



WELCOME TO OUR

Chalice News

we're so glad you're here!



PASTORS THOUGHTS:

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. Paul told the church at Corinth this is 2 Corinthians 3:17. Freedom is a powerful thing if we can live in it. Our nature of sin teaches us that we are captive to everything. The sin in our life that we can't seem to let go of just cripples us in our walk with the Lord. But God is in his amazing love has given us a way out. Through Jesus we are set free from the bondage of sin and death. The problem is we just want to be saved and go to heaven. Unless we truly renew our minds and take on the mind of Christ, we never really live free. That's where the Spirit comes in. Jesus said in John 14 that he was going away and if He went away that He would send the advocate. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to be our advocate. The Spirit according to scripture will lead us into all truth. The spirit will teach is what Jesus started here on earth about the Kingdom. We will never tap into our freedom until we allow ourselves to be filled with the Spirit daily. Paul tells us in Ephesians to be filled with the spirit. The word filled is a word that means to be continually filled. This year our vision as a church is to break free in 2023. I pray that we are all able to break free this year. I pray that we are all able to allow ourselves to be daily filled with his Spirit. If we do we will indeed be free.

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



From Pastor Samuel to You:

Psalm 90:14 - "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

Christians can often see prayer, and coming before the Lord as an obligation they must fulfill in order to please God, rather than something that can be enjoyed, and delighted in. At the end of the day, if we truly know Jesus, and see Him for who He truly is, then our fellowship with Him, and our pursuit of Him is the most enjoyable experience we will ever have, nothing can compare to it. When we know Him personally, what before was merely a Christian duty, now becomes a delight, something we look forward to, and find pleasure and satisfaction in.

We don't find joy, and satisfaction in things of the this world, at least not fully. We find those things in Christ. We see the psalmist David crying out to Lord, that God would satisfy Him with his steadfast love. The Lord was David's source of satisfaction and contentment, not his circumstances, nor anything of this world. He goes on to say that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. We find ultimate gladness in Jesus. God is not merely someone to submit to and appease, but He is someone in whom we can be glad and joyful. In fact we never truly experience these things until we experience the Lord.

Ultimately, held up against any other longing of our hearts, Christ alone can fully satisfy us. Every other pursuit, every other passion, every other love, every other desire, even good things, will ultimately fall short of bringing us true contentment and fulfillment. It is found in Jesus alone. This is why the most joyful and glad Christians, those who are truly content and satisfied and life, having found what their heart truly desires and needs, are those who seek Jesus, know Him, and enjoy constant intimate fellowship with Him.

Let us be a people who find our satisfaction and joy in Jesus Christ. Let us be a people who return over and over to the fountain of joy, that is the Lord. Not letting our hearts be fixed on other things, but fixing them on God. Let us be a people who love the Lord, pursue Him, sit and meet with Him, and enjoy His presence and fellowship!

CWF NEWS FOR FEBRUARY, 2023 NEWSLETTER

On January 10th, our first meeting for the year, we had thirteen in attendance. We shared prayer praises and concerns. Shirley offered the opening prayer.

We signed several all-occasion cards to have on hand as needed. Kristy read three thank-you cards from ones we had helped previously.

On Dec. 31st, 2022, we fed the residents at the Onslow County Homeless Shelter. They were very appreciative. We feed them on the 5th Saturday of each month. We have four 5th Saturdays this year. Our first one is Saturday, April 29th, 2023. We will plan that meal at our April meeting.

We planned the calendar for events sponsored by CWF for 2023 – some free and some are fundraisers. The first event is a free movie on February 19th from 2:30 until 4:00. We will be serving popcorn, candy, bottled water and sodas. We will announce these happenings in the month where scheduled.

We gave a love offering to an individual who is having surgery. We also gave a love offering to a family who has a child hospitalized. These are our service projects for January. RCOM and CHEW are our outreach ministries. CHEW is well stocked at this time. RCOM, however, is in need of small cans of chicken. If any church member or attendee of First Christian would like to donate cans of chicken, there is a container available in church. Thanks for donating in the past.

A treasury report was given for CWF. We also began donating to the Christmas box.

For new business, we planned the hostesses for this year. Kristy graciously furnished refreshments for tonight. Thank you! Brenda H. is our hostess for our February 7th meeting. Kay H. is scheduled for the March 14th meeting. We will announce the hostess monthly. All ladies are invited to our meetings.

