



First Christian Church

P.O. Box 2702
207 Tarboro Street NE, Wilson NC 27894
Website: www.fccwilson.org
Email: firstchristian@fccwilson.org
Church Office: 252-237-4125

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The Church Bell

November 1, 2020

Daylight Savings Time ends Saturday night October 31. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep before joining us online for this week's service.

All Saints Observance – November 2nd

Join us for worship this Sunday as we lift up the lives of our FCC saints who have passed away during the past twelve months. This year, the list of our brothers and sisters includes Helen Anderson, Valerie Deans, Elton Thomas, Don Steffa, Thomas Montelli, Margaret Stilwell, Doris Barnes, Dot Leach, Dan Hensley and Sue Daniels. Family members and friends will lead remembering with words about the lives and faith of these beloved folks. In addition, we also will be remembering the lives of other family and friends of our members who have died in the past year. Let us offer thanks to God for the gift of these lives who have inspired and shaped our own living.

Live-Streaming is Closer to Reality

The equipment that will enable us to live-stream our services has arrived! It seems we were not the only church in the country to have the same idea. Those demands on the inventory of the needed equipment meant it was backordered. But now, with most of the wiring temporarily installed, we can begin our testing. That will be followed by a few trial runs. It seems that the month of November will bring much progress. We are still aiming for being up and going for the beginning of Advent.

Leigh Finnegan-Hosey Concludes Her Time on FCC Staff

We offer an enormous "Thank-You" to Leigh who has served as a Minister at First Christian Church for the past nine months. Leigh came on our staff in February as our Interim Sabbatical Minister, leading us through a challenging time as the Covid pandemic was making it impossible to gather for worship in our normal manner. Upon Gary's return in May, Leigh transitioned into the role as a Minister for Special Projects, helping us in a multitude of ways.

Leigh and David have another exciting transition ahead of them as they prepare to welcome their first child in the next few days. In addition, Leigh plans to spend some of her time away from church and chaplaincy duties in studying for her chaplaincy certification.

We look forward to having Leigh, David and the Finnegan-Hosey to be named later with us as members of our congregation in the months to come.

MY Season of Faith

MY Season of Faith began in September with the creative thoughts of those who imagined it and fulfilled it. And now it ends with the creative thoughts of those who will build a budget from it for 2021. (cont pg 5)

Wanderings . . .

It is a brand, spanking new world. My kids tell me that all the time, usually in a tone that is a thinly veiled observation that I am hardly equipped to deal with the explosion of technological advances. In the past couple of months, I have come into the possession of an Amazon Dot, Firesticks for all our televisions and a new cellphone. I may have asked for help in getting devices connected to the Internet and finding the ringtones that stayed on my old phone. And speaking of, how can I get my email on the phone and where is my music? But, I digress.

It is a new world we live in and I bought a car on a website. In the same way that I could order a shirt – a polo, long-sleeve, XL, burgundy – I bought a car – Chevy Bolt, front-wheel drive, LT, white. Now I just have to wait for the Amazon truck to pull up, or something like that.

[Now to insert a side-note in here, this is not an extravagance. I am buying a car because my 2005 Toyota Avalon was rear-ended a month ago. If you spit hard on a fifteen-year-old vehicle, it is likely to be totaled. Mine was, so I have been car-shopping.]

Now, the thing is this – my new car is electric. I have had a mind to move in this direction for some time. It is a “Be kind to the Earth” move since the Bolt should get the get the cost-equivalent of 100-plus mpg. When I mentioned my plans to my son, Ryan (who is in the EV charging stations business), he showed me considerable respect, bordering on a little admiration which surprised – maybe even shocked - him. *Whoa, Dad*, he said, *look at you*, which, as I note, is sort of a back-handed complement. But we dads take what we can get.

Anyway, I started shopping. Which is to say that Ryan started shopping. Now this is Wilson, and when he called the Chevy dealership, the woman said, *Oh, you mean the Volt*. No, the Bolt. It is an EV. *A what?* An EV – an electric vehicle. *Uh, let me ask someone*. Summary, there was not an EV at the Chevy or Nissan dealerships in our town (though at some point subsequently, one has appeared).

We went to Raleigh and found the electric sedans we were hunting. Both the Nissan Leaf and the Chevy Bolt passed what is always the first Walling car-buying test: does Gary fit in the car. So, now the hunt moved into high gear: Leaf or Bolt, new or used, longer or shorter range. Cutting out almost two weeks of drama, I report that we found what we think was an excellent deal at a dealership in Midlothian, Virginia. As I write, money is moving from a credit union in DC to CarLotz and I can have my car whenever Linda will take me to Virginia.

