



The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

November 2023

Update: A Flourishing and Faithful Fort Hill Church

Your leaders have been focused on our mission and vision. "What is God calling our congregation to do and be in a post-pandemic era?" has been our driving question. Last month you received an update from the Session about aligning our staff and ministries to fulfill our 7 Priorities of Fort Hill (See Q&A question #1).

After Session approved our reorganization in September, our key leaders are working on the following next steps:

1. **Virginia Kackley**, our Summer Ministry Intern and Clemson Senior, was hired part-time to support the Discipleship Ministry for good communication, support, and coordination while we search for the Faith Formation Coordinator.
2. **Faith Formation Coordinator** — a new search committee was elected to serve to develop the position description and begin a search for a full-time staff person to lead in Faith Formation. This leader will assist us in Christian Education and disciple development with children, youth, and family, collaborating with the Associate Pastor for Congregational Life, Jacob Kennedy. Members: Mary Margaret Allman, Bo Crader, James Kwist, Lucy Martin, Kristen McCall, Cathy Morton, Lisa Street, staff liaison, Jacob Kennedy.
3. **Re-formation of Discipleship Ministry** — leaders: Donna Crader, Jacob Kennedy, Cindy Prather, and Ben Trammell are evaluating new faith formation models and ways to further enhance the way we Grow Disciples as part of Fort Hill's mission here and around Clemson.
4. **Mental Health Counseling Organizational Committee** has developed a mission, vision, and values to establish a Counseling Ministry for our community. Mary Morrison, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, serves with this team. Members: Chuck Conrad, Chair, Sarah Allen, Harold Cheatham, Robert Miles, Stacey Miller, Rose Marie McDonald, Don McKale, Ethel Pettigrew, Katherine Sosebee, Nancy Spitler, Ally Young, staff liaison, Mary Morrison.

Hopefully, you have received your **Church Pictorial Directory** which provides you with the names of all our Officers, Elders, and Deacons, as well as your staff and ways to contact us with questions. You will also find lots of helpful information in that notebook. You can pick up your directory from the Arcade. Please sign the sheet so we know you have your copy!

God planted us here in 1895 to serve this community and grow in faith. God calls us to be a flourishing and faithful church. Here are a few ways we are growing together in faith. Growth does not happen without growing pains, but we are going to be better together as we follow the Holy Spirit's leading in this new season.

In all things, I give thanks to God for you, Fort Hill!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor 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, Congregational Care
Jacob Kennedy, AP, Congregational Life
Colin Pettigrew, AP, University Ministry
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Lori Houck, Administrator
Morgan Bryant, Admin Assistant
Scott Thrailkill, 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

11/5 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37;
1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

11/12 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

11/19 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1-7; Ps. 123;
1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

11/23 Thanksgiving Day
Deut. 8:7-18; Ps. 65;
2 Cor. 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

11/26 Reign of Christ Sunday
Ez. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100;
Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46



Thanksgiving Worship Service at Old Stone Church 10:00 am, November 23

Join your neighbors in giving thanks. Old Stone Church meeting house is on the corner of Hwy. 76 and Old Stone Church Road. Together we will worship and praise God for the abundance of gifts God has shared with us. Remember the stone building is not heated and often does not warm up until the afternoon, so bring a coat and/or a blanket.



Advent Activities

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us in the sanctuary at 2:00 on **Sunday, November 26**, as we "deck the halls" with wreaths and greenery in preparation for Advent. Adults and youth are invited to share the joys of the season.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

At the 8:30 and 10:45 services prior to Christmas, as well as the two (2) Christmas Eve services, we light the Advent wreath as we reflect on the message of hope with the birth of Christ. This is a meaningful tradition and we invite you and your family to participate in this celebration on one of the following dates and times: **December 3** at 8:30 and 10:45; **December 10** at 8:30 and 10:45;



December 17 at 10:45 only, and **Christmas Eve** morning service at 10:45. Your participation will include a brief reading that will be forwarded to you prior to your selected service and ask that you arrive 30 minutes in advance of the service for a review/practice. Please contact Caroline Thomas at thomascb160@att.net if you are interested with optional dates and service you would like to participate.

