



WELCOME TO OUR
Chalice News



Pastor Mark Reid

A Message from the Pastor

Spring season

How the Physical season can reflect a spiritual season.

There are those seasons of Spring when everything seems to be new and blooming! Spiritually, this may be when we first come to know Christ as our Savior!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Reading God's Word, fellowshiping with other believers, praying & spending time with God every day is new and fresh! We feel new and fresh...and we are! Jesus has not only come into our lives and changed us; He has exchanged His life for ours!

Seasons come more than once though, and so during our spiritual life we get to enjoy several Springs along the way as God brings new growth as we dwell in His garden.

Spring is certainly a time of beauty and new growth! However, showers still come in nature as well as life. God uses them to help us grow in Him, and although He does not promise us a trial or rain-free life, He does promise to be with us in the storms!

I pray that spring this year will be a season of spiritual growth for us all. Whether it brings sunny days or stormy days, the Lord is always with us every step of the way.

Pastor Mark

2024 Samaritan ShoeBox Ministry

Here is a list of the items we normally put in all shoeboxes. Any items purchased can be dropped off in the red plastic container marked "Samaritan Shoebox" in the vestibule.

Youth T-Shirts (4T sizes to Youth Large)	1 Subject Spiral Notebook
Youth Flip Flops (no adult sizes on shirts or flip flops)	Small Lined Notebooks
Travel Size Tissues	Pencils
Dental Floss	Pens
Hairbows	Pencil Sharpener
Ponytail Holders	Colored Pencils
Hairbands	Crayons
Draw String Backpacks	Small Games
Small Puzzles	Stuffed Animals (approximately 5" to 7")
Pencil Pouches	Small Toys
Pencil Pouches	Small Balls
Sheets of Stickers	Jacks, Paddle Ball, YoYos, etc.

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	
Felt (all colors)	

The items we will be collecting in April:

Small Stuffed Animals (Easter items 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 the stores will have 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. Below is a statement from a shoebox recipient.

cont....

Vladimir -and- the Dental Floss

I grew up in the Ukraine in a family of nine children. We survived on rice and potatoes and, as the third from the youngest, I wore the clothes passed down to me from my older siblings—including tennis shoes. We took turns wearing them outside to play. We also shared a toothbrush among us.

My mom was very resourceful and made all of our clothes. She also did the laundry for all nine of us without a washer or dryer. She worked so hard scrubbing with a large block of Russian soap that her hands would crack and bleed.

Prior to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, we were persecuted heavily for our faith in Christ. My father was the pastor of an underground church that met in the woods or various apartments in the middle of the night. Aware of this, the government threatened to send him to Chernobyl to work on the nuclear reactor. Even after the fall, the persecution continued. Our culture taught that if you believed in God you were weak.

When I was nine years old, we learned about a special event for low-income families. I'll never forget riding the bus and the tram to this occasion. It was a harsh winter and I didn't have warm clothes, but I didn't feel cold at all—only excited. As I sat looking outside the window, it was as though time stopped.



When we arrived we found a lot of welcoming American smiles. They served us snacks, sang songs, and showed us a cartoon sharing the Gospel. At the end of this, they opened big boxes that contained our Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. I had never received a gift before.

As my siblings and I opened our shoebox gifts, I was so excited to look at the brightly colored packages and toys—including a yo-yo! I thought this was so cool because it was bigger than the yo-yos that were popular in the Ukraine. The school supplies inside my shoebox also made me feel special because my family couldn't afford them. For once, I had something that others in my class did not have.

My favorite thing in the box, though, was dental floss. I didn't know what it was so I licked it, thinking it was candy. Then I learned it was for brushing your teeth, so I rubbed the floss along the outside of my teeth. I thought Americans were interesting people if they brushed their teeth with a string, but decided that since they have beautiful smiles, it must work for them. I wondered if it was an invention that hadn't come to the Ukraine yet.

Once the wax wore off, I used the fancy string to tie sticks together to make toys that would float in the water.

Inside my shoebox was also a note and a picture from a couple who lived in Colorado. Years later, it meant a lot to consider how they gave of their time and money to bless me.

My shoebox gift gave me an example of unconditional love. No strings were attached. Bribery was commonplace in the Ukraine, so a gift was rarely a gift—something was always expected in return. Most people looked out only for themselves, but the shoebox gifts gave us hope that people can be loving and generous. Receiving something as a free gift was new to me—and helped me better understand God's free gift of salvation, which we can't earn and can never repay.

Four years later, a relative of ours in the United States started lobbying for my family to immigrate to their city in Tennessee. Approvals came through, so in 2000, we sold our apartment in order to finance our journey. The local mafia, however, discovered that we had cash on hand. A friend of my sister Nadia told her that they were planning to kidnap one of us for ransom.

With a chartered bus waiting on the street to take us to the airport, a group of friends came to our three-bedroom, fifth floor apartment to escort us one-by-one to our transportation. Other friends waited with those who had made it to the bus. This ensured that no one was left alone and vulnerable to the mafia's schemes. When we finally got on the airplane, we were relieved.

Today, I work for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte as a web designer. I enjoy packing shoeboxes together with my wife and two boys. My favorite thing to include is a soccer ball, because it is often shared by the entire neighborhood. Playing soccer helped me avoid some of the common traps for youth in my culture, like drugs and alcohol.

I pray that the Operation Christmas Child gifts we send will bless each child and help them see God's unconditional love—just as my shoebox blessed me.

Thank you for your love and support with this ministry.

Brenda Huffman

CHRISTIAN WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

(CWF)

After gathering in the fellowship hall on March 12th, prayer was offered. We also shared prayer praises and concerns.

