

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN

A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
P O Box 32064, Charleston, South Carolina 29417-2064
1293 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, South Carolina 29407-3947
T: 843-852-4537 FAX 843-852-4538 **Website: scdisciples.org**

E-mail: roccsc@aol.com

Volume 89 Number 3

May-June 2011



Transformation – A Faithful Christian Perspective!

What is meant by transformation? It is written in Romans 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Transformation is being vitality connected with God renewing our minds in order to do and live into what God has called and purposed us to do. It is a lifestyle that continuously evolves and ever increases as we grow and are led in Christ. It is an intentional spiritual journey seeking revelation, wisdom and understanding from God in the pursuit of its relevant mission.

For a Christian, accepting Jesus, as the Christ, the Lord and savior of our lives is major and it is also a new beginning. We then must learn to live Christ-like. Live like we belong to God since we have become children of God and joint heirs with Jesus!

We need to be guided and nurtured through our connection with God. How do we connect with God?

Connect with POP that is Prayer, Obedience and Patience! Here is what is meant by these from a Christian perspective.

Prayer

Prayer is the vital communication link between God and us. Prayer is communication with God. Through prayer we enable a divinely ordered intervention in our affairs – spirit, soul, body and community. The order is according to the rightly divided word of God. So Bible reading and study are integral components of prayer. We may communicate in a myriad of ways whether we are alone or in a community. The point is to experience and recognize the voice or the unction of God which will always line up with Holy Scripture. Speak God’s language which is God’s word!

Obedience

Obedience is saying and/or doing what God has revealed for you to do. It is written that obedience is better than sacrifice. As money is the currency of our earthly trade or economy so is obedience the currency of our heavenly trade or economy.

Patience

Patience is the demonstration of trust that God’s divine order is at work and that we have aligned ourselves with that divine order. Patience is the expectant harvest in the face of challenges as a result of our genuine obedience in the exercise of our faith or belief in God’s Word. It is written in James 1:4 ...“let patience have *its* perfect work, that you (we) may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” When we exercise patience we give thanks rather than complain...we seek the God in the moment rather than get distracted losing focus.

Finally all of this is in the context of loving God and humanity as you love yourself. As it is written, “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second is like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” This kind of love is only fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ. As we have accepted Christ, let the love and life of Christ be expressed in humbly seeking God and God’s direction through prayer, obedience and patience in and with our daily decisions in every area of life.

The goal of congregational transformation in realizing the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to transform 1,000 congregations by the year 2020.



An opportunity to support congregations in this effort is a major new initiative in 2011 as the Region sponsors a Holy Spirit inspired Transformation Symposium for congregational members and leadership on June 10-11 at First Christian Church, Charleston, SC! It will focus on

- (1) Radical Hospitality – Making Vital Connections,
- (2) Woman! You’ve Still Got a Life - Help for Single Women and
- (3) a Church Makeover! Re-envisioning the Church: Connecting with Youth and Young Adults.

Check out our website: www.scdisciples.org for more ways to connect and get helpful information!

Remember, strangers don’t do ministry. People in relationship do!

Peace,

Sotello

Calendar of upcoming Events

***May 21: Commission on Ministry (Why we Preach) @ Ridgeville Community Center
105 School St. Ridgeville SC***

May 28: Commission on Ministry Sessions

May 26-29: District Fellowships 5th Sunday

May 30: Memorial Day (office closed)

June 6-10: Camp and Conference Week #1

June 10-11@ Congregational Transformational Symposium@ First Christian Church Charleston,

June 13-17: Camp and Conference Week # 2

June 5&12 Pentecost Special Day Offering

June 12: Pentecost Sunday

June 14: Flag Day

June 19: Father’s Day & Juneteenth Celebration

June 25: Commission on Ministry Sessions

June 26: Achievement Day

***June 26: National Hispanic and Bilingual
Fellowship Day***

July 4: Independence Day Office closed

July 9-13: General Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) @ Bridgestone Arena, Nashville Tennessee

Profiles In Ministry



My name is Irene Henderson Albritton. I was born and raised in Miami, Florida. I am the fourth child of five in my family, and the youngest of three daughters. I am married to Ed Albritton. We have two adult children, Eric (31) and Jenni (26). For the past four and a half years, we have been custodial grandparents to our 5 year old grandson, Jabari, which means that we once again have the responsibilities and the joys that come with parenting. For most of our married life, I used my maiden name of Henderson; however in recognition of our 25th anniversary several years ago I chose to change my last name to Albritton, surprising my husband, family and friends...and mostly surprising the folks at the social security office! Ed and I continue to be best friends and sharing life together. We enjoy camping, riding bikes, gardening and cooking together.

