



COMMUNITY OUTREACH WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

Dick Garrett

Need something, anything done at the church, need someone to get a task accomplished – “who ya gonna call?” Ghostbusters – Oh no! We call Dick Garrett. Really! Dick does it all.

Dick was raised in the Disciple church. His great grand parents were members of Olive Branch Christian Church and then Grafton Christian Church. His grandparents were members of Grafton Christian Church and 30th Street Christian Church. Dick and his parents and siblings, Betty and Barbara, attended 30th Street Christian Church and moved here to First Christian Church from there.

Dick grew up in the Sunday School programs, Children’s Church, Chi Rho and CYF. He attended camp at Craig Springs the year it opened. He was baptized on Easter Sunday in 1955. He and Marsha were married here at First Christian Church on Todds Lane. While working in North Carolina he became a Licensed Lay Minister and pastored several small churches in that area.

Dick has led this church as Vice Chair and Chairman of the General Board on several occasions. He currently serves as co chair of the property committee, chairs the Building Use committee, teaches an adult Sunday School class (he probably could not tell you when he has not taught a class), is our CMF president and the president of the district men’s group. He is chair of the elders and until recently sang in our choir. He is called on when the drains back up in the kitchen, when the toilets don’t work, when the refrigerator quits working, when we need a substitute for most anything. He works with a small group of men who keep our yard mown, climbed ladders to help install better lighting in the parking lot, comes from Smithfield almost everyday to tend to something here at First Christian because the list of things he tends to goes on and on. If we need something done, anything done – we call Dick and he willing agrees to do whatever is asked of him. For almost a year he served in a rotation to pastor this congregation while we searched for a new minister and during that time he baptized Greg Campbell. He has also ministered to those of our members in their time of greatest need by performing funerals for loved ones.



God has richly blessed Dick with many talents and he, in return, blesses this congregation by using all his talents for the welfare of this church.

Erma Bambeck wrote “When I stand before God at the end of my life I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”

Dick – you certainly could honestly say these words – because you honestly do give everything you have to God’s glory and honor. Thank you.

Do you know a Community Outreach warrior to whom we should give special thanks? Send us a brief write-up for our Newsletter’s new ‘Community Outreach Warrior of the Month’ column!

Pastor's Pen

I worked with several individuals and non-profits to gather those essentials. If you venture to the room beside the choir room you will see how well people responded, eager to fill these wish lists. The room will be open until the end of April for these guests to come gather what they need, free of charge. After that, the remaining contents will be donated to other organizations working with those that are unsheltered.

On March 27th many of our guests returned to surviving on the streets. Through a seed planted by HELP staff, I worked with others to make sure survival essentials were provided for those individuals. Our newest ministry partner, Tidewater Exchange Club, sprang into action and worked on a campaign to gather, for everyone, a backpack, a sleeping bag, and a tent. Their campaign was so successful that they were able to purchase 50 complete sets of these survival essentials plus, water bottles, first aide kits, and cooking utensils. Each guest was blessed with one of these kits as they left our facility on that sad, rainy Sunday.

This sheltering ministry has opened our eyes to the needs of our unsheltered population in the community. Please be on the lookout for several new ministry opportunities to be presenting themselves in the upcoming months.



Pastor's Pen

As March ended our sheltering services did as well. Roughly 55 men, women and children sought shelter with us for over 100 nights during the months of November, December, February, and March. Our church became home for many of our guests, and I am certain we will see them continue to worship with us occasionally. As a church I want each of you to know that the hospitality, kindness, and love you offered over these last several months healed many a wound in our fellowship hall. For the first time in a long time, our guests felt like they were truly welcomed. And that is evident in the blessing of 7 Night's Welcome guests joining our congregation and calling First Christian Church (DOC) home.

As we prepared for their departure, many of our guests worked to attain housing vouchers. Many days I would be greeted with excitement, as they shared their wonderful news. In hearing this news, and knowing they were moving with nothing but the clothes on their backs. I began asking them to give me a wish list of housing essentials.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS!

**DARYL JOHNSON, SR., JOSH STATON, CALVIN ALEXANDER, JORDAN HILL
ASA PARKS, VAN EVANS AND GRACE SHEFFIELD**

Exchange Club Paint Night Fundraiser in Hampton with Amy Z!

Tidewater Exchange Club presents Acrylic Paint Night Friday, April 28 at First Christian Church

Social 6:30-7:00PM

Painting 7:00-8:30PM

Ticket cost: \$35.00

Checks made payable to Tidewater Exchange. Club Reservations required.

Snacks provided. Door prizes throughout the evening.

For tickets contact Marie Warren (757) 508-8864

or Margaret Moore (757) 329-1554

Ticket must be presented at the door.

All proceeds go to Community Service Projects



Please help us try something new!!!!!!

