



WELCOME TO OUR

Chalice News

we're so glad you're here!



PASTORS THOUGHTS:

Waiting for the blessed Hope

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Bible tells us that one day soon we will as a church be raptured away to be with the Lord. We have no idea when that day will be. We have signs that indicate to us the second coming of Jesus, but no signs per se of the rapture. So, what do we do as a church with that information? The Bible says we should be looking. We should live in such a way that we are looking for and anticipating his return. Titus put it this way. "It teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13) The Apostle Peter said, "So then dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him." (2 Peter 3:14)

The Bible answers that question of what we do until he comes. We have a blessed hope. We have an eternal future. We have a God sitting on the throne in charge of all things. We have a God who is coming back soon to take his church. May we live our lives looking for him. And while we are looking maybe we live lives that our self-controlled, upright, Godly, spotless and blameless. Peace with the Lord.

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

From Pastor Samuel to You:



“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.” - Romans 6:5

It may only be March, but the Easter season quickly approaches us. Even though it's several weeks away, it's as good a time as any to begin preparing our hearts to remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Often, our Easter reflections center around the death of Jesus, as we celebrate and thank Him for his grace and forgiveness towards us. And while those things may be true; Christ died in our place to atone for our sin, and to provide us justification through faith, it doesn't end there.

So many Christians love to celebrate Christ's death and what it did for us, but then forget about of neglect Christ's resurrection, and fail to realize what exactly we have in Christ because of it. They celebrate the pardon of their sins, but don't fully realize what happens after that. The Gospel does not end with Jesus' death on the cross, but rather it continues on in His resurrection from death. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are not only united with Jesus through His death, but we are also united with Him through His resurrection. The Christian should not only experience and rejoice in the effects of the cross, but also in Jesus overcoming death.

In His resurrection, Jesus defeated and conquered death. He overcame the bondage and stronghold of sin, and therefore through His resurrection, we too can now overcome sin, and experience real freedom from it in our lives. The Gospel isn't simply that we are forgiven of our sins, but also that we are set free from them, as the Lord empowers us to live for righteousness. The Cross forgives us, but the resurrection changes us, it transforms us, it sanctifies us. By the death of Christ on the cross, our old nature was done away with, but by His resurrection, we are given an entirely new nature. The Gospel isn't simply that old creations are pardoned, but rather that those old creations become NEW creations. That is only possible through Christ's resurrection from the dead. Because of it we have newness of life, we have freedom, we are made entirely new, the old is put away with, and the new is here. What was dead is brought to life. The heart that had no pulse left, is given a brand new heart.

Easter isn't simply about being forgiven, but it is about being made righteous, being made whole, and being made into a completely new creation. We don't believe in a Gospel that leaves us where we are, but rather in a Gospel that transforms us and makes us more like Jesus. Too many Christians become saved by believing on Christ, and are forgiven of their sins, but live in the “middle” of the Gospel rather than experiencing the whole thing. They live content in being justified, but never truly experience newness of life, they never experience true freedom, they never experience the power and glory of the resurrection, they never experience joy and pleasure in God. They live as if they still have dry dead bones that may have been forgiven, but have never been given breath and life.

This season, as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection together, let us now experience Good Friday without also experiencing Resurrection Sunday! Let us not be a people who are content with the in between, living in the constant state of Saturday. Let us not only praise God for His mercy and forgiveness, but let us be a people that daily live out in resurrection life. A people who experience newness of life, freedom from our sin, power in the Holy Spirit, and joy in Jesus Christ, and fellowship with Him.

Christian Women's Fellowship

CWF NEWS FOR MARCH, 2023

Our meeting on February 7th was well attended. Opening prayer was given after sharing prayer praises and concerns. Our devotion, "No Collection Record," was given by Rosolyn. We should not keep a record of others offending us. God does not keep a record of our offending Him. The scriptures used were Psalm 133 and Col: 3: 12 & 13. Forgiving others gives us peace and joy.

As we assembled, we signed several all-occasion cards for future use. Kristy read a thank-you card from a family, whom we had helped financially.

We showed the movie, "The Cokeville Miracle," on Sunday afternoon, on February 19th and furnishing popcorn, sodas, bottled water, candy and cookies. It is based on a true story.