I grew up in the Southern Baptist denomination and was deeply influenced by the Christian teachings of my parents, grandparents and extended church family. I graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville KY) in 1987 and was ordained in June 1987 by Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida. That was also the church where Ed and I were married. Leaving the Southern Baptist denomination was a soul-searching process and truly felt like I was leaving home. I have a deep love of scripture and traditional hymns that helped guide my path to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 2000 when I felt God leading me in to my new denominational home. I was welcomed by the pastors (Steve and Donna Doan) and people of First Christian Church in Columbia in ways that made a difficult decision easier. My ordination was recognized by the South Carolina Christian Church Disciples of Christ in the fall of 2000 and my endorsement for chaplaincy and ACPE was subsequently moved. In 2004, I had the privilege of serving as part time interim pastor at First Christian for four short yet wonderful months

My calling to ministry came through my work in banking and through my involvement in Hendricks Avenue Baptist church. God works in many different ways, and now as a CPE Supervisor, I help many other second career ministers recognize how God leads us from one place in life to another in fulfillment of our varied-yet-connected vocational journeys. I am a Board Certified Chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains and a certified CPE Supervisor through the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. I serve as Director of Chaplaincy/Pastoral Education at Palmetto Health in Columbia, overseeing a 32-member Chaplaincy department that includes an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education program. Our chaplaincy program serves the spiritual needs of our patients, families and staff in our hospitals (Palmetto Baptist and Palmetto Richland), our hospice and palliative care programs and our senior care facilities. I am also Director for the Midlands Partnership Parish Nurse program, a six member parish nurse program serving churches in the midlands and with the Columbia Housing Authority. I recently celebrated my 19th work anniversary and continue to love my job and the opportunities for ministry service and leadership it provides.



I am Pastor Joseph Brown the senior servant of the Canaan Christian Church. I was blessed to have been reared in a strong Christian home with overwhelming Christian heritage. As a young adult I experienced the overshadowing power of God's Spirit at work in my life. That experience increased my trust and dependency upon God. Over these many years my faith, belief, and assurance in Christ has become sound.

Most of my life, I've been motivated by the Spirit of God to promote results with a positive outlook and a clear knowledge of where God is leading me as His under shepherd. As the Spirit of God began to tog upon my heart pertaining to ministry, I began to have multiple dreams pertaining to preaching. Three times I consulted God pertaining to the dreams that I might be assured of the calling.

The final consultation with God produced the final assurance for me as God answered my prayer by revealing my call to praying women who is my sister; Lula Bell Richardson who affirmed what I asked God to perform for me. She revealed to me that while she was fasting and praying God appeared me before her and I was preaching. With that affirmation I accepted my call in to ministry and began my journey towards fulfilling my call.

In 1990 I completed my Ministerial training through The Commission of Ministry of the Convention Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina. I've been blessed to be an empathic communicator, able to see things from the other person's point of view. Being a pastor, for the past 20 years at Canaan Christian Church, has enabled me to be and instrument of God's Spirit that has allowed me to become keen for new experience, responsibility and accountability. I've sought God's will for the church and have led the congregation through years of growth, transitions, and blessings.

8Th Regional Conference:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is able to keep us from falling, along with Regional Pastor Sotello V. Long, the Regional Council and the Regional Conference planning team members of the 8th Regional Conference!

We rejoice in the blessed hope of Jesus Christ. If we remain in Jesus, He said that He will remain in us. We must build each other up, so that our Lord can get the glory out of His church.

Let us, the body of Christ, by our faith in Jesus strengthen that which remains. There is neither male nor female with respect to God's favor in the body of Christ. We are all one. Our God is the God of all.

