

FIRST COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

July 1, 2017 – September 30, 2017

Volume LXXIX

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Puzzle



IMPORTANT DATES

October

8 National Pastor's Appreciation

November

12 Veteran's Day

23 Thanksgiving Day

29 21st Prayer Sunday Service



COME WORSHIP WITH US:

Sunday Service 11:00 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

COME STUDY WITH US:

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Members and Friends of First Community



The month of November is almost upon us. This is the month that we have set aside to celebrate the birth of this wonderful fellowship. As this month approaches I would ask that each of us prayerful make a pledge for the year. The majority of you have really made tremendous financial sacrifices this year. Your support for First Community's ministries is deeply appreciated. Without your wonderful giving and pledges we couldn't have met our ministries needs. My brothers and sisters, what we need now is to subscribe to and complete the task so well begun in your effort of glorifying God in your pledges and giving.

It is not the pastor's position to burden you about money and finances, beyond your regular support, tithes, pledges and freewill offerings. However, due to regular building maintenance and unexpected repairs that have needed to be done for safety and comfort. The result of meeting these projects left a financial stress on the budget. Your pledges and support are very important in sustaining a quality safe beautiful church. Now, it is not that our giving is down that much, those who have given meaningfully still do; it is that our bills are up. Given our unexpected expenses which included helping to stabilize families during their financial crisis, severely challenged and stretched our resources. In faith our congregation must continue to be a channel of God's love, to give aid to the needy of this church and community. Please begin praying about your pledges now. And let us each, in light of God's blessing, come prepared on pledge Sunday to take a faith stand in giving your pledges to the church. Please accept my sincere appreciation, both for your pledges last year and for the current year. Please accept my thanks for your faithfulness.



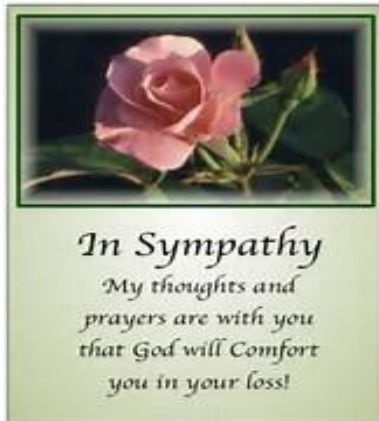
Pledge



SICK & SHUT-IN

Sister Eugenia Jarrett
Sister Esther Jeffries
Sister Mary McCauley
Sister Katie Roberson

Brother Henry Whitted
Sister Geraldine Wilson
Brother James Wilson
Brother Donald Young



SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

Sister Katie Roberson and Brother James Clayton
in the loss of their nephew, **Wiley Briggs**
Sister Katie Roberson and Brother James Clayton
in the loss of their brother, **Joe Clayton**
The **Brooks** family
in the loss of their loved one, **Timothy Brooks**
Brother Reginald Williams
in the loss of his father, **Joe Ingram**
Sister Marjorie Vanhooke
in the loss of her cousin, **Thomas Wade**

**For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man
perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**

**For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for
us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;**

**While we look not at things which are seen: but at things
which are not seen: for the things which are seen are
temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

II Corinthians 4:14 -16

The Ultimate Call of God

Much time and effort is often put into finding God's will for our lives. "Why am I here?" and "What specifically is God calling me to do?" are questions many people ask. While these are legitimate questions, the most basic calling on our lives is rather simple.

Throughout the Bible, we see various people called by God to do great things. Yet at the same time, God has always called all His people, as individuals, to a relationship with Him. Abraham was called to be the father of many nations. Moses was called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. David was called to be king.

In the New Testament the disciples were called to be fishers of men, and Saul was called to be a great missionary and write much of the New Testament. Even today, people are called to specific tasks at times.

However, the ultimate call of God is to respond to His invitation to reconciliation and a relationship with Him. Any of us could be called to some specific task, but we all have a calling to a personal relationship with God, no matter what other role we have in our society. Whether we are evangelists speaking to millions of people or have a secular job, there is a deeper calling.

The call of God on our lives is to love God and love one another as we love ourselves, as Jesus taught (Matt. 22:37-39). He said those commands summed up the entire law. If we love God and others, we will obey God's law and be on good terms with others.

The Jews had a lot of laws. God had given them many, but they added many of their own. Even when God gave His law to Israel, He made clear that there was a deeper calling: **"And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Deut. 10:12).**

James Jordan

Excerpts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator
Summer Quarter

HUNGER IN THE HEART

Is something missing in your life – even when things are going well? Is there emptiness in your spirit? A hunger in your heart? With God, a good life can be great. Your heart can be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. You will see others in a different and more compassionate light and feel more satisfaction in simple encounters. God tells us in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry and he who believes in me will never thirst." God invites you to feast at His table and turn a good life into a great life.

