

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

September 2023

You Are Glowing!

I had time with friends I have known since my college days. Scott, a Presbyterian pastor, said, "You have the glow of sabbatical." I realized that I was finally relaxed 6 weeks into sabbatical time. He may have been right. Or it may have been the North Carolina heat and humidity making my face "glow" and glisten. We say this to pregnant folks or newlyweds or anyone who appears to be happy. You may know folks of faith who have a glow about them. These folks exude peace, an inmost calm, and deeper joy. We see Christ in their lives, words, light. The Spirit keeps giving me the words of this hymn, "How can I Keep from Singing?"

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

One of my favorite discoveries this summer has been the "Pray as You Go" app. I have spent lots of time with God, praying, walking, listening, journaling, reading Scriptures, worshiping in interesting places. I spent time with God alone in the beauty of Creation, and even over a make-shift communion of juice and Pepperidge Farm cookies presided over by my Aunt Tricia. One day as I used my app, the music, Scripture, and meditation reminded me how God is always with us. The reading was from Exodus 34 when Moses comes down from the mountain. After spending time in the presence of God, his face shone. He was shiny, radiating, glowing. So much so that he had to put a veil over his face when he was with the Israelites. With God, Moses would take off the veil, completely vulnerable and completely himself with God. The chapter before we learn that Moses and God "spoke as one friend to another." God wants to spend time with us. God is a friend with whom we can talk or listen or just be.

Beginning with worship on September 10, we will learn about faith practices, one of which is "Pray Daily." I hope we will all expand our understanding of these habits that grow us as disciples and people of faith. Practices help us live in the presence of God in different ways, to see God in the world and others, and to be grounded in a God who loves us with an everlasting love, with Christ our brother and friend, and with the comforting and sustaining Spirit.

In a broken and fearful world, my hope is that we will all be glowing with that kind of light, drawing others into the Light of Christ's love and peace.

Your Friend in Faith,

Laura

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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 University Ministry
Preston Shealy, Parish Associate
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Lori Houck, Administrator
Morgan Bryant, Administrative Assistant
Scott Thraikill, Facilities Caretaker

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

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

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

9/3 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 3:1-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28

9/10 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 12:1-14; Ps. 149;
Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

9/17 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 14:19-31; Ps. 114;
Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35

9/24 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 16:2-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matt. 21:23-32

October 2023

The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the **October** issue of *The Window* is **September 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:

- **Jane & Bill LaGrone** on the death of Jane's mother, Peggy Telfair, on August 5 in Raleigh NC.
- **Diane & Bill Carnes** on the death of Diane's father, Barry Boyle, on August 7 in Greenville.
- **Sally & John Martin and family** on the death of Sally's mother, Lynda "LuLu" Moore on August 18 in Spartanburg.

Message from the UM Associate Pastor

About two years ago I began feeling a nudge from the Holy Spirit toward a new season in ministry. That nudge led to a period of prayer, discernment, and search for a new call wherever the Spirit might be leading. When that process began I had no way of knowing that the Spirit would lead me home to Clemson and Fort Hill, but I am so glad that it did.

It is hard to believe that it has now been a full year since I returned to Fort Hill as the Associate Pastor for University Ministry, and what a wonderful year it has been! Last year we started a new chapter at PSA with a great group of new students. They didn't know anything about me or PSA, but they stuck around anyway. I can only assume this was God's doing.

Over the course of the year, we shared a lot of meals and laughter. We went to Montreat together (twice). We went to the beach together. And, most importantly, we worshipped together. Throughout the year this new group became like a family, and I could not be prouder of the way these students have come together to help build something new at PSA. I am honored to come alongside them and the Holy Spirit in this new season.

As the world continues to change and the university continues to grow Fort Hill's call to provide a theologically sound and spiritually safe environment for students to explore their faith continues to grow as well. Our commitment to that call is unquestionable, and I am so glad that I am able to join in that work once again as part of the Fort Hill family. Our PSA students and the rest of our Fort Hill family have made this first year so special, and I can't wait to see where God leads us next!

