

First Christian *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2023
WWW.FIRSTCHRISTIANHAMPTON.ORG

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WARRIOR OF THE MONTH Mrs. Mildred Bliss Wagstaff

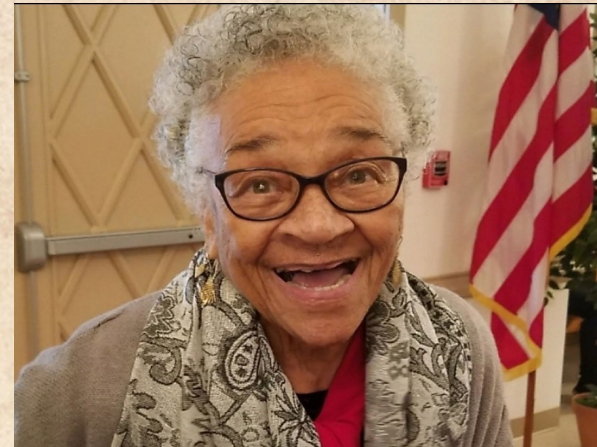
Born March 6, 1929 Happy Birthday to the youngest 94 year old we know! As she grows older, she grows younger at heart and more beautiful inside and out and is still sharp as a tack. She believes her body is God's temple and she goes to great lengths to make sure she takes care of it, which includes walking on her treadmill for 30 minutes everyday. She epitomizes what it means to grow old gracefully.

Before she moved to Hampton and became an integral part of our church family in 2012, she lived and worked in Norfolk as a social worker where she served with the compassion, love and kindness we all get to enjoy now.

We call her Bliss our top notch, forever and powerfully faithful Prayer Warrior who is dedicated to her early morning prayer time. She is who many of us turn to with our prayer concerns and she never forgets to check for updates. Her prayers follow us whenever we travel to our destinations and back. She is a trusted listening ear and advisor.

She cares for and shares with many of her neighbors to include two young boys she has taken under her protective, nurturing wings. She supports many worthwhile charities and ministries in our church. She gives so much more than she ever receives without hesitation. There could never be enough said for all that she does and all that she means to so many people.

She truly is the closest example of how God wants us to live our lives. She brings pure joy to those of us who have the pleasure of knowing her, and although she has never had children of her own, she claims many of us as her own by what she calls the heartline and we love her dearly.



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

For those who participate in the season of Lent, they find themselves on a spiritual journey of forty days, not counting Sundays. This journey begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word Lent is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten* meaning to "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days of our Lenten journey represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

For Christ followers Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Lent is a time when we as Christians focus on our relationship with God, growing as disciples, extending ourselves, and often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

During Lent Sundays are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

So, this Lenten season may you find your journey filled with repentance, growth and a deeper relationship with God. Celebrating "mini-Easters" with your church family, along the way.

Pastor Debbie



Pastor's Pen

What is Lent?

I recently had someone tell me they had never participated in Lent. For many of us we may hear that with astonishment. However, many churches today do not celebrate either the season of Advent or the season of Lent. Instead, choosing to move right into Christ's birth and resurrection. Choosing to set aside time for self-reflection in waiting and rushing ahead to celebration.



IN MEMORY OF



Our final farewell to God's good and faithful servant Louis B. Ensley: October 22, 1934 – January 17, 2023. A husband to Ruby for 48 years, a father, a grandfather, an Army veteran and a dear friend to many. Elder Emeritus since 2017 after serving as a deacon and worship chairman as part of the First Christian family for almost 50 years. Gone but never forgotten, he will be truly and deeply missed.



We are so happy to be hosting this training in March. Our territory is indeed expanding and we are going to need to build our Children's ministry team. If you are interested in being a part of it, see Pastor Debbie.



