

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN

A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
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January-February 2012

“As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we are.....”

Praise God for a brand new year! As we begin this “New” Year 2012 I am seeking your reflections on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina and our expression of the church in general.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina is a unique expression of the church of the Lord, Jesus Christ. We are children of God. We believe that Jesus is Lord! We are a part of a movement founded by Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone who gave us our unique name which is a combination of “The Christian Church” and “Disciples of Christ”.

We are a diverse group of congregations united in the bond of Christian faith. We have certain congregations with the vitality of youth and certain congregations with the vitality of seniors. We have congregations with a healthy balance of both and much vitality in between. In painting our picture in SC we are congregations with predominantly bi-vocational pastors. We have congregations that are predominantly African American, predominantly Caucasian and we have some congregations that are multiracial in their membership.

We are a Region with certain leadership that is daring to live into the call of the gospel to be one church and we have those who are quite frankly on the fence or in the field. At our greatest we seek God’s best as revealed in God’s word definitively stated in loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. At our worse we drop out without engagement in dialogue.

We have common beliefs and practices. We are united and serve God freely. We believe in the priesthood of all believers and encourage the study of the scriptures. We operate by a congregational polity with orderly leadership as constituted and called by each congregation. We are open to rich dialogue and discussion of community and world issues in light of our understanding of the scriptures. We are open to the Spirit of God leading us in ways that words are inadequate to explain. The presence and the anointing of God are evident in the way lives are changed for good.

We are on a journey of faith (*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*) trusting the Holy Spirit who knows the way.

Feel free to share your views or reflections in a phrase, sentence, paragraph or page or more in response to:

“As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we are.....”

Feel free to share it from any perspective of your choice. Send an email to the Regional church office at the email address: roccsc@aol.com or a written reflection in the mail for sharing it on our web page and/or the next edition of the newsletter.

What follows are some of the biblical and theological foundations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Feel free to reflect on these among family, church members and neighbors as the Spirit leads you!

Happy New Year!!!!

Sotello

Biblical and Theological Foundations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

[The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a church founded on the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. We are diverse in our congregational practices, but uphold primarily two standard sacraments that distinguish us as “Disciples”, which are weekly or regular Holy Communion and baptism by immersion.]

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. I Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV)

"At the Table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ" (1)

"The Lord's Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship [in most congregations]. It is open to all who are followers of Jesus Christ. The practice of Holy Communion has become the central element of worship within the Disciples tradition. Disciples' observance of the Lord's Supper emanates from the upper room, where Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the living Christ is met and received in the sharing of the bread and the cup, representative of the body and blood of Jesus. The presence of the living Lord is affirmed and he is proclaimed to be the dominant power in our lives." (2)

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NRSV)

"Through baptism into Christ, we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God." (1)

"Just as the baptism represents the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it symbolizes the death and burial of the old self of the repentant believer, and the joyous birth of a brand new being in Christ. Those who founded the Disciples movement taught baptism by immersion as the accepted form." (2)

"From the: "Word to the Church on Baptism," Commission on Theology, 1987

Baptism is a public act by which the church proclaims God's grace, as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the use of a visible sign of God's gracious initiative and the human individual's response in faith. With other Christians we affirm that baptism is at [the same time] a divine gift and a human response."

"Baptism, as a gift of grace, received by faith, expresses its meaning in a variety of images: new birth; a washing with water; a cleansing from sin; a sign of God's forgiving grace; the power of new life now and the pledge of life in the age to come. The meaning of baptism is grounded in God's redemptive action in Christ, it incorporates the believer in the community in the body of Christ, and it anticipates life in the coming age when the powers of the old world will be overcome, and the purposes of God will triumph." (2)

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

{• Disciples of Christ Statement Of Identity}

The denomination was born in the 1800s, and continues to be influenced by its founding ideals of our unity in Christ with openness and diversity in practice and belief. (2)

The Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

To be a faithful growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. - *Micah 6:8*

The Mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

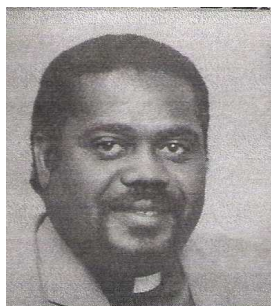
To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." - *Acts 1:8*

From the Preamble to The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), rev. 2005

From www.disciples.org "About the Disciples"

Specifically: <http://www.disciples.org/AboutTheDisciples/tabid/67/Default.aspx>

Profiles In Ministry



Pastor Charles A “Tony” Black is the pastor of Alpha and Omega Ministries, Bamberg SC. He is the founding pastor and has been there for the past three (3) years. His educational background consists of a B.A. Degree from Voorhees College, Demark, SC, Master of Divinity, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY and a Master of Psychiatry, South University Columbia SC.

