

# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

## Message From the Pastor

February 2016

### Love Never Ends

I can see the framed cross-stitched scripture adorned with hearts and teddy bears in my mind's eye. It read:

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.*

*It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

My brother's girlfriend's mother had stitched for him. Did you follow that? And yes, it hung in my college-aged brother's bedroom at home for years. Mama Bear was trying to influence the potential mate of her daughter! (in a positive way, of course)

He did not marry that girlfriend. Some really awful things happened to him, like nursing his wife through breast cancer while they had a baby. She died when their daughter was 5 years old, and he has raised her alone. Well not alone exactly, with the help of many friends and family. Now she is a senior in high school which is one of the wonderful things that has happened in his life among many others.

I used to think of these verses Paul is writing to the church in Corinth as rules for dating. But the older I become I see how they are a reminder of God's love which sustains and keeps us in **all things**: life, death, sickness, health, job issues, crises, joys, all things! I just do not know know some folks make it through life without knowing that kind of love. This Valentine's Day is a Sunday. We will celebrate those who have been born and baptized in the last year on the "Cradle Roll" Sunday. At baptisms, the pastor proclaims 1 John 3:1, "See what love God has for us to call us his children, and so we are." That love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love (like God) never ends.

Yours in Christ,

*Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor*

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### Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue  
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www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor  
Mary Morrison, Associate Pastor for Discipleship  
Kelly Roman, Associate Pastor for University Ministry  
Maggie Alsup, PSA Intern for University Ministry  
Cyndi Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music  
Lori Houck, Administrator  
Judy Crawford, Administrative Assistant  
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

*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

- 2/7 Transfiguration of the Lord**  
Exod. 34:29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
- 2/14 1st Sunday in Lent**  
Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- 2/21 2nd Sunday in Lent**  
Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
- 2/28 3rd Sunday in Lent**  
Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

### March

#### *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for announcements, articles, and features for the January issue of *The Window* is **Monday, February 15, 2016**

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.

## Choir Corner

As we begin the month of February and head into the Lenten season, I would like to share the text of one of my favorite hymns for you to read as a devotion or prayer time. It is hymn 794 *O Savior, in This Quiet Place* with text by Fred Pratt Green (1974) and the music by William Jones (1789).

*O Savior, in this quiet place, where anyone may kneel, I also come to ask for grace, believing you can heal. If pain of body, stress of mind, destroys my inward peace, in prayer for others may I find the secret of release. If self upon its sickness feeds and turns my life to gall, let me not brood upon my needs, but simply tell you all. You never said "You ask too much" to any troubled soul. I long to feel your healing touch; will you not make me whole? But if the thing I most desire is not your way for me, may faith, when tested in the fire, prove its integrity. Of all my prayers, may this be chief: till faith is fully grown, Lord, disbelieve my unbelief, and claim me as your own.*

We welcomed new Chancel Choir members Tom and Connie Lawrence in January. They are retired and live in Keowee Key. Thank you for sharing your tenor and alto voices with us!

Upcoming musical events and fun opportunities for you to be a part of:

**February 14, 3:00 PM** in our sanctuary — Voice recital by our former music director, Bill Diekhoff. Bill is such a talented tenor and will offer a wonderful program.

**Friday, April 8 — Annual Coffee House** (variety show). Start planning your skills, musical offerings, stories, jokes, etc. to share.

**Sunday, April 24 — *The Tale of Three Trees***, a musical presented by our children/youth choirs, in the 10:45 worship hour.

There's something for everyone!

Smiling-n-Singing,  
*Margaret*



#### Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- ◆ The family of **Phyllis Flanagan**, who died on December 15, 2015.
- ◆ **Jackie Ellis** and family in the death of Norm's mother, Martha Ellis, January 21 in Florence, SC.



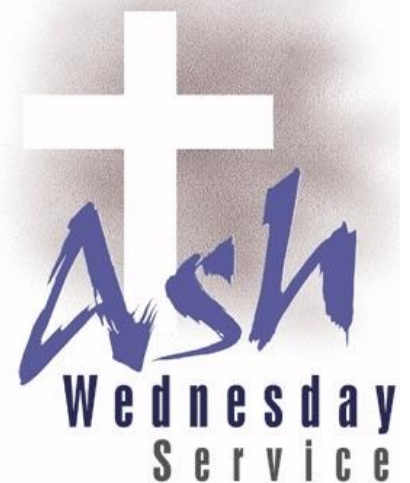
#### Congratulations on the birth of:

- ◆ **Hanna Rose Texler**, daughter of Kevin and Ashley Texler, born January 7, 2016 in Greenville, SC. Hanna is the granddaughter of **Tom and Carol Pollock**.
- ◆ **Carter Novello**, born January 21, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland. Carter is the great grandson of **Dick and Laura Shick**.

