

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

September 2024

What Do We Have in Common?

I came home from church one night recently and told Chuck, I had the best day ever! In just that week I got to work with a wonderful staff who laughs together. Then had a lunch visit with a member who has suffered but is feeling more in touch with God and a part of our community. These conversations are holy moments of God's grace. I met a young family looking for a faith family in which to raise their infant and discuss baptism. Another young couple is planning a wedding. Pat and I met our older adult friends at Clemson Downs. The days were filled with time with important people, prayer, and conversation, and of course, lots of ministry emails. Spending time on the things that matter like studying scripture for sermon, inviting folks to serve, meeting with local clergy for friendship and connection. I am so grateful for this calling and for all of you. I was reminded that we all want to feel heard, valued, frankly, to be loved. We need to be a part of something bigger, to know we are not alone, and that God is with us. We all want to belong. We have this in common.

Yet, our world feels broken and fractured, even the church is at times. In times like these I remember what holds us together, WHO holds us together. Christ Jesus is our Lord and head of the Church. We have unity because that is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We cannot create that on our own, but keeping our eye on the essentials that we have in common allows for differences and diversity of persons and ways of seeing things. Paul writes to the Corinthian Christians,

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? (1 Corinthians 1:10-13a, NRSV)

Paul is making his appeal to a congregation that is much divided. Through the rest of the letters to the Corinthians we see Paul's efforts to bring unity to their divisions on a number of theological and moral issues. The beautiful Chapter 13 in First Corinthians that is often read at weddings is really a rose among the thorns of a conflicted church.

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace with be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. (2 Corinthians 13:11-12, NRSV)

In the potentially contentious fall, let this be our charge, our goal, as we live together and love one another. Let us focus on what we hold in common.

Your Friend in Faith,

Pastor Laura

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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Colin Pettigrew, AP for University Ministry
Pat Rabun, Associate for Cong. Care
Preston Shealy, Parish Associate
Kelly McCord, Faith Formation Coordinator
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Lori Houck, Administrator
Morgan Bryant, Administrative Assistant
Scott Thraikill, Facilities Manager

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

9/1 15th Sunday after Pentecost
S. of Sol. 2:8-13; Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27;
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9/8 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23;
Isa. 35:4-7a; James 2:1-10, 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

9/15 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Prov. 1:20-33; Isa. 50:4-9a;
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

9/22 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Prov. 31:10-31; Jer. 11:18-20;
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

9/29 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Esth. 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22;
Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29;
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

October 2024

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:

- **Evelyn Cureton** on the death of her daughter, Lee Wylie, on July 28 in Clemson.
- **Edna & Joe Walker** on the death of Edna's sister, Lila Mungo, on August 9 in Columbia, SC.
- **Ronda Spencer and family** on the death of **Dyke Spencer** on August 20 in Seneca.

Mental Health Awareness

Mental health has received more attention in recent years with increased stress in a rapidly changing world. One in five people will experience a mental health condition in any given year. Half of Americans will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition sometime in their lives. Still, the stigma of mental illness makes it difficult to discuss or seek assistance.

Two years ago, Session identified mental health as an issue that should be given greater attention. Churches can play an important role in addressing mental health challenges, but how do we start a dialogue? One of the outgrowths of this initiative at Fort Hill was the establishment of the Mental Health Awareness Working Group through the Board of Deacons. Mary Morrison and Stacey Miller were integral in moving this effort forward. Last year, members went through Mental Health First Aid Training and this year have been working through Spiritual First Aid Training addressing holistically physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. A major focus of the group in the past year was the compilation of a Mental Health Resource brochure, copies of which you may have been around the church. A digital version of the brochure will be available on the church's website and offered to surrounding schools and libraries.

We have identified some areas of focus for this year — youth and social media, grief, and dementia. More on these focus areas will be covered in the Window during the coming year. Last year a workshop on dementia was hosted that was well attended. With longer life expectancies, this issue will continue to affect some older members of the congregation as well as for family caretakers. This year we are planning to focus on the topic of youth and social media. The internet has changed the way that people communicate. This new communication medium has been particularly stressful for young people where social interaction operates with no on-off button. We have begun discussions for a workshop to address this issue perhaps partnering with other area churches. In terms of grief, we hosted a Winter Solstice service this past year that was the first such service as far as we know at Fort Hill. As part of the Holiday Season, the service is a special time of wonder and amazement awaiting the impending nativity of the Christ Child. As the longest night of the year, it is also a time to honor and acknowledge endings especially for those who have recently lost loved ones and a time for new beginnings in our lives.

We are happy to have Pat Rabun, Associate for Congregational Care, join the working group along with Cathy Spragins, Carolyn Newton, Holly Ridgell, and Jim London. We welcome thoughts and ideas as we put together our program for the coming year.