As a note of interest, our fall craft show will be October 28th, not October 21st, due to a conflict.

We gave a monetary gift to a young, local woman with serious health problems. This was our February service project. For our local outreach ministry, we are donating Pop Tarts to CHEW. We are also collecting small cans of chicken and small bottles of ketchup and mustard (not over 20 oz. size) for RCOM. Again, we appreciate any donations of these from our church family. Containers for any gifts of these are available in the church foyer and Fellowship Hall.

A treasury report was given. Also, a report was given on our Christmas box. Brenda H. provided yummy refreshments for our meeting. The hostess for the March 14th meeting is Kay H. Closing prayer was offered.

Ladies, we invite you to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ann Metts
Secretary

Outreach

Your outreach committee is Jane Anderson, Shirley Woodard, Rosalyn Jones, Chris Sparks, Tony Bostic. If you know or hear of anyone in need please contact one of us.

RHS football players are going to Fellowship of Christian Athlete Football Camp in July. The goal is to fund the teams fees for the camp. Last year this resulted in 8 players being baptized into the Body of Christ. Each player's fee is \$185. If you are interested in sponsoring a player, please contact Jane Anderson (910)358-9956

Christian Men's Fellowship

The CMF met on Monday, February 6th, and made plans for several upcoming events. Bob James shared an inspirational, personal testimony regarding events within his life that centered on conflicts of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. When we think that we alone are the reason for helping someone resolve a conflict and not recognize that God is in control and not ourselves, then our self-centeredness creates conflict within us. We cannot get rid of self-centeredness without recognizing the need for God's help.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday, March 6th at 7 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Steve Rogers promises to provide our devotion. So, all men of the church, mark your calendars and plan to attend.

On Saturday, February 18th, thirteen men gathered at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville and celebrated birthdays for several men within our church with February birthdays: Ted Stamey (1st), Billy Jones (4th), Jose Cabrera (5th), Jeremy Holley (16th) and Matt Patterson (21st). Our next Birthday Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 18th at 7:15 a.m. at Angie's. All men are invited!

The men of FCC have been invited to participate in a fellowship dinner with the CMF of Pleasant Hill Christian Church in Jones County on Thursday, March 9th at 7 p.m. Our church van will carry those invited, leaving from FCC at 6:30 p.m. that afternoon. Please let Tom Barbee or Dennis Jones know if you are interested in participating by March 5th, so that we can inform the host church of an expected number.

The last of this school-year's SOUP AND SANDWICH fundraisers will be held on Sunday, March 12th, following the 11 a.m. worship service. The cost for the all-you-can-eat meal will be the same: \$8.00 per adult; \$4.00 for children 12 and under; or \$20.00 per household. If you can assist in any way with this endeavor, please contact a CMF member.

Furthermore, the CMF is making plans for other future events, including Mother's Day preparations, as well as, a baseball game to see the Kinston Wood Ducks in May or early June. Look forward to more specific information regarding these events in the near future.

Dennis E. Jones, CMF Reporter

Samaritan Shoebox



Dania
and
A Radio



I was born in the Middle East in a country where 97 percent of the population—including my parents—didn't believe Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord. My parents moved our family to another country in the region to pursue a better future. There they met a pastor who shared with them the hope of the Gospel, and they gave their lives to Jesus.

But instead of finding a better life, things were very difficult. The room we lived in was empty except for a few pieces of cloth we had to eat and sleep on. My dad worked two jobs, but it was still hard for him to provide for our family. Many nights I went to bed without food, or if there was some, it was raw onions and bread.

My wish as a 5-year-old was to have something of my own that was not passed down to me from other people. I told my mom, "I just want something new to help me feel that I am valued." Being a wise and Godly lady, she said to me, "Dania, I know it's hard for you to understand. Your dad and I can't give you new things, but I know Someone who can."

She taught me Psalm 23 and I prayed, "Lord, I want my own new things—things that will put a smile on my face that are not passed down to me from other people."

At that time, my family wanted to be able to keep up with the news from our home country, but we couldn't afford a radio or a television. So, we prayed together and waited.

