



The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

August 2021

“Love one another as I have loved you.” ~Jesus

Last week about forty children and adults lived out this commandment of Jesus. In Bible stories, movement, crafts, singing, and serving others, we all grew in Christ at Compassion Camp, the 2021 version of Bible School. Compassion is another way of saying “suffer with or together.” I cannot thank our leaders and helpers enough. The children and parents who shared them with us, are a gift to our faith family. And to love each other we get to know one another, spend time together, and be family. Children have a way of making us be clear about the simple truths of life. I am grateful for what they teach us.

I suppose we have all learned about suffering and sharing life together. And as we continue to live through this pandemic, especially as the school year begins, let's resolve to be more compassionate. More compassionate with ourselves when we are frustrated or struggle. More compassionate with our families, our friends, and co-workers. Assume everyone you meet is going through something and could use an extra measure of kindness, love, and care.

And while summer has provided a change of pace, we know that will begin to change soon. One way we mark this special time of year is the “Blessing of the Backpacks” in worship August 1 where we pray for and acknowledge the start of a school year. August 1 is a great Sunday to bring a friend and to come before worship to fellowship in the Courtyard with new and old friends.

All of us will notice college students returning soon. Our congregation will see students beginning August 15 after move-in, and we will host a special Welcome Back BBQ on August 29 following worship. Just come and enjoy — it is free, like grace! And of course, choirs, youth group, and other small groups begin again.

But remember, as we did at Compassion Camp, to be kind to yourself and others. Deep breaths. Dwell in the presence of the One who made you, loves you, and frees you to forgive, serve, and love others. I keep reminding myself and others to pace ourselves. God takes the long view and is patient with us. Made in God's image, let's return the favor, and be compassionate, patient, and loving, too.

Christ's Peace Be with You!

Pastor Laura

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
In Christian Sympathy	2
Make Prayer the Bookends of Your Days	2
Dive Into and Wrestle with Jesus's Most Difficult Sayings	3
Choir Corner	3
Church Mouse	4
An Opportunity to Learn About Our Local History and Racism	4
News from Presbyterian Women	5
From the Finance Ministry	5
August Church Activities	6
Welcome to the World	6
August Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Let's Feed PSA Students Sunday Eves	7
Wednesday AM Enneagram Study	Back



Fort Hill Church

125 ANNIVERSARY

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
Jacob Kennedy, Associate for Youth/Mission
Michael Sanchez, AP for Univ. Ministry
Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord.
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Lori Houck, Administrator
Morgan Bryant, Admin Assistant Intern
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

- 8/1 10th Sunday after Pentecost**
2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a; Ps. 51:1-12;
Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
- 8/8 11th Sunday after Pentecost**
2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ps. 130;
Eph. 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
- 8/15 12th Sunday after Pentecost**
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Ps. 111;
Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
- 8/22 13th Sunday after Pentecost**
1 King 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30,
41-43; Ps. 84
Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
- 8/29 14th Sunday after Pentecost**
S. of Sol. 2:8-13; Ps. 45:1-2, 6-9;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8

September 2021 *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the **September** issue of *The Window* is Sunday, **August 15**

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



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Helen & Kenny Mohr and family** on the death of Helen's grandfather, **Russell E. Hopper** on June 27 in Iva, SC.
- **Gayle & John McGregor** on the death of Gayle's brother, **Daniel H. "Dan" Griffin**, on June 29 in Nashville, TN.

Make Prayer the Bookends of Your Days

Fort Hill is a praying congregation. Not a week goes by that I have not heard someone speak about the praying people of Fort Hill church. Recently our Prayer Chain Email coordinator, Stephanie Scott, retired from that ministry after 12 years of dedicated service helping to gather the needs of the congregation to share with those who desire to pray. Please extend your appreciation to Stephanie for her faithfulness in keeping us informed of the prayer requests.

As of July 1st we are using emails through our Realm database to share church prayer requests. If you would like to receive these prayer requests to offer words to God on behalf of others, you can be added to the Realm Group for "Prayer Chain Emails." Simply send an email to communications@forthillchurch.org and request to be added to the group.