Faith Formation Offerings

We are so excited to present these amazing offerings on Sunday mornings for 2024-2025, beginning September 15. Each class has intentionally thought, prayed, and discerned about for this coming year by the Fort Hill staff and the Discipleship Ministry Team. It's our hope and our prayer that these offerings will help you live into the theme of "Community is Here" through intentional study and fellowship together. For more information about each of the offerings, you can pick up a brochure located in the Narthex, FHOG office, or in front of Morgan's office.

Praying in Color — Meets at 9:30 am in the Nest

Feasting on the Word — Meets at 9:30 am in the Den

Sojourners' — Meets at 9:30 am in the Library

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

The Seekers — Meets at 9:30 am in E209

Children's Corner

Back to School Bash

The Back to School Bash was so much fun! We ate pizza while the grownups had a parent meeting about expectations for the year. We played basketball and went on a HUGH inflatable water slide. There were splash pads and baby pools for our youngest friends, even if some of them slide down the slide! Wow, Wallace was brave! The best part of the event wasn't the yummy cookie cake or the muddy freedom. It was seeing friendships blossom in this community. A community called to be in relationship with one another through fun, faith, and fellowship!



Wednesday Nights at the Fort: "Welcome to the Neighborhood!"

Wednesday night's kick-off started strong with 20 kids! We learned about covenants and signed ours by crafting a glittery star. The starry sky above our block neighborhood will remind us of the promises we made in the community with one another and God. We can't wait to continue building our neighborhood as we learn more and more about our community and grow in friendships along the way.



Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

9/1	Laura Conrad
9/8	Jacob Kennedy
9/15	Pat Rabun
9/22	Laura Conrad
9/29	Colin Pettigrew

8:30 Service Elder of the Day

9/1	Jim Thomas
9/8	N/A
9/15	Kevin Bronson
9/22	N/A
9/29	Vernon Burton

10:45 Service Elder of the Day

9/1	Ben Trammell
9/8	Mason Young
9/15	Vernon Burton
9/24	Cindy Prather
9/29	Catherine Stoddard



Tiger Band

Children!

Friday, September 20 at 5:00 pm

Park at Brooks Center

Accompany your child across the field to meet at the gazebo

Supper Club



Singles and Couples Welcome!

Beginning in September

Groups meet at homes or local restaurants for dinner and fellowship.

Email hridgell@gmail.com if interested!

Fort Hill Men's Fellowship

He-Brews

at Keowee Brewing Co
401 E. Main St, Seneca

Thursday, Sept. 19, 5pm

Church Mouse

Hey, I promised you that last month, I would give the list of all the wonderful people that helped at Vacation Bible School. So here is the list of 35: led by **Kelly McCord** and **Nina Moede** and helped by the following: **Mary Margaret Allman, Marcia & Elizabeth Barker, Ashley Burns, Donna, Bo, Debbie Vaughn, Helen, & Henry Crader, Cyndi Davis, Dorothy Horton, Lucy & Sally Martin, Kristin McCall, Beth McCord, Debbie Miles, Nancy Oates, Cindy Prather, Holly Ridgell, Mike & June Roof, Preston & Debbie Shealy, Suzan Simmons, Michael & Harrison Steele, Lisa Street, Robin Weeks, Katie & Shuler Wilson, and Emma & Jacquie Worley.**

Then there was the communion on August 4th: it was prepared by **Pam & Jerry Waddle** under the direction of **Beth Chapman**. The servers were **Charlie Barron, Donna Crader, Jim London, Don & Holly Ridgell, Ben Sill, Hugh Spitler, Jim Thomas, and Mason Young.**

On July 28th we had some handbells with the piano. On the piano was **Mark Kwist** and the handbells were performed by **Debbie Shealy, Gensie Waldrop, Beth Weber, and Jacquie Worley.**

The Officer Nominating Committee for 2024 has **Cindy Trammell** as the coordinator. The members are as follows: **Susan Best, Amy Elrod, Garland Gravely, John Prather, Holly Ridgell, Cindy Sloan, Carolyn Stroup, Karen Ware, and Spencer Wright,** with **Pastor Laura Conrad** as the Ex-Officio member.

Be sure to thank all these wonderful people who make the church so vibrant and worshipful.



Fort Hill Youth Group Kick-Off



Fellowship Opportunities

School Supplies Update:

Thank you so much for all the supplies that were donated. The school bus was overflowing!! We were able to donate supplies to Clemson Elementary, R.C. Edwards Middle School, and to Daniel High School. A very generous monetary donation was made and we were able to furnish and decorate a room at the middle school that is used by the school counselors for students needing a space to pray, "settle down," or meet with counselors helping students with mental health issues. WOW!! Thanks FHPC!



