



# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

## Message From the Pastor

### *Which Jesus?*

"I like Christmas Jesus Best. When you say grace, you can say it to grown-up Jesus or teenage Jesus or bearded Jesus or whoever you want." Ricky Bobby to his smokin' hot wife in *Talladega Nights*.

This irreverent table grace scene in the movie, *Talladega Nights*, is rich. In the prayer, the members of Ricky Bobby's family interrupt each other and talk about which Jesus they like best. Friend Cal like to picture Jesus in a tuxedo t-shirt because it says that Jesus wants to be formal yet still likes to party. Son Walker likes to picture Ninja Jesus fighting the evil Samarai. Cal also pictures Jesus with giant eagle's wings as front man for the Lynard Skynard band all donned in angel wings. (cue music "Stairway to Heaven")

Someone once said, "God made us in God's image. So we returned the favor and made God in our image." (attributed to Rousseau, Voltaire, and George Bernard Shaw). This Advent season as we prepare for Christmas, let us

### **Want to keep Christ in Christmas?**

**Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.**

remember the God born in a humble out-of-the way manger who then lived to show us the way of life abundant. The image of Jesus, the Christ, that we know from Scripture is the best "version" of God we have. So in the season, I am going to try to simplify my Christmas preparations and honor Jesus by doing what he calls and equips us to do. I found this meme a helpful reminder.

May we all find ways to honor God this season who made himself known to us in Jesus Christ. Sharing Jesus' love with others is the best gift we have to offer.

Grace and Peace,

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

December 2014

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### Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

Mary Morrison, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Kelly Roman, Associate Pastor for University Ministry

Maggie Alsup, PSA Intern for University Ministry

Kristyn Ball, Interim Director of Youth and Outreach

Cyndi Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Pansy Duke, Parish Visitor

Margaret MacKay, Director of Music

Lori Houck, Administrator

Judy Crawford, Administrative Assistant

**Joining together on a journey of Christian faith, we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love in our community and around the world.**

**We do this as we Glorify God, Grow Disciples, Meet Human Needs.**

## Scriptures for Sunday Worship

### 12/7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### 12/14 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### A Service in Lessons & Carols

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126;  
1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

### 12/21 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55;  
Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27;  
Luke 1:26-38

### 12/28 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7;  
Luke 2:22-40

### *The Window*

#### January 2015 Deadline

The deadline for announcements, articles, and features for the September issue of *The Window* is Monday, **December 15**.

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at [window@forthillchurch.org](mailto:window@forthillchurch.org) or type the item directly into your email and send. If you don't have access to a computer, you can leave the item in Lori Houck's box in the FHOG office.

Prepare  
the way  
of the  
LORD.  
ISAIAH 40:3

## Join Us as We Prepare for Christ's Coming! Advent Season begins November 30

*Join your Fort Hill Church family as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas Season together.*

### Sunday Morning Worship Service Times:

8:30 am in Tartan Hall / 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

### Special Events:

Sunday, December 7 — **Children's Gift Day** from 2:00-4:30 pm

Sunday, December 14 — **A Service a Lessons & Carols** (both services)

Sunday, December 14 — **Angel Vespers**

Dinner at 5:30 pm in Tartan Hall followed by real live nativity and carol singing in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Children's choirs will lead our program.

### Christmas Eve Services of Worship in the Sanctuary:

5:00 pm — Family-friendly Christmas Eve Service

9:00 pm — Candlelight Communion Service with the Chancel Choir

### New Year's Sunday, December 28:

One worship service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. No 8:30 am worship or Sunday school this day.

## Choir Corner

A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you all. What a wonderful time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

So with this season comes another round of buying presents, preparing for guests and family, attending various concerts and parties, etc. The list can go on and on if we want it to.

With this time of year for me come lots of memories flooding in of past holidays and experiences. It's fun to remember with smiles, laughter, and even tears. Remembering is good as long as we don't get stuck there without moving forward. We all can probably recall our favorite Christmas as a child. Mine was the year I received a life-size doll (the 3-year-old doll she was called and my same size even though I was 6!). It was special because an African-American who did our ironing for us gave it to me. The doll came in a very big box. She had long brown hair, beautiful blue eyes and the prettiest dress I had ever seen on a doll. And you could hold her left hand to guide her, and she would "walk" along beside me. I loved that doll right away.

Knowing that Donia (as she was called) had probably spent most of her money on the gift, my mother fussed at her for spending so much on a present for me and told her she should return it. I didn't truly understand that, and Donia had tears in her eyes when she told mom that it was what she wanted to do because I was her little girl, too. She *wanted to give* something. So mom said okay, and I remember running into Donia's arms and thanking her over and over again. And the best gift was seeing Donia's big smile and hearing her say over and over to me — "It's alright, child! It's alright!"

So what does this memory have to do with music at this season of the year? I am reminded of the hard work, dedication, and commitment of choir members, children's choirs, bell ringers, directors, and others GIVING unselfishly of their time and talents, to make lessons and Carols and Angel Vespers so very special and meaningful. It is their gift to God and to all of us. While receiving is fun and memorable, giving is powerful and truly the best gift we can give ourselves. That's what God did for us.

