

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

February 1, 2016

PRAYER REQUEST

Nancy Tappe, Family of Robert Jennings, Family of Marie Johnson, Jo Nicewarmer, Arnie Saunders, Bob McCutchen, Nancy & Bill Olson, Shaquana Palmer, Dejana Navarre, Pat Bailey, Charlie, Chuck & Ida, Gary Phillips, Ed Cushingberry, Sr., Al Budnick, Carol Evans, Louie, Parker Family, Sandra Polk, Jerry Sheets, Nancy Shealey, Brenda, Jake Crouch, Ryan Durant Family, L. Wayne Stuart, Margaret Pruet, Ron and Bobbie Costet, Skip Gardiner, Tanya & Abram Hillman (granddaughter & great-grandson 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, Sally Clayton, Leslie Sandefur, Dot Rucker, 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.

Ten Basic Understandings of the Disciples of Christ about the Unity We Seek (Part 1 of 2)

This was written by the President of the Council on Christian Unity, Robert Welsh, who will be retiring on April 1, 2016 after 16 years of faithful service. I share 5 of the 10 in the month's newsletter.

1st – As the starting point, **our unity is in Jesus Christ**, not in structures or instruments or theological agreement, but in the grace and love of God offered to us and to the world in Jesus Christ.

2nd – Thus, **unity is God's gift**. It is not something we vote into being. We never vote on the unity of the church, but receive the gift of unity and oneness from God as we enter into new relations in mission and ministry, service and witness.

3rd – As Disciples of Christ, **unity begins at the Lord's Table** where we are made one in Christ; and from the Table, **we are called** to witness to the message of reconciliation, welcome and hospitality that we have experienced in our being welcomed.

4th – **Unity is being lived out at home**—that is, unity exists in congregational life and in seeing our congregations today as ecumenical communities of faith.

5th – **Unity is more relational than institutional**. Christian unity finds its life and reality in relationships as we worship together, serve together, and engage in mission together. Today, we are not working on "plans of union" or statements of theological consensus; but rather, we make commitments to engage in deepening relationships with other Christians and churches in worship, confessing our faith, and addressing issues of social justice and peace together.

Look forward to the other five next month!

Know that we present ourselves as a community as we worship, wherever we are, to an audience of One. God is the audience! One scholar states that worship is the patterned enactment of a community's myth (that is the community's Biblical knowledge, traditions, faith and stories in connection with God)! It's the ordering of ourselves in ways that we may acknowledge and express our love and thanksgiving to God. We **all** have a part to play in the liturgy of worship since the meaning of liturgy in essence is the work of the church!

Be prepared to join in this song of worship. Learn these words. I'll teach you the tune as we gather in worship. It is simple yet so powerful.

Father, I adore You/ Lay My Life before You/ How I love you!

Jesus, I adore You/ Lay My Life before You/ How I love you!

Spirit, I adore You/ Lay My Life before You/ How I love you!

Worship and adore God! God loves you just the way you are...and God loves you too much to leave you the way you are! Believe it!

Pastor Sotello V. Long

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday February 7th, we will be collecting donations to support the NFL's Souper Bowl of Caring. One hundred percent of the donations (no administrative costs) will go to Golden Harvest, to help feed the less fortunate. Golden Harvest coordinates efforts with ACTS for distribution of food locally. Give generously!

CHILI DINNER

Thursday, February 18th, at 6 PM

A Fellowship Chili Dinner will be held at the Church on Thursday the 18th of February at 6 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Church kitchen so you can indicate if you are planning to attend. You can also sign-up to bring cornbread, dessert, salad, or a sample of your own chili to share. Vegetarian and turkey chili are already being provided. Hope to see you there for fun and fellowship!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARADE

Aiken's Black History Month Parade will be held on Saturday, February 20th, with a rain date of Sunday, February 21st. The Parade starts at 2 PM at the American Legion Building on Hampton Avenue, at the corner of Florence and Hampton Avenue. It travels on Hampton Avenue, across Laurens Street, and ends at the Smith Hazel Recreation Center.

FCC CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please let Caroline, in the Church Office, know if you have any changes to be made regarding your information in the current Church Directory. We will be working on updating the Directory the first part of February.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall, Monday, February 1, 9-10 AM (Only Tai Chi Class this month)

DWF Meeting, Thursday, February 4, at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall

Regional Council & Regional Board meet February 6 at 20 AM at New Beginning Outreach Ministries

FCC Elders Meet, Tuesday, February 9th at 5:15 PM in Pastor's Office

Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 9, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall

Carry In Meal, Sunday, February 14, following Worship Service

Chili Dinner, February 18, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall

Choir Practice on Thursdays, 3:30 PM in Sanctuary

ACTS is requesting donations of cereal, grits and oatmeal for the month of February. Please leave your donation in the Church Office. Thank you for your support.