



The Window

Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

A Message From Our Pastor

Why Celebrate?

We have many reasons to celebrate. On Pentecost Sunday (May 15) we will celebrate new life in Jesus Christ in two special ways. For one, we will hear our Confirmation Class (8th graders) make their public profession of faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. This year they have studied together and wrestled with faith. And we celebrate together as a church that Jesus calls and these young people will respond in their own commitment to Christ. So remember in prayer this class: Carter Bandy, Elyse Hollingsworth, Catherine Jones, Andrew Latiff, Mac Martin, Clay Mohr, Will Turner and Katherine Whisler and a big thank you to their teacher, Mary Morrison, their parents, and covenant partners.

On this same day we will dedicate our new additions and renovation in worship. Just as our confirmands will profess faith and new life in Christ, we will celebrate our new life breathed into our spaces of worship, fellowship, and faith formation. It is apropos that that all happens on Pentecost- the birthday of the church when the Holy Spirit breathed new life into the community of followers of Jesus.

After worship you are all invited to a party. So grab a cupcake and some popcorn in Tartan Hall as we greet our confirmands, mark the completion of living in a construction zone, and sadly, to bid farewell to Maggie Alsup, our PSA intern. Blow bubbles and play corn hole as you tour our facilities. Guides will be posted throughout the building so you can spend a little time exploring the areas where perhaps you have not been lately. And do not forget the elevator is functioning and stops at ground floor, Tartan Hall and the Sanctuary levels.

Why celebrate? God has been doing wonderful things through His church to provide a house of worship, rest, challenge, and service as we follow Jesus Christ. Because God is building His church, not just walls and doors, but a people in us. For that I am most grateful and encouraged.

I hope to see you Sunday!

Together in Faith,

Laura Smith Conrad

Pastor



May 2016

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
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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
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Choir Director
Becky Bowman, Pianist
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

5/1	6th Sunday of Easter Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10; 21:22-25:5; John 14:23-29
5/8	7th Sunday of Easter Acts 16:16-34; Ps. 97; Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 20-26
5/15	Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
5/22	Trinity Sunday Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom. 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
5/29	2nd Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 18:20-21 (22-29) 30-39; Ps. 96; Gal. 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

The Window Deadline

The deadline for announcements, articles, and features for the **June issue of *The Window* is Monday, May 16th, 2016.**

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at window@forhillchurch.org or type the item directly into your email and send. If possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.

VBS Info

**VBS Dates are June 20th -23rd
4 years old—5th Grade.**

Third through Fifth grade participants may join in a **special mission project** on Friday, June 24th.

We will meet with Clemson First Baptist Church for as we follow the **"Water All Around the World"** curriculum to understand the importance of water in our daily and spiritual lives.

Contact
cyndi.davis@forhillchurch.org
for more information.

A note from our Building Planning Committee

Dear Fort Hill Friends,

We are writing to share news with you regarding the on-going work to make the Fort Hill Church facility more accessible to our members and visitors who have mobility challenges. Whether one uses crutches, a cane, a walker, a rollator, a wheelchair, a scooter or another device that aids one's movement, we hope the information below will be helpful for all.

From the beginning of the renovation process accessibility has been a top priority of this project and as it nears conclusion, we wanted to make sure you are aware of these particular changes, improvements, and additions. Some of these have been made, others are in process, and we hope all will be a blessing to the church's ministry with members, visitors, college students, and offer welcome to various groups of Clemson community friends who frequent the Fort Hill facilities for outreach and ministry functions.

Primary improvements that are now available for use are the following:

Bridge between the Education and Administration Buildings provides access to the church offices and pastors' studies on the second floor of Administration.

Individual restrooms on the first and second floors of the Education Building now have wide doors to accommodate wheelchairs and scooters, and no stall walls to impede use.

In the sanctuary there are now two places on the front pews at center aisle where wheelchairs can be accommodated. Should we have a college student with this need he or she can continue to sit with other college students down front.

Two new multiple seat restrooms on the first floor of the Sanctuary Building with at least one stall in each large enough to accommodate wheelchairs and scooters.