Merry Christmas to all of Fort Hill,

*Margaret*

December 2014

## Gift Day!

Gift Day is coming soon so mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7 from 2-4:30. This gift-making tradition is for children two years old through 5th grade. The cost is \$15 and children will create gifts to give their family and friends. Sign up sheets are next to the children's book area outside the sanctuary. Contact Ally Young at [allytiger79@hotmail.com](mailto:allytiger79@hotmail.com) to learn more or sign up to help. Christmas fun is right around the corner.



## Angel Vespers is Coming

Join us on **Sunday, December 14**, when we'll host our annual "impromptu" Christmas — no acting experience required! We'll gather at 5:30 pm in Tartan Hall for dinner and RSVPs are necessary. Email Megan Chavis at [mchavis1210@gmail.com](mailto:mchavis1210@gmail.com) or call the church office to RSVP. Following dinner we'll move to the Sanctuary for the retelling of the Christmas story complete with costumes! This is great fun for members of all ages — especially our youngest actors — but it'll make everyone feel young at heart! We hope to see you there!



## 2015 Stewardship Pledges

If you have not turned in your 2015 stewardship pledge yet, there is still time. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or friendship pads. You can also submit your pledge online at <http://www.forthillchurch.org/worship/stewardship/online-pledge-card>. If you have any questions, contact Lori Houck in the church office at (864) 654-2061 or [lori.houck@forthillchurch.org](mailto:lori.houck@forthillchurch.org).

## Children's Ministry Update

Remember the upcoming December dates:

December 7	Gift Day
December 14	Angel Vespers
December 28	Movie Night (upon interest)

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful celebration with family and friends during Thanksgiving. I certainly enjoyed my family gatherings. This is a time that lends itself to counting blessings. This year, to my list of blessings, I added a new job working with the youngest of our church family and their parents. I will list only a few of the blessings I have received: the pure joy and enthusiasm of young children experienced while engaging them during Story for all Children and Preschool Chapel; working with a conscientious, caring and supportive staff; observing the dedication of service of our church members, from the children and youth to the more seasoned members; and experiencing the love of God through relationships, old and new, within a church family.

As you enter this season of Advent, take time to list your blessings and share them with others. Your life, and theirs, will be enriched.

Counting my blessings,  
Cyndi

## PSA Sunday Night Meals

Meals are a delightful part of the PSA Sunday night experience. Nearly every week during the school year, students look forward to eating dinner together. As they break bread, they laugh, share stories from their weeks, and support one another. Many thanks to our fall semester meal providers!

We are already beginning to look toward the spring semester. You can sign up individually, in pairs, or in groups. Contact Kelly Roman, (864) 654-3705 or [kelly.roman@forthillchurch.org](mailto:kelly.roman@forthillchurch.org), for the latest list of open dates. Thank you!

## Sunday Servants

### Pastor on Call

12/7	Mary Morrison
12/14	Mary Morrison
12/21	Laura Conrad
12/28	Mary Morrison

### Elder at the Font—8:30 Service

12/7	Chip Egan
12/14	Ben Sill
12/21	Jeremy Wright

### Elder at the Font—10:30 Service

12/7	Gabby Bailey
12/14	Megan Chavis
12/21	Larry Sloan
12/28	Jay Jones

### Infant Nursery

12/7	Reagan Blondeau
12/14	Eva Williamson
12/21	Stephanie Scott/Nancy Oates
12/28	Steve/Laura//Caroline Hunter

### Toddler Nursery

12/7	Lisa Britt
12/14	jackie/Virginia Ellis
12/21	Edmee Reel
12/28	?

### 2 & 3 Year Old Nursery

12/7	Denise Anderson
12/14	Beth Durham/Beth Gregory
12/21	Erika & Mandy Hays
12/28	?

### 4 & 5 Year Old Nursery

12/7	Devon & LeAnne Broome, Donna Crader
12/14	Rich & Emily Bartels Donna Crader
12/21	Heather Wright/Claudette Bennett Donna Crader
12/28	Paul & Lauren Russell Donna Crader



# Alternative Christmas Gifts — Gifts that Give

Fort Hill's Christian Action Ministry is offering our congregation an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts that make a positive difference in people's lives. Our **Gifts that Give** program (December 1—December 30) enables you and your family to contribute to any of the listed charities by writing a check to Fort Hill and designating the charity or charities you choose to support. We provide cards to give to the person(s) you wish to honor with your gift(s). Brief descriptions of the charities are given below; see included websites for details.

**Clemson Child Development Center** (<http://clemsoncdc.org>) provides quality preschool education for children in the area. It accepts children from age six weeks to 4K, regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender, or handicap(s).

**Clemson Free Clinic** (<http://clemsonfreeclinic.zoomshare.com>) provides free health care to Central, Clemson, and Pendleton patients living at or below the poverty level. They provide free medication to their patients and are staffed by volunteers.

**Habitat for Humanity of Pickens County** (<http://www.pickenshabitat.org>) is a Christian ministry that builds homes for low income families who need decent, affordable shelter. They depend on a volunteer labor force in partnership with the new homeowners.

**Heifer International** (<http://www.heifer.org>) works within worldwide communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Through gifts of livestock and training they seek to empower people to become self-reliant, to change their lives, and then to pass on their blessings to others.

**Indwellings** (<http://indwellings.org>) is a ministry of Foothills Presbytery dedicated to building homes for Upstate adults with developmental disabilities whose families are no longer able to care for them. The goal is to provide independence with dignity and hope.

