



First Christian Church

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Volume 68, Issue 1

The Church Bell

January 1, 2024

The Beginning of a New Era

January 2 will mark the beginning of a new era as we welcome Rev. Scott Schieber as Senior Minister of First Christian Church. After nearly two years of searching, we have received an answer to the prayer we prayed every Sunday asking for a transformational pastor to hear our call to ministry.

Rev. Schieber says, "I view ministry in the church as a collaborative partnership between clergy, staff and congregation, all striving and working for the furthering of God's kingdom. As a leader, I value the sometimes arduous task of arriving at a consensus direction as the congregation seeks a Spirit-led vision for meeting the needs of its community. I excel at committing to and working toward the vision the Spirit brings."

Relative to his Practice of Ministry, he says, "A focus of my work is intergenerational ministry. Pastoral care involves more than being with the dying: it's developing relationships with people who are no longer able to attend services. Children, youth, and young families have to be a focus of pastors. Clergy must be able to reach and honor people of all ages and experiences. Sacred stories don't just exist in scripture; each of us has a sacred story. We honor our experienced members by hearing their stories, and we honor the youngest among us by taking a part in shaping their stories."

Some of Rev. Schieber's thoughts on leading ministry are: "I am very conscious of a mood I might convey as I lead. Sometimes, it's a calming presence, other times, a high energy presence is needed. Sometimes, I bring quiet reflection, and at other times. Liveliness. I also try to bring humor to my interactions, including as a worship leader. Although I deal with very serious issues, I believe there is a time and a place for light-heartedness. As a parishioner, coming to the church should be, most of the time, uplifting, affirming, and joyous."

Increasing Safety Efforts

During recent months, a group of FCC members with a law enforcement background, have examined our facilities and our safety procedures. In November, they submitted a thorough safety plan, suggestions for immediate improvement and steps to take in the future. The plan and ideas were shared during the December board meeting and a Security Team committee was formed.

The following week, on Sunday, December 17, a threatening package, addressed in a manner describing one of the Security Team members, was received at FCC. Videos were found which contained similar threats. Upon receipt of this disturbing package, the Wilson Police Department was contacted.

(continued on page 4)

First Christian Church (DOC)

2024 General Board Membership

Board of Officers

Chair: Christy Proctor
Vice: Kenneth Dildy
Secretary: Beth Williams
Treasurer: Tim Sharp

Trustees

Chair: Steve Kite
Libby Daniel
David Scott
Ricky Brown
Phyllis Leary
AJ Walston

Elder Emeriti

James Boswell
Annette Glover
Anne Sharpe
Martha Beland
Julia Floars
A.J. Walston
Patsy Ferrell

Elders

Jerry Pritchett
Christy Webb
Melissa Denton
Gilda Cauley
Alyson Skinner
Beth Williams
Mary Louise Gray
Allen Daniell
Jackie Clifford
Kenneth Dildy

Deacons

Ricky Brown
Steven Winstead
William Wooten
Andrew Whitley
Melissa Whitley
Glenn Etheridge
Terry Shackleford
Sue Ray
Curtis Ray
Kristin Lamond
Stephanie Sharp
Natalie Sutton

Committee Chairs:

Financial Affairs: Tish Scott
Facilities: William Wooten
Compassion & Service: Terry Shackleford
Christian Nurture & Growth: Theresa Mathis
Digital Ministry: Kenneth Dildy
Hospitality: Leslie Kendall
Spiritual Expressions: TBD
Red Cross: Carol Steffa
Security Team: Ethan Boyette
CWF: Nelda Bardin
CWF: TBD
Member Care: TBD
Green Chalice: TBD



NOTEWORTHY MENTIONS FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

THANK YOU!

To each and every one in our Music Ministry who came together and created such beautiful music in the Christmas Season, we thank you! We are so fortunate for the talent that is shared with everyone! Our ministries will take a pause for 2 weeks following Christmas for some well deserved re-fueling prior to the shaping of Lent and Easter.

Mobile Music ministry will take a break and resume in February!

