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WELCOME TO OUR

# Chalice News

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Pastor Mark Reid

## A thought by Pastor Mark

The Bible can be an overwhelming book of books. Sixty-six books, written over thousands of years, all put together in one. Within its pages, you'll find letters, stories, proverbs, poetry, genealogies, and prophecy.

To some, the Bible is just stories of people who died long ago. But it can be so much more than that—if we let it be.

When we see the Bible as God's Word, as God speaking to us and revealing His wisdom and truth, it changes the way we read. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Approaching the Bible as "living and active" changes the game. The psalmist asks, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity..." (Psalm 119:9)? But, really this question could be anything: How do I keep my marriage pure? How do I love a difficult friend? How do I minister to those around me? The answer is the same, "By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9).

Reading and memorizing Scripture changes us. It fills our hearts with wisdom, showing us how to respond to any situation (Psalm 119:11). It teaches us who we are as God's children, so we can combat sin and temptation (Psalm 119:13). And as God's Word shapes us and changes us, our relationship with Him deepens.

Spending time in the Bible allows us to hear from God himself—an experience that fills us with more joy and awe than just reading a book ever could (Psalm 119:14-16).

God's Word is powerful. It is wisdom and truth, living and active, a place to go for comfort and joy. Spending time in the Bible is one way God speaks to us, and we get to experience His life-changing joy and power in our lives.

The challenge each year to read your Bible from cover to cover is not just to say you did. It's not meant to be a burden of something else to do. It's meant to give us a goal to put the Word always before us each day, so that it can change us to be more like him. As I have often said, how can you say you live and believe by a book you never read.

Challenge excepted!

## **CHRISTIAN WOMENS FELLOWSHIP (CWF)**

This year has been a busy and fruitful year for the women of the church. We have made numerous monetary contributions to various worthy individuals and organizations to include the Jacksonville and Richlands Senior Centers, the Richlands-area CHEW program, the Heritage Resthome, the Onslow County Homeless Shelter, the Richlands Community Ministry and the local food pantry.

Additionally, we provided meals for Vacation Bible School and for the homeless shelter throughout the year.

At the conclusion of the 22/23 school year we honored our church's graduates.

In October we provided support for the Week of Ministry.

During Thanksgiving we prepared boxed meals for local families and fruit baskets for shut-ins.

As Christmas approached we provided financial assistance for another local family as well as the Richlands Senior Center. At the church's annual Christmas party many attendees donated canned goods and condiments to support the Richlands Community Outreach Ministry.

In total our ladies provided more than \$6000 to spread our church's ministry to the surrounding areas. None of these contributions would have been possible without the financial assistance of our church community. God has truly blessed the CWF with the ability to assist others in need. Thank you God for all your many blessings.

Krsisty Cottle

# Christian Men's Fellowship

As 2023 has come to an end, and 2024 is coming in with a roar, the CMF is anxiously awaiting what God has in store for us. Let's take a moment to review the 2023 events and projects of our men's group. Through the success of our three Soup and Sandwich fundraisers in January, March and November, as well as, our regular offerings, the group was able to support several mission projects within the church and community. We honored our mothers on their special day in May with a variety of plants and flowers. In June we granted our graduating senior Thomas Nelson with the \$500 John Byrd Memorial Scholarship, as well as, provided a meal for our VBS attendees. Throughout the year we supported the FCC Capital Campaign to advance our technology needs, and the C.H.E.W. program, as well as, the Christmas Shoe Box Samaritan Purse project. With the strong support of many FCC members the CMF led the campaign to purchase a memorial historic plaque, which now hangs on the exterior entrance to the church sanctuary and was dedicated in October during our Homecoming Day worship and fellowship. Furthermore, we shared ministerial appreciation gifts with Pastor Mark Reid and Associate Sam Wenthe, and assisted one of special senior members with yard maintenance. As the year drew to an end, with the assistance of our CWF, the CMF united to have Santa and Mrs. Claus deliver special Christmas bags to the 36 residents of our Heritage Rest Home.

In addition to all of our mission projects, the CMF took time to enjoy Christian fellowship with each other in various ways. Beyond our regular monthly fellowship meetings and our Birthday Breakfasts, the men united with other Christian men within our district. In March we had fourteen of our men to attend a district invitation from Pleasant Hill Christian Church for a fellowship gathering. This was continued in June when we sponsored a similar gathering of Christian men for an evening of fellowship, food, and another excellent message from Mac Tucker. Also, in June several members of FCC attended a Kinston Wood Ducks baseball game sponsored by the CMF. The CMF concluded the year by once again uniting with our CWF, to sponsor the annual Christmas party on December 4th. The CMF provided the meal, underwriting the cost of meals for our widows and widowers, as well as, others.

