

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
AUGUST 1, 2018

PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Anna Weekley, Diane Warren, Jane Williams, Bassi Family, Ralph and Nancy Hale, Tony Jones, Jr., Gloria Goff, Kathy Williamson, Wanda Doleshall, Family of Mrs. Chuck Clary, Sara Moyer, Beth, Tom Inderrian, Daniel Dilinger, Ralph and Nancy Hale, Bassi Family, Jane Williams, and also encouragement for those in need.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: Dr. Walter Allen, Jewel Jones, Neal Mitchell, Wanda Doleshall, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Sandy Gullickson, Sabrina, Ray Cook, Millie Clarke, Connie Santee, Eliza Husser Cave, Bill Carroll, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Connie Moomjy, Clara Benfield, Sally Clayton, Pastor Keith Weekley, Pam Owen, Brad Kerr, those travelling, our public safety services, military services and our country's leaders.

FAITHFUL SERVANT

Every Sunday morning, Don Pruett arrives at First Christian Church a little after 7 AM, without fail, to open the buildings, prepare Communion, blow off the sidewalks and get the Sanctuary ready for the morning Worship Service. We owe Don a very big debt of gratitude, not only for what he does on Sunday mornings, but for his ever present willingness to help wherever needed. Please take time to thank him and Don, please know your help is always greatly appreciated.

OTHER FAITHFUL SERVANTS

There are many who offer their time and talents to keep our Church up and running. Buzzy Cheadle has taken on the task of Property Chair for the last several years. While working full time, he has been able, sometimes with the help of Paul Owen, to keep things maintained and operational. This is true dedication as his time is very limited and he shoulders other responsibilities. Please let Buzzy and Paul know how much we appreciate all that they do for our Church.

15TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
OCTOBER 5-6, 2018

The South Carolina Regional Conference will be hosted this year by New Hope Christian Church (DOC), 67 Parris Island Gateway, Burton, SC 29906. The theme for the occasion, taken from John 4:23-24 and John 15:1-8 exclaims; "*Worship God in Spirit and Truth, Everyday, in Everything, Everywhere!*". Items you need to know as they relate to this event:

1. Information regarding accommodations and rates is contained in the cover letter dated May 14, 2018, found in the Narthex of our Church.
2. Registration forms are attached to the cover letter and are in the Narthex. Early registration deadline is August 20, 2018. Registration Forms can either be submitted to our Church Office by August 13th, or sent directly to the Regional Office along with your check.
3. Nominations for Regional Disciple of the Year forms are in the Narthex and once completed, they can be submitted to our Church Office no later than August 13, 2018.
4. There will be a “Living Legends Banquet” Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 7 PM at the Utopia Restaurant and Lounge in Holly Hill SC. Senior Pastors who have dedicated their lives to serving the church for decades, will be honored in a special way during the Banquet. Everyone is invited to attend and tickets can be obtained from Eliza Husser Cave at a cost of \$25.00. If you are unable to attend, but wish to make a tax deductible gift, which will be your way of saying “thank you” to these Senior Pastors, please see Eliza. She needs to have all ticket sales and gifts by August 26th.
5. All checks submitted should be made out to Christian Church in SC or CCSC. Please note in the memo section of the check, what the check is for. Any checks for the Living Legends Banquet should contain in the memo section “For COM”.
6. If you have any questions concerning the information regarding the Regional Conference, please contact Judy Ledford in our Church Office.

**Open Letter of Gratitude and Thanks to First Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ)
Aiken, S.C.**

We wish to thank the First Christian Church Family for the love, support, and encouragement shown toward me and my family in recent times. During the periods of my mother’s (Mrs. Allene W. Riley) sickness, transition to glory, and celebration of life, this church family has actively demonstrated love and care in numerous ways. Thank you for giving wonderful cards, gifts, words of comfort and great hugs! All are appreciated.



