

# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

February 2023

## Message From the Pastor

### Every Member a Minister

You, my friend, are a member of the Priesthood of all Believers. God has endowed you with gifts to be used to serve God's purposes in the world. Every disciple is a minister. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 4:1-6:

*4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

Each one of us has a ministry to perform according to the gifts we have and those we can develop. We can all humbly serve in love and peace for the sake of Christ and the well-being of His church. In the Presbyterian Church, we also ordain persons to offices to serve certain functions in the church. So we thank those who have served and those who are beginning a term of service. We have a Session and the Board of Deacons who seek the welfare of our members and the cause of Christ.

Class of 2023 Outgoing Officers: **Deacons:** Joan Dixon, Eva Henry, Jay Jones, Robbi Stokes, Pam Waddle, (Cathy Spragins and Susan Beckwith will serve a 2nd term); **Ruling Elders:** Ben Bronson, Jerry Chapman, Garland Gravely, Kate Hollingsworth, Ralph Ricks, Ronda Ricks, Pat Street, (Kevin Bronson filled a 1 year term).

Please express your thanks to them in the coming month. On Sunday, February 26 we will ordain and install a new class of officers. We welcome these candidates into service. Please pray for them as they serve and lead us.

**Deacons:** Mary E. Barron, Susan Beckwith, Rodney Johnson, Jim London, Nancy Oates, Charlotte Phillips, Cathy Spragins, Karen Ware. **Ruling Elders:** Walton Bost, Kevin Bronson, Vernon Burton, Lucy Martin, Russ Phillips, Cindy Prather, Debbie Shealy, Heather Wright.

Fort Hill is gifted with people seeking to live and grow as disciples. As we respond to the grace shown us in Jesus Christ, let us serve with willing and faithful hearts. Let's celebrate God's grace in action through these leaders, support them, and respect their decisions.

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.*

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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  
Jacob Kennedy, AP for Youth & Mission  
Colin Pettigrew, AP for Univ. Min.  
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music  
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.  
Lori Houck, Administrator  
Morgan Bryant, Admin. Assistant  
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

## Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

- 2/5 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isa. 58:1-9a; Ps. 112:1-9 (10);  
1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20
- 2/12 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
Deut. 30:15-20; Ps. 119:1-8;  
1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37
- 2/19 Transfiguration of the Lord**  
Ex. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99;  
2 Pet. 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9
- 2/26 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32;  
Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11



## ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Service

Wednesday, February 22  
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

## Ordination & Installation of New Officers

Sunday, February 26  
10:45 Worship Service  
& Fort Hill Church's  
YouTube Channel.

### March The Window Deadline

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

I love the month of February. There's something to be said with 28 days in the month. Of course, every four years we have 29!!! We celebrate Valentine's Day, the birthdays of 2 of our most famous presidents, Washington and Lincoln. And it's MY birthday month. I know others of you have February birthdays as well.

When I served First Presbyterian Church in Anderson, there was a choir member whose birthday was February 29!! She always went by the fact that she only got older every 4 years instead of every year. She loved to share that she was really 16 years old, and not 64!!

A lot of times, we want to be younger, more energetic, wiser, and the list goes on. But I think it is very true — with age comes wisdom!! I am very grateful to be part of a congregation of all ages and stages. I learn a great deal from everyone from birth — 99 and beyond!!

So take time to celebrate your age. Keep a song in your heart. We have been singing the simple song, *I Am a Child of God*. The words of the refrain say it all so well. We need nothing more than this simple assurance.

"I am a child of God. I am a child of God. Jesus came to love me. Jesus came to teach me. I am a child of God."

Keep Smiling-n-Singing

Margaret



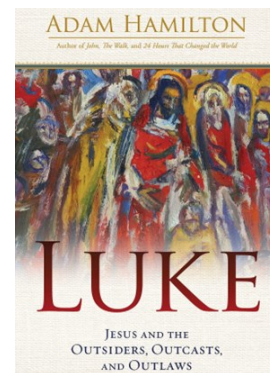
## Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws

Enjoy exploring the gospel of Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws as your Lenten Bible Study. Luke takes us from birth to resurrection in his gospel as we meet the people Jesus met. Join with others starting March 8 — April 12 looking deeper into Jesus' life and ministry. The study is held in the Club Room from 10:00—11:30 am each Wednesday morning. Contact Mary Morrison by February 25 by email or phone to join this study. Purchase your own book and read chapter one before March 8.

Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

- |          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| March 8  | Lifting Up the Lowly          |
| March 15 | Simon, Do You See This Woman? |
| March 22 | Parables from the Underside   |
| March 29 | On the Journey to Jerusalem   |
| April 5  | The Final Week                |
| April 12 | Crucified with the Outlaws    |



## Fellowship Ministry Update

**Drawing Studio** meets monthly from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Club Room. Contacts: Donna London ([dlondon654@gmail.com](mailto:dlondon654@gmail.com)) and Dianne Smith ([dksnc@aol.com](mailto:dksnc@aol.com)). Next meeting is **February 16**.

**Craft Connection** meets in the Club Room on the fourth Sunday at noon. Contact Cyndi Davis ([davisdcr@bellsouth.net](mailto:davisdcr@bellsouth.net)). Meet, greet, and create. Next meeting is **February 26**.

**Showing our planet some love this February:** The Fellowship Ministry is taking a few steps toward being better stewards of our environment and resources. We are choosing to implement more reusable items. At this time, we will not purchase plastic flatware or disposable coffee cups for in-house use. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cyndi Davis ([davisdcr@bellsouth.net](mailto:davisdcr@bellsouth.net)).

**Forks for Fort Hill:** We are still in need of reusable forks. Please consider donating your mismatched or surplus forks to the Tartan Hall kitchen.

**Coffee Cups:** Ceramic mugs and cups are available for use on Sunday mornings during the 8:30 service. You may also bring your own travel coffee mug for use.



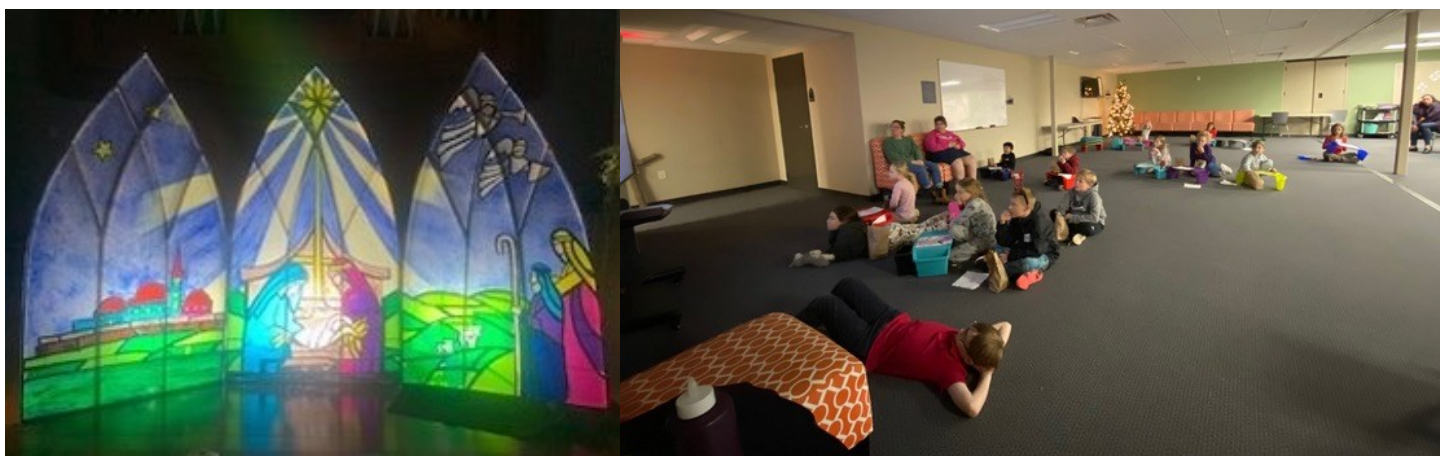
## Discovering Faith Sunday, February 12

Interested in Learning More  
About Joining Fort Hill Church?

Our next Discovering Faith Lunch for those interested in exploring membership will be held after the 10:45 am worship service in the Club Room. Please contact the church office at [communications@forthillchurch.org](mailto:communications@forthillchurch.org) if you would like to attend and if you need childcare.

## Children's Corner

The children had a wonderful holiday season! We enjoyed a special celebration and time of fellowship right before Christmas by watching a movie together and sharing a popcorn bar. A great time was had by all! Children's Ministry was honored to help Pastor Mary with the family worship service on Christmas Eve. The children helped tell the story of the birth of Jesus by putting together three special windows that look like stained glass. These windows are still on display in the windows connecting the two buildings. Special thanks to all of our helpers that made this activity possible. The children are still talking about the beautiful windows they made!