An elevator on the courtyard side of the Sanctuary and Tartan Hall buildings that will access all three levels: Sanctuary (3), Tartan Hall (2), and Youth (1). The elevator will also assist young families with babies in strollers to access the Nursery on the first floor of the Education Building (via the hall on the first floor of the Sanctuary Building).

Soon to be available are the following:

In the sanctuary there will be additional seating for wheelchairs and scooters on the choir side of the front section of pews as the last row will be entirely removed, and multiple buddy chairs will be available to accommodate family members. This will allow for ease of egress out the side door to the parking lot in case of an emergency.

At the project completion these will also be available:

A ramp to enter the first floor of the Administration Building and the Education Building from the College Street Extension area.

Same level accessibility from the College Street Extension area for church events in the Courtyard.

Same level accessibility from the College Street Extension area to the first floor of the Sanctuary Building through the elevator tower door in the Courtyard.

Please know that we have tried to be faithful to the whole of Fort Hill Church's needs in regards to accessibility within the limits of being good stewards. We realize we live in a community that continues to have an aging population like the rest of the country and that we will continue to have members and visitors at different stages of mobility. It is our hope that these improvements, changes, and additions will serve God's people in this place for years to come.

With grace and peace,

Building Planning Committee

Art Williams, Co-Chair
Dusty Oates, Co-Chair
Dan Anderson
Clarice Gustafson
Laura Conrad, ex officio



Choir Corner

Isn't it a wonderful gift when we are reminded that many of the simple and important life lessons come through the eyes and lives of our young people? A baby sleeps peacefully and innocently in our arms reminding us of the miracle of life. A toddler waddles down the aisle to hear a story and is enthralled looking up at the cross. Youth in the balcony move a bit to a hymn with some fun rhythm. Adults sing the hymns of the faith boldly and loudly.

Children of God of all ages from 0 – 100 relate to music. An infant is soothed to sleep by a lullaby. Young toddlers in preschool are reminded that Jesus loves them and that the wheels on the bus go round and round! School age children and youth begin to learn to play piano, organ (PLEASE), violin, clarinet, drums, guitar, choir chimes, and realize their voices are instruments, too. They may be singing "I Am a Child of God" or a song that assures them that it is ok to dream and to realize the dream God has for each and every one can come true. Our college students sing songs old and new to enhance worship. Adults are reminded of their journey to this place when they hear the voice of God in a melody or text.

You have heard many kinds and forms of music in worship lately. Think back on your favorite childhood song; the coolest song you like to dance to; a hymn that comforts and strengthens you. Then smile and thank God!!

SPECIAL THANKS—*The Tale of the Three Trees* is one of my favorite stories and especially the musical version that was published in 1997. A HUGE THANK YOU to the members of our Children/Youth choirs who worked for many months to learn it and put it on; to their parents who made sure they were present for rehearsals; to those who provided the scenery, costumes and props; our narrator, set designer, and sound technician; and our choir parents. The time and talents shared in all shapes and sizes shared a wonderful message and lessons.

Smiling-n-Singing,

Welcome New Member



Harrison Catoe

Harrison is a biology major at Clemson University and a member of Adnah United Methodist Church in Rock Hill. Harrison's home is in York, SC. Harrison joins Fort Hill as an Affiliate Member and says that the Presbyterian Student Association is what drew him to Fort Hill.

You also may have heard Harrison playing the organ for us on special occasions!

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

- 5/1 Laura Conrad
- 5/8 Mary Morrison
- 5/15 Laura Conrad
- 5/22 Mary Morrison
- 5/29 Laura Conrad

Elder at the Font - 8:30 Service

- 5/1 Wayne Madison
- 5/8 Nancy Spittler
- 5/15 Wes Koch
- 5/22 Mike Money
- 5/29 Rose Marie McDonald

Elder at the Font - 10:45 Service

- 5/1 Jerry Reel
- 5/8 Gail Williams
- 5/15 Jackie Ellis
- 5/22 Donna McCubbin
- 5/29 Sarah Morrison

Infant - Infant/Toddler

- 5/1 Ellen Torrence
- 5/8 Camille Horton
- 5/22 Joan Dixon
- 5/29 Courtney Money

