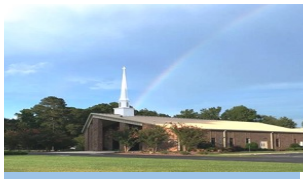

124 Trott Road

Richlands, NC 28574

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday—Thursday**

**9 a.m.—2 p.m.**

**(910) 324-4690**

**fccrichlands.org**

**office@fccrichlands.org**

**Facebook, YouTube**

**Service Times**

**8:30 AM Traditional**

**10:00 AM Sunday School**

**11:00 AM Contemporary/ Nursery/Preschool/ Kids Church**

**Bible Study**

**Wed. Adult**

**9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

**Youth 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Grades 5-12**

**Pastor Mark Reid**

***Senior Pastor***

***Office hours:***

***Thursday, Friday 9:00-1:00***

**Samuel Wente**

***Associate Pastor***

***Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00-1:00***

***Staff***

***Director of Music***

***Kay Payne***

***Office Manger***

**Debbie Rogers**

***Custodian***

**Gwen Morton**

# CHALICE NEWS

A monthly publication of First Christian Church

Volume 42 | Issue 8| August 2022

**Pastor's Thoughts**:

Why is it important for us to spend daily devotional time with the Lord?

1.God desires relationship with us. He created us and has redeemed us for this very purpose. Jesus, prior to His crucifixion, prayed, "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24). First John 4:8 tells us that God is love. The love of God is sometimes described as that of a father and child or of a married couple. These relationships are intimate. Intimacy takes time to build. We spend time – daily if possible – with those we love. This time is meant to further our knowledge of one another as well as give us enjoyment.

2.Scripture also describes God as our master. Servants (or employees) must spend time with their employers in order to know the employer's will. When we spend daily devotional time with God, we submit our will to His. It is in that time that we surrender our lives to God. We surrender not just the overall trajectory of our lives, but each day. God is in the details of our lives (Matthew 6:25-33). He cares about the details of each day with the love of a father or spouse and also with the interest of a master. We seek to further God's kingdom. Coming to Him each day is one way to know which direction to move.

3.Daily devotions help us learn truth. When we spend time in God's Word, we gain wisdom and understanding. It has been said that the best way to recognize a counterfeit is to study the real thing. Satan is the "father of lies" (John 8:44). If we are not steeped in God's truth, we are more easily duped. When we know the truth, we experience freedom (John 8:32).

4.Daily spending time with God is a way to worship Him. Time is a limited resource. What we spend our time on is an indication of what we value. When we spend time with God, we demonstrate that we value Him. We claim that He is worthy of attention and of praise.

5.God is our refuge (Psalm 46). Life is often chaotic and confusing. When it is, we run to God. If we desire to truly find rest and safety in God, it is helpful to know Him well. Such deep knowledge comes from daily time spent with Him. Sometimes the best way to use a refuge is to go there before things get messy.

Daily devotions is a spiritual discipline that helps us get to know God, that ensures we stay connected to Him (John 15:1-8), that teaches us truth, that provides a place for worship, and that functions as a daily shelter in the midst of the storms of life.

*"LORD, we ask that You would give us Your vision for our lives, in Jesus' name*

*Pastor Mark*

From Pastor Sam to You:

What a blessing children are! As Cortney and I expectantly await our first child in the coming weeks of August, we are amazed at how much of a blessing she already is, before she's even arrived. She is a beautiful gift from God, a reminder that has already taught us so much about our heavenly Father's love for us, and the evidence of God's faithfulness. All before she's even seen the light the of day.

Children are a wonderful gift from God, and at First Christian Church we are incredibly grateful for the young families, children, and youth that God has placed under our care and in our church family. Between families that have been with us for years and years and families that have only just begun attending our church, we have been blessed with many young lives to sow into and come along side of as we help to mature their faith.

In Matthew 18, Jesus very explicitly tells us that as followers of Him, we ought to come to Him like little children. And as that statement has many implications, it really is a testament to the way that children come to God in awe and wonder. Many times as adults we can become desensitized to the truths of God, His Word, and His Gospel because we've heard it over and over for so many years that it can feel mundane at times if we allow ourselves to be complacent. But with children, hearing things for the first time, discovering knew things about God, exploring God's Word in a way they never have before, become filled with so much amazement. And because of how extraordinary it all is to them, they want to know more, and they ask questions. They want to explore and get to the bottom of things so that they can more fully understand.

