FIRST COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FIRST COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016

Volume LXXIII



Rev. William Richardson Pastor

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June

- 5 Senior Choir Anniversary12 Youth Recognition Day
- 19 Father's Day Service
- ? Vacation Bible School
- 25 Family & Friends Day

From the Pastor's Desk

A learned Rabbi said once, "Learn from where you came, where you are going and before whom you must render your account." Well, we at First Community have

that; all of us are servants in the Kingdom of God. And, we have been given the space always to ask why. We want to know why about God, why about his direction in our lives and church. So often someone in casual conversation will say why should I give for this or why should I support that project? The why question always calls into question, where we are going, where we came from and to whom we must ultimately render our stewardship to. The essential purpose of my writing to you is that Christ our Lord's work must continue through our congregational tithes and offering giving. I want to encourage each member that genuine giving is characterized by real faith in Christ. Jesus doesn't force us to give but only provide an opportunity to share our sincerity and love for his ministry on earth. It is my desire that each member will take the initiative to imitate the sacrificial giving of Jesus our God! So let us work for excellence in our tithes and offering. I understand that sometimes it is hard to give, especially when you are on a fixed income or one income family. I am aware that the consistent committed contribution of giving tithes and offering is challenging, but remember He is the great enabler; He will give you strength to give.

On one occasion, Jesus told his disciples to exercise their freedom in giving, He said, freely you have received freely shall you give. Jesus wanted them to empower other lives, help to transform their environment with true generosity in personal giving to His gospel. Here was Jesus' call to mankind stewardship for his disciples. The question now for us is not why but how, how can I pledge myself to become a better supporter to my church? These are some suggestions that might be helpful. First, don't worry about what you don't have to give, rely upon the Lord, depend on Him, He will meet your every need. Secondly, give in the right spirit, and the right way. Set aside His tithes and offering as the early church taught. Thirdly, become willing givers, open your heart to God in your giving, Lord here am I use my offerings. Genuine, loving giving is rooted in the wonderful promises of God. He stated, "give and it will be given to you, a good measure pressed down shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

First Community this is a reality, it's a promise from God, backed up by the bank of Heaven. Give in His name and you will be blessed accordingly.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. I have learned a long time ago that God is loving and He will give you strength to do His will. So together we have trusted in His wisdom and leadership for nearly thirty years and He hasn't failed us yet. Let us continue on in His name, make no mistake about it, Christian giving as Jesus taught brings untold blessings. I am a firm believer that the more we obey Him, the more He bestows blessings upon us. One writer has suggested that Christians give with consistent praise. He states, "The distinction between gratitude and praise is this, gratitude is appreciation for what God has done, praise is appreciation for who God is." King David knew the distinction: "Now our God, we give thanks and praise your glorious name." Remember that He is your provider, let us give and pledge with gratitude and consistent praise.

New Members



Mary Villines Keith Cook

Welcome To First Community!
May God Bless You!



SICK & SHUT-IN

Sister Esther Jeffries Sister Mary McCauley Sister Katie Roberson Brother Henry Whitted Sister Geraldine Wilson Brother James Wilson

Our prayers go out to all of our friends and neighbors who are sick and shut-in.

SANCTUARY

What does God's House mean to you? Yes, you go there each week to worship, but that special place has individual meaning to each worshipper. It's a place for peace and reflection, a place to gain strength and patience, a place for fellowship, a place for praise and joy through music and song. Most of all, it is a place for hope. In Exodus 25:8, God said, "Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Whatever your need, God is there. Won't you meet Him each week in your place of worship?

Keister-Williams Newspaper Services

First Community is a sanctuary and a place where you will hear the true Word of God.

SERVICES

Sunday School		9:30 am
Church Service		11:00 am
Bible Study	(Wed.)	7:00 pm

Welcome to all of our services!

RESURRECTION HOPE

A heart-to-heart conversation with an elderly person can often give one the distinct realization that the modern focus on material things is misguided. Life and aging have a way of curing this false emphasis. At the end of our lives, we can look back and see that our relationships with God and those dearest to us are really what is most important. We can arm ourselves with a hope that stands the test of time.

We focus especially on the fact that we have been delivered from the wrath of God to experience the hope that He offers us as believers in Him. Many religions teach that we must work hard to reach salvation. In Christianity, we have a solid hope because Jesus has already accomplished salvation for us on the cross.

