

# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

January 2019

## Message From the Pastor

*"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."*

John 1:14 (The Message)

The Word (Jesus) moved into the neighborhood. Jesus reveals God to us all! We are still celebrating Christmas until January 6 which is Epiphany. And as we turn to a new year, I wonder if you have thought about where God in Jesus the Christ is at work around you, where you live. What if we each took a moment at the end of each day to reflect on where we saw the hand of God at work around us. I think about when Chuck and I were dating. I lived in Clemson and Chuck traveled with his work based out of Greensboro, NC. We talked each night on the phone sharing our day, counseling each other, listening. That is sort of like prayer. Maybe we could have an evening conversation with God the same way.

On the other hand, what if we start each day with a prayer of keeping our eyes open to how we might share the love of God in Jesus, the Christ? I think that would change how we respond to email, to the upset person on the other end, or how we share kindness with the store clerk who seems to be having a bad day. And if we start our day like that, we can also ask, "Where is God calling me to go in my neighborhood today to share the love of Christ?" While our day's agenda may be planned, we can be open to where God may be calling us.

In the Greek Orthodox tradition, they call Mary the "God-bearer." She is the one who brings (literally births) God's love into the world. Each of us can be God-bearers to those we encounter or seek out. That is how God becomes flesh and blood and lives in our neighborhoods, through you and me, through us. We are united in Christ and called to bear the Word into the world. Howard Thurman, writes:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.*

Followers of Christ, the Word made flesh and blood, may it be so through us!

Grace and Peace,

*Laura Conrad, Pastor*

*Joining together on a journey of Christian faith, we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love in our community and around the world.*

*We do this as we Glorify God, Grow Disciples, Meet Human Needs.*

Inside this issue:

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures	2
Ordination & Installation Service for Michael Sanchez	2
Choir Corner	2
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	2
Inside "The Den"	3
Children's Ministry Update	3
Sunday Servants	3
Christian Sympathy & Congratulations	3
Church Mouse	4
News from Presbyterian Women	4
Advent & Christmas Decorations	5
January Fort Hill Activities	6
January Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Take the Small Group Survey	<b>Insert Front</b>
2019 Adult Ministry Small Group Survey	<b>Insert Back</b>

### 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  
Michael Sanchez, AP for Univ. Min.  
Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord.  
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music  
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.  
Becky Bowman, Pianist  
Lori Houck, Administrator  
Camille Schatzle, Admin. Assistant  
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

## Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

### 1/6 Epiphany of the Lord

Isa. 60:6; 72:1-7, 10-14;  
Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12

### 1/13 Baptism of the Lord

Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17;  
Luke 3:15, 17, 21-22

### 1/20 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 36:5-10;  
1 Cor. 12:1-22; John 2:1-11

### 1/27 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19;  
1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

## Ordination & Installation Service

of

### The Rev. Michael Sanchez

Associate Pastor for University Ministry  
Fort Hill Presbyterian Church



**Sunday, January 13, 2019**

**10:45 am in the Sanctuary**

(one service only)

**Followed by a Reception in Tartan Hall**

**Guest Preacher:**

### The Rev. Katie Ricks

Associate Director, Vocational and Spiritual Formation  
Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA

## February 2019 *The Window* Deadline

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

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

## Choir Corner

January 2019 is here. We usually think of a new year providing a clean slate. For me, that feels refreshing. I recently purchased a 2019 desk calendar. There it was — blank squares — nothing filled in. Clean and ready for planning. It didn't take long for 2019 to become busy with choir rehearsals, a choir festival, birthdays, due date for a grandchild, Lenten services, Holy Week, Easter, etc. WHEW!!

I am definitely a planner. It makes me feel better to know what lies ahead. But I wonder sometimes what God thinks as we make life busy. So even as I fill in days throughout the new year, I hope to be sure to keep open times each day for reflection, relaxing, and listening for God's voice.

Think about the gifts God has given you. Don't forget that the new year is a great time to become part of a choir family here at Fort Hill: Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, Joyful Noise, and choirs for children and Middlers. Just contact Judy Bonham or me for more information.

