

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

**JULY 1, 2016**

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Victims of natural disasters, Connie Santee, John Roth, The Black Family, Mary Anna Cunningham, Nicholas Fansmith, The Bodie Family, Margie Jo Wallace, Wanda Doleshall, Jean Hunt, Dean Wyse, Rev. Eugene James, Lauree Caldwell, Cathy Miller, Jim Brown, Jeff Henson, James L., Andre McCartney, Steve Lyons, Sabrina, Dorthea, Selma Devich, George Tuttle, Katrina Palen's husband, Pat and Charles Brackett, Bob Maroni, Robert, Lauren Brown, Nancy Tappe, Charlie, Chuck and Ida Bassi, Louie, Brenda, Jake Crouch, Brittany Riley (Eliza's granddaughter in Abu Dhabi), Lynn Robinson, Joan Stuckart, Nicole Brackett (Ray Cook's granddaughter-in-law), Mike Kler, Clara Benfield, Sally Clayton, Dot Rucker, Clara Benfield, Zack and Paige Herron (Campus Ministries in Philippines), Susan and Michael Wargo, Connie Moomjy 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, military services and our country's leaders.

**PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT**

Greetings Church family! I just participated in an enriching teaching/learning and dialogue experience on "Congregational Systems" at Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY. I am writing while in the car returning to South Carolina. Now let me be clear that I am on the passenger side while a colleague is driving – smile! There were several helpful insights I gained from the course. One of the important points to share is about having a personal mission statement.

All of us have a purpose in life whether we acknowledge it or not. It helps to know what that is and to be able to succinctly articulate it in a way that offers real meaning. My personal mission statement is rooted in the Great Commandment, equipping for ministry, and a spirit of generosity. I share this with you here:

*I am called to **Exalt** Christ, **Empower** Others, **Engage** Creation, **Employ** S. E. L. F. and **Enjoy** Generosity!*

Deeper insight into the meaning of this personal mission statement to me means exalting Christ according to the Great Commandment to love the Lord with everything I've got.

Empower others directs me to help guide and encourage Christ in others. It is to love my neighbor.

Engage creation is a call for me to be a good steward of all that God has created. Recall that "God so loved the world" and what God created was and is "good".

Employ self is meaningful to me as an acrostic for employing my S. E. L. F. I am called to be intentional about working on and attending to my spirit (heart); emotions (soul/mind); lips (what I say & do) and feet (where I go) in the service of Christ! The Bible says to love your neighbor as [you love] yourself.

Enjoy Generosity reminds me that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. God is a God of abundance who freely gives us everything we need to live into our purpose. So I live into my purpose with joy in appreciating and sharing the gifts that God has given me.

Think about your purpose right now. Make note of it in your mind and write your own statement in a sentence or two. If you'd like, feel free to send it to me to offer intercessory prayer for God's fresh anointing for you in "living into it!"

God's love,

Sotello

**THANK YOU TO PAT WILSON**

A BIG THANK YOU to Pat from the Congregation for demonstrating our AED machine. We learned a lot: 30 compressions, 2 breaths. We were instructed on what to do until emergency help arrives. We all managed to turn on the green lights. THANK YOU AGAIN, PAT!!

**JULY COOKOUT CARRY-IN JULY 3, 2016**

- Bring sides as usual
- Hot Dogs and hamburgers will be furnished by DWF
- Bring lettuce, tomato, onions (sliced & diced) for hamburgers and hot dogs
- Casual dress
- Outside Games

**HOUSE BLESSING**  
**AUGUST 7, 2016 AT 4 PM**

Everyone is invited to a House Blessing with Pastor Sotello and Dee at 1039 Kismet Dr., Aiken. Directions: Silver Bluff Rd. south to right turn on Town Creek Rd. Pass Town Creek Baptist Church on right. Take next right onto Kismet Dr. Proceed until road veers left, and continue to first driveway on left. You will see brick pillars at the end of driveway. If you have questions, call Pastor Long at 843-425-4790.

**DWF NEWS**

The Pie & Bake Auction at the June Carry-In yielded \$188. This money will be donated to The Center For African American History, Arts and Culture (Black History Museum) here in Aiken. Thank you to all who participated!

During the month of July, the DWF will be collecting items for "Lydia Bags" which are given to women undergoing Cancer treatment. Donations of items such as pens, notebooks, hand creams, candies, lotions, Kleenex purse packs, etc., will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

**SOUTHEASTERN CHILDREN'S HOME**  
**SUNDAY AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Robert Kimberly, Exec. Director of SECH, will be sharing with us an updated program concerning The Southeastern Children's Home. The last time Mr. Kimberly spoke to us, the program was extremely informative and moving in regards to their services to help distressed children and families. Often the children have never experienced the normalcy of a family life.

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, COLUMBIA, SC,**  
**SEPT 30-OCT 1, 2016**

The 13<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Regional Conference will be hosted by FCC (DOC) Columbia at 2062 N. Beltline Columbia, Columbia, SC 29204. The Conference theme: "**Believe**"!!! The Scripture text is: **1 John 5: 1-5**. Guest speakers are Rev. Michael Simmons, Jeffersonville, IN., Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth, Marshfield, Missouri, and Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Decatur, GA.

Registration forms and "Disciple of the Year" forms are located in the Church Vestibule. Completed forms need to be submitted to the Church Office by Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. These will be forwarded to the Regional Office prior to the early registration deadline of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. If you have any questions, contact Caroline.

**CEDAR CREEK HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDY**  
**SUNDAY JULY 10 AT 5:30 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Susan Poster Ullmann's Home Group is inviting the Congregation to join them on July 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be starting a Bible Study on Angels. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall, Mondays and Fridays at 9-10 AM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM  
Carry-In Cookout, Sunday, July 3, following Worship Service  
DWF Meeting Thursday, July 7, at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall  
DMF Meeting, Saturday, July 9, at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall  
Cedar Creek Home Group Bible Study, July 10, at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall  
FCC Elders Meeting, Tuesday, July 12, at 5:15 PM in Pastor's Office  
Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 12, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall  
Choir Practice on Thursdays, at 4 PM in Sanctuary

District DMF Meeting will be July 15, 2016 at Belvedere Christian Church. Buzz Cheadle will share details as needed.

ACTS is requesting donations of soup for the month of July. Please leave your donation in the Church Office. Thank you for your support.