

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN

A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
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Congregation to Congregation Embodying the Region!

“What are the advantages/benefits?”

The Christian Church Disciples of Christ has as a part of its makeup congregations connected in a geographical location defined as a Region. Our Region is called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina.

The benefits of Regional recognition are a sense of belonging, supportive relationships, leadership development, a sense of identity, spiritual nurture through camps, retreats and conferences; clergy endorsement and support; communications network; coordinated global outreach connections and missionary opportunities through the Division of Overseas Ministries; blanket tax exemption; legal charitable gifts organizational recognition; building funds access through Church Extension; clergy and staff pension access through the Pension Fund; disaster relief access through the Week of Compassion.

We partner in.....

Proclaiming the Gospel

Congregations constituting the Region offer worship services which include communion, preaching and discipleship teaching designed to proclaim and follow the gospel of Jesus, the Christ. When a person accepts or has accepted the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and placed their membership in a congregation they become members of the congregation, the Region and the General expression of the Lord's church known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Jesus Christ is the head with our relational and organizational pastoral expressions of a local pastor, Regional Minister and General Minister.

Caring for Congregations

The Regional Leadership offers care for congregations through the search and call process to call a new minister; developing disciplined congregational leadership with teaching sessions, focused symposiums, sharing resources, facilitating conflict resolution, participating in worship, dedications, installations, and retirements, baptisms and communion.

Authorizing Standing

The region authorizes and recognizes the standing of congregations and clergy in the Region and on behalf of the denomination. Congregations and clergy have access to certain denominational and community resources by virtue of being in good standing.

Enabling Congregations to Network

The Region organizes and supports conferences for our major fellowship groups of Men, Women, and Youth. It also networks resources, sharing the vitality of our congregational and general church life through the various communications such as the regional newsletter, email lists and the website. The Region enables working together as appropriate on initiatives and mission work expressing the gospel of Christ that we may do effectively together!

Calling out and Developing Leaders

The fellowships of Clergy, Men, Women, and Youth are encouraged to engage in ministries, retreats, and seminars which are educational and relational demonstrating the Biblical witness of the priesthood of all believers. Leadership development is promoted through the Educational Ministry, the Evangelistic ministry, the State Ushers and the Christian Education & Bible School Convention.

Caring for Ministers and the Ministry

The Region sponsors a yearly retreat for ministers and spouses designed for ministerial development and renewal. Our Commission on Ministry Team conducts sessions to help new ministers obtain standing in the denomination. The ministry is strengthened through the calling of new ministers, commissioning, ordaining and developing current ministers.

Gathering as a Regional Expression of the Church

The annual Regional Conference is a time for worship, fellowship and rejoicing as a gathered community with a common identity in Christ! It is an opportunity for all churches in the region to connect face to face.

Access and representation at General Assembly

The Regional Board sends delegates to General Assembly. It may submit statements and resolutions to the General Assembly.

Access and representation at General Board

The Regional Board has representation on the General Board. The Region has a say, voice and vote in the life, witness and service of the church through its appointed representative. The Regional minister serves ex-officio. It may submit statements and resolutions to the

Managing the Church's Resources

The Regional Board oversees the financial resources and obligations of the region. The specific responsibility is lodged with the Finance Stewardship Team accountable to the Board. The region sponsors seminars and connects with resources on Christian Stewardship.

Encouraging New Forms of Mission and Ministry

We partner with congregations, appropriate General expressions and entities in the new church ministry effort.

Advancing the Priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Regional Church participates in the collegiums of regions constituting the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It serves as the official connection to the General Ministries and collective ministries throughout our denomination. The current priorities are (1) New Churches, (2) Church Transformation, (3) Leadership Development/ Preparation, and Anti-racism – Pro-reconciliation.