Thanks to all who attended the First Sunday Potluck Breakfasts—those in attendance enjoyed many yummy breakfast foods and hopefully met some new friends this summer.

Other Fellowship Opportunities in the Fall:

Book Club in the Den at **7 pm**. Everyone is welcome!!

On **Monday, September 9th** we will be discussing the book, Swift River by Essie Chambers.

On **Monday, October 14th** we will be discussing the book, The Mitford Affair by Marie Benedict.

One **Thursday, November 14th**, Ron Rash will join us to discuss his recent book, The Caretaker.

Craft Connections

We will meet **September 22th** after the 10:45 worship service in the **Conference Room**. Bring a craft you are working on and join in the fun conversations and fellowship.

Supper Club is the new name for our fellowship activity that will start up again in September. Small groups meet for a meal and conversation at someone's house or at a chosen restaurant. This is an awesome way to meet new friends or join with old friends as you spend time together over good food and laughter. Call Holly Ridgell at 864-320-2366 to join in the fun.

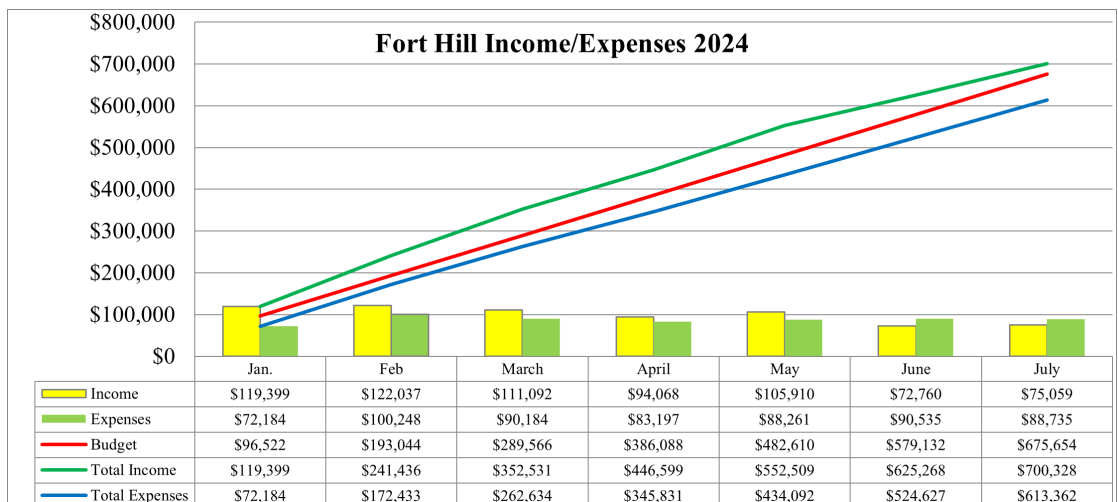
From the Finance Ministry

Through July, total income was \$700,328 while expenses for the first seven months were \$613,362 for a surplus of \$86,966. Expenses are at 52% of budget, while income is at 60%. As you can see, income is approximately 2% above budget while expenses are roughly 6% 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:

As of July 31, 2024, we have received \$207,367.62. We spent \$180,000 of those funds to pay off the Building Fund Loan with the final payment made in June. In addition, we had campaign expenses of \$500 leaving a balance of \$26, 867.62.

This money and additional income will be used for projects which include replacing the sanctuary 33-year-old lighting system and updating the sound technology for in-person and online worship. Another project is the development of the outdoor space in the "back yard" that all ministries of the church can use to support their specific activities.



September Church Activities

Sunday, September 1

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

Tuesday, September 3

8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Egg's Up
4:00 pm P&PS Ministry Meeting — Library
5:00 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 4

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

Thursday, September 5

First Day of Preschool (Turtles, 2-day Honeybees, Owls)
2:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Corley Center

Friday, September 6

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

Sunday, September 8

10:15 am PW Informational Drop-In — Arcade
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard, Tartan Hall, & Ed Bldg.

Monday, September 9

9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary
PW One Trinity Circle Meeting — Club Room
7:00 pm Book Club — the Den

Tuesday, September 10

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

Sunday, September 15

9:30 am Faith Formation Rally — Meet in Tartan Hall
Praying in Color — the Nest (not 9/1&8)
Feasting on the Word — the Den (not 9/1&8)
Sojourner's — Library (not 9/1&8)
Kindred Spirits — Club Room (not 9/1&8)

Tuesday, September 17

7:00 pm Session Meeting — Club Room

Thursday, September 19

11:30 am Pastor Luncheon — Clemson Downs
5:00 pm He-Brews — Keowee Brewing in Seneca

Friday, September 20

5:00 pm Children's Ministry Tiger Band — Off-Campus

Sunday, September 22

9:30 am The Seekers — E-209
11:45 am Craft Connections — Conference Room
12:00 pm Discovering Faith — Club Room
Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard, Tartan Hall & Ed Bldg.