**Medical Benevolence Foundation** (<http://www.mbfoundation.org>) with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supports healing ministries including more than 100 hospitals and clinics around the world. It also supports the PC(USA) long term medical missionaries.



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## Calling All Elves! Christian Action Mission Needs Your Help!

The 2014 Christmas Food Box Ministry WILL BE a huge success, *with your help*.

Here's how you can get involved!

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the shelf outside the FHO G office.

If this is not convenient, you may e-mail Dianne at [dhasltn@nctv.com](mailto:dhasltn@nctv.com) to convey your volunteer preference. Many of you help year after year and know the routine. For those of you who may not have been able to help in the past, here are the opportunities:

#### **Friday, December 12, Unloading Food from Trucks and Packing Food Boxes**

As soon as the trucks begin to arrive from Pelzer, **volunteers are needed to unload trucks and organize** the "food assembly line" on tables in Tartan Hall so that packers can go from one table to the next, filling boxes. **Stay tuned for the exact time you are needed. It is usually between 11:30 and 12 noon. If you have a hand truck, please let Linda Gahan know.** As the volunteers arrive, we **pack boxes**, using the packing list, or just following the route of food around the tables. Each family gets two boxes! **Packing will begin at 3:00 pm so the school children can participate.**

#### **Saturday, December 13, 9:00 am—12:00 noon**

**Begin delivery!** Get the whole family involved — using the boxes packed on Friday and continuing until all clients have been served! Delivery persons are given the names of families (as many as you feel you can handle), a map for directions to their home, and a Christmas card from Fort Hill.

### **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**

### **DONATIONS:**

Two types of donations are needed — **time** and **money!**

**Money:** This year we do not have a large balance left over from last year to help get us started. **Please be generous with your donation and give to the Christmas Box Fund early!!** The cost of food for one family is \$40 and last year we prepared boxes for 200 families. Checks should be made out to Fort Hill Church and designated for Christmas Boxes.

**Volunteers:** *Sign up to help!* Any questions, contact Dianne Haselton to submit names of recipients (654-4316, [dhasltn@nctv.com](mailto:dhasltn@nctv.com)), Linda Gahan for food (654-2953, [glinda1942@gmail.com](mailto:glinda1942@gmail.com)) or Nan Jones for boxes (654-1539, [jones4927@bellsouth.net](mailto:jones4927@bellsouth.net)).

**With your help, we'll have another successful ministry!**



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## Non-Medical Mission Trip: Terrier Rouge, Haiti in May 2015

The Fort Hill Mission Committee is expanding our reach into Non-Medical Missions. The first Fort Hill Non-Medical Mission Trip will take place in May 2015 in Terrier Rouge, Haiti. Larry Sloan will lead this team under the direction of Bethlehem Ministries. Trey and Anna Scott are the directors of Bethlehem Ministries and will be making a PowerPoint presentation to the Sojourner's Class on Sunday, December 7, on the school, the clinic, and the farming of Bethlehem Ministries in Terrier Rouge. All classes are invited to attend in order to learn more about the mission trip. We will be finalizing the team soon, so please advise Larry Sloan if you are interested in going ([larrysloan@alumni.clemson.edu](mailto:larrysloan@alumni.clemson.edu)).

Our first trip there will allow us to get to know the people and the needs of the people in Haiti and do several small maintenance/repair projects as we investigate projects for future trips. We will also offer assistance in the clinic should we have any medical personnel on the team. We will also plan to do a food distribution to 1,500 Haitian people while there. This will require our team to raise \$3,500 to purchase food in the country.

Please plan to join us at **9:30 am** on **December 7** in the Club Room to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

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## Note from the PSA Intern

Dear Fort Hill Family,

The season of advent is upon us and I can't help but think of the word advent and the meaning it carries. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. When I came to you all in August, I did not know what to expect. Being a recent graduate from seminary, this time spent with you is my advent season. It is a post graduate internship that is allowing me to explore and engage my call to campus ministry. I am expectantly waiting and preparing for what my future ministry role will be. This season that we have shared has been busy, full of learning and discerning: where I am being led in my call to serve Christ. You all have opened your arms to me and welcomed me into your family, if even for a little while. The compassion and grace you have shown me has given me a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God must be like. Through my time assisting with Sunday morning worship, leading a freshman bible study, leading Sunday night programs at PSA, and even parking cars on game day, you have excelled at the mission of the church universal. Your welcoming presence and caring nature have been a true blessing to me in my faith and my ministry. As I expectantly look to my future and where I will be led, I am grateful for the time we have shared thus far and the remainder of this that is to come. I am expectantly waiting to see what our relationship has in store for us and the impact that this church will have on my ministry once our journey comes to an end. Thank you again for your love and care during my advent season.

Peace be with you all, Maggie Alsop

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## 2015 Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Attention ALL WOMEN OF Fort Hill:

Plan to be a part of the 2015 Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Keowee Key — Lakeside Activity Center

9:30 am—3:00 pm



Jennifer Walker, Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Anderson, is an enthusiastic young woman. She will focus on God's presence with us on the "Journeys" we experience throughout life. Through prayer, group discussion, activities, and personal reflection we will take time to be with God and grow together.

\$20 includes a light snack and lunch.