After a little while, we went to church and found out they were giving away shoeboxes. I didn't know what that meant as I'd never received a gift of any kind before. When I eventually received my box, nothing mattered more to me. It put a joy in my heart that I'd never had before.

Before I could open it, I had to walk about an hour home because we couldn't afford a taxi.

When I finally opened my shoebox gift, I was speechless. Everything in there was brand new! I found pencils, an activity book, a calculator, a stuffed bear, and soap that smelled so good. It hit me that this was the answer to my prayer. These items were my own from people we didn't even know.

Inside the shoebox was another surprise—a tiny radio! Out of a million shoeboxes, this one came to my family the year we prayed for a radio. We all knew this could not happen apart from God.

When I went to bed that night, I counted all the items in my shoebox and thought, God is good.

After living in that country for seven years, we went back to our own country to preach the Gospel. It was hard for us, though, because the Good News was often not accepted. As I watched my parents be harshly persecuted because of their faith, I was convicted that I needed to accept Christ for myself personally. Alone in my bedroom one evening, I prayed through tears, "I am a sinner. My life is all yours, Jesus. Use it as you will."

As a believer, I was bullied by the teachers and students at my school. Despite this treatment, my dad continued to have Christian meetings in our home because we could not have a church.

One morning we went to my dad's shop where he fixed and sold watches and found oil poured over the front door. He found a note that said, "If you don't stop preaching the Gospel, we'll burn this door and kill you and your family." We still talked about Christ, though, and people were saved.

After nine years in that village, it became so dangerous for us that we had to get out of the country. As we departed, I had to leave everything behind—including my shoebox items. This was really hard for me.

After we moved to a third country in the Middle East, we applied to be refugees. Again, we prayed and waited. In 2010, more than a year after our application, God opened the door for us to come to the United States.
continued..

Samaritan Shoebox

After being here two months, a woman from our church asked if I wanted to process shoebox gifts. Up until that point, I had no idea where shoebox gifts came from. When I arrived at the processing center, I was amazed to find so many people working like elves. But when I looked up and saw a banner with the Operation Christmas Child logo on it, I froze and realized these boxes were like my shoebox. I never imagined that I'd pack and process shoebox gifts like the one I received. In May 2017, I graduated from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a degree in education. Looking back, my shoebox was the colorful thing in my black-and-white childhood. It was proof to me that what my parents taught us about prayer was true: it is a strong weapon. Even though we were poor, prayer made us feel rich. I thank God for what He has done for me. This is another story about how we can show God's love to people who live such difficult lives in other countries. A box filled with everyday items to show children God loves them. This story is verification that God's hands are on this ministry. Dania's family wanted a simple radio. God supplied that need. God calls us to be his hands & feet, and we can honor God by continuing to pack shoeboxes.

SHOEBOX ITEMS NEEDED

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
Other Supplies Needed	
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 (Remove any personal information)	

We are going to make fishing kit for the boy's boxes this year. We already provide a small sewing kit for the girl's boxes, and we wanted to add some essential item for the boys. We will be putting small fishing items in a plastic prescription container. 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.

Designated items collecting for March

Travel Size Tissues	Pens
1 Subject Spiral Notebooks	Pencils

Thank You for your continued support with this ministry.
Brenda Huffman



Interested in being part of small groups? Call the church office or use the QR code to sign up. More information to come.



Baptism Sunday

April 2nd

Service will start at 6:00 PM

Wanting to get baptized? Getting baptized is a day you'll never forget. Need to renew your baptismal promise? Do you have a baby/child? Baby/ child dedication. Please sign up in the Sanctuary, bulletin board across for the Church Office, or call the office. Pastor Mark Reid will be in contact with you.

C.H.E.W.S.

Help support our local children. Our church provides breakfast. Pop-tarts. Oatmeal, and Grits. Drop off boxes are located in the Vestibule and Fellowship Hall.

Jokers Marbles



Kids/Youth Games



Game Night

March 10th

6:30 PM

Games for all ages, Hotdogs, Brats, Fellowship
Come out and join us.

Board Games



Soup & Sandwich

March 12th

Following 11:00 Service

Men's Scholarship fundraiser

\$8.00 per person/\$4.00 12 and under /\$20.00 for a family

Please come and enjoy some homemade cooking.