If you have a prayer request to share, please communicate it to one of the pastors, by email if possible. That way we can receive clear details for names and what and how to pray. You may also share your requests through your Deacon who can relay it to us as well. We will do our best to convey the prayer requests in a timely manner. Additionally, we trust that if you are sharing a request for a family member that you have also inquired of that person if you may share their request with others.

A word about confidentiality — some persons prefer only a few others to pray for and with them. We want to respect the desires of the disciples in Fort Hill church. We also recognize that praying for those beyond our church family is a kind and gracious act. We ask that before you share such a prayer request that you have been given permission to place their name and need on our church prayer list. You honor the person by getting their permission and we can more confidently share their need for prayer. Sharing prayer requests without permission of the person can cause hurt in relationships. When you share such a request, please let a pastor or your Deacon know that you have also received permission to share it.

I am encouraged by the children in our church who are eager to pray also. I write this during our Vacation Bible School and each day the children have drawn or written or spoken prayers to God that follow this pattern of prayer.

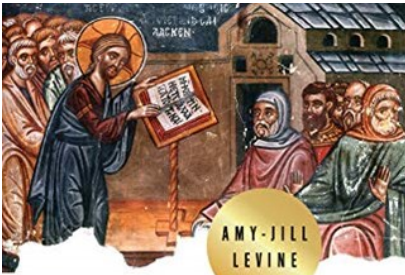
- P**—Praise God prayers express "I love you, God!" "Thank you, God, for..."
R—Repent prayers help us confess, "I am sorry, God for..." "Forgive me, God, for..."
A—Ask for anyone prayers show "I care for others who need..."
Y—Yourself is the last person to pray for and says "I need your help, God, to..."

So sign up to be on the church Prayer Chain Email and continue to cultivate the gift of prayer in all generations. Please feel free to share your joys as well as your concerns when praying with your church family. We know God loves to celebrate the joys too!

With gratitude,

Pastor Mary

Dive Into and Wrestle with Jesus's Most Difficult Sayings



The DIFFICULT WORDS of JESUS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HIS MOST PERPLEXING TEACHINGS

For six weeks, spend time with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine and others wrestling with Jesus's sayings that are unlikely to rank high on most lists of "favorite Bible verses." Dr. Levine says, "Ignoring them will not lead to our deeper understanding of and faithfulness to God and Jesus. Engaging them opens that possibility."

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to have members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation. Engage these words below with others and discuss how they impact us today.

Plan to register for this in-person class by September 6th in order to purchase your book prior to the class beginning on September 22. The class will meet each Wednesday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Club Room on September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, and 27. The Rev. Mary Morrison will lead the study.

Register through Realm or at this link

<https://onrealm.org/FortHillPresbyt/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MTZhODZIMTYtNGFiNC00YWQwLTgzMTktYWQ2ZDAwMDI4ZDQ3>

or with this QR code to the right.



Choir Corner

It is possible in the month of August that we are truly returning to some normalcy in our world? I have almost been afraid to even say that. No way would I want to jinx anything!!

For our Choir program, it is thrilling to know that the Adult Chancel Choir will be returning to in person rehearsals on Wednesday, August 4. Please know that we welcome any of you who would like to share your gifts. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings in the choir room at 7:30 pm. Please feel free to call me at (864) 617-1442 or email me at margaret.mackay@forthillchurch.org.

I want to share the text of one of my favorite new anthems that has given me hope and assurance in this last year. It is entitled **O Love** by Elaine Hagenberg. It is a modern day translation and tune of a familiar old hymn, *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*. The text was written by George Matheson in 1881. The original tune, ST. MARGARET, was composed by Albert Lister Peace in 1884. Hear are the words that I hope give assurance and comfort in these days.

O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

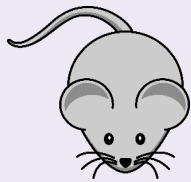
O Joy, O Joy, O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that more shall tearless be.