JOY Offering Memorials

During this season of giving and remembrance, we invite you to 'honor' or 'remember' family and friends who have impacted your life by making a contribution to the JOY offering. Your gift, of any value, will be used for wreaths, greenery, poinsettias for FHPC and support underserved communities. Please complete the Honor and Remember form that is available in the Narthex, FHOG office, or by contacting Morgan in the Church Office (864-654-2061 or communications@forthillchurch.org). Checks payable to FHPC and the completed form should be submitted to the church office by December 2. Memorials and honorariums will be recognized in the bulletin and The Window. Poinsettias will be available for pick up following the Christmas services.



December The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the December issue of *The Window* is **Wednesday, November 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.



Sunday, November 5, 2022



Faith in Action: Stewardship Dedication Sunday, November 5

On **Sunday, November 5**, we will be celebrating Stewardship Dedication Sunday with the theme, "**Faith in Action.**"

Faith is a gift of God's grace, but it does no one any good unless it is "put to use" or stewarded. Thank you for all you have done in the past to support Fort Hill Church and you are invited to continue your support by making a financial pledge to "put to use" the gifts God has given you.

Pledge cards were mailed on October 11, and we ask that you bring your card to service on Stewardship Dedication Sunday on November 5, and we will fill them out together. If you are unable to attend on November 5, you can pledge online at:

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

Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do for Fort Hill. We look forward to celebrating and spreading more grace in God's world.

FAITH IN ACTION

"Faith is a gift of God's grace, but it does no one any good unless it is put to use or stewarded."

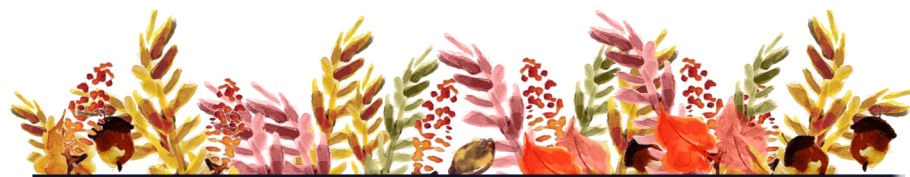
Choir Corner

Here we are on the downhill slide to Thanksgiving. Then right around the corner come Advent and Christmas. I don't know about you, but these last months of the year truly fly by. Yes, I love these seasons because it means time with family and friends to celebrate the wonderful and special days together. But also involved is a great deal of planning, preparation, and scheduling for our various services. It is a joy to do it, but it sometimes takes a lot of time looking through music, previous bulletins, and thinking ahead of new opportunities. In the end, I am always amazed how God welcomes these times and uses the decisions and plans for His glory and honor. It is truly evident He is present among us.

So as we approach the special days ahead, take time to remember joyous seasons of the past and look forward to the future opportunities of worship together.

A blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Margaret



Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

11/5	Jacob Kennedy
11/12	Mary Morrison
11/19	Laura Conrad
11/26	Jacob Kennedy

8:30 Service Elder of the Day

11/5	Hugh Spitler
11/12	Rick Hegenberger
11/19	Cyndi Davis
11/26	Donna Crader

10:45 Service Elder of the Day

11/5	Gregg Morton
11/12	Jim Thomas
11/19	Kevin Bronson
11/26	Mark Stokes



Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday November 12

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, November 12**, after 10:45 worship service to elect Deacons and Ruling Elders.



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

Johannah Cornwell Lambert and her sister Anne Ross, on the death of their father, **Ross Cornwell**, in Tampa, FL on August 30.

Bruce Salley and family on the death of his wife **Harriett Salley** on October 16 in Seneca.



Congratulations on the birth of:

Margaret Rhea Pettigrew born on October 12 to **Pastor Colin & Emily Pettigrew**. Proud grandparents are Stephen & Ethel Pettigrew.