It is wholly appropriate that at this time of year we turn our minds to the hope Christ's resurrection brings. A major component of a life lived for Christ is service. That is true both here and now and in the coming kingdom. The objection of our service is twofold; we are to serve Christ, and we are to serve others.

Without Christ, we have no hope. There are many around us who need the hope Christ gives and the hope His coming again brings.

Bible Expositor and Illumination Unit Il Spring Quarter March, April, May 2013



<u>January</u>		<u>February</u>		<u>March</u>	
Marjorie Vanhooke	4	Deborah Taylor	11	Shanna Boswell	3
Asia Latta	6	Elizabeth Mayo	11	Linda Snipes	4
Wandra Richardson	12	Torenda Duff	17	Doniel Bullock	5
Arissa Duff	13	Jaquel Jackson	17	Crystal Wade	7
Jeffery Brooks	18	Isaiah Johnson	18	Cyani Jacobs	12
Devana Turner	20	Kareem Bethea	20	Geraldine Fennell	15
Lester Whitted	24	Barbara Jones	20	Samia Privette	21
Amy Mitchell	28	Justin Riley	26	Shawn High	23
Shirley Byrd	30			Brandon Johnson	23
Larry Alston	30			Christina Harris	27
Tameka Bethea	31			Dorica Jackson	29
				Annie Bell Jarrett	31

Happy Armiversary!

<u>January</u>		<u>March</u>	
Nkosi & Lacey Mtumwa	19	Leonard & Elizabeth Mayo	15
Anthony & Shereen Johnson	22	Johnny Sr., & Annie Bell Jarrett	31
Leon & Dorothy Lea	27		

Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929 - 2016



First Community celebrated the 87th Birthday of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** on January 17, 2016.

The Litany read conveyed thankfulness to Dr. King for serving the needs of his people. His love, wisdom, self respect, and dignity through out his short life make all of us proud to honor him every year on his birthday. His struggle to eradicate racial injustice through nonviolence is a lesson for all of us.

Dr. King's Birthday was observed at the Orange County Correctional Center. Members from First Community attended. The Kings of Harmony rendered the music.

Dr. King is the First Black American Honored By A National Holiday.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer was held on Friday, March 4, 2016 at Vertical Church. The Pastor is Reverend Ryan Brooks. World Day of Prayer representatives from First Community; Sister Beulah Johnson and Sister Ann Johnson attended. The country worshipped with this year was Cuba. A light lunch was served afterwards.



DEACON, DEACONESS & TRUSTEE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

January 31, 2016



Trustee Brad Duff , Presiding
Call To Worship & Invocation – Trustee Brad Duff
Scripture – Trustee Craig Jones
Prayer – Deacon Lloyd Roberson
Litany – "For Those Who Serve In The Church" – Trustee Earl Brown
Greeting Of Guest & Announcements – Deaconess Shirley Byrd

Memorial Service – Deaconess Eugenia Jarrett & Rev. William Richardson
The memorial service included
four Deacons, three Deaconesses and three Trustees.

Special Offering – Trustee Jeffrey Brooks
Offertory Prayer – Trustee Leon Lea
Sermon – "Do You Have What "It" Takes?" – Rev. William Richardson
If you really love God you will be a good servant. Love me with all of your heart
for that is where you will feel my presence. God breathed into us our soul. Our
soul never dies. When you work, work with all of your soul. Serve me with

everything that is in your mind. If you love God with all of your heart, soul and mind nothing will separate you from God.

In the reading on this anniversary WE ARE CALLED...

WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE, WE ARE CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL, WE ARE CALLED TO BE OBEDIENT, WE ARE CALLED TO BELIEVE, WE ARE CALLED TO GIVE, WE ARE CALLED TO BE COURAGEOUS, AND WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE OTHERS.

COMMUNION

On the first Sunday in each month First Community members and friends are extended an invitation to come To The Lord's Table by our pastor **Rev. William Richardson**. We join together in the eating of the bread and drinking of the wine in remembrance of Christ's love for us. Jesus said, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

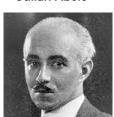
The month of February has been designated as a time to recognize the achievements of Black Americans, past and present. Their contributions and achievements have paved the way for the future success of Black Americans.