Advocating Christian Unity and Justice

The region is committed to justice and equality in its operation and witness. It hosts an annual Regional Conference. It participates in Week of Compassion; Global Ministries and the South Carolina Christian Action Council. An active regional anti-racism team called, *True Community*, is impacting our relationships in the Region.

So when one asks about the benefits of having good standing in the Region feel free to refer to this and tell it!!!

If you live in South Carolina and are a member of a church with standing in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ) then you, I, we are the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina!

Run tell that!!!!

“Nobody’s gonna out-love me lovin’ you!”

Peace,

Sotello

Profiles In Ministry



Amanda L. Jones is currently the Manager for Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education for Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, SC. In this role she works with a great team to coordinate the spiritual care of patients and staff of the hospital.

She also supervises students enrolled in Clinical Pastoral Education. She has been with the chaplaincy department of Palmetto Health for 15 years. Her roles have included: chaplain resident, hospice staff chaplain, manager for Hospice and Community Chaplaincy, and now as manager at Palmetto Health Richland. She has also worked with the SC Christian Action Council (1995-1998) and with The SC Baptist Convention (1990-1993).

She attended Winthrop College in Rock Hill South Carolina and earned a Bachelor of Social Work in 1987 and then a Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY in 1990. Early in her ministry she felt pastoral ministry and institutional chaplaincy was a right fit.

She has been blessed to journey with people in the midst of the sacredness of life and death.

She was originally ordained in a Southern Baptist church and then transferred her ordination to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1998.

She will begin a new journey in December, 2011 as she becomes the new Director for Chaplaincy and Clinical Pastoral Education at Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, SC. She looks forward to this new challenge and opportunity.



Dr. Freddie Lawton, Sr. Th.D., is a native of Beaufort, SC. He is married to Virgie Pusha Lawton.

They are the parents of two children, Marvelle (George) and Freddie Jr. (Carmelita).

He has five grandchildren, Caitlin, Corbitt, Caleb, Freddie Lawton III, and Franklin. He was employed by the Marine Corps Exchange, at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, SC for nineteen years. He resigned to devote more time to pastoral ministry.

He recently received a Doctor of Theology from Word Discipleship Ordination College/Seminary in Orangeburg, SC.

Pastor Lawton humbly began his pastoral ministry in 1986. He has served as pastor at Magdalene Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Allendale, SC and Faithful Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Burton, SC.

He has served as senior pastor of Antioch Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Varnville, SC since 1994. In addition to his pastoral ministry, he has served as past Moderator and vice moderator of the South Carolina State Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and past president of Beaufort County Ministerial Alliance.

Presently, he serves on the Board of Directors as treasurer for Greenwood Cemetery, in Nashville, TN; District Convention One Moderator, Regional Board Commission on Ministry, Low country Habitat for Humanity, and is on the School Improvement Council at Lady's Island Elementary.

Pastor Lawton has touched many lives through his ministry during the past twenty-six years. His motto is "If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living will not have been in vain".

News from Around the Region:

The 8th Annual Regional Conference of the Christian Church in SC: Was held September 29-October 2, 2011 @ New Hope Christian Church, Burton, SC, with host **Pastor, Edward Cushingberry Jr.** It was co-hosted by Faithful and Central Christian Churches. The theme was **“God’s Grace is Amazingly All Sufficient!”** based on 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, esp. v. 9, and theme song was “Amazing Grace.” Approximately 200 participants in attendance .

“Evening of Elegance” and worship honoring our Regional **Pastor, Sotello Long and Lady Elect Dee Long** for 8 years of dedicated service. This was a ticketed event sponsored by the COM with over 125 persons in attendance.

Friday morning services were presided by Pastor Freddie Lawton, Sr., Antioch CC and District Convention #1 Moderator. The music ministry was led by Spencer Singleton with a medley of songs – “Amazing Grace” and “I Love to Praise. The Bible Lecturer was **Dr. Claude Walker**, Associate Pastor of the Bonnie View CC in Dallas, Texas. Throughout the services on Friday and Saturday mornings, he expounded on the theme scripture about God’s Amazing Grace. He pondered the question – “What is it about God keeping his promises that makes us not trust Him?” Our souls were truly fed with the Word of God.