American Bible Society

JULY

CONGRATULATIONS



Joshua Johnson

Congratulations to **Joshua Johnson** who was meritoriously advanced to 1st Class Petty Officer. He now wears the ranking of Operations Specialist 1st Class. **Joshua's** ship the Guided Missile Destroyer USS Laboon was deployed in January of this year with the George H. W. Bush Carrier Strike Group. They returned to Norfolk Naval Base in July 2017.

We are thankful to God for **Joshua's** safe return to Norfolk.
We love you **Josh**!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was held on July 17-21, 2017. The theme was "Operation Arctic." The adult class was taught by Deacon Elizabeth Mayo. Attending the adult classes were: Brother Larry Pettiford, Sister Linda Snipes, Sister Cherba Torain, Sister Eliza Torain and Sister Linda Powell Whitted. Children 9 - 12 years of age were taught by Sister Christina Harris. Attending her classes was: Grayson Goodman, Cyani Jacobs, Amayah Johnson and Aalyah Riley. Children ages 2 - 8 were taught by Sister Courtney Johnson. Attending her classes was Brayden Hamlett, Elijah Johnson, Nakaylah Johnson, Kristen Lee and Calvin McNeil.

Sister Candance Truss taught Arts and Crafts. She presented an impressive array of theme based arts and crafts. On Monday, the children made God's Eye, Tuesday's project was Stars Count, Wednesday was Door Hangers, and Thursday's project was Picture Hangers and Hanging Stars.

Brother Shermaine Hamlett was in charge of games. Sister Ashlyn McIver served as a much needed floater. She helped with the small children. Faithful as always, Brother Lester Whitted acted as security and assisted as needed.

Refreshments were theme based and served nightly by Sister Corina Riley, Sister Wandra Richardson and Sister Keshia Lee.

Thanks to all who participated, assisted and attended Bible Class. As always the fellowship was wonderful.



Deacon Elizabeth Mayo



Adult Students



Sister Christina Harris



Children 9 - 12



Sister Courtney Hamlett



Children 2 - 8



Sister Candance Truss



Sister Corina Riley



Sister Ashlyn McIver



Brother Shermaine Hamlett



Brother Lester Whitted

AUGUST

We welcome **Rev. William Richardson** back to First Community from a well deserved rest. We will keep him in our prayers, asking that God will allow **Rev. Richardson** to continue to serve Him and our congregation. **Rev. Richardson** is a shining light at First Community. We are so blessed to have him as our pastor. Thank you **Rev. Richardson**.

During **Rev. Richardson's** absence we were blessed to have the following preachers and speaker carry on the work of the Lord. We would like to thank them for worshipping with First Community.

August 13, 2017

Deacon Lloyd Roberson, Presiding



August 20, 2017

Deacon Elizabeth Mayo, Presiding



August 27, 2017

Deacon Elizabeth Mayo, Presiding



Dr. Kenneth R. Hammond

Pastor, Union Baptist Church

Sermon "The Sufficiency Of God's Grace"



Rev. Steve Dickerson

Associate Pastor, Union Baptist Church

Sermon "A Celebration Of Spiritual Unity"



Sister Cherba Torain

First Community Baptist Church

Sermon "Our Faith In The Power Of Prayer"



WEDDING

CONGRATULATIONS

Courtney Brooke Johnson – Shermaine Dorrail Hamlett



Courtney Johnson and **Shermaine Hamlett** were united in Holy Matrimony on August 19, 2017 by **Rev. William Richardson**.

The parents of the Bride are **Mr. Anthony Johnson** and **Mrs. Wanda Johnson**.

The parents of the Groom are **Mr. Donald Hamlett** and **Mrs. Brenda Wade**.

The reception was held at The Cutting Board.

SEPTEMBER

MALE CHORUS ANNIVERSARY

The **Male Chorus** celebrated their twenty-third Anniversary on September 17, 2017. We congratulate them for their continued dedication to singing for the Lord. The **Male Chorus** was founded by **Sister Doris Richardson** and she served as the Music Director and the Pianist until her death May 10, 2010.



Sister Melanie Brooks, Director

Brother Joey Sellars, Key Board Player

Brother Rayvon Obie, Drummer

We are so blessed to have you. Thanks to each of you.

A memorial service was held for the members of the **Male Chorus** who has passed by Deacon Lloyd Roberson and Brother Larry Pettiford.



Sister Doris Richardson, Founder

Deacon Joseph Byrd, **Brother Harold Daye**, **Deacon Millard George**, **Brother Timothy Hayes**,
Brother Walter Hayes, **Brother Walter McCauley**, **Brother William McPherson**.