Many times in life we say, hear, or do activities out of repetition or tradition. For example, on many occasions I have listened to the Negro Spiritual from the mid-19th century title “Sometimes I feel Like a Motherless Child”. Indeed, that maybe the case today, however, I am blessed to have had the best mom in the world for many years. My mom sacrificed, loved her family, and lived Christian values in ways

for us to grasp, learn, and apply “The Golden Rule”. Additionally, I am blessed to have been present and available to my mother during the last stages of her life. As scriptures state in Hebrews 13:14 “*For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come*” thus we must continue to work in the vineyard until called by God from labor to reward.

Gracious thanks First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Family, and may heaven continue to smile upon you.

Sincerely,

H. Bryan Riley, Ph.D. and Family

Self- Driving Vehicles in Today’s Society

At the present time, scientists, researchers, and engineers are constantly seeking and working to achieve greater conveniences as well as devices and systems that minimize or completely eliminate work. This now includes the act of driving a vehicle for personal, family and household reasons. Autonomous vehicle technology is an emerging global market. By 2025, the car market for partially autonomous vehicles is expected to be at 36 billion U.S. dollars while the market for fully autonomous vehicles lags behind at 6 billion U.S. dollars (Ref. The Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Although Self-driving cars have claimed their first pedestrian fatality, a woman in Tempe, Ariz., who was struck by an Uber vehicle traveling in autonomous mode. Shall this technology suffice to mitigate or eventually eliminate the “I have no way to get to church” rationalization? As individuals are forced into difficult situations for various reasons (i.e., disabilities, declining driving skills, etc.) autonomous vehicles are on a path to solve these major problems. Indeed, concerns about technical challenges remain at the forefront. A newly released study by AAA found that Americans are slowly becoming less afraid of riding in autonomous cars. At present approximately 65% of Americans remain uncomfortable with the concept of letting an electro-mechanical robot actively maneuver public roads and especially among moving traffic.



Self-Driving Toyota Prius by Google - Reference IEEE Spectrum Magazine 2017

Professor Celenk, an Ohio University colleague, and I recently had an opportunity to present research results at The 2018 IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium held in Changshu, Suzhou, China (www.2018iv.org/). The title of the published paper accepted is titled “*Constraint Decision Optimization Model for Safe Autonomous Vehicle Operation*”. The research and demo vehicles presented are absolutely amazing! Given the work and progress underway at global universities, vehicle manufacturers, subsystem suppliers and various corporations, this idea will become an acceptable reality in the near future.

H. Bryan Riley, Ph.D.

ELDERS MEETING AND BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

Please note that the Elders Meeting and Board Meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in August, the 7th, rather than the second Tuesday of the month.

TRASH & TREASURES BOUTIQUE

Our July sale netted \$97.30. Our next sale will be Saturday, August 18th from 9am-2pm. We are in need of volunteers to help with the sale. Please see Susan or Judee Mitchell if you are interested in helping us. Donations are still being accepted in classroom 3. If you leave donations, please price them. There are price tags available in classroom 3.

ANNUAL TRASH & TREASURES SALE

Our annual Trash & Treasures sale will be held on Saturday, September 15th, from 9-2. This year we are inviting our community to participate. Church members can rent a table for \$10/table. Non-Church members can rent a table for \$20/table. All renters will keep the proceeds from their sales. Please tell all your friends about this event, and if they are interested in renting a table, contact the church. There are a limited number of inside tables still available on a first come, first serve basis.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DWF Meeting, Thursday, August 2nd at 10 am in Fellowship Hall
Elders Meeting, Tuesday, August 7th at 5pm at the church
Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 7th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall
Regional Board Meeting, August 11th at 10am at New Hope Christian Church
Carry-In, Sunday, August 12th following Worship Service
Trash & Treasures Boutique, Saturday, August 18th from 9-2 in Classroom 3
Choir Practice, Thursdays at 4 pm in the Sanctuary
Tai Chi, Thursdays, beginners class 3pm and advanced class 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall
NO CRAFTING GROUP IN AUGUST

SPECIAL DATES IN AUGUST

August 1st, Curtis Beard's Birthday
August 7th, Lisa Cottongim's Birthday
August 10th, Don Pruett's Birthday
August 15th, Paul and Pat Wilson's Anniversary
August 20th, Joanne and Robert Caldwell's Anniversary
August 31st, Paula and Kelly Jones' Anniversary

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