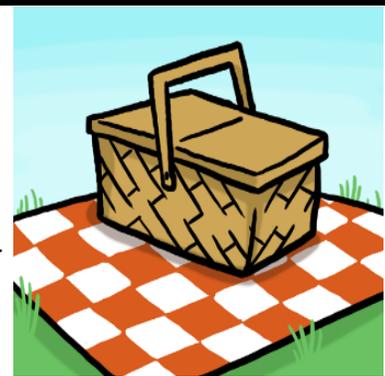
Volume 66, Issue 8

The Church Bell

August 1, 2022

## Neighborhood Picnic

The Hospitality Team, CMF, and Compassion & Service want you to mark your calendars and plan to join us for a Neighborhood Picnic and Food Drive! Saturday, August 27 at 5:30 pm on the church lawn. Music, games, and more! Let's get to know our surrounding area and welcome them to our church home. ALL are WELCOME! Don't forget to bring your final food donations from the summer food drive and have some FUN while making a difference.



## Summer Food Drive Continues!

Don't forget to bring non-perishable items to help sustain members of our Wilson Community! Bring them anytime you come to FCC. Drop offs are in the sanctuary narthex and education building.

**NEEDS Canned beans, peas, soups, canned meats, canned fruits, cereal, NO CORN PLEASE**



## CHEW Volunteers Needed

CHEW Volunteers are needed for the 2022-2023 school year. This consists of picking up food from the distribution center twice a month, packing the items in bags and delivering to Fike High School. The bags are shared with students that need additional nutritional support over the weekend. If you are willing to join in on this heartwarming experience, please reach out to Gay Cook at 252-230-3114 or email at [gcook10459@gmail.com](mailto:gcook10459@gmail.com)

## ***A word from the interim minister***

It's hot!

With the heat usually comes a need for more rest, for a slower pace, perhaps a sense of idleness. Yet here at First Christian, very little of that is happening!

Still, there is a need for a slower pace. I recommend to everyone: "Go slower."

Years ago, my kid brother, Joel, taught at the Eastern NC School for the Deaf. I worked at the Wilson Mall, at B. Dalton, Booksellers. Perhaps you and I passed each other in the store! Joel was close to a group of young high school students at the school who seemed, almost weekly, to show up at the bookstore, signing to each other the sign for "Joel's brother," which I seem to recall was a combination of sign's meaning, "Joel - boy - same." They would run to me excitedly at the cash register and begin talking to me in signs, and I would hold my palms out to them, shaking my head "no" and saying that I didn't sign. They were kind, laughing hysterically and continuing to sign to me, as though I would somehow, miraculously, be able to understand them.



So, I asked Joel to teach me to sign some basic things, and to try to understand when someone signed an answer or a statement back at me. "How are you?" "What are you doing?" "Are you all having fun?" "Do you want to buy a book?" All of which were seldom answered with anything but more hysterical laughter at my attempts to communicate, which usually came out as a sentence like, "How are you having a book?"

So, I asked Joel to teach me how to say, "Go slower." It is, perhaps, besides "good," the only phrase I remember.

As I've gotten older, the phrase is more important to me. It's something I want to try to do. It's something we all need to try to do. Our culture wants us to cram more and more "experiences" into our lives. We drive to a waterfall in the mountains, jump out, take selfies or family photos, thus recording our experience at the waterfall, Then jump back into our cars to drive quickly to the next scenic view. We fill our time with being present for a few minutes, then are off to be present somewhere else; but we are never really present.

So, go outdoors for a few minutes. Feel the heat. Maybe there's a breeze: feel that, too. Breathe. Bask in the warmth, in the air moving around you. Look at grass, trees, flowers, stars, clouds, birds. Listen. I think God lives in those spaces "between."

Remember the scripture: "Be still, and know that I am God."

Go slower.