Thank you! -Casey

Mobile Music in January | Monday, January 22 at 11AM | Gena Carter

2024 Music Ministries Yard Sale Saturday, February 3

Last year was THE most successful one day sale we have EVER had at First Christian and it took EVERYONE! I encourage each of you to save your things and get ready. Proceeds benefit the Music Ministry and Compassion & Service Team! Currently, **the sale will be Saturday, February 3th, 7:30AM-2PM.**

As we approach this year's sale, I encourage you to focus on the outreach it provides. Our focus is not on ourselves, but on those who drive and even walk to this place to help provide for their families. Most of us are fortunate to be able to walk into a store of our choosing and leave with the things we need. However, this is not always the norm for many families. This sale is not for us... it's about serving our community.

Over the next few weeks, we will have volunteer forms in our church bulletins. Some of you may enjoy organizing things while others may enjoy greeting people at the door or bringing snacks for workers. Wherever your gift is, I hope that you will consider sharing it!

Soli Deo Gloria, Casey

Items will be accepted Monday, January 22-Tuesday, January 30. We will kindly decline items after the close of day, January 30 to ensure that everything is ready for our community!

****We will NOT be accepting VHS movies. If it's something you wouldn't give to a family member as a gift, please do not donate. We want to offer the BEST for our community. PLEASE go through things before donating. We love this outreach, but don't want to become a dumping ground for anything.***



Increasing Safety Efforts

(continued from page 1)

Wilson Police have apprehended the man who made the threats, which were not limited to FCC.

On the following Monday, Theresa Mathis, acting on behalf of the General Board, asked for a No Trespassing order be placed on our church. That order was granted, and appropriate signage was placed immediately. More signage will be added as soon as possible. This order does not keep people out of church. Our worship remains open and welcoming to all. It does give us the authority to ask anyone that is disrupting worship to leave. In addition, it gives the Wilson Police Department permission to protect our property in our absence if they are aware of suspicious behavior.

At a time when physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health are so fragile, we ask you to include this man in your prayers, along with all who are struggling to get by in our world today. We are grateful to have a congregation with so many people who are not only concerned with our safety but gifted with the ability to help provide for a safer environment.

The Security Team and new 2024 Board members will be looking at ways that we may enhance our security on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Meanwhile, we ask all members to remain aware of your surroundings. As we have been taught for years, ***if you see something, say something***. Do not take matters into your own hands, but seek assistance.

Keep in mind that a Security Team member will be locking all exterior doors of the Sanctuary around 10:15 am, after the children's moment. The Educational Building will be locked about 11:15 am. If you are running late, please use the main entrances. Signage will be added in January to assist visitors.

We, again, are grateful for all the church members giving of their time and talents helping to improve our overall safety. If you are interested in assisting, please contact the church office.

Christmas Lunch a BIG Success

A big THANK YOU to all of our church family who gave so generously given of your time to volunteer and of your resources to provide a delicious hot meal in our banquet hall (other times known as Fellowship Hall) for our guests on Christmas Day! It was a festive occasion welcoming all who came into our doors. It was truly a day of blessings for those who served and to our guests who left with arms full of gift bags, and faces full of smiles!

Over fifty folks volunteered their time and 175 meals were served. The remaining gift bags were distributed throughout the community where other needs were identified.

The Compassion and Service Team

Thank You

Rev. Dr. Doug Ramsey is most appreciative and delighted for your attendance at his presentation testimony on living in Christ. We send an extra special thank you to Martha Beland for her phenomenal and expressive work of art. We send another special thank you to the Disciples' Class, Young at Heart, and others. Thank you all for inspirational blessings sharing your transformational experiences. If you have not received a copy of Rev. Ramsey's theological writings, just call.

