



CHALICE NEWS

A monthly publication of First Christian Church

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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 Wenté

Associate Pastor

Office hours: Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday 9:00-1:00

Staff

Director of Music

Kay Payne

Office Manager

Debbie Rogers

Custodian

Gwen Morton

Pastor Thoughts:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have on heard high

Sweetly singing ore the plains

And the mountains in reply

Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14
KJV

What gives you awe? What things cause you to become speechless when you see them? Is it the sight of a family member you haven't seen in years? Is it visiting a majestic place like a mountain or a historical place like the ancient pyramids of Egypt? The night Christ was born was the most monumental and awe-inspiring event that as ever occurred in human history as God sent His one and only Son to earth so that we could ultimately have eternal life. There has not been an event in history before or after Christ's birth that resulted in such celebration that the angels themselves made their physical presence known and their voices heard in song. Can you imagine how the shepherds' jaws must have dropped at the site and sounds of the angels? That moment was so majestic that we probably cannot fully comprehend what it was like because honestly, none of us have encountered such a sight.

It seems like people tend to have fewer experiences these days of complete awe. Technology has brought so much of the world to our living rooms and fingertips that we can see anything we want and feel like we are at anyplace we want to be. Unfortunately, most of us probably have fewer awe-inspiring moments with God like we should. Our relationship with Him often becomes too comfortable and even ordinary. This Christmas, try to regain those awe-inspiring moments with God. Strive to make your relationship with Him something so inspiring that it causes you to rejoice like the angels did. Don't let your relationship with Him be ordinary, but

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

Pastor Mark

From Pastor Sam to You:

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

- Luke 2:11

Over the course of the weeks leading up to Christmas, we have the privilege of celebrating advent. It's a means of looking back to the first coming of our Lord, but also a looking forward to His next coming. A remembrance of Jesus' promise that He would return for His Church, His people. And during advent, we light candles every week. Each candle representing something different. Last Sunday we celebrated hope, which will be followed by peace, love, and joy in the coming weeks.

And as we think and talk about the things that these candles represent, we consider how Christ has given us all these things as gifts. He's given us hope, he's given us peace, he's given us love, and he's given us joy. And we use this time to celebrate the gifts that God has given us. However, there is a reason why we wait for Christmas itself to light the Christ Candle. Because Jesus in a manger, is the culmination of the entire season, and is the center of everything we celebrate. He himself is the reason why we remember, and rejoice, and look ahead, and worship. Not simply the gifts that he has given us, but He himself. The person of Jesus himself is what causes our worship. That little baby born in a manger is worthy of our praise, awe, adoration, love, and devotion. He is the most incredible gift any of us could ever receive.

So Christmas is not just a time to celebrate and give thanks for the hope, peace, love, and joy that we have received as gifts from Christ, but it is a time to celebrate Jesus himself, our Messiah, our Savior, our High Priest, our King, our Lord, our Provider, our Protector, our Reconciler, our Healer, our Creator. He himself is more magnificent than anything He could give us. It's not simply about what we can get out of Him, but rather it is about who He is.

Hope and peace are not simply things we receive from Jesus. Love and Joy are not simply things that God gives us. But rather they are in fact, HIM! He himself is those things. He is hope! He is peace! He is love! He is Joy! They are all wrapped up in the very nature of who our God is. He could have given us all those things as separate gifts, but instead He wrapped them all up into one, in the form of a baby boy in Bethlehem. And he would ultimately provide all of those things for us by becoming the atoning sacrifice for our sins, who substituted himself in our place on the cross to win us victory over sin, and reconcile us back to our God and Creator.

So as you celebrate this season and look forward to Christmas, don't just set your eyes on what God can give you, but set your eyes on Christ himself. Let Him be the center of your worship. Don't just seek out how you can receive peace, hope, joy, and love from Jesus, but rather seek Jesus himself. Seek Christ, knowing that if you truly have Him, you have all of those things too. He alone is the greatest gift of all!

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On Nov. 15th our ladies met in the church fellowship hall. We shared prayer praises and concerns followed by prayer. Rosolyn's devotion "Junkfree Mailbox" was given. It was comparing junk mail to gossip. We need to avoid gossip. The following scriptures were shared: Phil. 4:8, Ephes. 5:15, Prov. 4:23 and Prov. 18:8.

Several all-occasion cards were signed to have on hand as needed. A thank-you card was read. I reported that the craft show was very successful. Thanks to any and all who helped in any way.

Our church Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 5th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Tickets are available until Nov. 30th, the cutoff date. Please see Debbie, Dennis, Kristy, Mary Ann or Shirley for tickets. The CWF donated four turkey dinners for the food boxes that were given away for Thanksgiving on Nov. 20th.

Since we are not having a business meeting in December due to the Christmas Party, we planned the menu for the homeless shelter for Dec. 31st. The menu is fried chicken, green beans, mac and cheese, devilled eggs, rolls, desserts, lemonade and tea. We will also furnish ice, plates and cups. All items need to be in the church fellowship hall by 5:15. Gayle, Bert, Roy and Mary Ann will be serving at 6 pm. We are preparing for 35.