2 & 3 Year Old Nursery

- 5/1 Nancy Oates
- 5/8 Melissa Cason
- 5/15 Sally Martin
- 5/22 Laura Crenshaw
- 5/29 Beth Durham

4 & 5 Year Old Nursery

- 5/1 Eddie & Megan Chavis
- 5/8 Leanne Broome
- 5/15 Bradley & Meredith Lecroy
- 5/22 Barbara Madison
- 5/29 Nancy Spittler



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Recipients



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Rosemary Ross

We are pleased to honor a “local girl” who was raised just down the road in Anderson, where she attended First Baptist Church. At Hanna High School she was voted “Friendliest” by her senior classmates. She went on to get her degree in elementary education from Winthrop College. Upon marrying and moving to Clemson, she and her husband have been very active in Fort Hill for nearly 40 years. She has taught at both Keowee and Morrison Elementary Schools.

This energetic lady has been involved with our young people of all ages as nursery volunteer, Sunday School teacher and Elementary Sunday School Coordinator for many years, plus Gift Day teacher, Bible School teacher and leader of Montreat summer programs. Adding youth mission trips and being a covenant partner for confirmands confirms her caring for the youngest to the oldest of our church youth.

Not being limited to the educational area, our honoree has further served on two senior pastor nominating committees, the Personnel and Program Support Ministry and as a SALT Group leader. In addition, she worked on the capital campaign for the new sanctuary in 1994 and recently on the Executive Committee for our Bridging Generations Capital Campaign.

This outstanding Christian witness has been active in the community in addition to her many hours of service to her church. As parents of Lauren and Mary Frances, she and her husband were co-presidents of Morrison PTO and the Blue and Gold Club at Daniel High. There was time spent as a Girl Scout leader. The Clemson Garden Club and University Women’s Club have benefited from her membership. In 2011 the Tiger Brotherhood honored her as “Mother of the Year.”

There is more to add to ways, she has served her church in recent years, always in her cheerful and efficient way. One is as a head usher for a month each year, again with her husband, Jere, to whom we are most indebted for bringing her to Fort Hill. Another is a member of the handbell choir. She even volunteered additional time to teach a senior high Sunday School class members how to play the handbells. All of us who have ever enjoyed cookies and punch at one of the countless receptions she has organized as coordinator of that committee recognize with appreciation and love as Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award recipient of 2016 – Rosemary Ross.

Gail Williams

Like many of us, our honoree was born well north of here, in New Jersey. She received a degree from Union College and did further study at Farleigh-Dickenson University. Following her marriage, she lived in various places; Colorado, Michigan, Ohio and even Venezuela. During that time, she was involved with Girl Scouts, most at the management level, doing leadership training and development programs.

For twenty-three years she was employed by Prudential. When her division transferred to Pennsylvania, she commuted between there and New Jersey to develop the claims processing staff. After her career in business, she turned to church work at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church as Director of Youth Ministry, developing youth and young adult programs. It was here she “cut her teeth” as an adult leader on youth mission trips over a ten-year period. She also developed the deacons’ Caring Ministries program, in addition to serving as Deacon Moderator. Of course, she was involved with Bible study groups and Presbyterian Women, serving as Circle Leader and PW Secretary.

After moving to Anderson eight years ago and joining Fort Hill in 2009, our exemplary honoree has served in this church in countless ways. She has been both an elder and a deacon, setting up the organization of the latter group, as well as serving as Deacon Moderator. She has led many of her circle’s Bible lessons and been its president. Three more youth mission trips and another one to Haiti were added to her list of accomplishments. This diminutive “torpedo” of a worker has also filled three Presbyterian Women offices: Vice Moderator, Moderator and Treasurer. She currently shares her talent as Clerk of Session. This energetic and efficient lady is ever ready and willing to address any need she encounters, taking action in her cheerful way.

The mother of a daughter who still lives in New Jersey working for Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, she has also one granddaughter in Dallas who is a manager a camp for handicapped youth and adults. Her second granddaughter is a paramedic for Spartanburg County. Apparently, the “caring gene” has been passed along!