## Ash Wednesday Worship Service and Season of Lent

Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 pm  
In the Sanctuary

Every year before the Christian Passover (Easter) we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the Passover mystery. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community. We thus begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.



# Children's Ministry Update

Our 2016 year is well under way. The second and third grade Bible class has been well attended by involved and enthusiastic learners. Sally Martin deserves a HUGE thank you for her leadership. The assistance by other Moms is also greatly appreciated.

Worship Education for second graders begins in room E208 on February 7 at 9:30. This class will help children understand how to be more involved participants as they learn to use their bulletins to find components of worship, learn about communion, baptism, prayer and more. Parents are invited to join their children for this first class, and will be welcome at any time.

## Important Dates:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| February 7     | Cradle Roll during worship service (introduction to our youngest Fort Hill Members)<br>Third Graders return to the 3rd—5th grade Bridge class<br>Second Graders and their parents begin Worship Education |
| February 21    | Children/Youth choirs sing during 8:30 service  |
| March 18 & 19  | Egg Hunts   |
| March 20       | Children/Youth Choirs sing at 10:45 service   |
| April 24       | Children's Sunday: <i>A Tale of Three Trees</i>   |
| April 29—May 1 | Church Retreat at Montreat  |
| June 20        | Vacation Bible School   |

A new crib has been lovingly provided for the nursery by David & Joan Alexander. Stop by to see the changes to the nursery.

Blessings to you,



# News From Presbyterian Women

## Valentine Boxes for College Students

Presbyterian Women, led by Maggie Bandy, will be assembling Valentine Boxes for our 25 Fort Hill Presbyterian college students. You can help! PW will assist in collecting items such as:

- Individually wrapped candy and gum
- Microwave popcorn — Protein/granola bars — Ramen noodles
- Hot chocolate packets / tea bags
- School supplies (pens, highlighters, post-it notes, etc.)
- Gift cards

Please place your contributions in the box marked "Valentine Boxes" located in the Collections Room no later than **Sunday, February 7**. The boxes will be mailed to our students.

## Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon

It is time to mark your calendars for the Annual PW Birthday Luncheon to be held at Fort Hill Presbyterian on **Saturday, April 2**. *ALL* women attending Fort Hill Presbyterian are invited to this special gathering. Don't miss the program we have planned!

## Dates to Remember

- ◆ **February 7** Valentine Boxes Due
- ◆ **April 2** PW Birthday Luncheon

Submitted by Mary Barron, PW Publicity Chairman  
mb1cb1@bellsouth.net or (864) 885-9342

# Sunday Servants

## Pastor on Call

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 2/7  | Laura Conrad  |
| 2/14 | Mary Morrison |
| 2/21 | Laura Conrad  |
| 2/28 | Mary Morrison |

## Elder at the Font—8:30 Service

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 2/7  | Erika Hays          |
| 2/14 | Jerry Reel          |
| 2/21 | Nancy Spitler       |
| 2/28 | Rose Marie McDonald |

## Elder at the Font—10:45 Service

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 2/7  | Wayne Madison |
| 2/14 | Gail Williams |
| 2/21 | Marv Dixon    |
| 2/28 | Mike Money    |

## Infant - Infant/Toddler

|      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 2/7  | Camille Horton         |
| 2/14 | Joan Dixon             |
| 2/21 | Aleta Robinson         |
| 2/28 | Annette & Elise Halbig |

## 2 & 3 Year Old Nursery

|      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 2/7  | Sally Martin   |
| 2/14 | Laura Crenshaw |
| 2/21 | Beth Durham    |
| 2/28 | Heather Wright |

## 4 & 5 Year Old Nursery

|      |                           |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2/7  | Leanne Broome             |
| 2/14 | Bradley & Meredith Lecroy |
| 2/21 | Barbara Madison           |
| 2/28 | Nancy Spitler             |

## Announcements

**Souper Bowl! Sunday, February 7** is not just about football, it's also time for **SOUPER BOWL!** Out Fort Hill youth will be collecting non-perishable food items and money to benefit Clemson Community Care after worship. Items needed include juice, powdered milk, cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, pork & beans, soup, and canned potatoes. They can also use diapers, bath soap, disk and laundry detergent, paper towels and toilet paper, shampoo and toothpaste. Please help us fight hunger in our own community.