Sign up by January 18, bring a friend, and share this experience with other women.

Please make checks payable to "Presbyterian Women" with "Retreat" on the memo line.

For more information, contact Linda Parsons ([parsons.linda.m@gmail.com](mailto:parsons.linda.m@gmail.com); 864-944-5811) or one of the PW Circle Leaders.

## Announcements & Concerns



### **Christian Sympathy is extended to:**

**Susan Nunamaker** and family in the death of Susan's grandmother on October 30, 2014.

**Chip Egan** and family in the death of Chip's sister Eleanor Tundo on November 3, 2014 in Pennsylvania.

**Jeannette Carr** and family in the death of Jeannette's brother, John Dewitt, on November 1, in Ellerbe, NC.

**Terri Smith** and family in the death of Terri's sister-in-law, Isabelle Wilson.

**Baerta Graff and Zander** in the death of Baerta's step-mother on November 19th in Atlanta.



Congratulations to **Barry and Aleta Robinson** on the birth of their grandson, **Carter Derwood Norman Robinson** on November 24, 2014 in Greenville, SC.. Carter is the son of Andy and Jenn Robinson and little brother of Bennett.



**Men of the Church Breakfast — Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00 am** in Tartan Hall. There will be three "surprise" speakers. Please join us!

**Fort Hill Winter Clean Up Day — Saturday, December 6** from 9 am to noon. Cleaning up leaves, picking up trash and getting the grounds ready for winter. Everyone is invited! For additional information contact Rob Griffin at [rlgmdg@yahoo.com](mailto:rlgmdg@yahoo.com) or (864) 944-0002.

**Decorations for the Christmas Season** — Please join us in decorating our beautiful church by purchasing wreaths and poinsettias in memory or in honor of that special someone in your life. Wreaths are \$40 and poinsettias are \$17 each. Forms are

## Meet Tom Waldrop

Tom was born in Asheville, NC, and lived about five miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway. He took every chance he could to hike at various locations on the Parkway with his grandfather. This led to his love of the forests and mountains. He decided then that he wanted to pursue a career as a forester. His family moved to Hanahan, SC, when he was five, but summers spent in Asheville solidified his resolve for his career choice. Majoring in Forest Sciences at Clemson was a foregone conclusion.

Tom participated in the band program in Hanahan from fourth grade through high school. As a result, joining Tiger Band at Clemson was another foregone conclusion. This is where he met Gensie, and he later served as Tiger Band Commander his senior year.

After graduating, Tom and Gensie were married. He decided to pursue a Masters degree at Clemson in Forest Ecology, specifically involving the use of prescribed fire. During this time, he also worked with Tiger Band behind the scenes, driving the Tiger Band Hat Van to out-of-town games. These were very entertaining trips and resulted in quite a few tales to tell.

Tom enjoyed fire research so much that he decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Fire Ecology. This led him to The University of Tennessee, during the time preceding and following the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville. Not only was he taking classes and conducting research during this time, but the Waldrop household had a steady stream of visitors to attend the Fair. It was a relief when the Fair ended and life got back to normal.

After completing his Ph.D., Tom worked in several Post-Doctoral positions, including one with Clemson, which was physically located in Charleston with the U.S. Forest Service. While in Charleston, he was offered a position with the U.S. Forest Service, but the location this time was Clemson. It didn't take any thought at all to accept that move. This led to a house hunt in the week between Christmas and New Year's Day with a 20-month-old son in tow, followed by a move four weeks later.

This final move eventually resulted in a permanent position. Tom moved up through the ranks as a Research Forester, helping to establish prescribed fire policy on public lands nation-wide. He has published extensively on the topic and was honored in April 2012 as the Forest Service's top researcher, being named Distinguished Scientist by the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service at a meeting in Fort Collins, CO.

But the music bug remained an important part of Tom's life. He has played hand bells for twenty-five years, plays tuba in the Concert Band at Clemson, and is one of three people who have never missed participating in the Alumni Band at Clemson's homecoming game. For those of you who attend the game and stay for halftime, the orange sousaphone is Tom's. He has served on the Clemson University Tiger Band Association (CUTBA) Board for 12 years and is currently in his second year as President.

Tom is looking forward to retiring in 2016, and has been trying to determine how he will spend his retirement years, since he is not one to waste time. The answer to that question came from his younger son, who is a middle school band director in a poor parish in Louisiana. At the beginning of the school year in 2013, Tom received a call from his son with the news that seven students would not be able to participate in band because their parents could not afford an instrument and the school had nothing that the students could use. Tom managed to round up enough refurbished instruments to allow the students to participate in the band program. The same thing happened this year with a request for eight band instruments. Tom had already decided that he would spend his time after retirement trying to find, repair, and distribute used instruments to middle schools that are unable to provide instruments to students who cannot supply their own. If students are not able to get into a music program in middle school, the likelihood is great that they will never get the opportunity to learn music. Statistics show that musicians do much better in all areas of their curriculum (especially math) than non-musicians. Tom and Gensie established a non-profit organization this year for this purpose, known as TomGen Music for Middle Schoolers. Tom is learning band instrument repair and is converting his wood shop to an instrument repair shop. He says that now is your chance to clean out your closet and donate your old band instruments to give kids a chance to learn music.

