

# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

July 2018

## Message From the Sabbatical Pastor

Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your warm welcome into the life of this Fort Hill faith community. The more I know you, the more I'm glad I know you. Your Christian hospitality is showing up and shining through. Thank you.

In March this year, I was privileged to lead your Session Retreat. Today I'm remembering the collective discernment of your pastors and session, resulting in a focus on Growing Disciples. The seven Fort Hill Faith Practices are tools to help us grow into invigorated disciples. They are not the chief aim of discipleship, instead serving as disciplines to help us become more fully developed disciples.

Given this, I'm wondering how we will know when we are more developed as followers of our Lord. Let's choose a period of time; perhaps one year from now. As we use the faith practices to grow, what will be the outcome(s)? What might we observe about our lives one year from now which tells us we are growing in faith and practice?

One of my favorite authors, Brian McLaren, tends to describe the Church as a School of Love. Here is the invitation of the Church in his words: "Come join with us and we will help you become a more loving version of yourself." This invitation reflects the New Commandment given by Jesus in John 13, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

So one year from now, when you and I are greater disciples of Jesus, we will be more loving people. What might that look like in each of our lives? Perhaps we will forgive that person against whom we have held a grudge for so long. Perhaps we will give more of our income to God's Church. Perhaps we will cultivate relationships with people whose skin is a different color than ours. Perhaps we will gather a group of individuals from church to join us in addressing that need in our community?

However we answer this question, we will likely need the help of each other to grow in love. Many of us can grow by ourselves when it comes to small changes. But when it comes to growing more Christ-like, most of us need the support and accountability of our fellow pilgrims to sustain loving over time. This is one reason God created the Church, so that we can help each other along in our journey of discipleship.

Given this holy calling to become more loving disciples, let's become sacred partners with each other. I'll be glad to help you if you'll help me. Together we can lean into our identities as disciples of Jesus, helping tilt this world toward the better.

*Mark E. Tidsworth, Sabbatical Pastor*

*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.*

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### Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor  
Mark Tidsworth, Sabbatical Pastor  
Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship  
Dana Waters, AP for Youth & Mission  
Al Masters, Interim Pastor for Univ. Min.  
Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord.  
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music  
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.  
Becky Bowman, Pianist  
Lori Houck, Administrator  
Judy Crawford, Administrative Assistant  
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

## Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

- 7/1 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130;  
2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
- 7/8 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48;  
2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
- 7/15 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 24;  
Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
- 7/22 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Sam. 7:1-14a; Ps. 89:20-37;  
Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
- 7/29 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14;  
Eph. 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

July 2018

### The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the August issue of *The Window* is Monday, July 16.

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 possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.



**FIRST SUNDAY**  
*Breakfast*

**Sunday, July 1**  
**9:30-10:30 in Tartan Hall**

Please join church members for fellowship and food as we continue this Fort Hill summer tradition.

Coffee and juice will be provided. Church members are asked to bring a breakfast item to share.

## Choir Corner

Growing up, I was intrigued with the word — Sabbath. It sounded holier and more reverent to me than Sunday. Sunday was just another day of the week! Of course, I didn't know what it fully meant. I know that the ARP side of my family went to Sabbath School, not Sunday School.

As I have grown in faith and age — Sabbath time is more precious and sacred. It is a time for rest, reflection, and quiet. Now that we as a congregation are practicing Sabbath along with Laura while on her sabbatical, what better time to breathe deep the breath of God and rest in him.

One of my favorite arias is from the great oratorio, ELIJAH, by Felix Mendelssohn. The title of it is *O Rest in the Lord*, and the text is as follows: O rest in the Lord. Wait patiently for him. And he will give thee thy heart's desire. Commit thy way unto him and trust in him and fret not thyself because of evil doers. O rest in the Lord.

The Chancel Choir will be experiencing their summer break in July. While they have Sabbath time in the pews, you will be blessed by the talents and gifts of various individuals and small groups.

So enjoy Sabbath by resting in the Lord, and keep smiling-n-singing,

*Margaret*

We extend sympathy to the family of Barbara Fox, a long time Chancel Choir member, a faithful alto, and former children's choir director who loved her church and her fellow musicians. Barb retired from Chancel Choir a few years ago due to health reasons, but we loved seeing her sing joyfully from the pew! Our sympathy to her sons — Bruce, Jim, and Joel and their families and her dear friends. The heavenly choir welcomed a beautiful lady and talented alto on June 6!

