# The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

# Message From the Pastor

# Faith Is Feet Moving

When my children began to walk, I would hold both their hands, stand behind them, and basically keep them from falling. Gradually, I would walk beside them and begin to let go, only holding one finger eventually. They were actually walking. They just needed to touch a finger to feel safe. Then we gradually got to the point where I would be out in front of them with my arms out, just out of grasp. They would toddle forward toward me without holding anything, just knowing they were heading in my direction, trusting that I loved and believed in them. I would even back up further and further encouraging them that they could keep going. They would squeal with glee as they realized they were walking all alone. As I was reading our devotional for Lent, I read this quote by Frederick Beuchner, "Faith is the word that describes the direction our feet start moving when we find that we are loved. Faith is stepping out into the unknown with nothing to guide us but a hand just beyond our grasp."

God is like a loving mother or father who is just beyond our grasp encouraging us to keep stepping in the right direction. Faith is taking steps into the unknown, into mystery, trusting a Presence to be there cheering us on.

This Lent we have been walking toward a cross with Christ just ahead of us.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem, and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of metanoia ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.<sup>1</sup>

Continue that journey toward the cross in Worship. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week on April 9. We gather for Evening Prayers that Wednesday at 6:30. On Maundy Thursday the Last Supper will be celebrated after we commune around the tables for a dinner (Thursday, April 13, Dinner at 6:15 pm, Worship 7:00 pm/Tartan Hall). Following the darkness of Friday and Saturday with the Crucifixion and death of Jesus, we will gather at Old Stone Church outdoor amphitheater at 7:00 am for a Sunrise service. Easter Sunday, April 16, we celebrate with music and meaning the joy of the resurrection life through Christ. Both morning services will be held in the Sanctuary with the leadership of the Choir. This also helps with parking and makes room for guests who will worship with us.

I hope you find yourself stepping out in new ways this year as you journey together with us in faith.

Let's get on our Way toward the Cross...

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

<sup>1</sup> Peter C. Bower, ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003), p.118.

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.

## April 2017

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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, AP for Discipleship Dana Waters, AP for Youth & Mission Al Masters, Interim Pastor for University Ministry Linda Kofler, PSA Intern 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

## Scriptures for Sunday Worship

- **4/2 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent** Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 130; Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
- **4/9 Palm Sunday** Matt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31: 9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Matt. 27:11-54
- **4/16 Easter Sunday** Acts 10:34-43; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:18
- **4/23** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
- **4/30 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter** Acts: 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116: 1-4, 12-19; I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

## May *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for announcements, articles, and features for the April issue of *The Window* is **Monday, April 17th, 2017.** 

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



**Jerry and Jean Greene** in the death of Jerry's mother, Helen Greene on February 27, 2017 in Asheville, NC

# **John and Amanda Stevenson** and family in the death of Amanda's grandmother, Betty McClain.

Jay and Alice Kennedy and family in the death of their grandson in Santé Fe, New Mexico.

**Charles and Mary Barron** in the death of Charles' brother-in-law, Graham Prichard who died March 19.

# Holy Week Service Schedule

## Palm Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 & 10:45 am

We will meet outside the Sanctuary before the 10:45 service if you are able to join in the Palm Sunday Parade and Processional.

#### Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm

We will enter into the darkness of the betrayal of Jesus as he turns to face a cross. Dinner will be served at 6:15 in Tartan Hall. Afterwards, as our Lord shared a meal with his disciples, we will eat at the Lord's table and be served God's grace.

## Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 16 at 7:00 am

In the Amphitheater of the Old Stone Church outdoor cemetery on the corner of Hwy 76 and Old Stone Church Road. It tends to be chilly, so please remember to dress warmly. Bring your coffee and hear the good news, "He is Risen!" death and the grave have been overcome.

## Easter Sunday Worship Services, April 16

We will have two identical services with the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 10:45 am. During the service, we will be collecting our Easter special offering.

