

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

February 2025

The Greatest of the Gifts; Christ-like Love

Oscar Romero (1917-1980), Archbishop of San Salvador, was gunned down on March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass. In a sermon in 1978, he preached of the Christian Community, the Body of Christ embodying love.

"People do not light a candle and put it under a basket," said Christ. "They light it and put it up high so that it gives light" (Matthew 5:15). That is true community. A community is a group of women and men who have found the truth in Christ and in his Gospel and join together to follow the way of truth more resolutely. It is not just a matter of individual conversation but of community conversation. A community is a family that believes; it is a group where each member accepts God and feels strengthened by the others. In their moments of weakness, they help one another and love one another; they shed the light of their faith as an example for others. When that happens, the preachers no longer need to preach because there are Christians whose very lives have become a form of preaching.

Love is the only force that conquers all. We seem to have resigned ourselves to violence and hate for groups of people. Our sin of greed and selfishness are celebrated as virtues. Bullying, lying, and demeaning language is the example set for our children. These forces cause spiritual harm as well as real harm to all of us. Only Christ-like love can overcome the world. It is the only force that can.

One way we can learn more is by hearing from a Civil Rights leader committed to the Christian faith and to non-violence. The Rev. Dr. Grady Butler will be with us on Sunday, February 16, preaching in worship. Following worship, a conversation in Tartan Hall with refreshments will be provided. You can read more about him on page 2.

May our community of faith embody the love of Christ to the world, so that our witness might draw others into the beauty of God's love. Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Laura

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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Colin Pettigrew, AP for University Ministry
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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

- 2/2 4th Sunday after Epiphany**
Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6;
1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
- 2/9 5th Sunday after Epiphany**
Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); Ps. 138;
1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- 2/16 6th Sunday after Epiphany**
Jer. 17:5-10; Ps. 1;
1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
- 2/23 7th Sunday after Epiphany**
Gen. 45:3-11; Ps. 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

March *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the **March** issue of *The Window* is **Saturday, 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.

Ordination & Installation of New Officers

Sunday, February 23
10:45 Worship Service
& Fort Hill Church's
YouTube Channel.



ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship Service

Wednesday, March 5
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

The Rev. Dr. Grady Butler Visits FHPC

The Rev. Dr. Grady Butler, a native of Greenville, SC will preach on February 16 at Fort Hill Presbyterian. He is a former pastor, including Nicholtown Presbyterian, instructor at Furman and Greenville Tech, and civil rights leader. He is a former Dean of Students and instructor at Morehouse College as well as at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

He participated in Civil Rights demonstrations in Montgomery and Tuskegee, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, and in October 1960, he was arrested while trying to eat at a restaurant in Rich's of Atlanta and spent several days in the Fulton County jail as a cellmate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He served as Secretary to Ralph Abernathy and has served on the Greenville County School Board.

For our purposes Dr. Butler will preach the gospel and bring his perspective to our faith community. Come here more about his experiences as a conversation with Grady and Vernon Burton, his friend of many years, in Tartan Hall following the late service.



News from Presbyterian Women

One Trinity Circle meets **Monday, February 3** in the FHPC Club Room at 9:30 am for social gathering and the meeting starts at 10 am.

****2nd Tuesday Evening Circle** will meet **Tuesday, February 21 at 6 pm** in the Church Library. This is the **third Tuesday** instead of the second. This will be an organizational meeting for the circles change of leadership.

Circle of Hope meets **Thursday, February 6 at 2 pm** in the Corley Center at Clemson Downs.

Deadline for Valentine gift cards for FHPC college students is February 7. Lauren Young is in charge of the project.

Helping Hands Paper Goods Drive

The monthly collections will concentrate on paper goods i.e. paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, etc. Please leave your donations in the collections room below the FHOG office or bring them to your Circle meetings.