Having the privilege of teaching the young children on Sundays, and the older Youth Group aged students during the week, we have the opportunity to see this amazement first hand in so many of the young lives in our church. And it is incredibly encouraging to see how many young children hold onto and grasp the things they learn. It's amazing to see how intrigued they can be when learning new things about the Lord that they didn't previously know. And we're always taken aback when they begin to ask questions because of their curiosity and desire to dive deeper, as the Lord draws them to himself.

Every week, we have many leaders that are involved in our youth and children's programs. Pouring into them, teaching them, coming alongside them as they grow in their journey of faith. What we need from our church is prayer. Not only for the leaders, but the children, youth, and their families are in need of prayer. Pray that God would continue to work in their hearts and minds. Pray that their eyes and ears would become open to God's truth. Pray that their hearts would be changed by the Gospel as they turn to Christ as Lord in faith. Pray that our young people continue to dive into His Word and come to know Christ deeper and deeper. Pray that God would equip their families to continue discipling them in a way that would cultivate a genuine knowledge of God, and a relationship with Him. Pray that the Lord would give our teachers and leaders wisdom and guidance. Pray for the intrigue and curiosity of the youth and children, that they would continue to be amazed more and more and God's truth and reality. Pray that God would mature them into zealous disciples, and that He would use them for the advancement of His Kingdom.

What a gift they are, and it is our job as the Church to stand together and to be interceding for our young people. It is a great responsibility that we have, and the least can do to be a part of their walk of faith, and to invest in their lives. What a wonderful thing it is to be part of a church that comes together and lifts one another up before the Lord!

# Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF) News

The CMF members met for our July monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 5th for some enjoyable Christian fellowship and future event planning. Bob Woodard presented a devotion based on Daniel 8:23, and the rising of the Anti-Christ. With the massive break away from Christian values throughout the world, and particularly within America, there are numerous signs of the coming of the Anti-Christ, which Jesus Christ and his Apostles taught about in the Bible. I John 2:22 states that "*whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the anti-Christ – denying the Father and the Son."*

The CMF discussed plans for two future events. It was decided to schedule a future SOUP AND SANDWICH fundraiser for Sunday, November 6, 2022, to help rebuild our diminished scholarship fund. Secondly, the CMF will be providing the program for the annual CHRISTMAS PARTY, scheduled for Monday, December 5th.

On Saturday, July 16th two CMF sponsored events occurred. First, thirteen men - young and older – gathered at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville at 7:15 a.m. and celebrated the birthdays of Ken Brown and Charles Whitaker for the month of July. Other church men with July birthdays are John Tripp (2nd), Mark Lunceford (7th), Allen Barbee (20th), and Taylor Bostic (21st) Secondly, that afternoon members of the CMF and their guests attended a 5 p.m. Kinston Wood Ducks baseball game. Fun was had by all who attended – and the Wood Ducks won!

Our planned August events include: (1) Regular Monthly CMF Meeting on Monday, August 1st, at 7 p.m. in church fellowship hall. Steve Rogers will provide our devotion. (2) On Saturday, August 20th the men will gather at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville to celebrate our August birthdays with our church men.

Once again, we want to remind all men of the church that you are needed! One of the ways that you can serve God and increase your faithfulness is by enjoying the Christian fellowship provided by the CMF. So, plan now to attend our future scheduled events!

Dennis E. Jones, CMF Reporter

# STARS Ministry

Seniors That Are Really Special
55 Years Old & Wiser
First Christian Church Richlands

Greetings dear fellow STARS in Christ. "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

We are in the "dog days' of summer and the temperatures are high. Please be sure to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. If you have to be outside for a lengthy period of time, be careful because you can over heat before you know it.

The church is much more than a building. It's a body of believers who share in God's love and serve Him together. Church attendance gives us a time to praise and worship God. Also, it's a time to fellowship with one another.

