



**SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**  
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 1609 E. Ash St.  
 Goldsboro, NC 27530  
 919-735-3092

Minister Rev. Dr. Tom Millay  
[tom.millay54@gmail.com](mailto:tom.millay54@gmail.com)  
 919-273-7030  
 Youth and Website Andrew Clarke  
[goacanes87@yahoo.com](mailto:goacanes87@yahoo.com)  
 919-920-7915  
 Organist/Pianist/Choir Director  
 Tom Casey  
[tmc Casey53@earthlink.net](mailto:tmc Casey53@earthlink.net)  
 Church Secretary Wanda McCullen

Visit us online at  
[www.firstchristiangoldsboro.org](http://www.firstchristiangoldsboro.org)  
 this week for videos on sermon,  
 communion, music, and scripture.



**Weekly Conference Call Times**  
**Sundays at 10:45 AM**  
**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**

Did you know that you can die from loneliness? That may sound exaggerated, but studies have shown it to be true. This lamentable fact leads also to a celebration: the work our church is doing is literally life-giving. I think we may all have felt that to a greater extent recently. One of the lessons of the pandemic is that we are not the proud individuals we sometimes imagine ourselves to be. We need each other. And that is exactly what church is doing right now: giving us the gift of each other. The next time you talk to someone from church, remind yourself: my life depends on you. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, true. But I believe the Holy Spirit works through the members of our church family to provide that sustenance we deeply need. How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!



**OUTSIDE GATHERING AT  
 CHURCH CONTINUES  
 THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

We were blessed to have wonderful outdoor services throughout the month of August. There were some mornings that threatened rain; instead, we were blessed with coolness and much needed refreshment. We continue to have beautiful piano music from Tom Casey (and also chimes!). Brantley Watkins, Linda McCoy, Bunkie Parker, 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 September, beginning at 9:30 AM. We will be wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. Online services and conference calls will continue as before, with the Sunday conference call at 10:45 AM.



*Thanks for your continuing faithfulness and devotion to the church and each other during these challenging times! We pray God will bless you in mind, body and spirit!*



No Calendar Mailed out for September. Conference Call Times and Other Virtual Meetings included in this newsletter!



**PLEDGE**

Moderator **Gary Bartlett** will soon be sending out a pledge letter and pledge card announcing our annual fund raising campaign for next year's budget.

### AUGUST GIVING

August 2	\$3,038.50
August 9	\$3,163.00
August 16	\$2,955.20
August 23	\$1,505.00
August 30	\$1,182.00
UCM	\$ 850.00



### Special Offerings

A huge ‘thank you!’ to everyone for your donations to our August special offering for **United Church Ministries**. This was much needed support for a vital and important local ministry. **Results** are located across the page.

Our **missions special offering for September** supports the **Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**. Offerings fund the Church’s mission to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship, and intentional dialogue. Through this mission, the Church seeks to promote healing, relationship, and restoration in the whole family of God. The mission provides programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities. Our gifts help to **ensure the human dignity of every child, to ensure all have access to Christ’s abundance, to fully flourish in education, financial stability, and friendships across God’s human diversity**. Thank you for your generosity.



### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies in August. Our hope is to take some of the burden off of students during this difficult and stressful time. On Tuesday, August 25, Ronnie Thompson delivered the following school supplies to Communities Supporting Schools:

- 28 Composition Notebooks
- 136 Pencils
- 14 Pencil Sharpeners
- 30 Large Erasers
- 20 Boxes of Crayons
- 4 Packs of Filler Paper
- 6 Glue Sticks
- 5 Scissors
- 10 Rulers
- 1 Notebook Binder

### Special Mission Offerings through August 23

- 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 \$1,090.00

**Total through August 23 \$3,607.58**



**Evangelism/Community Challenge for September. A Call to Repentance and Prayer.**

Psalm 7:10 *My defense is of God, who saves the upright in heart*

“In 1849, Asiatic cholera spread through America. During the outbreak approximately 4,500 people died in St Louis, 3,000 in New Orleans, and 5,000 in New York City, where many victims were buried in a mass grave on Randall’s Island. President Zachary

Taylor proclaimed a National Day of Fasting, calling all Americans to ‘humble themselves before His throne, and while acknowledging past transgressions, ask a continuance of the Divine mercy.’ He urged them ‘to acknowledge the Infinite Goodness which has watched over our existence as a nation, and so long crowned us with manifold blessings, and to implore the Almighty in His own good time to stay the destroying hand”

On Friday, August 3, 1849, Americans filed into churches to unite in humility and prayer; and by the end of the month the death toll “dropped suddenly,” and the plague abated.