## Inside the "Den"

### Join Us For Wild Wednesdays All Summer!

We kicked off the summer with a trip to Carowinds in June and began Wild Wednesdays a few short weeks after that. You can join us on Wednesdays this summer for pizza, games, and fellowship with youth from other Clemson-area churches. Please note that we will not meet on July 4.

Come and meet us at Peppino's for pizza before we head over to Bowman Field to play games and pray together. Austin Adams, our Wild Wednesday intern, and I both look forward to seeing you at Wild Wednesdays all summer long!

#### Wild Wednesday Schedule

**When:** Wednesdays at 6-8 pm through August 15 (no WW on July 4)

**Where:** Peppino's Pizza and Bowman Field

**Price:** \$5 for all you can eat pizza

**Who can participate:** 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (as of Fall 2018)



JOIN US FOR  
**WILD WEDNESDAY**  
6:00-8:00 @ PEPPINO'S  
BRING \$5 FOR PIZZA

Joyfully,

*Dana*



# From the Finance Ministry

## Practicing Generosity

By David Lose

(taken from *Stewardship 101: An Invitation to Financial Stewardship*  
Center for Stewardship Leaders — Luther Seminary)

Christians know a secret about generosity. It is not the fruit of success or happiness or security. It is, instead, the source of all these things. Actually, it's not only Christians who know this. Author Seth Godin puts it this way:

"Here's conventional wisdom: Success makes you happy. Happiness permits you to be generous. In fact, it actually works like this: Generosity makes you happy. Happy people are more likely to be successful."

Christians have sometimes named the conventional wisdom Godin talks about "worldly wisdom," as it expresses the sensibilities that governs the world rather than the "kingdom logic" that Jesus announced during his earthly ministry. Truth be told, however, it's easy for us to forget the path to success and happiness through generosity. Conventional, worldly messages tell us we must be wealthy before we can put Jesus' teachings of generosity into practice. Indeed, the primary message of the world is one of scarcity: there is not enough time, money, love, security, etc. Therefore, we need to look out for ourselves first, making sure we have enough before we tend to the needs of others.

Jesus saw things differently. Addressing his disciples, Jesus told them not to be concerned about anything because God loved them and would provide for them (see Matthew 6:25ff.). Similarly, the Apostle Paul, caught up in Jesus' kingdom logic, argues against such anxious living by urging his friends in the community of Philippi to, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). He goes on to tell them the following: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (4:6).

Paul makes this injunction while in prison. That's right, while he's sitting in prison with no sure guarantee of what his future may hold, Paul — trusting that God will provide — instructs his friends to rejoice rather than to worry, urging them to share with each other and those in need. It's easy to assume Paul was some kind of spiritual giant to offer such counsel, but the truth is more complex. Paul says, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty, and of being in need" (Philippians 4:11-12). Paul's secret, like Jesus' counsel to his disciples, is to trust God — whether he is well-fed or hungry. Paul didn't start out content; He learned to be content through practice.

We, also, can learn to be more trusting and generous through practice. What would it be like for a congregation to take time each acts of generosity its members performed, witnessed or experienced? What if we returned some of our offerings to our youth group with instructions to give it to a worthy charity, then report back about the impact of collective giving? What if we sought volunteers willing to buy less and give away more, then surrounded them with prayer and listened to what they learned? What if we made space in our newsletter and Sunday service for people to share stories of generosity? What if: The possibilities, of course, are nearly endless. As we practice generosity, we'll move more confidently from constraining conventional wisdom of the world to the freeing, generous kingdom logic Jesus taught.

# Sunday Servants

## Pastor on Call

7/1	Dana Waters
7/8	Mary Morrison
7/15	Mark Tidsworth (7/15-7/17) Mary Morrison (7/18-7/20)
7/22	Mark Tidsworth (7/21-7/24) Mary Morrison (7/25-7/29)
7/29	Mark Tidsworth (7/29-7/31) Dana Waters (8/1-8/4)

## Elder at the Font—8:30 Service

7/1	Elyse Hollingsworth
7/8	Gregg Morton
7/15	Helen Wooten
7/22	Michael Worley
7/29	Paul Durland

## Elder at the Font—10:45 Service

7/1	Linda Parsons
7/8	Dick Shick
7/15	Sydney Weeks
7/22	Joan Borick
7/29	Tim Howard