Yes, it is a brand, spanking new, modern, confusing/liberating, technologically advanced, sometimes community deprived existence. But then, the world has always been scarily new – since the sixth day when God put human beings on this planet and laid it all out there for us. It is new and glorious . . . a little frightening, but ours for the embracing. Take charge of it, God says, in the other creation story. Own it. Name it. Inhabit it. And with much of the rest of the Bible comes a constant reminder, *Do not be afraid!*

Just have the phone number of a 27-year-old on speed-dial (like I know how to set that up).

Blessings and Peace,
Gary

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY

November Music Ministry Leaders

1 - Andrew Childers
8 - Doug Boone, Todd Brame, Katie Brinson, Gabby McHarg
15 - Susan Stilwell
22 - Jack & Jackie Clifford +
Joe Brinson, trumpet
29 - Gabby McHarg

Mobile Music Ministry:

Monday, November 2 | 10AM | Alice Davis
1012 Grove Street
Monday, November 16 | 10AM | Alice Thomas
3317B Whitlock Drive North

Bring your hymnals, your masks, and come prepared to be moved both spiritually and emotionally!

Looking Ahead to our Community Christmas Day Lunch

Mary still has 2 months until her due date. We still have an election, a Whirligig Festival, and a Thanksgiving Day. Nevertheless, Mary is preparing the nursery and we are thinking about Christmas Day Lunch!

First Christian Church is committed to sharing hospitality and food with our neighbors this Christmas, just as we have every Christmas since 2007. It is our intention to serve dinner in a grab-and-go fashion, prioritizing safety while spreading good cheer and Christmas love.

We need your help!

Whether you are ready to commit to being out of your home on Christmas 2020 or not, there are several ways you can help. See below for a few options:

Adopt a food item: This year, instead of asking for items to be dropped off at church, we will offer opportunities to “adopt an item” and we’ll do all the shopping

Volunteer to pack goodie bags: As in the past, we will share a Christmas gift bag with each guest. We hope to fill bags with masks and hand sanitizer as well as our typical Christmas fare. Giftbags will be filled in a distanced assembly line on Sunday, December 20th

Volunteer to help on Christmas day: We will still need lots of hands and feet to help on Christmas Day. We will keep volunteers in household units as much as possible to maximize distancing. All volunteers will need to register – unfortunately, we cannot accommodate walk-in volunteers this year. More details to come!

Share your tent for a day: In order to make the move to the safer outdoor air, we need your tailgating tents! We will put them up on Christmas morning and take them down just after lunch; otherwise, they will remain safely in the Fellowship Hall.

Have expertise to share? We’d love to hear from you! Have you worked to make your business warm to visitors and hostile to COVID? Have you adjusted your day-to-day operations to keep people safe? Please share your thoughts and ideas with us so we can make Christmas Lunch 2020 as successful as possible.

Congregation members will share more information through newsletters, Facebook, and Sunday service streams/videos, but please feel free to be in touch with any questions or to tell us how you want to help. Gabby McHarg, gabriellegracem@gmail.com, 252-292-7699

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.



November 4

Jane Smith

November 5

Wade Leary

Adaline Marie Motley

November 7

Nelda Bardin

November 8

Jackson Childers

November 11

LuAnn Wooten

November 12

Jackie Barnes

William Wooten

November 15

Peggy Williford Thurman

November 17

Erin Etheridge Prim

November 18

Emma Watson

November 19

Bill Hilderbrandt

November 20

David Finnegan-Hosey

November 21

Rob Cook

John Lee Whitley

November 23

Kevin Quick

November 25

Mary Claire Bass

Ben Forbes, Jr.

November 26

Charles Cauley

Jordan Ray

November 27

Tom Bridgers

Wanda Brown

Judi Glover

Veronica Gray

Jill Nesselhauf

November 30

Marshall Lamm

Blake Near

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Almond, Sandy Pittman, Bill Smith, Judi Glover, Earl Boykin, Tony Ashburn (Yvette Jobe's father), Lou Taylor (Yvette Jobe's mother), Sim Wooten (William Wooten's brother), Irving Vaughn (Ray Vaughn's father), J C Steelman (Theresa Mathis' father), Nancy Lamm, Lennis Brinson, Peggy Anderson, Don Walston (A.J. Walston's Brother), Charlotte Wallace, Lester Whitley (Helen Batts' brother), Kaitlyn Ray Doss, Jean Pittman.

We extend our prayers and sympathies upon the deaths of

Lindy Burgess

Patricia Ann Horne Smith

Billy Raper

Rosemary Whitley

The family of Sue Vickers Daniels acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Dear First Christian Church Family,

Thank you so much for the meal you provided. Most importantly thank you for your thoughts, prayers and comforting words. Your thoughtfulness and friendship means so much to us.