The closing prayer was offered by Mary Ann.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Metts, Secretary

Christian Men's Fellowship

The men's group has started the new year with great enthusiasm! We had our regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 2, 2023. President Tom Barbee had a very inspiring devotion on the "Borean Call." Sadly, many so-called Christian activists have taken on many non-Christlike approaches in dealing with political and other social issues in the past, as well as, in today's world. We are reminded that our personal lives must reflect true Christ-like behaviors.

Officers for the next two-year term were elected as well, with Tom Barbee as President and Dennis Jones as Secretary/Treasurer. All men of the church are members of the CMF. We encourage each of you to consider starting the new year by participating in our monthly gatherings.

Plans were finalized for our Soup & Sandwich fundraiser on Sunday, January 22nd. Although it was a rainy winter day, we were blessed to have many church members to attend and enjoy the wide variety of soups, sandwiches and desserts. THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED AND SUPPORTED THIS SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER!! Our next scheduled Soup and Sandwich event is on the church calendar for Sunday, March 12th. So, mark your calendars and plan to support the event.

Fifteen men gathered for our January "Birthday Breakfast" at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville, on Saturday morning, January 21st. Our attendance record was broken for the monthly event. We were especially excited to have more young men of the church to join us in Christian fellowship. New-comer Jed Heintzelman was welcomed with open arms, as we celebrated the birthday of Bob James. Other January birthday men included: Donald Morton, Hal Metts, Stanley Bryan, John Anderson and Steve Marshburn. Our next "Birthday Breakfast" will be held on Saturday, February 18th at 7:15 a.m. at Angie's.

The CMF will gather once again on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. Bob James will provide the devotion. Men of God, please keep the CMF in your prayers as we continue to meet in Christian Fellowship to strengthen each other in our faith, as we face the challenges of 2023.

Dennis E. Jones

CMF Reporter

Samaritan Shoebox

In 2023 we will be collecting items all year long. Because we try to pack at least 400 shoeboxes each year it is necessary to collect items all year long. The best time to purchase some items, such as holiday related items is after the holiday when the stores are putting these items on clearance.

Here is a list of the items we normally put in all shoeboxes. I will have a few designated items for you to purchase and bring in each month. Should you see any of these items on sale anytime during the year, that would be a good time to pick them up. I will have a red & green plastic container marked "Samaritan Shoebox" in the vestibule for the collection of these items.

Youth T-Shirts (4T sizes to Youth Large)	1 Subject Spiral Notebook
Youth Flip Flops	Small Lined Notebooks
Bar Soap	Pencils
Washcloth	Pens
Dental Floss	Pencil Sharpener
Ponytail Holders	Colored Pencils
Hairbands	Crayons
Hairbows	Sheets of Stickers
Travel Size Tissues	Stuffed Animals (approximately 5" to 7")
Draw String Backpacks (to fit in shoebox)	Small Toys
Pencil Pouches	Small Games
Small Puzzles	Small Balls

Here is a list of items we use to make items for the shoeboxes:

Colored Plastic Spoons	Beads (for making necklaces)
Zip Lock Storage Bags (All Sizes)	Plastic Craft Lace (for making necklaces)
Plastic Soda Bottle Caps (water bottle caps too small)	New or Used CD's
3/8" Colored Duct Tape	Foam Cut Outs (use as game pieces for Tic-Tac-Toe)
Foam sheets to make Tic-Tac-Toe Boards	
Plastic Rx Containers	

Continued..

I would like to add another item to our shoeboxes this year. I would like to provide a fishing kit for the boy's boxes. We already provide a very small sewing kit for the girl's boxes, therefore I wanted to add some necessity item for the boys. I have seen the suggestions of putting small fishing items in a plastic prescription container. If anyone has suggestions on what fishing items we could put in the prescription bottles please let me know. If you have prescription plastic containers, we can use them. Please remove your personal information from the bottles and drop off in the designated box in the vestibule.

In February we will be collecting Christmas cards (new or recycled). The past several years we have used the picture portion of the recycled Christmas cards in the shoeboxes. Volunteers will write scripture and a personal note from FCC on the back side of the picture portion of the recycled Christmas cards. Please do not discard your Christmas cards. Please be sure to remove the personal message portion of the card before dropping them off at the church. If you can, you could write the personal message and scripture on the backside before dropping them off.