Foothills Presbytery: Women of the Church

"A Day at the Lake" will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 10 am-2 pm at the Clemson Outdoor Lab. \$10 charge for lunch. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Patricia Tull. Registration forms are available outside the FHOG office and in the Narthex or visit: <https://foothillspresbytery.org/women-of-the-church-day-at-the-lake/>.

Presbyterian Women's Annual Birthday Brunch Saturday, March 29, 2025 10:00 am in Tartan Hall

Speaker Lexie Vick, Assistant Director of Dabo's All in Foundation will be discussing the foundation, its goals, and future plans. Their mission is to raise awareness of critical education and health issues in order to change lives of people across the state of South Carolina.

Since 2009, Dabo's All In Team Foundation has raised and donated over **\$13 MILLION** to the core focus areas of Breast Cancer Research, The Family Effect, ClemsonLIFE, and Call Me MISTER, as well as to hundreds of South Carolina-based research teams and non profits.

This luncheon is open to **ALL** who wish to attend. Bring a salad to share and bring a friend. Please RSVP to hridgell@gmail.com / (864) 320-2366 or jacqworl@att.net / (615) 319-9750, or sign up in the FHOG office.

Children's Ministry Update

What a way to start off 2025! January was SNOW much fun! Over 50 Fort Hill friends went snow-tubing and enjoyed fellowship with one another. We ended January with a mission night at Clemson Community Care. We can't wait to see what next month has in store for us!



Discovering Faith Lunch

Sunday, February 9

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 worship service in the Club Room. Please contact the church office at communications@forthillchurch.org if you would like to attend and if you need childcare.

Scout Sunday

Join us on February 16, 2025 as we celebrate Scout Sunday, a special day to honor the contributions of scouts from Pack 235, Troop 235, and Troop 7235 to our community and their commitment to the Scout Oath and Law. This event recognizes the strong connection between scouting and faith, highlighting the values of service, leadership, and reverence and Fort Hill Presbyterian's commitment to sponsor these units.

We encourage all scouts and their families to attend in uniform as we recognize their hard work and dedication. Let's come together to support and celebrate these young leaders! A scout is Reverent!

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

2/3 Jacob Kennedy
 2/10 Laura Conrad
 2/17 Pat Rabun
 2/24 Colin Pettigrew

Elder of the Day

2/2 Helen Steele — 8:30
 Donna Crader — 10:45
 2/9 Mason Young (one service)
 2/16 Diane Egan — 8:30
 Rick Hegeberger — 10:45
 2/23 Ben Sill — 8:30
 Hugh Spittler — 10:45



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Russ & Charlotte Phillips** on the death of Russ's sister Nancy Cooper on December 14 in Virginia.
- **Harold & Arlene Cheatham** on the death of their son Mark Cheatham on December 31 in Clemson.
- **Bill & Audrey Thompson** on the death of Bill's sister Ellen Thompson on January 2 in Anderson.
- **Marchita Culpepper** on the death of her brother-in-law John Cochran on January 3 in Mt. Pleasant, SC.
- **Elizabeth Sisson and family** on the death of **Chuck Sisson** on January 4 in Salem.
- **Debbie & John Sturman** on the death of Debbie's mother Eunice Rowell on January 9 in Greenwood, SC.
- **Margaret Thompson** on the death of her sister Karen Senn on January 11 in Anderson.
- **Judy Eidson and family** on the death of **Jim Eidson** on January 17 in Clemson.
- **Steve Lefevre and family** on the death on **Laurie Lefevre** on January 25 in Greenville.
- **Steven, Rebecca, Andy, and Ellen Ackerman** on the death of Ethan Ackerman on January 25 in Anderson.