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# One Great Hour of Sharing

As the Lenten Season leads into Easter Sunday celebration, let us do as Isaiah called:

- to share bread with the hungry,
- to loose the bonds on injustice.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a mission outreach program of PC(USA) providing support for disadvantaged groups domestically and internationally. Among OGHS priorities are relief assistance for those affected by natural disasters including tropical storms, earthquakes, and drought. Another important program initiative, particularly at this time, is refugee assistance providing food and shelter as well as education for refugee children and resettlement assistance. OGHS supports ongoing food and nutrition programs to those that are hungry and water programs for those without clean drinking water. These initiatives are supplemented with empowerment programs to help men and women provide for their families beyond immediate crisis periods.

Fort Hill has designated Easter Sunday for its annual offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. If you wish to give to this program, please mark your donation with OGHS on the memo line. Please give generously to this important mission and relief effort.

# Choir Corner

You have heard the familiar saying, "April showers bring May flowers"! Well, at the end of April, we will experience LOTS of April showers. 40 days and 40 nights of rain! That's right — 100% Chance of Rain!

Our children and mid-high choirs, Strong Praises and Singers of Christ, will present the musical by Walter S. Horsley, *100% Chance of Rain* at the 10:45 service on Sunday, April 30. You will hear all of Noah's family tell the story of how God commanded Noah to build an ark. You will see the ark as it is built and watch as animals and Noah's family enter it. And after the waters subside and God's rainbow appears, then the promise of life begins anew for all humankind. Don't miss this wonderful Children's Sabbath service provided by our Fort Hill children as they lead in worship, word and music.

Put the date on your calendar now — April 30 at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. See you on the ark!

Smiling-n-Singing,

Margaret

# Inside "The Den"

I have a LOT to celebrate right now.

I am celebrating the fact that when our Senior Highs took a trip to Nashville in early January to envision the possibilities of what youth group might be — to picture for a moment the potential of what we could do together — one idea that sprang up from the group was starting a youth band.

I am celebrating that we carried this idea of a new youth band home with us. We pondered it together. We prayed about it. And when we asked for other youth to be part of it, they DID!

I am celebrating that ever since our first practice after worship on January 29, these Mid-High and Senior High youth



Johnny & the Tulips play at the Coffee House on February 10. Fierce drummer Benton Halbig not pictured.

have faithfully, ENTHUSIASTICALLY attended practice each and every week since. "Johnny & the Tulips" made their debut at the Coffee House on February 10 and now plays at youth group during our monthly worship services.

This new band has quickly become one of the highlights of my week. I love playing music with them. But even more, I love seeing young people who are excited to come to church. I love seeing young people eager to share their gifts and talents with their peers and with the church of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Rock on,

Dana

# Children's Ministry Update

Easter is almost here! The children's Bridge groups have been preparing for Easter through a variety of mission activities. The youngest made cards for church family members needing encouragement and the older class has sharpened pew pencils and collected games for Family Promise.

On **Palm Sunday** some Bridge groups will be combined. Youth will assist children in grades 1-5 in a photo scavenger hunt. They will begin in room E208 at 9:30. The preschool class will meet for Palm Sunday activities in room E107. At 10:45, Wee Kirk for ages 3.5, 4, and 5, will meet in room E209 after they leave the Sanctuary. First graders and older will remain in service as usual.

**Easter Sunday** will be busy during the Bridge Hour, 9:30-10:30, with an indoor egg hunt for children in Preschool age, Kindergarten and younger. First through Fifth graders will meet in room E208 to view the pictures from their Palm Sunday scavenger hunt as they enjoy breakfast bites.

The Butterfly release is scheduled at 10:15 for all ages interested, weather permitting.

Vacation Bible School and Nothin' But Net Basketball 9:30-4:00 is June 12-15. A half day mission project for third through fifth grade children will be June 16. <u>Abundance Orchard</u>, where FAITH grows and hungry people are fed, was developed by The Society of St. Andrew. This is the beginning of a year-long mission focus on what we can do "to end hunger in our lifetime..."

We are collecting knee high hose, gently used t-shirts, and Fiji water bottles.

Look for the VBS registration form and more details on our church website, or contact cyndi.davis@forthillchurch.org. Registration begins April 1 for church members.

Wishing you JOY!