Our STARS recently had two wonderful times of fellowship. The first time was at a Down East Wood Ducks game. Sadly, the Wood Ducks lost. However, the fireworks were great, but the fellowship was greater. The second time was at our "Christmas in July" lunch. We enjoyed a delicious meal and lots of laughter. No one should have left with an empty stomach.

The next STARS lunch is scheduled for August 28th following the 11:00 worship service. Pease mark your calendar and make plans to attend "Cafe Agape". This will be another great time of fellowship and a delicious meal. Hope to see you there.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. " C. S. Lewis

"Age is not how old you are, but how many years of fun you've had." Matt Maldre

# Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)

The CWF ladies met on July 12th with good attendance. Prayer praises and concerns were shared. Opening prayer followed by Rosolyn's devotion, "Count your Blessings" was given. We are to concentrate on our blessings and not on our frustrations. We need to think and be positive. The scripture was Psalm 91:26.

We signed several all-occasion cards to have on hand as needed. We are scheduled to feed the residents at the Onslow County Homeless Shelter on fifth Sat., July 30th, at 6 pm. We planned the menu as follows: fried chicken, mac and cheese, green beans, deviled eggs, rolls, brownies, tea and lemonade. The shelter also needs hygiene items – soap, deodorant, shampoo, band-aids, etc. Please bring these items to the fellowship hall on or before July 30th.

For general information, ten 20" window fans were purchased and taken to The Onslow County Senior Center to be donated to those in need. This was our service project. Our donations for outreach are small bottles of mustard, ketchup, grape jelly (no larger than 20 oz. sizes) and small cans of chicken. These items are for Richlands Community Outreach Ministry. We always are pleased to receive any of these items from our congregation. There are containers set up for collection of these in our facility/facilities.

We received the treasurer's report. We have been blessed to donate to a baby shower, Father's Day gifts, VBS, fans, graduation gifts for our seniors as well as financial aid to two individuals for rent, water, etc.

The report was also given for our Christmas box.

For your information, we will be hosting a lasagna and salad luncheon on Sunday, September 25th, after the 11 o' clock service. It will be in the fellowship hall. More information to come.

Ladies, join us at our next meeting on August 9th, at 7 pm in the fellowship hall. Mary Ann is the hostess.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Metts, Secretary

# SAMARITAN SHOEBOX MINITRY

As we head into the last months of collection of the supplies & preparing the Shoeboxes for our packing party, I want to share another SSB life changing story. Again, God has taken a simple shoe-box as a tool to bring Christ into the lives of two friends and their families.

## THROUGH A FRIEND'S INVITATION AND A SIMPLE GIFT, A YOUNG GIRL IN THE WEST AFRICAN NATION OF BENIN FINDS HOPE AND JOY IN JESUS CHRIST.

Nine-year-old Gladys flashed a big smile as she recounted the day she received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. The special items inside included a blanket folded neatly and arranged amid school supplies, a flashlight that her father needed, and other cherished items. Opening the shoebox gift was like opening up a new chapter of life for her and her family. It all started with a friend's invitation. "You have to go to my church," her friend, Kemi, told her. "There are good things going on, and I want you to hear the Word of God. "Just a few days earlier, Kemi had attended an Operation Christmas Child event and heard the Gospel. She received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She now wanted Gladys to experience the same joy she'd found.

Gladys accepted her friend's invitation, arrived at the church for a new outreach, and she too came to know the Lord. He changed her life, and her family's lives as well, bringing hope to their home.

Gladys recounts the storm in her heart in the year leading up to the day she received her shoebox gift. She often felt lonely and even isolated, and these emotions surfaced inside her home in battles with her parents and siblings—which created even more distance from the people who loved her. "I was disobedient to my parents," Gladys said. "I didn't listen. I just argued. When they asked me to do something, even something as simple as washing up, I argued and fought with them, because I wanted to do only what I wanted to do, so I would cry and run away from them. And sometimes I would just say 'no, I don't want to do it!' and I would hide myself somewhere." Gladys said she often lived in fear and anger that she didn't understand. As one might imagine of many 9-year-olds, she lived in a world shrunk down to the size of her small desires. She had not experienced much life outside of Adjarra, where she'd grown up in a family that practiced a folk religion that kept them tethered to its idols. They hoped the idols would meet their needs for good health, good crops, and anything else they might desire. But their religious practices only further blinded them to the truth of the Gospel.