MARCH

Happy

BIRTHDAY

1 Felicity Markl
5 Jane Anderson
6 Brenda Whitaker
10 Ann Nelson
13 Dennis Jones
17 Irene Futrell
20 Suzie Bennetch,
Shannon jones
23 Judy Maxwell
27 Peggie Clark

Nursery

Available 11:00 Service



SERVICES

Every Sunday

8:30 AM & 11:00AM

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

Jesus Cafe 9:45 Coffee & pastry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 in the Fellowship Hall

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

Mar6 CMF Mtg. 7:00 PM
Mar 10 Game Night 6:30 PM (FH)
Mar 12 Soup and Sanwich
Mar 13 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Mar 14 CWF Mtg. 7:00 PM
Mar 18 Men's Birthday Breakfast
Angie's 7:15 AM Jacksonville
Mar 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



THANKS
FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT

FEBRUARY
2023

GALWAY,
IRELAND

Hi friends! In this newsletter you can read about a new baptism, what our Community Group is doing, many special occasions over the last couple of months, and travel plans for the Spring.

Prayer Requests:

- God will help us continue to make more relationships here and grow closer in the ones we have made. That the Holy Spirit will be moving in people to believe.
- Our youth group will grow and the teens will invite friends to come.
- Our new teammates as they continue to settle in and find their place here.

Praises:

- Vanessa was baptized and gave her life to Jesus!
- New relationships are being formed through Ava's school.
- Two healthy girls who got to celebrate their birthdays here with their friends.

Welcome to the Family, Vanessa!

We simply had to start out with the most exciting news first! You may remember from a previous newsletter that we talked about a girl named Vanessa who came to CIY with our youth group last August. Just to remind you, when she came to our church with her boyfriend that Sunday in July, she did not even know if she thought God was real and had never read the Bible or even know much about it at all. But she agreed to come to CIY Move and it changed her life. Since then, we got her a German Bible that she's been reading. She came back to Ireland to visit her boyfriend over the Christmas holidays and said that after reading and studying, she believed in God, wanted to follow Jesus, and asked to be baptized! Even though it was freezing cold, we went out in to the sea while Luke and her boyfriend, Keegan, baptized her into Christ. We are still so humbled and amazed to see how the Holy Spirit worked through that whole situation to help bring her into relationship with Jesus. Praise God for another sister in Christ!



Community Group

Our Community Group meets online on Wednesday evenings, and we have made the decision to go through the Bible in a year together. So we are all doing the same Bible plan on the YouVersion App, and each week Luke teaches a lesson from one of the readings during the week. It's always a blessing to read through the Bible again as we notice and learn new things each time, and it's even more special to be doing it together with part of our church family.

Birthdays

Both of our girls had birthdays in the last two months. Emma turned 2 at the beginning of December and Ava turned 4 at the end of January. Since Ava just started preschool this year, this was a special birthday for her since she has a lot of new friends. She was very excited to bring cupcakes to her class and to invite a few girls from her class to her birthday party. We have been blessed already to make new relationships as well through Ava's school.

6 Years!

As of February 1st, we have been in Ireland for 6 years! In many ways it's hard to believe it's been that long, but in other ways it seems like we've been here forever. We are still so grateful that God brought us here and for the ways He has blessed us thus far. We pray that He will continue to bless others through us working here and expand His Kingdom in Ireland. Thank you for your part in growing His church here on the west coast of Ireland!

Christmas Visitors

We had a lovely Christmas with Tiffanie's parents visiting us again for a couple of weeks. It always makes the holidays more special when we are able to spend them with family. And our girls loved getting to play with Na-Na and Papa! Their favorite things were going to the Christmas Market, playing hide-and-seek, and getting thrown on the bed and the couch!

Upcoming Events

- We are trying to do more things with our youth group to get them more involved and hopefully to also get them to invite their friends to church events. This next week we are going bowling together for the first time!
- We have a church fellowship meal in February.
- Luke will be visiting a Bible college in Germany in March to meet potential interns.
- Our whole family will be going to Germany in April for our Kontaktmission meetings.
- We will be coming to America in May to give updates to a few of our supporting churches who we haven't seen in a while.