Peace,

Colin



Adult Faith Formation Offerings

Sojourners' — Meets at 9:00 am via Zoom

This class is available to everyone, especially those who cannot make it in person. This class will be studying *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Please contact Bob Stout at b39c40@bellsouth.net for more information (or call the church office).

Kindred Spirits — Meets at 9:30 am in the Club Room

This class will be studying *The Letter to the Hebrews* by William Barclay. Please contact John & Cindy Prather or Ben & Cindy Trammell for more information (or call the church office).

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday mornings beginning August 30 through November 22. This class will be studying *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis as well as a study guide companion. Please contact Mary Morrison at mary.morrison@forthillchurch.org for more information.

Choir Corner

Fall is just around the corner. Can you feel it? Not quite — but we know it is near at hand. It's always good to have a change of seasons whether it is in the temperature, the opportunity to cheer on your favorite team, the routine of classes or the return of rehearsals for adults, handbells, and children.



Life can be busy, but I like to think of it as life being FULL with all kinds of experiences. I think you know that Raymond and I are blessed to have 5 grown children, their spouses, and 10 grandchildren in our family. Sometimes it is hard for me to fathom how blessed we are with these dear ones. They are all different and gifted in so many ways. There's never a dull moment at Thanksgiving or Christmas! We don't always have all of them home at one time, but we are grateful for Zoom, email, and texts to keep up with what is going on in their lives. This year it sounds as if they will all be present for Thanksgiving, and I am so very THANKFUL for that.

What does it mean for you to have fullness of life? I don't think of it as all the physical items we own. I think of it as the blessings of music, friends, worship, the beauty of God's creations whether it is plants, flowers, rain, or snow, and the list can go on and on.

On the mornings I awaken long before the alarm is to go off, it is probably my most personal time with God. He knows my thoughts and my heart, and I have no doubt of His presence with me. It's a great way to begin the day. And most days, I have a song in my head to listen to. It's usually an anthem or hymn. Whatever it is, it usually gives me hope and assurance for the day ahead.

Isn't that what the birds assure us of each morning when they wake up singing? I don't always know their songs, but they are lovely and simple. I think one of God's greatest gifts to us is in his presence through creation. How can anyone doubt that there is a creator who makes it all possible for us?

One of the songs that come to mind as I conclude this article is hymn # 14 in Glory to God — *For the Beauty of the Earth* — with the text by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint in 1864 and the music by Conrad Kocher in 1838. Here are my three favorite verses:

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
3. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

May this be your earworm in the coming months as we rejoice and give thanks to God for all of his many blessings.

Keep smiling-n-singing,

Margaret

Welcome Back, Pastor Laura

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

9/3	Laura Conrad
9/10	Mary Morrison
9/17	Jacob Kennedy
9/24	Mary Morrison

8:30 Service Elder of the Day

9/3	Donna Crader
9/10	Cyndi Davis
9/17	Catherine Stoddard
9/24	Russ Phillips

10:45 Service Elder of the Day

9/3	Donna Crader
9/10	Cindy Prather
9/17	Heather Wright
9/24	Gregg Morton

Baby Shower for Emily & Colin Pettigrew

Sunday, September 10
following 10:45 worship



Please join us on September 10 to celebrate with Emily & Colin Pettigrew as they await the arrival of their precious one. We will meet in Tartan Hall at the conclusion of the second worship service. You are encouraged to share your written well wishes, advice or prayers. You may bring your 4x6 card, or use a card provided to record your thoughts for Emily, Colin and Baby Pettigrew.

Light refreshments will be provided. Gifts will be opened at home to provide time for Emily and Colin to visit with all of you.

If you choose to send or provide a gift in addition to your good wishes, the registry information is provided below:

<https://www.babylist.com/list/baby-registry-emily-pettigrew>

Church Mouse

Summer has been hot but went by fast as I stayed inside most of the time. But a bunch went to the Middle School Conference at Montreat to get cooled off and get some religious fellowship: **Edward & Henry Crader, Shuler Wilson, William Matheson, Pastor Jacob**, and Intern **Virginia**.