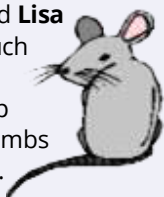
Church Mouse

Did you know what the church does to welcome our newest members at their birth? **Mary Dusenberry** makes a bib/burp cloth for the little one and **Alan Torrence** makes a small wooden cross for their deacon to give to them at their birth. Plus, the **Membership Ministry** places a sign in the yard of the happy family that reads: *FHPC WELCOMES OUR LITTLE SUNSHINE, you are God's blessing to us all.* The sign has a big bow attached to it that is pink or blue. **Mary Dusenberry** also takes an old handkerchief and embroiders a Celtic Cross on it to give out to the family at any baptism.

We lost a faithful member of the church when Beth Wilkerson passed away. The funeral guild with **Donna London** as chair, **Nan Jones**, **Judy Blackwell**, and **Stephanie Scott** helped with the funeral. The audio was operated by **Chuck Moede**. **Rose Ross** hosted the reception.

I am so sorry, but my picture is not in the new directory that just came out. I am camera shy. But I watched as **Pastor Jacob** and **Pastor Mary** carried down boxes and boxes of new notebooks. Several deacons met two Thursday afternoons in a row to put them all together: **Cathy Morton**, **Melanie Job**, **Chris Torres**, **Joyce Daley**, and, of course, **Pastor Mary**.

The handbells performed on October 1: **Jacque Worley**, **Gensie Waldrop**, **Karen Johnson**, **Mary Beth Clanton**, **Julianne Wenner**, **Judy Bonham** (director), with **Margaret MacKay** on the piano. We also had communion that Sunday: **Beth Chapman** coordinated it. Servers were **Jerry Chapman**, **Mary Barron**, **Jim London**, **Robin Weeks**, **Chip Egan**, **Chris Torres**, **Pastor Mary**, **Pastor Jacob**, **Helen Wooten**, **Rodney Johnson**, **Pastor Colin**, **Pastor Laura**, and **Charlotte Phillips**. Then afterwards they had a BBQ lunch with the servers of **Wanda Glenn**, **Donna McCubbin**, and **Lisa Britt**. There was so much going on that Sunday that I had to take a nap after I ate all those crumbs left behind at the BBQ.



News from Presbyterian Women

It's hard to believe November is here already. Our study *Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke—Acts* is going well. It's not too late to join us.

Circle 1 — November 6 at 10:00 am, Club Room
Carolyn Stroup — (843) 319-9023, cwstroup@att.net

2nd Tuesday Evening Circle — time & place TBD
Nan Jones — (864) 973-8309, jones4927@bellsouth.net

Trinity Circle — November 13 at 9:30 am, Club Room
Gail Williams — (908) 256-2907, gswilliams@bellsouth.net

Circle of Hope — November 2 at 3:00 pm, Clemson Downs Corley Room
Judy Blackwell — (864) 506-1138, mikeandjudyblackw@currently.com

Safe Harbor Clothing Drive

We began collecting gently used fall and winter clothing for **Safe Harbor** on October 22 and will continue through November 12. Donations can be dropped off in the Collections Room under the FHOG Office through November 12.

Contact: Joan Dixon (864) 654-1065.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes for Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan Purse donation continue through November 12. Pamphlets will be placed on the shelf outside the FHOG office listing the requested items. Please deliver the unsealed boxes or bring gift items to the FHOG Office at the Administration entrance on Edgewood Avenue. **Contact: Eva Henry** (864)654-3737. Thank you for your participation in this project that will brighten a child's Christmas.

Honorary Life Membership

Each year the Presbyterian Women of FHPC select the recipient of the Honorary Life Membership award. This award goes to ANY (male or female) person or persons who have given long and dedicated service to Fort Hill Presbyterian Church or a former church congregation and who reflect the love of God and His church and have made a difference in the spiritual life of the community. PW Honorary Life Membership Nomination Cards will be available in the FHOG Office and through each Circle. Cards may be returned to the designated envelope in the PW box. Additional cards are available upon request. Deadline for submission is **December 31**. This honor is open to all members of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church.

Contact: Cynthia Gravely (864) 723-5601 or **Stephanie Scott** (864) 654-7407.

Helping Hands Paper Goods Drive

Donations of paper goods for **Helping Hands** group children's home will be an ongoing monthly project for the PW. Donations of paper goods such as paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, soap, and liquid laundry detergent (no pods) can be dropped off in the FHOG office or placed in the marked plastic box in the collections room below the FHOG office. These will be taken to Helping Hands in the middle of the month. **Contact: Carolyn Stroup** (843) 319-9023.