**Wednesday Night Suppers** at The Fort begin **February 17** for six weeks! Mark your calendars now to come and fellowship with others over a catered meal. **Feb. 17, 24, Mar 2, 9, 16 and Maundy Thursday, Mar 24.**

**Congregational Celebration & Potluck — Sunday, March 20.** In place of the usual congregational dinner in February we will celebrate being complete with our renovation and share in a potluck after worship.

# February Fort Hill Church Activities

## Monday, February 1

- 12:15 pm PW Circle 1 — Club Room
- 3:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Club Room
- 4:00 pm Brownie Meeting — Room E209
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room

## Tuesday, February 2

- 4:00 am Building & Grounds Meeting — Club Room
- 8:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Paws Diner
- 7:00 pm Personnel & Program Meeting — Conference Rm
- 7:00 pm Fellowship Meeting — Club Room

## Wednesday, February 3

- 10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room
- 7:00 pm Bible Study — Club Room

## Saturday, February 6

- 9:00 am NAMI — Cooper Room

## Sunday, February 7

- 1:00 pm NAMI—Cooper Room
- Home Communion

## Monday, February 8

- 7:30 am Preschool Registration — Narthex
- 9:30 am PW Trinity Circle — Club Room
- 4:00 pm Brownies — Room E209
- 5:00 pm Christian Action Meeting — Conference Room
- 6:00 pm Children's Ministry Meeting — Cooper Room
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room

## Tuesday, February 9

- 5:00 pm Christian Education Meeting— Room E209
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts— Club Room
- 5:30 pm University Ministry Meeting—PSA Center
- 5:45 pm Music Ministry Meeting—Conference Room
- 6:00 pm PSA Pancake Supper — PSA Student Center
- 6:30 pm Worship Ministry Meeting—Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Finance Meeting—Club Room
- 7:30 pm PW Circle 2—Library

## Wednesday, February 10

- 10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Services — Sanctuary

## Sunday, February 14

- 2:00 pm NAMI — Club Room
- 3:00 pm Bill Diekoff Recital — Sanctuary

## Monday, February 15

- 4:00 pm Brownie Meeting — Room E209
- 6:30 pm Boy Scout Court of Honor — Sanctuary/Tartan Hall

## Tuesday, February 16

- 9:30 am PW Coordinating Team Meeting—Club Room
- 7:00 pm Session Meeting/ Officer Examination — Tartan Hall/ Conference Room/Club Room/Library/Seekers Rm.

## Wednesday, February 17

- 10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room
- 5:45 pm Wednesday Night at the Fort

## Thursday, February 18

- 4:00 pm Mission Outreach Meeting — Club Room

## Friday, February 19

- PSA Semi Formal — Tartan Hall

## Saturday, February 20

- 8:00 am Cub Scout Pinewood Derby — Tartan Hall
- 10:00 am Deacon Retreat— Club Room

## Sunday, February 21

- 2:00 pm NAMI—Club Room

## Monday, February 22

- 4:00 pm Brownie Meeting — Room E209
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room

## Tuesday, February 23

- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts— Club Room
- 5:00 pm Membership Meeting — Conference Room

## Wednesday, February 24

- 10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room
- 5:45 pm Wednesday Night at the Fort
- 7:00 pm Bible Study — Club Room

## Sunday, February 28

- 11:30 am Deacon's Meeting - Club Room
- 2:00 pm NAMI—Club Room

## Monday, February 29

- 4:00 pm Brownie Meeting — Room E209
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room

## Recurring Weekly Activities

### Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service — Tartan Hall
- 9:30 am The Bridge Faith Formation Groups
- 10:45 am Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 pm Senior High Youth Group
- 6:00 pm PSA Dinner & Program — PSA Student Center

### Tuesday

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
- 7:15 pm Foothills Chorale — Choir Room

### Wednesday

- 5:45 pm Wednesday Night at the Fort (2/17-3/16 & 3/24)
- 6:15 pm Children's Choirs (K-3rd grade) — Room E209
- 6:15 pm Recreation (Grades 4-8) Room E208
- 6:15 pm Chancel Bells — Choir Room
- 6:45 pm Children/MS Choir (4th—8th grades) — Room E209
- 6:45 pm Recreation Grades (K-3 grade) Room E208
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir — Choir Room

### Thursday

- 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study — Spitlers' home

## Weekly AA Meetings

Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm and Friday at 12:30 pm in Room A104 of the Admin Building Basement.