# News From Presbyterian Women

## FAMILY PROMISE: OUR HOME MISSIONS AT HOME!

**Fort Hill Presbyterian's inaugural hosing of Family Promise guests was a big success!** Family Promise Coordinators Linda Gahan and Mary Barron wish to thank the 50 plus volunteers from Fort Hill Presbyterian and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson who donated the over 312 hours during the week of November 2-9, 2014, to care for three families (7 children and 4 adults) in need. Our volunteers bought and donated sheets, towels, mattress pads, blankets, tables, flashlights, lamps, food, baby furniture, and games, along with lots of time and energy. Our guests had wonderful hot cooked evening meals, continental breakfasts, sack lunches, evening activities, and a safe environment with warm comfortable beds during their stay with us. Fort Hill Presbyterian showed HOSPITALITY in a big way! The next week to house families will be February 22—March 1, 2015. Please put that date on your calendars and be a part of our Mission-at-Home opportunity! Share the good feeling of offering a hand-up to those families in our own county who are in need! It is indeed a start to address the problem of 1,506 children in our own Pickens County designated as "homeless".

We would also like to extend a big **thank you** for all of you who donated clothes to **Safe Harbor**, magazines for **Campbell Veterans Home** and **Harris Psychiatric Hospital**, and boxes for **Samaritan's Purse** benefitting underprivileged children. Your generosity means so much to so many!

Thank you, also, to those who cooked and cleaned up for the **Minister's Cook-off on November 11, 2014!** Your contribution is very much appreciated!

### Honorary Life Membership Nominating Forms:

Each year we honor a member of our church with the Honorary Life Membership Award at our annual PW Birthday Luncheon. This award is given to a dedicated Christian whose witness, long and dedicated service, and spiritual influence in our community reflect the love of God and His church. Prayerfully consider the Presbyterian woman (or man) you would like to nominate for her (his) outstanding lifetime contributions to Fort Hill Presbyterian Church. Nomination forms are due by **January 11, 2015**.

### Attention ALL WOMEN of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church:

**Mark your calendars now for our Winter Retreat  
on Saturday, January 24, 2015,  
9:30 am—3:00 pm at Keowee Key Activity Center**

Ready to be inspired and renewed? Come and join us for our annual January retreat designed with you in mind! Back by popular demand, our guest speaker will be Jennifer Walker, Director of Education at First Presbyterian Church in Anderson.

This retreat is open to ALL WOMEN of our church. You do not need to be a member of a circle to attend. We want every woman hungry for fellowship and spiritual renewal to come and join us for this wonderful event.

### 2014-2015 PW Officers:

**Moderator:** Gail Williams, (864) 287-0212, [gswilliams@bellsouth.net](mailto:gswilliams@bellsouth.net)  
**Moderator-elect:** Judi Cundiff, (864) 882-8266, [ukjudi@bopenworld.com](mailto:ukjudi@bopenworld.com)  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Stone, (864) 654-7004, [louisstone@yahoo.com](mailto:louisstone@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary:** Lois Sill, (864) 506-0771, [lslois@clemson.edu](mailto:lslois@clemson.edu)  
**Historian:** Lib Gage, (864) 654-1236, [ggage@bellsouth.net](mailto:ggage@bellsouth.net)

### Dates to Remember:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| • <b>January 11, 2015</b> | <b>Deadline for Honorary Life Membership applications</b> |
| • <b>January 24, 2015</b> | <b>PW Women's Retreat</b>                                 |
| • <b>April 11, 2015</b>   | <b>PW Birthday Luncheon</b>                               |
| • <b>April 2015</b>       | <b>Come See Columbia Day</b>                              |

## Announcements & Concerns

available in the Narthex and outside the FHOG office. Please make your check payable to Fort Hill Presbyterian Church.

**Volunteers Needed!** Please consider giving your gift of time to our little ones in the nursery. We have some volunteer openings for Sundays available in all nursery age groups. Contact Jeannie Bailey, [jeanniebailey@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:jeanniebailey@pickens.k12.sc.us).

The banner "**Divine Inspiration**" is on loan to us from **Marilyn Ingalls**, who hand-quilted this beautiful replica of an original stained-glass by Conrad Pickel Studio, Vero Beach, FL. The artist, Lyn Durham and president, Paul Pickel, allowed Marilyn to re-create it. Please look with your eyes and not your hands.

New **SALT** groups will begin in January 2015. SALT groups Serve and Learn Together. SALT sign up sheets are outside the FHOG office and in the narthex. Return completed forms to the church office or Mary's mailbox. For more information, email Mary at [mary.morrison@fhillchurch.org](mailto:mary.morrison@fhillchurch.org).