Charles is the son of Elder Charles E. and Diaconate Clara Black. He is married to Rosa G. Black all of Orangeburg SC. They are the parents of four children and they have four grandchildren.

Pastor Black’s ministerial experiences include, Pastor of East Maple St. Christian Church/assistant Chaplin of Veterans Hospital both located in Nicholasville KY., Gay-Lea Christian Church ,Nashville TN., Cherry Grove Christian Church, Brunson SC, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Bamberg SC ,Hutto Chapel Baptist Church, Barnwell SC, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Blackville SC. Pastor Black also founded the Light of the World Church ,Ehrhardt SC.



REVEREND CHARLES WRIGHT SR. is a native of Holly Hill, SC. He was born in Bronx, New York. He is the son of the late Mrs. Minnie Wright - Bucker. He is now married to Evangelist Gwendolyn Ritter Wright. Together they have six (6) children and thirteen (13) grandchildren.

Rev. Wright is a builder and soul winner in the body of Christ, he has been preaching for forty-three (43) years and pastoring for forty-one (41) years. His pastoral-ship is with the Disciples of Christ Christian church of the South Carolina Region.

He has pastored numerous churches in the South Carolina Region expanding two districts. He has also served in several capacities of the National and Region ministries of the Christian church over the years. He is currently servicing the body of Christ as pastor in his second tenure at the New Grove Hall Christian Church DOC.

Where God has used him to reconstruct the edifice and be instrumental in members being added to the congregation. His vision for the church is still being birthed with additional plans to continue renovation of the sanctuary. His testimony is “God has put me on the wall and I am not coming down until it’s finished”.

His philosophy can be found in a quote from Dr. King’s book **“THE MEASURE OF MAN”** which states, *If you will come back home, I will take you in, for you are made for something high and something noble and something good.* His guiding or underlying principles can also be found in the writings of John Oxenham’s book on the **“WISDOM OF DR. KING”** that says *To every man there openeth a way, and ways, and the high soul climbs the high way, and the low soul gropes the low, and in between, on the misty flats, the rest drift to and fro, but to every man there openeth a high way, and a low, and every man decideth the way his soul shall go.*

News from Around the Region:

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.

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 2012 Nightly @ 7:00 pm and closing on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM

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

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 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 5: Cypress Creek, Walterboro; District Fellowships and Arizona
February 12: Three Mile Creek, Ehrhardt; North

Carolina and Week of Compassion Ministry

February 19: Global Ministry – Missionary Partners - Jon and Dawn Barnes & Global Ministries

February 26: Magdalene, Allendale; Office of General Minister & President and Indiana

March 4: Ashton Branch, Ashton, Council on Christian Unity & New Revelations, Ridgeville

March 11: Holly Hill, Alvin; Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Pacific Southwest

March 18: New Hope, Beaufort & Christmount

2012 S C REGIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed)

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

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

February 10-11 Clergy and Mates Retreat, Christmount, Black Mountain, NC,

February 19 & 26:Week of Compassion Special Day Offering

February 25:Camp Christian Barbeque

February 25:Commission on Ministry Open House @ Bethany Youth Center, Holly Hill

March 16-17: Disciples Women Spring Workshop/ Assembly Fellowship @ Camp Christian

Commission on Ministry :YOU CAN STILL PLAN TO ATTEND :SC Annual Clergy & Mates Retreat February 10-11, 2012 @ Christmount Christian Assembly 222 Fern way, Black Mountain, NC 28711 Theme: "Transformed Servants by Experiencing the Reflecting Presence of God!"

Old Testament Exodus 33:12-21

New Testament 2 Corinthians 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.