## Birth—2 Year Old Nursery

7/1	Shelly Wilson
7/8	Lisa Britt
7/15	Annette/Elise Halbig
7/22	Audrey Thompson
7/29	Joan Dixon

## 3 & 4 Year Old Nursery

7/1	Ally Young
7/8	Meredith Lecroy
7/15	Jillian McLaurin
7/22	Sue Limber
7/29	David & Debbie Collins



**Scott, Sarah & Nick Massios** in the death of their son and brother on June 3 in Seneca, SC.

**Michael & Helen Steele** and family in the death of Michael's uncle, Scott Stancil, on June 5 in Southern Pines, NC.

The family of **Barbara Fox**. Barbara passed away on June 6 in Greenville.

The family of **Von Waldon**. Von passed away on June 11.

**David & Marlene Nicholas** in the death of David's mother, Iris Nicholas, on June 14.

**Wayne & Barbara Madison** in the death of Barbara's mother, Cary Bond, on June 14 in Florida.

**John & Marcia Sherman** in the death of Marcia's brother, Philip Fortin, on June 20 in Raynham, MA.



## Recent Baptisms



**Baptism of Elise Faith Halbig  
newly confirmed member  
on Sunday, May 20**



**Baptism of Amelia Grace Hedrick  
daughter of Darrel and Lanie Hedrick  
on Sunday, June 3**

## Moving On

As my time at FHPC and PSA comes to closure, the bittersweet joy of Interim ministry begins yet another transition. While I love student young adults and will miss their personalities, laughter and spontaneous spirits, I am excited for them as the new AP arrives.

These past six years of transition have had challenges with Directors and Interns as well as cherished memories. I'm grateful for the unique contributions that Austin, Kelly, Maggie, Linda, and Brad made to PSA and to FHPC. Along with fundraising becoming a higher priority, comes the opportunity for alums, new friends, and other churches to support this ministry.

I am grateful to Laura, Dana, Mary, Judy C and Judy B, Margaret, Cyndi, Scott, Lori — a gifted staff — as well as the Session and congregation — for accepting whatever experience and insights this senior brings — you guys are a fun group to share the spiritual journey toward wholeness in Christ.

Moving as a widower has been challenging — even if only 20 minutes away. Sorting through stored attic boxes of 30+ years, trips to Goodwill and Miracle Hill, surprise findings such as 37 year old daughter's baby clothes, grade school papers, even her baby teeth!, literally thousands of pictures of every vacation, birthday, Christmas, etc. — all BCP (before cell phone), about a 100 picture frames representing everything from great grandparents to me when I was an all-star Little League pitcher.

Why do we save all this stuff in the first half of life and then get rid of most of it in the second half? In order to downsize, I am having an online auction, an interesting process. The local Travelers Rest auctioneer and staff come to the house, sort and label all the antiques, pictures, tools, furniture, etc. The good news: when all is said and done, I will have an empty house ready to sell! Twenty-seven years in the same home — so many memories — good and not so good — there is grief in leaving and yet assurance this is the time to move.

My new home is smaller, about a mile from Furman — feels weird making all the decisions about color, where to hang pics, which cook book to use (ha, ha), figuring out what I'm going to do with the rest of my life post-PSA. Frig has plenty of beer, Gatorade, fruit; pantry has breakfast bars, chips, peanut butter — I'm good to go.

Adulting is harder at 70! I hope to make a positive difference volunteering in Greenville while continuing to serve the Church.

Thanks be to God for PSA and FHPC — will miss you!



*Al Masters*



## A Fond Farewell and Good Wishes

For nearly six years Fort Hill has been blessed to have Judy Crawford as our Administrative Assistant. On August 15, Judy will retire from this position. During her time with us, she has become a beloved member of our church family. Her pleasant demeanor, ready smile, and willingness to help is well known to all who



have worked with her. She has answered endless questions, printed countless documents, searched for lost items and guided us gently when we had no idea what we were doing or where we were going. During the months before Scott Thraillkill came, it was not unusual to see her vacuuming or putting the trash bins out for pick up! Each person who has worked with her could tell a story of her endless patience and kindness. The staff have benefited from her loving care, including the yummy treats that she "forced" on them, as well as her strong team-player attitude. She truly lives out her Christian faith every day.