How fortunate are they – and -we – to have in our lives this special example of living the Christian faith. We are also blessed that she is married to Art, another servant who brings his own set of skills and exemplary dedication to the Lord. So with loving appreciation, we recognize Gail Williams as recipient of Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award in 2016.

News from Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon—A Great Success!

We want to thank all of the committee members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make our annual PW Birthday Luncheon, held on April 2, 2016, a great success! Besides enjoying delicious salads, desserts and beverages prepared by our members, we enjoyed fellowship with one another. Our speaker, Mrs. Chanda Coleman, Advancement Officer from Thornwell Home for Children, gave us an overview of the home and invited us to not only come and visit, but, also, to provide our assistance with mission outreach groups.

May Magazine Collections for Campbell Veterans Hospital and Harris Psychiatric Hospital

During the month of May, Presbyterian Women will be collecting magazines, books and puzzles for Campbell Veterans Hospital and Harris Psychiatric Hospital. Please bring your donations to the Collection Room beginning May 1.

Thank you, Family Promise Volunteers

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson volunteers logged over 250 hours of service in caring for our Family Promise guests the week of April 3- 10, 2016. We send a special thanks to those new volunteers who joined our family of volunteers! The more involvement our church family has in contributing to this home mission, the richer our community grows!

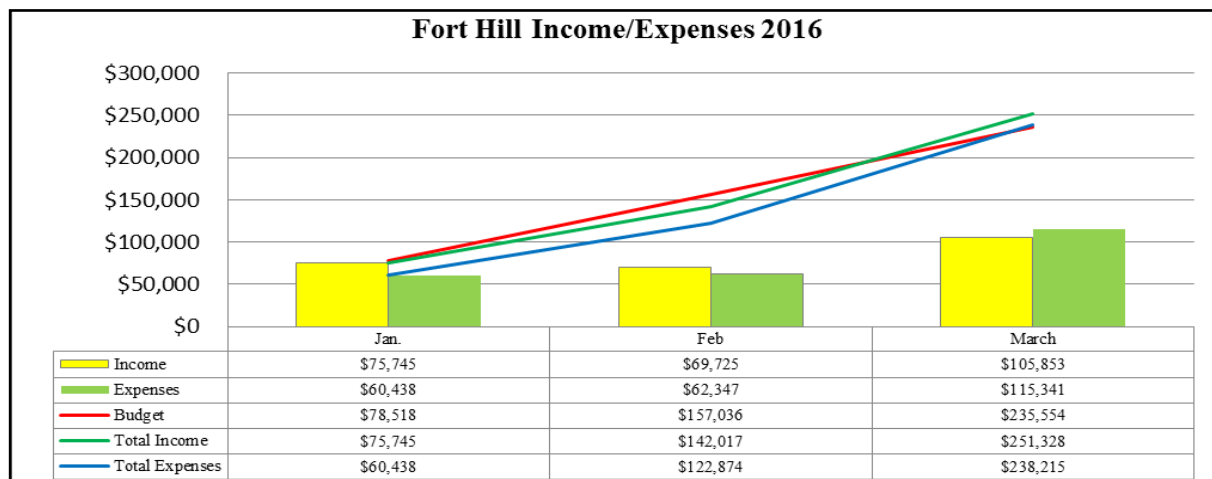
Family Promise Sign-Up for May 22-30, 2016

Due to our construction efforts here at Ft. Hill Presbyterian, we had to swap weeks to host Family Promise with another area church. Now our next week to host guests in Family Promise is the week of May 22-30, 2016. The large erasable sign-up board is in the lobby of the FHOOG Office. Please take the time to volunteer to help prepare meals, visit, or stay the night with our guests. We have written instructions to help make your involvement as easy as possible. Your investment of time and resources in sharing God's love will greatly impact the lives of these families in crises both now and in the future. For more information, please contact Linda Gahan (864) 654-2953, or Mary Barron (864) 885-9342. Thank you!!

From the Finance Ministry

Through March, total income was \$251,328 while expenses for the first quarter were \$238,215 for a surplus of \$13,113. Overall expenses are at 25.3% of budgeted, while income is at 26.7% of budgeted. 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, the community and around the world.