14th Annual Trio Community Fundraiser for Clemson Free Clinic & Clemson Community Care

**Friday, December 1, from 6-9pm
at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

Tickets: \$50/person or \$175/group of 4

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served along with wine & beer tastings.
Tickets can be purchased in advance at Hubbard Young Pharmacy
or at either beneficiary organization.

What is a Blue Christmas or The Longest Night service?

From mid-October, stores begin setting up Christmas displays of decorations, food, music, and toys. All kinds of excitement and glitter fill our senses to an over stimulation of excess. Cares are banished and laughing children reinforce the message that sadness and anxiety have no place in the holiday festivities.

But the reality is that there will be empty chairs around those holiday tables this year. There will be memories and feelings about the losses of lives, livelihoods, homes, dreams, relationships. Just because Christmas comes does not mean that bereavement goes away. In fact, it can be magnified at such times. As we live into being a Mental Health Church, let us openly recognize all of life's emotions, transitions, and experiences even during the holidays. To do so, Fort Hill will offer a Blue Christmas service. Some may know this by the name of The Longest Night service.



While a Blue Christmas service is not named after Elvis' famous song, it does acknowledge the sadness that many people feel in the midst of the season's overdone advertising and continuous encouragement to always be "bright!" Heavy hearts are grieving, tired, weary in the midst of the hubbub of the season.

So save the date of **Thursday, December 21**, the day of the winter solstice when The Longest Night and shortest day of the year occur. Consider who you know that you might need to invite or accompany to this quieter, contemplative service at **7:00 pm in Tartan Hall** and make that contact now, in anticipation of being present for one another through the darkest of times.



Welcome New Baby!

Virginia (Ginny) Bajozky born October 3

Andy, Olivia, Wallace, and baby Ginny

Save
THE
Date

Blue Christmas or The Longest Night Worship Service

Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm
in Tartan Hall

Enneagram: The Subtypes and Balancing Our Lives

Saturday, January 27 from 9:00-4:00
in Tartan Hall

Mental Health First Aid (for those who work or serve with Youth)

Saturday, January 27 from 9:00-4:00
in the Den

Mental Health First Aid (for Adults)

Saturday, February 24 from 9:00-4:00
in Tartan Hall

November Fort Hill Church Activities

Wednesday, November 1

5:00 pm Scotland Trip Meeting — Club Room

Friday, November 3

4:30 pm Children's Ministry Fellowship Event at Denver Downs

Sunday, November 5

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Homebound Communion — various locations

2:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room

Monday, November 6

10:00 am PW Circle 1 Meeting — Club Room

3:00 pm PW Circle of Hope Meeting — CD Corley Building

4:30 pm Counseling Meeting — the Den

Tuesday, November 7

9:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Eggs Up (Hwy 93)

3:30 pm Personnel & Program Support Meeting — Club Rm

6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library

7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room

Youth Ministry Team Meeting — Den

Wednesday, November 8

3:00 pm Building & Grounds Meeting — Library

Friday—Sunday, November 10—12

Middle School Presbytery Retreat/Jacob away

Sunday, November 12

Congregational Meeting after 10:45 worship

12:00 pm Discovering Faith — Club Room

2:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room

Cub Scouts — Conf Rm/Tartan Hall/Ed Buildings

Monday, November 13

9:30 am PW Trinity Circle — Library

6:00 pm CU Singers Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 14

Presbytery Meeting — All Pastors Away

10:00 am Men's Bible Study (Ben Sill) — Library

2:00 pm Planning Meeting — Pastor's Office

4:00 pm Finance Ministry Meeting — Library

5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room

6:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — the Nest

PW Circle 2 Meeting — Library

7:30 pm CU Singers Concert — Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 15