- jamie



# Music Ministry Notes



## Mobile Music Ministry is back on 2 wheels!

Our Mobile Music Ministry took a formal break in the summer, but will be back on the move in August. This group goes on informal visits with many of our members who are unable to actively get out and attend worship on a regular basis. It is open to anyone! We provide hymnals and sing from our hearts! If you don't feel comfortable singing, no problem! Come visit with us anyways! We catch up, listen to our members and enfold them in prayer. We are adding an additional visit in August to make adjustments for Parkwood Village. Please contact Casey if you would like a visit or would like to suggest someone to visit.

August 1 at 11AM – Anne Sharpe, 1000 Woodland Drive  
August 8 at 10AM – Parkwood Village Activity Room  
August 15 at 11AM – AJ Walston, 3623 Eagle Farm Dr N



**FIRST CHRISTIAN  
MOBILE MUSIC MINISTRY**

## Sounds of Summer Continues!

Our August Sounds of Summer concerts will include a vocal concert on August 10 by Fike HS Choral Director, Matthew Joyner and pianist, Dexter Ruffin, and a concluding concert by First Presbyterian Church Minister of Music and Organist, Robert Morehead on August 24.

Mr. Joyner and Mr. Ruffin will be sharing a program of Barber's "Hermit Songs", works by Hundley, Copland, Scriabin, Cipullo, Johnson and Hogan.

Mr. Morehead's program will consist of works by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, J.S. Bach, Pachelbel, Dvorak, Utterback and Vierne.



Matthew Joyner



Dexter Ruffin



Robert Morehead

## 10th Annual Music for Hope Concert

We also invite you to the 10th Annual Music for Hope concert on Friday, August 26th at 7PM. Yes, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual! This year has already been blessed through the Music for Peace concert which rallied so many from our community. The Music for Hope benefit concert seeks to raise awareness for the needs in our community, as well as provide financial support for the non-profit organization.

Performer's currently include Elizabeth Winstead, members of ProMusic Conservatory, Caleb Skinner, Hannah Slaughter, David Scott, Johnny Sullivan, Jack Fisher and more! Join us and invite your friends and neighbors!

## The Elder's Column

# Questions

My mother's favorite musical group was The Mills Brothers. *Paper Doll. Glow Worm. Till Then. Up a Lazy River.* Annette Kendall played their vinyl LP's on a record player in our living room ... in high fidelity. On our Sunday drives after church in our yellow '57 Chevy with white trim and fins, their songs popped up often on WFBR AM 1590. I was nine and a good boy. I squirmed quietly in the back seat, but I listened. And 65 years later, I'm glad I did. Some mornings today, I'll ask Alexa to play The Mills Brothers. I like 'em, and I know the words.

As we transitioned into a '64 Buick Skylark with cool spinner hubcaps, The Mills Brothers were still my Sunday companions. I was 16 and still a good boy. I squirmed a lot more. The 60's were in full stride after all, and the times just made you want to squirm. Turmoil and upheaval. War and hatred. I craved Bob Dylan and the Byrds and the Fifth Dimension and Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Beatles and the Youngbloods and Peter, Paul and Mary and Sam Cooke and Marvin Gaye on WCAO AM 600.

The 60's started off as the dawn of a golden age with big answers to big problems. But by the end of the decade, the answers had fallen apart, and those golden dreams had vaporized. Music reflected the disrepair, asking and answering tough questions with great lyrics by great songwriters. The songs examined peace, love, harmony, understanding, sympathy and trust.

Another 60 years have passed. It's 2022. And not much has changed. Turmoil and upheaval. War and hatred. And some new poisons. Actors on history's stage have come and gone, but the play remains the same. How come the story hasn't changed? Have you ever wondered why the same maddening questions the 60's asked survive today, still without answers?

The Moody Blues, my life's Mills Brothers, raised the question best in 1970 when a new decade arose from the wreckage of the 60's. *Why do we never get an answer when we're knocking at the door? With a thousand million questions about hate and death and war.* The 80's had no answers. Neither did the 90's. Nor the decades of this millennium.