Happy New Year!!!

Keep smiling-n-singing,

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

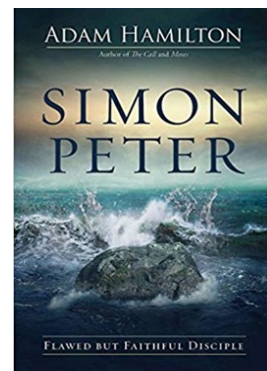
**Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple** by Adam Hamilton will be the next adventure for the Wednesday Morning Bible Study. Join the Wednesday morning Bible study group and take an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

The study will run for six weeks from January 9 through February 13 from 10:00—11:30 am and meets in the Club Room. Books are available through Amazon in hardcover (\$14.25) or Kindle (\$9.20). Please sign up with Mary Morrison at [mary.morrison@forthillchurch.org](mailto:mary.morrison@forthillchurch.org) by January 6. If you need Mary to order you a book please let her know by January 3.

Chapters Include:

1. The Call of the Fisherman
2. Walking with Jesus in the Storm
3. Bedrock or Stumbling Block?
4. "I Will Not Deny You"
5. From Cowardice to Courage
6. The Rest of the Story



## FIRST SUNDAY

## Breakfast

**Sunday, January 6  
9:30-10:30 in Tartan Hall**

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

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

# Inside “The Den”

## Take a Look at our 2019 Confirmation Class and Covenant Partners!

*Turn your ear toward wisdom, and stretch your mind toward understanding. Call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding. Seek it like silver; search for it like hidden treasure. Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God. —*

Proverbs 2:2-5

Confirmation is a special time in the lives of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. As they look toward what the future holds in high school and beyond, it is also a good time to pause and reflect. To examine the road they have traveled so far. To take a look at how God has been present in their lives from the very beginning!

Each January I have the privilege of walking alongside these young disciples as they wrestle with what faith means to them. It is a holy space that we hold for each of them as they turn their ear toward wisdom, hoping to discover the knowledge of who God truly is.

I invite you to be in prayer for these confirmands as well as the covenant partners who will accompany them on this journey. I will be reminding these young people often that confirmation class is not a goal to complete. Instead it is the start of a life-long journey of exploring our faith and searching for the hidden treasure of God's wisdom!

### 2019 Confirmation Class

#### Confirmand

Elizabeth Artigliere  
Ransom Broome  
Sarah DuBose  
Sawyer Hays  
Mary Limber  
Jeb Martin  
Alena Nebesky  
Audrey Sehorn  
Bryce Smith  
Mary Kate Turner  
Coleman Wright

#### Covenant Partner

Lisa Britt  
Gary Mohr, Sr.  
Audrey Thompson  
Tom Waldrop  
Joan Borick  
Bob Stout  
Suzan Simmons  
Mary Barron  
Ralph Ricks  
Nancy Oates  
Bill Cato

Joyfully,

*Dana*



## Children's Ministry Update

God has been at work in the Children's Ministry this year and we have adapted with grateful hearts! Since September, we have been gathering on Wednesday nights for Meet Me @ The Fort. Our children have enjoyed games and activities together, gathering around the dinner table, and most importantly time for learning and growing in their faith. Meet Me @ The Fort currently offers a worship education class for lower elementary children and a Bible study for upper elementary children. We will begin classes again on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and would love for your children to join us! We are also always seeking volunteers, so if you feel called to work with our children on Wednesday nights please contact Katie Wilson ([katie.wilson@forthillchurch.org](mailto:katie.wilson@forthillchurch.org)).

Sunday mornings offer many opportunities for worship for our children. Whether they play at our "Prayground" while participating in 8:30 worship service or join us in the Nest for Wee Kirk during our 10:45 service, our youngest are worshipping through song, play, and stories. Older children are invited to use one of our interactive bulletins to follow along with the serviced while interacting with the scripture and parts of worship.