11:30 am Clemson Downs Luncheon — CD Dining Room

Thursday, November 16

10:00 am Drawing Studio — Club Room

5:00 pm Old Stone Church Commission Meeting — Library

Sunday, November 19

9:30 am Children's Ministry Friendship Breakfast — the Nest

12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest

5:00 pm Youth Group Friendship — Tartan Hall

PSA College Friendship — PSA Student Center

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

7:00 pm Session Meeting — Club Room

Wednesday, November 22

No Choir Rehearsals

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day — Church Offices Closed

10:00 am Thanksgiving Worship at Old Stone Church

Friday, November 24

Church Offices Closed

McCubbin wedding prep/rehearsal — Sanctuary/TH

Saturday, November 25

11:00 am McCubbin Wedding/Reception — Sanctuary/TH

Sunday, November 26

2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard/Tartan Hall/Ed Building

Monday, November 27

6:30 pm Court of Honor Scouts BSA Troops 235/7235 —

Sanctuary

Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

8:30 am Early Worship Service — Tartan Hall

9:00 am Sojourners Class — Zoom

9:30 am Kindred Spirits (Adult) Class — Club Room

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

Nursery (Birth — 3 years) — Nursery Room

Bible Fun (2 — 4 years) — Honeybee Room

WeeKirk (children's worship—3K-1st grade) — following Children's story — Nest

WOW (worship education—2nd-5th grade) — E208

5:00 pm Youth Group — The Den and Backyard

6:00 pm PSA College Dinner/Program — PSA Student Center

Monday

9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary

6:30 pm Scouts Troops 235 (Boys)/7235 (Girls) — CR/TH/Yard

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room

4:00 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

Wednesday

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study — Club Room

6:00 pm Wednesdays @ The Fort — Nest / E208 / Courtyard

6:10 pm Children's Choir — E209

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

7:30 pm Chancel Choir — Choir Room

Thursday

9:15 am Small Group — Library

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

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.



11/1 Marie Nebesky	11/10 Walton Bost	11/14 Lin Dearing	11/23 Danny Winchester
Steve Poteet	11/11 Jake Crowther	Alex DuBose	11/24 Noelle London
Bruce Whisler	Tyler McCall	William Spitler	11/25 Barbara Colman
11/2 Harold Harris	11/12 Mary Hughes	Anndie Young	Jan Fredman
11/3 Samantha Young-	Lisa Street	11/15 Mik Fredman	Kerri Kwist
Grunsky	Andrew Trammell	Ebb Horton	Barbara Sebenick
Cortland Young	Kyle Winchester	Dorothy Horton	11/26 Mary Barron
11/5 Henry Crader	Bryan Young	11/16 Ben Martin	Greg Bearden
11/6 Ette Ruppert	Mason Young	Emma Simpson	11/28 Nancy Lloyd
11/7 Evan Hicklin	11/13 Adam Artigiare	11/17 Jim Eidson	11/29 Carter Bandy
Elyse Hollingsworth	Trent Fagan	11/18 Savannah Aaron	Amelia Hedrick
11/8 Bill Cato	Gary Gardner	Austin Adams-	Catherine Henry
Bob Williamson	Rose Marie McDonald	Donnelly	11/30 Dan Anderson
	Mary Morrison	Charlie Pratt	Kenny Mohr
		11/20 Teresa Hollingsworth	Ann Wetsel
		11/22 Jan Ayers	Savannah Worley
		Steve Miller	
		Larry Sloan	
		11/23 Charlotte Poteet	

