

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 64, Number 9

April 28, 2021

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I am beginning to feel like we do see a light at the end of the tunnel. For the last few weeks, we have had more folks in worship, and last weekend I led a Presbyterian Women's retreat with about 30 women in the Fellowship Hall. We had some new Members join last Sunday and called the children who were in worship forward for "Time with Young Disciples" for the first time in well over a year! On Pentecost we will welcome the members of the 2021 Confirmation Class into adult membership at FLPC. There are so many things that give me hope. And I am grateful for some of the small things that feel more like a return to normal.

And, at the same time, I know that "return to normal" is really an illusion. It is important to remind ourselves that we will never "return to normal" if by that we mean that life will go back to just as it was in January of 2020 when we were blissfully going to the grocery store without masks. Our world has changed, and it seems increasingly likely that while the vaccines do purchase us some more freedom to gather, it is a delusion to say that there is no more risk and irresponsible to cease wearing masks in some situations in order to guard the health and well-being of our neighbors. Things are better, but let's not tell ourselves that there is no more risk.

For now, Session has approved increasing the number of people in worship. The Ushers can seat people in the sanctuary, PROVIDED that masks are worn and social distancing is observed. We still request that you reserve your spot in the sanctuary for worship every Sunday. This allows us to keep a record of who attends worship (both for our record keeping and in case of the need for contact tracing), but we will also do our best to seat people until the sanctuary is completely full. We ask that you wait for the Ushers to seat you to try to ensure that everyone is spaced appropriately. We ask that you still wear masks in worship and as you come and go in the church buildings. We currently ask that you not sing the first hymn, but we invite everyone to sing – with masks on – the final hymn. This is in keeping with the best studies about limiting the time spent in a large group where particulate virus could collect inside a room. We sing the final hymn and then go outside, limiting the group's potential exposure. We know that we will continue to hold zoom meetings and that, even as we begin to tip toe back to in person meetings, we will continue to allow online attendance (we call this a hybrid meeting – some in person and some online). Our livestreaming of worship and other events in the sanctuary will continue. Serving food continues to be limited and we are finding our way forward and working hard to follow guidelines provided by DHEC (ServeSafe) and CDC.

Things are better! But they will not be the same. However, I am convinced that we must let go of the past and be actively asking God to show us how to use our NEW normal to serve God's purposes. This pandemic has given us some clarity and some gifts that can now use to serve God's purposes more clearly. How will we use the moment God has given us to serve God's values, purpose and Church as we move forward into the future that God holds for us – unafraid?

Peace,

Ellen

Ellen Fowler Skidmore

*Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
6500 North Trenholm Road
Columbia, SC 29206
(803) 787-5672
www.flpc.org
Office Hours: M-Th: 8:30—5:00
Friday: 8:30—1:00*

*Proclaiming the good news of God's love in
Jesus Christ, to build a fellowship of
Christian Love, and to serve this
community and the world in the spirit
of the Servant Christ.*

Please Pray For . . .

Mission Co-Workers

- * Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar- Mexico
- * Rev. Shelvis & Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather - RECONCILE Peace Institute
- * Mamonyane Mohale- Ministry of Hope- Lesotho

PASTORAL CARE NUMBERS

Ellen Skidmore - 803-463-7586 (cell)
E-Mail: ellenskidmore@flpc.org

Eric Skidmore - 803-543-9859 (cell)
E-mail: zacchaeus@sc.rr.com

Ed Black - 803-240-0192 (cell)
Email: edblack@flpc.org



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation!

If you feel like you or someone you know could benefit from a one-to-one, confidential, caring Christian relationship, please contact:

Wayne Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1187 or wcharris1973@gmail.com

Margaret Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1477 or mmck1950@gmail.com

Bettianne Davenport at 782-6256 or Cell 530-6018 or bettianned@sc.rr.com



Sympathies of the Congregation are extended to:

- ♦ Sandy Helfer on the death of her mother, Juanita Hicks, on April 17, 2021.



Need a Mother's Day Gift?

