



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Goldsboro, NC 27530
919-735-3092

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Youth and Website Andrew Clarke
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919-920-7915
Organist/Pianist/Choir Director
Tom Casey
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Church Secretary Wanda McCullen

Visit us online at
www.firstchristiangoldsboro.org
this week for videos on sermon,
communion, music, and scripture.



Weekly Conference Call Times
Wednesdays at 6:45 PM.

Here is all you do:
Dial 712-770-5505 and then wait
for instructions to enter access
code, which is 300904#

A Word from Pastor Tom

I've heard the following phrase repeated by many friends and neighbors in the past few days: "2020 was the worst year ever, for sure. But..." The person I am talking to then goes on to list one thing they are grateful for in 2020, whether it be getting to spend more time with their dog or re-connecting to a friend through long telephone conversations or unexpectedly getting to read more books.

I myself am grateful this year for all the time I got to spend with my daughter, who is two and a half years old. I saw all the small things you can only see when you spend day in and day out with someone. For example, she understood Christmas this year and especially loved the story of the three wise men and King Herod. But I could also tell she doesn't really understand past and future fully, and so didn't look forward to Christmas

the way I am sure she will next year. I got to see all that, and I got to pay attention to it: For that reason, amongst others, I am grateful for 2020.

How to explain this habit of finding something to be thankful for? Is it a kind of escapism—an effort to ignore how bad things are and force oneself to be happy, the way a Christian is 'supposed to be'?

I don't think so. We all know how bad it is. As far as I can tell, we all know someone who has died this year. There's no ignoring or escaping from that. We know how bad it is, and that is why we are practicing gratefulness. We know we need things that will get us through. We know we, each of us, are in a place of spiritual warfare, and need to be reminded of our great hope through the small signs of hope we find around us. So I encourage this practice to you: Find something about 2020 to be grateful for, not as a way of ignoring all the pain, but as a way to sustain oneself through it.



OUTSIDE GATHERING AT CHURCH CONTINUES THROUGH JANUARY

We were blessed to have wonderful indoor-outdoor hybrid services throughout the month of December. We continue to have beautiful piano music from Tom Casey (and also chimes!). Brantley Watkins, Bunkie Parker, George Thigpen, and Penny Ziemer have all lent us the enjoyment of their wonderful voices during our times of special music. We plan to continue having these outdoor gatherings for the month of January, beginning at **10:30 AM. HOWEVER:** if it is cold we will begin the service indoors with a **Facebook live** and **radio broadcast (100.1 FM)** of the announcements and opening music. For the sermon, the pastor will still be set up in the entry way of the church, as before, but audio will be broadcast into your cars. We will be wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. The Sunday morning conference call has been suspended for the time being. Online services and other conference calls will continue, with the Wednesday conference call at 6:45 PM.



Online Services

During the month of November, First Christian Goldsboro reached **2,491 people** through our online ministries. The most watched video was **Tom Casey's "In the Bleak Midwinter,"** with **524 views**. Thanks be to God!

DECEMBER GIVING

December 6	\$2,475.00
December 13	\$4,307.00
December 20	\$1,080.00
December 27	\$2,226.00
Thanksgiving Offering \$	20.00
Christmas Offering \$	840.00



Special Offerings

'Thank you, thank you!' We are grateful to everyone who donated to our December special Christmas offering for **Regional Ministries**. We rejoice that so many of you decided to support our regional office—especially since you have a young pastor who needs support! **Results** of the special offering can be found below.

Special Mission Offerings through December 31

Protestant Preschool	\$272.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$216.58
Week of Compassion	\$664.00
United Church Ministries	\$470.00
Easter Special Day	\$480.00
Pentecost	\$120.00
CWS Hygiene Kits	\$295.00
United Church Ministries	\$1,215.00
Reconciliation	\$85.00
Blanket Sunday	\$480.00
Thanksgiving	\$365.00
Christmas	\$840.00
Total through December 31	\$5,502.58



JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING:

Protestant Preschool & Kindergarten

Protestant Preschool & Kindergarten is a place where children from age two up until first grade can find opportunities and experiences **to learn and grow spiritually in the awareness of God and to develop emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually**. The school is partially supported by contributions from area churches including First Christian. Supporting churches are asked to annually receive a special offering for the school. These offerings are used to support the school and provide scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to attend. Each year we receive this special offering during the month of January. **Your gift makes a difference and can affect a child for a lifetime.** Please give generously.



A big **thank you** from the church staff to all who made our Christmas bonus possible! We feel appreciated and loved and are honored to serve you. ~ Tom, Tom, Wanda, & Andrew.