Church Mouse

Oh my, Christmas was so much fun: Angel Vespers involved **Thomas Bartolf, Grace Collins, Marrett Fisk, Ebb & Dorothy Horton, Hudson Money, and Shuler Wilson**. The play was narrated by **Chris Collins** and the players were **Wallace Bajoczky, Addie Bartolf, Elizabeth Crader, AG & Ford Hedrick, Louise Horton, Whitney Money, Anne Kathryn Pollock, and Lelia & Adair Stevenson**. The Shepherds were **Thomas Baker, Eleanor Burns, Jackson Kirr, Pickens McCall, and Ethan Nihoul**, and the sheep were **Mary Francis Allman, Maggie Bell, Agnes McCall, and Vivian Stevenson**. Angels were played by **Ginny Bajoczky, Daisy Bell, Austin Dickerson, Ellie Faithful, Adelyn Hudak, Audrey Jones, Besser Kirr, Penny McCall, Margaret McCord, and Maggie Wilson**. Magis were **Derge Chor, James Horton, and Charlie McCord**. King Herod was **Adair Stevenson** and the star was **Jay Allman**.

A Blue Christmas service was conducted by the Mental Health Ministry Deacons **Jim London, Carolyn Newton, Holly Ridgell, and Cathy Spragins**.

Gift Day was conducted by the following volunteers: **Mary Margaret Allman, Ceci Arthur, Marcia Barker, Michelle Blackwell, Ashley Burns, Debbie Collins, Donna & Helen Crader, Robin Denny, Denise Ellison, Camille Horton, Beth McCord, Kelly McCord, Cathy McInnis, Nina Moede, Jody Nicholson, Corey Norris, Sara Elizabeth Pollock, June Roof, Debbie Shealy, Suzan Simmons, Debbie Vaughn, Katie Wilson, and Heather & Spencer Wright**.

A special shout-out goes to **Katy Baker** for leading the planning of Gift Day.

Communion in December and January was facilitated by **Beth Chapman** and **Lauren Young**. Those that prepared it were **Jean & Jerry Greene** and **Barbara & Wayne Madison**. Servers were **Lisa Britt, Leanne Broome, Gary Clary, Donna Crader, Cile Dunkelberg, Karen Gaston, Jenifer Griffis, Rick Hegenberger, Nancy Hutson, Grady Jordan, Sue Limber, Wayne Madison, Holly Ridgell, Ben Sill, Nancy & Hugh Spitler, Helen Steele, Pat & Lisa Street, Jim Thomas, and Heather Wright**.

Homebased communion was offered by **Rodney Johnson** and **Cathy Spragins**.

WOW that is a lot of names. Thanks be to God.



Parish Associate Update

As we enter 2025, I want to thank you for your support and prayers as I serve as Parish Associate at Fort Hill. For those wondering about the title, a Parish Associate is an ordained PC(USA) pastor — usually retired — who serves a congregation at the request of a called and installed Pastor (Pastor Laura Conrad at Fort Hill) in consultation with the Session to assist the pastors. (Note: Ordained clergy cannot be members of a particular church.) As an unpaid Parish Associate at Fort Hill, I am active in the ministries of Fort Hill and available to help and support the pastoral staff.

Fort Hill is an exciting place to be involved in its wonderful ministries...ministries that seek to share God's love, grace, and mercy here in Clemson and throughout creation. You may see me worshipping at our 8:30 or 10:45 services, working with Vacation Bible School, participating in worship, attending a Foothills Community luncheon, or supporting our children's and youth ministries, but most of my involvement is behind the scenes as a resource and support to Fort Hill's wonderful pastors and staff.

I also feel a call to support the churches and ministries of Foothills Presbytery, the group of Presbyterian churches in the five northwestern counties in South Carolina. This may take me away from Fort Hill on Sunday morning as I fill the pulpit in a smaller church that is seeking a pastor or while a pastor is sick or on sabbatical or vacation. I appreciate the prayers and support of Fort Hill in this ministry.

I look forward to our ministry in 2025 and beyond and pray that God's blessing will be on all of us as we seek to faithfully share God's love and grace throughout our lives!

Preston

Our Daily Bread Volunteers

Christian Action Ministry has a wonderful hands-on opportunity for older teens and adults. Our Daily Bread in Seneca is looking for volunteers on the second Friday of each month. Teams of 5 prepare, cook, and serve meals to nearly 100 community members in need of a warm meal.