Café Justo makes a wonderful gift! This coffee cooperative is 100% owned by coffee growers in Mexico who receive all the profits. It is a Fair trade Plus enterprise that benefits farmers and their community. Café Justo is an international mission project supported by Forest Lake Presbyterian and Shandon Presbyterian. Email Rowena Nylund to order your organic, fair trade coffee today!

March 2021 Financial Update

Annual Budget	\$ 811,062
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 202,766
YTD Actual Income	\$ 213,225
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 161,129

Budget details are available in the downstairs lobby.

Memorial Gifts made in March

Florence Fowler
Charles Frick
Buford Goff
Jerry Joye
Dale Krueger
Lee Phippen
Earl Sifford

2021 Mother's Day Offering

On Sunday, May 9, we will collect the Mother's Day Offering for the benefit of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. For over 60 years, this offering has been an important act of support for this unique ministry of SC Presbyterians to older adults. The proceeds are used solely to support residents at Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their life savings through no fault of their own and now depend on the kindness of others. The cost of Charitable Care in 2020 was \$1,059,786. Please give generously! Thank you.

Re-centering in God with our Faith Family

FLPC Intergenerational Opportunity Coming in August

The Education ministry is excited to announce a new initiative for our entire church! From August 1-August 4, FLPC will be hosting an intergenerational worship, service, and learning opportunity each night from 5-7 PM. The preliminary theme is “Recentering in God with our Faith Family,” and options will be available for both children and adults. We will not have 9-12 Vacation Bible School in the summer, but we are excited to gather both our children **and** adults in this new way in August!

While we are excited about this new project, we need your help planning and implementing it! If you are willing to join the planning team, please contact Ed: edblack@flpc.org. All are welcome!

Service Saturday Sponsored by the HOPE Team and Property Committee (Projects and Volunteers needed) Saturday, May 1; 9:00am-12:00pm

Do you want to get outside and help serve fellow FLPC members? Join the HOPE Team (Helping Other Presbyterians Everyday) and Property Committee on **Saturday, May 1** for a short service project. **This is a congregation-wide service opportunity**, and some projects will be on the FLPC campus. Service projects will be approximately 1 hour, are family-friendly and can be scheduled at your convenience. For example, a project may be weeding a garden or helping clean out a garage for someone at FLPC who may need assistance. **If interested in serving in this way, please click [here](#) to sign up for a specific service opportunity.** If you have a project you need completed, please click [here](#). Questions? Please email Frank DiSilvestro at fdasil@gmail.com

Need some reviving physically, mentally or spiritually?

You are invited to join Eastminster's **CORE: Revive**, a retreat to awaken mind, body and soul, on Saturday, May 1, 9:15am-2:15pm. Fitness instructors, local chefs, mental health professionals, and spiritual counselors will lead a variety of motivational classes in Eastminster's Christian Life Center and on the Field. For the lunchtime feature presentation, former MLB pitcher for the San Francisco Giants -- Dave Dravecky -- will share his amazing story of perseverance and resilience that is second to none. Tickets include a lunch; all classes; the Health Expo featuring health screenings, food tastings, book-signings, farm-to-table plants and vegetable sales; and free nursery care for ages 0-4. For ages 5K-5th grade, children can participate in KidCore for only \$10, including KidYoga, KidBootCamp, storytime and drawing lessons, pottery and lunch. Students (12-21): \$15; Adults (22+): \$30. BYOYoga mat! Open to anyone, any age, rain or shine, so bring a friend. Registration required by [CLICKING HERE](#), or visiting eastminsterpres.org under Quicklinks:



Sanctuary
Flowers

The Flower Committee is looking for volunteers who would like to join us in arranging Sunday sanctuary flowers. Elrae Poucher will give a class on Saturday, May 15th at 11:00am in room E102. Please come and see if you would like to be a part of this committee. We are not professionals at all, but we do enjoy flowers. Please call Ruth Roddey if you would consider joining us and/or would like to attend the class. There will also be a sign-up board in the downstairs lobby.