## Sunday Servants

### Pastor on Call

2/5 Mary Morrison  
2/12 Laura Conrad  
2/19 Jacob Kennedy  
2/26 Laura Conrad

### Elder of the Day

2/5 Open — 8:30  
Kevin Bronson — 10:45  
2/12 Ben Trammell — 8:30  
Jerry Chapman — 10:45  
2/19 Garland Gravely (one service)  
2/26 Ralph Ricks — 8:30  
Ronda Ricks — 10:45

## Preschool Registration

Registration packets are available online and in the FHOG office:

**February 1**

Registration Drop Off for  
Church Members

**February 1-3**

In-Person Registration Drop Off  
for Enrolled Students & Siblings

**February 21**

(Drop off at Narthex between 9-10 am)

In-Person Registration Drop Off  
for New Students

**February 22**

(Drop off at Narthex between 9-10 am)

Please contact Kayla Webb,  
with any questions at  
[preschool@forthillchurch.org](mailto:preschool@forthillchurch.org).



# Session Retreat



Including current and incoming elders.  
We will work on Three Bucket Review of priorities  
and to advance our mission.

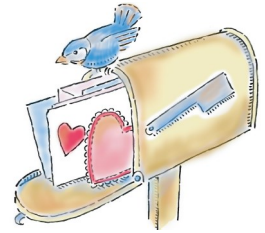
**Saturday, March 4, at 9 am**  
Meet in Tartan Hall



## News from Presbyterian Women

### Valentines for Our College Students

Presbyterian Women, led by Lauren Young, will be assembling Valentine surprises for our Fort Hill Presbyterian Church college students. You can help! **Instead of Valentine boxes, we will be sending Valentines containing a \$5 gift card (or a \$10 card) for Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, or other stores of your choosing.**



Please put your contribution(s) in an envelope address to **Lauren Young**, designate for "Student Valentines", and mail or drop them off to **408 Shorecrest Dr, Clemson, SC 29631**, in order to arrive no later than Tuesday, **February 7**. The Valentines will be assembled and mailed to our students. **Note: Those of you will college students, please email Lauren a current address for your student at the email address listed below so that all of our students receive a surprise!** Please respond even if you sent in information last year so that Lauren will have a complete and current list. Thank you for sharing the love!

For questions, please contact **Lauren Young**: [lauren.esh.young@bellsouth.net](mailto:lauren.esh.young@bellsouth.net) or (864) 650-2130 (cell).

### Fort Hill Presbyterian Women's Birthday Luncheon

Please save the date on your calendars now!

**Saturday, March 11, 2023**  
**Tartan Hall**

Our Birthday Luncheon Committee has planned a wonderful event and encourage ALL women of the church to attend!

More details to follow.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **February 7, 2023** Contributions due for Valentine Boxes. Mail or deliver to Lauren Young
- **March 11, 2023** PW Birthday Luncheon

Submitted by Mary Barron, PW Publicity Chairman, (864) 247-1322



# Fort Hill Youth Update

The Fort Hill Youth enjoyed their time with Mary Dusenberry learning about quilts.



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Raymond & Margaret MacKay and Kristin MacKay McCall** and family on the death of Raymond's uncle John Templeton Jr.
- **Grace Cook** and family on the death of her husband **Walter "Blackie" Cook** on January 10 in Clemson.
- **Ben & Linda Wofford and Benjamin & Anna** and family on the death of Ben's sister, Camille Wofford Solley on January 14 in Huntsville, AL.
- **Steve & Ethel Pettigrew, Patrick, Colin & Emily** on the death of Steve's aunt Joanne Willis on January 17 in Calhoun Falls, SC.
- **Kerri, Mark, James, & Andy Kwist** on the death of Kerri's mother Christine Worthy on January 24 in hospice care in Seneca, s



## FORT HILL PILGRIMAGES

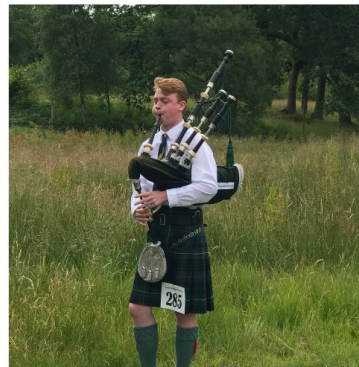
Will you travel with Fort Hill's faith family?