Bridging Generations Update: Total income year to date: \$119,486.70. Total expenses year to date: \$464,794.94. Total renovation loan principle: \$1,442,023.33.



Our Vision

For 120 years, Fort Hill Presbyterian Church has been sitting on this hill in the center of our college town, ministering to students, families, and neighbors near and far. Before I came to Fort Hill as Pastor, I asked a group, "For what is this church known?" The first person answered, "We are the church where the lights are always on."

Our building is used day and night, not only by our members seeking to grow in faith and serve one another, but also by critical community groups who serve the needs of our neighbors. The lights are on for our Preschool, Scouting, youth groups, our college students, Presbyterian women's circles, Alcoholics Anonymous, small groups, men's groups, worship, prayer, and music rehearsals. Indeed, the lights are always on as we share the light of Jesus Christ in the center of this college community.

Generations before us came to Clemson to teach, learn, work, and find hope and purpose. They built and cared for this church so that the light of Christ could shine brighter. It's our time to build on and care for what they generously gave to us.

We have built a bridge to the next generation of people seeking the light of Christ. In fact, our new connector bridge will feature our beautiful Fort Hill gothic window facing College Avenue so that many may find their way to the warm embrace of this loving and faithful congregation. Although I am a huge proponent of energy conservation; however, we will that window lighted so others can find their way. My prayer is that we reflect the light of Christ inside and outside of our church building.

Laura Smith Conrad,
Pastor

Celebration &



Look for more information about our Building Generations progress in a special booklet coming out on May 15.

Dedication!



BRIDGING
GENERATIONS
...it's our time

Our History

Now in 1960 Fort Hill Presbyterians are again dedicated to a building project. We recognize that the strength of a church grows from the coordinated union of ... God, the vision and dedication of the able men and women who are ready to work and sacrifice...Our congregation has experienced marvelous growth...It has in fact emerged into a welcome era of complete self-support...With faith in ourselves, in each other and in the Lord's continued blessing, we will successfully resolve this challenge.

Excerpt from Country Church, College Town: Fort Hill Presbyterian Church 1895-1995, Reel and McKale, eds.



Join us on May 15th as we dedicate our new space. We are excited to share our new and updated areas of our church. We will have refreshments after the services and welcome you all to explore and enjoy a time of fellowship and gathering.



May Fort Hill Church Activities

Sunday, May 1

- 8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall
- 10:45 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:45 am Deacon Drop In - Club Room
- 2:00 pm NAMI - Club Room
- Home Communion

Monday, May 2

- 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/Tartan Hall

Tuesday, May 3

- 8:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast - Paws Diner
- 4:00 pm Building & Grounds Meeting - Club Room
- 6:00 pm Children's Ministry Meeting - Cooper Room
- 7:00 pm Personnel & Program Meeting - Conference Rm
- 7:00 pm Fellowship Meeting - Club Room

Wednesday, May 4

- 10:00 am Bible Study - Club Room

Friday, May 6

- 8:30 am Preschool - Club Room

Saturday, May 7

- Clemson University Graduation
- 2:30 pm Tiger Baseball Tailgate (NC State game)

Sunday, May 8

- 8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall
- 9:30 am Confirmation Breakfast - Youth Room
- 10:45 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 2:00 pm NAMI - Club Room

Monday, May 9

- 9:30 am PW Trinity Circle - Club Room
- 4:00 pm Brownie Meeting - Room E209
- 6:00 pm Children's Ministry Meeting - Cooper Room
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts - Club Room/Tartan Hall

Tuesday, May 10

- 5:00 pm Christian Education Meeting - RoomE209
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts - Club Room
- 5:30 pm Christian Action - Library
- 5:45 pm Music Ministry Meeting - Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Worship Ministry Meeting - Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Finance Meeting - Club Room
- 7:00 pm PW Circle 2 - Library

