Vol. 9 No. 3 Summer 2021

# The FCCBC CONNECTION

First Christian Community Baptist Church 4116 Groveland Avenue Baltimore, MD 21215 410-664-7443

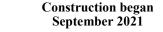


**We Are Family** 

**Groundbreaking Ceremony July 25, 2021** 



Settlement conducted September 15, 2021







FCCBC moves into the construction phase of our new Community Outreach and Resource Center. Story on pages 8-9

#### **Service Times**

Sunday School
Sun. 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
Sun. 11:00 a.m.
Mid-Day Bible Study
Tues. 1:00 p.m.
Prayer & Praise Service
(first Wednesday of each month)
Bible Study
Wed. 7:00 p.m.

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# Message From Our Pastor

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Gal.6:9 NKJV)



I count it a blessing to greet you all in the name that is above every name, The Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue in the faith.

We all go through struggles and hardships which sometimes robs us of our joy and confidence; but we must" press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus" (Ph.3:14).

The devil, our enemy, would love nothing more than to see us lose heart and quit this great work of redemption that we all are a part of. We live in a world that is so wicked, and becoming even more increasingly evil that if we are not diligent in our faith-walk it will cause us to "faint and be weary."

As we continue to navigate through this COVID-19 pandemic and now the Delta-variant virus; it is extremely important that we "do not grow weary in well doing." Many times it feels as if the more good we try to do, the more problems come our way. However, that is just a scheme of the devil to discourage us from continuing in the good fight of faith.

In the midst of trying times, God is still in control. He always shows Himself strong, and He keeps ALL of His promises. He promised never to leave us or forsake us. (Heb.13:5) He promised to "supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ

Jesus." (Ph.4:19), and He promised to answer our prayers (Matt.6:7). ... just to name a few. We can walk in victory because we serve a God who NEVER FAILS!

God is keeping us Family. We are not strong or wise enough to keep ourselves. The God that called us is still keeping us. He's keeping us safe during this pandemic. He's keeping us connected though many Churches and businesses are still closed. He's keeping us together as a body of Christ. This year, I will be celebrating twelve years of Pastoral Ministry at the First Christian Community Baptist Church, and I know it's only because of God's grace and the prayers of the Saints of God.

We, as a Church, are also celebrating what God has done and is doing; as we are quickly moving to the construction phase of our new Community Outreach and Resource Center. This is no small undertaking. This major project began in 2015 and will cost over \$850,000 to design, plan, construct, and build. Please continue to give and support this awesome Work of God for the Kingdom. This is evidence that, in the midst of it all, God still makes ways out of no - ways.

Stay encouraged, stay prayed up, and stay connected. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God: and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4: 6&7 NKJV).

Lovingly,

Pastor Alphonso Tucker, Servant

#### **Church Directory**

Pastor Rev. Alphonso Tucker 410-466-5776 (home) 410-664-7443 (study)

Chairman of Deacon's Ministry Deacon Lawrence Waller 410-281-9185 (home) 410-984-5268 (cell)

Church Clerk Trus. Marilyn Dorsey 410-298-4892 /443-676-6261

Asst. Church Clerk Sis. Kitty Owens 410-255-7713

Bus Driver Trus. Everett Cash 443-850-5494 (Returning to service 10/3/21)

Courtesy Phone—Lower Auditorium 410-367-9776

Page 2 Visit our website at www.myfccbc.org WE ARE FAMILY

# Happy Twelfth Pastoral Anniversary

# Pastor and Lady Tucker Celebrate 12th Pastoral Anniversary







"Celebrating God's Goodness"



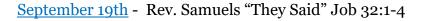
HE Gave Us the BEST

The First Christian Community Baptist Church appreciates your God-given pastorship, leadership, wisdom, and guidance. We are especially grateful for the safe and effective manner in which you brought members through the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish you a happy twelfth Pastoral anniversary. Have a wonderful and blessed day. The best is yet to come!

We thank God for sending us Pastor and Lady Tucker. We thank the Tucker family for all of the sacrifices made for the members of FCCBC.

Due to COVID-19, traditional Wednesday night services leading up to the Pastor's anniversary were not held. During the month of September, FCCBC's Associate Ministers brought the message each Sunday leading up to the anniversary celebration:

<u>September 12th</u> - Minister Moore "Grace Broke All The Rules" Romans 3:19-26, Rom. 2:16, 23; 4:13;5:8,12;6:11;,22-23; 7:16,17,19. Eph 2:8





September 26th - Rev. Houser "Counted Worthy Of Double Honor" 1 Tim. 5:17

We culminated our celebration on Sunday, October 3rd with Minister Debbie Ervin delivering the message during our in-person and Facebook Live online worship service.

Let's join together to celebrate and show our appreciation as we honor twelve years of service, leadership, care, and love.

Photos courtesy of Trustee Henry Smith and Trustee Shirley Carter

## Deacon's Corner

"For they that have used the office of a Deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:13 KJV)

To God be the Glory for all the things He has done and will continue to do in our lives. I greet you in the name of the Lord who is the head of our lives. With thanksgiving for another opportunity to let you know that God is still on the throne and He is a keeper. We are moving forward through this pandemic and vaccination period. I am so happy that we are able to physically see one another in worship services every Sunday still within the Baltimore City/CDC guidelines to keep everyone as safe as possible. Since the last newsletter we went from 50% to 75 % capacity and we thank God that some of our members are able to return to services.

This then is a message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is not darkness at all. (I John 1:5 KJV)

The diaconate ministry has been praying for the time where we can go back to the physical visitations of our sick and shut-in. I have reached out to many of them and they are excited and welcome our continued visits when permitted to do so. Face coverings will be required and any other precautions that are necessary to keep everyone safe during our visits. Most recently, we visited Sis. Perlizer Davis. She was excited and glad to see us.