Sincerely,
The Daniels Family

Thank You

I would like to offer my thanks for the many expressions of support and love from the church on the occasion of the passing of my sister, Lindy Burgess.

Jackie Clifford

Thank You

Dear First Christian Family,

David and I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous gifts and prayers. We cannot wait to meet our baby girl and introduce her to this wonderful community of faith! Our due date is November 1st, so stay tuned for some updates and pictures in the (hopefully) near future.

Sincerely,
Revs Leigh and David Finnegan-Hosey



Soul Sessions

Soul Sessions is going to hit the “pause” button for a while. Look for it to return in the spring

Zoom Calendar

Sunday School

Small Group Book Study – We will meet this Sunday at 11 am. We invite all FCC members to join us. Anyone needing help setting up Zoom on their computer or phone can contact Theresa by calling 252-205-2704. Meeting ID: 820 2514 0425 Passcode: Revelation

We are continuing the topical study, **Life Lessons from Revelation by Max Lucado**. Provided below is the information to order the book from Amazon. It is also available on Cokesbury.com and Christianbooks.com.

150th Anniversary Task Force

The 150th Anniversary Task Force will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 5:30 PM as they prepare for our Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2021.

In Person Choir Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00PM

Little's Church

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30PM

Big Kids Church

2nd Sundays at 9:30AM



MY Season of Faith (cont)

The Finance Committee is a creative bunch, and their work begins very soon. The budget they'll build for next year depends only on the pledges received. That's a sound strategy we've always followed. So it's important that anyone who wants to make a pledge actually turns in a card or goes online to **Realm** and makes a pledge by Friday, November 6.

MY Season happened at home this year. However, pledges are individual moments that become part of **our** budget for **our** plans that express **our** hope in Christ for the year ahead. Many thanks to those who have already shared their commitments and to those who will pledge as we reach the finish line.

Tish Scott, Finance Committee Chair

Red Cross Blood Drive November 11, 2 - 7PM

Help others by giving back to those in need! For an appointment, go online to redcrossblood.org and enter: “First CC” or call the office at 252-237-4125. You are encouraged to utilize RapidPass to save time at the drive.

In response to COVID-19, Red Cross is implementing additional collection safety protocols along with their usual high safety standards. Help us meet our goal at this time where blood supplies are desperately needed. Help us save lives!

If you have a conflict with the date, consider going to the drive sponsored by the Whirligig Festival in collaboration with the Wilson Medical Center. It will be on Sunday, November 8 from 10 am—2 pm at the hospital.



**American
Red Cross**

Treasurer's Report – YTD September 30th, 2020

Tim Sharp / October 16, 2020

For the month ended September 30th, 2020, FCC had YTD total income of \$296,783 and YTD total expenses of \$246,532 resulting in a YTD **surplus** of \$50,251*.

1/01/2020 – 9/30/2020 – YTD Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$296,783	\$287,344	\$ 9,439
Expenses	\$246,532	\$287,788	(\$ 41,256)
Actual YTD Surplus/(Deficit) *	\$50,251		

Month of September - Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$47,898	\$31,927	\$ 15,971
Expenses	\$24,974	\$31,943	(\$ 6,969)
Month of September Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 22,924		

**YTD income includes \$14,904.45 from our Operating Reserve account (\$1,656.05 per month) that was included to balance the 2020 operating budget.*

Green Chalice: Nature Mysticism

By Jack Clifford

Nature mysticism has been a widely influential force in the history of world civilizations for thousands of years. Shamans and herbal healers have dominated the spirituality of indigenous peoples, teaching that God manifests Godself through the varied forms of natural life, both animals and plants. This belief imbues all natural settings with a sacred, numinous quality; when you are standing in forests, woodlands, meadows, and on seashores, you are in the presence of the Divine. Today, nature mysticism often permeates socio-cultural organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, which advocates politically for green, environmentally-friendly policies. Their position statements would cause a shaman to nod his head in approval. The following is the statement of Rufus Jones, a Quaker nature mystic, exemplifying this more contemporary approach:

"I was walking alone in the woods, trying to map out my plan of life, confronted with issues which seemed too complex and difficult for my mind to solve. Suddenly I felt the walls between the visible and the invisible grow thin, and the Eternal seemed to break through into the world where I was. I saw no flood of light, I heard no voice, but I felt as though I was face to face with a higher order of reality present through the trees and mountains. I went down on my knees there in the woods with that same feeling of awe which compelled men in earlier times to take off their shoes from their feet. A sense of mission broke in on me and I felt that I was being called to a well-defined task of life to which I then and there dedicated myself."