Keep smiling-n-singing in all times and places.

Margaret



Church Mouse

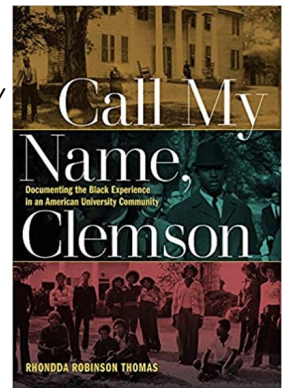


My oh my, things are getting lively here. There actually are people in the office now even that nice young minister, **Jacob Kennedy**. One Sunday his parents from Wilson, NC came to see him in the pulpit. But I am so sad that **Julie Bryant** left us to go back into the school system. I also heard that after 12 years of composing the prayer chain requests **Stephanie Scott** retired. Be sure to thank her for her wonderful service for those in need of prayers from us. Also thank **Caroline Thomas** for all those gorgeous flower arrangements that came straight from her yard and sometimes a neighbor or two added some of their flowers. She has been doing the flowers since we reopened our **doors** to in person service. **She** and **her husband, Jim**, have been doing most of the ushering. I did see **Wes Worley, Eddie Payne, and Greg Bearden** helping too. Plus, during Communion Sunday in July, **Robin Denny** and **Beth Chapman** helped pass out the elements.

I am SO excited that next week is Bible School and all those lovely children will be here and, of course, leaving crumbs for me. The VBS volunteers are: **Katie Wilson & Nina Moede** planned & coordinated VBS; **Melissa Moede & Ceci Arthur**, Compassion in Action Station; **Laura Conrad, Andy Kwist & Margaret MacKay**, Movement Station; **Mary Morrison & Man Chi Chor**, Spirituality Station; Shepherds: **Shelley Burchfield, Helen Crader, Donna Crader, Cyndi Davis, Mason Young, Mary Dusenberry, Debbie Shealy, Preston Shealy, and Aleta Robinson**; Afternoon Helpers: **Debbie Vaughn, Donna Crader, Michael Steele, Harrison Steele, Helen Crader, Andy Kwist, Mason Young, Laura Shick, Dick Shick.**

An Opportunity to Learn About Our Local History and Racism

Join Michael Steele for conversations related to Rhonda Robinson Thomas' book *Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in an American University Community*. Participants in the three-week conversation may also plan an additional visit to the site of Woodland Cemetery next to the football stadium. Also known as "Cemetery Hill" the mostly shaded land "has served as the final resting place for some of Clemson's faculty and trustees for nearly a century. Now, researchers have identified more than 600 previously unmarked African American graves, some overbuilt by the marked graves of white people, dating back to the early 1800s."¹



In the July Window, I incorrectly interpreted that our church sits on a portion of the former plantation owed by John C. Calhoun. It was only the "name" of Fort Hill that was received. Further over in the book *Country Church and College Town* on page 30 is the detail that I missed. "On 9 December 1895, the Calhoun Land Company gave to the church for the token price of five dollars one of the company's lots nearest to the college... The property was located roughly one-half mile between the main college building and the town of Calhoun."² A footnote refers to the Deed of 9 Dec. 1895 [sic], Pickens County Deedbook Q, p. 120, Lot no. 5, Block 80, Pickens County, Pickens, South Carolina, Clerk of Court.

You still have time to register to be a part of this conversation and potential additional excursion to Cemetery Hill with Michael Steele, chairperson of the Inclusion Learning Action Team, who will facilitate the book discussion. Conversations will be on Mondays, August 16, 23, and 30 at 7:00 pm in the church library.

You can register at the following link...

<https://onrealm.org/FortHillPresbyt/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=N2FiODE5ZGUtYWw5NC00NDk3LTlkYTUtYWQ2NDxM2I2NWEx>

Or using the QR code to the right.

Pastor Mary



¹ <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2021/0407/At-Clemson-unmarked-graves-prompt-reckoning-with-slavery-legacy>

² *Country Church and College Town: A History of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church 1895-1995*, Sean Howard McMahon, published by Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, SC 1995, page 30.