I attended the 87th Annual Session of The National Baptist Deacons Convention of America July 11- 16, 2021 in Columbia, SC at the DoubleTree Hotel. It was a very spirit heart filled week. Our theme was "**Set Your House in Order.**" The supporting scriptures were Proverbs 24:3-4 and Matthew 6:33. Our day started at 5 a.m. with a Prayer Service followed by breakfast, Next we had several workshops followed with Bible Study and lunch. All this before 1 p.m. Next was our Church Service followed by a few hours of free time ending with a 6 p.m. Worship Service. This was our daily schedule for the entire week.

We thank God for blessing us with our Leader Pastor Tucker. He was able to take a much needed vacation and recharge in order to come back stronger and more energized to continue leading the flock at FCCBC. He was missed, however, while he was away the Associate ministers kept the word of God moving forward. We praise God for our Associate ministers. "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth..." 1 John 1:6 (KJV).

Now that summer is coming to an end, we will resume our Bible Study with Dr. Murphy every Tuesday @1:00 pm and Pastor Tucker's every Wednesday @ 7:00 pm via conference call: 412-924-7173 Access Code 872722#. As we study to show ourselves approved unto God.

Lastly we are grateful and thankful to God that He has added to the church such as to be saved. Continue to pray for our bereaved/sick and shut-in members. They are always in our hearts. 1 John 1:7 (KJV) "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin." Special Prayer for our youth who have returned to in-person learning. May they remain safe and have a positive and productive 2021-2022 school year.

**Food for Thought**: What ways have you put in place to keep your house in order?

\*\*\*\*\*CYBER HUGS \*\*\*\*\*

Humbly Submitted,

Chairman Deacon Lawrence Waller

## Deacon's Corner Word Search



Find and mark all the listed words inside the box.

#### COVID-19 SYMPTOMS WORD SEARCH

Η	E	A	D	A	С	Η	E	Q	U	K	U	E	R	R
A	K	S	E	Х	U	Μ	K	V	S	F	S	A	Q	В
N	0	I	Т	S	$\mathbf{E}$	G	Ν	0	С	0	D	U	U	0
J	E	$_{\rm L}$	$\nabla$	Α	U	Ν	Η	$\mathbf{z}$	N	F	I	W	S	P
Т	$\nabla$	I	$_{\rm L}$	E	0	В	J	Υ	В	R	A	K	V	G
N	G	0	N	E	W	R	N	A	Х	N	R	Η	U	S
Т	Ν	G	Μ	G	Μ	Ν	Η	$\nabla$	A	E	R	Η	Z	E
I	E	Ν	0	I	U	S	W	Т	W	U	Η	Η	J	Z
D	Μ	I	K	R	Т	Ν	$\mathbf{z}$	Η	E	Х	E	Η	Х	E
Ρ	0	Η	E	Ι	Α	I	G	Q	$\mathbf{L}$	R	A	Y	Z	Т
W	Μ	T	P	U	K	U	Ν	W	N	R	0	Μ	Х	R
Z	Х	A	S	A	0	A	Υ	G	D	Т	A	S	Т	E
R	F	$\mathbf{E}$	Х	С	I	S	U	S	$\mathbf{L}$	L	I	Η	С	V
0	A	R	Α	Η	R	Ν	R	Х	I	U	R	S	R	E
V	S	В	Ρ	D	Η	S	L	K	Ι	Ι	U	E	Υ	F

BREATHING
CHILLS
CONGESTION
COUGH
DIARRHEA
FEVER
HEADACHE
NAUSEA
PAIN
RUNNYNOSE
SMELL
SORETHROAT
TASTE
VOMITING

## **Deaconess Corner**

## **VETERANS DAY**

Veterans Day is a legal holiday that is observed annually on November 11. The day is set aside to honor our military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Each year, we acknowledge the sacrifices that those brave men and women made to preserve our freedom. In 1918, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as the Great War. Commemorated in many countries as 'Armistice Day' the following year, November 11 became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In 1954, the name was changed from 'Armistice Day' to 'Veterans Day' to honor the veterans of every war.

At First Christian Community Baptist Church (FCCBC), prior to the pandemic, the deaconesses would conduct a ceremony that honored all veterans. Our special guest, the *Retired Enlisted Association and Auxiliary Chapter Nine*, would faithfully attend each year. We truly thank them for their support each year and Rev. Debbie Ervin for being our contact person. However, the pandemic will preclude inviting this group this year. Nevertheless, we will honor our veterans here at FCCBC on *Sunday*, *November 7*, *2021*. There are, however, things that can be done by anyone to honor our veterans, even in times like these. You can donate to a reputable veteran's charity or service organization and/or buy from a veteran-owned business. May God continue to bless our veterans and may God bless America.

Submitted by: Deaconess Mary H. Murphy, President

THANK YOU Velerans

## Vacation Bible School 2021

# "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 3:14, NLT)

Although Vacation Bible School (VBS) was in an abbreviated form this year due to COVID -19, it did not diminish our fun and learning experience. It was a testament to the determination and resilience of all involved who thought it not robbery to support our VBS. This year we were limited to fifty persons which included the staff. We adhered to the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the time allotment was 6 p.m.—8 p.m. Individualized lunches were given on dismissal.

With time severely limited, teachers were challenged to condense biblical content into a comprehensible format. The students explored how faith in God provides opportunities to discover how they can become the best of who they are in Jesus. Much of the focus was on application and introspection. For our culminating activity on Friday, the three classes made presentations that reflected our theme, *I've Got This with Jesus!*" Children in the primary class, under the tutelage of Sis. Tequilla Haynes and Sis. Diane Habebullah, verbalized what they had learned, showed off their impressive art work, and sang a song that they had learned. The Teen class was led by Bro. Keith Owens, Jr. and Rev. Devon Houser who went high-tech with a skit. Because masks had to be worn, the words to the skit were on the teleprompter so that the audience could follow the dialogue. Their musical "sounds" were simulated on real musical instruments. The Adult Class, taught by Minister Harvey Moore and Evangelist Gwendolyn McKeever, exhibited their knowledge of the Bible through a game based on a well-known game spearheaded by Minister Moore. At the end of the program, Sis. Maya Jones read a poem written by Sis. Mae Williams that reflected and illustrated our VBS theme and Scripture. This poem can be found on page 16. Thank you, Sis. Williams for summarizing and capturing what our VBS was all about and Sis. Jones, thank you for your elocution.