Wednesday, May 11

- 10:00 am Bible Study - Club Room

Saturday, May 14

- 11:00 am Memorial Service Duaine Wigger

Sunday, May 15

- 8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall
- 10:45 am Worship - Sanctuary - Confirmation Sunday
- 11:45 pm Building Dedication
- 12:00 pm Safe Place Policy (Child Protection) Club Room
- 2:00 pm NAMI - Club Room

Monday, May 16

- 4:00 pm Brownie Meeting - Room E209
- 6:30 pm Boy Scout - Club Room/Tartan Hall

Tuesday, May 17

- 9:30 am PW Coordinating Team Meeting - Club Room
- 7:00 pm Session Meeting - Club Room

Wednesday, May 18

- 10:00 am Bible Study - Club Room
- 12:00 pm Pastors Lunch - Clemson Downs

Friday, May 20

- 6:00 pm Fort Hill Leadership Conference - Clemson Methodist Church Christian Life building

Saturday, May 21

- 9:00 am Fort Hill Leadership Conference - Clemson Methodist Church Christian Life building

Sunday, May 22

- 8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall
- 10:45 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 2:00 pm NAMI - Club Room

Monday, May 23

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

Tuesday, May 24

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

Wednesday, May 25

- 10:00 am Bible Study - Club Room

Sunday, May 29

- 8:30 am Worship - Tartan Hall
- 10:45 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, May 30

- Memorial Day Holiday - Church Offices Closed

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 6:15 pm Chancel Bells - 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.

Family Promise May 22nd-30th

Please take the time to volunteer to help prepare meals, visit, or stay the night with our guests. For more information, please contact Linda Gahan (864) 654-2953, or Mary Barron (864) 885-9342. Thank you!

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 5/1 Jim Barker
Susan Beckwith
Lucy Martin
Kate Reynolds
Peggy Rutland
- 5/2 Bill Carnes
Lauren Young
- 5/3 Audrey Sehorn
- 5/4 Griffin Thomas
- 5/5 Marsha Griffin
Rob Griffin
George Reynolds
Ellis Russell
- 5/6 Stella Hudak
Tyler Miller
- 5/7 Amanda Crum
Katelyn MacRae
Tootie Poteet
Ben Sill
- 5/8 Jill Weir
- 5/9 Pam Waddle
- 5/10 Will Turner

- 5/11 Pansy Duke
Alex Hicklin
Mark Torres
- 5/11 Eva Williamson
Shelly Wilson
- 5/12 Judi Cundiff
- 5/13 Bill Lindsay
- 5/14 Carol Goodwyn
Alison Reynolds
- 5/15 jackie Ellis
Ella Griffis
Tim Howard
- 5/16 Joan Dixon
Ellis Rutland
Carol Stout
Art Williams
- 5/17 Greg Sosebee
Ed Burchfield
Don Davis
Darrel Hedrick
Bill Mostertz
Jonathan Mudge
Pat Rutledge
- 5/19 Donna Crader
Eddie Payne

- 5/21 Eliza Bost
Grace Bost
Stephanie Smith
- 5/23 Stephen Ackerman
- 5/24 Jamie London
- 5/25 Jacqui Hudak
- 5/25 Ginger Littlejohn
Keith Smith
John Stevenson
- 5/26 Annette Halbig
Bob Lightsey
Sarah Massios
Doug Satzger
- 5/27 Traci Harrington
Randy Moore
Laura Shick
- 5/28 Harles Carter
Linda Wofford
- 5/29 Rameth Owens
- 5/30 Maranda Arnold
Elaine Rogers
Cindy Sloan
Michael Wald
- 5/31 Charlotte Gruosso
Mavis Sabin



- 5/1 Charles & Mary Barron
Gene & Carol Goodwyn
- 5/2 Jason & Katie Wilson
- 5/3 Mike & Marie Nebesky
- 5/10 Jim & Donna London
- 5/12 David & Marlene Nicholas
- 5/14 Jim & Judy Eidson
- 5/15 Greg & Jenifer Griffis
- 5/19 Josh & Emily Poetz
- 5/21 Matt & Laura Crenshaw
Bill & Bonnie Lanier
- 5/22 Mike & Kathy Moore
- 5/23 Ron & Kathy Hughes
- 5/27 Norman & Jackie Ellis
- 5/28 Dan & Leanne Greene
Bob & Marge Olthoff
- 5/31 Jim & Elaine Prock
Hack & Cheryl Trammell

Announcements & Concerns



**Christian Sympathy is
extended to:**

Jay & Tommi Jones and family
in the death of Jay's father,
Frank Jones, March 26, 2016.