It will come as no surprise to those who know her that Judy has requested no reception or gifts. She has been supported and uplifted over the years by many wonderful cards and notes from Fort Hill folks and would love to hear from you in that way.



We will miss seeing Judy, but know that her retirement will be a full and happy one, with travel and a new grandson due in August. She will be right where she wants to be. Maybe she will even find time to come back for a visit with us!



## Please Welcome Katie Wilson

We are excited to introduce our new Children's Ministry Coordinator. You might have seen her around the church teaching preschool Sunday School, leading Family Fun Nights, or helping with Children's activities. It is Katie Wilson.

Katie is a Clemson grad with a degree in Education, Master's in Human Resources and Education. She is married to Jason and mom to Shuler and Maggie. Katie has felt God calling her into Children's Ministry and we are excited that God has led her here to Fort Hill.



## Church Mouse



**I'M BACK! YES, THE CHURCH MOUSE ROAMS THE HALLS AGAIN!** I have been away visiting my cousin, the city mouse, who lives at First Presbyterian Church in Anderson. Sometimes it is hard to hitch a ride back to good old Fort Hill. By the way, you know, of course, that we are Presbyterian mice of long standing.

I missed telling about all those wonderful people at Fort Hill who do so much but much of it is behind the scenes. This way we get to **say thanks** for all their efforts that make Fort Hill such a great place.

I ran outside on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, when I heard a lot of noise from a big truck. It was dumping bark all over the place under the direction of **Rob Griffin**. It was so much fun running over those big, big piles. But as I watched, people came and started moving the bark. **Lauren Young, Garland Gravely, Bob and Nan Jones, Paul, Joan, and Mimi Borick, and Brad Kirch (PSA Intern)** were all hard at work spreading the bark. Then the Boy Scout 235 under the guidance of **Vic Shelburne** came and finished the job. Wow, all the piles were gone in nothing flat!

Sunday I heard the voices of **Beth and Jerry Chapman** as they prepared the communion trays of bread and grape juice. I love this — those bread crumbs that just happen to hit the floor taste great. Then I watched as **Suzanne Simmons** directed the communion servers **Donna McCubbin, Mac Martin, Jim London, Linda Parsons, Cindy Sloan, Barbara Madison, Marvin Dixon, Terri Smith, Lee Davis, Cynthia Gravely, and Gary Mohr, Sr.** I had watched **Jake McKinney** and **Rose Marie McDonald** serve at the 8:30 service too. This is so much a part for all who worship at Fort Hill.



# Thank You!

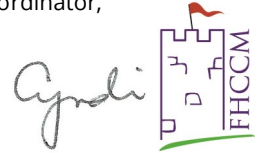
Thank you for loving our Fort Hill Children and your support in raising young Disciples.

Thank you for participation in VBS, Food Truck, other mission projects, nursery, and teaching.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Children's Ministry. We have a great team in Nina Moede, Katie Wilson, Meredith LeCroy, Laura Crenshaw, David and Debbie Collins, Jill McLaurin, and Allie Young.

Thank you for your ongoing love and support of the Children's Ministry Team and the new Children's Ministry Coordinator, Katie Wilson. The future is bright for our Fort Hill children and church family.

Wishing each of you as many blessings as I have received while working with our children and church family.



# July Sabbatical News

Hi Friends,

From our Sabbatical Grant Proposal: *Fort Hill Presbyterian Church and Laura Conrad, her pastor, hope that an intentional time of spiritual renewal and Sabbath-keeping will “keep us” as we follow the Spirit’s leading. We live in a time of unprecedented change and anxiety. We are called to speak God’s Word to an anxious and fearful world of the good news of the gospel. With change comes loss and grief. Those who are faithful members of the church find themselves grasping for ways to understand what is happening to their beloved church. Others find this an exciting time to experiment and explore. Some may feel that the church is in danger with changes in status, standards, or traditions. But God guides us through change as Jesus calls us to fish for people. God calls us to be caught up in the net of community and sends us out to join God’s mission in the world. Frederick Beuchner wrote “Faith is a journey without maps” so pilgrimage is a way of life for Christians.*



In July I continue my pilgrimage with my brother Rob and niece Shelby to explore the Scottish Highlands (Inverness, Isle of Skye, and Culloden) as well as Northern England where my grandfather Wearmouth was born before immigrating to the U.S. in 1912. I will visit the family home and Wearmouth-Jarrow Abbey, a Benedictine community which produced the venerable Bede, Anglo Saxon Scholar, before they were sacked by Vikings, Normans, and such. I am excited to visit Holy Island on the eastern English coast where Christian pilgrims journey. Christianity spread from Iona to Holy Island in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Christian pilgrims still make that journey to connect with God and the faith of our ancestors in prayer and reflection. I hope to visit Northumbrian Christian Community — an active monastic group. I spend a few days at the Gladstone Library in Wales for personal retreat, reading, walks, and prayer.

