

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
AUGUST 1, 2017

PRAYER REQUESTS

Susan A., Tom Bodie and Family, Keisha Bery, Family of Francesco Cristofaro, the Urizar Family, Anna Weekley, Cody Honeycutt, Tom O'Donnell, Abram Hillman, Lee Murray, Larry Thomas, Shirley Ann Barham, Judy Dumphy, Earnestine Goggans, Linda Cheadle, Tom and Beth Harmon, Laura and Alec Lee, Helen Ozment, Mary Ann Mitchell, Natalie Lawrence and Family, Robin Brooks, John Roth and Family, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Ray Cook, Judy Ledford, Wanda Doleshall, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Connie Moomjy, Clara Benfield, Sally Clayton, Sabrina, and always remember to pray for, our Church as we transition, our Church Family, Pastor Sotello and Dee Long, our Christian brothers and sisters who are traveling, all those in our public safety services, our military services and our country's leaders.

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor Sotello Long called to serve as President of Disciples Home Missions

*Edited post provided by Search Committee
Chair Jeremy Skaggs (Posted on July 11, 2017 at 3:26 pm.)*



On July 6 the board of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) approved the call of Rev. Sotello Long as the next president of DHM. Long was introduced to the full General Assembly on July 11. He serves as Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina (since 2003) and the pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Aiken, SC (since 2014).

This will not be his first tour with DHM, however. He served as Minister of Evangelism from 1995 to 2003. The search committee was impressed with Long's ministry in South Carolina and with his passion and vision for the ministry of DHM. He will begin his ministry at DHM on August 21, working with current DHM President Rev. Dr. Ron Degges who will retire on August 31.

Yes it's true. On the heels of Dee's call to serve as Pension Fund Area Director responsible for South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and the Capital Area, I have accepted the call to serve as President of Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada effective September 1, 2017. Let me give thanks to many who have sown into my life to mold and shape me in preparation for the call. I thank my wonderful wife Dee for her unconditional love. I thank our parents, Ella Long, Mary Mitchell and Ervin Mitchell for their nurturing and prayerful support. I thank our siblings Champ, Tonya, Tony, Cynthia, and Rafael for keeping us grounded wherever we are. I offer special remembrance of my father, Carl Long, sister, Teresa Long Whitfield, and grandparents Grace, James & Mable Jackson, James & Carrie Mae Smith, William and Ella Long who are present with Lord!

The Sunday August 13 "Carry-In" will serve as an opportunity to say a formal farewell as this will be my final Sunday as your pastor. Dee and I will prepare to relocate to Indianapolis, IN. and Dee will continue in service as Pension Fund Area Director.

The Church Board has received my letter of resignation and has begun the process of seeking an interim minister. The presiding Board Chair Buzzy Cheadle will be receiving names and documentation on potential candidates.

Dee and I thank you all for your prayers and we will cherish life-long memories of our journey as pastor and pastor's spouse and congregation. The First Christian Church, Aiken and all who are connected with you will always have a special place in our hearts.

Know, however, that I am serving you as well as the whole church differently. We will be able to keep in touch. Use this opportunity to learn more about Disciples Home Missions. Check out the website at: [www.discipleshomemissions.org]. This general ministry is the hands-on general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) empowering congregational life, mission and ministry and after all, you help make "Disciples Hands on Missions" happen!

APPRECIATION BANQUET

An Appreciation Banquet will be held honoring Regional Minister, Rev. Sotello and Lady Dee Long on Thursday evening October 5, 2017 at 7 PM. The Banquet will be held at Utopia Restaurant & Lounge, 7272 Old State Rd., Holley Hill, SC 29059. Tickets to this event are \$25.00 per person. Please see Caroline Hale by August 8th, if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. Formal attire.

NEW CLIENT RELATIONS STAFF ANNOUNCED

The Pension Fund of the Christian Church (DOC) is pleased to announce five new Area Directors. The new team members include our own Dee Long. The team will focus on providing outstanding customer service and promoting the Pension Fund's products and services.

SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE

We are attempting to involve the entire congregation in our search for a new pastor. As part of this effort we are in need of volunteers who would like to serve on a Search and Call Committee. If you are interested in serving please let Buzz Cheadle know by Sunday, August 12th.

AUGUST 13TH FORMAL FAREWELL CARRY IN

Our Carry In will be a time to offer our appreciation to Pastor Sotello and Dee for their work while here at our Church. We are asking that you provide your own card that will be given to the Longs and also, we will be giving a monetary gift. You are asked to contribute either cash or a gift card (that can be used in Indianapolis) and give to Judee Mitchell by August 12th. These monetary gifts will be combined into one and given to the Longs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judee Mitchell.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT CHRISTMOUNT

This year's retreat is being held from September 8-10, 2017 and will feature Andra Moran. "We will explore how we are loved indeed by God, and how we become love-treasure hunters – looking for love in a world where many of the loudest voices are trying to drown out the quiet vibrancy of simple joys." Andra is a singer/songwriter and author from Nashville, Tennessee. Please visit the website for more information: www.christmount.org

DIRECTORY CHANGE AND ADDITION

There are some changes and additions to the directory. Please contact the church office for details.

Charlotte Chatto

Keisha Bery

Pastor Keith and Anna Weekley

DWF “TRASH AND TREASURES” SALE

This annual event will be held in September. Although we do not have a specific date set, we are in dire need of donations. Items may be left in classroom #3. If leaving items please try to put them in or near their appropriate box, as boxes are labeled by category. Please see Susan Poster Ullmann if you have any questions or need additional information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DWF Meeting, Thursday, August 3rd at 10am in Fellowship Hall
Elders Meeting, August 8th, at 5:15pm at the Bassi's home
Board Meeting, August 8th, at 6pm in Fellowship Hall
DMF Meeting, Saturday August 12th, at 8am in Fellowship Hall
Regional Board Meeting August 12th, at First CC, Charleston
Carry-In/Formal Farewell, Sunday August 13th following Worship Service
Pastor Long's Last Day, Tuesday August 15th
Crafting Group meets every Thursday at 10am in Classroom 1
Choir Practice, Thursdays at 4 pm in Sanctuary
Tai Chi, Thursdays, at 5:30pm (advanced) and Fridays at 3:30pm (beginners) in Fellowship Hall

ACTS donation for the month of August is canned fruit. Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!