

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

July 2015

Message From the Pastor

Making Room

We focused on making our facilities more inviting, accessible, and functional. One reason we are doing this is to make room for everyone of all abilities and ages. Making room is really just practicing the biblical art of hospitality, a critical Christian practice. Jesus made room. He broke bread with strangers, sinners, and religious officials who were misguided about the kingdom of God.

This summer while we are less driven by programs and busy schedules, I challenge you to break bread, to eat with someone you do not know well. I hope you will reach out to someone and invite them to go have brunch or lunch after worship. When Jesus was on the road to Emmaus the two strangers invited him to stay for dinner. It was in the breaking of the bread, that their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus. One of the ways we experience Jesus is when we gather in his name and listen to one another.

A couple of weeks ago, I invited two 20-somethings to go have appetizers after work. I wanted to hear how they are doing. I remember being a young adult, out of college, working, trying to figure out my relationships, my vocation, my life. It was a lonely time in some ways even though I was surrounded by people close to my age. I was the intern for University Ministry right here at Fort Hill. I needed people to talk with, wonder with, help me on my faith journey. I needed people who made room for me to feel at home or to ask questions or to give me the courage to try new things.

I actually think we all have those needs at all ages.

We are just sitting there talking, and these two found they had a similar need and interest for community and friendships, for exploring faith, and for mentoring. So they decided to do something about it. Working with our Christian Education ministry, they are starting a group for young adults meeting in the home of Nancy and Hugh Spitler, people who are happy to make room for others. They will meet Thursday nights. If you are looking for a group like this, contact Sarah Morrison at (864) 630-9770 or sm4@clemson.edu.



Together in Christ,

Pastor Laura

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
(864) 654-2061
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
- Kristyn Ball, Interim Director of Youth and Outreach
- 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

7/5 6th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48; 2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

7/12 7th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Sam. 6:15, 12b-19; Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

7/19 8th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Sam. 7: 1-14a; Ps. 89:20-37; Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

7/26 9th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

The Window August Deadline

The deadline for announcements, articles, and features for the August issue of *The Window* is **Thursday, July 15.**

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at 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.

Mobile Connection



For church member directory, online giving and more, download the app "Church Life" to your iPhone, Android, or Windows phone. You can click on a phone number and email address directly from the phone. You can submit a photo as well. To learn more, go to:

acstechnologies.com/products/acs/features/acs-church-life

In order to be able to access the member database, you will have to first sign up for a member login account through the church website: www.forthillchurch.org.

Choir Corner

Most of you know I love to walk. I do it for exercise, for an escape from the world, to think, to ponder, to praise, to lament, see things around me, but honestly, most of my walks involve praying. Sometimes spoken, sometimes listening, sometimes in tears, and sometimes smiling. I was struggling about what to write for this July article. So I went for an evening walk at 8pm in 90 degree heat!! And I thought about prayer and how it helps me. How much I need it. And then I decided to come up with my own acronym for prayer. The best way I found to do it was to put the first word that popped into my head with each letter. So here it is:

Please
Reason
Answer
Yes!
Exercise
Receive

It actually worked for me. Many prayers use the "please" when making a request of God. Prayers usually have a specific "reason" or purpose. Prayers expect an "answer". Hopefully, there is a "YES!" It is a daily "exercise" for me — not forced, but needed for my spiritual life. And most of all, I always "receive" something, whether it is God's presence, guidance, strength, or comfort.

I looked in our *Glory to God* hymnal under prayer, and there were 38 suggested hymns. Of course, there are hundreds of others that come under other categories like grief, healing, hope, praise, etc. I really don't think you can put prayer in just one "box". It is active, quiet, loud, celebratory, painful, restoring — the list goes on and on.

I encourage you to take some time to look through the hymnal. Out of hundreds of possibilities are three of my favorites (we always have 3 points, right?)

#834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn...

#625 How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the world thy hands have made...Then sings my soul...How Great Thou Art!

#794 O Savior, In This Quiet Place

O Savior, in this quiet place, where anyone may kneel, I also come to ask for grace, believing you can heal.

Think of your three or more hymns that are prayers for you or look through the hymnal and who knows? You may find the answer to one of your prayers or the simple assurance that "Yes, Jesus Loves Me".

Smiling-n-Singing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret".

The Chancel Choir has the month of July off. Enjoy the music of individuals sharing their gifts.

Dare to Dream: Built on a Firm Foundation

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations...
Ephesians 3:20-21a

The culmination of work over the past two years has led us to the point of having a detailed project plan and schedule for the renovation of our entire campus. The congregation has successfully supported the renovation project through pledges in the capital campaign. The session and congregation has approved moving forward with the renovation construction efforts.