Happy New Year, Kathy C. Sandifer, 252-245-6836

Sunday Morning Small Group

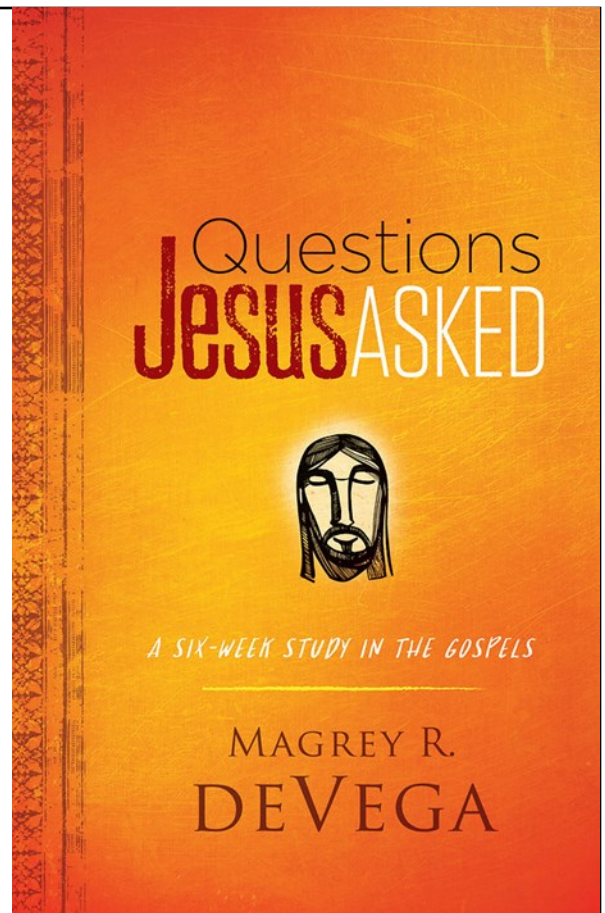
New Book!

Kick off your new year by joining the topical Bible study with a fun group of FCC members. We ask questions, laugh, and explore how scriptures apply to our daily lives. Join us as we begin this new study on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 11:11 am in a classroom in the back hall of the educational building.

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? In *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves.

Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives. Are you willing to step out in faith? Are you ready to answer the questions Jesus asked?

The book may be purchased on Amazon, Cokebsury and Chrisitanbooks.com for about \$14.



From the Chair of the Board

For 18 months the search committee labored to find the perfect minister for First Christian Church. We interviewed, we checked references, and we prayed — a lot. After much searching Scott Schieber was asked to join us to lead our flock. I am excited to see what the new year holds under Scott's leadership and even more excited to see the continued movement within our church.

I certainly felt this during our Christmas Eve service led by Scott. The service was not only moving but it brought together people from all walks of life and provided us moments to reflect, give thanks, and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child through scripture and song. May we carry with us the same spirit as we filled the sanctuary with lit candles as we round out 2023, making a way for more love to move around us and within Wilson.

Christy Proctor

Do you know someone who needs health care coverage?

More North Carolinians can now get health care coverage through Medicaid. Starting Dec. 1, 2023, NC Medicaid covers people ages 19 through 64 years with higher incomes. Many North Carolinians who did not qualify for health coverage through NC Medicaid previously may now qualify. Here are details: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid-expansion-questions-and-answers-english/open>
Locally, Medicaid is administered by the Wilson Co DSS: 252 206 4000.

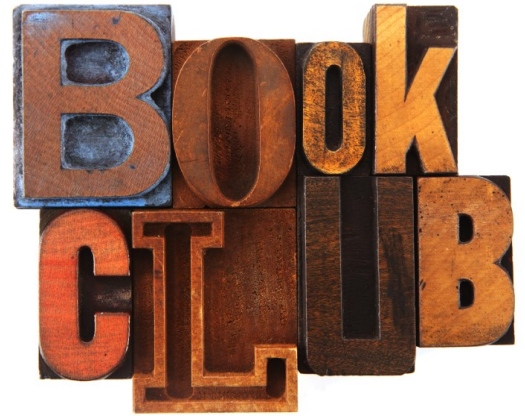
A Novel Idea

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

The Covenant of Water

by Abraham Verghese

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning. And in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl — and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi — will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.



Treasurer's Report – YTD November 30th, 2023

Tim Sharp / December 10, 2023

For the month ended November 30th, 2023, FCC had YTD total income of \$335,029 and YTD total expenses of \$290,087, resulting in a YTD **surplus** of \$44,942*.