Starting in January, we will be offering a multi-age faith formation experience in the Nest from 9:30-10:30. Look for more announcements on this in the coming weeks.

Our next Family Fun Night will be Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to gathering with our church family for another fun-filled evening!

*Katie*



## Sunday Servants

### Pastor on Call

1/6-1/12 Laura Conrad  
1/13-1/19 Mary Morrison  
1/20-1/26 Laura Conrad  
1/27-2/2 Mary Morrison

### Elder at the Font — 8:30 Service

1/6 Paul Durland  
1/13 Chuck Moede  
1/20 Raymond MacKay  
1/27 Todd Latiff

### Elder at the Font — 10:45 Service

1/6 Tim Howard  
1/13 Kenny Mohr  
1/20 Linda Parsons  
1/27 Dusty Oates

## Christian Sympathy & Congratulations

### Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Jillian & Ed McLaurin and family** on the death of Jillian's grandmother, "Candy" Ethel Ann Laney Streater on November 11 in Cherow, SC.
- **Laura & Dick Shick** on the death of Laura's aunt Jean Oursler on December 4.
- **Dot Elmore, Bob Williamson, and their family** in the passing of **Alan Elmore**, former Interim Pastor, on December 11 in Easley.
- **Nancy Lamping** on the passing of **Joe Lamping** on December 14.

### Congratulations on the birth of:

- **Cash Alexander Rinebold** born to Chris & Lauren Chapman Rinebold on December 1 in Durham, NC.

**SMILE, you can help Fort Hill Presbyterian Church while you shop!**



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/), then search for Fort Hill Presbyterian Church to be your charity of choice.

Or use the following link:  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-6004172>

# Church Mouse



Christmas is here and church is so busy. I love this time of year when the church looks so pretty. Be sure to THANK those who decorated the church under the leadership of **Caroline Thomas and Jim, Scott Thrailkill, Gary Mohr, Heather Wright, Katherine and Jane Sosebee.** Then there was Gift Day for the young ones which finished before the SNOW arrived. **Katie Wilson** organized this event that even my grandmother mouse remembers: **Debbie Vaughn, Laura Crenshaw, Heather Wright, Cathy McInnis, Mary Dusenberry, Mary Morrison, Lisa Britt, Donna Crader, Elizabeth Bost, Rose Marie McDonald, Nina Moede, Leanne Broome, Amy Worley, Michael & Helen Steele, David & Debbie Collins, Nancy Horton, Meredith LeCroy, Suzan Simmons, Jane & Katherine Sosebee, Carolyn Stroup, (Youth workers) Spencer Wright, Dulcie Mohr, Mary Kate Turner, Lucy Martin, Savannah Worley, and Ransom Broome.** Also, we do enjoy the Strong Praises & Singers of Christ: **Edward & Henry Crader, Addie Harper, Kate Hollingsworth, Cooper & Crew LeCroy, Lochlan McLaurin, Emily Miller, Hudson & Lucas Money, Harrison Steele, and Shuler Wilson.**

Thanks go to **Suzan Simmons** for organizing Communion each month. Servers in December were: **Tommi Jones, Marlene Nicholas, Raymond MacKay, Jim London, Leanne Broome, Mike Worley, Mark Morrison, Linda Parsons, Paul Durland, Sue Limber, Kenny Mohr, and Tim Howard. Jerry & Pam Waddle** were the preparers.

New Officers as deacons are **Maggie Bandy, Bill Carnes, Eddie Chavis, Beth Griffin, Barbara Madison, Heidi Martin, Sally Martin, Cindy Sloan, Jim Thomas, Jane Van Senus, and Johnnie Van de Sande** and Elders are **Denise Anderson, Beth Durham, Annette Halbig, Mark Kwist, Tom Shealy, Caroline Thomas, Robin Weeks, youth elders — Ellen Ackerman and Caila Worley.**

Have a wonderful New Year!