## Thank You!

*Dear Fort Hill Family,*

*You have truly been my family so many ways as I have been faced with the losses of my immediately family. I thank God daily for my Fort Hill family. God bless each of you.*

*Pansy Duke*

*Dear Fort Hill Church Family,*

*Diane and I want to thank you for the enormous support and spiritual lift you provided to us and our family upon the death of my sister, Eleanor Egan Tudo, on November 3, 2014. The many prayers, emails, cards, calls and in-person contacts were such a great comfort to us. We are humbled to be a part of such a caring and loving faith community.*

*Chity Egan*

# December 2014 Fort Hill Church Activities

## Monday, December 1

12:15 pm PW Circle 1 - Club Room  
3:00 pm PW Circle 5 - Club Room  
4:00 pm Daisy Scouts - Education Building  
5:00 pm Minister Cook Off Meeting - Conference Room  
5:30 pm Christian Action Meeting - Library  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts - Bethlehem Hall  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Club Room, Tartan Hall, Bethlehem Hall  
7:00 pm Bible Study - Library

## Tuesday December 2

7:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast - Tartan Hall  
9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room  
6:00 pm Folk Dancing - Tartan Hall

## Wednesday, December 3

9:15 am Preschool Chapel - Bethlehem Hall  
10:00 am Advent Bible Study - Club Room  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts - Bethlehem Hall  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells - Choir Room  
7:15 pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room  
8:00 pm Senior High Bible Study - Youth Room

## Thursday, December 4

9:15 am Preschool Chapel - Bethlehem Hall

## Saturday, December 6

9:00 am Fort Hill Winter Clean Up Yard Day  
5:00 pm Middle School Progressive Dinner (meet at the church)

## Sunday, December 7

8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall  
9:15 am Sunday School - Various Location  
10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary  
11:30 am Deacon's Meeting  
2:00 pm Gift Day - Tartan Hall/Bethlehem Hall  
4:30 pm JAM & Jesus Jammers - Choir Room  
6:00 pm PSA Dinner & Program - PSA Student Center

## Monday, December 8

9:30 am PW Circle 3 - Club Room  
4:00 pm Daisy Scouts - Education Building  
5:00 pm Ministers Cook Off Meeting - Club Room  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts - Bethlehem Hall  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Club Room, Tartan Hall, Bethlehem Hall  
7:00 pm Bible Study - Library

## Tuesday, December 9

9:30 pm Staff Meeting - Conference Room  
4:30 pm Girl Scouts - Bethlehem Hall  
6:00 pm Folk Dancing - Tartan Hall  
6:30 pm Budget Meeting with Ministry Chairs - Club Room  
7:30 pm PW Circle 2 Meeting - Library

## Wednesday, December 10

9:15 am Preschool Chapel - Bethlehem Hall  
10:00 pm Advent Bible Study - Club Room  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts - Bethlehem Hall  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells - Choir Room  
7:15 pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room  
9:00 pm PSA Sardines - Sanctuary/Tartan Hall

## Thursday, December 11

8:00 am Preschool - Club Room  
6:00 pm CAW - Club Room

## Friday, December 12

8:00 am Preschool - Club Room  
12:00 pm Christmas Boxes - Packing

## Saturday, December 13

9:00 am Christmas Boxes - Delivery  
5:00 pm Deacon's Christmas Dinner - Chip & Diane Egan's  
5:00 pm Senior High Progressive Dinner (meet at the church)

## Sunday, December 14

8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall  
9:15 am Sunday School - Various Location  
10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary  
2:30 pm Cub Scouts (Webelos 1)  
5:00 pm Angel Vespers - Supper (5:00) Program (6:30)

## Monday, December 15

9:30 am Preschool Rehearsal - Sanctuary  
4:00 pm Daisy Scouts - Education Building  
6:30 pm Long Range Planning Meeting - Conference Room  
6:30 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor - Sanctuary/Tartan Hall  
7:00 pm Bible Study - Library

## Tuesday, December 16

9:30 am Preschool Rehearsal - Sanctuary  
6:00 pm Folk Dancing - Tartan Hall  
7:15 pm Foothills Chorale - Choir Room

## Wednesday, December 17

8:00 am Preschool Program - Sanctuary/Tartan Hall  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts (Webelos 1)

## Sunday, December 21

8:30 am 8:30 Worship - Tartan Hall  
9:15 am Sunday School - Various Locations  
10:30 am 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary  
5:00 pm Middle/Senior High Movie Night - Youth Room

## Monday, December 22

6:45pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor—Sanctuary/Tartan Hall

## Tuesday, December 23

9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room  
6:00 pm Folk Dancing - Tartan Hall

## Wednesday, December 24

**Church Office is Closed for Christmas**

5:00 pm Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary  
9:00 pm Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service - Sanc.

## Thursday, December 25

**Church Office is Closed for Christmas**

## Friday, December 26

**Church Office is Closed for Christmas**

## Sunday, December 28

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

## Monday, December 29

6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Club Room, Tartan Hall, Bethlehem Hall

## Tuesday, December 30

9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room  
6:00 pm Folk Dancing - Tartan Hall



# December Birthdays & Anniversaries



12/1	Oron Broome
12/2	Ryan MacRae Vernie Roberts
12/3	Donald Spittler
12/4	Elise Halbig Linda Newmark
12/5	George Booth Lynn Carlson Chip Egan Alice Kennedy Jensen McInnis Hazel Sparks
12/6	Laura Hunter Emily Miller Andrew Moore
12/7	Marchita Culpepper Joanna Walling
12/8	Maddie Bruce Blackie Cook Jennifer Foster
12/9	David Finch Olivia Muller Addie Nebesky Elizabeth Sisson
12/10	David Collins Meridith Lecroy