Gladys had a difficult time conceiving of an all-powerful God who could meet all of her needs, including the peace she longed to have in her heart. She also would never have imagined that, thousands of miles away, a family had lovingly, prayerfully packed a shoebox gift that God intended just for her.

These are important truths Gladys learned about on the afternoon of the Operation Christmas Child outreach event. She was surprised to receive her very own shoebox gift—a gesture of love and generosity from across the globe that opened up her heart to God and His Kingdom. Benin's proud history as a kingdom is well-known by Benin's grade-school children, so the idea of God's Kingdom immediately piqued Gladys' attention during the outreach event. "They talked about the Kingdom of God," Gladys recounted. "I understood then that God has a kingdom. He is inviting me into His Kingdom. And I received Him into my heart." Gladys and Kemi also were invited by teachers to the 12-lesson discipleship classes of **The Greatest Journey**, and these best friends have been learning what it means to follow Jesus Christ in faith and obedience.

Continue…..

For Gladys, this has meant honoring her parents, something that is growing much easier since the day God changed her heart and welcomed her into His Kingdom. “I don’t complain anymore when they ask me to do things. I don’t hide when they want me to take a shower,” Gladys said. “I wake up on time for school. And I am learning more how to listen rather than argue when my parents are talking.”

“It is because, as I’ve learned, this is not my kingdom,” Gladys said. “This is the Kingdom of God, and that’s the Kingdom I want to belong to.” And here’s the even happier ending to this story—Gladys’ parents and siblings, her whole family, have now also received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We praise God for how He used a simple act of obedience, like inviting a friend to church, to change the direction of these young lives and their families. We are also grateful to Him for using Gladys’ **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox gift, prayerfully-packed thousands of miles away, as a tool to help open a young girl’s eyes to the love of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. We are the hands and feet of Christ as we continue to witness and share Christ’s love to people of all nations through a simple shoebox.

We are still in need of a few items to complete the shoeboxes. Items can be dropped into the red SSB container in the vestibule.
Pens, Crayons, Pencils, 1 subject notebooks, or mini notebooks, travel tissues, and stuffed animals that are 5 to 7 inches.
Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers for this ministry.

Brenda Huffman

# Preservice fellowship

## August 7th

## 10:35 AM to 10:55 AM

## Come join us for Coffee and Donuts

## Choir Rehearsal Resumes

August 3rd

At 7:30 PM

If you are interested in joining the Choir please come out any Wednesday night or see Kay Payne.

**August Meetings**

Aug. 1 Christian Men’s Fellowship Meeting 7PM
Aug. 8 Board Meeting 7PM
Aug 9. Christian Women’s Fellowship Meeting 7PM

**August Events**

Aug. 6 Youth Pool Party
Aug. 7 Preservice Fellowship 10:35-10:55
Aug.7 Kids Water Fun Day following 11:00 Service
Aug. 28 STARS Lunch following 11:00 Service

# HAPPY AUGUST Birthday

2 WENDY CARTER
3 HANNA NELSON
4 LEO DUMPHY
10 BEVERLY TAYLOR
18 SHIRLEY WOODARD
19 TAMMY GURGANUS
22 RANDALL JONES
24 LAUREN SIMPSON
29 EDWARD WILLIAMS, BETTY NEWBOLD

YOU ARE INVITED TO

## FCC

## Feast & Fellowship

## Aug. 21

Ages 18-40ish Singles & Families

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Fixin's

Following 11:00 service in CLC

RSVP Link Or Church Office 910-324-4690

https://firstcc.fellowshiponego.com/external/form/b3469ac8-785e-4895-b0b4-4b07468ceabe

First Christian Church

# Youth POOL PARTY & BARBECUE

**Saturday August 6th 5PM**

Grades 6-12
Contact Pastor Samuel
For Address

Bring a Towel, a Swimsuit
and a Friend!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# KIDS SUMMER FUN DAY

An afternoon of summer fun for all children up to 5th grade. Water games, water slide, and other games as well as lunch will be provided. Bring a bathing suit, a towel, and sunscreen!

**Lunch, Games, Water Slide & Fun**

**12:30 PM, FOLLOWING SERVICE**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH**