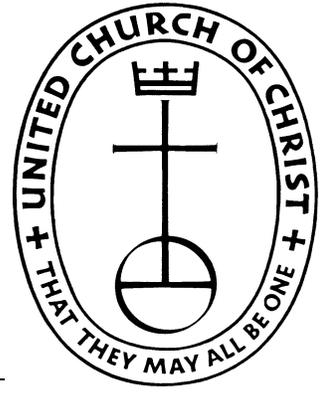


First Christian United Church of Christ Newsletter May 2019



*The Lenten and Easter Season around First
Christian... Alleluia! He is Risen!*

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

One of the interesting, hypothetical questions I hear people raise on occasion is, "If Jesus were alive today, how would he live?"

In our day, would he walk or have a car? Would he use the radio or TV to share his message? Would he be dressed in suit and tie, blue jeans and t-shirt, or in rags? Would he own a house, rent, stay with friends who would give him a place to sleep, or stay outdoors? How would Jesus live if he lived in our day?

I find this to be an interesting, imaginative exercise, especially since we are called to be his followers. If Jesus were living among us today, how would you and I recognize him so that we could follow him? What do we have to take up, or give up, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus? How far can we stray from his lifestyle and still be accepted as one of his followers?

I believe the way you and I would be able to know of Jesus' presence among us today would be in the same way Jesus told John the Baptist's disciples that he was the expected Messiah – Luke 7:21-23. We would know Jesus through the work that he did among us.

An important issue that I think you and I have to consider is Jesus' words spoken to Philip in John 14:12. Jesus said, *"I am telling you the truth: whoever believes in me will do what I do – yes, he will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father."*

Jesus is not physically alive among us, but we have the calling as his followers to do the work that he did if we are to be faithful to him. Maybe the scary question that you and I should ask is, "Do other people know that I believe in Jesus through what they see me doing and through hearing what I say?"

We celebrated Easter on April 21. That was the day we remembered Jesus conquered death, as he said he would do. If Jesus knew this would happen, then we should also believe the other truths he taught as well. We should also be concerned to obey Jesus' command for us to love one another, so that Jesus' work may still be done on earth through the efforts of our lives.

Is Jesus able to work through you to accomplish the good that he would like to see done on earth? Can others know of Jesus through the words and actions of your life? Jesus tells us, *"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you."* (John 15:13-14)

Easter was when we remembered Jesus gave his life over to death so that he might receive life again, and so give us hope that we, too, may have eternal life in a place Jesus called Paradise.

Jamie Fonville, Supply Pastor

SPAGHETTI SUPPER ON THE HORIZON

This year the Board of Deacons will once more partner with the Alamance Council for the Blind in sponsoring our annual spaghetti supper. That meal will be held in our Bray Fellowship Hall on Friday, May 10th. Doors will open at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$9 per ticket available from a member of the Board of Deacons. And once more we will be graced with the presence of "The Cornpickers" who will provide entertainment. If you can't sit down and eat, take-home plates are available. And if we have enough left over, spaghetti sauce will be sold in quart containers at the end of the evening.

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NEWS FROM MARK PICKETT

It has only been a couple months since I retired the beginning of February, but so much has happened that both Margot and I feel as though we've been caught up in a whirlwind. Beginning in February, we started working in earnest at getting our house ready for sale. We did a lot and, in the midst of it all, we saw a house in CO that seemed like a good fit. After having our daughter and real estate agent check it out, we flew out for a quick visit ourselves. Long story short, things came together, and we closed on that house March 26th.

In the meantime, we finished working on our place here, decided on real estate agents and listed the house March 28th. We almost immediately had a couple good offers and went under contract that Sunday afternoon. The projected closing date here is May 2nd. The movers are coming on the 29th, loading the van on the 30th, then it is off to CO. See what I mean about a whirlwind?

Our new address will be 4620 Lucca Dr., Longmont, CO 80503. The house is just a mile from where our daughter, son-in-law and grandkids live and only about three blocks from where they will eventually go to elementary school. So, we are feeling like this is a good place to land. We have been so crazy with all of this that the realization of leaving NC hasn't yet fully set in. We love it here and love our house, but family calls out west. It will be the start of a new adventure and chapter in our lives. And we certainly are planning to come back this way. After all, there are no beaches in CO, not to mention Duke basketball!

We will keep you posted and appreciate your prayers. And I want you to know that I regularly think about all of you and keep you in prayer as well.

Trusting in God, we all move forward to new challenges and opportunities and, hopefully, a number of unexpected joys as well. Blessings on you all. It was great to be a part of your lives for so long.

Mark

A LETTER FROM ALLIED CHURCHES...

Dear Community Supporters:

Alamance County Allied Churches (ACAC) is committed to honoring and maintaining its core mission: "Housing the Homeless and Feeding the Hungry". ACAC has maintained its case management services, shelter facility, and the community kitchen via "Joe's Diner". We are proud to continue these services and will continue to impact the "Homeless Population". ACAC has always been committed to ensuring that it remains fiscally responsible and that it continues to look for ways to add diversity to its financial portfolio. Despite the enormous generosity of ACAC's Stakeholders, it has become quite evident that ACAC needs a diversified revenue stream.