We give God thanks for what He has already done for us, and even more for what He will do through our obedience to him!

Keeping in our hearts the great commission that was given unto us, let's continue to do what has been assigned to our hands by the grace of God.

Yes "God's Grace is Amazingly all Sufficient" for us! Brothers and Sisters, we need one another and we need to encourage one another and pray for one another as we draw closer to the return of the day of Jesus Christ! Let's stay alert and be watchful.

Thank you with love,

Deacon Harold Samuel

Regional Vice Moderator/Conference Coordinator

REGIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

New Hope Christian Church Burton, SC

"God's Grace Is Amazingly All Sufficient!"

(2 Corinthians 12:9)

THURSDAY-SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Evening Worship Service By:

Commission On Ministry (COM)

FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

8:00 AM - 9:30AM Registration/Exhibits/Health Screening

9:00AM – 9:30AM Gathering Devotion

9:30AM – 10:15 AM Bible Lecture Minister Claude Walker

10:15AM – 10:30AM Break

10:30AM – 11:15 AM Bible Lecture Minister Claude Walker

11:15AM – 11:30 Break

11:30 AM – 1:30PM Lunch (Gilligan's) own your own

1:30PM – 2:00PM Break

2:00 PM –3:15 PM Community Forum w/
Special Guests/ Video 2010 & Web Update

3:20 PM – 3:30 PM Announcements

4:30PM-6:00PM Dinner (Hosted by Disciples Women)

FRIDAY Evening

7:00PM –7:15PM Processional

7:15PM- 9:00PM Evening Worship Service -
Speaker: Minister Amy Gopp

After worship 9 – 10pm Reception

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 1, 2011 CASUAL ATTIRE (Tee shirts)

7:00 AM Breakfast -
(Hosted by Ministers Wives & Husbands Fellowship)

8:00 AM Registration/
Exhibits/Health Screening

8:30AM - 9:00AM Gathering Community Singing

9:00AM – 10:15 AM Bible Lecture Minister Claude Walker

10:15AM – 10:30AM Break

10:30AM - 11: 15AM Fellowship Groups:

Youth, Women, Men, Ministers, Ministers' Wives & Husbands,

11: 15AM – 11:30AM Break

11:30AM - 12:30PM Regional Church Agenda:

Recognitions, Reports & Regional Plenary

12:30PM - 1:00PM Memorial & Communion Service

1:00 PM – 4:00PM Cookout/ Fellowship & Games

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 2, 2011

Worship @ New Hope CC

Worship @ Faithful

Worship @ Central CC

Worship – All churches are invited to worship centering on the theme, “ God's Grace Is Amazingly All Sufficient!” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Refer to the web site scdisciples.org for details or call the Regional Church Office!

2011 Regional Board and Council Meeting date and Location:
August 13,2011@: New Hope Christian Church, Burton

November 5, 2011@: New Galilee Christian Church, Holly Hill

Magdalene CC Allendale : Invites you to there Benefit Program on Sunday June 18,@ 4:00PM .This program is a fundraiser and will serve two purposes. Funds will be distributed equally to the disaster relief and building fund so, bring your choir ,gospel group or individuals to come sing and fellowship with them. Event is sponsored by the Disciple Men Ministry. Jerome Clark, Pastor.

News from Around the Region:

Make a Contribution:

Churches and Individuals now can make a contribution to the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in South Carolina by going online at scdisciples.org and click on the link that says make a contribution.

Note. The Christian Church in South Carolina is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your gift is tax deductible

Convention District union #1: Will host its quarterly union at Faithful Christian Church May 28-29.

Convention District Union# 2: Will host a revival for our quarterly meeting in May. At St. Phillip Christian Church, Reevesville beginning May 23-28. Nightly @ 7:00 pm and closing on Saturday morning at 10:00 am

Assembly District # 1 : will meet July 23, 2011 7:00PM@ Rice Patch Christian Church, Islandton, SC

CAMP CHRISTIAN BAR-B-Q: Great big thanks to all who helped make our cooking and serving a success again this year. We had four (4) churches send in start-up money (Antioch Luray, Rice Patch, and Varnville; however, we are hoping the other churches will send in their money as well. We requested \$200 from each church. This money goes to help maintain and support Camp Christian throughout the year. , if you can not send \$200, send as much as you can. It is going for a wonderful investment for our Region. Please still send your donation. make checks payable to camp Christian.

