

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

April 1, 2016

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Ray Carter, Lucy and Rodney Ready, Selma Devich, Milton Summerall, George Tuttle, Gary and Ginny Albrecht, John Roth, Katrina Palin's husband, Charles Brackett, Bob Maroni, Robert, Lauren Brown, Carol Evans (Woody's sister), Stan Selby, Reverend John Townsend, Beverly Burke, Nancy Cappi, Nancy Tappe, Arnie Saunders, Charlie, Gary Phillips, Al Budnick, Louie, Sandra Polk, Jerry Sheets, Brenda, Jake Crouch, Ryan Durant Family, L. Wayne Stuart, Margaret Pruet, Tanya, Kenneth and Abram Hillman (family of Wanda Doleshall), Kevin Dunphy, Brittany Riley (Eliza's granddaughter in Abu Dhabi), Lynn Robinson, Joan Stuckart, Nicole Brackett (Ray Cook's granddaughter-in-law), Clara Benfield, Jean Hunt, Sally Clayton, Leslie Sandefur, Dot Rucker, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Mike Kler, Zack and Paige Herron (Campus Ministries in Philippines), Jill Malone, Susan and Michael Wargo, Connie Moomjy and always remember to pray for your Church Family, Pastor Sotello and Dee Long, our Christian brothers and sisters who are traveling, all those in our public safety services, military services and our country's leaders.

**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS**

What a wonderful Holy Week! We gathered to remember the greatest witness of God's love for humanity. We remembered Jesus' last supper and communion with his disciples on Thursday! We remembered the "Power of the Resurrection" on Sunday! I thank all who participated up front and behind the scenes to make it such a blessing of God!

Jesus Christ has made a way for all believers to be reconciled to God and as believers, we have been empowered to be God's ambassadors. Our assignment is to share the grace and truth that comes through Jesus Christ! It is sharing God's love with the world. It is using your gifts to make God's love known in and outside the walls of the church building.

What a wonderful blessing to hear the testimony of Jessie Cheadle, Jr.! Answering God's call, he shared his commitment to a mission honoring our WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans and surviving spouses. His goal is to provide complimentary landscaping services to those who are not as able to do that work themselves. We expect to share more details about this as they develop.

God's love abounds throughout the congregation. I want to offer special thanks on behalf of the Congregation to Frances Finrock for expressing her creative talents as seen on Resurrection Sunday morning, with paraments adorning our choir members, our Pastor, Communion Table, and altar podium. YOU GO GIRL!!!

I encourage you to hear the messages from Holy Week (Maundy Thursday and Resurrection Sunday). They will be posted on our website at: <http://www.firstchristian-aiken.org>.

God's love,

Sotello

### **CONGREGATIONAL THANKS**

We want to express our thanks, both to church member Joanne Caldwell and Sam Stevens of Palmetto Nursery and Florist, for the colorful and beautiful pansies that were donated by Mr. Stevens. Thank you Joanne, for your heartfelt and unyielding efforts toward beautifying our church grounds!

Thanks to our congregation for contributing to our “community outreach” by decorating the church cross with all the lovely flowers on Easter Sunday.

### **PLEASE CONSIDER**

We have received a donation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) which is located in the Fellowship Hall. This machine is used during life threatening cardiac emergencies. It is to everyone’s advantage to know how to use it. We are blessed to have Pat Wilson (certified by the National Safety Council) who is willing to conduct demonstrations and teach us how to react in an emergency until first responders arrive. Please let Caroline know if you are interested in attending a demonstration.

### **DWF NEWS**

DWF Annual Tea will be held in April to benefit HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. Invitations will be sent soon.

Women’s Discovery Retreat will be held June 3-5, 2016, at Christmount. Renae Brame will be the keynote speaker on the theme “Enjoying God Every Day.” Details for the event are posted on the Christmount Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.

### **EARTH DAY**

Earth Day is April 22, 2016. Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> is recognized by the Disciples of Christ as Earth Stewardship Sunday. Note that **Earth Day Aiken** will be held on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM at the Newberry Street Festival Center, 126 Newberry Street, SW. The Festival will include activities such as a family friendly 5k fun run (registration begins at 8 AM), a family bike ride that starts at 12:30 and special kids activities. Fun for all!!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall, Mondays and Fridays at 9-10 AM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM  
Old Antioch Day Celebration, Saturday, April 3  
DWF Meeting Tuesday, April 5, at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall  
Choir Practice on Thursdays, 3:30 PM in Sanctuary  
DMF Meeting, Saturday, April 9, at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall  
Carry In Meal, Sunday, April 10, following Worship Service  
FCC Elders Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, at 5:15 PM in Pastor’s Office  
Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall  
Chaplain Irene Albritton leading Worship Service, Sunday April 24

ACTS is requesting donations of rice for the month of April. Please leave your donation in the Church Office. Thank you for your support.