Then there was the funeral service for longtime member Joe Dickey. I remember both he and his wife, Anne, very well. The funeral guild members who helped were: **Donna London, Wes & Jacquie Worley, Mark & Robbi Stokes, Ceci Arthur, Stephanie Scott, and Nan Jones. Pam Waddle, Barbara Madison, Robin Denny, Donna Crader, and Carolyn Stroup** provided the bereavement meal for the family members after the service and reception. The reception was staffed by **Rose Ross**.

Then on Communion Sunday in August, we had the blessing of the backpacks, and then **Kim Morris, Nina Moede, and Rodney Johnson** provided help for WeeKirk. Communion set up was done by **Wayne & Barbara Madison**. Communion was served by the elders, deacons, and the pastors: **Pastor Mary, Pastor Jacob, and Pastor Colin** along with **Hugh & Nancy Spitler, Rick Hegenberger, Melanie Job, Jim Thomas, Donna Crader, Jerry Chapman, Ben Trammell, Joyce Daley, and Beth Durham. Rodney Johnson** helped with homebound communion.

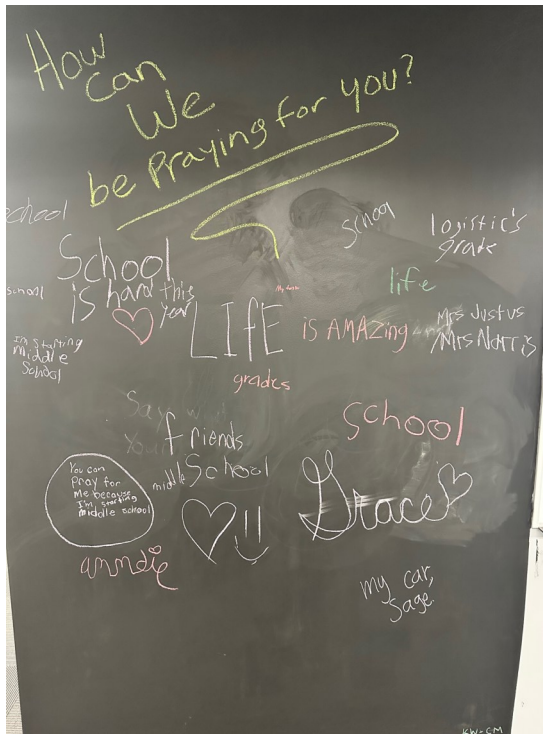
The new Monday Book Club is conducted by **Debbie Shealy, Nancy Oates, and Robin Weeks. Holly Ridgell** is coordinating the new Meet and Eat (formerly known as Dinners for 8). The Drawing Studio that meets once a month is directed by **Donna London** and **Dianne Smith**

So much going on and that does not even count the back to school things.

Be sure to thank all those mentioned.



Fort Hill Youth Update



This summer we had some new updates to the Den. Our 6th graders, Virginia, and I painted two of our walls and they are now chalkboards. When we painted this addition to our Youth room, our hope was that this would be a space for artistic expression, and growing connection with God. During our Youth Group kick-off, we asked the students on our chalkboard wall, "how can we pray for them?" Here is a picture of their responses. As students begin their school year, be praying for them as they wrestle with new transitions, and all that is on their hearts and minds.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Sunday, September 10
After the 10:45 worship service
Hosted by Children's Ministry Team

Water slide inflatables, games, pizza, and popsicles

Scan QR code to sign up!



Children's Ministry Offerings



Sundays

Nursery for 8:30 & 10:45 services
(Birth-3 yrs)

WeeKirk after Children's Time in Nest
(K4-1st gr)

WOW (Wonders of Worship) after
Children's Time in Nest Hallway (2nd gr+)

Wednesdays

Dinner at 5:30 in Tartan Hall
Choir/Centers 6-7 in E209/Nest

Fellowship

Tiger Band & Pizza Fri. Sept. 15
Meet at church at 4 pm

Questions? Contact children@forthillchurch.org

News from Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Circles meet monthly during the school year (September — May) for Bible study, prayer and creative fellowship. Our Fall 2023 Bible study is *Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke—Acts*. The name of each Circle, meeting location, and contact information are found below.