# February Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2/1 Bradley Lecroy  
Eric Pollard
- 2/2 Hayden Anderson  
Devon Broome  
Linda Davis
- 2/3 Diane Bitzer  
Almeda Jacks  
Stacey Miller  
Matthew Wetsel
- 2/4 Brian Brown  
Debbie Vaughn  
Donna London  
Alena Nebesky
- 2/5 Laura Conrad  
Adam DeWitt
- 2/6 Justin Hill  
Charles Rutland  
Anna Tollison  
Jimmy Weir
- 2/7 Roberta Horn
- 2/8 Arlene Cheatham  
Eileen Homan

- 2/8 Chloe Satzger  
Tom Scott  
Hack Trammell
- 2/9 Terri Bruce  
Beth Wilkinson  
Shuler Wilson
- 2/11 Laurie Lefevre  
Aleta Robinson
- 2/12 Bennett Bost  
Ward Browning
- 2/13 Ann Gilreath  
Bud Hicklin  
Margaret MacKay
- 2/14 Jason Kohlmayer  
Patrick Pettigrew  
Sarah Van Daele
- 2/15 Cathy Morton
- 2/16 Samuel Bruce  
Riley Johnson
- 2/17 David Barkley
- 2/18 Lauren Chavis
- 2/19 Bill Alexander  
Jessica Christenbury  
Jim Dusenberry

- 2/19 Diane Haselton  
Ed Ingalls  
John Martin  
Laurence Mudge
- 2/20 Joyce Christenbury  
Aaron Pollard
- 2/21 Kate Hollingsworth  
Bob Jones  
Jeffrey Weir  
Joseph Weir
- 2/23 Holly Burchfield  
Kyle Smith
- 2/24 Hansen Wetsel
- 2/25 Tripp Mostertz
- 2/26 Janet Cantrell  
Becky Fant  
Steve Hunter  
Laurel Whisler  
Alexis Winchester  
Spencer Wright
- 2/27 Owen Van de Sande  
Marian Wooten
- 2/28 Christine Lightsey
- 2/29 Jacob Poetz