# News from Presbyterian Women

## Happy New Year!!

Many thanks go to those of you who brought donations for the **Clothing Drive for Safe Harbor**, and to Gensie Waldrop, Joan Dixon, and Susan Beckwith for sorting and bagging the clothing. Thank you, also, PW friends, for bringing toiletry items and small gifts for the **Clinton Presbyterian Community residents!** Your carefully selected and caring gifts helped to brighten up the holidays for the residents there!

A big thank you also goes to those who brought gifts for the **Samaritan's shoeboxes;** books and magazines for **Campbell Veterans Home** and **Harris Psychiatric Hospital;** and the notes and treats you shared with our **FHPC college students!** You are an amazingly generous group of women!

## Honorary Life Membership Nominating Forms

Each year we honor a member of our church with the Honorary Life Membership Award at our annual PW Birthday Luncheon. This award is given to a dedicated Christian whose witness, long and dedicated service, and spiritual influence in our community reflect the love of God and His church. Prayerfully consider the Presbyterian woman (or man) you would like to nominate for her (his) outstanding lifetime contributions to Fort Hill Church. **Nomination forms are due by January 15.**

For more information, please contact **Committee Members:**

Gail Williams	864.287.0212, <a href="mailto:gswilliams@bellsouth.net">gswilliams@bellsouth.net</a>
Rose Ross	864.654.3218, <a href="mailto:jeross111@bellsouth.net">jeross111@bellsouth.net</a>
Mary Barron	864.247.1322, <a href="mailto:mb1cb1@bellsouth.net">mb1cb1@bellsouth.net</a>
Claudette Bennett	864.654.4820, <a href="mailto:johneb@mindspring.com">johneb@mindspring.com</a>
Cathy McInnis	864.654.4003, <a href="mailto:tomcatmc@bellsouth.net">tomcatmc@bellsouth.net</a>

## All Day Winter Retreat

**Attention ALL WOMEN of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church**

**Mark your calendars now for our Winter Retreat on Saturday, February 2, 2019**

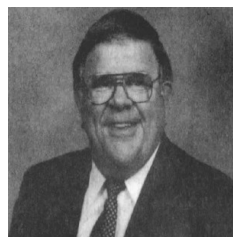
**9:30 am — 3:00 pm at Richland Presbyterian Church**

**Cost: \$20.00 includes a catered lunch, tea and coffee**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Charles J. Dougherty**

*"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones"*

Proverbs 17:22



Dr. Dougherty describes himself as a Christian humorist "who has spent the last 40+ year career in ministry bringing the healing power of "clean humor" back to the American public." He is an ordained Presbyterian (USA) minister (Ret.) who has conducted numerous retreats and workshops on the topics of the *Healing Power of Humor* and *Spiritual Healing*.

Bring along a desire to laugh out loud in celebration of this wonderful life we have, and for a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal! Bring a friend and join us for this soul-nourishing event!

**Get your name on the list by contacting a member of our PW Retreat Committee:**

Laura LeFevre	864.442.5199, <a href="mailto:lefevrelaura@hotmail.com">lefevrelaura@hotmail.com</a>
Myra Cato	864.207.8765, <a href="mailto:myracato@bellsouth.net">myracato@bellsouth.net</a>
Claudette Bennett	864.654.4820, <a href="mailto:johneb@mindspring.com">johneb@mindspring.com</a>

## Dates to Remember

**January 15**

**Deadline for Honorary Life Membership Applications**

**February 2**

**PW All-Day Winter Retreat**

## *Have a Happy New Year!*

Submitted by Mary Barron, PW Publicity Chairman  
[mb1cb1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mb1cb1@bellsouth.net) or 864.885.9342



## Advent & Christmas Decorations Joy Offering 2018

*Bob & Becky Fant in memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fant and Dr. & Mrs. John Otts*

*Bob & Nan Jones in honor of Catherine Jones, Doug & Robyn Jones and their children Caroline & Charlie*

