

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

JUNE 1, 2017

PRAYER REQUESTS

Eliza Cave, Jennifer Curry, Laura and Alec Lee, Lea Jones, Mildred Ellis, Helen Ozment, Mary Ann Mitchell, Tom Harmon, The Albellana Family, Judy Ledford, The Family of Nancy Jones, Mickie Johnson, Pastor Johnny O. Smalls, Brittany Riley, Natalie Lawrence and Family, John Roth and Family, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Nicole Brackett, Teena Muszal, Ray Cook & Family, Thelma Hickson Family, Jessie Green, The Family of Shay Rogers, Wanda Doleshall, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Connie Moomjy, Clara Benfield, Sally Clayton, those seeking employment, 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, our military services and our country's leaders.

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR

Some Assembly Required

I share this timely edited excerpt of the General Assembly Promo, *Some Assembly Required*, from our host Regional Minister, Rick Spleth of Indiana, for this year's General Assembly.

“The Greek word for the church in the New Testament is ecclesia (ἐκκλησία). It means literally an assembly or convocation. In the ancient world, it could refer to a secular gathering. In Athens the ecclesia, also known as the Assembly, was a regular gathering for citizens to come together to speak their mind and it was considered a cornerstone of their democracy. Over the years, though, ecclesia became associated with the church and so that today if you say in English, something is ecclesiastical, they will presume you are talking about the church. All of that is to say that from our very beginning the church has been about assembly. Of course, that is the case. Christianity is not a solitary endeavor. Jesus calls us to ministry in the world and to be in relationship with one another and all creation. You cannot be a congregation if you do not congregate. And clearly, we cannot be the church, the ecclesia, if we do not assemble. We have the chance to do that once again, big time, this summer when the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) convenes in Indianapolis July 8-12. It will be a remarkable time to [gather and celebrate] our unity and connection. In fact, the theme of the Assembly, “One”, points us in that direction. In the gospel of John, Jesus prays that we might be one and that the world might believe.

Unity is not the same as uniformity. One of the blessings of the Assembly is the opportunity it provides for encounter and discovery with persons unlike ourselves. At the General Assembly this summer we will welcome Disciples from all across the United

States and Canada and literally around the world. Some will look and act and think like us, and others not so much. All will be welcome because we know that we are enriched by [our mutual] company.

At the General Assembly in Indianapolis this year, we will be saying thank you to Dr. Sharon Watkins who is completing 12 years of service as our General Minister and President (GMP) and, pending a positive vote of the Assembly, [consecrating] a new GMP.

Dr. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens has been nominated to succeed Dr. Sharon Watkins as the eighth General Minister and President of our church. Though now living in Chicago, Terri is from Indiana, growing up in Terre Haute, and then she served for numerous years as a young adult leader in Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, before responding to her call to ministry. Terri was ordained by the Indiana Region in July 2003, at Light of the World. She wore her grandfather's preaching robe and intends to wear it again at her consecration at the Assembly, if the ecclesia gives her the nod. She would be the first African-American to serve our church in this leadership role."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

The General Assembly for the US and Canada will be held in Indianapolis, IN, from July 8th -12th, 2017. The theme is "One". "One" relates to 1 John 7:20-21a; "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one." Jim Mitchell and Eliza Cave will be our representatives. Judee Mitchell and Dee Long will be attending and representing the Region. Pastor Long will be present as the South Carolina Regional Pastor and Pastor of our Church.

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost - Special Day Offering!

"Planting a church can make a huge and lasting impression in the community it serves," says Terrell L. McTyler, minister of New Church Strategies and church planter. "By empowering the oppressed, praying for the disenfranchised, caring for the poor and promoting hope in a fragmented world, the church can literally help change the world," he adds.

Churches Change the World... Start More! is the theme for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 2017 Pentecost Offering, which will be celebrated Sunday, June 4th. To date, the Christian Church has started 980 new churches in the United States and

Canada, sharing the gospel with more than 61,500 individuals since initiating the 2020 Vision in 2000. According to McTyer our original goal was to start 1,000 new congregations by 2020, but we can't stop there. "We must continue our journey by setting our heights higher, planting even more churches and equipping more courageous leaders," he says.

Each year, half of the Pentecost Offering is designated to the local Disciples Region in an effort to start and sustain new churches like the Path of Life Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Columbia, SC. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy.

We will do our part by receiving the Special Day offering for Pentecost on June 4, 2017. Please come prepared to give to the Pentecost offering knowing that all the gifts received will go towards the collective effort to start and sustain new churches. There will be a special envelope in your Sunday bulletin for you to use to make your Pentecost offering in addition to your tithes/offerings for First Christian Church.

"ANOTHER THANK YOU"

The Church Office and the Congregation greatly appreciates Susan Poster Ullmann & Robin Brooks for being co-editors of our monthly Newsletter. Thank you both for your time and creativity!

GAME NIGHT AT FCC

Thank you to all who participated. A special thank you to Paula Jones for organizing it, and to those who brought snacks.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Keshia Bery and Paula Jones on their baptisms.

DWF BAKE SALE

This annual event will be held on Sunday June 11th during Carry-In. Please bring your favorite recipes to be put up for auction. Monies raised will be donated to the Black History Museum.

“FELLOWSHIP 15”

Sunday Mornings, 10:35 to 10:50 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Come to Church on Sunday mornings a little early and join in fellowship and coffee with some refreshments. This is a good time to get to meet and talk with someone you may not have been able to talk with before. On Carry In Sundays, due to a lack of space, the coffee and refreshments will not be available, but the talking can still occur.

CHANGES TO YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

Judy Ledford has a new address. Phone number remains the same.

Please add Keshia Bery to your directory.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DWF Meeting, Thursday, June 1st, at 10am in Fellowship Hall

Pentecost Offering, Sunday June 4th

Carry-In Sunday & Bake Sale, June 11th in Fellowship Hall following Worship Service

Elders Meeting, June 13th, at 5:15pm in Pastor's Office

Board Meeting, June 13th, at 6pm in Fellowship Hall

DMF Meeting, Saturday June 17th, at 8am in Fellowship Hall

Crafting Group meets every Thursday at 10am in Classroom 1

Choir Practice, Thursdays at 4 pm in Sanctuary

Tai Chi, Thursdays, at 5:30pm and Fridays at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

ACTS donation for the month of June is tuna/salmon. Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!