On July 18 Avery, Hallie, Chuck and I will meet in London to explore. We then fly to Paris for a few days. We then journey by car to Geneva so we will be able to stop at the Taize Community — a current Christian Community known for their worship. Many Taize songs are in our Hymnal. Geneva, a center of the Protestant Reformation, was home to exiled John Calvin and much of the theology and practice that shaped our Presbyterian heritage.

We land in Aix-en-Provence in the south of France to explore lavender fields, Roman ruins, a winery, and a cooking class! As a former French student, I am most excited to live like a local, at least for a few days. We conclude our journey with a few days in Florence, Italy. We fly home August 4. Whew.

In Faith,

*Laura Conrad, Pastor*

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## Beach Reflection

I wrote this article Sunday morning, May 6, 2018, at Garden City Beach, SC, after a cinnamon pop tart and java breakfast. Clemson PSA students had finished exams and “beach week” just started — our annual tradition of chilling, fun before seniors return for graduation and others scatter for career beginnings, summer intern jobs, study abroad, and Montreat summer staff.

These guys are techy smart, genuinely good people. I love being with them. A bunch of us even went to worship at Myrtle Beach Pres. We are all white, gifted, blessed, educated, privileged.

As a 70 year old Interim Pastor with and to these cool people, I wonder and feel some guilt, regret about their understanding and response to white supremacy. Students are open, inclusive, raised on smart phones, globalization, and mostly southern manners. They care about each other; two have chronic illnesses which require daily monitoring. These guys will build bridges, be our doctor and nurse, become leaders in the church and probably raise great kids. But did I teach them well or at least raise awareness of their inherited privilege?

Will we create a more diverse, just society for all? Will their future close relationships include African-Americans, Latino-Hispanics, Asian, Middle Eastern sisters and brothers? Will we practice our Christian beliefs and follow Jesus in caring for folks on the margins? Will our white minority share the wealth?

My hunch and fear is that yes, we who call ourselves Christian will care and tolerate diversity as long as our lifestyles are not affected significantly. We will follow Jesus’ ways at a safe distance. But will we dare to speak out against racism, violation of civil rights and risk embarrassment, rejection or miss the job promotion?

Clearly these concerns are not on the beach week agenda. Honest confession. Am I willing to engage white supremacy and privilege and risk criticism from other white church members whom I love and who pay my salary? Do I dare to make folks uncomfortable with their whiteness? Not really.

The gospel challenges us socially, economically, politically, religiously. Jesus creates tensions, a choice of loyalties, examines prejudice, cultural assumptions, lifestyles, beliefs. For Martin Luther King, Jr. the three great evils were poverty, race, war. They still are.

God bless these wonderful students in their career journeys. May they be spiritual bridge-builders for the beloved community and for the world that so desperately needs reconciliation.

But for now, time to dip in the ocean, catch some rays, and read a beach book.

*Al Masters*

# July Fort Hill Church Activities

## Sunday, July 1

9:30 am First Sunday Breakfast — Tartan Hall  
11:45 am Cyndi Davis Reception — Tartan Hall

## Monday, July 2

7:00 pm Habitat Meeting — Conference Room

## Tuesday, July 3

8:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Paws Diner

## Wednesday, July 4

4th of July Holiday — Church Offices Closed

## Sunday, July 8

Montreat Youth Conference — Montreat, NC

## Tuesday, July 10

12:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — Gathering Space  
6:30 pm Adult Ministry Meeting — E209

## Wednesday, July 11

6:00 pm Wild Wednesday — First Baptist Church

## Monday, July 16

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry — Hazel Sparks' home

## Wednesday, July 18

11:45 am Pastors' Lunch — Foothills Community  
6:00 pm Wild Wednesday — First Baptist Church

## Wednesday, July 25

6:00 pm Wild Wednesday — First Baptist Church

## Recurring Weekly Activities

### Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service — Tartan Hall  
9:30 am First Sunday Breakfast — July 1 and August 5  
9:30 am Sunday Summer Faith Formation Classes  
10:45 am Worship Service — Sanctuary

### Monday

6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room/Tartan Hall

### Tuesday

9:30 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room  
5:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

### Weekly AA Meetings

Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm and Friday at 12:30 pm in Room E205 of the Education Building.