*Shane, Mary Stuart, Will, Mary Kate, & Luke Turner in memory of Kirk Smith*

*Don & JoAnn Daugherty in honor of Lisa, Teresa, and Sherry and their families*

*Jack & Billie Jackson in honor of Guardian Ad Litem programs*

*Doug & Lynn Carlson in memory of Doug's parents and Lynn's father, and in honor of Lynn's mother*

*Marchita Culpepper in memory of Jim Culpepper and Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Williams*

*Nathan & Shelly Wilson in memory of Bert & Lee Wilson (Nathan's parents) and Alex Gilbert (Shelly's father)*

*Bob & Eva Williamson in honor of our grandchildren — Caroline, James, and Anna Kate*

*Gary Mohr in memory of Lory Mohr and Ken Anderson*

*John & Marcia Sherman in memory of Ron Hughes*

*Charlotte Gruosso in honor of the Pastoral Staff at Fort Hill Church*

*Frank & Rita Van Lenten in memory of their parents & sisters and in honor of their children & grandchildren*

*Georganne & Vernon Burton in memory of Vera, Beatrice, & Orville Burton and George & Anne Butler*

*The Conrad family in memory of their parents: Joyce & Carroll Smith and Charles Conrad*

*Mark & Robbi Stokes in honor of the Pastors and Staff at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church*

*Helen Wooten in memory of Tom Wooten and in honor of our children & grandchildren*



# January Fort Hill Church Activities

## Tuesday, January 1

FHPC Church Office Closed

## Wednesday-Saturday, January 2-5

Montreat College Conference

## Wednesday, January 2

- 6:15 pm No Chancel Bells practice (resumes on January 9)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice resumes — Choir Room

## Sunday, January 6

Homebound Communion

- 9:30 am First Sunday Breakfast — Tartan Hall
- 12:00 pm Johnny & The Tulips Practice — Nest
- 3:00 pm Officer Training — Club Room
- 5:00 pm Youth Group & Parent Meeting — Den

## Monday, January 7

- 12:00 pm PW Circle 1 — Club Room
- 3:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Clemson Downs Corley Center (ground level)
- 5:30 pm Disaster/Emergency Task Force — Conference Rm.

## Tuesday, January 8

- 12:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — E209
- 3:00 pm Building & Grounds Ministry Meeting — Conf. Rm.
- 5:00 pm Mission Outreach Meeting — Club Room
- 5:45 pm Music Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
- 6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library
- 6:30 pm Adult Ministry Meeting — E205
- Finance Ministry Meeting — Club Room
- Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
- 7:00 pm Fellowship Ministry Meeting — Gathering Space
- Personnel & Program Ministry Mtg. — Laura's Ofc.
- Youth Ministry Team Meeting — Den
- 7:30 pm PW Circle 2 (TWOesday EVEning Circle) — Library

## Wednesday, January 9

- 10:00 am Wed. Morning Bible Study resumes — Club Room
- 5:00 pm Meet Me @ The Fort resumes — Nest
- 6:15 pm Strong Praises Choir (Gr. K-3) resumes — E209
- 6:45 pm Singers of Christ Choir (Gr. 4-8) resumes — E209

## Sunday, January 13

- 10:45 am Lessons & Carols
- 12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting — Nest
- 5:00 pm Mid-High Youth Tacky Sweater Party
- 7:00 pm Clemson University Singers Concert — Sanctuary

## Monday, January 14

- 9:30 am PW Trinity Circle — Club Room

## Tuesday, January 15

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

## Wednesday, January 16

- 11:45 am Pastor Lunch at Foothills Retirement Community

## Thursday, January 17

- 4:00 pm Capital Campaign Committee Mtg. — Club Room

## Friday-Sunday, January 18-20

Weekend Mission Trip — CROSS Ministries — Charlotte, NC

## Sunday, January 20

- 3:00 pm Officer Training — Club Room
- 4:30 pm Family Fun Night — Nest

## Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday — Church Offices Closed

## Tuesday, January 22

- 12:00 pm FHPC Staff Post-Christmas Lunch — Pixie & Bill's
- 5:30 pm Membership Ministry Meeting — Conference Rm.