Disciples Women Ministry General Assembly:

WE NEED YOU! WANTED: Friendly faces to host Disciples Women Luncheon on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel. Volunteers will be asked to be available about 9:30 a.m. through time it takes to close everything up and tear down displays, etc. Detailed information will be provided to those who agree to serve. **BENEFITS:** Opportunity to share and interact with your sisters in Christ from all over the country. If you would like to participate, please email your complete contact information to odw@dhm.disciples.org and put "GA Hostess" in the subject line. If you are available on other days there are two-hour shifts available at the Well (all day) and the Boutique (during exhibit hall open hours). Same email address works only put "GA Well" or "GA Boutique" in the subject line.

Thank you for forwarding this to your networks

First CC Aiken:

Just Another Sunday

Early on a sunny Sunday afternoon after church, I headed out for a walk around the neighborhood. A man was trimming his grass along the side walk, and we greeted each other with the usual "Hello, how are you?" In a negative tone, he replied, "It's just another Sunday." Later, I wondered what he had meant by that. Was he saying, *I'm just doing my chores—going through the motions?* Sometimes even church attendance can become a matter of merely going through the motions on just another Sunday. For the believers in the early church (Acts 2:41-47), joining with fellow believers was a source of excitement. That was when the church first started and everyone was a new believer—so they were bound to be enthusiastic. But what about us? What can we do to make each Sunday special?

Go with the anticipation of meeting with God, While He is with us all the time (Heb. 13:5), God is with us in a unique way as we gather with others who know Him (Matt. 18:20; James 4:8). Bring your burdens and praise to Him.

Go to learn about God. We may not learn something new every week, but we can always be encouraged by the truths of God's Word (Ps. 119:105). Expect to hear from Him.

Go to fellowship with others. We need each other in this Christian journey. Encourage others, challenge them in their faith, and pray for them (Heb. 10:24-25). *Lord give us a renewed enthusiasm of heart for attending church so that it won't be just another Sunday.* --- Anne Cetas Contributed by: Roy and Patti McNichols

Disciples Center News:

The Disciples Center in Indianapolis, transitioned to new, temporary headquarters in the aftermath of the April 5 fire and related issues of smoke abatement, we ask for the prayers of the Church. Our contact information shall remain the same.



Expanding
the Table
PENTECOST OFFERING 2011

Pentecost offering is received in congregations on June 5& 12:

The Pentecost Offering is evenly divided between the region where the offering was taken and New Church Ministry. The offering is used to directly support starting new congregations and funds the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of our new church planters in the first two years of their new plant. We invite you to join us in expanding the new church movement by supporting these courageous leaders



**Julia Brown Karimu nominated to serve as next Division of Overseas Ministries
President, Co-Executive of Global Ministries**

The Division of Overseas Ministries Board of Directors nominated the Reverend Julia Brown Karimu to serve as its next President and Co-Executive for Global Ministries. Current President/Co-Executive Rev. David Vargas is retiring in August after serving with DOM/Global Ministries for 27 years.

Karimu's name will now be forwarded to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where the actual election is expected to take place by mail ballot. The 20-person DOM board will then do another mail ballot to confirm the election following the General Board's action.

"It has been a humbling experience to enter into the candidate process," said Karimu, shortly after being informed about her selection. "This ministry is a part of my DNA. I am happy to be part of a church that has a commitment to a ministry of accompaniment with partners around the world."

"We are excited about the nomination of Julia," said Rev. Don Gillett, DOM chair and co-chair of the Common Global Ministries Board. "She has been dedicated and committed and has done outstanding work in her current position. We're looking forward to working with her during this time of transition."

As DOM President, Karimu will be responsible for guiding the ministry's activities in such areas as program development, planning, evaluation and financial management. She also will help facilitate in connecting the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with the global church and the world. As Co-Executive of Global Ministries, she will work with UCC's Moos to provide general leadership and coordination of joint mission activities in ways that acknowledge the rapidly changing environment for mission. "I want to invite Disciples to become more deeply involved in God's mission "from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth," said Karimu.