Potential Opportunities:

July 2024 Scotland; Heritage & History Tour with Roots of our Faith Traditions Iona, St. Andrews, Highlands, Edinburgh

March or June 2025 The Holy Land: Israel/Palestine and Jordan (optional)

Please let [chuckconrad@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:chuckconrad@pickens.k12.sc.us) know if you are interested.





# February Fort Hill Church Activities

## Thursday, February 2

10:00 am Staff Discipleship Meeting — Conference Room

## Friday–Sunday, February 3–5

Youth Trip

## Sunday, February 5

Scout Sunday

## Monday, February 6

10:00 am PW Circle 1 Meeting — Club Room

6:00 pm “At the River” Movie Screening — Sanctuary

## Tuesday, February 7

8:30 am Men of Church Breakfast — Dyar’s Café, Pendleton

3:00 pm Personnel & Program Support Meeting — Club Rm  
Buildings & Grounds Meeting — Library

6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library

7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room  
Youth Ministry Team Meeting — Den

## Thursday, February 9

12:00 pm IF: Clemson Planning Meeting — Conference Room

## Sunday, February 12

11:45 am Discovering Faith Lunch — Conference Room

## Monday, February 13

9:30 am PW Trinity Circle — Library

4:30 pm Mental Health Team Meeting—Library

6:00 pm PW Circle 2 Meeting — Library

## Tuesday, February 14

10:00 am Ben Sill’s Men’s Group — Library

## Tuesday, February 14 (continued)

2:00 pm Planning Meeting—Pastor’s Office

4:00 pm Finance Ministry Meeting — Library

6:30 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — Den

6:30 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room

## Thursday, February 16

10:00 am Staff Discipleship Meeting — Conference Room

## Saturday, February 18

9:00 am Deacon Retreat — Tartan Hall

## Sunday, February 19

10:30 am Special Session to Receive New Members — TH  
Youth Sunday

12:00 pm Children’s Ministry Team — Nest

5:00 pm Congregational Dinner — Baptist Church???

## Tuesday, February 21

Presbytery Meeting — all pastors away

7:00 pm Session Meeting — Tartan Hall

## Wednesday, February 22

2:00 pm Staff Bulletin Review — Conference Room

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service — Sanctuary

## Sunday, February 26

10:45 am Ordination of Officers — Sanctuary during worship

12:00 pm Craft Connections — Club Room

## Tuesday, February 28

10:00 am Ben Sill’s Men’s Group — Library

5:30 pm Membership Ministry Meeting — Conf. Room

7:00 pm Fellowship Ministry Meeting — Club Room

## Recurring Weekly Activities

### Sunday

8:30 am Early Worship Service — Tartan Hall

9:00 am Sojourners Class — Zoom

9:30 am Adult Faith Formation Classes — see offering listings  
Kid’s Club — Nest

Youth Breakfast Club — Den / Confirmation — E209

10:45 am Livestream/In-Person Worship — Online/Sanctuary

Nursery (birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room

WeeKirk (children’s worship—3K-1<sup>st</sup> gr) — following  
children’s story — Nest

WOW (worship education—2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> gr) — E208

2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Ed. Building (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