Worship & Wonder

WORSHIP & WONDER Training



DATE:

MARCH 17 6:00-9:00

MARCH 18 9:00-4:00

COST:

\$140 PER PERSON

TRAINER:

ELAINE AUSTIN

LOCATION:

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1458 TODDS LANE
HAMPTON, VA 23666

FOR MORE INFO

INFO@WORSHIPWONDER.ORG



REGISTER ONLINE:

[HTTPS://WORSHIPANDWONDER.REGFOX.COM/WW-TRAINING-HAMPTON-VA](https://worshipandwonder.regfox.com/ww-training-hampton-va)

DEADLINE:

MARCH 10TH

Craig Springs 2023 Camp Schedule

June 19-23 New Covenant Camp

June 25-30 Nature Camp (campers arrive on the 26th)

July 3-8 Special Camp

July 7-8 Grand Camp (on University of Lynchburg Campus)

July 10-15 Triple 1 Camp

July 17-22 CAMPDD Camp

July 24-29 Triple 2 Camp

August 4-6 Family Retreat

For more information about the different camps and registration visit their website <https://craigsprings.com> or Facebook page at Craig Springs Camp Information Page.

WELCOME BACK TO 'A NIGHT'S WELCOME'

SPONSORED BY H.E.L.P

If you happen to be in the building any time this month, please take a moment to go into the fellowship hall and say **WELCOME BACK**, to our guests from a Night's Welcome.

On the morning of February 12th I pulled into the church parking lot to see a U-Haul truck in the rear driveway. I was excited to know that it was move in day for our Night's Welcome guests. When I went back to greet them in the fellowship hall I was met with smiling faces and hugs. They are happy to be back with us and are looking forward to participating in worship with us again. Our guests will be with us until March 27th, so please take a moment during their stay to say hello. As a church the service that we provide to the homeless in our community, is a much needed and appreciated. In case you are unaware, we partner with neighboring organizations and congregations, to provide hot meals nightly as well as a light breakfast each morning. Please be with me in prayer over our time together, thanking God that we get the opportunity once again to be his hands and feet.



ELDERS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Chris Heier

Carolyn Boyer

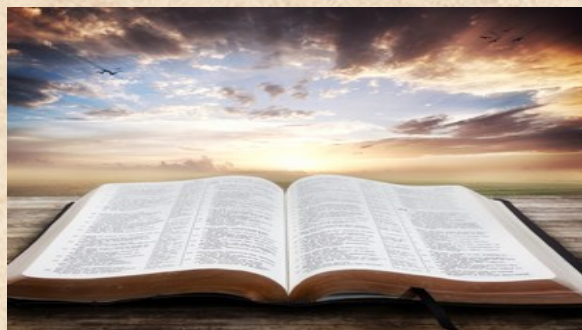
READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 5 Jason, Ginny and Josie Crawford

MARCH 12 Dick Garrett

MARCH 19 Linda Kuster

MARCH 26 Twana Robinon



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

- March 2 – CWF Meeting at 10:30AM in the Parlor
- March 8 – Executive Committee Meeting @ 5:30 PM in the Parlor
- March 10 – Worship and Wonder registration deadline (register online at <https://worshipandwonder.regfox.com/ww-training-hampton-va>)
- March 11 – Fellowship Breakfast and Brunch at Chalice Christian Church from 10:00AM – 12:00PM
- March 12 – Pancake Luncheon by the CMF immediately following worship (donations go to Special Camp Craig Spring)
- March 14 – North Hampton Community event meeting @ 3:00 PM in the Parlor
- March 17 – Worship and Wonder Training from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the Parlor
- March 18 – Worship and Wonder Training from 9:00 AM – 4:00PM in the Fellowship Hall
- March 28 – North Hampton Community event meeting @ 3:00 PM in the Parlor
- April 1 – All church workday and breakfast (more to follow)
- 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 29 – North Hampton Community Event (more to follow – point of contact Joan Davis)

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 05

Nellie Schultz

Martha Wright

Mar 06

Bliss Wagstaff

Mar 14

Dick Garrett

Mar 15

Katie Pearson

Mar 19

Milly Viers

Mar 27

Dennis Herring