Construction work has begun in several parts of the Fort Hill campus. The asbestos abatement work has been completed within the Education Building and demolition work is underway in the Education Building to prepare for the renovations. Work is in progress within the Courtyard and Bethlehem Hall. An obvious sign of the work is the removal of the covered walkway between the Admin and Education Buildings.

The key renovation schedule dates are listed below for awareness and are subject to change. No changes have occurred in the project schedule since these dates were provided in the May Window update.

- Education Building 5/26/15—8/31/15
- Bethlehem Hall 6/1/15—8/21/15
- Elevator 6/22/15—10/15/15
- Sanctuary 6/29/15—8/7/15
- Tartan Hall 8/10/15—10/16/15
- Admin Building 11/1/15—12/16/15

Construction activities began on May 26 for the renovation. The key renovation schedule dates are listed below for awareness and are subject to change.

The Sanctuary work will be sequenced to minimize the number of Sundays that the Sanctuary will be unavailable. The current project plan has only three Sundays impacted with the other weeks having Sanctuary work areas cleaned up prior to Sunday for the Sanctuary to be used for services.

Thank you for all of the support that has been provided during this process. Also, thanks for your patience as we work through the renovation activities.

July 5 Potluck Lunch & Patriotic Music

Be sure YOU are there. YOU don't want to miss it. **Sunday, July 5**, our congregation will join our neighboring congregation at First Baptist Church for a pot-luck lunch and patriotic music program by our Chancel Choirs.

Prepare some of your favorite foods to share. Go to the back of First Baptist (the Sloan Street entrance) and drop off your goods at the Family Life Center anytime that morning (after the 8:30 service or before the 10:30 service). As soon as our service is concluded, head next door to enjoy a good meal, fellowship, and rousing patriotic music. You will get to sing along as we celebrate our freedom and blessings as a nation on this July 4th weekend.



The Window

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

7/5 Mary Morrison
7/12 Laura Conrad
7/19 Mary Morrison
7/26 Laura Conrad

Elder at the Font—8:30 Service

7/5 Wayne Madison
7/12 Jerry Reel
7/19 Nancy Spitzer
7/26 Avery Conrad

Elder at the Font—10:30 Service

7/5 Tina Mostertz
7/12 Gail Williams
7/19 Marv Dixon
7/26 George Dunkelberg

Infant - 2 Year Old Nursery

7/5
7/12 Blythe Smith
7/19 Jenifer Griffis
7/26 Allison Young

3 - 5 Year Old Nursery

7/5 Aleta Robinson
7/12 Meredith LeCroy
7/19 Denise Anderson
7/26 Reagan Blondeau



Thank You

*Dear Fort Hill Family,
Diane and I are humbled by the outpouring of prayers and sympathy expressed by you upon the recent death of my father, Joe Egan. It is amazing what a lift your thoughts and prayers continue to give us. We are so grateful.*

Chip Egan

*To my Fort Hill Family,
Thank you for the loving care which you surrounded me and our families after Jack's death. Your cards, letters, emails, calls and hugs (oh, those hugs!) remind us that we are not alone but are all part of God's family. You not only fed our souls, you fed our bodies with the lovely brunch and the meals brought to my house. Those who traveled to be here were made to feel welcome and were able to share "Jack stories" with many of you. God bless you all.*

Raenota Merrill

Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude for the many cards and prayers at the death of my father, Art, Sr. It is a blessing to have a caring and loving family here at Fort Hill. And we want to express our appreciation for all the love and kindness you have shown during this time. Peace,

Art & Gail Williams

July Fort Hill Church Activities

Thursday, July 2

7:00 pm APNC Meeting - Conference Room

Sunday, July 5

8:30 am Worship Service - Tartan Hall
 10:30 am Worship Service - Tartan Hall
 11:30 am Fellowship Picnic — First Baptist Family Life Center
 Middle School CROSS Ministry Mission Trip - Charlotte, NC

Tuesday, July 7

9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room
 4:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting - Conference Room

Friday, July 10

10:30 am Construction Meeting - Conference Room

Sunday, July 12

8:30 am Worship Service - Tartan Hall
 9:45 am Special Session Meeting - Conference Room
 10:30 am Worship Service - TBD
 Senior High Youth Conference - Montreat

Tuesday, July 14

9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

Thursday, July 16

7:00 pm APNC Meeting - Conference Room

Sunday, July 19

8:30 am Worship Service - Tartan Hall
 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 21

9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room
 6:30 pm University Ministry Team Meeting - PSA Student Center

Thursday, July 23

7:00 pm APNC Meeting - Conference Room

Friday, July 24

10:30 am Construction Meeting - Conference Room

Sunday, July 26

8:30 am Worship Service - Tartan Hall
 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 28

