

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

PRAYER REQUESTS

Natalie Lawrence and Family, Sue Ellis, John Roth and Millie Clark, Lucy Jones, Clara Black, Inderrien Family, Mary Ann Mitchell, Laura Craft, Helen Ozment, Emma Grace Maroni, Mildred Ellis, Lisa Wahlmeier, Shelby Carter, Lisa Cottongim, Dot Rucker, Kenneth and Joanna Chatto, Ray Cook, Wanda Doleshall, Chuck and Ida Bassi, Connie Moomjy, Clara Benfield, Sally, Clayton, 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 and our military services and our country's leaders.

God Is Always With Us

"The local church is too important to leave isolated and alone!" This statement resonated around the room among a gathering of Regional Ministers that I recently attended in San Diego, CA. Specifically to our congregation let me tell you that you are too important to leave isolated and alone. When feelings of loneliness try to overwhelm you, I encourage you to take refuge in this promise from our Lord Jesus found in Matthew 28: "... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." God is always with us!

A pastor shared that because of the Great Commission, Jesus is with us. Through the work of Christians spreading the gospel, the Holy Spirit worked in our hearts. Through baptism, he washed us clean and worked faith in us. Jesus has been with us through faith. We grow closer to him through worship and Bible Study. We have so many opportunities to grow in our faith. Jesus is with us to remind us of our forgiveness and to lead us to our eventual home in heaven.

Think about what it means that Jesus is with us always. He is there even when we sin. He knows our sins - even those sins that we think that no one else knows about. He knows our joys and helpfulness to others. Jesus knows every single thing about us and because we put ourselves in his hands our sins are forgiven. We have heaven. He is with us throughout our lives to challenge, comfort, guide and helps us.

REMEMBER Jesus the Great "I AM" is with us!

Share how God is with you with someone else and share your experience at Bible Study, at our church "carry-in" or wherever you feel led!

REGIONAL PERSONALITY PROFILE OF CAROLINE HALE

Caroline Hale was featured in the January/February issue of the Regional Newsletter. The article reads as follows:

I grew up in Arlington County, Virginia, the only child of a Baptist father and a Lutheran mother. My closest friend and I decided that we, at ages 11 and 12, would start attending a local church, which was in walking distance of our homes. Following a pastor's class, we both joined Wilson Boulevard Christian Church (DOC). It was a very momentous event for me which has served as an anchor for my life.

I became a Registered Nurse after attending Alexandria Hospital School of Nursing in Alexandria, VA. I received a BS in Nursing from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. I have worked in several part-time nursing positions while assisting my self-employed husband, full time.

My husband, Fred, and I have two sons. We retired to Aiken, Christmas Eve, 2004, having moved from Vienna, VA. While in Vienna, we were active at Fairfax Christian Church, serving as deacons, property caretakers and members of various committees. I also served as a trustee at Bethany House, Rockville, MD., which is a facility operating under the Christian Church Facilities for the Aging, Inc. Bethany House, offers 250 apartment rentals for independent living for qualified seniors with limited incomes. It began operation in 1951. It was quite an honor for me and an excellent opportunity to meet and work with some outstanding people from other Disciples churches within the Capital Area.

Once in Aiken, we began attending First Christian Church where we both were deacons, helped with property and I have held the office of financial secretary. I volunteered to become the church secretary in 2008. My primary goal as church secretary is to facilitate communication within the congregation and to assist others as needed. We have some wonderful congregants who I am very pleased to serve.

WEEK OF COMPASSION

In the next several weeks, Disciples congregations across the United States and Canada will be taking up the special offering to support Week of Compassion. This year's theme is "You are Here". By giving to Week of Compassion, you will be helping communities and their families who have experienced natural disasters throughout the United States and the World.

You have received Week of Compassion boxes to fill with money to go toward this cause. These boxes will be collected at church on February 19th.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

You will have an opportunity to donate to the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING on Super Bowl Sunday. The donations will be given to Golden Harvest Food Bank in order to help feed those in need in our community. Golden Harvest works with ACTS here in Aiken to accomplish this goal locally. Please give generously.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTHEASTERN CHILDREN'S HOME

In 2016, we raised a total of \$1,695.72 to go to SECH. Of this, \$1,472.00 was from our Sunday school class offering and \$223.72 was from the canisters given by the congregation.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Caroline is updating our Church Directory for 2017. Please give her any corrections, additions or changes ASAP.

NOTICE

If someone is experiencing chest and/or left arm pain while at church, please be advised that there is a bottle of Bayer baby aspirin in the AED box on the wall in Fellowship Hall. Please ask the affected person to CHEW not SWALLOW two or three of the baby aspirin while someone calls the Rescue Squad.

DEE'S MOM

If you would like to send correspondence to Dee or her mom, her contact information is:

Mary A. Mitchell
2712 Daytona Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610

DATES TO REMEMBER

DWF Meeting, Thursday, February 2nd, at 10am in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, February 4th, Regional Board Meeting at Cypress Creek Christian Church,
Walterboro, SC at 10am
Souper Bowl of Caring, February 5th
DMF Meeting, February 11th at 8am
Carry In, February 12th following Worship Service in Fellowship Hall
Elders Meeting, February 14th at 5:15pm in Pastor's Office
Board Meeting, February 14th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall
Crafting Group meets every Thursday at 10am in Classroom 1
Choir Practice, Thursdays at 3 pm in Sanctuary
Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall, Thursdays at 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm

ACTS donations for the month of February are pasta sauce. Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!