Congratulations!

Minister Rosemary Simmons Brown will be receiving her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership on Sunday, June 12, 2011 @ Nova Southern University, Sunrise, FL at the Bank Atlantic Center! She is the Associate Minister of the Three Mile Creek Christian Church, Ehrhardt and the wife of Pastor Johnny Brown. Cards/ notes of congratulations may be sent to 341 Coburn Town Road, Ridgeville, SC 29472

Refugee and Immigration Ministries

Plans are being made for the General Assembly where immigration issues will get some attention during the business session on Tuesday afternoon and there will be a resource group session on Wednesday afternoon on "How to Hold 'holy' immigration conversations in Congregations." Please urge your key leaders on immigration issues to participate in these events.

I also want to make you aware that after serving 31 years, I will be retiring at the end of July. After serving 11 years, Linda Williams (our Program Associate for Refugee Resettlement) will be retiring at the end of July also. In the midst of the economic difficulties experienced at all levels of the church, I want to thank DHM and Week of Compassion for their financial support which made it possible for both Linda and I to stay in our positions until retirement age- we were born only a few days apart. We are grateful for this compassion. Our replacement will include the Immigration attorney we are currently seeking and a seminary intern to work on the refugee resettlement for the rest of 2011. DHM plans to hire a new director of RIM (probably part-time) in 2012.

Thank you to all of you and your many predecessors for your support of RIM and my ministry over the last 30 plus years.

Sincerely, Jennifer Riggs
Director

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
Pastor Sotello V. Long, Regional Minister
The Eighth South Carolina Regional Conference
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
September 29--October 2, 2011
“God’s Grace Is Amazingly All Sufficient!” 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 esp. vs 9

REGISTRATION FORM

Title Preference (Mr. /Mrs. / Ms. / Rev. / Dr. /Bro. / Sis)

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Church _____

REGISTRATION FEES

(Early Due Date: Registration postmarked no later than Saturday, August 20, 2011)

Church “Seed Money” Donation \$100.00 _____

Pastor Registration \$100.00 _____

Adult Registration* Cost Number _____

Adult Early Registration \$50.00 x _____ (Postmark by August 20th) _____

Senior Citizens (65 & Older) \$40.00 x _____ _____

Seminary&COM Enrollee \$40.00 x _____ _____

Adult One Day (On Site Registration) \$25.00 x _____ (Payable On-Site Only) _____

Adult Late Registration \$60.00 x _____ _____

(Postmark/Received after August 20th)

Children/Youth Program (Ages 6-17) \$15.00 x _____ _____

Saturday 7: am Prayer Breakfast \$8.00 x _____ _____

(Hosted by Ministers Wives and Husbands Fellowship)

Friday Luncheon @ Gilligans: optional /own your own

Friday Evening Dinner (Hosted by Disciple Women)

\$15.00/person or \$28.00/couple X _____ _____

Conference T-Shirt(s): Put the number beside the size you prefer

Price: Small – XLarge =\$10.00; 2XLarge=\$12.00; 3XLarge = \$13.00

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL ___ _____

I cannot attend, but want to make a donation to help the Conference! _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

(Note: For churches submitting multiple registrations please be sure to attach a list of all names of those persons covered by the registration fee on the attached list!)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Christian Church in SC or CCSC and mail to
 1293 Orange Grove Rd., Charleston, SC 29407-3947

Early Registrations received by August 20th may order and receive a Conference Tee shirt in their Registration Packet. Orders thereafter may receive T-shirts as they are available during Conference. Registrations received by August 20th will include Saturday luncheon only. This Luncheon may not be available for registrations received after this date.

NOTE! NOTE!

For the July –August Newsletter

The due date for articles is July 12,2011

*Please submit any articles, church activities, church
Anniversaries, etc. to the Regional Church Office at:*

roccsc@aol.com

*We rejoice in sharing the news of God at work
from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth
and from the ends of the earth to our doorsteps.*

The South Carolina Christian

P O Box 32064

Charleston, SC 29417-2064