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries



7/1 Becky DeWitt  
7/2 Catherine Latiff  
7/3 Tom Hunter  
Nan Jones  
7/4 Katherine Cason  
7/5 Avery Conrad  
Hallie Conrad  
Bruce Salley  
Jane Van Sensus  
7/6 Greg Griffis  
7/7 Sherry Kantzler  
Cooper Lecroy  
7/8 Page Cross  
7/9 Lee Churchfield  
7/10 Edward Crader  
Shirley Muzii

7/10 Ronda Ricks  
Audrey Schoonover  
7/12 Carl Hollingsworth  
Corey McCubbin  
Hugh Spitler  
7/13 Denise Anderson  
Ken Chappell  
Elbert Horton  
Marie Staedeli  
7/15 Mike Blackwell  
Maegen Johnson  
Ethel Pettigrew  
7/17 Tom Waldrop  
7/19 Tammy Fagan  
7/20 Edmee Reel  
7/21 Jack Jackson  
Grant Jones  
7/22 Sawyer Hays  
Bill Nisonger  
7/23 Nancy Spitler  
7/24 Ellen Ackerman

7/24 Ethan Ackerman  
Jason Allen  
Adam Scott  
7/25 Lanie Hedrick  
Sasha Satzger  
7/26 Spencer Bryan  
7/27 Lee Davis  
Jim McCubbin  
Johnnie Van de Sande  
Barbara Westall  
7/28 J.T. Bandy  
Sarah Morrison  
7/29 Marlene Nicholas  
Jeremy Wright  
7/30 George Dunkelberg  
7/31 John Gilreath  
Nancy Hutson  
Gary Mohr, Sr.  
John Sherman  
Harrison Steele



7/6 Don & Joann  
Daugherty  
Louis & Nancy Stone  
7/7 Chip & Diane Egan  
7/12 Mike & Courtney  
Money  
7/17 Chris & Beth Griffin  
7/18 Dan & Denise  
Anderson  
David & Judi Cundiff  
7/21 Devon & Leanne  
Broome  
Steve & Laura Hunter  
7/24 Ben & Cindy Deaton  
Ron & Ann Rash  
7/28 Chuck & Nina Moede  
7/29 Dusty & Nancy Oates



# FHPC Local Service Mission Opportunity — Water Missions

**Mission Statement:** A nonprofit clean water charity and Christian engineering ministry that builds sustainable clean water solutions in developing countries and disaster areas.

Water Missions (formerly Water Missions International) is an engineering relief and development Christian nonprofit. Headquartered in Charleston, its engineers, staff and volunteers design and provide sustainable, safe water solutions to developing countries and disaster victims worldwide. Since 2001, Water Missions has directly responded to the world's largest natural disasters and daily tackles the world's single biggest cause of illness — lack of safe water and adequate sanitation. In 2017, Water Missions provided safe water to over 380K people in 14 countries.

FHPC has a rich history in ministry with Water Missions; from monetary support made possible through annual stewardship dollars, to on-site volunteer involvement, to organizing local walks for water that raised local awareness of global water issues and generated over \$52,000 for deployment of Living Water Treatment Systems in Haiti and Kenya. Nearly 2 billion people lack access to clean water every day and more than half of all hospital beds around the world are filled with someone suffering from a water-related illness. We want to remain involved with helping Water Missions make a lasting difference.



CAM is in the early stages of organizing a mission trip to Water Missions' operational facility in Charleston. This multigenerational opportunity to engage in this extraordinary ministry is being planned for Summer 2019. Volunteers form the backbone of Water Missions production. It is anticipated there will be opportunities to assemble and test equipment, pack and load emergency supplies, support administrative functions, and assist staff with everything from process and procedures to giving tours and landscaping. It takes approximately 40 hours to build and test a Living Water Treatment System. Through the work of volunteers, eight to ten systems can be built in one week, enough to supply safe water to approximately 30,000 people in the event of a disaster.