Grace Price, Cheryl Griffin, Eloise Kleinert and family, Mary Ethel Lewis, Joe Ben Sauls, G. A. and Kathy Spain, June Anderson, Willie and Faye Rogers, Rick Rogers (Faye & Willie Rogers' son), the family of Billie Ursano (Faye Rogers' sister), John and Becky Selzer and family, Rebecca Daniels, Lorraine Loch, Bradley King, Val Watkins (Brantley's sister-in-law), the Spain's great granddaughter Katie, Molly McElDowney (Sharon Jones' daughter) and her brother, David Reynolds, Robert Strader (June Anderson's son-in-law), Linda Hilburn, Chuck Saeger (husband of Patricia Nickens Saeger), Bill Smith, Gary Bartlett, Herbert Hill, Mary Anne Cowley, Ruby Santee, Anne Pittman, Jay & Kelley Pittman, Linda McCoy, Ken McCoy and family, Jana Blackman, Johnnie Kleinert, Judy Williford, Lyn Williford Jr., Lou & Jeff Rose, Ben Satterfield, Joyce Sauls, Faye Tatum (cousin of Marsha Hall) in the loss of her husband, Herbert Hill and family in the loss of Tommy, Dennis & Gwen Horne, and those suffering with and working with COVID19.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sandra Bell – 3
John W. Selzer, Sr. – 3
Brantley Watkins – 5
Mandy Daniels – 8
Melissa Hall – 11
Mary Anne Cowley – 12
Jay Rose – 14
Miriam Clarke – 15
Steve Savage – 15
Roger King – 17
John E. Selzer, Jr. – 21
Mike Kleinert – 26
Derek Sauls - 30
Elders Presenting Scriptures
in January

In January, we will continue videotaping our elders reading Scripture at our live service.

January 3 Brantley Watkins
Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20;
Ephesians 1:3–14

January 10 Mary Bartlett
Genesis 1:1–5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1–7

January 17 Gwen Horne
1 Samuel 3:1–10; Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18;
1 Corinthians 6:12–20

January 24 Dennis Horne
Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Psalm 62:5–12;
1 Corinthians 7:29–31

January 31 Dennis Isenhower
Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1–13



JANUARY ELDERS

Since we are not meeting in our sanctuary or serving homebound communion in December, our December elders are available for pastoral care:

January 3	Sharon Jones
January 10	Dennis Horne
January 17	Linda Cannon
January 24	Mary Bartlett
January 31	Tim Creech



January Lectionary 2021

January 3

Jeremiah 31:7–14
Psalm 147:12–20
Ephesians 1:3–14
John 1:10–18

January 10

Genesis 1:1–5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1–7
Mark 1:4–11

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1–10
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
1 Corinthians 6:12–20
John 1:43–51

January 24

Jonah 3:1–5, 10
Psalm 62:5–12
1 Corinthians 7:29–31
Mark 1:14–20

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1–13
Mark 1:21–28



MEMORIALS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Tom Hill by Ms. Virginia B. Shaw.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Tom Hill by Mrs. Judy Williford. A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of John Kleinert by Mrs. Judy Williford.

Gifts were given to the Building Fund in memory of Tom Hill by the following: Mrs. Margie Savage, Mr. & Mrs. George Thigpen, Mr. & Mrs. Brantley Watkins, the CWF of First Christian Church, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bell.

Gifts were given to Current Expense in memory of Tom Hill by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hill and Celia & Eric Dean.

A gift was given as a Choir Memorial in memory of George, Teenie, and Frankie Wilson by Scottie Percise.



Where do you find the Christ Child? A big thank you to all who participated in the Christmas pageant and to all who participated in the recorded Christmas Eve service. If you haven't watched these awesome videos yet, visit our church Facebook now!



Advent Devotionals

We were so grateful to Rev. Dr. Penny Ziemer for her beautiful Advent devotionals. I loved this poem at the end, in which I find stillness:

“Holy Child,
Help me remember
To hold on to you,
To embrace you,

To nurture you,
To swaddle you,
To listen to

Your breathing,
The sound of your voice,
The shape of your words,

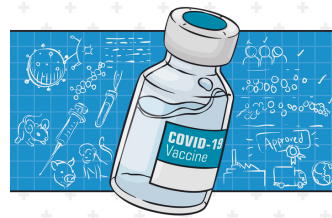
The beat of your heart.”

What a blessing to have such words accompanying us through the Christmas season. Please send along your thanks to Penny! Thanks also to Linda Thigpen for the Upper Room devotionals. The sustenance of words gets us through times like these.



SCHEDULE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Administration** on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:45 PM over conference call
- **Elders** on Tuesday, January 19th at 6:45 PM over conference call



HEALTH CARE PSA

In case you hadn't heard: As of December 30, those who are **75 years of age and older** can now make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination. We are so grateful to all the scientists, government funding, and organizational labor that has made this happen!



You may need this address:

Joe Ben Sauls
115 Malcolm Glenn Ln.
LaGrange, NC 28551

Eloise Kleinert
3616 Waxwing Court
Wake Forest, NC 27587



SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPALIDOCIOUS!! I really just did not know how to express my sincere “Thank you” for all you did to make my Christmas so special, so I just did it with a big word. I love each of you, “First Christmas Church Family” and wish 2021 to be one of your best! ~ June Anderson



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