This year, with the human experiment fractured and in tatters, from our town to the four corners, it seems like it's time again to take another exhaustive examination of peace, love, harmony, understanding, sympathy and trust. Here's a perfect chance to ask our thousand million questions all over again, to consider our personal shortcomings in thought and faith and to retrace our steps and search for what we surely missed.

In fact, maybe the 60's still have something to offer. Anthems like *Let the Sunshine In, Get Together, What's Going On, Here Comes the Sun, What the World Needs Now, The Times They Are A-Changin', A Change is Gonna Come, Have You Ever Seen the Rain, For What It's Worth* and a hundred more prompted a generational conversation about peace, hope and love.

In 1964, Sam Cooke sang, *It's been a long, a long time coming. But I know a change gonna come. Oh, yes it will.* So I am ready to listen again. I am ready to squirm again. Because I have angry questions. Don't you? And I believe the answers, six decades later, are still blowin' in the wind.

As a preview, **Our Season of Faith**, coming in September, will transport us back to a tie-dyed month in the 60's where we'll address some of Dylan's most bewildering questions. *How many seas must the white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand? How many times must the cannon balls fly before they are forever banned? How many years can a mountain exist before it's washed to the sea? How many times can a man turn his head and pretend he just doesn't see? How many ears must one person have before he can hear people cry?* You have questions? Find some answers in September. It'll be Jamie's turn to give them a try.

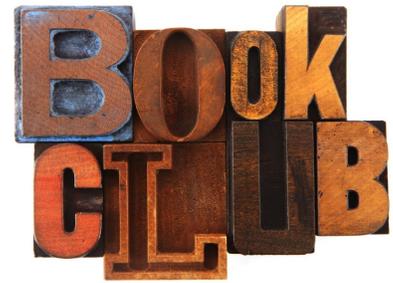
Bob Kendall

## A Novel Idea

Tuesday, August 23, 5:30 p.m.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston

One of the most important and enduring books of the 20th century, ***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** brings to life a Southern love story with wit and pathos. Out of print for almost 30 years and reissued in 1978, Zora Neale Hurston's classic has become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature. Set in central and southern Florida in the early 1900's, the novel explores main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny."



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH GROUPS!

September is rapidly approaching, and we are in the final stages of planning for youth meetings in the fall. All kinds of good ideas are floating around, and we're grabbing them and looking at what we'll be doing each Wednesday.

All of a sudden, we looked at each other and said, "Who's helping with all this?" (Well, to be honest, Jamie was listening to Casey, and SHE asked the question and answered it as well.) We're working on the answer to the question and thought YOU might be one who can help answer it by deciding to join the youth leadership gang.

If Casey has already contacted you, please be sure and let her know your commitment level as soon as possible! If she hasn't and you're interested, contact her as soon as possible! In other words: contact Casey concerning volunteering for weekly youth activities! Or tell Jamie, and he'll tell Casey, and we'll all move forward from there!

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Casey and jamie*

## Treasurer's Report – YTD June 30th, 2022

*Tim Sharp / July 27, 2022*

For the month ended June 30th, 2022, FCC had YTD total income of \$201,334 and YTD total expenses of \$154,849 resulting in a YTD **surplus** of \$46,485 \*.

### 1/01/2022 – 6/30/2022 – YTD Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$201,334	\$199,458	\$ 1,876
Expenses	\$154,849	\$199,458	(\$44,609)
Actual YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	*\$46,485		

### Month of June - Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$44,982	\$33,243	\$11,739
Expenses	\$24,834	\$33,243	(\$ 8,409)
Month of June Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 20,148		

*\*YTD income includes \$8,583.48 from our Operating Reserve account (\$1,430.58 per month) that was included to balance the 2022 operating budget.*