2023—2024 Presbyterian Women Circles and Leaders

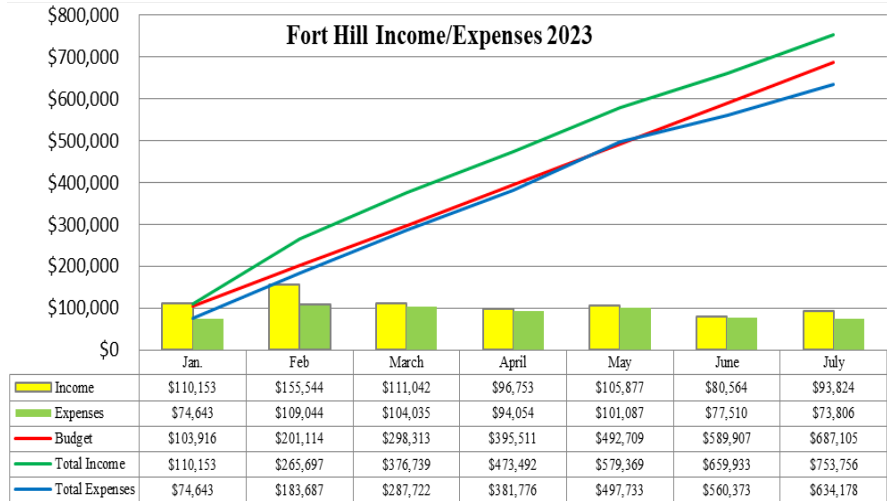
Circle 1	First Monday of the month at 10:00 am
Meeting Location:	FHPC Club Room <i>(the first meeting is on August 28 because of Labor Day)</i>
Co-Leaders:	Maranda Arnold — (864) 506-2059, marandaarnold@gmail.com Carolyn Stroup — (843) 319-9023, cwstroup@att.net
2nd Tuesday Evening Circle	Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 pm
Meeting Location	To be announced
Co-Leaders:	Nan Jones — (864) 973-8309, jones4927@bellsouth.net Janet Bean — (843) 817-5004, janetbean@yahoo.com
Trinity Circle	Second Monday at 9:30 am
Meeting Location:	FHPC Club Room
Co-Leader:	Gail Williams — (908) 256-2907, gswilliams@bellsouth.net
Circle of Hope	First Monday at 3:00 pm
Meeting Location:	Clemson Downs, Corley Center Game Room
Leader:	Judy Blackwell — (864) 506-1138, mikeandjudyblackw@currently.com

THANK YOU to ALL who stepped up to assume positions of leadership for the 2023-2024 calendar year! We are looking forward to seeing you in September, studying the scriptures, growing in faith, and enjoying the fellowship of our sisters in Christ! Come and bring your friends!



From the Finance Ministry

Through July, total income was \$753,756 while expenses for the first seven months were \$634,678 providing a YTD surplus of \$119,578. Expenses are at 53% of budget, while income is at 64%. As you can see, income is approximately 6% above budget while expenses are roughly 5% below budget. 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: \$205,377

Children's Ministry Needs You



- Be a Center Guide
- Provide a Wednesday Dinner
- Help in WeeKirk or WOW
- Spend time in the Nursery

To Volunteer or for Questions
Contact children@forthillchurch.org

September Church Activities

Sunday, September 3

See Weekly Recurring Event Schedule for regular events
Homebound Communion (various locations)

Monday, September 4

Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5

8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Dyar's Café
1:00 pm Planning Meeting — Pastor's Office
3:00 pm P&PS Ministry Meeting — Club Room
5:30 pm University Ministry Meeting — PSA Student Cntr.
6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library
7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Rm
Youth Ministry Team Meeting — The Den

Wednesday, September 6

9-11 am Preschool Open House — Preschool Rooms
See Weekly Recurring Event Schedule for regular events

Thursday, September 7

First Day of Preschool (Turtles, 2-day Honeybees, Owls)
9:15 am Men's Small Group — Library

Friday, September 8

First Day of Preschool (3-day Honeybees, Whales)

Sunday, September 10

12:00 pm CM Back to School Bash — Backyard/Nest
Colin & Emily's Baby Shower — Tartan Hall
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard, Tartan Hall, & Ed Bldg.