## **Sunday Servants**

#### **Pastor on Call**

4/30	Dana Waters at the Font—8:30
4/23	Mary Morrison
4/16	Laura Conrad
4/9	Dana Waters
4/2	Laura Conrad

4/2	Linda Parsons
4/9	Jackie Ellis
4/16	Gary Mohr, Sr.
4/23	Donna McCubbin
4/30	Joanne Trenholm

#### Elder at the Font—10:45 Service

Service

- 4/2 Gary Mohr, Sr.
- 4/9 Mac Martin
- 4/16 Mike Money
- 4/23 Gregg Morton
- 4/30 Katherine Whisler

#### Infant - Infant/Toddler

- 4/2 Judy Blackwell
- 4/9 Marcia Barker
- 4/16 Audrey Thompson
- 4/23 Lisa Britt
- 4/30 Ellen Torrence

#### 2 & 3 Year Old Nursery

- 4/2 Susan Beckwith4/9 Amy Worley
- 4/16 Katie Schoonover
- 4/23 Tommy & Tracy Bolger
- 4/30 David & Debbie Collins

#### 4 & 5 Year Old Nursery

4/2	Claudette Bennett
4/9	Ally Young
4/16	Katie Wilson
4/23	Jackie Ellis
4/30	lanet lohnson

## Preschool Director Position Opening

The Fort Hill Preschool Board is currently accepting applications for the position of Director of the school. Interviews for this position will begin April 17. To request an application for or information about the position, please email board chairman, Marcia Barker, <u>mrsb@clemson.edu</u>.

# News from Presbyterian Women

# PW Spring Birthday Luncheon — Saturday, April 29 at 11:30 am in Tartan Hall Speaker: Armilla Moore, Director, Family Promise of Pickens County

Want to know more about Armilla? See the article Armilla wrote for the Spring 2016 Family Promise newsletter reprinted on the back cover of this month's issue of *The Window*.

# All women attending Fort Hill Presbyterian are invited to this special gathering! Bring a salad to share, invite a friend or someone new to our church to join you, and come!

Please remember to be prepared to contribute to the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Luncheon Offering for the projects listed below:

- **Navajo Water Project** will provide running water for 40 families initially be will be expanded to 206 New Mexico families
- First Hand Aid Cuba will establish 6 medical clinics for rural areas that have no access to medical care
- **Family Justice Center** (Georgetown and Horry Counties of SC) will replace their temporary emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence

#### *Come join us!* Sign-up sheets are on a clipboard outside the FHOG Office.

#### Family Promise at Fort Hill Presbyterian February 26-March 5 a Big Success

Thank you, all FHPC volunteers that signed up to feed, visit, share Fort Hill hospitality and stay overnight with, our Family Promise guests! As you may know, Fort Hill Presbyterian co-hosts our Family Promise guests with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson. We provide volunteers for five days and UUFC for two days. **Between our two churches we logged 50 different volunteers (several volunteering multiple times), and also logged 245 plus hours of volunteer service**. Without your help we could not accomplish this task! For many of you, taking the first step to volunteer is a little scary, but you soon learn it is one of the most rewarding gifts you can give to those in need right in our own community! **THANK YOU for taking the first step, and the many more following that first step to be a part of this worthwhile ministry!** 

#### April Paper Goods for Helping Hands

During the month of **April**, Presbyterian Women will be collecting paper goods (paper towels, Kleenex, toilet tissue, etc.) for **Helping Hands of Clemson** — a foster home for children. Please bring your paper goods donations to the small kitchen beside the Club Room beginning **April 1**.

#### Come See Columbia Day

Presbyterian Women are invited to visit Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, for *Come See Columbia Day*, April 27. In 1949, Columbia Friendship Circle was established in order **to pray for the students and staff of Columbia Seminary, to encourage young people to enter the ministry, and to raise funds for necessary projects.** The money raised by CFC is awarded as scholarships to seminary students with families. On April 27 we will get to hear their faith stories and how CFC has changed their lives. We will also tour the campus and have lunch with the seminary students. Come and join us for an inspirational experience. **Contact Nan Jones (jones4927@bellsouth.net**) **if you wish to attend.** 

#### \*\*\*\*Clothing Request\*\*\*\*

All are asked to please go through their closets prior to this trip and glean any gently used, seasonally appropriate clothing suitable for wearing to church and school. Your clothing donations for the seminary students and their families need to be in the Collections Room downstairs in the "dungeon" to the right of the stairs to Tartan Hall across from the Club Room by **April 5, 2017**. Questions? Contact Nan Jones (see above).