Welcome Back BBQ
Sunday, August 29 at Noon

See Weekly Updates later in August for more details!

News from Presbyterian Women

2021-2022 Presbyterian Women Officers

Moderator: Linda Parsons—(864) 944-5811, parsons.linda.m@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:
Secretary: Ann Gilreath—(843) 710-8770, anngilr@nctv.com
Treasurer: Gail Williams—(864) 287-0212, gswilliams@bellsouth.net

2021-2022 PW Committee Chairpersons

Cares and Concerns: *Prayer chain moved to responsibility of Deacons*
Christian Action: Eva Henry—(864) 654-1539
**Clemson University/
Fort Hill Student Program:** Lauren Young—(864) 650-2130, lauren.esh.young@bellsouth.net
Columbia Friendship Circle: Nan Jones—(864) 654-1539, jones4927@bellsouth.net
Honorary Life Membership: Myra Cato — (864) 207-8765, myracato@bellsouth.net
Judy Blackwell — (864) 868-4153, mandjblackwell@att.net
Joan Dixon — (864) 654-1065, joandixon@bellsouth.net
Jan Beckwith — (864) 650-8022, beckwithjj@charter.net
Mission Haven/Safe Harbor: Susan Beckwith — (864) 654-3337, suebeckwith@charter.net
Joan Dixon — (864) 654-1065, joandixon@bellsouth.net
Gensie Waldrop — (864) 882-5782, bandmom24@bellsouth.net
New Membership: Cynthia Gravely — (864) 723-5601, cynthiarg@bellsouth.net
Publicity: Mary Barron — (864) 247-1322, mb1cb1@bellsouth.net
**Birthday Luncheon
and Prayer Retreat:** *Proposed changes to organization will be discussed.*

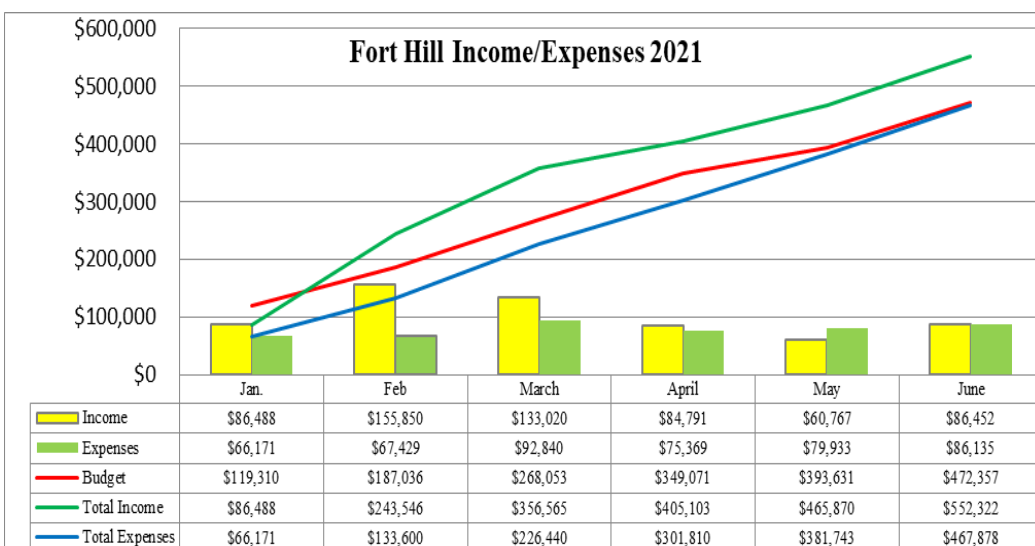


From the Finance Ministry

Through June, total income was \$552,322 while expenses for the first half of 2021 were \$472,357 providing a surplus of \$79,965. Overall expenses are at 45% of budget, while income is at 58% of budget. As you can see, income is approximately 8% above budget while expenses are roughly 5% below budget. Some expenses are lower than budgeted during this pandemic, and thanks to your financial support, Fort Hill is able to continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world. **Thank you!** If you are not present at church, your contributions can be made by mail or online through the Fort Hill website.