Our world is stained by sin, filled with suffering, and subject to plagues. But there’s never a time we can’t humble ourselves before God’s throne, acknowledge our sins, and ask for a continuance of divine mercy. His all-powerful hand can preserve and protect us and His infinite wisdom can direct our affairs. His sovereignty is the source of our strength and stability.”

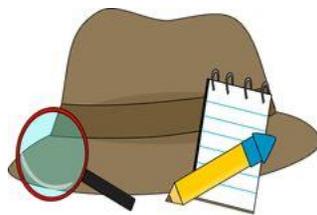
*From: Daily in His Presence (copyright 2019).*

**What can we do?** “We are asking each of you to commit **for 30 days to daily unite in prayer** before His throne, and while acknowledging past transgressions, ask a continuance of His Divine mercy.’ Acknowledge the Infinite Goodness which has watched over our existence as a nation, and so long crowned us with manifold blessings, and to implore the Almighty in His own good time to stay the destroying hand,” specifically the destroying hand of the virus Covid 19 and the many kinds of violence which are plaguing a number of our cities.

Please sign up on the “sign up” sheet available at church this following Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to sign up in person, let the church office know and your name will be added to the prayer commitment.

Together with our Lord, nothing is impossible.  
Sharon Jones

PS If you have friends at another church, share our prayer commitment and invite them to join us.



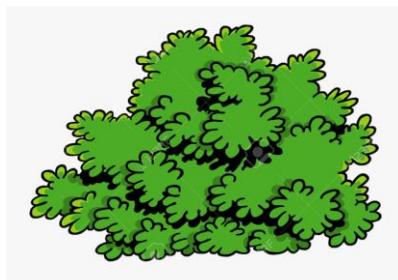
### **Step into the Water: A Socially Distant Scavenger Hunt**

Just because we’re socially distancing doesn’t mean all fun is off the table. Let’s go out a little deeper and have a socially distant scavenger hunt. We are planning to gather together one evening as a number small, family-based teams, and then be sent out to get a list of items needed by the church, such as stationary and school supplies. We’ll then re-gather and share a catered meal—outdoors and at a distance, of course! More details with respect to time and items will follow. Be on the lookout!



### **BBQ Fundraiser Delayed**

One of the many disappointments of this time of the pandemic is that we have had to delay our BBQ fundraiser. As a Texan, Pastor Tom was looking forward to finally knowing what BBQ is supposed to taste like. Because of the delay (until at least spring of next year), we are asking that you **DONATE** what you would normally contribute to the BBQ to the church. It is difficult to raise money without our normal events—but if there is one church that can do it, First Christian can. Let’s join together in continuing to support the church during this time.



**George Thigpen** is putting together a team to **care for bushes and other shrubbery** around our church. George will bring the trimming equipment, and he will need volunteers to assist him in the work (with picking up, cleaning, etc.). If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office and we will put you on the list. A yard care date will be announced soon.



**PRAYER CHAIN** Last month, we reconfigured the prayer chain. (A huge thank you to Linda McCoy for her help in this matter!) We made up a new list for our initiators, and shifted a number of members over to receive a text message instead of a call. **ATTN: if anyone would like to join the prayer chain who is not currently on it, please contact the church.** We'd be glad to have you!



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), 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, Linda McCoy, Ken McCoy and family, Jana Blackman, those suffering with and working with COVID19, and the family of Tanner Bjork, who passed away the last week of August.



Congratulations to Cathy & Bill Smith on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!



#### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Adrienne Strickland – 4  
June Anderson – 8  
Kathy Spain – 8  
Carolyn Ziemer Nassef – 13  
Jack Rose, Jr. – 16  
Wendy Hicks – 20

### Elders Presenting Scriptures Online in September

We thank our Elders and Young Adults for continuing to present our scriptures online and to Andrew for videotaping.