September 11 — September 15

Mary Morrison away

Monday, September 11

9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary
PW Trinity Circle Meeting — Club Room
7:00 pm Book Club — Gathering Space near E205

Tuesday, September 12

10:00 am Men's Small Group (Ben Sill) — Library
4:00 pm Finance Ministry Meeting — Library
5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
6:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — the Nest
6:30 pm PW Circle 2 Meeting — Library

September 15 — September 18

Jacob Kennedy away

Sunday, September 17

12:00 pm 90s Birthday Party — the Arcade/Tartan Hall
Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest
6:00 pm PSA & Clemson Univ. Dinner — Student Center

Tuesday, September 19

7:00 pm Session Meeting — Club Room

Wednesday, September 20

11:45 am Pastors' Lunch at Clemson Downs
5:30 pm Wildcard Wednesday Potluck Dinner — TH

September 21 — September 24

Fall Youth Mission Trip — Massanetta Springs

Thursday, September 21

10:00 am Drawing Studio — Club Room

Sunday, September 24

11:45 pm Craft Connections — Club Room
12:00 pm Officer Nominating Committee Mtg — Library
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard, Tartan Hall & Ed Bldg.

Tuesday, September 26

10:00 am Men's Small Group (Ben Sill) — Library
5:30 pm Membership Ministry Meeting — Conference Rm
7:00 pm Fellowship Ministry Meeting — Club Room

September 29 — October 1

PSA Fall Retreat — Colin Pettigrew away

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

8:30 am In-Person Worship — Tartan Hall
9:00 am Sojourners' Class — Zoom
9:30 am High School Breakfast Club — the Den (not 9/3)
Middle School Breakfast Club — TH (not 9/3)
College Coffee Hour — PSA Student Center
Adult Class: Kindred Spirits — Club Room
10:45 am In-Person/Livestream Worship — Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth-3 yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship 3K-1st gr) — Nest
WOW (worship education 2nd-3rd gr) — E208
2:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room (beg. 9/17)
5:00 pm Youth Group — the Den & Tartan Hall
6:00 pm PSA College Dinner/Program — Student Center

Monday

6:30 pm Scouts Troops 235 (Boys)/7235 (Girls)
Club Room/Tartan Hall/Backyard

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
4:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

Wednesday

10:00 am Wednesday AM Bible Study — Club Room
6:00 pm Wednesdays @ the Fort (3K-5th gr) — Nest/E-208
6:10 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (K-2nd gr) — E-209
6:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (3rd-5th gr) — E-209
7:00 pm PSA (College) Bible Study — PSA Student Center
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

Thursday

9:15 am Small Group — Library

Weekly AA Meetings:

Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday at 8:00 pm & Friday at 12:30 pm



September BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Katie Blondeau Tim Daley Anna Wofford	9/10	Jody Faithful Joy Van Daele
9/2	Emily Burchfield Derge Chen Addison Johnson Angie Littlejohn Bridget Sehorn	9/11	Jere Ross Louis Stone
9/3	Libba Graves Leila Stevenson Josh Young	9/12	Lee Jones Carolyn Newton
9/4	Susan Nunamaker Luke Turner Emma Worley	9/13	Reagan Blondeau Wes Koch
9/5	James Kwist Joanne Nisonger Tom Shealy	9/14	Lisa Britt Mark Morrison
9/6	Jordon Weir	9/16	Jordon Bolger Clay Mohr Dianne Smith Jim Van Senu
9/9	Adelyn Hudak Ann Kathryn Pollock	9/17	Andy Ackerman Paul Kenney Mark Kwist Mary Stuart Turner
9/10	Debbie Durland	9/18	Joyce Daley Betty Shealy
		9/19	Kevin Bronson Holly Ridgell

9/20	Robin Denny	9/26	Mary Dusenberry
9/21	Carol Hipp Jay Jones Denny Sherrod	9/28	Susan Best Cal Sawyer
9/22	Chris Griffin Carol Pollock Michael Sehorn	9/29	A.J. Howard
9/24	Abby Martin Mary Kate Turner	9/30	Gerald Bitzer Craig Homan Emma Ouellette Adair Stevenson Vivian Stevenson
9/25	Ceci Arthur Cile Dunkelberg Jennifer Simpson		