The keynote speaker was **Minister Amy Gopp**, Executive Director, Week of Compassion for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She was a dynamite messenger of God as she shared her experiences and passions for the ministry. She has traveled from country to country reaching out to God’s hurting people and showing God’s love and grace.

After Lunch Pastor Long shared the video of the 2010 Regional Conference @ First Christian, Charleston, SC, followed by a session with the Community Forum of the special guests which were: **Helen Johnson, Christmount Christian Assembly Min. Sekinah Hamlin Sullivan, True Community, Minister of Reconciliation, Sherley Walker, President of National Convocation Minister’s Wives & Husbands Fellowship, Minister Amy Gopp, Executive Director for Week of Compassion and Dee Long, Building & Capital Services Advisor, Church Extension**

There were 7 exhibitions on display. The Conference closed out with a seafood bash, cookout on the church grounds and in fellowship hall. The fellowship continued with games such as bingo and other board games along with horse rides for the children. DVDs from the Conference are available for purchase through the Regional Church Office.

Christian Education:

There were two Christian Education scholarships issued in the amount of \$250 each to the following students: (1) Ebone Walker, **Antioch CC to Lander University** and (2) Shanise Kelly, Zion Pilgrim CC to Frances Marion University. Note: one scholarship was through the Region and the other was an anonymous donation made directly to Lander University.

The Minister’s Wives and Husbands Fellowship: will be celebrating their 15th Annual Speakers Program Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 5:00 pm , Cypress Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Hwy. 63, Walterboro, South Carolina.

Andrews CC: Minister Shaunette Lloyd will be serving at Andrew church family while their pastor Maryann Goodman take a leave to be with her daughter for the birth of her new Grandbaby in Germany.

Belvedere CC: Invites you to join them in celebrating their 90th Church anniversary on Sunday November 20, 2011 at 11:00AM Guest speaker will be Dr. Glenn Carson ,President of the Disciples Historical Society

Cypress Creek CC: Celebrated on Sunday, October 23, 2011 @3:00 pm their Mortgage Burning ceremony Preacher for the occasion was Pastor Isaac Gourdine, Jr. Pastor Roy E. Tucker

FCC Aiken :Has begun a Pastor Prayer Partner Ministry. This is a volunteered ministry however you must sign a pledge of commitment that you will pray for the Following (3) Things **Pastor, Church Family** and the **Community.**

FCC Charleston: Sunday October 30 was a great day it was “Bring a friend day”. Each member was asked to bring a friend, neighbor or relative to the worship service. Our sanctuary as well as the fellowship hall was beautifully decorated with fall colors. Special music from the chancel choir and youth orchestra. Over 150 people were in attendance and after service we all sat down to a delicious catered meal that the children and adults enjoyed. SUV was decorated as” Trunk & Treat” by the Youth Fellowship. The Worship service, Dinner and Trunk & treat left every one with excitement, joy, wonderful fellowship and hearts filled with God’s love. We at FCC Charleston have been blessed with the wonderful Ministry of our Interim Minister, Dr. John Hughes and his lovely wife Carol

Luray CC: The CWF donated \$100.00 to the Autism Research Foundation also sent 6 shoe box to the annual Disciples Women Fall Retreat. and the church sent a care package to Ben Diamond who is serving in the Peace corps in Zimbabwe

Poplar Hill CC: Will celebrate their annual Harvest festival Tea on Sunday November 27, 2011 @ 4:00PM You are invited to the fellowship.