February 14, 2016
Black History Special Reading and Recognition
<u>Architecture</u>

Seletha Pherribo



Julian Abele



Asia Latta



Phil Freelon



February 21, 2016
Black History Special Reading and Recognition
Sports

Deniya Turrentine



Marlin Briscoe



Stephanie Brodie



Cameron Newton



February 28, 2016
Black History Special Reading and Recognition
Law

Kareem Bethea



Eric Holder, Jr.



Rev. William Richardson



Loretta E. Lynch



Donald McIver, Jr



Guest Speaker

Donald McIver Jr. was the guest speaker on February 28, 2016. Per Donald he received his foundation at First Community. He said you have to have a purpose. Donald's purpose is to do something good in this world. Two things are needed to accomplish this purpose, Faith and Love. When you know you are doing wrong you have to change. Donald expressed appreciation for the foundation that he received at First Community under the leadership of his Pastor, **Rev. William Richardson**. Donald's parents are Donald **McIver**, **Sr. & Rita McIver**. Donald was introduced by his sister **Ashlyn McIver**. First Community thanks **Donald** for a wonderful and encouraging speech.

Our Annual Black History Celebration culminated on today. Members dressed in their African Attire.

Our Annual Soul Food Dinner was held following the morning service.

RED AND WHITE BANQUET

February 13. 2016 First Community Baptist Church

Presiding.....Rev. Gladys Long Music.....The Legendary Silver Stars Prayer.....Sister Shirley Byrd Welcome......Sister Cherba Torain



Pastor's Fashion Show Participants

Rev. Kenneth Hammond Rev. Scottie Torain Rev. James Florence Rev. William Richardson

Blessing of Food......Rev. Gladys Long







First Community Senior Ushers >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Jesus Is My Valentine

Jesus is my Valentine; I talk to Him each day. He never, never leaves me; And always listens when I pray. Yes He is my Valentine; There is no love like His. He is the heart of all that is; For Him I breathe and live. He's a Valentine that never lies; Never hurts or breaks. He always has forgiven me; For all my past mistakes. If you only knew my Valentine; You would love Him too. For His love is always perfect; His love is always true. So if your heart is longing; For a love that never ends. For someone that is faithful; You know you can depend. Call upon my Valentine; He'll wash away your sin. He will be your Valentine; And your very dearest, dearest friend.

By Susan Y Nikitenko





FUND RAISERS

Foot Rally February 7, 2016



The Foot Rally fund raiser was a success. Each member gave the amount of money for their shoe size. This fund raiser was sponsored by the Usher Board.

Have A Heart For Mission February 14, 2016



"Have a Heart For Mission" was sponsored by the Youth Missionaries. Members were asked to contribute their loose change. This fund raiser is to help the Youth Missionaries continue their work.

Financial Security
Protect Yourself: Shred It

Identity theft is on the rise nation wide, but you can help protect yourself by shredding personal documents before throwing them away. Excerpts from AARP article.

NORTH CAROLINA

Easing the burden Alzheimer's disease is devastating, and family members who care for people with dementia face particular stress. They may feel they are "running a marathon without ever seeing the finish line," said Lisa P. Gwyther, associate professor at Duke University Medical Center and co-chair of the North Carolina Task Force on Alzheimer's disease and Related Dementia. "The burden can be great, information insufficient and doubt overwhelming." The task force is expected to release a report in April recommending action steps for policymakers and organizations that assist people with dementia and their families. AARP serves on the task force and is urging lawmakers to start by passing legislation that would allow North Carolina courts to recognize quardianship established across state lines. North Carolina is home to 150,000 people with Alzheimer's, a number expected to reach 210,000 by 2025.

Your AARP State News

SPRING STORM PREPARATION

Spring brings exciting times with budding flowers, warmer temperatures and longer days in the Carolinas, but it also brings unique weather patterns that include heavy rain, wind and hail. Over the last few years, various regions have experienced erratic weather events causing significant losses and damage to property. Follow these tips during adverse weather conditions:

Heavy Rain

Check gutters and down spouts in early spring to make sure they are pointing away from your home. It's a good rule of thumb to check the entry points where rainwater enters to ensure the area is free of leaves and debris, which may cause water to back up and flow in an unintended direction – towards or into the home. Install splash blocks at the water outlet points of downspouts or install underground piping to further direct water away from your home.