Over the past couple of months, donations have decreased. The decrease in donations from all categories indicates that while we were in crisis, the community rallied together and helped this Agency stay afloat and survived, but as time passed the donations tailed off once again. We have to increase our monthly donations in order for ACAC to thrive in the next 3 to

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6 months. These months are critical and historically these are low donation months for ACAC. It is imperative that we meet our financial goals in the upcoming months.

As we move forward it is our goal to provide the best service that we possibly can. Staff and the Board will continue to work on eradicating homelessness in Alamance County and providing meals for community members that are less fortunate. Our primary focus will be to provide continued services and to maintain open communication with the community.

Respectfully,
Jai Baker
Executive Director

MARGARET LIGHTBOURNE CIRCLE MEETING

The next meeting of the Margaret Lightbourne Circle will take place on May 6th at 10:30 am in the church conference room. All are invited to attend. This will be the last meeting until August 5th, 2019 at our circle supper meeting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

- Special “Thank You” for those who helped make the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday so spiritually rewarding for our Church Family.
- Thank you to Joan Paschal for writing our thoughtful devotions that were printed in our Lenten and Easter Musings.
- Thank you to those who shared their crosses that were displayed in the Church Walkway.
- Thank you to Nancey Simmons for loaning the Crown of Thorns that was displayed on the Altar during our worship services that had been made by her mother, Sarah Simmons.
- Thank you to Matt Rice and the Choir for the inspiring music they provided to aid us in our worship.
- Thank you to Carol Fonville, Helen Little, and Eleanor Lovgren for decorating Bray Fellowship Hall and coordinating our Maundy Thursday Service.
- Thank you to Lucius Wilson for playing his guitar for our Early Outdoor Easter Service.
- Thank you to the Board of Deacons for the delicious Easter Morning Breakfast and the time it provided for us to share in caring fellowship.
- Thank you to Keith Miller and Ken Little for all they do behind the scenes as Trustees to keep activities at our Church going smoothly.

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SUPPER CLUB – APRIL 2TH

The Supper Club gathering will be held on May 7th. We (the Supper Club) will be meeting Kimber's Restaurant on Main Street in Gibsonville. We will gather at 5:45 pm, and as it now stays light until 8pm this gives us plenty of daylight for our travels. They have plenty of parking... so that will not be a problem. This is a "pay your own way" event. Come join in on the fun and fellowship always experienced at these gatherings. Please call Eleanor Lovgren (336-226-2671) by 8 pm on May 2nd to make your reservation.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM CHURCH MEMBERS...

Thank you for the newsletters and cards. It is a bright spot in my day to hear from my church family. I am doing great, but miss everyone in Burlington, most of all I miss the church and my church family. Tell everyone 'hello' for me.

Love to all, Mary Menefee

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS...

- First Sunday of Each Month – Food Donation Sundays for distribution through the Salvation Army to those in need of food around us.
- Spaghetti Supper May 10th, 2019. (see article for details)
- Skin Cancer Screening sponsored by Cone Health on (Monday May 20th, 5:45 – 7:45 pm, Cone Health Cancer Center at MedCenter Mebane, 3940 Arrowhead Blvd, Mebane) (Monday, June 3rd – 6-8 pm, Cone Health Cancer Center ARMC, 1236 Huffman Mill Road, Burlington)
- The total collected for Relay-for-Life was \$4866.00.
- The total collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering was \$771.00.
- There will be no Women's Circle meeting in June and July.
- There will be no Sunday School in July.
- The next newsletter will be a two-month combination newsletter for June/July.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Anna Gerow.

Friends: Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Elizabeth Woodlief—mother of Peggy Johnson, Family of Dolly Watson, Sarah Wilson—Niece of Mike Smith

In your prayers, please remember the families as well as the persons listed.

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FOOD DONATIONS – FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

In many places in the Scripture we find the instructions to share with others... to care for our fellow man. Isaiah 58:1-10 speaks of the ways of fasting and giving to others. Matthew 25:34-40 tells us that as we are feeding others, we are feeding Christ. Luke 3:11 instructs us to share with others, and Proverbs 19:17 and 22:9a speak to the idea of 'blessed to be a blessing'.

We are collecting non-perishable food donations on the first Sunday of each month. Items may be placed in the barrels located in the Bray Fellowship Hall at any time. The food items collected will be donated to the Salvation Army Food Ministry when the barrels reach capacity... and thank you for your donation!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year to Date through 03-31-19

	Actual	Budget
Income:	\$75,364.74	\$51,724.50
<u>Expense</u>	<u>\$42,776.70</u>	<u>\$51,743.50</u>
Net Balance:	\$32,588.04	\$19.00
Balance in Checking 03-31-19		\$52,765.42

Everyone's continued support is greatly appreciated to carry on the ministry of the church. Please send in your giving today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Little and Connie Collins
Treasurer and Accounting Manager

OUR MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Office Hours:

Tuesday–Thursday 9 am–Noon & 12:30–3:30pm

Monday & Friday, closed

Ministers—All the People of the Church

Rev. Jamie Fonville—Supply Pastor

Matt Rice—Organist/Choirmaster

Cheyenne Collins—Childcare Provider

Joan Paschal —Office Support

Connie Collins—Financial Support

Rodney Paul—Custodian