Our devotion, "Kept in Heaven," was given by Rosolyn. The scripture was from I Peter 1, 3 & 4. Nothing we treasure here on earth stays as it is. Our God has the best and He is saving the best for us in heaven.

We signed several all-occasion cards. A thank you card was read. Kristy reminded all of us what the menu was for our March 17th ham dinner fund- raiser. The food was delicious and the fellowship was great. Thanks to all who supported our first fundraiser.

Mara had asked CWF to prepare an Easter poster to be on display in the CLC on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Thanks to Brenda H. for the Easter article we used on the poster. All CWF ladies signed the poster.

We also planned the menu for feeding the residents at the Onslow County Homeless Shelter on Saturday, March 30th, at 6 pm. We served fried chicken, baked beans, mac and cheese, deviled eggs, rolls, finger desserts, lemonade. and tea. Thanks to Melissa Mobley, Johnny Broughton, Shirley and Bob Woodard for serving.

We gave a love offering to a couple as our monthly service project. For one of our local ministries, RCOM, we continue to donate small bottles of mustard, jam, ketchup, jelly, spaghetti pasta, pancake mix and pancake syrup. Also, for our local ministry, CHEW, we continue to donate Pop Tarts, instant oatmeal and instant grits. Thanks to any and all who have donated to either of these two, local ministries. We welcome any donations you may continue to give. Our ladies again are collecting shampoo, conditioner, men and ladies' deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, regular size boxes of Kleenex, and also Polident for the residents of The Heritage, Richlands, N. C. These items are always welcome as well.

The CWF Treasury report was given. Also, the Christmas box report was given.

For general information, the movie we have scheduled for August 11th has been changed to July 14th. Please keep in mind these movies are for all ages and all are welcome to attend.

Delicious refreshments provided by Shirley were enjoyed. At our next meeting April 9th, Gayle will be the hostess. All ladies are invited to join our monthly meeting.

We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ann Metts, Secretary

Christian Men's Fellowship

The CMF met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 4th with eleven men present. After some future preparations for the Children's Easter Party and Mother's Day were discussed, the group heard a very inspirational message from Mike Beasley, the Navy Chaplain for New River Air Station. His message was based on an unusual, yet most inspirational, scripture taken from Colossians 4:7-18, in which the Apostle Paul shared his thanks for the many men who had supported his Christian ministry. The Chaplain noted that Christian ministers of today are drastically leaving their positions, mostly because of a lack of support and encouragement by fellow laymen within their congregation. He urgently requested that each man think of various ways that he can support his minister, physically, mentally and spiritually. God needs each of us to be stronger in our support of our Christian leaders in the challenging world in which we now live!

On Saturday, March 16th, nine men gathered at Angie's Restaurant in Jacksonville to enjoy Christian fellowship over a breakfast meal and to celebrate the March birthdays of Dennis Jones and Bill Wilson. Remember, we now gather on the third Saturday of each month at 7:45 a.m. to celebrate birthdays and to enjoy Christian men fellowship while eating a good breakfast. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, April 20th at 7:45 a.m. Edward Williams promises to have a good program for us.

All men of the church are needed to make our CMF more successful. So, please plan to join us on Monday evening, April 1st, at 7 p.m. [No APRIL FOOLING!]

Dennis E. Jones, CMF Reporter



STARS Ministry

Seniors That Are Really Special

55 Years Old & Wiser

First Christian Church Richlands

“The spirit never ages. It stays forever young.” – Lailah Gifty Akita
“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” – C. S. Lewis

A “Sloppy Sunday” lunch was held on Sunday, March 10th following the 11:00 worship service. Those in attendance enjoyed a time of fellowship and a delicious meal of sloppy joes, barbecued wings, coleslaw, corn on the cob, desserts and beverages. We missed those who didn’t join us.

Birthday wishes are extended to everyone who have an April birthday. We hope you have a blessed one.

Make plans to join us for “A Fun Time with Our Stars” which is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, 4:00 pm to 7:00pm. All ages are invited to join us for a time of fellowship with games and laughter. A light supper will be provided.

Remember when....

Laundry detergent came with a free glass.

You depended on paper maps for directions.

You put playing cards in your bicycle wheels.

You made chains out of gum wrappers.

Manual credit card imprinters were high-tech.

EVENTS

Spring Seminars

Sponsored by DHF of NC

April 13, 2024

9:30 a.m.

(Registration will begin at 9:00)

First Christian Church, Richlands

124 Trott Road, Richlands

Seminar
Topics

Reaching Young People
Human Trafficking



DHF Gathering



Disciple Heritage Fellowship holds 2 seminars every year. FCC will be hosting 2024 Spring Gathering. This event is open to all to attend, which include all DHF of NC Churches. It will include lunch. Please sign-up in the Vestibule, bulletinboard across for the office.

Breakfast

April 14th 9:30-10:30

Sponsored by Social Committee



Kid's Night

April 21 4:30-6:00 PM



April 20th

Men's Birthday Breakfast

- Angie's in Jacksonville
- 7:45 AM



Fun Time With The STARS

- 4:00-7:0 PM Open for all ages.
Fellowship, laughter, and a light dinner



April Birthday's

4 Carter Jones,

Sandi Jackson

6 Ann Jones

8 Kay Heath

14 Leah Hall

18 Beverly Black,

Isaac Hernandez

21 Ben Black

23 Anola Swinson

30 Aiden Reid

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 Wednesday Night 6:30-8:00 PM

Choir

Practice on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm.

Praise Team Practice on Thursdays

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

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