Familiarize yourself with flood insurance because heavy rain often has fast rising water. Many people are not aware that flood damage is not provided by a common homeowner's insurance policy.

High Winds

Two or three consecutive rainy days combined with windy conditions typically cause trees or limbs to fall. Spring is a good time to inspect trees, fences and other structures as proactive measures to avoid something from landing on your home. If extreme storm warnings are communicated in advance, always move any unsecured patio furniture, sports equipment or items that have potential to blow into you house or property. And, should trees or limbs happen to fall, remember to move your automobile out of striking distance to avoid potential damage.

Lastly it is always a good idea to trim back branches and foliage encroaching the home's roof area, windows, outside walls, fences and decking.

Hai

It's fascinating to see frozen balls of ice falling from the sky when it is 80 degrees outside. However, hail is extremely damaging to homes and automobiles. Pull your vehicles inside a garage or carport, if available, to prevent damage to the finish and glass. Notify your homeowner's insurance company as soon as storm damage occurs and seek an expert opinion to assess the situation. If someone uninvited comes to your home and claims you have damage, consider this a red flag and proceed with caution before entering into any repair contracts.

Jim McCafferty, Senior Vice President of AAA Insurance Services

FIFTH DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - EAST CEDAR GROVE ASSOCIATION

Fifth District Sunday School Convention Presents

"Gospel Music in the Black Church"

Following the Devotion and Welcome by Mt. Zoar members, the installation of Officers for 2016-2018 was installed. The new President will be Rev. Cecil Fields. Deacon Lloyd Roberson will continue to serve as the treasurer until that position is filled. Sister Marian Starnes will continue as the Secretary and Sister Barbara Parker will keep her position as Program and Higher Education Award Chairperson. The Roll was called and counted and the Trophy was presented to St. John Missionary Baptist Church for having the most members attend. First Community had thirteen members attend.

Gospel Music – "A Piece of History" Evangelist Barbara Parker read the history of Black Music

Music

Mt. Zoar Youth Choir Solo – Rev. Cecil Fields

St. John's Youth Choir

Solo - Sister Karen Alston

Each Choir and Soloists sang 2 Selections

Remarks – Rev. Tony Boss – Congress of Christian Education

Remarks - Deacon Lloyd Roberson - President - 5th District

Remarks and Benediction - Rev. Norman T Davis, Pastor, Mt. Zoar Baptist Church

The Sunday School Convention was held on March 10, 2016 at Mt. Zoar Missionary Baptist Church.



THANK YOU

Deacon Lloyd Roberson served as the President of the Fifth District Sunday School for six years.

First Community Church Family would like to thank Deacon Roberson for fulfilling his duty as president in a manner that makes us so proud of him. It may have been difficult at times but he never gave up.

Deacon Roberson is truly a Christian role model for all of us. We love you!

May God continue to bless Deacon Roberson and Deaconess Katie Roberson.

Jalm Sunday

March 20, 2016

The Youth Choir marched in waving palm branches.

The Youth Choir provided the music.
Ushers – The Young Adult Ushers

Greeter - Sister Cherba Torain

Praise Dance – My Life, My Love, My All - By: Ciara Bullock Sermon – "Joy In The City" – Rev. William Richardson

EASTER SUNDAY March 27, 2016

The Male Chorus provided the music along with other choir members.

Usher - The Senior Ushers

Greeter – Iris Folk

Sermon – "Comfort of the Resurrection" – Rev. William Richardson

Because of the Cross, we have:
Forgiveness for our sins
Reconciliation to the Father
Hope for the future
Redemption for our souls
Healing for our bodies
Victory over death
Restoration of our lives
Deliverance from the enemy
Soundness of mind

...and God's transforming grace Wrapped in His Amazing Love.

The most wonderful things
That Easter time brings
Is knowing that our Lord
Was crucified for all
The giving of His life
The most holy sacrifice
And He did it just for us
Out of His undying love
Then on the third day
He rose from the grave
And lives forever more

As our Saviour and Lord.



PALM SUNDAY- EASTER SUNDAY PICTURES









EASTER EGG HUNT













Christ's Resurrection Offers A Promise of Renewed Life

First Community Missionary Baptist Church

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Hillsborough, NC 27278

Church Phone: (919) 732-6135 Fax Number: (919) 732-1129

Our website: firstcommunitymbc.org



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!