9/1	George & Cile Dunkelberg	9/13	Bob & Carol Stout
9/2	Jerry & Edmee Reel	9/16	Leland & Grace Hawthorne
9/3	Lanny & Linda Parsons	9/25	Lin & Kay Dearing
9/5	Bill & Jan Beckwith Gary & Pat Clary Derick & Beth Durham	9/26	Tom & Betty Shealy
9/8	Gary & Pat Gardner	9/30	Libba & Steve Graves Mark & Kerri Kwist

Staff Update

With her full-time teaching position at Lakes and Bridges Charter School now in full swing, Kim Morris quickly recognized that she could not give Fort Hill the 13 hours/week as contracted to assist Children's Ministry through another season of change. On August 15, just over one year since Kim started her ministry with Fort Hill, the Session regretfully accepted her Letter of Resignation. Plans are already underway with the Session to further define and fill this staff vacancy. More information will be forthcoming in the coming months. In the meantime, you can read more throughout this issue and in weekly updates about the plans for the semester that Kim helped craft and the various volunteer support needs. We wish Kim and her family the best as they continue to settle into their new school year and work schedule.

A Word from ONC

During the summer months, the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) has begun the process of contacting potential members of the slate of officers for the Class of 2027 (the 2 Youth Elders will serve a 1-year term). The ONC team is working well together thus far as they share ideas, coordinate their efforts, and reach out to prospective leaders in our church. Should you be contacted in the near future, please prayerfully consider any request that you grace others with your unique gifts as you serve. We know that Fort Hill's members have the kind of positive spirit that spreads God's grace in the form of action...the action of loving and serving one another and those in our community. The ONC could offer you the encouragement that you might be seeking. We'd love to hear from you! You may contact any of the ONC members listed below:

Diane Egan, Session (Coordinator)	diane.w.egan@gmail.com	864.710.0264
Cindy Trammell, Session	cindy.trammell5@gmail.com	832.722.3992
Cathy Morton, Deacons	ctmorton@bellsouth.net	803.237.3865
Robin Denny, Presbyterian Women	robindenny2020@gmail.com	864.207.1152
Larry Sloan, Presbyterian Men	larrysloan@yahoo.com	864.787.6760
Ella Griffis, Youth	ellamg5157@icloud.com	864.324.7747
Bette Bronson, At-large-Member	bettebronson@gmail.com	803.323.7473
Carol Hipp, At-large-Member	chippathome@gmail.com	704.578.2199
Mark Kwist, At-large-Member	makwist@yahoo.com	864.508.4543
Laura Conrad, Pastor, Ex-Officio	laura.conrad@forthillchurch.org	864.654.2061



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Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-2061
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Return Service Requested

Fellowship Functions

Many opportunities to gather are on our church calendar!

September 10 Baby Shower for Emily & Colin Pettigrew in Tartan Hall

Book Club continues at 7:00 pm on the second Mondays in our second floor Gathering Space. September's book, Hang the Moon, by Jeanette Hall, will be led by Robin Weeks on **September 11**.

Meet and Eat quarterly 'eatings' are **October 13—15**. Sign up with Holly Ridgell (hridgell@gmail.com).

Wildcard Wednesday Potluck Dinner participants will dine with participants of **Wednesdays @ the Fort** and their families on the third Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Tartan Hall. Get to know our children and young families by sharing a covered dish for supper. Children will be served first at 5:30 in order for them to be ready for their activities. Adults will follow. Fall dates are **September 20, October 18, and November 15**.

Drawing Studio continues on the third Thursdays from 10:00 am until noon in the Club Room. Contact Donna London (dlondon654@gmail.com). Fall dates are **September 21, October 19, and November 16**.

Craft Connections will meet at noon on the fourth Sundays of **September 24 and October 22** in the Club Room. Bring your project and a snack, and join the conversation while you create. This is a good time to start your Christmas gifts.

October 1 is set for our **fall picnic** at the church at noon.

Contact Cyndi Davis (davidscr@bellsouth.net) with questions and fun suggestions for new activities.