# August 2022

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>11:00am</b> Mobile Music Ministry <b>5:30pm</b> Facilities and Maintenance Team	<b>2</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9:00-3:00</b> Camp Sunshine	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:00am</b> Disciples Class	<b>8</b> <b>10:00am</b> Mobile Music Ministry <b>6:30pm</b> FCC General Board Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Sounds of Summer Concert—Matthew Joyner and Dexter Ruffin	<b>11</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Elder's Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:00am</b> Disciples Class <b>6:30pm</b> Compassion and Service Team meeting	<b>15</b> <b>11:00am</b> Mobile Music Ministry	<b>16</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>11:30am</b> Young at Heart (at Something Different)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:00am</b> Disciples Class	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> A Novel Idea Book Club	<b>24</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Sounds of Summer Concert—Robert Morehead	<b>25</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Elder's Meeting	<b>26</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Music for Hope Concert	<b>27</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Neighborhood Picnic and Food Drive
<b>28</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:00am</b> Disciples Class <b>11:00am</b> Vision Teams Meetings	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>31</b>			

# Our Church Family

Please notify the church office at (252) 237-4125 if someone's birthday needs to be added and/or if you have some news to share.



**August 1**

J. R. Gordon

**August 4**

Judy Harris

**August 6**

Jojo Near

**August 8**

Christian Boyce-Inscoe

**August 10**

Christy Webb

**August 11**

Paul Glover

Gary Walling

**August 15**

Jeanne Daniels

Sarah Nesselhauf

**August 16**

Jo Ann Bass

Brian Wingrove

**August 19**

Michael McHarg

**August 20**

Katie Near

Sue Newcomb

**August 21**

Susan Stilwell

**August 23**

Duane Cook

Gabby McHarg

**August 24**

Spencer Cook

**August 28**

Gray Leary

**August 30**

Morgan Daughety



Please report any corrections or omissions to the Church Office.

## Prayer Concerns

Earl Boykin; Renae Brame: Keith and Sherry Brenner; Lucas Cain (Libby Daniell's great nephew); Sheldon Campbell; Ben Crawley (JoAnn Bass's neighbor); the family of Billy Deans; Sue Ferrell; Rolie Gardiner (Bridget Bryant's mother); Paul Glover; J. R. Gordon; Rev. Carnie Hedgepeth; Emily Johnson (Myra Powell's mother); Bill Mount (George Mount's brother); Myra Powell; Doug Ramsey; Alesha Respos; Cliff Rountree (friend of John and Annette Glover); Wanda Sutton's friends; Troy Tatum; Alice Thomas; Charlotte Wallace; AJ Walston; John and Mabel Whitley; Phil Winstead; Kristy Wisniewski (friend of Christy Proctor & Melissa Denton); Sim Wooten (William Wooten's brother).



## First Christian Church General Board Meeting

The General Board of FCC will meet on August 8 at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and be there for this important meeting to conduct the business of our church.

## Young At Heart

We welcome anyone to come fellowship, have fun and have delicious food at Something Different. An uplifting program is always presented. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30am. Come join us on August 17th!

## Elders, Deacons and Worship Leaders for August

	<u>7th</u>	<u>14th</u>	<u>21st</u>	<u>28th</u>
Elder	Tish Scott	Wanda Sutton	Wanda Brown	Jeanette Etheridge
Worship Leader	Patsy Ferrell	Sue Ray	Pat Campbell	William Wooten
Deacon Team	<b>#4</b>	<b>#1</b>	<b>#2</b>	<b>#3</b>
	Steffanie Sharp	Beth Williams	Melissa Whitley	Brittany Fulghum
	Mandy Harris	Allan Daniell	Glenn Etheridge	Kristin Lamond
	Natalie Sutton	Libby Daniell	Melissa Denton	Jennifer McHarg
		Christina Terdik	LuAnn Wooten	Curtis Ray
		Ricky Brown	Brooke Farmer	Sue Ray
		Norma Faye Etheridge	Christy Webb	Steve Kite

Elder on Call for the Month of August is Bob Kendall