We thank God for protecting us throughout the pandemic and allowing us to prevail in our VBS and our pastor, Rev. Alphonso Tucker, for his foresight and support throughout this endeavor. Although this was his first time as Director of VBS, Deacon Lawrence Waller took the helm and guided us through with enthusiasm and fortitude. Many thanks to all of our support staff for their diligence. Our teachers did a fantastic job and the students performed admirably showing their leadership skills during devotion and their grasp of knowledge during their presentations. Miss Sofie Tucker showed exceptional skills as exemplified by her electronic expertise throughout the program. Sis. Carolyn Laster kept us on cue as she performed her duty as Mistress of Ceremony. We thank the Culinary Ministry for our ready-to-go lunches each night. This was a meticulous and methodical undertaking by Lady Bridgett Tucker, who took the time to individualize each lunch, tailored to each person's preferences.

We also like to thank Trustee Robert White and Bro. Tyrone Moore for keeping us safe and to Trustee Henry Smith, our photographer, for capturing our VBS for future posterity. Next year, according to Pastor Tucker, we plan to be in our new addition to the church with classrooms for VBS. We thank God in advance for the new building and give Him all the glory!

May God continue to bless each of you throughout the summer and the days and years to come. Be resilient in the face of our visible and invisible foes, keep the faith, and persevere.

Submitted by Deaconess Mary H. Murphy, Assistant Director of VBS









**First Christian Community** 

# Vacation Bible School 2021 (continued)



Submitted by: Deaconess Mary H. Murphy

Photos courtesy of Trustee Henry Smith

# **Youth Sunday School**

Sister Ray and I returned to Sunday School in person in June 2021. We are happy to be back in person. Even though we are back, some of our students will still be doing Sunday School via FaceTime. Attendance for Sunday School has fallen off because of the pandemic. Sister Ray and I are praying that our Sunday School students will return when they feel safe to do so.

We are quite proud of the faithful few who are committed to being in Sunday School. We wish to commend Devaughn, Shiloh, Sofie, Kaitlyn, Maya, Samara, and Steven for their faithfulness. Maya Jones, who graduated from high school this year, is now a college student attending Howard University, Maya continues to be a part of our Sunday School classes via FaceTime.

During this year, Maya and Sofie each taught Sunday School. Sister Ray and I wish to express to them a job well done. Our lessons for the past quarter were, "Jesus Teaches About Faith, Faith and Salvation, and Faith Gives Us Hope." These lessons were all received with enthusiasm. We remind our students that they are disciples for Jesus and they too must share and spread the Gospel.

In closing, Sister Ray and I do our best to accurately interpret the lessons. We pray for wisdom, guidance and understanding in preparing our hearts and minds to be able to do the will of God in educating our Sunday School students about the Word of God.

We wish to thank the parents for allowing us the opportunity to be their proud Sunday School teachers.

Submitted by: Sister Beverly Ward

# **Missionary Ministry**



My FCCBC Family!!

To you all for helping to make our Missionary ministry anniversary successful, Many thanks to Rev. Houser for delivering a word from the Lord on our theme "Answering the Call of God to Work for Him."

Sis. Carolyn Laster, President Missionary Ministry

# Resource Center Updates

# FCCBC COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND RESOURCE CENTER GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

After a glorious Sunday morning service praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Pastor Tucker along with FCCBC members and friends, walked to the site of our proposed Community Outreach and Resource Center at 4201 Groveland Avenue for the groundbreaking ceremony. God blessed the ceremony by providing a beautiful Sunday on July 25th to celebrate the completion of the pre-development phase of the project and the beginning of the construction phase.

The order of service for the July 25<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking included the following songs of praise and presentations:

Hymn: 'We've Come This Far by Faith'

Invocation: Deacon Keith Owens, Sr

Scripture: Trustee Marilyn Dorsey (Psalm 24:1-6)

Statement of Project Purpose: Trustee Robert White

FCCBC History: Trustees Shirley Carter & Yolanda Cash

Pastor Tucker was joined by Trustee Robert White, Sister Nancy Pope, Sister Sofie Tucker, and Deacon Lawrence Waller for the "Turning of The Soil." Pastor Tucker delivered the "prayer of dedication" and was followed with a congregational hymn of commitment, "I Am on the Battlefield."

Throughout the groundbreaking ceremony, special guest speakers provided words of encouragement and congratulations to the FCCBC family. The speakers included Mr. Sean Stinnett, President, West Arlington Improvement Association, The Honorable Sharon Middleton-Green, Baltimore City Council 6<sup>th</sup> District representative, Pastor James Butler, Canaan Baptist Church, Pastor Frank Hines, Community Baptist Church, Jessup, MD. Special recognition of attendance was given to Pastor John Lunn, Berean Baptist Church and Pastor Marvin McFadden, Mt. Zion Hill Baptist Church.

During Trustee Robert White's presentation, there was special recognition of M & T Bank representative, Mr. David Miller, Vice President, Business Banking Relationship Manager and acknowledgement of the project development team that included the project General Contractor Sigma Development, LLC, KCW Civil Engineering and the project architect, Mr. Brian Olsen.

# Resource Center Updates (continued)

The Planning Committee would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Lady Bridgett Tucker for coordinating the set up of the vacant lot into a festive location for the groundbreaking ceremony. We also would like to thank the FCCBC Culinary Ministry for providing an assortment of refreshments.

#### **FCCBC Completes Construction Loan Settlement**

On September 15, 2021, members of FCCBC Planning Committee met at RGS Title in Columbia, MD to process documents to close the construction loan with M & T Bank in the amount of \$600,000.

