

The Christian Caller

fccfarmville.org

February 2019



*"...You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, and with
all your mind.'
This is the first
and great com-
mandment.
And the second*



from our Pastor

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

Let's face it. By now, most of our Christmas decorations are down, packed away, and our New Year's resolutions have been made and many broken.

I say "most" because growing up in Richlands there was at least one family in our neighborhood who never got the memo about when to take down their Christmas decorations. Christmas lights, according to the terms of our community, had to be down by New Year's Day--January 1.

As a teen I discovered these folks were not "Christian" like me. They were Episcopalian. Worse yet they were Yankees: visitors from the North who came from afar but, unlike the Wise Men, never returned to their homeland.

As a teen I tried to be a good neighbor. I explained to their oldest son, who was about my age, that here in the South all Christmas lights had to be down by New Year's Day. "Says who?" he retorted. He was unreachable. He then added: "We celebrate Epiphany," But all I could think was: "The nerve! E-piphany was as foreign to me as E-piscopal."

Of course I now know that Epiphany is that time of year when led, by the star of Christ, the Church takes up the task and work of Christmas. We share the news of Christ's birth with the world. We leave Bethlehem and, with the Magi as our fellow travelers, we "go home another way." (Matthew 2:12)

"The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader sums up what this other-way home actually looks like.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

So our work begins. And if you need to keep your Christmas lights on for a while, you won't get any lectures from me.

Proud to be your pastor,

Phil

Board Meeting Highlights

General Board Meeting Jan 13, 2019

Present: Judy Owens, Kim Griffiths, Chester Ellis, Al Joyner, Paul Bryant, Amy & Leslie Church, David Whitley, Christine Dempsey, Doug Barrow, Wes Flake, Mary Steinbauer, Jean Suggs, John Briley, Miriam Lewis, Joyce Albritton, BJ Lawrence, Gina Langston .

EDUCATION: VBS will be here at FCC June 9-13, evenings. The June meetings (Elder, DWM, ministry teams, General Board) will be held a week earlier, June 2.

PROPERTY: Please remember to use the 'over-ride' function on the thermostats if you must adjust the temperature.

OUTREACH: Whichever group is scheduled to cook on the Wed before our Soup Kitchen day (1st Friday of the month), is asked to cook enough food to use at the Soup Kitchen. Discussions are underway regarding having some pre-packaged food available to give out to anyone in need who shows up at the church asking for help. Members will never be asked to open the door when they are alone or feel unsafe.

MEMBERSHIP: Worship committee will be assisting the Choir on their nights to cook, and Outreach and Education have together formed a new cooking group added to the schedule. Wed Night Supper will be held on Jan 24 instead of Jan 23 to accommodate the Hookerton District Meeting here at FCC.

PLAYGROUND: The Eagle Scouts working on our church playground will hold a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Sat, Feb 16. \$8/ticket—eat in or take out.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY: FCC may send 3 voting delegates and 3 alternates. Contact Judy Owens if interested (April 27).

Next Board Meeting—Jan 13

Worship

The 2018 Worship Committee met several challenges during the year. First Tim resigned because of a move, new job and travel time. A “big” thank to BJ for once again stepping in to serve as Music Director. We were so fortunate to welcome Penny back to First Christian as organist/pianist.

Kevin resigned in August and once again we were fortunate to have members of our congregation fill the pulpit for several months. Then last of November we welcomed Phil Jones as our Interim Minister and things have been running smoothly since that time.

The Worship Committee is always open to suggestions, complaints and hopefully some compliments. You may contact any member:

Joyce Albritton, Co-Chair	Dottie Bryant
Kim Griffiths, Co-Chair	Cindy Barrow
BJ Lawrence, Music Director	Donna Moore
Suzanne Jones	



SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER

Support the Eagle Scout project
that's going to get that
playground built on our church
grounds!

SAT, FEB 16

\$8 at the door — 5-8pm — eat in/take out

In Our Prayers

Prayer needs:

Mabel Bowen, Ann Byrd, Marie Cowan, Cissy Deas, Jean Ellis, Annie Gurganus, Bobby Hodge Sr, Janie Joyner, Betty Lewis, Joyce Letchworth, Camilla Murphrey, Beth Norville, Joan Smith, Myrtle Sugg.

In service to our country:

Jameson Cowan, David Groseclose, Zach Murphy, Jake Nicholson

Please notify an Elder of any changes.



Fri, Feb 1

Membership

Reminder about Wednesday night supper charges: \$24 is the new family maximum per Wednesday night and children under 5 eat for no charge.

To ease a little of the work off of the people who serve on multiple cooking groups, we have added a couple of new/revised partnerships to the cooking schedule. The choir will now be assisted by the Worship committee and there will be a new cooking group comprised of Outreach & Christian Education. Thanks in advance for your participation in this change.
(cooking schedule on back page)

Quilting Bees

Can you sew a straight stitch? You should be a BEE! The Quilting Bees are looking for anyone who has basic sewing skills and wants to help with this amazing ministry.