9:30 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room
 5:00 pm Folk Dancing - Tartan Hall

Wednesday, July 29

12:00 pm Pastors Lunch - Foothills Community

Thursday, July 30

7:00 pm APNC Meeting - Conference Room

AA meets in the Admin Building Basement each Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 8:00 pm and each Friday at 12:30 pm.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries



7/1 Becky DeWitt
 7/3 Tom Hunter
 Nan Jones
 Jim Prock
 7/4 Katherine Cason
 Ann Marie Hudak
 7/5 Ben Adams
 Avery Conrad
 Hallie Conrad
 Bruce Salley
 Jane Van Sensus
 7/6 Greg Griffis
 7/7 Rinne Cannon
 Sherry Kantzler
 Cooper LeCroy
 7/8 Cita Ferguson
 7/9 Lee Churchfield
 7/10 Lauren Collie
 Edward Crader
 Shirley Muzii
 Evanne Thies

7/11 Will Hendricks
 Craig Horton
 7/12 Carl Hollingsworth
 Corey McCubbin
 7/12 Hugh Spitler
 7/13 Denise Anderson
 Ken Chappell
 Elbert Horton
 Marie Staedeli
 7/15 Mike Blackwell
 Maegen Blackwell
 Ethel Pettigrew
 7/16 Lou Phillips
 7/17 Patrick Adams
 Barbara Fox
 Tom Waldrop
 7/18 Caroline Jarrett
 7/20 Edmee Reel
 7/21 Jack Jackson
 Grant Jones
 7/22 Sawyer Hays
 Bill Nisonger
 7/23 Nancy Spitler
 7/24 Ellen Ackerman
 Ethan Ackerman

7/24 Jason Allen
 Cathy Pollard
 Adam Scott
 7/25 Larry Horne
 Sasha Satzger
 7/26 Spencer Bryan
 Bob Folsom
 7/27 Lee Davis
 Jim McCubbin
 Doris Sponsler
 Johnnie Van de Sande
 Barbara Westall
 7/28 J.T. Bandy
 Carolyn Ferguson
 Sarah Morrison
 7/29 Marlene Nicholas
 Jeremy Wright
 7/30 George Dunkelberg
 Caroline Rash
 7/31 Nancy Hutson
 Gary Mohr, Sr.
 John Sherman



7/6 Don & Joann Daughtery
 Louis & Nancy Stone
 7/7 Chip & Diane Egan
 7/12 Mike & Courtney Money
 7/18 Dan & Denise Anderson
 David & Judi Cundiff
 7/21 Devon & Leanne Broome
 Steve & Laura Hunter
 Ryan & Kristy MacRae
 7/24 Ben & Cindy Deaton
 Ron & Ann Rash
 7/27 Bill & Jan Kahle
 7/29 Dusty & Nancy Oates

Children's Ministry Summer Happenings

One hundred sixty children enjoyed a great week of Vacation Bible School with our neighbors at First Baptist Church. Children from both churches, children from each of the church's pre-school programs, and children from the community were led by enthusiastic volunteers. Sincere thanks is extended to our congregation for your support, and to the volunteers for your leadership.

Fort Hill volunteers were: Aleta Robinson, Bob and Carol Stout, Marv and Joan Dixon, Teresa and Elise Hollingsworth, Heather Wright, Cathy and Beth Olker, Donna Crader, Raenota Merrill, Sally and Mac Martin, Clay Mohr, Hugh Spitler, Becky Bowman, Margaret MacKay, Kristyn Ball, Kelly Roman, Mary Morrison, and Laura Conrad. THANK YOU once again.

On Friday, seventeen third through fifth graders helped at Oconee Humane Society by weeding, cleaning the cat rooms and dog runs, making cat toys, and loving the animals.

Wacky Wednesday Friends continues for 2nd — 5th graders (completed)

- July 8** — Nature Walk & tour of the Geology Museum. Cost \$5; Time: 9-11:30 am
- July 22** — Service day at Clemson Community Care; Time: 10:00 am-noon

Wacky Wednesday Friends for 1st graders (completed) and younger

- July 15** — Ice Cream Social event. Time: 3-4:30 pm
- August 13** — Trash clean up, water fun, and picnic; Time: 4:00 pm