FCCBC representatives included Trustee Robert White, Chairman, Trustee Shirley Carter, Finance Chair, Trustee Marilyn Dorsey, Church Administrative Assistant, and Brother Roscoe Johnson, Project Advisor. Mr. David Miller, Vice President Business Banking Relationship Manager represented M & T Bank. Once the construction phase is completed, the construction loan will be converted into a permanent 15 year loan.

#### **Planning Committee Construction Update**

The Planning Committee reviewed several construction contractor's bid proposals for development of the FCCBC Community Outreach and Resource Center.

The Committee decided to select Sigma Development LLC to be the general contractor for the project. Sigma Development is a Baltimore City based minority construction company that describes its mission "...to bring positive construction and development impact to Urban areas." Mr. Errol Tucker, Sr. is Managing Partner and joined the family business at the age of thirteen. Mr. Tucker stated that "his company is honored to have been selected to build the FCCBC Community Outreach and Resource Center that will expand the FCCBC's spiritual and community resources to the North Arlington neighborhood and Baltimore City at large." Mr. Tucker expects the construction phase that started September 20, 2021 will be completed in twelve months.

Submitted by: FCCBC Planning Committee



WE ARE FAMILY Page

## Service Updates

Please check U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Maryland Department of Health, and local sources for the most current COVID-19 and Delta variant information.

Thank you to all members for adhering to public health guidelines and doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On July 1st, our one-hour 11:00 a.m. in-person morning worship was expanded to ninety minutes. Announcements and sermons continue to be streamed live via Facebook Live (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianCommunityBaptistChurch/">https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianCommunityBaptistChurch/</a>) beginning at 11:30 a.m. Services can be viewed at your leisure via Facebook or accessed via our website (<a href="https://myfccbc.org/">https://myfccbc.org/</a>).

Adult Sunday School devotions begin at 9:15 a.m. followed by Sunday School from 9:30—10:30 a.m. with continued access via audio conference call . Youth Sunday School is being held via FaceTime (please reach out to Sis. Sofie Tucker to join in). Mid-day and Wednesday bible studies have resumed from Summer break and are being held via audio conference call as well. Audio conference call access instructions are on page 4. NOTE: To check availability and schedule use of audio conference calls, ministry presidents must contact Trustee Dorsey.

The church bus has been repaired and returned to service on October 3, 2021. Riders will be picked up for Sunday School and dropped off after morning worship service. Church bus ministry safety precautions are detailed on page 21. Please reach out to Trustee Everett Cash by 9:00 p.m. on Saturday if you desire a ride to church.

We look forward to resuming full in-person worship and fellowships. Please stay tuned for changes as conditions warrant. Trustee Dorsey will announce further updates via the 'robocall' messaging service. Please complete the Adult Member Information Sheet on page 17 to be added to the robocall roster. Thank you!

Sister Sharon Johnson





#### **Until Further Notice – Upon Entering**

- ✓EVERYONE must wear Face mask ( no exceptions )...
- ✓ Temperature must be taken...

CDC guidelines (  $100.4^{\circ} / 38^{\circ}$  c) or above

#### NO ENTRY

✓ Adhere to social distancing (6 feet) ✓ Wash or sanitize hands frequently.

Front Entrance to be used only ...



Photos courtesy of : Sis. Sofie Tucker

# "Getting To Know You" - Bro. Tyrone Moore

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people." Ephesians 6:7 (NIV)

Meet one of our Super Men at FCCBC, Brother Tyrone Moore, President of the Senior Usher Ministry. At 9:30 every Sunday morning, Brother Tyrone is on his post greeting visitors, family, and friends with his bright welcoming smile. Since the pandemic, Brother Tyrone is armed with a thermometer, masks, hand sanitizer, and a clipboard with names of vaccinated and unvaccinated members. All of this is done to comply with the CDC COVID-19 guidelines for the purpose of contact tracing. Brother Tyrone also serves on the Security Ministry, the Male Chorus, and the Culinary Ministry.

When I asked Brother Tyrone if he would be my subject for this newsletter? At first he thought I was kidding, then, he said, "okay." This is what Brother Tyrone wants you to know about him.



"I come from a long line of military family (grandfather, uncles, father and cousins). I joined the U.S. Army in September 1986 and travelled the country and the world (Germany, Korea and Iraq). I received several awards. I retired after twenty-two years of service as a Platoon Sergeant. After retiring from the Army, I worked for the Department of Defense for two years in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. I have been employed at the Social Security Administration since 2010.

I am a proud father of one daughter and two sons, grandfather of one grand-daughter and three grandsons.

One of my favorite things to do is to watch College and NFL football games. I am a true Ravens Fan. College basketball season is my favorite time of the year. I love music, movies, grilling, and landscaping. But most of all, I love serving the Lord.

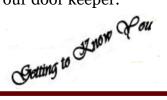
My first experience coming to FCCBC was a very positive experience. The members at FCCBC are more like Family than just church members. Everyone is very down to earth and they made me feel very welcomed the minute I entered the doors of the church (Like this is Home).

I served as Men's Ministry/Men's Day co-chair in 2018 and Chair in 2019. Working with the men of FCCBC is always an uplifting experience. I have learned and grown a lot with the men of FCCBC.

Being President of the Ushers in the year 2019 was very challenging because of COVID-19. FCCBC experienced guidelines and challenges we never had to face. One of the things I enjoy is greeting members and visitors when they come though the church doors. I also love working with the members of the Usher Board and thank them for their hard work, love, and support. My team is comprised of six men and eleven women."

FCCBC is very fortunate to have Brother Tyrone, a dedicated servant, as our door keeper.

Coordinated by: Sis. Leslie Hyman



# Newly Appointed Youth Ministry Leader

Sis. Nikki Waller was appointed as FCCBC's Youth Ministry Leader.

We thank Sis. La-Kia Kommeren for her service.



# Youth Ministry presents Autumn Breeze

Under this realm of the Youth Ministry, the Education Ministry is spearheading a "Trunk or Treat" activity on Saturday. October 30th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the church parking lot. All are welcome to attend!

Details to be announced.