12/11	April Foster Lori Houck Nick Massios Helen Wooten
12/12	Amelia Alexander Leslie Hicklin
12/13	David Bruce Bernice Clanton Nikki Wald
12/15	Danny Gregg Melanie Job Carter McInnis Mike Money
12/16	Crew Lecroy Betty Long Allen Smith Katherine Thomas
12/17	Cleo Gregg Jillian McLaurin Nickie Mueller
12/18	Lee D'Andrea
12/19	Andy Holmes Eric Mueller
12/20	Chuck Conrad Sarah Pollard
12/20	Stephanie Scott Fred Shepherd Maggie Alsup Geoffrey Wilson

12/21	Will Hiott Mike Nebesky Rick Waldrop Tipton Wright
12/22	Beth Olker Blythe Smith
12/23	Debbie Collins
12/24	Linda Gahan Errett Jacks Jan Kahle
12/25	David Alverson Anita Freedman Erin Pressley Hilarie Sehorn
12/26	Elaine Prock Isabel Quattlebaum Bob Stout
12/27	Marcia Barker Judy Koch Stephen Sefick Dorothy Vedder
12/28	Jacob Danhill Alice Dorn Andy Martin Terri Smith Heather Wright
12/29	Brooke Hudak Gwen Vison
12/30	Cheryl Aaron Julia Holmes

12/31	Alex Foster Carol Todd Cailla Worley
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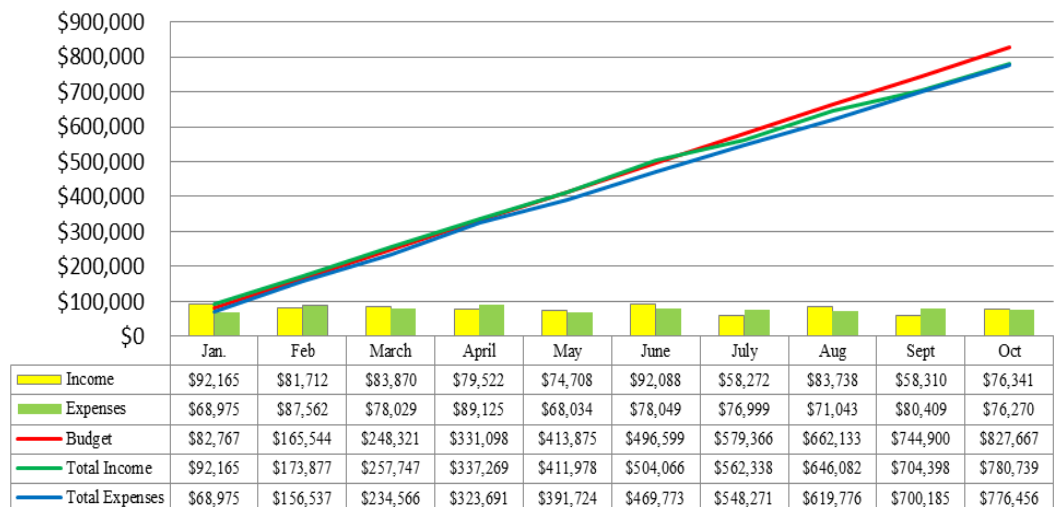
12/1	Danny & Susan Presley Jimmy & Jill Weir
12/5	Greg & Jane Sosebee
12/10	Eddie & Megan Chavis
12/13	Kevin & Jessica Christenbury
12/14	Phillip & Meri Kate Marcum
	Bryan & Lauren Young
12/17	Jay & Alice Kennedy Wes & Judy Koch
12/18	Andy & Reagan Blondeau
	Pat & Lisa Street
12/19	Kelly & Donna Crader
12/22	Eric & Elizabeth Bost
12/23	Michael & Jeannie Bailey
12/26	John & Claudette Bennett
	Hugh & Peggy Garner

## From the Finance Ministry

Through October, total income was \$780,739, while expenses were \$776,456 leaving a surplus of \$4,284. Overall expenses are at 78.2% of budget, while income is at 78.6%. As you can see, income and expenses are approximately 10% below budget.

Session ministry chairs are doing a great job of managing expenses and your continued financial support is needed for Fort Hill to sustain its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

Fort Hill Income/Expenses 2014



# El Faro Mission Trip Report

Buenos Dias...



I just returned from a medical missions trip to Guatemala with Dr. Bob and Susan Brown, Dr. Scott and Sarah Massios, Angie Brown, Beth Tanner, and myself. I can't even tell you what an amazing experience it was for all of us. Even with one of our team having stomach issues and the rain that poured for 4 days after we arrived, our spirits were not damped as we gave sight to the patients there ... 55 in all.

We stayed at a beautiful compound, for lack of a better word, across the bay from Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. The compound is named El Faro, The Lighthouse. We were greeted by a beautiful cross on a hill and the Ten Commandments, in stone, as we came up the steps from the dock. What better way to be greeted. (The trip across the bay was an experience in itself. We were in an open boat with only a cover on top and it was POURING down rain. We covered all our luggage with black trash bags and held black plastic in front of ourselves. Needless to say we looked like a bunch of drowned rats when we arrived, but we were glad to be there and ready to start our adventure.)

Sunday was a day of unpacking all the supplies that had been donated for the trip. Without these supplies we could not have helped so many people and without Fort Hill Presbyterian Church and church family, this trip would not have been possible either, so that you all.