#### Campbell Soup Labels & Box Tops for Education

Presbyterian Women, please continue to collect and bring in your **Campbell Soup labels** and **Box Tops for Education** for Thornwell Home for Children. Laurie Lefevre is asking for the Presbyterian women to place your donations in a basket on the side of the refrigerator in the small kitchen across the hall from the FHOG Office. **The collection of Campbell's Soup labels will end the first of June 2017, but the Box Tops will still be collected for Thornwell.** Each label is worth 10 cents. Thank you for your generosity!

#### Dates to Remember:

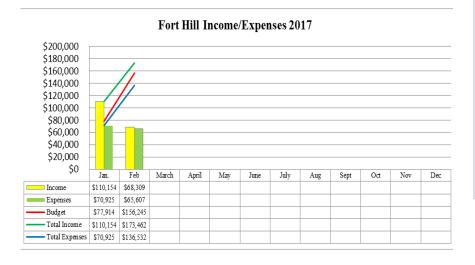
April 27	Come See Columbia Day
April 29	PW Birthday Luncheon



# From the Finance Ministry

Through the first two months of 2017, total income was \$168,462 while expenses were \$136,532 leaving a surplus of \$31,930. Income includes a one-time transfer of \$24,629 from restricted accounts which significantly contributes to this surplus. Overall expenses are at 14.6% of budget, while income is at 18.6% of budget. Spending in January and February is normally below budget as ministry chairs are working to implement their plans for 2017. Your financial support enables Fort Hill to continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

**Bridging Generations Update:** Pledged giving for the month was \$33,423. Non-pledged giving was \$448, undesignated memorial gifts were \$405, and interest income of \$1.20 for a total of \$34,278. Total income year-to-date: \$99,047. Total expenses year-to-date: \$9,562. Loan Principal balance: \$1,301,589.41.



# AED/CPR Class

There will be a AED/CPR class on **Sunday, April 23**, at 2:00 pm in Tartan Hall. The class will be 2.5 to 3 hours with limited seats available. Cost for the class is \$20 per person plus \$5 for the American Heart Association certification card. The cost of a book for the class is \$12 per book. You are not required to purchase a book if you already have one from a prior certification or you may share with another participant.

Please contact Cile Dunkelberg at (864) 653-7868 or <u>ciledd7@aol.com</u> to sign up or for more information. The instructor needs to order any new books required by April 2.

Payment to the instructor, Margaret Stephens, may be made on the day of the class.

# Welcome Fort Hill New Members



Melissa Moede

Address:	911 Shadow Oaks Drive
	Seneca, SC 29672
Phone:	(281) 703-2829
Email:	melissalmoede@gmail.com

Melissa, daughter of Nina & Chuck Moede, comes from Webster Presbyterian in Houston, where she has been a youth elder, involved with church musicals, mission trips, VBS, PYC, youth choir, bells and more. She is already working with our youth.



#### Liz Vogt

Address:	201 Martin Street Clemson, SC 29631
Phone:	(864) 653-6605
Email:	lizvogt@bellsouth.net

Liz joined Fort Hill through profession of faith. She teaches history at Tri-County Tech and Anderson University, and has been attending Fort Hill for several months. She is originally from Bristol, TN.