# **Education Ministry Update**



The Education Ministry thanks everyone for supporting their virtual Popcorn Fundraiser Scholarship Drive held August 1-5, 2021. Delicious and fresh popcorn was delivered to supporter's doorsteps well before the projected delivery dates. We hope that everyone enjoyed their popcorn. With your support, \$1,403.00 (fifty percent of sales) was returned to FCCBC to be used to support scholarships for our youth and young adults. The ministry plans to hold this fundraiser again in the future.

No backpacks and school supplies were distributed this year as no names were received.

Thank you for your continued plate offerings each third Sunday. Your donation, no matter the size, is contributing to the growth of our scholarship fund.

Submitted by: Sis. Sharon Johnson, Secretary

# Giving Your Tithes and Offerings

#### Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your continued Christian love and support through the giving of your tithes and offerings, for the building & uplifting of God's branch of Zion called "First Christian Community Baptist Church."

Though many have returned to in-person service, some are not yet comfortable. There are several ways to give your tithes and offerings:

- Worship service
- If you are using US Postal Service, please mail your check or money order (no cash) to FCCBC, P.O. Box 67407, Baltimore, MD 21215.
- To give online via Givelify, you may visit <u>discover.givelify.com</u> and enter FCCBC or download the mobile giving app from your App store. If you are using "GIVELIFY," please always remember to show your name and the amount you are giving. For the Building Fund, please use the column that says "other" and annotate <u>building fund</u> <u>and the amount you are giving.</u> This will ensure that the money is allocated to the correct account.

If you need tithes/offering envelopes, please let a trustee know and some will be provided to you.

Submitted by: Finance Ministry

# Women's Day Corner: The Women's Ministry

#### Women's Day 2021

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Women's Day 2021. The Theme was "Women Striving to Do God's Will." The supporting scripture was Colossians 3:23 (KJV). This was the culmination of a year of the pandemic and many shutdowns but our Pastor Tucker did everything possible to hold our services according to the CDC guidelines. That made it very difficult to hold church services in the normal way. While most churches were holding their services online or not at all, our Pastor made it possible for the women of FCCBC to hold their anniversary celebration in the sanctuary.

Carolyn Laster served as worship leader, Our Minister of Music, Minister Darlene Taylor, and a limited number of choir members blessed our souls in a mighty way. The powerful Word was delivered by our very own Evangelist Gwendolyn McKeever. The President of the Women's Day Ministry, Trustee Vurely Johnson, made a presentation to our Pastor and made some inspiring remarks.

Trustee Vurely Johnson, Chair Sister Carolyn Laster, Co-Chair

# 京中京

#### 2021-2022 Women's Day

Our 2021-2022 leaders will be Sister Carolyn Laster and Sis. Annette Moore:



Sis. Carolyn Laster, Chairwoman



Sis. Annette Moore Co-Chairwoman

**WOMEN of FCCBC**, come out to a meeting on **Saturday**, **October 9th at 12 noon!!** 

We would like to meet to begin our planning for what we pray will be a wonderful and successful Women's Day 2022.

# **FCCBC Men's Ministry**

Greetings First Christian Family,

The Men's Ministry would like to express our gratitude to everyone that supported the events held during the Summer. Our car washes in June and July were outstanding. The men came together to not only work, but to fellowship, which is our goal for this year.



# FCCBC Men's Ministry (continued)



As we moved into August, the annual Christian Men In Black Fellowship Concert was a little different than the past, however, it was a great performance with opening selections from the FCCBC Male Chorus and a concert featuring the <u>Helping Up Mission</u> Male Chorus and band. Helping Up Mission is a comprehensive faith-based recovery service for men and women fighting addiction, poverty, and homelessness in Greater Baltimore. In spite of the COVID situation, it was a tremendous concert enjoyed by all.



We followed that event with the Crab Feast on August 24th that was outstanding once again. The men came together to work and further fellowship. We met our goal of selling all the tickets. The crabs were not only plentiful, but they were very tasty as well as the other food items on our menu. We thank our Culinary Ministry for their outstanding work and professionalism. Once again we say thank you to all who supported us in any way!



Photos courtesy of Bro. Roscoe Johnson. III

# FCCBC Men's Ministry (continued)



Photos courtesy of Bro. Roscoe Johnson, III

The Men's Prayer Fellowship Meeting was held on September 11, 2021. It was a spirit-filled meeting in which seventeen men participated. We have truly been following through on our Men's Day theme which is "Men Coming Together To Fellowship With Christ."

Our upcoming Men's Ministry Meetings are on Monday, October 25th, November 22nd, and December 27th at 6:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to closing out the year with our Men's Day Celebration on November 7th. Thank you.

Submitted by: Bro. Keefe Flanigan, Chairman & Min. Harvey Moore, Co-Chairman

# **International Day of Prayer Impact Day**

FCCBC celebrated International Day of Prayer Impact Day on Sunday, August 22, 2021. In light of all that is occurring in the United States and around the world, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. observed this day by worshipping together as a sign of solidarity and to make intercessions for peace in the world and covering for their sisterhood and the work they perform in service to all mankind.

Sis. Lois D. Knight Harrison is the president of the Epsilon Omega Chapter. Sis. Kimberlee Pelzer (Epsilon Omega Chapter) served as the event Chair for FCCBC. Minister of Music Darlene Taylor (Epsilon Omega Chapter) served on the planning committee as well.

Submitted by: Sis. Kimberlee Pelzer



Pictured (left to right): Marguerite Marshall, Minister Darlene Taylor, Lois D. Knight Harrison, Rev. Dr. Alphonso Tucker, Sis. Kimberlee Pelzer, Minister Gwen McKeever

Photo courtesy of Bro. Roscoe Johnson, III

## I've Got This With Jesus

## "I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me"-Philippians 4:13

What is it that we have with Jesus? We have it all.

How do we know that we have this with Jesus? It was revealed to all by the Apostle Paul.

We have the strength to endure whatever comes our way.

All we need to do is keep Jesus in our lives each and every day.