COMPLETING GOD'S WORK

God has given each of us abilities and talents, tools with which to build up His Kingdom on earth. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." (Romans 12:6) What an honor that our Heavenly Father has placed us upon the earth to serve Him with the gifts we have been given-let us use them! One excellent way to serve God is through your house of worship. There, you can discover your talents, and by serving with your strengths you can do your part to complete God's work.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY

Hazel Quick	2
Stephanie McBroom	4
Taylan Johnson	4
Iris Folk	7
Courtney Johnson	9
Mary Villines	13
Barbara Prear	19
Shawn Bethea	24
Odessia Breeze	26
Ranika Wilkerson	27
Dean Wade	30
Keisha High	25

AUGUST

Nancy Villines	3
Romaine Waller	6
Rebecca Brown	7
Daniel Obie	8
Marsha Johnson	11
Anita Lewis	13
Donald Young	13
Brad Duff	24
Phil Parker	25
Candace Truss	27
Martha Ann Johnson	29
Anthony Johnson	29

SEPTEMBER

Cheryl Mitchell	4
Regina Brice	16
Mary McCauley	17
Ashlyn McIver	17
Jasmine Foust	23
Shermaine Hamlett	23
Johnny Jarrett, Sr.	25
Beverly Lee	27
Seletha Pheribo	18
Aalyah Riley	30
Kathy Mason	24



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JULY

Donald Sr. & Rita McIver	1 (28 yrs.)
Kenneth & Karla Perry.....	1 (5 yrs.)
Brad & Torenda Duff.....	4 (13) yrs.)
Johnny Jr. & Eugenia Jarrett.....	7 (10) Yrs.)
Jeff & Cheryl Mitchell	11 (19) Yrs.)

SEPTEMBER

Shawn & Keisha High 26 (8 yrs.)

Bible Names

T	S	N	U	A	O	N	S	M	O	S	E	S	T	ADAM
M	W	J	O	S	R	M	A	H	N	E	H	N	I	ABRAHAM
E	E	O	E	M	U	E	U	A	O	E	A	I	S	EVE
E	O	H	P	L	O	N	L	O	S	L	A	A	A	CAIN
E	O	H	P	L	O	N	L	O	S	L	A	A	A	ABEL
H	V	N	U	U	T	L	R	D	P	N	U	C	O	NOAH
H	V	N	U	U	T	L	R	D	P	N	U	C	O	DAVID
N	W	E	J	A	M	O	O	S	M	O	V	K	T	MATTHEW
N	W	E	J	A	M	O	O	S	M	O	V	K	T	JESUS
D	E	A	E	P	D	A	U	S	A	A	N	U	E	PAUL
D	E	A	E	P	D	A	U	S	A	A	N	U	E	SAUL
I	H	B	S	A	H	N	A	Y	S	H	K	R	H	SOLOMON
I	H	B	S	A	H	N	A	Y	S	H	K	R	H	SOLOMON
V	T	E	U	E	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	R	S	MARK
V	T	E	U	E	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	R	S	MARK
A	T	L	S	U	H	A	E	S	T	H	E	R	B	LUKE
A	T	L	S	U	H	A	E	S	T	H	E	R	B	LUKE
D	A	R	O	O	M	O	M	U	T	M	U	T	S	JOHN
D	A	R	O	O	M	O	M	U	T	M	U	T	S	JOHN
T	M	A	S	R	A	K	O	U	K	R	A	M	S	SAMPSON
T	M	A	S	R	A	K	O	U	K	R	A	M	S	SAMPSON
M	A	D	A	K	A	S	R	A	M	O	T	O	N	RUTH
M	A	D	A	K	A	S	R	A	M	O	T	O	N	RUTH
M	A	D	A	K	A	S	R	A	M	O	T	O	N	ESTHER
M	A	D	A	K	A	S	R	A	M	O	T	O	N	ESTHER
A	U	J	O	A	A	B	T	E	I	V	D	U	S	MARY
A	U	J	O	A	A	B	T	E	I	V	D	U	S	MARY
A	U	J	O	A	A	B	T	E	I	V	D	U	S	MOSES
A	U	J	O	A	A	B	T	E	I	V	D	U	S	MOSES

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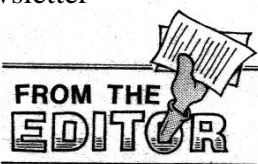


Please call the church office, when...

- A member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- You have death in the family so that you can receive helpful advice and assistance from the pastor and the church family.
- Your group plans to have a meeting or program so that it can be placed in the church bulletin.
- Your home phone number is changed or
- you have a new address, so that the church records can be corrected.

Please feel free to call the church. We are here to serve. May God Bless You.

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The First Community Spotlight is edited by Connie George
Co-Editor Linda Snipes
All Contributions are welcome!