The items we will be collecting in February:

New or recycled Christmas Cards

Sheets of Stickers (Christmas & Valentine stickers will be on sale)

Small Stuffed Animals (Christmas & Valentine ones will be on sale at this time)

Any shoebox size games, cards, toys, etc. that may be on sale after the holiday seasons.

Please remember we cannot pack used or damaged items, war-related items (toy guns, knives or military figures), chocolate or food, candy, liquids or lotions, medications, vitamins, breakable items (glass, aerosol cans, etc.).

Also, remember after each holiday (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, etc.) the stores will have the holiday items on sale. This is always a good time to pick up stuffed animals, stickers, etc. with these holiday themes.

The second Tuesday of every month until November, we meet in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 to prepare items to put into the shoeboxes. All are welcome to join us as we work towards our 400 shoebox goal.

Thank you for your love and support with this ministry.
Brenda Huffman

PAINT PARTY

FEBRUARY 10, 6:00 pm

\$25.00 OR \$40.00

2 Options for your project



Bring a friend.

We will have dinner and
snacks

Sign-up in the Vestibule or QR Code or Link

<https://firstcc.fellowshiponego.com/external/form/ef53a7f1-97eb-4950-b112-d2017af0c0d9>





Happy BIRTHDAY

1 Ted Stamey
3 Debbie Rogers, Jason Lester, Jose
Cabrerera
4 Billy Jones
6 Doug Nikkel
13 Gwen Morton
16 Linda Whaley, Mary Murphy
17 Sarah Rhodes



Nursery

Available 11:00 Service

February

SERVICES

Every Sunday

8:30 AM & 11:00AM

Kid's Church 11:00 5-5th Grade

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday's @ 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall

YOUNG ADULTS 9:45 In Education Bldg.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday

Adult 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM



YOUTH

Every Wednesday

6:30 PM

Choir Practice Every Wed. at 7:15 PM

Praise Team Practice Every Thurs. 6:30PM



EVENTS

Feb 4 6:00 Gospel Showcase

Feb 5 Scout Sunday

Feb 6 CMF Mtg. 7:00 PM

Feb 7 CWF Mtg. 7:00 PM

Feb 9 Elders Mtg. 5:45 PM

Feb 10 Paint Party & Dinner 6:00 PM

Feb 13 Board Meeting

Feb 19 Movie Day 2:30 PM

Feb 26 STARS Lunch

Adult Sunday School

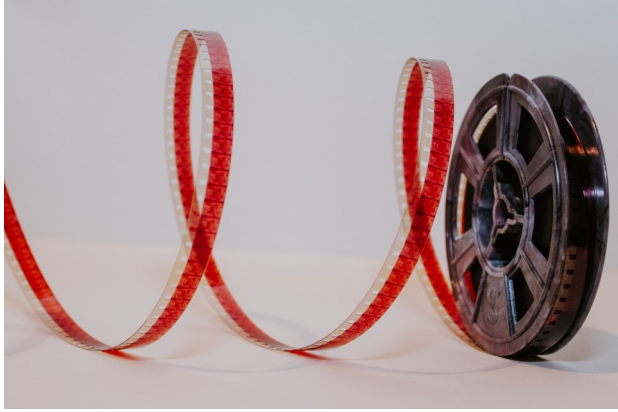
ALL ADULTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE SERIES ENTITLED "BELIEVE." THE 30 WEEKLY SESSIONS WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH AT 10 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. DENNIS JONES AND TOM BARBEE WILL ALTERNATE MONTHLY IN LEADING THE SESSIONS, WITH A SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION BY RANDY FRAZEE, AN ASSOCIATE OF MAX LUCADO. WE WOULD LOVE FOR ALL ADULTS TO JOIN US AS A SEQUENCE TO OUR COMPLETED STUDY OF "THE STORY."

COME JOIN US

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
124 TROTT RD
RICHARDS, NC 28574
(910)324-4690

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY-THURSDAY
9:00AM-2:00 PM

FIND US
WEBSITE: WWW.FCCRICHLANDS.ORG
FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE



Movie Day

Feb 19th at 2:300

Price: FREE

Popcorn, Snacks, Drinks

Sponsored by CWF

S.T.A.R.S.

(55 and Up)

Lunch Sunday February 26th

Following 11:00 service



Lock-In

Feb. 24-25

**Contact Pastor Sam for
information**