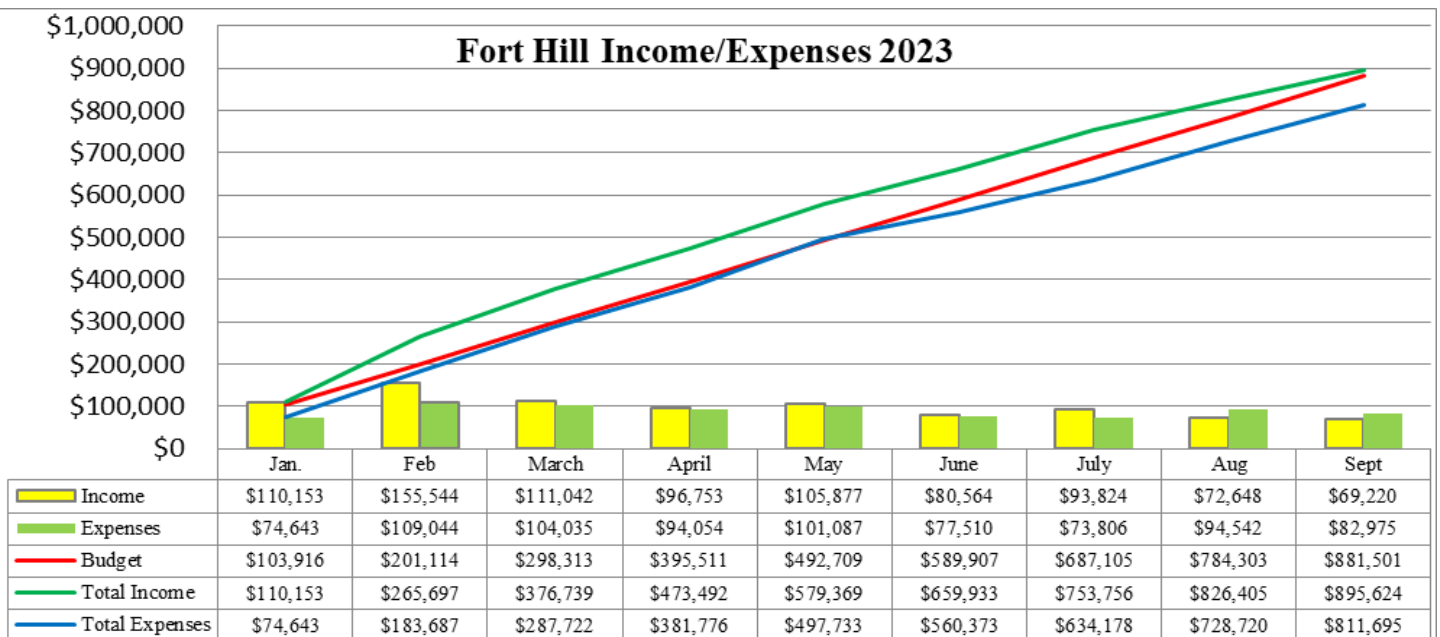


11/3 Jerry & Pam Waddle	11/21 Bud & Leslie Hicklin
11/5 Jacob Kennedy & Ally Pexa	11/22 Charles & Peggy Rutland
11/6 Paul & Gail Caley	Danny & Angie Winchester
11/9 Jody & Mollie Faithful	11/29 Lynn & Carol Hipp
11/20 Troy & Susan Nunamaker	Steve & Ethel Pettigrew

From the Finance Ministry

Through September, total income was \$895,624 while expenses for the first nine months were \$811,695 providing a surplus of \$83,929. Overall expenses are at 68% of budget, while income is at 76%. As you can see, income is 1% above budget while expenses are 7% 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: \$201,590



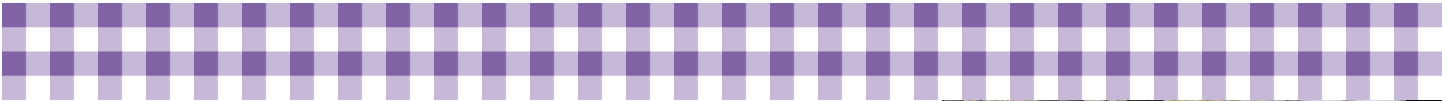


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Return Service Requested



Fellowship Opportunities

We have enjoyed many opportunities to fellowship with one another this year. Some of our beloved family are unable to attend in person worship and other events. Please join the Fellowship Ministry in remembering these members by signing cards for them. Look for the cards during the first two Sundays in November in the Narthex and Arcade before and after Sunday services.

Book Club meets on **November 13 at 7:00 pm** in the Gathering Space next to the bridge. November's book is Family Tree by Barbara Delinsky.

Craft Connections meets again in **January**.

Contacts: Cyndi Davis (davisdc@bellsouth.net) and
Debbie Shealy (panddmom1@aol.com)

Look for announcements for other activities in Weekly Updates.

Drawing Studio — Contact Donna London

He-Brews — Contact Chuck Conrad

Fort Hill Millennials — Contact Catherine Henry

