



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2023

COMMUNITY WARRIOR OF THE MONTH ELEANOR BROWN

When Eleanor Brown joined our congregation in 2016, having moved from Fredericksburg to be near Connie and Dennis, she immediately jumped into action at First Christian. Within a week or two, she joined the choir, started working at the Welcome Table, took over doing the laundry for the Welcome Table and joined the CWF and Sunday School. None of this was anything new for Eleanor. Her life of service to the church spans eight decades. While in Junior High School, she began attending Hilltop Christian Church in Mantua, Ohio, on her own. (None of the family attended church.) She joined Sunday School, CYF and Youth Choir, where she met Jack Brown, whom she ended up marrying at the age of 19. They started their family a year later and as soon as the kids were old enough she began leading the church's children's choir. She helped out in Bible School and continued in the adult choir and CWF for as long as the young family lived in Mantua. Outside of the church, Eleanor volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader. In 1967, the family moved to Dayton, Ohio, because Jack had taken a job with the government. The nearest DOC church was a half hour away, but she again joined the choir and CWF. Three and a half years later, Jack transferred to Alexandria, VA, so the family moved again. The nearest DOC was nearly an hour away. Jack and Eleanor felt that the kids, now in junior high and high school, needed to be in church with friends from school so the family joined Wesley United Methodist Church. True to tradition, she joined the choir and Sunday School and began helping out with the youth when needed. She was an officer in the United Methodist Women. Throughout the time the family lived in Alexandria, Eleanor regularly drove for Meals on Wheels and worked tirelessly with the Mount Vernon HS Band Boosters for eight years, in support of her family.

Upon retirement, Jack and Eleanor moved to Montross, VA, and not only continued with all of their prior regular church volunteering, but they began singing in a quartet that travelled extensively around the Northern Neck singing in retirement homes and other churches. At that time the two of them started driving for Hospice and often drove cancer patients to Richmond for treatments or surgeries. Eleanor eventually became the Hospice Coordinator for the entire Northern Neck.



The next chapter of Jack & Eleanor's life took them to Fredericksburg where they again became active in their church choir. Eleanor became an officer in the local United Methodist Women and was soon the treasurer for the entire Virginia District. During this time, Jack and Eleanor began going on Mission trips, traveling to Gulf Coast, other disaster areas, Appalachia, and the Red Bird Native American Mission to work building and repairing homes. Eleanor continued her work at the Red Bird Mission one last time after Jack's death 10 years ago. For Eleanor Brown, giving her time and talents to God has always been a fundamental, normal part of living. It's just who she is and what she has done every day of her life. God has richly rewarded her and is saying "Well done, good and faithful servant"

Pastor's Pen



**DANTE'
JOHNSON**



**MELFORD
DAVIS**



**WINONA
DAVIS**



Pastor's Pen

Church, what an amazing day Pentecost was, not only as we celebrated the significance of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church. But also, the opportunity to witness three of our new members being baptized. As a pastor, I will always remember this day as it was the first time, I had the honor of baptizing someone into the fellowship of believers. Their baptisms served to draw me back to the day of my adult baptism. I was able to recall the temperature of the water, the cries of the seagulls, the splashing of the waves, and the pouring down of the Holy Spirit. I too was baptized by the water, but also by the fire of the Spirit. Looking back little did I know that on that day the Lord was preparing me for things to come.

My prayer for you my congregation is that you were to a place of recalling your baptism as well. May these pictures serve as a reminder of the day when you too were baptized by both water and fire. The water to wash you clean and the fire to spur you on to greater service to our Lord.



JUNE 20th from 9:00AM—2:00PM
In the Fellowship Hall
Schedule your appointment online
and fill out your Rapid Pass to

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. This person(s) will work directly with Pastor Debbie. Needed one person (or a team of two people) who can volunteer roughly 4 hours a month to change the bulletin boards at the front office.
2. This person will work directly with Pastor Debbie. Needed one person to volunteer one hour a week, on Wednesdays, to change the sign at the street.
3. A team of 3 or 4 people who can donate 2 hours and work together to paint and trim the back wall in the fellowship hall.
4. Do you like flower arranging or are you just interested in creating some arrangements that can be used in our sanctuary? Could you lead a group in that effort? Do you know someone who could lead a group? Please let Linda Kuster know.

SPRING CAMP FUNDRAISER

Heartfelt Thanks!

ALL FUNDS NEEDED TO SEND OUR TWO YOUNG LADIES TO CAMP HAVE BEEN RECEIVED!!!! Thank you so much to Bliss and Chris for the beautiful baskets that were auctioned and to all who bid. Congratulations thank Sylvia and Linda who had winning bids! Thank you also to CWF for the very generous donation and to Dick Garrett's Sunday School class for their donation and to Twana for her donation to bring us to our goal. Josie and Ginny will be heading to Triple 1

ELDERS OF THE MONTH OF MAY

Chris Heier

Carolyn Boyer

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Jun 4	Twana Robinson
Jun 11	Jason, Josie and Ginny Crawford
Jun 18	Grace Sheffield
Jun 25	Alex Johnson

Thank you so much for your dedication to this ministry. Please be sure the office has your current email address so that our secretary can send the bulletin and reading to you for the week you are scheduled to read. You will be responsible for leading us in the Call to Worship and reading the scriptures or reflective reading. Please read through each before Sunday morning so that you are familiar and comfortable with them. A pronunciation guide is available at the lectern for your use if you should need it. On the Sunday that you read please just take a seat behind the lectern shortly before the service starts. You may return to your regular seat once you have finished reading. If you find that you are unable to read on your scheduled day please contact another reader to switch Sundays with you or contact me and I will arrange for someone else to read. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you, again, for your participation in this ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPREADING OUR MUSTARD SEEDS

- June 1 CWF meeting at 10:30am in the Parlor
- June 6 The Welcome Table 6:00 - 7:00 pm hosted by Nina Gonzalas' Group
- June 13 The Welcome Table 6:00 - 7:00 pm hosted by Josh' s Gorup
- June 14 General Boad Meeting at 5:30 pm in the Parlor
- June 20 The Welcome Table 6:00 - 7:00 pm hosted by the Unity Group
- June 20 Blood Drive from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- June 25 Congregational Meeting (Officer Elections) after service
- June 27 The Welcome Table 6:00 - 7:00 pm hosted by First Christian Church

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- Jun 06 Sonie Statzer
Jun 09 Eleanor Brown
Jun 15 Bill Schuermann
Jun 19 Jacque White

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jun 18 Bob & Betsy Bowman
Jun 22 Bob & Linda Kuster
Jun 22 Brad & Patti Moore