Bridging Generations Update:

Loan principal: \$287,232



August Church Activities

Sunday, August 1

Bring a Friend Sunday / Fellowship in the Courtyard — 10:15
Blessing of the Backpacks

Monday, August 2

Discipleship Ministry Meeting — 6:00 pm — Zoom

Tuesday, August 3

Men of the Church Breakfast — 9:00 am — Dyar's Café
Christian Action Ministry Meeting — 6:00 pm — Library
Fellowship Ministry Meeting — 7:00 pm — Tartan Hall
P&PS Ministry Meeting — 7:00 pm — Conference Room

Sunday, August 8

Officer Nominating Committee Meeting — Noon — Club Room

Monday, August 9

Return to Church Task Force Meeting — 5:30 pm — Zoom

Tuesday, August 10

PW Coordinating Team — 9:30 am — Club Room
Finance Ministry Meeting — 6:30 pm — Club Room
Worship Ministry Meeting — 6:30 pm — Conference Room
Adult Ministry Meeting — 7:00 pm — Library

Wednesday, August 11

Wed AM Enneagram Study — 10:00 am — Club Room
Building & Grounds Meeting — 3:00 pm

Thursday, August 12

Youth Ministry Meeting — 7:00 pm — The Den

Sunday, August 15

2022 Holy Land Trip Info Meeting — Noon — The Den
Deacon Meeting — Noon — Club Room

PSA Welcome Back Week — August 15-22

Monday, August 16

Prayer Shawl Ministry — 10:00 am — Hazel Sparks' home
2022 Holy Land Trip Info Meeting — 6:00 pm — The Den
Call My Name, Clemson Conversations — 7:00 pm — Library

Wednesday, August 18

Wed AM Enneagram Study — 10:00 am — Club Room

Thursday, August 19

CU Women's Book Club — 9:30 am — Club Room

Monday, August 23

Call My Name, Clemson Conversations — 7:00 pm — Library

Wednesday, August 25

Wed AM Enneagram Study — 10:00 am — Club Room

Friday, August 27

Preschool CPR Training — 8:30 am — Club Room

Sunday, August 29

Welcome Back BBQ — Noon

Monday, August 30

Call My Name, Clemson Conversations — 7:00 pm — Library

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

Sojourner's Class — 9:00 am — Zoom
Livestream/In-Person Worship — 10:45 am — Sanctuary
Childcare/Nursery (Birth-1st Gr.) — 10:45 pm — Nursery
WeeKirk — 10:45 am — Courtyard doors across from Nest
Youth Group — 5:00 pm — The Den (beg. 8/22)
PSA Dinner/Program — 6:00 pm — Student Center (beg. 8/22)

Monday

Scouts BSA Troops 235 Boys/7235 Girls — 6:30 pm —
Porte-cochere/Parking lot

Tuesday

Staff Meeting — 10:00 am — Conference Room

Wednesday

Chancel Choir Practice — 7:30 pm — Choir Room

AA meets Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday at 8pm and Friday at 12:30pm

Welcome to the World



**McKinley "Mac"
Morton Thranhardt**

born
June 28, 2021

to
Derick & Katie
Thranhardt in
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Proud Grandparents:
Gregg & Cathy
Morton

