

Christmas Special Offering

The Christmas Special Offering supports regional ministries. Our regional offices nurture ministers and provide work and worship opportunities for church congregations. Often recognized for camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination, both key to church leadership and development. Our finest gifts also support regions as they work to:

- Connect congregations to each other*
- Foster faith development*
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies*
- Nurture the development of new pastors*
- Assist churches in calling new ministers*
- Interpret the global mission of the church*
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings*
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit*
- Lead the Church to address racism*
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create*
- Witness to the power of God to make things new.*

Our Christmas Special Offering supports all these regional ministries and many others. Please give generously to this year’s Christmas Special Offering.

NC REGIONAL ANNUAL FUND 2019

Bishop Valerie Melvin has made an appeal for an extra gift to the NC region. You may include that in the Christmas Offering.

UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES REPORT FOR OCTOBER 31, 2019

Contacts	29
New applicants	7
Rent paid	\$838.19
Medical	30.00
Total for applicants	868.19
Number helped by vouchers	19
Number of food bags	12
Number of families helped with food bags	9
Number in families helped by food bags	24
Total number of persons helped	44
Regular checking	\$12,085.33
Benevolence	\$ 4,737.44
Savings	\$16,290.04
Mary Thompson	

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

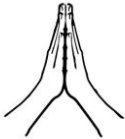
Nov. 3 rd	\$2,455.00
Nov. 10 th	\$2,321.00
Nov. 17 th	\$3,005.00
BBQ profit after expenses	\$10,002.78
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 130.00

DECEMBER 2019 BIRTHDAYS

- Herbert Hill – 2
- Rebecca Daniels - 9
- Michael Moorefield – 10
- Alexandra Baker – 13
- Faye Rogers – 14
- Jackson & William Rose – 16
- Lou Rose – 17
- Andrew Clarke – 17
- Carla Franzen – 18
- Emily West – 21
- Lynne Herbst – 24
- Betty Ussary – 25
- Linda Cannon – 26
- Lauren Cowley Youngs – 31

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS 2019

Grace Price, Eloise Kleinert, Mary Ethel Lewis, Kathy Spain, June Anderson, Willie and Faye Rogers, Rick Rogers (Willie & Faye Rogers' son), John and Becky Selzer and family, the Kleinert family, Teenie Wilson, Lorraine Loch, Abby Martinez, 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), Brenda Thompson (sister of Mary Thompson), Dennis Isenhower in the death of his mother, Rose Marie Isenhower; Bishop Valerie Melvin in the death of her uncle Irvin Allen Knight; Family of Laura Price



MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Laura Price by Dr. & Mrs. George Thigpen.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Laura Price by Ms. Edith T. Pulliam.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of Laura Price by Mr. & Mrs. Bill Smith.

A gift was given to Samaritan's Purse in memory of Laura Price by Mr. & Mrs. John Selzer.

A gift was given to Current Expense to honor the memory of Katie & Herbert Hill on the occasion of their 95th wedding anniversary by Lynda & Bob Hill.

To My Family at First Christian Church,
Bill and I thank you so very much for your concern for us and our family. It was terrible about Dennis' death, then we went right into Bill's health problems. Doesn't seem to end, though all is better now. Can't imagine not having the love and care of a church like ours. We are truly a family. Thank you again for sharing and showing your love. In Christ we stand, Cathy and Bill Smith

ADMINISTRATION MEETS DEC. 10

Administration will meet in the Conference Room on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 7:00 PM. Join us as we discuss some projects for the New Year!

CWF/DWM DECEMBER GROUP MEETINGS

Group 1: December 7th, 9:00 A.M., CWF Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Group 2: December 6th, 11:30 a.m., Walnut Creek Country Club
Group 4: December 4th, 12:00 p.m., Western Sizzlin'

CWF/DWM Christmas Breakfast

The CWF will hold its annual breakfast on Saturday, December 7th, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be Christmas fun for all!