## The Window

# April Fort Hill Church Activities

## Sunday, April 2

11:45 am Building & Grounds Meeting — Club Room Home Communion
2:00 pm NAMI — Club Room
3:00 pm Confirmation Class — Den
4:30 pm 7 Habits Parenting Class — E205

## Monday, April 3

12:00 pm PW Circle 1 — Club Room 3:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Club Room

#### Tuesday, April 4

8:00 am	Men of the Church Breakfast — Sunnyside Café
5:00 pm	Mission Outreach Meeting — Club Room
5:00 pm	Planning Meeting — Conference Room
5:30 pm	UM Ministry Meeting — PSA Student Center
6:00 pm	Christian Action Meeting — Library
6:00 pm	Youth Ministry Meeting — Den
7:00 pm	Personnel & Program Support — Conference Rm
7:00 pm	Fellowship Ministry Meeting — Library

## Wednesday, April 5

10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room6:30 pm Evening Prayers — Mid-High Youth Room

#### Sunday, April 9

11:45 am Deacon Meeting — Club Room
2:00 pm NAMI — Club Room
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Education Building
4:30 pm 7 Habits Parenting Class — E205

## Monday, April 10

9:30 am PW Trinity Circle — Club Room

#### Tuesday, April 11

5:45 pm	Music Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
6:00 pm	Discipleship Meeting — E209
6:30 pm	Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
6:30 pm	Finance Meeting — Club Room
7:00 pm	PW Circle 2 — Library

## Wednesday, April 12

10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room6:30 pm Evening Prayers — Mid-High Youth Room

## Thursday, April 13

6:15 pm Supper — Tartan Hall7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service — Tartan Hall

#### Friday, April 14

5:00 pm Pitt/Trammell Wedding Rehearsal — Sanctuary

#### Saturday, April 15

5:00 pm Pitt/Trammell Wedding — Sanctuary

#### Sunday, April 16

7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service — Old Stone Church

#### Monday, April 17

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

#### Tuesday, April 18

9:30 am PW Coordinating Team Meeting — Club Room7:00 pm Session Meeting — Club Room

#### Wednesday, April 19

10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room 12:00 pm Pastor Lunch — Clemson Downs

## Saturday, April 22

Mid-High Youth — Youth Service Day

## Sunday, April 23

- 11:45 am Deacon Meeting Club Room
- 2:00 pm NAMI Club Room
- 2:00 pm CPR/AED Training Tartan Hall
- 2:30 pm Cub Scouts Education Building
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class Den
- 4:30 pm 7 Habits Parenting Class E205

#### Tuesday, April 25

5:30 pm Membership Meeting — Conference Room

#### Wednesday, April 26

10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room

## Saturday, April 29

10:00 am Dress Rehearsal for Children/Mid-High Choirs11:30 am PW Birthday Luncheon — Tartan Hall

## Sunday, April 30

10:45 am	Children's Sabbath Sunday (one service only)
2:00 pm	NAMI — Club Room
3:00 pm	Confirmation Class — Den
4:30 pm	7 Habits Parenting Class — E205
7:00 pm	PSA Worship at Old Stone Church

# **Recurring Weekly Activities**

#### Sunday

8:30 am	Worship Service — Tartan Hall
9:30 am	The Bridge — Faith Formation Classes
10:45 am	Worship Service — Sanctuary
2:30 pm	Cub Scouts — Ed. Building (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)
4:30 pm	Mid-High Youth — Youth Den
6:00 pm	Senior High Youth — Youth Den
	College Dinner, Worship & Discussion —
	PSA Student Center
Monday	
1.00	Daa

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4:00 pm	Brownies — E209
6:30 pm	Boy Scouts — Club Room/Tartan Hall
7:00 pm	College Men's Group — PSA Student Center

#### Tuesday

9:30 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room

#### Tuesday, continued

5:30 pm	Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall
7:00 pm	Foothills Chorale — Choir Room
7:00 pm	College Freshman Bible Study — PSA Student
	Center

#### Wednesday

6:15 pm	Chancel Bells — Choir Room
6:15 pm	Strong Praises & Singers of Christ — E209
7:00 pm	College Bible Study — PSA Student Center
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir — Choir Room
7:30 pm	College Women's Group — PSA Student Center

#### Thursday

7:00 pm	College Bible Study — PSA Student Center
7:30 pm	Young Adult Bible Study — Pete Crowther's home

## 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

# April Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### THIS MONTH'S birthdays

- 4/1 Joe Dickey Mandy Hays Benja Mohr
- 4/2 Will Gregory
- 4/3 Jason Hudak
- 4/5 LeAnne Greene Kathy Moore Sherri Smith
- 4/6 Michael Bailey Nathan Wilson
- 4/7 Chandler Schramm
- 4/8 Hugh Garner Miller Gregory Rees Gregory Jake McKinney Sally Mitchell Carolyn Stroup
- 4/9 Gene Goodwyn
- 4/10 Walker Christenbury Paul Durland Benton Halbig

