



WELCOME TO OUR

Chalice News

we're so glad you're here!



Pastor Mark Reid

Thoughts from the Pastor

I love the beach. The ocean is one of the most peaceful places to me. I can see and feel the presence of God all around. I also learn a lot while I am at the beach. As summer comes, I see so many things that relate to the Lord and his word. One of those things is Sandbars. Look out several feet past the shore and you may see a group of people standing in what appears to be just a few feet of water. How is that possible, when you see others closer in, swimming in water that's over their heads or deeper? Sandbars are formed at the break point of waves, and not all of them are visible. I love walking out and getting on a sandbar and being so far from the shore. Our faith can be a lot like finding a hidden sandbar. If we are willing to take that the steps out there, we will certainly find one. While I love to go stand on a hidden sandbar and be in shallow water, they can be a navigational nightmare to boats to make sure they don't hit one and do damage. From a faith perspective, it really is an interesting visual. On one side of the sandbar. Some are eager to swim toward it, unconcerned about the depth of the waters surrounding it. On the other side, others want nothing to do with it, and they will change course at any hint of its presence. Today, on which side of the sandbar does your faith reside? Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)



From Pastor Sam to You:

In John Chapter 17, while Jesus is praying to the Father on behalf of His disciples, and of believers everywhere, he says, "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

- John 17:22-23

In this prayer, we see Jesus pray that they (disciples and believers) would be one, as He and the Father are also one. He prays for the unity of His bride, and what will soon be His Church. Here, he lays down the foundation as to why His Church ought to be one. It's because He is one with the Father. Because they are unified, we too should be unified. Our God is the model of how the Church should look, and how it ought to function and operate.

In other words, here, we see the unity between the Father and the Son. And we see throughout the rest of the Gospel, that the Holy Spirit also shares in their unity. Our God is a Trinity! One God, in three distinct person. The three persons are equal in essence, in character, and in will, though all having distinct roles and functions. This is truly how the Church should look, being modeled after their God. Being of one essence, of one character, sharing in the same goal, the same mission, being hand in hand, coming alongside one another. Though at the same time, all having specific roles to play, and jobs to do. We should be unified, because our God is unified. We should be one, and function as one, because our God is one. The Church doesn't get its queues from the world, but rather from the nature of God.

Now, many often here the word "Trinity" and clam up. It's difficult to understand, it seems high and lofty, it feels like empty head knowledge. Or they feel like it's just some ambiguous theological term that doesn't have any real implications on our daily life, and theology isn't that important. But the reality is quite the opposite! Here we see very clearly that the doctrine of the Trinity impacts our life here and now. It gives us an example of how the Church ought to be. Knowing who God is, or what He is, inherently changes and impacts how we operate!

Theology, and doctrinal concepts can seem lofty, incomprehensible, or just not worth pursuing. But the truth is that our knowledge OF God impacts how we live FOR God. The more we know about God, the more we will be transformed to serve Him as we are called to. The theology of the Trinity, directly teaches us, and should change how the Church operates. The study and learning of who God is, has direct practical impact on our daily lives, and it is worth pursuing! Study the Word! Find Christ there! Learn about Him there! Grow in the knowledge of your Lord! It will not only lead you to be more fascinated by Him, and in awe of Him, but it will ultimately impact how you live your life FOR Him!

Jesus says here that us becoming perfectly one, may cause the world to know that God the Father truly sent Him, and loved us. This unity, this oneness that we pursue between each other, may very well be the means by which people see Christ, and come to know the love of God. All because we model after our Lord. This should be our ultimate mission. And that happens when we look to God's very nature to transcend and change ours!

Christian Men's Fellowship

Our church men's group continues its activities as the summer is fast approaching. On Monday, May 1st the men gathered for our monthly CMF meeting. Edward Williams shared an inspirational devotion based on Peter's denial of Jesus as presented in John 18, as well as, Peter's forgiveness by Jesus in John 21. Just as Peter put his denial of Christ in his past and moved forward to become one of Jesus' outstanding servants, God asks us to not dwell in our sinful past, but to allow the Holy Spirit to totally indwell within us to spread the Good News of Salvation, which is available to all who seek Christ.

The CMF is working on the acquisition of a bronze plaque to be erected on the outside wall at the front of the church. The plaque will acknowledge the founding of Richlands FCC in 1882, as well as, the establishment of the present structure in 2005, all to the glory of God.

Plans were confirmed for our Mother's Day recognition on Sunday, May 14th. Plants were again given to every mother in attendance. A special "Thanks" is extended to Terry Jarman, who volunteered his God-given talent of decorating each of the plant pots! Some mothers stated that they cherish the small plants given in 2022 that are still thriving this year.

On Saturday, May 20th, nine men gathered at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville for the May birthday breakfast. We extended birthday greetings to Andy Kepes, Donald Markl and Terry Jarman for their May celebrations. Our next Birthday Breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 17th, so mark your calendars and plan to attend the Christian fellowship over a good breakfast meal of your choice.

The month of June is full of CMF activities. Starting on Friday, June 2nd, everyone is invited to attend the Kinston Wood Duck's baseball game. The church van will leave at 6:15 p.m. for the 7 p.m. game in Kinston. Tickets will be purchased at the gate. All ages are invited to this evening of fellowship!

On Monday, June 5th, the CMF will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Dennis Jones will be sharing a program on the rich heritage of FCC, since its founding in 1882. All are invited to come and be informed of highlights of our past history, which has set the foundation for a fruitful future within our congregational church.