There are always challenges and sometimes difficulties in life.

As long as we have got Jesus, we can overcome any strife.

Paul made it clear that Christ is all-powerful and firm on His promises.

What He can and does is nothing less than astonishing.

The truth is that we have the strength from the Lord to endure anything.

Being faithful and continually staying with Jesus is what it brings.

In Paul's case, he used his strength to serve even as he faced suffering.

For us and in our lives today, the same strength is available.

Through our daily walk with Jesus, our strength is unfailable.

Yes, I've got this with Jesus, there is no doubt,

Because I really can do all things through Christ Who Strengthens Me,

And that is what it is all About!!

Submitted by: Sis. Mae Williams

## Support Our Newsletter

The FCCBC Connection is a quarterly newsletter designed to share news and to keep our members and friends informed of church services, fellowships, programs, and projects as well as information of interest (thank you notes/cards, prayer requests, testimonies, birthdays, awards, retirements, anniversaries, engagements, weddings, births, etc....).

Our goal is to distribute newsletters before each season ends Fall by 12/20, Winter by 3/21, Spring by 6/20, and Summer by 9/21, The DEADLINE to submit articles, photos, and announcements will be 12/6/21, 3/1/22, and 6/6/22, and 9/4/22.

Ministry representatives and members are asked to email photos, articles, announcements, information and suggestions to newsletter@myfccbc.org or submit to Sis. Sharon Johnson or Sis. Sofie Tucker. Thanks to all for supporting our newsletter ministry!

Fall newsletter photos, announcements, and articles will be due on 12/6/21.

Sis. Sharon Johnson, Editor and President, Newsletter Ministry

# Contact/Information Updates

Are you receiving our One Call Now robocall messages? FCCBC is using this method to reach out to members about services, weather and closing notices, reminders, schedule changes, bereavement announcements, and other important notifications. This is especially relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic as many are unable to venture out due to age or underlying medical conditions.



Please help us to make sure we have accurate contact and personal information (birthday, anniversary, etc.... for you.)

If you have not already done so or if your information has changed, please complete and mail an Adult Member Information Sheet (below) to FCCBC, P.O. Box 67407, Baltimore, MD 21215. Adult members with Google logins can use our Adult **Contact Update Google Form** at <a href="https://forms.gle/jvC4HetuYpksQoGp8">https://forms.gle/jvC4HetuYpksQoGp8</a> to submit their information electronically.

Youth information (pre-K through age 18) is being collected to help church youth ministries plan for scholarships, activities, and events. Youth information can be entered using our FCCBC Youth Contact Information form at <a href="https://forms.gle/2klfy56YYCScvvE99">https://forms.gle/2klfy56YYCScvvE99</a>. Please contact Trustee Marilyn if you prefer to mail in a paper form. Thank you for helping us to keep in touch.

First Christian Community Baptist Church Adult Member Information Sheet 2020  Please complete the Member Information Sheet to help us make sure we have accurate contact and persons information for you (please print). Please contact Sis. Marilyn Dorsey or Sis. Kitty Owens with any changes.								
Name:			Middle Name				Gender: Male/Female	
	Title	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Nickname		
Spouse	2:						Wedding Date:	
i i	Title	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Nickname	Month Date Yo	
Addres	ss:						Apartment	
City Sta	ate Zip:							
Home	Phone:(_			(	Cell Phone:	()		
E-mail	Address:			@			Birthday:/	
Minist	ries I curre	ntly serve:						
What a	are your ho	obbies <u>?:</u>						
What is your occupation or vocation (trade, profession, business)?:								
If stude	ent, name	, city, state of s	chool:					
Grade,	/year:	Ma	ajor:		Expecte	d Degree	Graduation Date:	
OFFICE USE ONLY								
Member	r Status:		Method of J	oining;			Membership Date:	

# FCCBC Wishes Comfort and Peace

#### Mourning Doves Bereavement Ministry of First Christian Community Baptist

Humbly, the Mourning Doves and the entire FCCBC family mourns the transition of your loved one. Words fail to express the deep sorrow we feel for your loss. We share

#### Isaiah 54:10 NIV

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you."

#### Please continue to pray for:

The Taylor and Farrare families on the transition of Bro. Calvin Taylor
The Johnson family on the passing of Donna D. Alford
The Cole family on the loss of Samuel B. Cole
The McIver family on the passing of Sis. Julia Ann McIver

Submitted by: Sis. Marilyn Brunt and Sis. Kitty Owens

#### Cast your burden on the Lord who will sustain you Psalm 55:22

When those we love have left this earth, we still can feel them near. We'll see a picture, hear a song, and it's just like they are here. And when we call upon our faith, when we believe and trust, we know the ones we care about are always close to us.

**Constance Parker Graham** 

## **Potpourri**

## **Congratulations**



Congratulations to Aleea Elaine Powell for being named as the recipient of the University of Maryland, College Park Opera Graduate Assistantship Award.

This award will be renewable next year upon successful completion of this year's coursework. It was at the recommendation of the division coordinator, assistantship supervisor, and the Director of the Graduate Studies that this monetary assistantship was awarded. This award is given based on satisfactory progress in the academic program as well as duties fulfilled in the assistantship program.

Congratulations to the Jones/ McCottry families on their new addition

#### **Xavier Anthony Holness**

Xavier was born on April 13, 2021 and is the son of Sis. Taylor McCottry and Alphonso Holness, Jr. Grandson of Sis. Cheryl McCottry.





Jonathan Franklin, grandson of Trustee Gwen Franklin, is on scholarship at the University of Richmond for the 2021-2022 academic year

# Special Birthday!



Happy Birthday to Bro. Walter Jones, Jr, Ninety years Blessed and Loved

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## **Congratulations to the Newlyweds!**



"Never too late when you let God lead the way" Wedding day August 31, 2021

Mr. & Mrs. James Clark

THE FCCBC CONNECTION WE ARE FAMILY

## Potpourri (continued)

#### Hamilton City Village Continues Homeless Outreach in Downtown Baltimore City

On September 1, 2021, Officer Hamilton officially retired after serving twenty-six years with the Baltimore City Police Department . With the relationships Officer Hamilton (Ret.) has built and his willingness to serve the less fortunate, Hamilton City Village will continue to go out into the community and give out toiletries, clothing, food, water and snacks.



