



NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
January 1, 2021

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Dave and Connie Beveridges, Karen Porter, Tom Moomjy, Everett Hogg, Emery Bell, Freddie Jones, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, for distribution of the vaccine and for God's peace.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Cheadle, Wanda Doleshall, Sharon Moede, Karen Porter, Sabrina, Susan Poster Ullmann, Paul & Pam Owen, Millie Clarke, Eliza Husser Cave, Sally Clayton, Dan McAvoy, Connie Moomjy, Robin Brooks, our Regional Church, Dr. Walter Allen, Connie Santee, Kenneth Chatto, those in public service, military service and for our Country and all victims of the corona virus.

Pastor's Note:

"Happy New Year!" is one of my favorite holiday expressions. The idea of the start to a brand new year always brings about feelings related to fresh starts, blank slates to be filled with new resolutions for anticipated change and a letting go of unnecessary baggage from the past. This new year, 2021, offers even more promise of a hopeful post-COVID life sometime in the hopefully near future. My prayer for each us is for a happy and healthy new year; and a reminder for all of us is that through Christ, and the life-giving forgiveness he offers, every day can be a "happy new year" day as we claim the fullness of our faith and of our redemption. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that in Christ we are a new creation! **Be new each day in 2021!**

CHANGES IN IN-PERSON WORSHIP FOR JANUARY

Out of an abundance of caution, and equally important, out an abundance of love for our church family and community, we will not be having in-person worship for the month of January. This will helpfully allow the current COVID surge calm down after the expected additional post-holiday surge. We learned in April and May that we are still the church even during the times we don't meet in person – and that we CAN and DO stay connected. Please join in worship either at 11am each Sunday on Facebook live, or watch the recording any time at your convenience. For those without internet, please join the teleconference worship service each Sunday at 12:15. The phone number for the telephone worship is the same as the new number used for Sunday School (971-224-6619/ conference code #203424).

COMMUNION REFILL KITS FOR HOME WORSHIP:

Due to January being a full month of in-home worship, we will have drive-by pickups for monthly communion kits this Sunday, January 3rd and next Sunday, January 10th from 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the church parking lot.



EPIPHANY RE-VISITED:

January 6 is Epiphany – the celebration of the day the wise men arrived to visit the Christ child. Since it is mid-week this year, we will celebrate in worship this Sunday, Jan 3. Part of our Epiphany celebrations the past two years has been an invitation for each of you to follow the example of the wise men and bring gifts to the Christ child that help support the ministry of ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving). In order to keep that tradition alive during this non-traditional year, you are invited to bring your “gifts” to the drive-by communion pick up either Sunday, January 3 or Sunday, January 10th. Since the wise men each brought a gift that had meaning to them, you are invited to bring a food staple item or items that you personally like. (examples – your favorite canned soup, pasta, syrup, jelly, pudding, etc). We will have a basket at the communion pickup for you to leave your ‘gifts’. After the second Sunday, we will take a picture of our gifts before delivering them to ACTS and share it in next month’s newsletter.

DEACON AND ELDER INSTALLATION AND TRAINING

Deacon and Elder commissioning / blessing service will be postponed until February this year. Our new Deacons include Laura Kraft, June Wilson, and returning Deacon Elsie Smith. New Elders include Caroline Hale and San Cave-Riley. Since we have an active slate of experienced deacons and elders, we can afford to delay the training until after the blessing service. Please stay tuned for dates in February for the installation service and for training classes.

An Amazing Experience with Nubian Donkeys

Here is to sharing an amazing experience and several accompanying pics regarding standard donkeys. Earlier this month, I was delivering a Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church packet to one of our senior members in the local Aiken area, I drove by several donkeys that were fenced inside a residential yard. I was intrigued, stopped, observed these animals from my vehicle and eventually walked over to the owners and inquired about their care, traits, interactions, and even their personalities. Turns out they are a family. Two of the donkeys are sisters - Star and Sandlewood. Sandlewood has two daughters Lady and Joy. Star is pregnant. I learned the gestation period is between 12 -18 months. Lady is the mother of the only male whose name is Sparrow and he is the newest family member. These donkeys are cherished family pets and befriended me after determining all was ok. Several other males were fenced together in a lot nearby. Turns out these are not ordinary donkeys. Observe very closely the backs of these humble animals! Do you see the cross markings? The owners shared that these donkeys are of the standard donkey family and are blessed animals. This is the animal upon which Jesus rode as documented in scriptures [1]. By nature, these are working animals, suited for desert travel, like eating my shoestrings, and are very intelligent. Upon talking to The Herbert Family, this family of donkeys: speak (i.e., *hee-haw sound*) in the mornings upon seeing their owners, are very protective of the family, keep the lawn trim and neat as a result of grazing, have defenses of both kicking and biting, and are just very likeable domestic mammals. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert shared that these lovely creatures are good for stress relief and can be integral to maintaining good health. For example, the donkey will put his head next to you as you breathe out, the donkey inhales the surrounding air and *visa-versa*. No worries, Nubian donkeys have great hygiene and are very clean. Thus, as you are reading, I enjoyed the time and exposure to their family of Nubian Donkeys. I wish to thank The Herbert Family for providing me with this awe-inspiring experience.



“The Nubian donkey has a cross on its back because it was said that this breed of donkeys carried Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.”



WORD OF THANKS

Bryan for fixing the cardboard in the windows.
Caroline and Don for the Christmas angels and signs.
Caroline for working on the minutes.
Lisa, Buzzy, Caroline and Scott for filling in.
Frances for changing the thermostat batteries
and tightening the hinges on the pantry door.
Buzzy for fixing things around the church, including the ramp.

ACTS DONATION FOR EPIPHANY IS: Your favorite item

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 2	DWF	11:00 am Fellowship
January 12	Board Meeting	6:00 pm Zoom
January 16	Trash & Treasures Sale	9:00 am Room 3

CONTACT US:

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
900 Kerr Drive SW
Aiken, SC 29803-5394

Email: firstchristianaiken@atlanticbb.net

Website: www.firstchristian-aiken.org

Church Office: 803 648-4523