## Friday-Sunday, January 25-27

Choir Trip — Festival by the Sea — Charleston, SC

## Saturday, January 26

- 9:00 am NAMI Pre-Course Meetings — Club Room

## Sunday, January 27

- 12:00 pm Johnny & The Tulips Practice — Nest
- 2:00 pm NAMI Pre-Course Meetings — FHOG Office
- 3:00 pm Officer Training — Club Room

## Recurring Weekly Activities

### Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service — Tartan Hall
- 9:30 am LIFT — Faith Formation Classes
- 10:45 am Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Ed. Building (2nd & 4th Sundays)
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class — Nest (Jan. 6—Mar. 4)
- 5:00 pm Mid-High Youth — Youth Nest
- 5:00 pm Senior High Youth — Youth Den
- 6:00 pm College Dinner, Worship & Discussion — PSA Center

### Monday

- 4:00 pm Girl Scouts — Education Building
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room/Tartan Hall
- 6:45 pm Christians Connecting Small Group — Lydia's 9 to 5 Ladies — The Gathering Place

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

- 10:00 am Wed. Morning Bible Study — Club Room
- 5:00 pm Meet Me @ The Fort — Nest, E-209, Honey Bee Room
- 6:15 pm Chancel Bells — Choir Room
- 6:15 pm Strong Praises Choir (Grades K-3) — E209
- 6:45 pm Singers of Christ Choir (Grades 4-8) — E209
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir — Choir Room

### 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.



1/1	Mitchell Pollock	1/9	Eva Henry Betty Pettigrew	1/18	Kemper Fagan Bonnie Lanier	1/24	Beth Durham Jane Polk
1/2	Susan Brown David Durham	1/11	Ben Bronson Cooper Littlejohn Henry Marcum Marian Radosevich Beth Smith	1/19	Jay Kennedy Lucas Money Lois Sill	1/26	Walt Fagan Pete Smith Sara Walling Amelia White
1/3	Jayne Fort	1/12	Gus Gustafson	1/20	Carol Johnson Rita Van Lenten Kyle Weeks	1/28	Bill Thompson
1/4	Michael Blackwell	1/13	Derick Durham Rose Ross	1/21	Harriett Salley Caroline Thomas	1/29	Joan Alexander Harold Cheatham
1/5	Beth Griffin	1/14	Angie Winchester	1/22	Michelle Blackwell	1/31	Marty Bailey Carole Kohlmayer Sue Limber Randy White
1/6	Blair Bolen Mollie Faithful Gene Johnson Barbara Madison Donna McCubbin	1/15	Ross Davis Mary Limber	1/23	Diane Carnes Savannah Ricks Sarah Thomas		
1/7	Larry Glenn Jo Ann Koonce	1/16	Mary Elizabeth Freeman Polly Peters	1/24	Reel Adams Britt Alexander		



1/1	Jerry & Beth Chapman	1/8	Bradley & Meredith LeCroy	1/24	Bill & Audrey Thompson
1/2	Gene & Janet Johnson	1/10	Steve & Susan Best	1/26	Jack & Billie Jackson
1/5	Ralph & Ronda Ricks				



## Fort Hill Presbyterian Church's *Great Cloud of Witnesses*

It is not too late to submit your stewardship pledge for 2019, if you have not already done so. You can either place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to Lori Houck, or pledge online by **Monday, January 7.**

To pledge online, go to the following web address:

<https://www.forthillchurch.org/worship/stewardship/online-pledge-card>

*Return Service Requested*

101 Edgewood Avenue  
Clemson, SC 29631  
(864) 654-2061  
[www.forthillchurch.org](http://www.forthillchurch.org)



Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Clemson, SC  
Permit #11



# Take the Small Group Survey

“The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.” — **C.S. Lewis**

Small groups of Christians have met since the early days of the faith. In Acts 2: 42 we hear *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* This kind of personal connection among Christians is a central component in healthy congregations. Bible scholar N. T. Wright says it is the third purpose for the church to exist.

“The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship.”