Anything received is given out to the homeless. We accept all donations of gently used (clean) items as well as monetary donations to cover some of the things that the homeless often ask us for during our outreach. We also use the monetary donations to purchase the containers that meals are served in as well as side items like dinner rolls and bottled water, snacks, and toiletries.

Our next Homeless Outreach was held the weekend of October 2nd. Continue to pray for us as we go out in downtown Baltimore City and do what is put on our hearts. Thank you for your support and donations in advance. Sis. Waller can be reached at (443)562-5827 if you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or would like to request that a donation be picked up at your convenience. Please make sure all items are clean. Socks and underclothes must be new/store bought.

# "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure pressed down, and shaken together and running over..." (Luke 6:38 KJV)

Officer Lolando Hamilton Sr. (BCPD Ret.) & Sis. Nikki Waller



Photos courtesy of Sis. Nikki Waller

#### WOODLAWN SENIOR CENTER EXPANSION

On April 16, 2021, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski announced that Baltimore County will provide **\$4.6 million in state and county funding** for a significant renovation and expansion of the existing Woodlawn Senior Center (WSC). The Center currently has three rooms and two bathrooms. The Center has been closed since March 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All activities have been suspended. Our seniors who visited the WSC in the past can still use their membership at any of the larger senior centers in Baltimore County.



This new project includes an addition and a renovation of the current site, which will add a fitness center, new multipurpose rooms, multiple classrooms, and handicap accessible restrooms, ultimately **tripling** the size of the Woodlawn Senior Center. The members are ecstatic about the upcoming renovation and expansion. A definite completion timeframe will be announced at a later date. A much needed new "home away from home."

Submitted by: Sis. Leslie Hyman

## **Public Service/Church Notices**

#### From the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Travelling domestically? Check out this guidance from the CDC



COVID-19 vaccines and booster vaccines have been approved. Learn more about vaccine development and the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccination at

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/index.html

Practice social distancing by putting space between yourself and others. Continue to practice healthy habits to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and then disinfect frequently used surfaces
- Stay home if you're sick
- Avoid touching your face

Learn more about staying safe and healthy at <a href="mailto:cdc.gov/covid19">cdc.gov/covid19</a>

Your cloth face covering should:

- Reach above the nose, below the chin, and completely cover the mouth and nostrils
- Fit snugly against the sides of the face
- ◆ Be made of multiple layers of fabric that you can still breathe through
- $\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\sc /}}$  Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damaging the material or shape

Do not buy surgical masks to use as a face covering. Those are intended for healthcare workers and first responders. Many items you may already have in your home can be used to create face coverings.

Try creating a cloth face covering using bandanas, ski masks, washable napkins, or dish towels.

Learn more at https://bit.ly/2Ravt42 .



Do's and Don'ts Submitted by Sis. Sofie Tucker

#### **Protecting FCCBC**

#### **Church Bus Ministry Safety Precautions**

To help prevent exposure to COVID-19, several measures are being taken. Sis. Angie will check all prospective rider's temperature before they board the bus. Hand sanitizer, masks, and shields will be made available to all riders. Each passenger must clean their hands with hand sanitizer prior to boarding the bus. Masks/face coverings must be worn at all times by the driver and all passengers. Physical distancing will be practiced as far away as possible and bus capacity limits reduced. The bus will be cleaned after each trip. Eating and drinking are prohibited on the bus.

Please do not ride the bus if you feel ill or have been exposed to COVID-19. Thank you.

Trustee Everett Cash

Thanks for doing your part to keep our FCCBC church family safe

#### Stay current on the latest about COVID-19

https://www.cdc.gov/

https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/

https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/COVID19/

https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/

## Blessings and Birthday Wishes To:

#### October 2021

Sis. Alma Baker Miss Brac'lvn Barnes Miss Rickia Briggs Sis. Donna Bright Rickyah Brooks Miss Kirsten Cole Miss Dontia Cummings Trustee Gwen Franklin Sis. Lorraine Hale Sis. Audrey Highsmith Sis. Leslie Hyman Bro. James Johnson Sis. Zenobia McLaughlin Sis. LaNecia Owens Sis. Aleea Powell Bro. Jonathan Powell Sis. Esther Steptoe Sis. Brenda Taylor Sis. Jackie Ward

#### November 2021

Special Honorees:

Min. Debbie Ervin Dea. Walter Adams

Sis. Alexis Banks Trustee Rudolph Cole Sis. Deborah Cooper

#### November 2021 (continued)

Sis. Shirl Farrare
Joseph Foote
Sis. Marquette Heaggins
Bro. Precious Hale, Jr.
Sis. Betty Jackson
Sis. Sharon Johnson
Trustee Steven Jones
Miss C'ynai Moore
Bro. Keith Owens, Jr.
Sis. Megan Roundtree
Bro. Quennell Sowers
Sis. Ella Smith
Master Javier Troy
Master Journi Troy

#### December 2021

Special Honorees:

Pastor Tucker Rev. Delvon Houser Min. Harvey Moore Dea. Keith Owens, Sr.

Bro. Charles 'Petey' Bright Sis. Kim Carter Sis. Pamela Chapman Sis. Barbara Cole Jasmine Flanigan Miss Kayla Davis Bro. Lewis Ervin. Jr.

# Sis. Kayla Johnson **December 2021 (continued)**

Sis. Monique Malone Bro. Darrell McCoy Bro. Tyrone Moore Sis. Kimberly Randall Sis. Patricia Rhinehart Sis. Remira Robinson Sis. Vera Robinson

If you don't see your birthday, please notify Sis. Michelle Bright or e-mail newsletter@myfccbc.org so we can keep our records up-to-date. Thank you.



