



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

**March 1, 2019**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*Family of Harold Hale, Ken Hale, Susan Poster Ullmann, Steller family, Family of William Creed, Family of Randall Frye, Family of Mike Cavanaugh, Roy Walden, David Aureden, Korbyn Johnston, Charlotte Chatto, Wally Allen, Jean Gillman, Daisy Herndon's Dauther in law, James Bagwell, Ollie, Heidi, DeMorris Gbadebo, Hal Guyon, our lawmakers and veterans*

### **CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:**

*Sally Clayton, Clara Benfield, Linda Cheadle, Interim Regional Pastor Juan Rodriguez, our Regional Church, Francisco Catlan, Pastor Keith Weekley, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Eliza Husser Cave, Millie Clarke, Selma Devich, Dr. Walter Allen, Neal Mitchell, Bill Carroll, Pam Owen, Anna Weekley, Connie Santee, Jewel Jones, Wanda Doleshall, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Ray Cook, Sabrina, Connie Moomjy, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

## **CALLING OF PASTOR IRENE ALBRITTON**

On Tuesday, February 12th, at the regular Board Meeting, the Board unanimously voted to call Pastor Irene Albritton before the congregation for the position of our Church's Part-time Pastor.

As required by our Church Constitution a Congregational Meeting will be held following services on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> for the vote.

In anticipation of an affirming vote, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, was tentatively set aside for the Service of Installation. Our Interim Regional Pastor, Rev. Juan Rodriguez, will be present for the Installation. There will be a welcoming reception following the service at which time you may welcome Rev. Rodriguez and our new Pastor, Irene.

Please mark your calendar for both of these very important events.

## **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR IRENE**

March is a special month this year in the way the Christian calendar falls – we start Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday, and will begin the six week Sunday Lenten worship services on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Similar to the way the four weeks of Advent prepared us for the coming of the Christ child, Lent is a six week journey to the cross that brings even more joy to the resurrection of Easter. Lent is a time when Christians are invited to do their own version of a personal “fast” – to enter into a soulful time of reflection and discernment in their spiritual journey. You may have heard or used the expression “I’m giving up \_\_\_\_\_ for Lent this year”. The discipline of giving up something pleasurable as a way to become more penitent or intentional in the sacrifices of following Christ can be rewarding in many ways. I invite you to choose something dear to you to commit to give up for Lent as a way of making the journey more personal. The forty days of Lent are counted from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, excluding Sundays. The good news is that the six Sundays in Lent are “mini feast days” and the “fast” of whatever is give up is not required on Sundays. Therefore, we can fully enjoy the bounty of carry-in on March 10<sup>th</sup>! (Including Buzzy’s pound cake!). In addition to giving something up, Lent is an excellent time to take something on – either an increased spiritual discipline such as a new Bible study, journaling, having a prayer partner, or adding something each day that shares the love of Christ with people in your life – a phone call, a card, a meal, an invitation to an outing, a random act of kindness to a stranger, etc.

Let’s prayerfully pledge to make Lent meaningful this year – to each of us as individuals and to us as a congregation. I’m honored to walk this journey with you.

## **OUR 2019 WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING**

**Caroline Hale**

We praise God for the many blessings He sent our way during this offering period and for the generous nature of our Congregation. Thanks to all of you we will be forwarding a total of \$ 605.65 to be used by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for disaster relief. THANK YOU for your participation in this special offering.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER**

On Sunday, February 3, 2019, June Wilson came forward to become our newest member. WELCOME JUNE!! June is the daughter of Joanne and Robert (Bob) Caldwell and along with her two sisters, she attended First Christian Church while growing up. So for June and for us, this is a “homecoming”. We are so happy to have you and we hope our Church will be a blessing to you.

**FLASHBACK:** Thanks to Louie Crouch JR (FCC/DOC Columbia) for this photo from 1952. This shows the cornerstone reveal on our sanctuary building.



## **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Directories will be arriving in early March... we hope.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be March 6 at 11:30 in the Sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, and the beginning of the preparations for Easter. It is a time of reflection, repentance and prayer. Traditionally ashes from the palms of the prior Palm Sunday are used, but other kinds of ash may be appropriate. The ashes symbolize repentance and grief caused by sin.

Even in the Catholic church the service is open to all, including those not of the faith. In keeping with this tradition we have and scheduled the service during the day so more people can attend.

It is appropriate to wash the ashes off after the service, however some people like to keep them until the evening as a personal reminder. It is considered inappropriate to wear them for purposes of public display as they symbolize a moment of personal reflection.

We look forward to the coming season of reflection followed by celebration.

## **ST PATRICK'S PARTY**

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's day with corn beef, cabbage and soda bread (with raisins) on Friday March 15 at 5:45 in the fellowship hall. Please bring a game or food to share for a time of fun and fellowship.

## **ACTS CALENDAR**

We are one of many churches working with ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) providing for the needs of the community.

ACTS maintains their food bank by asking member churches to donate specific things. Our church is part of this network. Every week our assigned donation is listed in the bulletin and every month it is included in the newsletter. We have included the poster size list for this year at the end of the newsletter for those who are interested, so they can take advantage of sale items, if they care to do so.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 6 Ash Wednesday Service 11:30 Sanctuary  
March 7 DWF 10:00 AM Fellowship Hall  
March 9 DMF 8:00 AM Fellowship Hall  
March 10 Congregational Vote  
March 10 Carry-In, following Worship Service  
March 12 Board Meeting 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall  
March 15 St Patrick's celebration 5:45 PM Fellowship Hall  
March 16 Trash & Treasures Sale, 9:00 AM Classroom 3

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

Mondays: Crafting, 12:30 to 1:30 in the Library  
Thursday: Tai Chi Beginning 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall  
Choir Practice 4 pm in the Sanctuary  
Sunday: Sunday School 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall  
Worship Service: 11:00 in the Sanctuary

**ACTS DONATION** for the month of March is Pasta.

Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!

## **THIS MONTH IN SERVICE**

Deacons are Millie Clarke and Earnestine Goggans  
Elders are Lisa Wahlmeier and Don Pruett

## **A WORD OF THANKS**

Ed, Irene and Joey share their expression of deep gratitude for the prayers, support and encouragement shown to them during Joey's adoption process – and for your celebration with them when it became final!

## **CONTACT US:**

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# Donations for Acts

January:	Soup
February:	Toothpaste/Toothbrush
March:	Pasta
April:	Canned Vegetables
May:	Pasta Sauce
June:	Mac and Cheese
July:	Grits/Oatmeal/Cereal
August:	Peanut Butter
September:	Shaving Cream/Razors
October:	Shampoo/Deoderant
November:	Beef Stew, Canned Meat, Complete meal
December:	Canned Beans/Pork and Beans