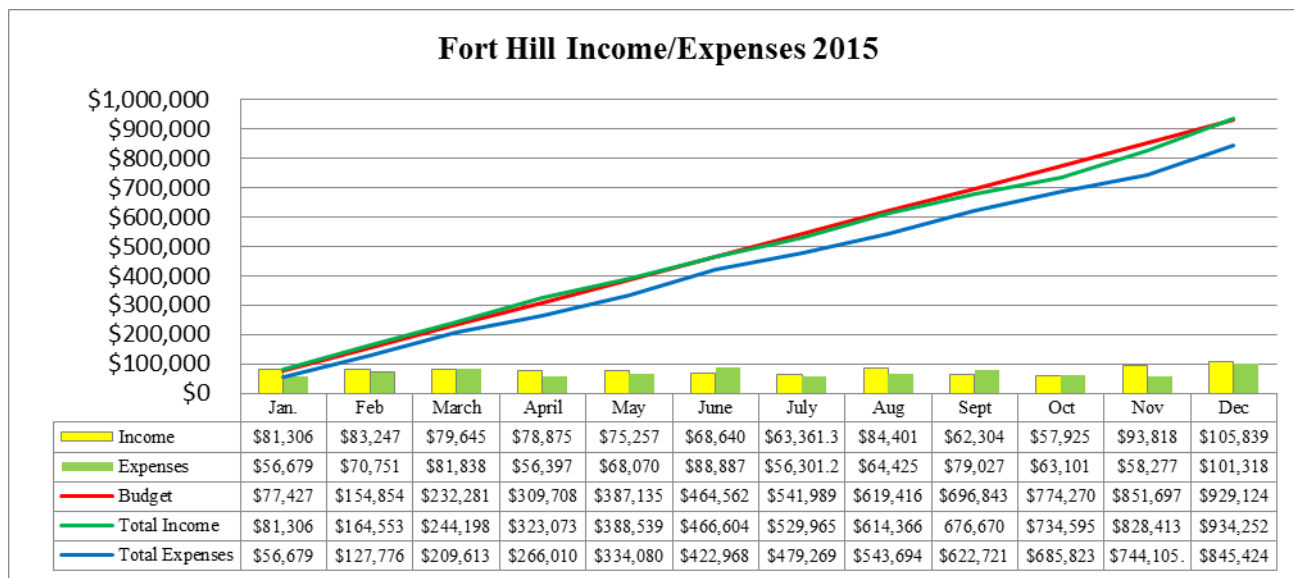


- 2/8 Brian & Nickie Mueller
- 2/14 David & Debbie Collins  
Tim & Ann Howard
- 2/21 Michael & Joy Van Daele
- 2/22 Steve & Stacey Miller
- 2/25 Al & Ginger Littlejohn

## From the Finance Ministry

2015 has come to a close, and was another successful year for Fort Hill. Total income through year end was \$934,252, while expenses were \$845,424 for a surplus of \$88,828. Overall expenses ended at 91% of budget, while income finished at 100.5%. As you can see, income was slightly above budget while expenses were 9% below budget. Session ministry chairs did a great job of managing expenses, and not being fully staffed led to the budget surplus. 2016 will bring continued and new financial challenges, so your sustained support is needed for Fort Hill to continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

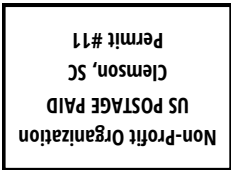
**Bridging Generations Update:** Pledge giving for the month was \$157,568.87. Non-pledge giving was (\$9,210.41), undesignated memorial gifts were \$50 and interest income was \$9.90 for a total of \$148,418.36. Total income year to date is \$892,194.87. Total expenses year to date: \$1,852,656.49.





*Return Service Requested*

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Clemson, SC 29631  
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## Fort Hill Medical Mission and Mission Outreach Update

Fort Hill Missions now include medical (Fort Hill Medical Mission) and non-medical (Mission Outreach) efforts. The mission ministry which oversees these efforts is made up of the following members: Mary Barron, Raenota Merrill, Marlene Nicholas, Larry Sloan, Jim London, Chuck Conrad, Beth Chapman, Art Williams, and Eddie Payne with the following members now rotating off: Cathy Spragins, Bill Beckwith, and Bob Brown. I want to personally thank each one of these very dedicated individuals who care so deeply about those who suffer needlessly.

The first mission of 2016 will be a medical one, traveling to El Faro, Guatemala from February 19 to March 5. For Fort Hill Medical Mission this is trip number 40. Just as a quick summary, since 1998 the following countries have been visited, many on multiple occasions:

|         |          |        |         |           |           |        |
|---------|----------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| India   | Ghana    | Haiti  | China   | Cambodia  | Vietnam   | Rwanda |
| Burundi | Tanzania | Zambia | Nigeria | Nicaragua | Guatemala |        |

El Faro is a mission located on the eastern coast of Guatemala, in the Izabal state. It is a non-denominational mission which was established 10 years ago by a Christian Chicago businessman. In April 2013, Fort Hill first visited El Faro, taking eye surgery there for the first time. Since then we have returned 4 additional times, the last one being a very successful non-medical mission trip in October 2015. To say that El Faro is unique in its outreach is a significant understatement. Everyone who has been there loves the place and its missionaries and the people it serves.

The upcoming trip will be very special. For the first week, we will work out in the villages as part of a general medical/dental campaign. Hundreds of people will come for care of various kinds and will be served with graciousness and love. The second week will be for eye surgery, and we will be working in a brand new eye surgery as this all got started back in April 2013. Yes, the impact of that is a very powerful one for all of us at Fort Hill. Thank you for your prayers as we prepare and as we depart and serve.

The missions of Fort Hill would not be possible without the heart of Fort Hill plowing the ground. Without Fort Hill's encouragement and support, it would all have been dead in the water. You have done this and for you I send tons of thanksgiving to our Lord. Every life we touch — you are touching. And I thank you all.

Bob Brown