FCC Belvedere, Belvedere: Held a Service for the Consecration and Commissioning of Congregational Pastor Milton Summerall on Sunday January 8, 2012

My Father's House Ministry,Ladson:Shantel Chaplin is a sophomore at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC who was awarded an opportunity to study abroad in New Delhi, India, for five months, because of her outstanding academic profile. She is the daughter of Leonard and Patricia Chaplin of Ladson, SC. Shantel is an active member of My Father's House Ministry where she is a star youth leader and sings on the choir.

2012 Greetings to You!

Hope this message finds you and yours enjoying a new year!!

In early December we were blessed with visitors. Bob and Nita Floe Hempfling were in Maputo with us for 5 days visiting. They are from Lynchburg, VA (First Christian Church Lynchburg) and had hosted us in their home last year when we were doing our itineration. We showed them all around the city, introduced them to colleagues and they ate Mozambique prawns for the first time as well. They went on to enjoy 2 weeks on an organized tour of South African and we found out this week that they are safe back home now. We also had the pleasure of hosting Mary Dewar from the UCC New York Conference for a day. A real pleasure to meet her and hear her stories of service as a missionary around the world. The time was just too short!

We have had and are still having a lovely holiday. Our kids are out of school from 2 December - 25 January - it is their summer break! Our first journey started 15-18 December where we met Scott Couper and Susan Valiquette (and their two children, Micah & Maddie) in Hazyview, South Africa. Scott's sister and her family also joined us there from the USA. We were 12 all together. We had 3 lovely days relaxing, laughing and touring Kruger Park. We had never been to Kruger in all the 8 years we lived there and it was absolutely stunning. We saw loads of buffalo, tons of new birds to add to our list we are keeping, a lion, 2 near sightings of a leopard, elephants, hippos, and so much more. The kids do not remember being on these game drives as they were smaller when they went last, so they had a blast!

Then we were in Durban, South Africa from 23 December - 2 January. We were so blessed to, again, spend the holidays with Susan and Scott's family. We did tons of fun things : Ushaka water park, swallow picnic/viewing (except only about 20 swallows showed up), tons of shopping at the great, big malls in Durban, saw Alvin and the Chipmunks 3, swimming in the beach, ate out, ate in, Santa Claus even found us there and left great gifts for the kids, toasted in the New Year with champagne while looking over the township's fireworks (that were way better than any I have seen in my lifetime!), exercised together, rested a bit and just enjoyed being with good friends. We missed our families terribly this year and got a quick call on skype to each side on Christmas day, but it was not enough! But they were all well and had happy holidays as well.

After returning to Maputo on 2 January amongst the crowds at the beach, we have stayed at home mostly as the road to our house is crammed pack with cars and people lounging on the beaches! We have done our "spring" cleaning and given much away as much was received over the holidays. We have resumed back to work only this week and it is still slow. African cultures take their holidays seriously! =)

Dawn has an upcoming AIDS training for the 7 Maputo churches in February. And the Christian Council is applying for major HIV and AIDS funding and Dawn has been lending a hand there. Jon will return to Inhambane at the end of the month to follow up on the progress at the Pottery Project and will begin teaching Church History at the Ricatla Seminary in February. The kids will continue to laze about until the 25th of January where they will go into shock of returning to the realities of school. Khaya will begin 3rd grade and Aly will go into 2nd grade, so there is much excitement as well. The wiener dogs continue to "rule the roost," as they say, eating, sleeping and repeating! Osvaldo continues to be a blessing with his help in the house. He stayed here while we were away for the holidays keeping the dogs and house in order. He will begin assisting Dawn with the CARAN project at the end of the month where they will begin some English lessons for the girls there.

2012 is off to a good start on this side of the sea and hoping the same wherever you are in the world as well.

And if you are interested there is a new blog up as well at: www.dawnnjonnafrica.wordpress.com

Peace, Love, Joy and Hope,

Dawn and Jon

News from General Church & Other Regions:

A Prayer for the New Year, Written by: Sharon Watkins
O God of infinite creativity . . .

At the beginning of this New Year – winter for so many – the rich brown earth is even now preparing to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Though the human eye cannot see it, you continue to bless the earth with new beginnings. We praise you!

Bless us with new beginnings, we pray. Where we have lost sight of your Reign breaking in – even now at hand – Renew our vision.

Where we have faltered in reaching out to our neighbor in love, missing the moment to extend a hand of wholeness, Renew our courage.