Please use the QR code here to take you to a "Sign Up Genius" link with all the directions. You will follow the directions and use your email to get a reminder email as the day approaches. We hope you will feel led to join this wonderful organization. Sign up early, sign up often.

You can also find reminders posted throughout the church, or reach out to members of CAM if you need additional assistance signing up.



Maryville College Choir Needs Hosts

The Maryville College Choir, as part of its "The World is A'Changing" tour, is coming to Fort Hill Church to lead us in our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5, 2025 at 7 pm.

Fort Hill members have the opportunity to provide overnight lodging for two (or more) choir members per household. Memories of home stays on choir tours remain with college singers for a long time and the experience is all but guaranteed to be a positive one for the hosts, too!

The Fellowship Ministry is providing an Ash Wednesday dinner in Tartan Hall. Following the service, the overnight hosts will be taking their designated choir members home for evening snacks, a night's comfy rest, and breakfast the following morning before returning them to the church. It may be a short amount of time but it is sure to leave a lasting impression of Fort Hill Church's well-known hospitality!

To volunteer and/or receive further details, contact Diane Egan at diane.w.egan@gmail.com or (864) 710-0264.

Fellowship Ministry Update

The **Angel Vespers** soup/chili dinner was enjoyed by over 80 people on December 18 prior to the children's program. This church has some awesome cooks that brought homemade soup and chili to share with family and friends!

January at FHPC started out with a gift from the Fellowship team — yummy shortbread cookies were passed out to celebrate the new year! Have we all enjoyed the snow and cold weather? Make sure you bundle up and stay warm!

BOOK CLUB meets on the **second Monday** of each month at 7:00 pm in the Den downstairs. All are welcome!!

On Monday, January 13, 29 people attended Book Club and discussed The Refugee's Daughter by Carolyn Newton. Carolyn is a member of FHPC and this is her first book to be published!! She shared her story with us — why she wrote the book, some history about the topic, how she decided character names and many more interesting facts. Thank you, Carolyn for sharing with all of us.

On **February 10** we will discuss The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters.

On **March 10** we will discuss When the Jessamine Grows by Donna Everhart.

On **April 14** we will discuss The Tannery by Michael A. Almond.

Craft Connections will meet February 23 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 met the weekend of January 17-19. A great time was had by all who met for supper at Traditions restaurant. Supper Club is made up of small groups who meet for a meal and conversation quarterly at someone's house or at a chosen restaurant. This is a great way to meet new friends or join with old friends as you have time to fellowship, eat new food, relax, and LAUGH!! Email Holly Ridgett at hridgett@gmail.com to join in the fun next time.

The Fellowship Ministry team will provide supper prior to our **Ash Wednesday Service** on March 5. The Maryville College Choir from Maryville, Tennessee will be joining our congregation that evening for the supper in Tartan Hall, before leading worship in the Ash Wednesday service. This is being mentioned in February as it will occur on March 5, early in the month. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend this very special program of the church.



Music & Worship Arts Director Update

We have been blessed with wonderful candidates and continue to work through the initial interviews with a few. Please continue to remember this process in your prayers along with those who continue to lead our ministry of music. A special word of thanks to Judy Bonham, Porter Stokes, Marion Seiffert, and Kayleigh Stagich who are all making music and leading worship with all ages in the interim.

Thanks so much for the faithful work of Mark Stokes, Chair, Lisa Britt, Scott Dillon, Chip Egan, Caroline Thomas, Wayne Madison, Harrison Steele, Julianne Wenner, and Staff liaison, Laura Conrad. To God be the Glory!

**Please join us at 10:45 for
Youth Sunday on February 9!**

(There will be no 8:30 service)

2025-2026 Preschool Registration

Registration priorities are in effect:
February 1—March 1

Registration Drop Off for
Church Members
February 1-3

In-Person Registration Drop Off
for Enrolled Students & Siblings
February 18
(Drop off at Narthex between 9-10 am)

In-Person Registration Drop Off
for New Students
February 19
(Drop off at Narthex between 9-10 am)

Please contact Kayla Webb,
with any questions at
preschool@forthillchurch.org.