On Thursday, June 8th, all men of the church are invited to return to the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with other Christian Heritage church men within our district. The free meal will be provided by our local CMF at 7 p.m. Mac Tucker promises to provide another inspirational devotion with all men in attendance.

Finally, on Sunday, June 25th, during the 11 a.m. worship service, the CMF will recognize our graduating RHS senior, Thomas Nelson, who will be presented the 2023 John Byrd Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations to Thomas for a job well done!! You will be in our prayers as you continue your educational endeavors and life in the coming years ahead!!

Several CMF sponsored events are coming in June! Men of God, this is a golden opportunity for you to get involved in a special community of Christian men, who love God and enjoy having moments of Christian Fellowship together. Hope to see you there!

Dennis E. Jones

CMF Reporter

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We met on May 9th with good attendance. We started with prayer concerns and praises. Afterwards, our devotion, "Praise Him in times of Distress," was given by Rosolyn. Scriptures were read from Psalms 56:3 & 4, Romans 14:5 and Jeremiah 29:11. We do not need to be in fear. We need to turn to Jesus. King David feared but he relied on God. The opening prayer was offered.

Again, several all-occasion cards were signed to be used as needed. Some CWF t-shirts are on order and an additional order was taken.

We will be feeding a family this month on Monday and Tuesday evenings. We will discuss any restrictions with you if you are available to prepare a meal for them.

Our bingo game is scheduled for Sat., May 20th, from 2 to 4 pm in the church fellowship hall. We will provide refreshments. We will have bottled water, sodas, popcorn and candy. This is for ALL ages. Prizes will be given.

Our yearly ladies' night out is Tuesday, June 6th at Logan's. We will meet there at 6 pm. This is a great time to have fun and fellowship along with delicious food. We can carpool if needed. If so, we need to meet at the church at 5:15 pm in order to arrive on time. This is for ALL ladies.

We will be celebrating Father's Day on Sunday, June 18th. We will recognize all our fathers on this day with an individual gift. Since there is no CWF meeting in June, we will be scheduling a night to assemble these.

Our senior Sunday recognition is Sunday, June 25th. We will be giving a monetary gift. We are blessed to have one high school graduate, Thomas Nelson. Also, CWF will be preparing sandwiches, chips and cookies for Vacation Bible School. VBS is scheduled for Monday, June 26th through Friday, June 30th. We will be serving on Thursday night, June 29th. A time for preparing this will be announced.

The service project for the month is giving financial assistance to a member who has serious health problems. At this time, CHEW is not in need. We are asking for small bottles (20 oz. or less) of mustard and ketchup and also small jars of mayonnaise. This is for Richlands Community Outreach Ministry (RCOM).

Shirley gave an up-to-date report on the CWF Treasury. Also, Pati gave a report on the Christmas box.

For future information, CWF is scheduled to feed the homeless shelter on July 29th at 6 pm. The menu for this will be planned at our July 11th meeting. Kay Heath is our hostess for July. Thanks to Shirley for delicious refreshments for tonight's meeting.

Closing prayer was given. All ladies, we request you to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Metts, Secretary

SAMARITAN SHOEBOX MINISTRY

SHOEBOX ITEMS STILL NEEDED

Small Toys, Stuffed Animals, and Travel Tissues

Your continued support has helped FCC to supply at least 400 shoeboxes each year to Operation Christmas Child, a Franklin Graham ministry.

For anyone who is not familiar with this ministry we fill shoeboxes with school supplies, and basic needs for children around the world. We send them to Samaritan's Shoebox, Operation Christmas Child operation center & they deliver them to children around the world. They add a book called "The Greatest Journey" in each child's own language. This book is about Jesus and his ministry, and how he died on the cross for our sins. The children are then offered a twelve-week Bible study. Thousands, and thousands of children, and their families give their life to Christ because of a shoebox. A shoebox is a tool God uses to spread His Gospel to people all over the world. This is your opportunity to witness to children all over the world. To learn more about this ministry click on <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Brenda Huffman



VBS

June 26-30
3yrs-5th Grade

&

Adult VBS
17yrs-??



PLEASE

Register for VBS 2023 You can register by the QR code, link below, fccrichlands.org (under small groups, children) or on our church app.

Church phone app



website: fccrichlands.org

Nightly Registration

Begins at 5:15 PM

Dinner at 5:30 PM

VBS Starts at 6:00 PM

If you will not be joining us for dinner, please register nightly before entering the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM

S.T.A.R.S

*Seniors That Are Really Special
(55 and Older)*

Lunch June 25 following 11:00 service



2 Robert McGowan
8 Hallie Wright
11 Jeff Britt, Janet Bryan
22 Leny Silva
23 Allan Mills
26 Donna Muller
28 Craig Bennetch
30 Vic Carter

EVENTS

2nd Wood Ducks Game 7:00PM (see
CMF article for details)
5th CMF Meeting 7:00 PM
6th CWF Dinning Out Logan's 6PM
8th CMF Meeting 7:00 District
Gathering
17th Men's Breakfast
Happy Father's Day June 18th
19th starts the decorating for VBS
26-30th VBS

SERVICES

Every Sunday

8:30 AM & 11:00AM

Kid's Church 11:00 3yrs-5th Grade

Nursery is Available 11:00 Service

Jesus Cafe 9:45 Coffee & pastry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 in the Fellowship Hall

Throughout The Week

BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday Adult 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM

YOUTH Every Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Choir will be off for the summer starting
June 7th.

Praise Team Practice on Thursdays

Volunteers

We are needing volunteers for the sound
room on Sunday's. See Tim Adkins or call the
church office if you are interested.

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

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

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