

**NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)**

**MARCH 1, 2017**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Natalie Lawrence and Family, Sue Ellis, John Roth and family, Lucy Jones, Clara Black, Inderrien Family, Mary Ann Mitchell, Laura Kraft, Helen Ozment, Mildred Ellis, Shelby Carter, Dot Rucker, Kenneth and Joanna Chatto, Virginia Samuels, Ralph Frazier, Brittany Riley, Family of Jean Hunt, Tanya & Kenneth Hillman, Michael & Carla, Tom Brodie, Gary Phillips, Rita Fernandez, Sabrina, Ryan & his seeing eye dog, 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.

**Candidate for Election as New General Minister and President!**

John 17:23 – "...that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (NRSV)

Micah 6:8 – "[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (NRSV)

We praise God for the forwarding of Pastor Terri Hord Owens as the candidate at our General Assembly in July for election as our new General Minister and President of the United States and Canada! Her nomination was by an overwhelming majority. She serves as the Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL and pastors First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Downers Grove, IL.

Read part of her vision candidate for the office of movement that has become Christ) has always focused on differences that may seek to to disagree and we offer love in reconciliation and anti-racism welcomed us. In these ways, we many differences. In these



that God laid on her heart for our church as a General Minister and President. "The vision of the known as the Christian Church (Disciples of the unity of believers, even amidst and in spite of divide the church. We give each other permission all things. We declare that we are a pro-church, and that we welcome all as God has have sought to live justly, in unity, in the midst of times in which we live, an active understanding of

unity is even more important to our church, our movement in the U.S. and Canada, and around the world. John 17 has long been one of my favorite New Testament texts because I believe it sets forth the reason why we are to execute the Great Commission, and why we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus' prayer for unity is not to establish "kum-ba-yah" moments, "feel good" experiences that evaporate after we release our neighbor's hand. Jesus' intent and vision is that we are one "so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:23b, NRSV). Our striving for unity is perhaps the most powerful way in which we bear witness that the love of God is real and present in the world. If we can hold one another in community, even in the presence of tensions that result from human differences of various dimensions of identity, socio-economic status, geography, theology and politics, it should be our goal that the world will see in us what is possible through Christian love and unity. We can be an example to the world to say that we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and his church are so important that we can work together despite those differences to ensure that God's message of love is shared and lived out in the world, as we work for justice for all. This is, I believe, what Jesus prayed for, and it is what I believe we are called to live out as disciples/Disciples of Christ."

Pray for her and pray for our church leaders!

God's love,  
Pastor Long

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

DST begins March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

On Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Workshop. At 8am the men will serve breakfast; at 9am our second Congregational Workshop will begin for the purpose of following up our discussion held at the first Workshop. This Workshop is being held to make plans for the future of First Christian Church (DOC).

### **JEAN C. HUNT**

On February 18, 2017, Jean C. Hunt went home to be with her Lord and Savior. She was a long time member of our Church and had served in several positions, supporting the ministry of First Christian Church (DOC). Pastor Long officiated at her grave side service on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, which had been outlined by Jean. Solos were sung by Frances Finfrock and Pastor Long. We will miss you Jean and rejoice that you are in the presence of the Lord, your Redeemer!

### **NEW WEBSITE**

The region has a new website, [www.scdisciples.org](http://www.scdisciples.org). This webpage contains lots of upcoming events and information.

### **SMART911**

Every business or citizen residing in Aiken County has access to a service that could improve the outcome of any emergency when dialing 9-1-1. This service is paid for by Aiken County for the benefit of all. Visit the [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) to create an online safety profile for your household containing any information that you want first responders to have in case of an emergency.

### **MISSING BIBLE**

If anyone has seen a blue Student Learning Bible, please let Caroline Hale know.

### **JOYE IN AIKEN**

As part of the Joye in Aiken week, there will be a free concert in the sanctuary at the First Presbyterian Church at noon on Thursday, March 9. The program will be provided by the Decoda Wind Ensemble. Everyone is welcome.

### **LAST CALL FOR DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Please check your current directories to see if all your listed information is correct. If any changes need to be made please let Caroline or Frances know by March 10<sup>th</sup>. We are in the process of publishing a new church directory.

### **PASTOR LONG'S CALENDAR**

Pastor Long's calendar indicating the dates he is in Aiken will be posted monthly on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and in the narthex.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

DWF Meeting, Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10am in Fellowship Hall  
Carry In, March 12<sup>th</sup> following Worship Service in Fellowship Hall  
Baby Photo Contest, March 12<sup>th</sup> during Carry In  
Daylight Savings Time begins March 12<sup>th</sup>  
Elders Meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm in Pastor's Office  
Board Meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Fellowship Hall  
Breakfast/Workshop #2, March 18<sup>th</sup>; 8am breakfast, 9am Workshop #2  
Crafting Group meets every Thursday at 10am in Classroom 1  
Choir Practice, Thursdays at 4 pm in Sanctuary  
Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall, Thursdays at 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm

ACTS donations for the month of March is Mac-Cheese. Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!