February Fort Hill Church Activities

Sunday, February 2

- Homebased Communion — various locations
12:00 pm SAFE Place Training — the Den

Monday, February 3

- 8:30 am Buildings & Grounds — Library
10:00 am PW One Trinity Circle Meeting — Club Room

Tuesday, February 4

- 8:30 am Men of Church Breakfast — Eggs Up, Clemson
3:30 pm Personnel & Program Support Meeting — Library
5:00 pm University Ministry Meeting — PSA Student Center
6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library
Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room
7:00 pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting — Den

Thursday, February 6

- 2:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Downs Corley Center

Sunday, February 9

Youth Sunday

- 9:30 am Seekers Class — E209
10:35 am Congregational Meeting — Sanctuary
12:00 pm Discovering Faith Lunch — Club Room

Monday, February 10

- 7:00 pm Book Club — the Den

Tuesday, February 11

- 10:00 am Ben Sill's Men's Group — 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, February 16

Scout Sunday

- 12:00 pm Rev. Dr. Grady Butler Reception — Tartan Hall
2:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room

Monday, February 17

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry — Home of Hazel Sparks
4:00 pm Mental Health Awareness Meeting — Conference Rm

Tuesday, February 18

- Presbytery Meeting — all pastors away
6:30 pm Session Examination for New Officers — TH
7:00 pm Session Meeting — Tartan Hall

Thursday, February 20

- 11:45 am Pastoral Luncheon — Downs Corley Center
5:00 pm Old Stone Church Commission Meeting — Library
He-Brews — Kite Hill Brewery

Sunday, February 23

- 9:30 am Seekers Class — E209
10:30 am Special Session to Receive New Members — TH
10:45 am Ordination of Officers — Sanctuary during worship
12:00 pm Craft Connections — Conference Room
Children's Ministry Team — Nest
2:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room

Tuesday, February 27

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

Staff Time Away Notes

All Pastors away — 2/18
Jacob Kennedy — 2/17-2/22

Kelly McCord — 2/23-2/28
Laura Conrad — 2/24-2/28

Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

- 8:30 am Early Worship Service — Tartan Hall
9:30 am Colors & Conversations — The Nest
Confirmation Class — The Den
Sojourners Class — Library
Kindred Spirits Class — Club Room
10:45 am Worship/Livestream — Sanctuary/Online
Nursery (birth-walkers) — Nursery Room
Toddler Time (walkers-K2) — Turtle Room
Bible Fun (K3-K4) — Honeybee Room
WeeKirk (children's worship K5-1st gr.) — following
Children's story in worship — Owl Room
WOW (worship education 2nd-4th gr) — The Nest
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Ed. Building (2nd & 4th Sundays)
5:00 pm Youth Group — The Den
6:00 pm College Dinner & Program — PSA Center

Monday

- 9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary
11:00 am Organ Lessons — Sanctuary
2:00 pm Clemson Downs Bible Study — Corley Center
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 Morning Bible Study — Club Room
5:30 pm Wednesdays @ The Fort — Nest/E-208
Children's Choir — E209
6:00 pm Evening Bible Study — Club Room
7:00 pm PSA Bible Study — PSA Student Center
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

Thursday

- 9:00 am The Glenn Men's Group — Library
3:30 pm 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.



February BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Bradley LeCroy	2/8	Mark Burns Scott Callison	2/19	Lawrence Mudge
2/2	Hayden Anderson Devon Broome Robby Clanton Linda Davis Matt Wetsel	2/8	Arlene Cheatham Chloe Satzger Tom Scott Beth Tanner Hack Trammell	2/20	Joyce Christenbury
2/3	Dianne Bitzer Stacey Miller Tom Donegan	2/11	Aleta Robinson	2/21	Kate Hollingsworth Jeffrey Weir Joseph Weir
2/4	Brian Brown Donna London Melissa Moede Alena Nebesky Debbie Vaughn (Crader)	2/12	Bennett Bost	2/23	Holly Burchfield Whitsun
2/5	Laura Conrad Adam DeWitt	2/13	Ann Gilreath Bud Hicklin	2/24	Tom Cleveland Hansen Wetsel
2/6	Charles Rutland Jimmy Weir	2/14	Jason Kohlmayer Patrick Pettigrew Sarah Van Daele	2/25	Tripp Mostertz
		2/15	Linda Burton Cathy Morton	2/26	Ron Austin Janet Cantrell Becky Fant Steve Hunter Laurel Whisler Alexis Winchester Spencer Wright
		2/17	David Barkley Linda Hudgins	2/27	Marian Wooten
		2/18	Lauren Chavis Rodney Johnson	2/28	Amelia McMullan Jake O'Brien Joe Walker
		2/19	John Martin	2/29	Jacob Poetz

February ANNIVERSARIES

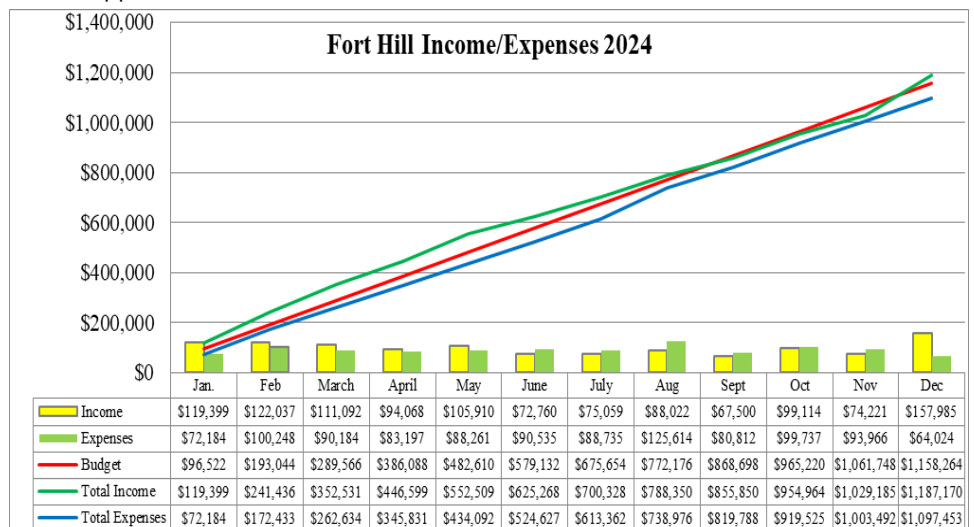
2/6	Michelle Blackwell & Drew Porter	2/14	Bill & Jane LaGrone	2/22	Steve & Stacey Miller
2/14	David & Debbie Collins Tim & Ann Howard	2/18	Trip & Necia Ross	2/23	Tootie & Steve Poteet
		2/21	Michael & Joy Van Daele	2/28	Tom & Ceci Arthur

From the Finance Ministry

2024 has come to a close and total pledge and offering income was \$1,097,155 while expenses were \$1,097,453. Other income (special fund transfers, fundraising income, etc.) brings the year-to-date total income to \$1,187,170 for a surplus of \$89,718. Income finished 2.5% 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 2025, so Fort Hill can continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

Bridging Generations II Update:

Through the end of December, total income was \$296,881 out of \$409,994 in total pledges. We spent \$180,000 of those funds to pay off the Building Fund loan with the final payment made in June. The balance and additional money received will be used for projects with include replacing the sanctuary 33-year-old lighting system and updating the sound technology for in-person and on-line worship. Another project is the development of the outdoor space in the "backyard" that all ministries of the church can use to support their specific activities.





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