Rev. Phil Jones Receives Brite Divinity School Award

Rev. Phil Jones recent recipient of the Alberta Brown Distinguished Minister Award from Brite Divinity School. Rev. Jones is the first Tar Heel Disciple to receive the award since its inception in 2002.

Rev. Jones retired from full-time ministry in 2017. He served St. Paul's Christian Church from 2005-2017 and is currently the Transitional Minister for First Christian Church, Farmville.

Before retirement he served in pastoral roles at First Christian, Smithfield, NC, Central Christian Church, Austin, TX, Ayden Christian Church, Ayden, NC and First Christian Church, Longview, TX.

In addition to his pastoral work, over the years Rev. Jones also taught in the subjects of Ministry, Homiletics, and Ethics at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pitt Community College, Barton College, and in the Lay Academy for our region here in N.C.

He is married to Catherine Cralle Jones, also a life-time Disciple and a practicing environmental attorney in Raleigh. The couple have two adult children, Hannah Elizabeth and Zachary.



Coffee & Pastries
Every Sunday

9:30am Fellowship Hall

February Birthdays

John Baumgartner	Feb 3
Madelyn Davis	Feb 3
Josh Walker	Feb 3
Nancy Quinerly	Feb 5
Amy Driver	Feb 6
Martha West	Feb 7
Lesley Albritton	Feb 9
Marie Cowan	Feb 10
Ruth Taylor	Feb 11
Harry Albritton III	Feb 12
Joan Smith	Feb 17
Bobby W. Hodge Sr.	Feb 19
Janie Joyner	Feb 28

GIVING MADE EASY

Your bank will do the work for you! Just sign up with your bank's 'auto pay' feature, and your bank will mail a check to FCC on a regular schedule—whether it's weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or something else.

You get to be sure that even if you have to miss a Sunday or even if you left your checkbook at home this week, your giving goes on and your church can continue its work.

More and more of our members are using this hassle-free method to keep up with their giving. Check it out!

NC Youth

We have two awesome retreats planned for all middle schoolers and high schoolers, and both are coming up soon! Register today to reserve your spot! The cost for each retreat is \$90.

For our high schoolers, we actually have two opportunities!
1) The 2019 CYF Midwinter is February 1-3 at Camp Caroline. You can register online here (www.bit.ly/2019midwinter).

2) We also have an incredible opportunity for all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. If you have an interest in planning and leading youth retreats, small groups, worship experiences or you have an interest in becoming a better leader, then you should consider applying for the 2019-2020 RCYW. More information can be found here (<https://ncdisciples.org/youth/>). All applications are due by January 31.

Now for our middle schoolers, we have an awesome Spring Retreat planned! The 2019 Chi Rho Spring Retreat is March 1-3 at Camp Caroline. You can register online here (<http://www.bit.ly/2019chirhospring>).

If you wish to register by mail for a retreat, you can download the Midwinter form and the Chi Rho form here (<https://ncdisciples.org/youth-retreats/>). You can mail the forms and RCYW applications to:

**Luke Miles c/o: Hillyer Memorial CC
718 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603**

As always, please don't let transportation or costs keep you away! We can work out car-pool situations, and we have scholarships available!

Dear God of Heaven and Earth,

Thank you for the dawn of a New Year. We appreciate our life, health and strength, as well as your benevolence toward us. Please accept our love for you today as we call upon your most holy name!

We ask that your mercy and grace always abound toward us. Sometimes in our limited state, we do things that are contrary to Christian character. We are truly sorry, and ask for forgiveness. Please draw us closer to you, that we may grow into maturity by your precepts and the examples Christ left for us.

We pray for our local churches, districts, and our region that we may know and do your will. Help us to embrace Scripture, prayer, meditation and reflection in new and invigorating ways.

Keep us lifted in our thinking. Teach us to see the positive side of life, and avoid becoming victims of bitter and cynical mindsets. Holy Spirit, help us to embrace practices that keep our hope alive. The media does so much to frame our thinking. Teach us God, to listen to the wisdom of your heart more deeply than the latest soundbite.

We need a revelation of who you are in this moment. Touch us with your spirit, so that we may stand assured that our God is sovereign. And even though we do not always know how things will work out, we are confident that they will work together for our good!

Gracious God, you gave Jesus your authority to become our salvation. Help us, as your children, to accept the gift of eternal life by accepting the nature and character of your Son, Jesus! Receiving the gift of eternal life means to believe and accept you, and your Son. Your oneness is our example. Help us to become one church, unified, in sync, and in love with one another – just as you, your Son, and the Holy Spirit are one and remained one, when the destiny of creation hung in the balance.