**Robert Evan
Vogado Williamson**

born
July 20, 2021

to
Bobby & Lindy
Williamson
in Little Rock AR

Proud Grandparents:
Bob & Eva
Williamson





8/2	Billy Gregory Ed Hutson	8/19	Bob Fant Jenifer Griffis Catherine Jones Bill Kahle Mary Courtney Norris Lanny Parsons
8/4	Raenota Merrill Mary Principe	8/20	Steve Best Cathy Keaton
8/5	Linda Parsons	8/21	Judy Blackwell Marcie Radakovich
8/6	Corey Norris Ryan Poetz	8/22	Eric Bost Sam Burchfield Kay Dearing Nick Greene Michael Mudge
8/7	Ann Marie Alexander Pat Gardner Penny McCall	8/24	Jim Palmer
8/8	James Horton Catherine Jones Paul Kantzler David Richardson	8/25	Jane Sosebee
8/9	Anne Cash Cathy McInnis Chris Torres	8/26	Debbie Dalhouse Diane Egan
8/11	Lois Bro Amy Worley	8/27	Sarah Allen Myra Cato
8/12	Helen Crader Helen Mohr Coleman Wright	8/28	Pete Crowther Heidi Martin Hannah Smith Mark Stokes
8/13	Nancy Stone	8/29	Hap Carr Jerry Chapman Jim London Caroline Oates
8/14	Ann Rash	8/30	Nancy Oates
8/15	Lauren Fields Steve Pettigrew	8/31	Paul Caley Tommi Jones Jeb Martin
8/16	Jacob Chavis Jerry Waddle		
8/17	Ed Halbig Marie Turner Shane Turner		
8/18	Laura Kozlarek		



8/1	Brian & Jan Kenney
8/2	Gregg & Cathy Morton
8/3	Garland & Cynthia Gravely Alan & Ellen Torrence
8/4	Dewayne Lawson & Bridget Trogden Nathan & Shelly Wilson
8/5	Tom & Gensie Waldrop
8/8	John & Nancy Brown Dick & Laura Shick
8/9	Jim & Marcia Barker
8/13	Jere & Rosemary Ross
8/14	David & Bitsy Barkley Shane & Mary Stuart Turner
8/16	Jim & Donna McCubbin Jake McKinney & Rose Marie McDonald
8/17	Lee & Linda Davis
8/19	Jim & Jane Van Sensus
8/20	Stephen & Rebecca Ackerman
8/21	Doug & Lynn Carlson Larry & Linda Gahan
8/22	John & Gayle McGregor
8/23	Bill & Myra Cato Jim & Vernie Roberts
8/26	Craig & Eileen Homan
8/27	David & Joan Alexander Harold & Arlene Cheatham
8/29	Kenny & Helen Mohr



Let's Feed PSA Students Sunday Eves

Were you as moved as I was by Pastor Michael's sermon July 11th based on Ephesians 1:3-14? I have had many thoughts about being "chosen and adopted" as a child of God. How awesome! My response is — how can I assist our PSA students to feel "chosen and adopted" by us at FHPC as their faith family and home away from home? I think the first thing we can do is feed them on Sunday eve PSA gatherings. If 20 dates are still open for PSA meals, surely there are enough groups within the church to meet this need — Men of the Church, Women's Circles, Circles of Care, Sojourners, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Christian Action Ministry, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Middle School Youth Group, Senior High Youth Group. Individuals, families, or groups of families could provide a PSA meal or a check to cover the cost of a catered/carry-out meal for 25-30 college students. Are we not called to be disciples and meet human needs? Maybe Mission is at our doorstep. Let us respond generously as Jesus would have us do.

Blessings, Cathy Spragins



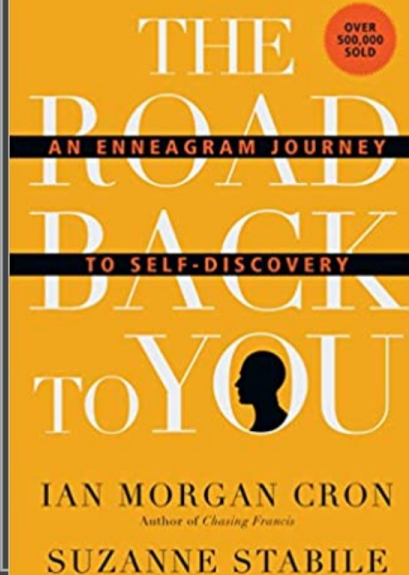
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Return Service Requested



Wednesday AM Enneagram Study

August 11, 18 & 25

September 1 & 8

10-11:30 am - Club Room

See Weekly Update for
Registration Link