Sept. 6 Bunkie Parker  
Exodus 12:1–14; Ps. 149; Romans 13:8–14

Sept. 13 Sharon Jones  
Exodus 14:19–31; Ps. 114; Romans 14:1–12

Sept. 20 Andrew Clarke  
Exodus 16:2–15, Ps. 105:1–6, 37–45; Phil. 1:21–30

Sept. 27 Melissa Hall  
Exodus 17:1–7; Ps. 78:1–4, 12–16; Phil. 2:1–13



#### **September Elders**

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

Sept. 6	Sandra Bell
Sept. 13	Tim Creech
Sept. 20	Dennis Horne
Sept. 27	Linda Cannon



#### **September Lectionary 2020**

##### **September 6**

Exodus 12:1–14  
Ps. 149  
Romans 13:8–14  
Matthew 18:15–20

##### **September 13**

Exodus 14:19–31  
Ps. 114  
Romans 14:1–12  
Matthew 18:21–35

##### **September 20**

Exodus 16:2–15  
Ps. 105:1–6, 37–45  
Phil. 1:21–30  
Matthew 20:1–16

## September 27

Exodus 17:1-7

Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16

Phil. 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

## MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Betty Millay by the following:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bell

Mr. & Mrs. Brantley Watkins

Christian Women's Fellowship

Mrs. Margie Savage

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Nick Rose by Mr. & Mrs. Brantley Watkins

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Teresa Larson by Mr. & Mrs. George Thigpen.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of Nick Rose by the Christian Women's Fellowship.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of John Kleinert by Celia & Eric Dean.

A gift was given to the Choir Fund in memory of Teenie Wilson by Celia & Eric Dean.

A gift was given to Decorations in memory of Mary Ellen Ham by Celia & Eric Dean.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of Teresa Larson by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cannon.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of Betty Millay by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cannon.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of Nick Rose by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cannon.



## LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

To My Church Family,

Ken and I would like to thank you during this tough year, for the prayers, phone calls, and food. We could certainly feel the love many days from you. And then the terrible passing of my step-daughter, Ken's daughter, we could feel the prayers during that time also. I really don't know how people can not have a church family, because honestly, some days for me were very low, but friends and my minister, Tom Millay, would help me through it.

God bless my church and my church family,  
Linda McCoy

## CWF THANK YOU

Thank you for all your support of the CWF Pantry. Several decades ago, Mrs. Katie Hill established our pantry, housed on her back porch. It was her vision to be a bridge for families who needed a short term food supply. We are blessed to have helped so many people. As coronavirus peaked, there were many requests for food from food banks, the Salvation Army, etc. We have taken all food from our pantry to the Salvation Army so that we can help meet the needs of our community. At this time, we will no longer maintain a church pantry. Again, thank you.

CWF Service Department



## REGIONAL COMBINED MEN'S AND WOMEN'S VIRTUAL RETREAT SEPTEMBER 12

"Hope and Resilience: Hallmarks of  
our Faith"  
Sept. 12

The Regional Combined Men's and Women's Virtual Retreat will be available on the NC Regional website at 10 AM on Saturday, Sept. 12. It is all pre-recorded for convenience in viewing and has no registration or fee. It will be presented in three parts, featuring presenters from our NC History Task Group (Rev. Rex Horne, Rev. Jerry Burton, Rev. Doug Stokes), and former Regional Minister J. O. Williams on Disciple History in NC, our Woman to Woman to Morocco, Chantia Battle, and messages from our General Church. Come enjoy a three part celebration of our origins, legacy and hope for the future! Our retreat closes in Part 3 with a worship service with Bishop Valerie Melvin, Rev. Dr. William Barber and others.

We will celebrate the vibrant music of Angel Lorton and also New Generation Christian Church.

Also included are several break out sessions on a variety of topics!

Since this is pre-recorded, you can enjoy as your schedule allows.



**SCHEDULE: UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **Administration** on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM (conference call)
- **Elders** on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:45 PM (conference call)



**You may need this address:**

**Jo Ben Sauls**  
2150 Hull Rd., Rm. 206-A  
Kinston, NC 28504

**Eloise Kleinert**  
3616 Waxwing Court  
Wake Forest, NC 27587



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