There is so much that this region is capable of doing. We are able to lead people to Christ. We are able to help those left behind or in the margins of life. We are able to provide food for the hungry, and clothing for the naked. We are able to provide safe shelter for the stranger. We are able to speak truth to power. We are able to be ONE church in ONE region whose God is the Lord! We are able to stand against all injustices and violent nature with solidarity. We are able to embrace all languages, behaviors, and actions that unify us. We are able to engage poli-tics without allowing politics to dictate our Christian ethics and integrity. We are able to disagree without enmi-ty. We are able to love without dissimulation. We are able to live out the rich cultures of each pocket of our re-gion without disrespecting the culture of others. We are able to be ONE, but we can only do this in you, our Di-vine Director, who shows us what it looks like to be ONE with another. Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, you are one, and today we pray for the Region of NC that same oneness. We cannot thrive without it!

Help us to stop fearing what we do not know and the change that time brings. Give us the fortitude to learn about one another, our cultures and our different theologies. Help us to walk out our ONENESS by refusing to harm another. Draw us closer to one another so that we may see the many things we have so closely in common, those things that really make us one. Draw us closer to one another so we can truly SEE one another, HEAR one anothe-r, LOVE one another and be present with one another.

There are many things in life that we may have to live without, but we the Christian Church (DOC) in NC do not want to live one more day without the unity we find in you, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Thank you for ushering us into this age of ONENESS! May it be so! In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Regional Minister's Prayer

OUTREACH



As most of you know, the church decided to donate the White Christmas donations to provide presents for the Angel Tree organization this year. If you are unfamiliar with this organization, one of its missions is to help provide Christmas presents for children who have a parent in prison. This is something we have been participating in for many years. This year, with the help of the White Christmas and several church members, we provided presents to about 20 children. As Leslie, Nora, and I delivered these gifts, we were welcomed by many family members thanking us many times over for helping to make these children's Christmas. One mother called us in tears stating this meant more than we could ever imagine because her daughter would be getting a gift from her Dad who cannot be there physically to celebrate with her. She stated that when her daughter reads the card from her father, she will know that just because he isn't there physically, he still loves her.

Again, I want to thank all of you for allowing me and my family the opportunity to do this amazing ministry. It is a reminder that we cannot judge someone's situation and it is not about what is inside the box but about what family means no matter where they are!! ~Amy Church, FCC Angel Tree Coordinator

February Servants

Elders: Miriam Lewis HE; John Briley
Deacons: Amy Church HD; Leslie Church, Velinda Moore, Jessica Avery, Jackie Bulpett
Trustee: Bert Smith

*If you are unable to serve,
please contact someone
to take your place.*

Church Staff

Rev. Philip Jones	Interim Minister revpjones@bellsouth.net
BJ Lawrence	Interim Director of Music music@fccfarmville.org
Penny McCreary	Pianist
Kim Griffiths	Church Administrator office@fccfarmville.org

Church Office: (252) 753-3179

Regular Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm, Mon—Thurs, 9am—12pm Fri

Also by appointment.

office@fccfarmville.org fccfarmville.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Feb 6 - Membership
Feb 13 - CMF
Feb 20 - Covered Dish
Feb 27 - DWM

Mar 6—Choir/Worship
Mar 13—Outreach/Education
Mar 20—Covered Dish
Mar 27—Membership

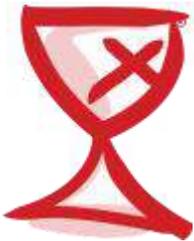


Mission of First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

Farmville, North Carolina

It is the mission of First Christian Church (DOC) of Farmville, NC to provide an environment where all who come can learn, fellowship, worship, and grow spiritually closer to God. We will fulfill our greater obligation to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by being of service to the members of our community and to the world. Our efforts will be done in the name of Jesus Christ.



**First
Christian
Church**

Disciples of Christ

3776 South Main St.
PO Box 205
Farmville, NC 27828

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb					1 11a Soup Kitchen	2
					CYF Midwinter @ Barton	
3	4	5	6 9a Quilting Bees 6 Wed Night Supper— Membership 7 Choir	7	8	9
10 8a Elders mtg 2-5 Fellowship Hall reserved 5p DWM Exec. mtg 6p Ministry Teams 7p General Board	11 10 DWM— church library 7 DWM— church library	12	13 6 Wed Night Supper— CMF 7p Choir	14	15	16 5p Spaghetti Supper for Eagle Scout project/ playground
17 8a CMF mtg 2-4 Fellowship Hall reserved	18	19 9-11 FBM 7 Trustees mtg	20 6 Wed Night Supper— Covered Dish 7p Choir	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 6 Wed Night Supper— DWM 7p Choir	28 6 CMF Dist. Mtg— Timothy	SUNDAYS 9:30 Coffee + Pastries 10a Sunday School 11a Worship	