This year the CWF has been asked to assist the CMF along with the adult Sunday School lass to furnish goody bags for the 39 residents at The Heritage. We will be purchasing these items in the near future to be put together at a later date.

We gave monetary gifts to two families with members in the hospital for an extended period of time. These two are for our monthly service project. We also agreed to purchase 3 eight foot tables for the church's use. These have already been purchased and delivered to church. Thanks to Bob and Shirley.

For our outreach ministry, we continue to donate instant oatmeal, instant grits and pop tarts for the CHEW program. Also continue to donate small cans of chicken, tuna, Spam and Treet to RCOM. We are asking CWF ladies along with anyone else to bring any of these items to our Christmas party on Dec. 5th. Our sincere thanks to all who continue to donate to these two ministries.

The treasury report was given. Also, a report was given on the Christmas box. We discussed and agreed on giving the funds in the Christmas box evenly to a single father with two children and a single mother with two children.

We were served delicious refreshments by Leny. We will be scheduling next year's meetings at our Jan. 2023 meeting. LADIES, start your new year off by attending the CWF. We would like to have your input.

We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Metts, Secretary

Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF) News

The month of November proved to be a busy one for the CMF. We began the month with our first Soup and Sandwich fundraiser for the school year. Many thanks are extended to all who participated in the event on Sunday, November 5th. The profit from the event helped to reenforce our Scholarship Fund, as well as, other CMF projects. Among the other projects, the CMF agreed to purchase two additional eight-foot folding tables for the fellowship hall, to replace some aged broken ones.

The men also agreed to provide the funding to cover the ticket for all of our church widows who desire to attend the annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. The CMF will be providing a uniquely different program for the evening, thanks to Steve and Debbie Rogers. The CWF will provide the catered meal at \$10 per plate. So, make your plans now to attend this annual event!

Furthermore, the CMF has joined with the CWF and the adult Sunday School Class to provide a “goody bag” to each of the residents of the Heritage Rest Home near Richlands. These gifts will be delivered to each of the 39 residents prior to Christmas Day – possibly with the help of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

On Saturday, November 19th thirteen men gathered at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville to celebrate the birthdays of our church men. Two of our “Birthday Boys” were in attendance: Doug Maxwell and Jay Wright to receive their “free” meal. We were delighted to have some additional new men attend the event as well. Other November birthdays among our men were: Bob Woodard, Billy Howard, Michael Hernandez, Michael Bennetch and Ray Randall. Our December Birthday Breakfast will be held at 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, December 17th at Angie's. All men are encouraged to attend this fun fellowship monthly event among Christian Men.

Our next regular scheduled monthly CMF meeting will be Monday, January 2, 2023, in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. President Tom Barbee promises to have an enlighten devotion as we start the new year as Christian Men. The group has already scheduled two additional Soup & Sandwich fundraisers for Sundays, January 22nd and March 12, 2023. Plan now to join us and start the new year serving Christ in a uniquely Christian manner!

Dennis E. Jones, CMF Reporter



Cookie Express

Kids/Youth

Come out and bake some cookies.

Everyone is invited to help bake. Kids of all ages.

Dec. 3rd at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall



Christmas Dinner & Entertainment

Presented by: CMF & CWF

6:30 PM Fellowship Hall \$10.00 per person (Tickets for sale)

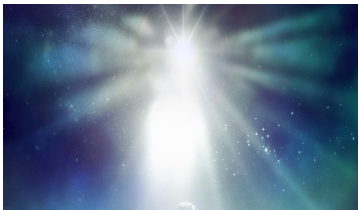
Call the church office



Dec. 17th 7:15 AM

Men's Birthday Breakfast

Angie's in Jacksonville



"Behold The Light Of The World"

Cantata

Dec. 18th 8:30 Service

Performed by:

Handbell Choir & The Sanctuary Choir



See Pastor Sam for details

Board Meeting Dec. 6th at 7:00 PM

Congregational Meeting Dec. 11th following both services

No Wednesday Bible Study Morning or Evening Dec. 28

No Youth Dec. 28

No Choir Dec. 28

C.H.E.W.

Children, Healthy, Eating on the Weekend

Church Family,

Just to keep you informed on our CHEW program, our Church this school year has donated for October and November 422 pkts. of Grits, 488 pkts. Of Oatmeal, and 411 pkts. of Pop-Tarts. We are currently packing 90-100 bags per week so CHEW needs either 400 pkts of Grits or Oatmeal and 400 servings of Pop-Tarts per month. Our items are carried to the packing area the 2nd Friday of each month. Your donations means so much to our children that is less fortunate than us. Thank you for prior donations and for the ones to come. Any questions, contact Shirley Woodard at (910)330-3847.



December 25th

One Service Only

10:00 AM



Check out our Website: fccrichlands.org

You will find the Newsletter, Calendar, Prayer Wall, Events and more



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Rosolyn Jones
4 Beth Brown
7 Susan Brown Stroud
12 Taylor Jones
14 Betty Jones
15 Lee Pike

18 Daniel Bennetch
19 Jodi Paul, Sherry Whaley,
Lynda Black
26 Duwayne Divens