Convention District union #1: Will host a revival January 23-27-2012 @ Cypress Creek CC beginning nightly at 7:00pm "Theme" Yet I Will Rejoice! Habakkuk 3:17-19 and the quarterly union will be hosted by New Hope CC January 28-29,2011

Assembly District # 1 : will meet January 27 2012 7:30PM@ New Beginning Outreach Ministries, Walterboro

Assembly District #2 Pete Cosgrove from first Christian Charleston has accepted the call to serve as Moderator for assembly District # 2.

Convention District Union# 2: Quarterly union at Bethany Youth Center, Holly Hill, January 26-28 2011 Nightly @ 7:00 pm and closing on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM

New Beginning Outreach Ministries: The economy has increased the needs of many and our supply closet is very low with the necessary items needed to assist Families who seek our assistance. So we are soliciting from Individuals and the various congregations to help by donating perishable or non-Perishable food items, Clothing's and Household Goods. To the New beginning Outreach Ministries located at 600 Beach Road P.O. Box 1681 Walterboro, SC 29488 you may drop off or Call 843-718-7223 For Pick up.

The Christian Church in South Carolina (Disciples of Christ) Pray and be thankful constantly to Almighty Godfor a strong and faithful church. for compassionate, excellent, submitted and visionary leadership in 2011!

November 6: Church House of Ministries, Summerville
November 13: Zion Pilgrim, Ridgeville
November 20: New Galilee, Holly Hill & Higher Education and Leadership Ministries and Nebraska
November 27: First Christian, Belvedere
December 4: Path of Life, Columbia: North American Pacific Asian Disciples
December 11: Varnville CC, Varnville & Capital Area
December 18: Alpha and Omega Ministries, Bamberg
December 25: Shalom CC, Bonneau & West Virginia

2011 S C REGIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 13 & 20: Thanksgiving Special Day Offering
November 24: Thanksgiving Day
November 25: Day after Thanksgiving
November 27-Jan.4: Advent-Christmas
December 11 & 18: Christmas Special Day Offering
December 25&: Christmas Day
December 26-Jan 1: Kwanzaa

Christian Church Disciples of Christ in SC 2012

Theme: "Yet I Will Rejoice!" Habakkuk 3:17-19

NKJ Version:

17. Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
18. Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
19. The LORD God ^[a] is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer's feet,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

The Christian Church in South Carolina (Disciples of Christ) Pray and be thankful constantly to Almighty Godfor a strong and faithful church. for compassionate, excellent, submitted and visionary leadership in 2012!

January 1: Our General Minister and President Sharon Watkins and our Regional Minister Sotello V. Long

January 8: First Christian, Aiken and Church Extension with our Church Extension General Consultant Dee Long

January 15: Antioch, Varnville; Christian Board of Publication; and Alabama/NW Florida

January 22: Lay Men, Women & Youth Ministry, Hispanic Ministries & Commission Church, Beaufort

January 29: Greater Cherry Grove, Hampton; Christian Church Foundation & Florida

February 6: Cypress Creek, Walterboro; District Fellowships and Arizona

2012 S C REGIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 6 – February 22: Epiphany

January 16-19: Korean Disciples Convocation, Psalm Springs California

January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 22-28: Week of the Laity

January 27-29: District Fellowships (5th Sunday)

February 4: Regional Leadership/Board Meeting @ St. Stephen Christian Church, St. Stephen

2012 Regional Board and Council Meeting Dates and Locations:

February 4, 2012: @ St. Stephen CC, Stephen

May 12, 2012 @: Faithful CC, Burton

August 11, 2012 @: First Christian Church, Columbia

November 3, 2012 @: Ashton Branch CC, Ashton

News from General Church & Other Regions:

Lexington Theological Seminary:

The Board of Trustees of Lexington Theological Seminary (LTS) cordially invites you to the Inauguration of Dr. Charisse L. Gillett as the 17th President of Lexington Theological Seminary. Where: Central Christian Church 205 East Short St, Lexington, KY When: Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 4:00P.M. RSVP: Sonny Wray at swray@lextheo.edu or (859) 280-

1245 by Nov. 18, 2011. Correspondence may sent to LTS at 631 South Limestone St., Lexington, KY 40508.