Young Disciples Retreat

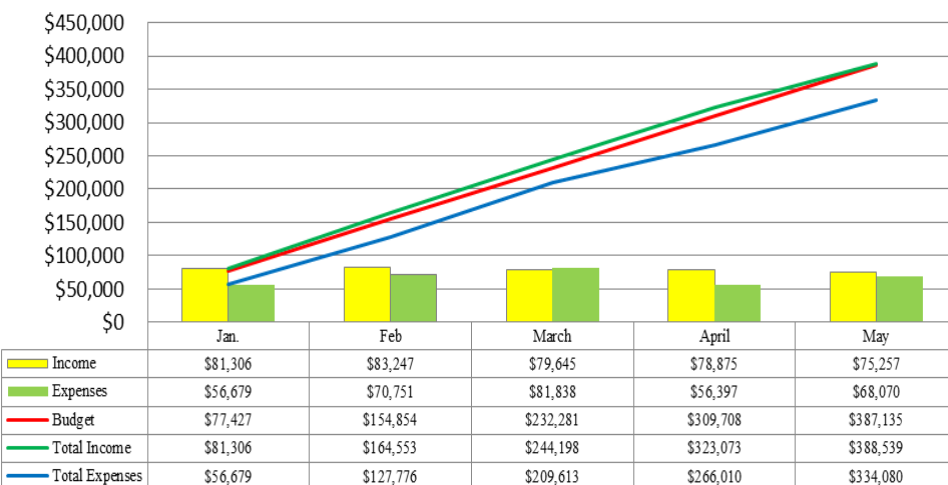
August 6-8 at Montreat for children 2nd — 4th grade (completed). A time for parent and child fun and fellowship in a very special setting.

From the Finance Ministry

Through May, total income was \$388,539 while expenses for the first five months were \$334,081 leaving a surplus of \$54,458. Overall expenses are at 36% of budget, while income is at 42.4% of budget. As you can see, income is slightly above budget while expenses are 5.6% below budget. Session ministry chairs are doing a great job of managing expenses, and thanks to your financial support, Fort Hill is able to continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

Bridging Generations Update: Pledged giving for month was \$68,825. Non-pledged building fund giving was \$1,545 and undesignated memorial gifts was \$1,238 for a total of \$71,600.

Fort Hill Income/Expenses 2015



Announcements & Concerns



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

Joe & Anne Dickey and family in the death of Anne's sister, **Ruthie Rhyne**, on May 21 in Mt. Holly, NC.

Mary Margaret Dancy and family in the death of **Bob Dancy**, May 31, in Atlanta, GA.

Dusty and Nancy Oates in the death of Dusty's father, **Henry Oates, Sr.**, June 2.

Gary Mohr, Sr. and family in the death of Gary's father, **Robert Fredrick Mohr**, June 4, in Clermont, FL.

Lin & Kay Dearing and family in the death of Kay's sister-in-law, **Sayanne Thorngate** on June 18.

Bruce & Harriett Salley and family in the death of their nephew, **Alex Harper**, on June 19 in Charlotte, NC.

Michael & Jeannie Bailey and family in the death of Michael's uncle, **Jim Bailey**, on June 22 in Salisbury, NC.

New Address:

David & Libby Hendricks
1453 Swamp Fox Lane
Charleston, SC 29412

Did you know that **Homebound Communion** is served the first Sunday of every month by the Board of Deacons? If you or someone you know would like to have communion brought to you, please call Lisa Street @864-868-2751.

Circle of Hope (Circle 5) is meeting at The Lighthouse restaurant on Monday, July 6, at noon for lunch and fellowship. Mark your calendars! Please let Ann Gilreath (654-4300 or anngilr@nctv.com) know if you can join us. For those who have already signed up, you do not need to contact Ann again. Carpooling is suggested.

Ladies, you are invited! Circle of Hope (Circle 5) is hosting a tea at Hazel Sparks' home on Monday, **August 3**, at 3:30 pm. All ladies interested in joining an afternoon Circle are invited to come for tea and fellowship. For more information, call Hazel at 654-3617 or Ann Gilreath at 654-4300.

Return Service Requested

101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org



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Mission 2015 of the Month

S.W.A.G. Students With A Goal

This month's Mission of the Month is S.W.A.G. (Students With A Goal), an organization founded and now led by Fort Hill's very own Laura Shick!

SWAG's mission is to provide under-resourced students in the Clemson area with assistance and guidance in the areas of academics, character development, personal well-being, goal setting, and strategies to achieve those goals.

These students come from Section 8 housing or through recommendations from school guidance counselors. SWAG focuses on character development as well as academic learning, with a focus on remembering to Speak kindly, Work hard, Always love, and Give respect. Healthy snacks are provided every day, especially fresh fruit, and dinner one day a week.

Students are exposed to new experiences such as Rock Climbing, Clemson athletic events, picnics, science experiments and trips to museums...all experiences that would otherwise be beyond the reach of these children.

SWAG is volunteer driven, and is currently seeking four adult volunteers who can consistently volunteer one day a week with the children — an experience that is guaranteed to provide returns far beyond the time invested. Alternatively, SWAG would love for a Sunday school class or SALT group to sponsor a dinner.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Laura Shick at lshick80@gmail.com.