Where we have allowed cynicism to dry our bones and sinews, Renew our hope.

At this beginning of a New Year, dear God, our arms are still warm from cradling the Babe of Bethlehem. Help us to keep that memory strong.

Strengthen our arms to welcome your many children into communities of love.

Prepare our hearts to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Stir us to be and share your love with the same vulnerability, the same humble expectation that brought you into the world in person.

Help us, your church, your disciples, to be harbingers of your reign of justice and of peace fully emerged.

O God of infinite creativity, at the beginning of this New Year, we know that you are about to do a new thing. Help us to perceive it. And to join in.

In the name of Jesus, your greatest new beginning, we pray. **Amen**



Happy New Year! It's the time when so many of us try to break old habits, start new practices, resolve to learn something new, and maybe - just maybe - try to make the world a tiny bit better. Our yearly hope at Week of Compassion is that we can partner

with churches and individuals all over North America to do exactly that. If you are looking for a way to make a difference in the world this year, give to Week of Compassion! Special Day Offering taken up in most Congregations on Sunday February 19 & 26, 2012

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.

Disciples of Christ Historical Society:

Our Promise

We promise to maintain the highest standards in everything we undertake and to keep safe the precious historical materials entrusted to our care.

The Work of the Historical Society

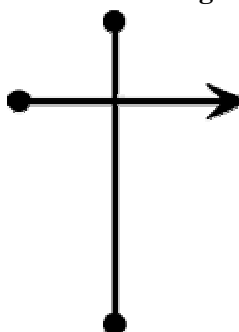
Since 1941 Disciples of Christ Historical Society has served its mission of preserving and making available to researchers the many documents, books, periodicals, and audio/visual materials telling the story of the Stone-Campbell heritage.

The Society is housed in the Thomas W. Phillips Memorial Archives – *the place history calls home* - in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Society exists to document and interpret the history of Stone-Campbell churches (Churches of Christ, Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)) and holds the largest collection of this material in the world.

Included are hundreds of thousands of photographs, thousands of rare books, 40,000 biographical files, records of tens of thousands of congregations, and thousands of artifacts.

Our Logo - The Three Streams Cross



In our expression of this ancient, historic symbol of Christianity, we have anchored the Cross of Christ with three circles, representing the three streams of the Stone-Campbell heritage (Disciples, Christian churches, and Churches of Christ).

All are connected to, and surround the Cross, which remains the powerful center of our faith heritage. The

Cross is completed with an arrow pointing toward the future. It is a future, we believe, filled with unity and hope, as we carry the Gospel message forward into new generations.

March 5-8, 2012
**38th ANNUAL
BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT**

*“Transformed
by the Gospel:
Preparing, Teaching,
Receiving, Trusting”*

Romans 1: 16-17

Raytown Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
6108 Blue Ridge Blvd
Raytown, MO 64133

Contact: Kelly Harris
317-713-2666 • 888-346-2631
kharris@dhm.disciples.org

New Vision Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
9101 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO



Sponsored by Disciples Home Missions
www.discipleshomemission.org/pages/CV.BlackMinistries



You may Register for BMR online @ www.discipleshomemission.org/pages/CV.BlackMinistries

This year's registration includes a 6 CD set of the 2 Resource Presentations and the 4 Preachers.

No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after: February 24, 2012

Written requests for refunds must be received in our office by: February 28, 2012

BMR-01	Early Bird - Before January 27, 2012	\$150.00
BMR-02	Registration - January 28 - February 24, 2012	\$165.00
BMR-04	Retirees & Seminarians	\$100.00
BMR-06	DVD	\$35.00

Please note: You do **NOT** need to use both the online method and the paper method for the same registration. You only need to register using one of the methods. The paper form is **NOT** required for people who register online above

Hotel

When calling or registering online indicate that you are part of the DHM Black Ministers Retreat to receive the special rate of \$85. This hotel offers free continental breakfasts.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
12801 South 71-Hwy, Grandview, Missouri 64030

Telephone: 816-268-5858

FAX: 816-268-5856

You may register on line @<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/grandview/mkcgm/hoteldetail>
and the group code is **DHMBMR**

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE!

For the March-April Newsletter

The due date for articles is March 15,2012

*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.*

The South Carolina Christian

P O Box 32064

Charleston, SC 29417-2064