2019 HANGING OF THE GREENS

The beautiful Hanging of the Greens will be a part of our Sunday morning worship service on December 1 at 11:00 A.M. Hope you can join us!

SANCTUARY ADVENT DEDICATIONS

Greenery and poinsettias for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are provided by the gifts of the congregation. Please fill out a form in the narthex by Dec. 16 and leave in the offering plate, place outside the office door or give to Wanda. You may also mail in.

GREENLEAF CC WOMEN'S DAY NOV. 30

On Nov. 30, Rev. Dr. William Barber and well-known Christian author and speaker, Dr. Renita Weems will present at Greenleaf Christian Church. All are invited.

9 to 12 Rev. Dr. Barber

followed by lunch

3 to 5 Dr. Renita Weems



CHRISTMAS CANTATA DEC. 15

Tom Casey and our Chancel Choir in combination with the Choir of Casey's Chapel, with guest director Becky Kerns, will present the Christmas Cantata at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday afternoon, December 15, here at First Christian. Refreshments will be served. Please invite friends and join us!

SERVING SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 2019

Elders:

Dec. 1 Cheryl Griffin & Sharon Jones

Dec. 8 Sandra Bell & Mary Anne Cowley

Dec. 15 Mary Jane Rose & Judy Williford

Dec. 22 Linda Cannon & Bunkie Parker

Dec. 29 Mary Bartlett & Dennis Isenhower

Deacons: Dennis Loch, Jim/Ann Pittman, and Joe Williford

Homebound Communion:

Dec. 1 Sharon Jones/Ann Pittman

Dec. 8 Mary Anne Cowley/Dennis Loch

Dec. 15 Judy Williford/Jim Pittman

Dec. 22 Linda Cannon/Joe Williford

Dec. 29 Mary Bartlett/Ann Pittman

Deacon of the Day

December 1 Dennis Loch

December 8 Ann Pittman

December 15 Joe Williford

December 22 Jim Pittman

December 29 Dennis Loch

CD Ministry

December 1 Cheryl Griffin

December 8 Ronnie Thompson

December 15 Judy Williford

December 22 Ronnie Thompson

December 29 Mary Bartlett

Elders Reading the Lessons

December 1 Sharon Jones

December 8 Sandra Bell

December 15 Mary Jane Rose

December 22 Linda Cannon

December 29 Dennis Isenhower

Preparing Communion and Chancel

Gary/Mary Bartlett

THIRD CENTURY SINGERS CONCERT will be held Sunday, Dec. 1, at 6:00 P.M. at First African Church Goldsboro, and on Dec. 8, at 4:00 P.M. at First Baptist Church, Goldsboro. Come and enjoy!



WINTER WOOLY Items- December through February we will be collecting winter hats, scarves, gloves and socks for children, youth and adults. Please place donations in the Christmas box in the hallway (which we used for Samaritan Purse). We distribute these to our guests at Last Saturday Supper and the Community Soup Kitchen.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN MEET

Dec. 8 at 10:00 AM to practice play

Dec. 15 at 10:00 AM to practice play

Dec. 22 at 10:00 AM to practice play

They will present play "Come They Told Me during worship.

They will also meet at church **on Dec. 22 at 4:00 P.M.** to go caroling with refreshments following in the Parlor.



DECEMBER 22 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

In worship on December 22 our youth and young adults, together with our Chancel and Handchime Choirs, will present "Come, They Told Me" during the 11:00 A.M. morning worship service. Come and enjoy!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

All will meet at the church on Sunday, December 22, at 4:00 PM to go Christmas Caroling with refreshments following in the Parlor.



CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 PM SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, we will have one service only this year, our Candlelight Communion Service, at **5:00 P.M.** Please invite family and friends to celebrate with us.



NO CMF MEETING IN DECEMBER

CMF does not meet in December. CMF will next meet again in January of 2020.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The Advent Devotional, *All We Need For Christmas*, will be available in the narthex on Dec. 1.