You can help respond to the global water crisis by taking action and believing that God can use each of us to provide safe water to the millions that need it. More information about how you can participate in the planned trip will be coming soon!

#### **Contacts at FHPC:**

Cal Sawyer, CAM Member, [calvins@clemons.edu](mailto:calvins@clemons.edu)

Dana Waters, AP for Youth and Missions, [dana.waters@forthillchurch.org](mailto:dana.waters@forthillchurch.org)

#### **Contacts at Water Missions:**

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# RENEWING THE VISION: *Kindom building for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

by Leslie Scanlon, *Outlook* national reporter

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## The 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) St. Louis, Missouri - June 16-23, 2018

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Presbyterians took to the streets at the 2018 General Assembly, with hundreds marching from the convention center to the City Justice Center with \$47,200 in donations - money the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) collected during opening worship, and which was used to bail out people incarcerated for minor offenses who could not afford to pay their fines or make bail.

It's a "passion for ministry and the love of Jesus that drives us out of the church and into the streets," J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk of the PC(USA), said during a midweek rally.

This was a General Assembly that felt viscerally linked to the news of the day: climate change, immigrant parents being separated from their children at the borders, gun violence.

Over and over, this question came up: ***How to put faith into action?***

Floretta Barbee-Watkins, pastor of The Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, preached that it's easy to get discouraged, but Jesus, faith and love move people forward even when they are weary. The PC(USA) has "made some bad biscuits," Barbee-Watkins said, but confession and a willingness to "deal with the urgent needs of our siblings and the church" propel Christians to action. She challenged: "Beloved, rise up, let's make some new biscuits."

**Climate change.** The assembly voted 332-178 to continue corporate engagement with oil and natural gas companies, working through the denomination's Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee, rather than to divest the PC(USA)'s holdings in fossil fuel companies. This was one of the hardest-fought issues at the assembly, with 40 presbyteries supporting an overture for fossil fuel divestment, saying the church has waited long enough to act to protect the earth, and with others contending it's better to stay at the table and use the investments as leverage to push for industry changes.

**Family separation.** The assembly voted 484-34 to approve a resolution calling for an immediate end to the government's policy of separating parents from children as migrants attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. It calls for federal authorities to promptly reunite parents and children who have been separated, and to place families "under the care of the community," rather than in detention.



**Per capita.** The assembly approved a General Assembly per capita rate of \$8.95 per member for 2019 and \$8.95 for 2020 – up from \$7.73 per member in 2018. That was a source of constant tension during this assembly: How to meet urgent ministry needs, from drug addiction to mental health to ministry with small churches, while not raising per capita so high it raises resistance from mid councils and congregations?

**The Way Forward.** The assembly approved a report from the Way Forward Commission, which the 2016 General Assembly created to consider changes needed at the top levels of the denomination. The action will mean a new, more equitable governance structure for the PC(USA), A Corporation (a secular corporation used to conduct church business). Also part of that proposal: a financial sustainability study and a commitment to translate PC(USA) resources into languages other than English.

**Leadership.** Taking four ballots to do so, the assembly elected as its co-moderators Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann, an educator and a mid council leader, a ruling elder and a minister, two “audacious, spirited, bold, unapologetic women,” as Cintrón-Olivieri put it. She is a native of Puerto Rico, for whom Spanish is her first language.

**Race and inequality.** From preaching to marching to overtures, the need to confront structural racism and systemic inequality echoed through this gathering. As a sign of that commitment, the assembly voted 352-160 to begin the long process of adding Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” to the PC(USA)’s Book of Confessions.

**World concerns.** The assembly spoke to concerns around the world — including in Yemen, Korea, South Sudan and Nicaragua. One tangible example: The assembly agreed to make the PC(USA) a partner with a Salvadoran church working to reduce gang-related violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador — violence that’s causing people to flee for their safety.

**#MeToo.** The assembly voted 474-19 to have the PC(USA) confess its failure to listen to survivors of pastoral sexual misconduct; to report annually the number of sexual misconduct charges brought in the denomination; and to set up a task force of survivors of sexual abuse.

**Social justice.** This assembly felt pulled to public advocacy. It called for a moratorium on imposing the death penalty. It asked Presbyterians to pray for a movement of the Spirit to end gun violence. It voted to affirm the dignity and humanity of people of all sexual orientations. Time and again, the assembly acted to tell the world, “This is what Presbyterians stand for.”

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