Member and visitor birthday honorees—

Birthday Sundae Sundays have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic

# Wedding Anniversary Wishes

#### October

9th—Bro. Precious Hale, Jr. & Sis. Lorraine Hale (10 years) 12th –Brother Rudy & Sis. Joyce Jackson (21 years) 21st—Pastor Alphonso & Lady Bridgett Tucker (21 years)

#### December

18th—Bro. Theodore & Sis. Delores Hines (24 years) 31st—Trustees Everett & Yolanda Cash (33 years)



So that we might acknowledge your anniversary, please notify Trustee Marilyn Dorsey, email newsletter@myfccbc.org, or complete a Member Contact Information Form (see page 17).

## Helpful Hints

#### **Blood Glucose Testing**

If you use the One Touch Verio IQ, One Touch Verio Flex, One Touch Ultra Blue, One Touch Ultra 2, One Touch Ultra Smart, or One Touch UltraMini for testing your blood sugar levels - make sure to wash your hands with soap and water to remove anything that could give a false high blood sugar or glucose reading, such as natural sugars, especially after peeling fruit (such as an orange, apple, cantaloupe, honey dew melon, watermelon, pears and mangoes). This false reading could also happen by swabbing your finger with an alcohol wipe.

So PLEASE wash your hands with soap and water before testing.

Source: Diabetes Forecast magazine Submitted by: Sister Beverly Ward

## **Regularly Scheduled Ministries**

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sundays

New Members Ministry 1st & 2nd Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Mid-Day Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays

Prayer Service (suspended) 6:00 -6:45 p.m. First Wednesday each month

Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays Baptismal Service 9:30 a.m. Third Sunday

Humphrey Choral Ensemble, Male Chorus, Unified

Voices, and Voices of Praise

7:00 p.m. Rehearsals Refer to monthly schedule

Men's Fellowship meeting 6:00 p.m. Every 4th Monday

## Church Calendar

#### October 2021

12th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration

Women's meeting

16 Senior Usher trip to Dutch County

Baptismal Service (if candidates and reopening) 9:30 a.m. 17 6:00 p.m.

Men's Fellowship meeting 25

Trunk or Treat

#### November 2021

5 Annual Veteran's Day acknowledgment Morning worship service Annual Men's Day celebration Morning worship service 13 Women's meeting noon Usher's Anniversary Morning worship service

21 Baptismal Service (if candidates and reopening) 9:30 a.m.

Unified Voices Anniversary 21 Morning worship service

Men's Fellowship meeting 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Service 11:00 a.m. to noon

#### December 2021

2 Quarterly Official Board meeting 7:00 p.m. Annual Church meeting 10:00 a.m. - noon 12 Baptismal Service (if candidates and reopening) 9:30 a.m. 19 Annual Christmas program 9:30 a.m. 27 Men's Fellowship meeting 6:00 p.m. 31 Watch Night Service 10:00 p.m.-midnight

Due to the pandemic, dates, times, location, and mode of delivery subject to change. Please check before leaving home. Trustee Dorsey will keep you abreast of any changes.

Please make sure we have your information for One Call Now robocalls. Please complete the Member Contact Information Form (see page 17 for details)

#### Our Known Sick & Shut-In

Dea. Walter Adams (Home)

Mother Bright (Home)

Mother Lillie Mae Campbell (Home)

Sis. Pam Chapman (Home)

Sis. Nancy Pope (Home)

Trus. John Spencer (Home)

Remember the Sick and Shut-In everywhere in your prayers.

Any act of kindness can make a big difference in their lives.



## **Prayer List**

Sis. Amy Arthur Sis. Donna Bright Bro. Ronnie Cole Bro. Walter Jones, Jr. Sis. Flore Mincey Sis. Rosetta Quarles Sis. Mae Williams

Bro. John Arthur Sis. Dené Cole Trus. Rudolph Cole Sis. La-Kia Kommeren Sis. Annie Norris

Sis. Karen Cole Sanders

## In God's House...

#### As we praise and worship God in this House, we are reminded to adhere to the following:

- The congregation shall stand when the choir enters the sanctuary
- The congregation shall stand during the reading of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- All pulpit ministers shall wear white or black robes on Communion Sunday (as appropriate)
- During Communion, no one shall exit or enter the sanctuary
- Blessings of infants are to take place on the first Sunday of the month
- Turn off cell phones/electronic devices

#### Welcome to our New/Reinstated Members



## Information of Interest

If you are in need of a Word, recent sermons can be viewed on our web page at <a href="https://myfccbc.org/">https://myfccbc.org/</a> (SPECIAL EVENTS tab) or our Facebook page at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstChristianCommunityBaptistChurch/videos/">https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstChristianCommunityBaptistChurch/videos/</a>.

Following are several recent sermons:

August 1, Rev. Dr. Alphonso Tucker, "New Life In A Dead Situation,' Ezekiel 37:1-6

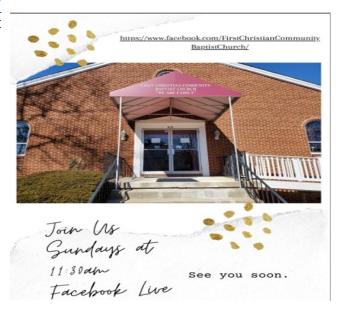
<u>August 8,</u> Minister Harvey Moore, "Keep Working Together," I Peter 4: 7-11

August 15, Rev. Freddie Samuels, "My God is a Delivering God," Daniel 3:28

<u>August 22</u>, Reverend Dr. Alphonso Tucker, "Strangers No More," Ephesians 2: 19-22

<u>August 29</u>, Rev. Dr. Alphonso Tucker, "A Simple Act of Obedience," 2 Kings 5:9-14

<u>September 5</u>, Rev. Dr. Alphonso Tucker, "The Power Behind the Tongue," James 3:5-10



Submitted by: Sis. Sofie Tucker

October 2021

First Christian Community Baptist Church 4116 Groveland Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21215