- 4/10 Margaret Ann Rodgers Pat Street
- 4/11 Dick Shick Ally Young
- 4/12 Sarah Jo Skelton
- 4/13 Alex Davis Elizabeth Hawthorne Jim Richardson
- 4/14 Chris Bandy
- 4/15 Katie Schoonover
- 4/16 Megan Chavis
- 4/17 Janet Bean Jacquie McFall Hannah Sawyer
- 4/18 Stephanie Aaron Charles Barron Michael Steele
- 4/19 Colin Pettigrew Suzan Simmons Mark Sublette
- 4/20 John Martin **Diane Sherrick**
- 4/21 Betty Cornwell Luke Poetz

- 4/21 Karen Sawyer Carol Walling
- 4/22 Janna McKale Joanne Trenholm
- 4/23 Erik Fredman
- 4/24 Tim Heist Michael Van Daele Gensie Waldrop
- 4/25 Karen Daniels Beth Gregory Wade Job
- 4/26 Doug Carlson Jerry Greene Von Waldon
- 4/27 Norman Weber
- 4/28 Nancy Brown Janette Hamilton Hannah Job Steve Lefevre
- 4/29 Mac Martin
- 4/30 Mary Coronato Tom Freeman Baerta Graff Helen Steele



4/2	Jim & Caroline Thomas
4/6	Paul & Joan Borick
4/14	George & Alison Reynolds
4/17	Denny & Laurie Sherrod
4/18	McClure & Jennifer Dickerson Rob & Marsha Griffin John & Amanda Stevenson
4/19	Keith & Terri Smith
4/22	Scott & Sarah Massios
4/24	Blackie & Grace Cook Jay & Tommi Jones Bill & Tina Mostertz
4/28	Larry & Jayne Horne

4/29 Jeremy & Heather Wright

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# Finding Me



#### by Armilla Moore, Executive Director of Family Promise of Pickens County (originally published in Spring 2016 Family Promise newsletter – reprinted by permission)

Recently someone thanked me for what I do for Family Promise of Pickens County. What a paradox! I am the person who should be thanking Family Promise for what it has done for me. Just as I said then, in the past months God has touched by life in ways I would have never guessed. I wish I could say I have given this program just a little bit of what Family Promise has shown and given me.

**I have found hope.** I see it in a young mother who finally finds a job after tirelessly searching, moves into a new home, or gets her first pay check. This same mother finds time to encourage others and offer help.

**I have gained insight.** I now know it is hard work to change your life when you live in poverty and I realize that most people have no idea how hard it is. Help is always needed long before you figure out where to get it and usually requires lots of paperwork and waiting.

**I have acquired understanding.** I understand it is not just education that separates the "haves and the have nots". It is also employment opportunities, childcare, transportation, family support, affordable housing, and many other factors.

I have found the strength of the human spirit. I see it in parents and children who can still laugh and love with no money, no food, inadequate clothes, no home and no expectations for the future. In these same families I see determination, faith, enthusiasm and love in people who could be tired, bitter, cynical and jaded.

**I have found compassionate and sympathetic people.** People who are not only willing to be kind, hospitable and considerate, but people who are willing to act on those feelings without regard for differences. These people come in the form of tutors, office help, mentors, and babysitters. They provide meals, shelter, transportation, supplies, clothes, household goods and financial support. They are from our support, host and other congregations, local communities, partnership agencies and former participants.

Ultimately I realize what I was looking for at Family Promise was a way to find me, a successful, satisfied and happy me. I was looking for that person who could look in the mirror and feel good about what I had done at the end of the day.

I know now that this will only come when I have listened to the voices of the homeless, understood their needs, helped them to identify more resources, find more solutions and supported them to achieve their own goals. I now realize that by finding them, I have found my success. I have found me.

Volunteers are always welcome at the FP (Family Promise) Day Center! Please contact our office at 864.644.8828 for more information.