



WELCOME TO OUR

Chalice News



Pastor Mark Reid

A thought by Pastor Mark

December 3rd begins the season of Advent. For 21 days, we will journey to the manger where we will experience God's presence become flesh and dwelling among us. God's good news takes human form to tell us we are not left alone in this life. Emanuel, God with us, comes to us. It is a life-changing story that we enter at this time of year.

This year, I wonder how we will get there. It seems now with the branding of Christmas that there are many other paths to Christmas Day. For some, Christmas is now about what sits under the tree after searching at length for presents we may or may not need. Encountering God's life-transforming presence seems less interesting if it is even remembered as the story of this season.

The basic definition of Advent means the coming or arrival of a notable person, thing or event. As Christians, we know how our familiar story ends (or begins) with God arriving through poor, unknown parents in a back alley of a small city.

We know the destination of Christmas, but what path will we take in our travels through Advent to the manger and Christmas Day? Jesus' own words in his Sermon on the Mount can be helpful: seek and we will find. We find God's way while searching for it. We find God's dream for us when we follow the Way of hope, peace, joy and love.

What if we take that path, a path less traveled this season? Let's search for the manger using God's Way of hope, peace, joy and love as if they are points on a compass and we are seeking ways to live authentic and faithful lives to a story that has transformed us and wants to do so again. What might we see in an otherwise routine and annual story? What unexpected turns will we take? What stops will we make along the way?

I'm looking forward to our journey together and what God will reveal to us along the way and on Christmas Day. I'm looking forward to searching for God's Way this Advent and the ways God will make us living examples of God's presence in the world.

Traveling Mercies,

Pastor Mark

CHRISTIAN WOMENS FELLOWSHIP
(CWF)
NEWS AND NOTES

Our hostess, Leny, offered the delicious refreshments at the beginning. Beverly gave thanks for the food. We had 14 ladies in attendance at our Nov. 14th meeting.

After enjoying our refreshments, we shared prayer praises and concerns. The opening prayer was given. The devotion, "God of all our Days," was shared by Rosolyn. The scripture was from Isaiah 46: 4. God is faithful. He doesn't ever abandon us in the good times or the bad ones.

Numerous all-occasion cards were signed as we will not meet in December due to our CMF/CWF Christmas Party on Dec. 4th at 6:30 in the church fellowship hall.

An update was given on our Christmas box. We discussed the giving of the money in the Christmas box. We are giving a monetary gift to "Friends of Aging" in Onslow County (the senior centers). This will be used by them for individual goody bags for Christmas.

On Saturday, Nov. 18th, we prepared and delivered 16 fruit baskets, the majority of which went to our shut ins.

For our monthly service project, we are giving a monetary gift for CHEW as there is a dire need as the number of recipients keeps increasing. Also, we are giving a monetary gift to supplement the CMF by providing Christmas bags for the residents at The Heritage in Richlands. CWF also purchased 4 complete meals that were given away on Sunday, Nov. 19th when 204 Thanksgiving meals were given to ones in our community. For your information, the craft show was again a great success. Kudos to any and all who helped in any way.

The treasure's report was given. We have been blessed to have a good year of giving as well as receiving.

We ended with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Metts, Secretary

Christian Men's Fellowship

CMF

As 2023 draws to an end, the CMF is still actively working on various projects. The group met on Monday, November 6th, in the fellowship hall. President Tom Barbee led the group with some mission project ideas. Plans were finalized for our Sunday, November 12th Soup and Sandwich fundraiser. The CMF thanks everyone who participated in the event to support our Senior Scholarship Fund. The men also agreed to make a \$100 donation to the C.H.E.W. program to support the purchase of pop tarts, oatmeal and grits to children in need.

Furthermore, preparatory plans were finalized for the upcoming annual FCC Christmas Party, scheduled for Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The CMF will be providing the catered meal, and the CWF will have our own Steps to Glory gospel singing group to provide festive Christmas entertainment. Make sure you have purchased your \$10 tickets by Friday, December 1st. As in the past, the CMF will provide free tickets to our widows, as well as, widowers this year.

On Saturday, November 18th, nine of our church men gathered for a Christian fellowship breakfast at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville, to celebrate the birthdays of Bob Woodard and Doug Maxwell. Further birthday wishes were extended to Billy Howard, Jay Wright, Michael Hernandez, Michael Bennetch and Ray Randall. The group will gather again on Saturday, December 16th at Angie's to celebrate the birthdays of Lee Pike and Duwayne Divens, as well as, any other men of the church with December birthdays. All men are invited to participate in the 7:15 a.m. monthly event.

During our November monthly gathering Edward Williams provided a devotion by Robert Wittenburg titled, "Veteran's Day – A Christian Perspective." On November 11, 1918, World War I ended, with the signing of the Armistice. Thus, the annual day was called "Armistice Day" to recognize the military veterans who fought in World War I. In 1954, Congress changed the name to "Veteran's Day" in recognition of all military veterans. The sad part of the story is that many within our American society have become apathetic to veterans. Likewise, Christian warriors are facing more and more scrutiny, and even persecution for their service. All Christians are urged to continue to move forward, remembering that our Heavenly Father is the underwriter of our efforts to spread the Good News!

Now is the time for all Christian men at FCC to step forward and start the new year 2024 making the resolution to participate in the CMF gatherings. We gain encouragement and broaden our faith through Christian fellowship with other men. So, mark your calendar for Monday, January 1st at 7 p.m. to start the New Year by participating in our CMF activities. Dennis Jones will be providing the evening devotion.

Dennis E. Jones, CMF Reporter



We are almost there!

Hey everybody, we have almost reached our goal of \$10,000.00 to replace the 4 computers in the church.

The Capital Campaign only runs until December 31st and the rest of the year is a busy time for all.

So how do we make our goal? If everyone in our church donates just \$5 each week into the capital campaign box, we will make it! Or you can donate online through our church app or web site. Of course, if you can only donate \$2.00 or even .50 cent each week it is ok because every cent towards the goal is a true blessing.

Thank you for all you have already given.

Help us help the church continue to spread the word of Christ through these much-needed avenues.

May the Lord bless each one,

Tim Adkins

IT Chair



Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service 5:00 PM

EVENTS

Dec. 3 4:30-6:30 PM Children & Youth Christmas Party
Dec. 4 6:30 PM FCC Christmas Party-Tickets \$10 ea.
Dec. 10 7:00 PM Christmas Cantata
Dec. 11 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Dec. 16 Men's Birthday Breakfast 7:15 AM Angie's in Jacksonville
Dec. 17 Congregation Meeting, Following both services
Dec. 24 11:00AM Unity Service
Dec. 24 5:00 PM Candlelight Service
Dec. 31 11:00 Unity Service

Happy Birthday November

1 Rosolyn Jones
4 Beth Brown
7 Susan Stroud
12 Taylor Jones
14 Betty Jones
15 Lee Pike
18 Daniel Bennetch
19 Jodi Paul, Lynda Black
26 Duwayne Divens

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

Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 in the Fellowship Hall

Throughout The Week

B I B L E S T U D Y

Every Thursday Adult 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

YOUTH Every Sunday 4:30-6:30

Choir practice on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm.

Praise Team Practice on Thursdays

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

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

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