MOVING FROM GOOD TO GREAT

DECEMBER PENTECOST

CHALLENGE- SURRENDER

To live humbly: "What does this mean for the child of God? It begins with an old-fashioned word in Christian circles – surrender. There comes a time in our life when we recognize that Jesus Christ gave Himself fully for us, and we must do the same in reverse – give Him our whole life and say, 'All to Jesus, I surrender.' Our past experiences, good and bad; Our present circumstances; Our future goals and aspirations; Our blessings and burdens; Our hopes and the things that haunt us; Our friends, family, and finances." "Sometimes we struggle with total surrender, for we're afraid God will ask us to do something we don't want to do or to go somewhere we don't want to go-Jonah had this problem, remember? But only surrender brings victory, and only full yieldedness brings full usefulness." "When Queen Victoria asked William Booth the secret of his ministry, he replied, "I guess the reason is because God has all there is of me" "Does God have all there is of you?" (Turning Point, May 2019) Sharon Jones, Community/Evangelism Chair

MINISTER SEARCH TASK GROUP

The Minister Search Task Group is making progress in its task of seeking a new pastor for our church. We expect to begin holding in person interviews soon. We are confident that God will guide us to the best candidate for First Christian Church. Hopefully we will be able to begin negotiations with our leading candidate soon. Please continue to pray for your search group as we continue our search.

LECTIONARY STUDY FOR DECEMBER

First Sunday of Advent - December 1, 2019

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Second Sunday of Advent - December 8, 2019

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2019

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Nativity of the Lord - Proper I - December 24/25, 2019

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

First Sunday after Christmas Day -
December 29, 2019

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

CHILD OF THE PROMISE

Many of you have enjoyed the Child of the Promise in past years at the Paramount Theatre. The dates this year are Dec. 20 at 7:30 PM, Dec. 21 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM and Dec. 22 at 3:00 PM. Tickets are available through the Paramount.

CHURCH'S MAILBOX

Members who wish to send Christmas Cards to members may use the big red alphabetized mailbox at church. It is a great way to save on stamps. Members, please check the box!

CHANGE IN NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sometimes we have time to work on the newsletter early in the month, so if possible, turn in your news items by the 15th. If you need until the 20th, that is fine also. Thanks!

1609 East Ash Street
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530
DECEMBER 2019

THANKS FOR A GREAT BBQ/CHRISTMAS ATTIC/BAKE SALE!

The whole church offers a great "Thank You" to all who worked so hard on our recent fundraiser. After all the bills were paid, was earned by your hard work. Thanks again to all who provided cookers, food or other supplies, to the dedicated overnight help, to all our men, women and youth who helped with the BBQ, Christmas Attic, and Bake Sale. Most of all, we thank God for enabling us to do this!

THANK YOU, WORSHIP TASK FORCE!

The church thanks Mary Jane Rose and all the Worship Task Force, with the help of Joyce Sauls, Beth Spain Yeager, Judy Williford and many others already working behind the scenes to make our Advent preparations!



Thank you to all those who contributed and to our Samaritan Purse boxes and to our Youth, led by Andrew Clarke, for assembling the **Samaritan Purse boxes**!

The **Secretary** counts offering on Monday mornings. Unless there is something urgent, it would be helpful to postpone office business until Monday afternoon. Thank you.

H.E.L.P. Since our heating, electricity, light, and power costs are higher in the winter, any contributions to our H.E.L.P. would be appreciated. Envelops in narthex

HOLY LAND TRIP IN 2020

Would you like to join Fred and Andrew Clarke on a trip to the Holy Land Oct. 14-23, 2020? See info in the narthex.

Also make note of Fred's new address:
2362 Parsonage Road
Apt. 2-C Charleston, SC 29419

*A MERRY AND
BLESSED CHRISTMAS!*