Monday, September 23

4:00 pm Mental Health Awareness Meeting — Conf. Rm.

Tuesday, September 24

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

Saturday, September 28

6:00 pm PSA Alum Dinner — PSA Student Center

Sunday, September 29

10:25 am Special Session — Tartan Hall

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

8:30 am In-Person Worship — Tartan Hall
10:45 am In-Person/Livestream Worship — Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth-2 yrs) — Nursery Room
Toddler Time (walkers-K2) — Turtle Room
Bible Fun (K3-K4) — Honeybee Room
WeeKirk (children's worship K5-1st gr) — Owl Rm.
WOW (worship education 2nd-4th gr) — Nest
2:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room (beg. 9/8)
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
5:30 pm Wednesdays @ the Fort (3K-5th gr) — Nest/E-208
Children's Choir Rehearsal (3rd-5th gr) — E-209
6:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (K5-2nd gr) — E-209
Wednesday PM Bible Study — Club Room
7:00 pm PSA (College) Bible Study — PSA Student Center
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

Thursday

9:00 am The Glenn Men's 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	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	9/14	Lisa Britt Mark Morrison
9/6	Jordon Weir	9/16	Jordan Bolger Clay Mohr Dianne Smith Jim Van Senus
9/9	Adelyn Hudak Ann Kathryn Pollock	9/17	Paul Kenney Mark Kwist Mary Stuart Turner
9/10	Debbie Durland Jody Faithful	9/18	Joyce Daley Betty Shealy
		9/19	Kevin Bronson Agnes McCall Holly Ridgell
		9/20	Robin Denny

9/21	Carol Hipp Jay Jones Denny Sherrod	9/28	Susan Best Ashley Latiff 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 Emma Ouellette Adair Stevenson Vivian Stevenson
9/25	Ceci Arthur Cile Dunkelberg		
9/26	Andy Bajoczky Mary Dusenberry		



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	9/30	Mark & Kerri Kwist
9/8	Gary & Pat Gardner		



Staff Time Away Notes

All Staff away — 9/2 (Labor Day)
Colin Pettigrew — 9/9-9/14; 9/19-9/22

Morgan Bryant — 9/10-9/13
Laura Conrad — 9/30-10/4

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread is an interdenominational Christian ministry committed to addressing the needs of the poor and underserved. Located in Seneca at 106 Jordan Street and serving lunch Monday through Friday, **Our Daily Bread** provides nourishing meals in a supportive setting designed to alleviate physical hunger and encourage a sense of hope in those who experience food insecurity.

The Fort Hill community has committed hands and hearts to this mission by providing five volunteers on the second Friday of each month to prepare, serve, and clean up after lunch. Volunteers arrive at 9:30 a.m., and duties are complete by 1:30 p.m. It is a rewarding time of community and service, and those who have volunteered in the past report that their conversations with lunch guests are often a highlight of this time together.

We welcome new volunteers for this important endeavor. There are several ways to sign up. You can add your name to the board posted in the Narthex, follow the link below to SignUp Genius, or use the QR code. We ask that you also leave a contact email or phone number to ensure that you will receive a timely reminder when your volunteer date is approaching. We are so grateful to all who dedicate their time and talents to this ministry, and we welcome and appreciate new volunteers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAA82FA2F5C25-47234818-ourdaily#/>





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www.forthillchurch.org

Return Service Requested

News from Presbyterian Women

We hope your summer is going well. August is here and another Bible Study is getting ready to start. Please make your plans to attend one of the Circle study groups.

One Trinity Circle will meet September 9, 2024 at 9:30 am in the Club Room. After this meeting One Trinity will meet the first Monday of the month at the same time and location.

Circle of Hope will meet September 5, 2024 at 2:00 pm at the Corley Center of Clemson Downs.

2nd Tuesday EVening Circle will meet September 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Library of Fort Hill.

Please come join us!!

Calling ALL LADIES: Presbyterian Women have invited YOU to a Sunday Morning drop-in on Sunday, **September 8th** from 10:15-10:45 am in the arcade. Check out what Presbyterian Women is all about.

Are you interested in supporting the **bi-annual clothing drive for Safe Harbor**? Safe Harbor offers safe shelter and advocacy services to survivors of domestic abuse and their dependent children. Gently used clothing may be left in the collections room (dungeon) below the FHOG office. Contact Mary Beth Clanton mboc3@aol.com for details.

