

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

March 1, 2016

PRAYER REQUEST

John Roth, Paul Wilson, Katrina Palin, Charles Brackett, Bob Maroni, Dorothy Russell and Family, Robert, Pastor's Aunt Waverly, the Walker and Chavis Families, Lauren Brown, Carol Evans (Woody's sister), Stan Selby, Reverend John Townsend, Beverly Burke, Nancy Cappi, Nancy Tappe, Arnie Saunders, Charlie, Gary Phillips, Cushingberry Family, Parker Family, Al Budnick, Louie, Sandra Polk, Jerry Sheets, Brenda, Jake Crouch, Ryan Durant Family, L. Wayne Stuart, Margaret Pruett, Tanya and Abram Hillman (granddaughter and 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, Jean Hunt, Sally Clayton, Leslie Sandefur, Dot Rucker, Chuck and 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.

Ten Basic Understandings of the Disciples of Christ About the Unity We Seek (Part 2 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 will share 6 through 10 in this month's newsletter. Statements 1-5 are briefly repeated here and are more expressly stated in the February newsletter.

1st – **our unity is in Jesus Christ.**

2nd – **unity is God's gift.**

3rd – **unity begins at the Lord's Table.**

4th – **Unity is being lived out at home.**

5th – **Unity is more relational than institutional.**

6th – The task of Christian unity is really about **the task of sharing gifts:** of learning to give and to receive, in offering the best of our Disciples heritage and tradition, and being open to receive the best from other denominations and traditions in their histories, theologies, understandings of faith, worship styles and spiritualities.

7th – **Unity does not mean uniformity** in belief or practice: it is not based upon our agreement as Christians, but upon our shared life in the Risen Christ. We are seeking oneness in Christ, not sameness in our theologies or worship or practices.

8th – Thus, unity will be lived out with **a great deal of diversity.** The challenge is to embrace an understanding of church that is bigger and wider, richer and older than we are today as Disciples of Christ. Unity is not about a loss of our identity as Disciples, but the claiming of a larger identity in Christ.

9th – **The challenge of Christian unity** in our world today is also **a call to interfaith engagement and dialogue:** learning ways to encounter people of other faiths in order to live in community with them; to learn from them, develop mutual respect, and discover areas of commonality; and, to witness to God's love for all peoples in breaking down barriers between persons and nations in the pursuit of peace.

10th – **The unity we seek** in being reconciled to another as individuals and as churches **is finally personal, not simply institutional.** That is, all exclusion, prejudice and division based upon race, gender, nationality, theology or belief are not simply issues to be addressed or programs to be undertaken, but are experienced personally by individuals—both within the church and in society.

When we come to the table let us come full of expectation! Believe in the Lord of the table who prepares and welcomes us to fully experience the ultimate sign of unity in the amazing grace we have in Jesus Christ! It's the Lord's doing and we among other believers are privileged to have God's Spirit at work in the world through us!

Pastor Sotello V. Long

EASTER EVENTS

Palm Sunday is March 20th. We are having a Maundy Thursday Service at 6 PM on March 24th. Easter Sunday Worship Service will be at our usual time of 11 AM on March 27th. Please plan to attend these services as we celebrate Holy Week.

On Easter Sunday, please bring fresh flowers to place on our cross outside, following the worship service.

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

- TO LIVE** Missions and ministry protecting the most vulnerable
TO LOVE Global Ministries Middle East Initiative
TO LEAD Support of emerging leaders across the life of our Church

Our Church's special offerings support ministries in the United States, Canada, and around the world. The Easter offering will be collected on Sunday, March 20th and 27th. Thank you for your support.

ELDER'S MESSAGE

The Elders for 2016, have decided that they will not be dividing the Congregation into Shepherd Teams, as we have done in past years. You are reminded and strongly encouraged to contact an Elder if you have a need. The current Elders are: Ida Bassi, Buzz Cheadle, Jim Mitchell, John Roth, Margaret Logan and Don Pruett.

CHILI DINNER

A BIG THANK YOU to Paul Wilson and his "crew" for the delightful and delicious Chili Dinner last month. There were seven different kinds of chili available, along with corn bread, salad and desserts. It was fun and there was good fellowship.

DWF FUNDRAISING EVENT

During the March 13th monthly Carry In, DWF will hold a fundraising event to benefit Christmount. Please bring a baby picture of yourself to the Carry-In. We will have a contest to see who can identify the baby pictures. Donations will be collected from people who would like to guess whose pictures are on display.

DWF SPRING FELLOWSHIP AT CAMP CHRISTIAN

The DWF Spring Fellowship will be held on March 19th, beginning at 9am. Registration is \$25. If you would like to attend please mail your check to: Regional Office, P.O. Box 80536, Charleston, SC, 29416, Attn: Barbara Williams.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DWF Meeting, Thursday, March 3, at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall
Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall, Mondays and Fridays at 9-10 AM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM 5:30 PM
World Day of Prayer, March 4th
FCC Elders Meeting, Tuesday, March 8, at 5:15 PM in Pastor's Office
Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 8, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall
DMF Meeting, Saturday, March 12, at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall
Chaplain Irene Albritton leading Worship Service, Sunday March 13
Daylight Savings Time begins, Sunday, March 13
Carry In Meal, Sunday, March 13, following Worship Service, with DWF Fundraising Event
DWF Spring Fellowship, March 19, at Camp Christian
Palm Sunday, March 20
Maundy Thursday Worship Service, March 24, at 6 PM in Sanctuary
Good Friday, March 25
Easter Sunday, March 27
Choir Practice on Thursdays, 3:30 PM in Sanctuary
Old Antioch Day Celebration, April 3

ACTS is requesting donations of dry beans (1 lb.) for the month of March. Please leave your donation in the Church Office. Thank you for your support.