NAMI Family-to-Family Course — Club Room

5:00 pm Youth Group — The Den & Backyard

6:00 pm College Dinner, Worship & Discussion — PSA Center

### Monday

9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary

6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Porte-cochere/Backyard

### Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room

4:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

### Wednesday

10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room

6:00 pm Wednesdays @ The Fort — The Nest, E-208

6:10 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal — E209

7:00 pm PSA (College) Bible Study — PSA Student Center

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

### Thursday

7:45 am Holy Grounds (Youth) — Jitters Coffee Shop

9:15 am Small Group — Library

### Friday

10:00 am Organ Lessons — Sanctuary

## 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.



2/1	Bradley LeCroy	Tom Scott	2/19	Jessica Christenbury	
2/2	Hayden Anderson	Beth Tanner		Jim Dusenberry	
	Devon Broome	Hack Trammell		John Martin	
	Robby Clanton	2/9	Beth Wilkinson	Lawrence Mudge	
	Linda Davis		Shuler Wilson		
	Matt Wetsel	2/11	Laurie Lefevre???	2/20	Joyce Christenbury
2/3	Dianne Bitzer		Aleta Robinson	2/21	Kate Hollingsworth
	Stacey Miller	2/12	Bennett Bost		Bob Jones
	Tom Donegan	2/13	Ann Gilreath		Jeffrey Weir
2/4	Brian Brown		Bud Hicklin	2/23	Joseph Weir
	Donna London		Margaret MacKay		Holly Burchfield Whitsun
	Melissa Moede	2/14	Jason Kohlmayer	2/24	Kyle Smith
	Alena Nebesky		Patrick Pettigrew		Tom Cleveland
	Debbie Vaughn (Crader)		Sarah Van Daele		Hansen Wetsel
2/5	Laura Conrad	2/15	Cathy Morton	2/25	Tripp Mostertz
	Adam DeWitt		Shannon Sharkey	2/26	Ron Austin
2/6	Charles Rutland	2/17	David Barkley		Janet Cantrell
	Jimmy Weir		Linda Hudgins		Harrison Catoe
2/8	Scott Callison	2/18	Lauren Chavis		Becky Fant
	Arlene Cheatham		Rodney Johnson		Steve Hunter
	Eileen Homan				Laurel Whisler
	Chloe Satzger				Alexis Winchester
					Spencer Wright



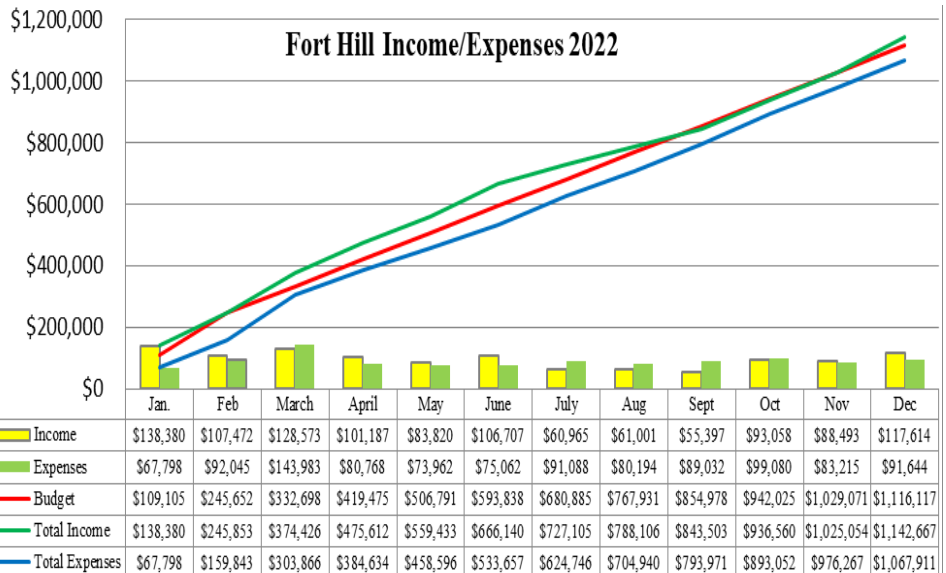
2/6	Michelle Blackwell & Drew Porter	2/14	Bill & Jane LaGrone	2/22	Steve & Stacey Miller
2/14	David & Debbie Collins	2/18	Trip & Necia Ross	2/23	Tootie & Steve Poteet
	Tim & Ann Howard	2/21	Michael & Joy Van Daele		

## From the Finance Ministry

2022 has come to a close and total pledge and offering income was \$1,022,035 while expenses were \$1,067,911. Other income (building use fees, special fund transfers, fundraising income, etc.) bring the year-to-date total income to \$1,142,667 providing a surplus of \$74,756. Income finished 2% above budget for the year while expenses were approximately 8% below. **Thank you** for making this past year financially successful. Your ongoing financial support is needed for 2023 so Fort Hill can continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

### Bridging Generations Update:

Loan Principal Balance: \$218,545





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

101 Edgewood Avenue  
Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-2061  
www.forthillchurch.org

***Return Service Requested***

## Christ Child Box Update

The Christian Action Ministry would like to thank everyone once again for your support of the Christ Child Box ministry in our collection of food and supplies for Clemson Community Care's food pantry. We have set a new collection record surpassing 2,835 pounds in donations which took four truck loads to move to their center. Quite a few of you picked up second boxes and we noticed that many boxes were overflowing.

We hope that you were able to make this a family affair by engaging your children and in helping them to understand that Christmas is truly a season of giving.

Clemson Community Care is a real gem which was originally conceived by ministers in our community and today is supported by over 30 churches and partner with more than a dozen agencies. We also provide monetary support through your generosity and several of our church members serve on their board of directors.