1/01/2023 – 11/30/2023 – YTD Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$335,029	\$351,560	(\$16,531)
Expenses	\$290,087	\$351,560	(\$61,473)
Actual YTD Surplus/(Deficit)*	\$ 44,942		

Month of November - Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$19,204	\$31,960	(\$12,756)
Expenses	\$22,943	\$31,960	(\$ 9,017)
Month of November Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 3,739)		

*YTD income includes \$9,643.04 from our Operating Reserve account (\$876.64 per month) that was included to balance the 2023 operating budget.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 31	1 New Years Day- CHURCH OF- FICE CLOSED	2 11:00am Staff Meeting 2:00pm CWF	3 10 –12 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	4 10 –12 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	5 10 –12 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	6
7 10:00am Worship 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group	8	9 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Encounter 6:30pm Chalice Ringers	10 2:00-6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm Chancel Choir	11 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	12	13
14 10:00am Worship 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group	15 MLK Day- CHURCH OF- FICE CLOSED	16 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Encounter 6:30pm Chalice Ringers	17 11:30am Young At Heart (Something Different Café & Restaurant) 5:30pm Kids & Youth Programs 7:00pm Chancel Choir	18	19	20
21 10:00am Worship 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group	22 11:00am Mobile Music Ministry with Gena Carter Drop-off Yard Sale Items	23 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Encounter 5:30pm A Novel Idea Book Club 6:30pm Chalice Ringers Drop-off Yard Sale Items	24 7:00pm Chancel Choir Drop-off Yard Sale Items	25 6:30pm Elder's Meeting Drop-off Yard Sale Items	26 Drop-off Yard Sale Items	27 Drop-off Yard Sale Items
28 10:00am Worship 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group Drop-off Yard Sale Items	29 Drop-off Yard Sale Items	30 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Encounter 6:30pm Chalice Ringers Last Day to Drop-off Yard Sale Items	31 7:00pm Chancel Choir Yard Sale Set-up and Pricing	Feb 1 Yard Sale Set-up and Pricing	Feb 2 Yard Sale Set-up and Pricing	Feb 3 7:30am-2:00pm YARD SALE

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.



January 5

Ron Cook

January 10

Dale Almond

January 11

Nancy Lamm

Jennifer McHarg

January 14

Nicole Bundy

January 17

Gena Carter

January 22

Todd Brame

January 23

Kenneth Dildy

January 26

Annette Glover

January 27

Hilton Bass

January 30

Andrew Whitley

Mabel Whitley

In Our Prayers

Vickie Balazsi (Kathy Sandifer's cousin); Jim Boswell; Donahue Bottoms, Jr. (Dalen Bottoms' son); Gena Carter; Win Craft; Allan Daniell; Mary Louise Gray; Bobbi Gregory; Nell Griffin; Tina Hensley; Dean Huie (mission friend of Wendy Wingrove); LaRue Massey (Kathy Sandifer's friend); June McNair (Mary Louise Gray's niece); Katyhy Piner (Mary Louise Gray's friend); Gary Smith (friend of Leslie Kendall); Troy and Leigh Ann Tatum; Alice Thomas; Kristy Wisniewski (friend of Christy Proctor & Melissa Denton); The Family of Sallie Bass Purvis (Ethan Boyette's grandmother)

Homebound

Peggy Anderson; Jim Boswell; Dalen Bottoms; Sherry Brenner; Hazel Byers; Gena Carter; Gilbert Ferrell; Judy Harris; Doug Ramsey; Anne Sharpe; Lenore Smith; Alice Thomas; Kathleen Ujlaki; A.J. Walston.

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 January 17th!

CWF

The CWF will meet on January 2 at 2:00pm in the Church Parlor. All women of the church are invited.

Worship Service Participants for January

	7th	14th	21st	28th
Elder	Melissa Denton	Christy Webb	Gilda Cauley	Jerry Pritchett
Worship Leader	Mary Louise Gray	Allan Daniell	Patsy Ferrell	Tish Scott
Deacon Team	#3 Steven Winstead Kristin Lamond Terry Shackleford	#4 Natalie Sutton Steffanie Sharp William Wooten	#1 Curtis Ray Sue Ray Ricky Brown	#2 Melissa Whitley Andrew Whitley Glenn Etheridge

Elder on Call for the Month of January is Melissa Denton