With the New Year, the CMF will start off by meeting on MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST AT 7 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL, with Dennis Jones providing a devotion. Furthermore, we will gather at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville on Saturday, January 20th at 7:15 a.m. to recognize and to celebrate the birthdays of our January men. All men of the church are strongly encouraged to start the New Year off by dedicating themselves to participate in more CMF activities. We cannot think of a better New Year's Resolution. Let's dedicate our lives to finding more and better ways to serve our Lord Jesus Christ!!

Dennis E. Jones, CMF Reporter

## Results from Annual Congregational Meeting

2023 Congregational Meeting Results						
	8:30 Service		11:00 Service		Totals	
	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against
<b>2024 Nominating Report</b>	49	0	13	1	62	1
<b>2024 Budget</b>	46	1	14	0	60	1
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
<b>Senior Pastor - Mark Reid</b>	48	1	14	0	62	1
<b>Office Manager - Debbie Rogers</b>	49	0	14	0	63	0
<b>Church Custodian - Gwen Morton</b>	49	0	14	0	63	0

Hello Church Family,

For those who don't know me my name is Debbie Rogers, I am FCC Office Manager. I am writing to inform you about how our attendance on F1Go works. A visitor signs their name on a visitor sheet and manually gets added for that day. When they have come for a third time we add them into the system and they can check in the following week. This gives that person an account where the information is stored. With that said, please make sure I have all of your information. If you do not receive prayer request and events either by email, text, or phone every Thursday please call the church office to update your information.

If you are a member or was added to Actively Attending but have not attended consecutively (medical/deployed reasons do not apply) in a 6 month period of time, your digital information will be removed from F1Go and stored in the church office. If you are returning please sign in the visitor log so your account can be added back into F1Go. This helps keep our records up to date and insures us from being billed additional from our contract with F1GO.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you.

Debbie Rogers  
FCC Office Manger

Missionary  
Nubia Mesquita

Shalom Pr Mark and friends at FCC.

Hope you are all well and thriving in FCC. I have been following the church's Facebook and have seen how busy and blessed you all have been.

It's been some time since my last e-mail, and for that I apologize.

This second semester at Kid's Place has been very busy and challenging. We had some losses with our staff due to a new project that started in the region, which offered better conditions for our teachers, and unfortunately, we lost 4 team members ( 2 teachers, 1 recreational assistant and 1 coordinator).

Thank God we were able to replace three of those, but there was a lot to train and readapt, and of course, that was a bit awkward for us, because the team had been the same for over a decade. Unfortunately, the salaries were difficult for us to match, considering our revenues.

Nevertheless, our activities remained throughout the semester, including all the food guarantee ( 2 meals a day), the workshops for the 60 children, the informatic classes for 45 adolescents, the counseling for the strengthening of family ties ( social workers and psychologist), and social visits to their homes, despite the challenges! The Lord has been faithful to us.

Again, thank you so much for the special donation sent to our kids in July. The value in Reais was R\$10.350,00

We bought 60 pairs of shoes-(4.085,00), 60 sandals (640,00), and the New uniforms with the donation. (5.668,80). That was so special and beautifully connected with the Bible Program's theme, that was Amazing!!!

The New uniforms have arrived and are beautiful. We will distribute them next year to the newcomers.

We are finishing the year with our mission running and helping those in most need, and FCC is a part of that. Thank you for your faithfulness throughout the year .

In January I will be visiting my daughter and her family. As we have already spoken I will be available to speak to the church or the board about the year's results anywhere between Jan. 20 to 24, in case you think that this is possible, let me know about that.

Please find attached some pictures of our activities in 2023.

Thank you again for your support and prayers. It means a lot to us.

I still hope sometime next year that the mission trip can really happen, and you have a chance to be more close to our ministry here and expand FCC's outreach program in Brazil.



Nubia Mesquita will be joining us January 17 at both services.



**4 Joe Stroud**  
**5 Lynn Maxwell**  
**9 Hal Metts**  
**12 Ruth Divens**  
**15 Stanley Bryan**  
**17 Peggy Jarman,**  
**Mekella Reid**  
**25 Bob James**  
**26 Christa Bostic**  
**29 John Anderson**  
**31 Steve Marshburn**

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Meeting 7:00 PM  
Jan. 8 Board Meeting 7:00 PM  
Jan. 9 Christian Women's Fellowship  
Meeting 7:00 PM  
Jan. 20 7:15 AM Men's Birthday  
Breakfast at Angie's in Jacksonville

## **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

## **BIBLE STUDY**

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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