Sue Chapman and family in
the death of Sue's husband,
Jolly Chapman, April 2, 2016.

Steve and Laura Lefevre and
family in the death of Steve's
brother, **John Lefevre, April 4,
2016.**

Marcie Radakovich and
family in the death of Marcie's
father, **George Radosevich,
April 4, 2016.**

**Bruce, Laurel and Katherine
Whisler** and family in the
death of Bruce's father, **Russell
Whisler, April 16, 2016.**



**Together with
First Baptist Church we
collected 36 pints of
blood at our blood drive
held last month.**

**Many thanks to all who
participated. These gifts
will save the lives of 78
people.**

**Questions & suggestions
can be directed to Judy
Blackwell 864.868.4153.**

Thank you, Maggie Alsup, PSA Intern!

Maggie Alsup has faithfully served as the Presbyterian Student Association (PSA) intern for two years. We give thanks to God for her creativity, theological insights, and sense of humor—gifts that have touched the lives of PSA and Fort Hill Church. Maggie has lovingly supported and encouraged students in the joys and challenges of college life. She was instrumental in launching and leading PSA's Freshman Bible Study, now a staple of our ministry. She recently coordinated plans for the Spring Break mission trip to Little Rock, Arkansas, a fun and faith-shaping experience for 18 college students.

Thank you, Maggie, for your ministry! Our prayers are with you as you continue to follow God's call.



A parting word from PSA Intern, Maggie Alsup

Dear Fort Hill Family,

It is hard to believe that my two years of serving and working with you all are drawing to a close. There are no words that fully encompass the gratitude and love I have for you all. You took me in and welcomed me into your family. You allowed me to explore and deepen my vocational calling into ministry, and for that I will be forever grateful. Through the ebb and flow of life, you remained a constant support for me and worked with me through the challenges and joys that ministry brings. With the compassion and grace you bestowed on me, you gave me a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God must be like. You will always hold a special place in my heart, for you were the first congregation to support me, mentor me, and affirm me in my calling. I do not know what my future holds, but I do know that I have been blessed to have spent these past two years with you all. And for that I give thanks to God.

I'll leave you all with an Oklahoma blessing, one that I have cherished over the years:

"Good bye, happy trails, may the sun shine on your path; may there be sweet dreams in your bed, and hot water in your bath. May your food be good, not costly; may new friends become as old. In seeking out surprises, may you be a wee bit bold."

Peace to you all,

Maggie



Children's Ministry Update



May is here with many reasons to celebrate and rejoice!

Summer is so close we can nearly reach out and touch it.

While finalizing your summer plans, remember to include Vacation Bible School. Registration is open for church members' families now through May 15th. Space is limited—therefore, after May 15th registration is open to all in the community through June 10th. We are joining once again with Clemson Frist Baptist Church.

We need volunteers to help as shepherds, activity leaders and to aid in snack preparation. This year we are collecting paper towel, gift wrap and tin foil tubes, as well as 16-18 oz. clear plastic bottles with tops like Ice and Skinnygirl for our crafts.

Please plan to join us for Vacation Bible School, June 20-23. The registration form has more detail. Look for copies outside of the FHOG office or email cyndi.davis@forthillchurch.org to receive an electronic registration form and to volunteer.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

May 7— Tiger Baseball tailgate prior to NC State game.

June 15, 29 & July 13, 27th—FAMILY FUN NIGHTS at various locations every other Wednesday evening beginning at 5:30 pm. Bring a picnic supper and plan to eat, play and visit with one another. On August 10th there will be a Back to School Blast at the church. Check the Weekly Update and the bulletin for details prior to each event.

June 20-23—Vacation Bible School.

June 24—Special Mission Activity for 3rd - 5th grade.