Dr. Dario Aldana Sosa is our contact there and the one responsible for finding and bringing all the patients to us. He is so devoted to the people of Guatemala. They came by boat, an average of 8 or 9 a day and they came with their spouse, child, or caregiver. They are the most patient and grateful people that I've ever met. Some had to wait all day for their "turn" and they did so without grumbling or saying a word. They are putting their eyes in the care of people from the U.S. that they have not ever seen and 98% of them do not speak English...and we do not speak Spanish. This is where El Faro's wonderful missionaries, Dario, Meagan, Alex, Nelita, and Mayra were life savers. They translated, calmed fears and said a prayer for every patient that came to our surgery table. Without them, we would not have been able to help so many.



Our patients were the sweetest, gentlest, appreciative and God loving people I've ever met. Let me tell you about a few.



There was one little lady that came on the first day that day that had just lost her grandson. She was so quiet and did whatever anyone told her to do. I didn't see her smile on that first day, but the next morning when they removed the bandage and she could count how many fingers Dr. Bob held up, a huge grin came on her face and the tears were flowing on our faces. Praise God! (Angie became really attached to this little lady on day one and I think she would have brought her home, if she could.)

Another couple came on Tuesday. The husband was the one having the surgery. Everything went as planned during the day and his surgery went great. We left them at the end of the day to spend the night in the dormitory where all the patients stayed overnight. During our dinner at the meal hut, the wife came down to tell us how much she appreciated us all and to say a prayer for the work we had

done on all the patients. Even though we didn't understand her prayer, you could tell it came from her heart. The next morning when they removed the bandages and her husband looked around at her, the smiles on their faces were priceless. Not just him, but all the patients that could count the fingers...and even the one that told Dr. Bob that he was fat...THEY (the patients) were all a blessing to us. When this group of patients stood up to leave, they asked if they could pray for us. The lady from the night before started the prayer, her husband joined in, another lady in the back joined and then another. The prayers were all different, but got louder and louder and then their voices started coming down in volume until the amen. It was so moving. We could not understand what they were saying, other than a word here and there, but you could feel the presence of God in that room. It was AMAZING!!! The husband was standing next to me and in the middle of the prayer, he laid his hand on







my shoulder and I lost it. We all had tears running down our cheeks when the finished. God is SO GOOD!

Another thing I noticed was on the days the patients came by boat, they were usually being led or assisted by their caregiver. Walking them around obstacles that might be in their path. The next morning, after the bandages came off, a lot of times the patient was walking several steps in front of the caregiver and walking around those obstacles on their own. One in particular was a 30 year old lady (she looked about 16) that was blind in both eyes. She was really nervous about the whole procedure, but the morning after, when the bandages were removed, she could see. I'm not sure who was more excited, her or her sister that had come with her. When she left the building, the sister stood back with us and just beamed because the patient was able to walk around a tree and a post that the day before she would have run into. We forget about the caregivers whose lives will be changed as well, because they won't have a completely dependent sister, or husband, or parent to take care of 24/7.

And then there was Rosa. Rosa had been a patient of Dr. Bob and Susan's in April 2014. Rosa was deaf and blind. Totally depending on her son, who was so devoted to his mom it was so sweet just watching him. In April, Dr. Bob had removed one cataract and Rosa could see with one eye. She and her son came back last week to have the other cataract removed. They communicated through sign language but you could see the joy on her face when the bandage was removed on a the morning after the surgery.

We did have one little man that came up by himself with his cowboy hat on. He was blind in one eye and had a cataract on the other, but could still see 20/70. Dr. Bob explained to me that you can drive in the U.S. with 20/70 vision, so he could see. He wanted them to operate on his good eye and the doctors didn't feel good about taking that chance and losing what sight he did have, so they did surgery on the bad eye. He was NOT taking NO for an answer to leave without any surgery. He was a little ornery on the morning the bandages came off. You see, we would not let him spit on the floor in the dormitory and gave him a trash can instead. He stormed outside where he could spit on the ground. So, we are not sure if he could see when the bandages came off or how much. Hopefully Dario will have a good report when he examines him in his office this week or next.



I've said "we" all through this, but it was the two talented doctors, Dr. Bob and Dr. Scott, and their assistants, Susan and Sarah, that actually performed the surgeries. They say they could not have done it without their team, Angie, Beth Tanner, and myself and I know we could not have done it without our GOD!! He is the one that all praise and glory should be given for such a wonderful experience and the gift of sight that we gave these 55 beautiful Guatemalan people. Thank you God!

Before I go I have to say something about the group of tireless women that fed us three meals a day while we were there. They came in at 5:00 in the morning and got started and worked until the last dishes were washed at 9:00 at night. Then they had to walk a couple of miles back to their homes in the village. They could have been on a cooking show their food was so good. The food they prepared for us was DELICIOUS and always right on time. I ate some things that I've never eaten before that I'd LOVE to be able to eat back in the States and I ate some things I was not sure about...lol. The fresh fruit juices that we had at EVERY meal (no soft drinks or tea for us) were

amazing. I didn't know you could make drinks out of so many things. While we tried it all and enjoyed every meal, I do know that it will be awhile before I want to see black bean puree or a tortilla again.

Again, thank you everyone that helped to make this mission trip a success and mostly, Thank You God!

*Beth Chapman*



*Return Service Requested*

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