We have a people from Northampton churches, organizations and schools working together to put on this event! You can help!

1. Donate money to FCC/ designate that the funds go to Northampton Community Connection Fair (NHCC)
2. Volunteer to help on April 29 (rain date May 6) Want information?! Call or text Joan Davis - 7857-508-3412

Email: joanbdavis05@gmail.com



APRIL 11 from 9:00AM-2:00PM

Schedule your appointment online and fill out your Rapid Pass to speed up the process at the site

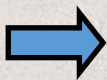
A colorful poster for the Northampton Community Connection Fair. The background is light blue with white clouds. At the top center is a logo consisting of a circle of colorful dots. Below the logo, the text 'NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CONNECTION' is written in black, followed by 'FAIR' in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the main text are seven purple circular callouts with white text: 'FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC', 'FAMILY & FUN ENTERTAINMENT BY WANDA', 'CRAFT & FOOD VENDORS', 'GAMES & FUN', 'RAFFLE TICKETS FOR DONATED FOOD', 'FREE FOOD AS SUPPLIES LAST', and 'RAIN DATE: MAY 6TH'. At the bottom, the address '1458 Todds Lane, Hampton, VA 23666' and 'First Christian Church' are listed, followed by the date and time 'Saturday, April 29th 1pm-4pm'.

1458 Todds Lane, Hampton, VA 23666

First Christian Church

Saturday, April 29th 1pm-4pm

In honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month the Tidewater Exchange Club donated the pinwheels that are displayed on our front lawn



WOOHOO!! It's Coming Back.

One of the ministry opportunities that came out of our sheltering program was the need for free meals. So, it is with great excitement that we are announcing the new beginning of THE WELCOME TABLE. First Christian is partnering with other churches, clubs, and organizations to provide hot meals on Tuesday night beginning May 9th. Please contact Connie or our newest member Josh Staton if you would like to participate in any way. Remember, many hands, make light work.



ELDER'S CORNER

The role of elders in the church has not changed much since the first elders were called. That mainly is because the role of elder is outlined in scripture. In the Old Testament church elders were to be shepherds to their flock and to set an example for them. Just like a shepherd they were to feed their flock (spiritually) work hard among them and to reprove where necessary and to care for the spiritual and physical needs of church members.

In the New Testament elders provided the primary leadership to and had oversight of the church. They settled disputes, prayed for the sick, watched out for the church in humility, provided for the spiritual life of the church and spent time in prayer and teaching.

Elders in our church today are to lead under the authority of Christ, to care for the body of Christ by feeding and nurturing and protecting it. They are to feed the church by teaching the Word of Christ which means they must KNOW the Word extensively and be able to communicate it effectively. They nurture by praying for and visiting the sick, taking communion when appropriate. They protect the church by making God guided, wise decisions as they lead.



Elders are to model the character of Christ and to meet the qualifications outlined in scripture. The way an elder lives life should be evidence that he or she is growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ.

To be called on to be an elder is a high honor and one not to be taken lightly. It is a privilege and a blessing.

ELDERS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Dick Garrett

Linda Kuster

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

- APRIL 2** Chris and Cynthia Heier
APRIL 9 Bob Bowman
APRIL 16 Bob and Martha Wright
APRIL 23 Sylvia Winfrey
APRIL 30 Dave and Carolyn Boyer

Thank you for your dedication to this ministry. Please mark your date on your calendar and in the event that you cannot lead on your scheduled date please contact someone else on the list to arrange a trade of dates or contact me and I will make substitute plans for you.

PLEASE read over your scripture before Sunday so you are familiar with the reading. There is a pronunciation guide at the lectern if you should need it. If you have any questions at all about the scripture itself or anything else connected with this ministry, please do not hesitate to call me.

Linda Kuster

Check out our Facebook page and don't forget to like and share!
firstchristianhampton.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPREADING OUR MUSTARD SEEDS

- April 1 – All church workday and breakfast (more to follow)
- April 6 - CWF meeting at 10:30AM in the parlor
- April 6 - Maundy Thursday at 7:00PM in the sanctuary
- April 7 – Combined Good Friday Service (Seven Last Words of Christ) @ 5:30 PM at Hilton Christian Church
- April 11 – Red Cross Blood Drive from 9:00AM – 2:00PM in the Fellowship Hall
- April 12 - Executive board meeting at 5:30PM
- April 28 – Acrylic Paint Night sponsored by the Tidewater Exchange Club from 6:30=8:30PM
- April 29 – North Hampton Community Connection Fair from 1:00PM-4:00PM on First Christian Church grounds

BIRTHDAYS

April 7
Grace Sheffield

April 12
Patti Moore

April 16
Julie Compton

April 19
Gene Stultz

April 22
Betty Cuthrell

ANNIVERSARIES

April 06 Bob and Martha Wright