The Thanksgiving Special Day Offering is received in Congregations on Sunday November 13 and 20

Thanksgiving Offering benefits the colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve. Your support provides scholarships, church relations programs, and chaplaincy offices. Most importantly, your support of the 2011 Thanksgiving Offering helps Disciples raise up servant leaders!

Christmas Special Day Offering is received in Congregations on Sunday December 11 and 18

The Christmas Offering supports Regional Ministries. In



33 regions across the U.S. and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship.

Often recognized for the ministries

of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister

Youth Ministry Commission:

The Youth Ministry Commission is currently accepting applications. The purpose of the Youth Ministry Commission is to empower and assist adult lay youth ministry volunteers across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. This commission is made of people who are dedicated to youth ministry and have several years of experience in this area and, as such, are willing to offer useful and creative ways to minister to the youth of our church. For application go to www.discipleshomemissions.org to download the application the deadline to apply is December 15, 2011.

LIGHT of the WORLD SELECTS NEW PASTOR: Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN has called the Rev. David A. Hampton as its next senior minister.



David A. Hampton

Hampton will begin his service in January, and replaces the Rev. T. Garrott Benjamin, who is retiring as pastor at the end of 2012. Dr. David Hampton is the 10th Pastor of the historic Bethany Baptist Church of Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Hampton hails from Indianapolis, IN where he successfully served as a Senior Pastor in Indianapolis from 2000 to 2007, prior to his call to the Bethany Baptist Church of Brooklyn, NY in January 2008.

Christmount News: Annual Elders and Deacons Workshop, which is co-sponsored with Lexington Theological Seminary. It's a great program for new elders and deacons as well as veterans. The date for this event is the first Friday and Saturday in March 2-3, 2012 Dr. Margie Ralph of LTS will be our keynote speaker.



**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
Clergy & Mates Retreat * February 10-11, 2012
Christmount Christian Assembly
222 Fern way
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Phone: (828) 669-8977**

Theme: "Transformed Servants by Experiencing the Reflecting Presence of God"
Old Testament Exodus 33:12-21/ New Testament 2Corinthians 3:17-18

Facilitator: Pastor Valerie Melvin, First Christian Church, Reidsville, NC

Associate Regional Minister

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC

Registration for Ministers: \$150/Single and \$250/Married Couple!!!!

The registration fee includes room, Saturday breakfast, and resource materials. Any other special events or activities are subject to an additional cost.

Name(s): _____

Note - List both names if your husband or wife will also attend.

Telephone: Area code and number: _____

Email: _____ **No. of persons attending:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Congregation: _____

Note: Registration includes Friday night stay & Saturday morning Breakfast only

This event will begin at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 10, 2012 and conclude with communion at noon Saturday, February 11, 2012 with the invitation for interested persons to stay over Saturday night to engage in a time of personal retreat/recreation.

Note: Persons interested in staying over Saturday night may do so by making arrangements when you check in at Christmount.

Registration Amount \$ _____ **Due by Thursday January 05, 2012**

(Registration fees are non-refundable)

Paid by: Check/Cash _____ Online via Credit Card _____ Online Confirmation# _____

****Make all checks payable to and mail to:**

Christian Church in SC or "CCSC"

Mail, phone, or fax registration to:

*The Christian Church in South Carolina, 1293 Orange Grove Rd. * Charleston * SC * 29407*

*Phone: 843-852-4537 Email: roccsc@aol.com *Fax: 843-852-4538*

Note: You may also pay your registration online at scdisciples.org and click the "Make a Contribution" link to pay as a contribution to the "SC Designated Operating Fund" and mail your registration with your online payment confirmation.

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE!

For the January –February Newsletter

The due date for articles is January 12,2012

*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.*

“Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season”

The South Carolina Christian

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