— **N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense***

No matter one’s age, Christians need the company of one another on a regular basis even beyond worship to sustain a life of faith in the ordinariness of daily living. To gather around table to feast together, to share one another’s burdens, to serve together in acts of kindness toward others, to play together and enjoy one another’s company are important ways adults grow in faith. We need one another just as Donald Miller notes.

“I think it is interesting that God designed people to need other people. We see those cigarette advertisements with the rugged cowboy riding around alone on a horse, and we think that is strength, when really, it is like setting your soul down on a couch and not exercising it. The soul needs to interact with other people to be healthy.”

— **Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz: Non-Religious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality***

For your soul to interact with others, the Adult Ministry Team seeks your interests to develop new small groups. To facilitate this process a **2019 Adult Ministry Small Group Survey** has been sent to all of our newest members who joined since August 2016. That information is also included below for the congregation at large and any friends you may want to invite to complete the survey. The survey will also be a bulletin insert on January 13<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to check those topics that interest you and even write in your own ideas. We hope you will take advantage of intentionally growing in faith and fellowship with one another as this type of ministry supports all other aspects of a healthy congregation. Adults who pray, learn, play and serve together mature in faith in God.

- To start the process of finding common interests, we propose the 2019 Adult Ministry Small Group Survey list of “common interest” possibilities.
- We invite you to review this list and check any or all groups that you would consider joining. Doing so does not commit you to anything.
- Instead, the Adult Ministry Team will collect the results of these lists, and *if five or more people have selected any of them*, we will send a group email or group text to everyone who did so to let them know who else is interested in exploring that a group be formed.
- After that, the interested parties will gather to discern who will lead the group, when to meet, and how exactly you want to approach your gathering together.

If you have questions, suggestions or want to facilitate a Small Group, please contact someone serving on the **Adult Ministry Team**: *Vernon Burton, Beth Griffin, Ronda Ricks, Sally Martin, Linda Parsons, Jacquie Worley, Mary Morrison-staff.*

# 2019 Adult Ministry Small Group Survey

The Adult Ministry Team invites your responses by January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please check any topics in which you would like to be involved in a new Small Group.

- Bible Study Group--studies a book of the Bible together
- Prayer & Sharing Group--focuses primarily on sharing and praying for each other
- Learning to Make Disciples Group--discusses evangelism and encourages each other to intentionally living as disciples of Jesus Christ
- Teacher Support Group--for teachers who want a chance to connect about teaching
- Medical Stories / Support Group--for medical professionals to connect about their work
- Pressures at Work Group--for people who generally yearn for an outlet about their work
- Figuring Out Retirement Group--for people figuring out how to retire and what to do in retirement
- Loving Our Grandchildren Group--about the joys and challenges of grand-parenting
- Overseas Experiences Group--a chance to share and learn about overseas experiences
- Exploring Restaurants Group--a group that meets at a different restaurant each time
- Movie Discussion Group--watch a movie together and analyze its message
- Fiction Discussion Group--read a book and analyze its message
- Philosophy / Theology Discussion Group--engages in deep discussions about life and meaning
- Game Night Group--gathers to play a board game or card game for fun
- Service / Learning Group--serve in a local mission together and learn more about it to share with others
- Cooking Group--either discusses or actually cooks new foods together
- Exploring Nature Group--a group that meets outdoors and explores nature together
- Hobbies to Thrive On Group--a group where members share about their hobbies
- Writing Group--encourage one another to write short stories or biographies and read them
- Write-In Option: \_\_\_\_\_

When you have finished filling out this form, you can either email the results to Mary Morrison at [Mary.Morrison@forthillchurch.org](mailto:Mary.Morrison@forthillchurch.org) with the subject line Small Group Survey\_or turn the paper copies by January 13th into the box at the FHOG office or the box in the Narthex.



*The Adult Ministry Team:  
Vernon Burton, Beth Griffin, Ronda Ricks, Sally Martin, Linda Parsons,  
Jacquie Worley, Mary Morrison-staff*