Blessings to you,

A Whirlwind of a Great Time

By Ashley Hill, Class of 2019

A few weeks ago, my friends at PSA and I embarked on a journey that led us to Ferncliff, a Presbyterian camp just outside of Little Rock, Arkansas. The car ride there was an adventure in itself, including a shenanigan-filled stopover in Birmingham, Alabama, a lot of strange Snapchats, and a short stay in a convenience store freezer while hiding from a tornado. Eventually, we made it to the camp to begin our week of mission. On our first day we started construction of the new arts and crafts center and beach. We packed disaster relief kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, who sent these kits to Columbia after the flooding last year. Later, we helped construct an archery range and a goat playground for the resident camp goats Billy and Bob.

While we weren't working, we were out exploring the Little Rock area and learning a bit of history along the way. Our first stop, Lyon College, was a piece of personal history for our intern, Maggie, being her alma mater. We had a great time exploring some of the more hidden places on the campus and playing on the rock climbing walls and swings. Another excursion we took was to Heifer International Farm, a non-profit that donates animals to families in third world countries to increase their economic standing. We saw a lot of their animals, some of whom we became friends with. The last stop we took was into the city of Little Rock. There, we went to the Clinton Presidential Library and learned what President Clinton did on our birthdates. Afterwards, we went to the school of the Little Rock Nine, which was the biggest and most beautiful school I had ever seen. We learned about the history of desegregation in the United States.

In the middle of all of these fun and memorable moments, I was having one of the most difficult weeks of my life. My Uncle Greg, the Friday before we left, had gone into a coma, and was found to have two large, malignant tumors in his brain. As the days went by, it became clear that he was not going to make it through, and that I would never be able to talk to him again. On the last night, we had a service in the old chapel at the camp, and we talked about the struggles we had been going through. When I spoke, I really felt the support of my friends, and I will forever be grateful to them for that. This is the part of the trip that really reflected what PSA is to me. We are one crazy family, but we are always going to be there for each other, and love one another, even through our darkest moments.

This is one mission trip that I will never forget. It was full of many high and low moments, but overall, it was an incredibly positive experience. It was great to be around friends and help Ferncliff prepare for their summer campers. I learned a lot about my friends and myself during the week, and I feel like we became closer, if that's even possible. And I will never forget my afternoons skipping rocks at the lake at Ferncliff, a camp that will always hold a special place in my heart.



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MARK your CALENDAR

May 7th—Clemson Tiger Baseball / Family Event - Join us at **2:30 pm** to tailgate prior to NC State game at **4 pm**. The Children's Ministry has set this date for families to gather and ALL are welcome. Look for us behind the outfield next to **Jervey Meadows**.

May 8th—Happy Mother's Day—On Mother's Day churches across South Carolina will participate in a special offering to assist **Presbyterian Communities** in our efforts to care for seniors after they have outlived their financial resources. This tradition of caring started in 1954 when Presbyterian churches throughout our state came together to begin supporting older church members in this special way.

May 15th—Building Dedication Join us as we dedicate our new space. We are excited to share our new and updated areas of our building. We will have refreshments after the services and welcome you all to explore and enjoy a time of fellowship and gathering.

Confirmation Sunday is May 15th. Eight 8th grade youth will profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during the 10:45 worship service. These youth have studied the life of Jesus in-depth using the gospel of Mark and the early church in Acts. At their retreat they explored the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its polity and history. Please welcome these newest members of Fort Hill.

May 15th—Safe Place Policy (Child Protection) training and recertification. More information will be sent by email to individuals needing to be recertified. Contact cyndi.davis@forthillchurch.org with any questions.

May 22nd—Senior High School Graduation Recognition. Join us as we recognize our high school seniors as they prepare to move forward in the next stage of their life. **Reverend Dr. Mark Tidsworth** will be our guest speak on this day. He will be speaking on the 21st century church.

May 22nd-30th—Family Promise Please take the time to volunteer to help prepare meals, visit, or stay the night with our guests. For more information, please contact **Linda Gahan (864) 654-2953**, or **Mary Barron (864) 885-9342**. Thank you!!