Ruth: home—803-782-5305 cell—803-446-3900

Notes from the Stated Session Meeting – Sunday, April 18, 2021

- Session acted on a number of membership changes to move members to the church's inactive member roll. Some changes were made at the member's request and others were made after the person(s) were inactive in the life of the church for three years (2020 was not taken into account because of the pandemic) and had not responded to any attempts to contact them regarding their member status.
- Approved amendments to the position description for the Part-Time Youth Director to reflect the current absence of a Director of Faith Formation. For the time being, the Youth Director will report directly to the pastor. An annual review for Bill Wannamaker was completed recently and the changes in the position description were made as a result of that consultation.
- Approved descriptions for the Organ Designated Fund, and the Memorial Garden Designated Fund, and established and defined a Flower Committee Designated Fund.
- Amended the Property Committee's Interior Design Policy
- Approved the baptism of Michal Ryker, infant son of Mike and Katherine Ryker, on Sunday, June 20th by Ellen Skidmore
- At the request of a member, Session voted to refinish and to mount the older, wooden cross (that used to hang in the front of the sanctuary) at the rear of the sanctuary at the expense of the member who wishes it preserved.
- Approved a collection of needed items for the month of May, and permission to request volunteers from the congregation to assist with Camp Impact. Camp Impact is a summer camp for up to 75 children, ages 6-12, who are or who have been homeless that is sponsored by Camp Cole. Talk to Anne Fowler or Jodi Beckham for more information.
- Received the monthly financial report for March and the Treasurer's Report for February.
- Heard a report on the current state and future plans for the Capital Campaign.
- Approved the 2021 Endowment Fund Award Recommendations that have been approved by the Endowment Committee and Stewardship and Administration. The awards are as follows:
 - o Property - Landscape (Rockbridge Village side) - \$5400
 - o Property - Handrails maintenance (sandblast and paint) - \$6800
 - o Property - Handrails leading to Parlor (sandblast and paint) - \$2750
 - o Property - Update of images around church - \$1500
 - o S&A - License to use Vimeo (live streaming) - \$1000
 - o S&A - ReShape - \$4000
 - o Worship - License to livestream our music and texts - \$925
 - o Worship -- Purchase electronic keyboard for outdoor events - \$1035
 - o S&B-Camp Cole- \$5000
 - o S&B - Senior Resources Malane Pike-\$10,000
 - o S&B - Healthy Seminars-Healthy Church-\$1875
 - o S&B - Michael Ryker Seminary-\$1880
 - o S&B - Pastor's Emergency Fund- \$5000
 - o S&B-RCSD2- Families in Need- \$10,000
 - o EC - Family Promise - \$1215
 - o EC - Ed Black - Seminary cost help - \$1000
 - o EC - Rehoboth food pantry - \$2500
 - o EC- Cooperative Ministry - \$3000
 - o EC - Live Oak Counseling - \$1000
 - o EC- Camp Fellowship - \$1000
- Heard an update from Dr. Ashe Cribbs regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and heard his guidance regarding how that information should guide the church's practices. Received and discussed the "Stage 3" descriptions that would guide the next level of opening and operating. Session approved the next stage descriptions that each Ministry had prepared and voted to implement them immediately.
- Elected Anne Fowler to serve as a commissioner to the Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery to be held remotely on Saturday, May 8th. Jessica Agee was elected to serve as an alternate.

This article is reprinted from the Spring 2021 Cooperative Ministry newsletter. For more information on the work they do please visit: <https://www.coopmin.org/>



Understanding crisis clients in a post-COVID economy

Many will struggle to catch up and then keep up

The availability of vaccines may signal a return to pre-COVID-19 familiarity, but The Cooperative Ministry is forecasting a slow economic comeback for its crisis assistance clients – many of whom are struggling to avoid homelessness in the pandemic’s wake.

Bill Taber, Director of Crisis Assistance, says, “Right now, one-fourth of all Richland County renters, who have children in the home, are behind in their rent by three or four months.” For some, that economic hole may have walls that are too steep to climb. Many are turning to The Cooperative Ministry for assistance.

“Compared to pre-COVID numbers, requests for crisis assistance are up about 250 percent,” Bill says. “We have been so fortunate to receive support from our church partners, family foundation grants, corporate grants and donations, and many private donations to help meet that need. Last year, many people forwarded their government stimulus check to The Cooperative Ministry as a gift.

“But, by no means are we out of the woods,” Bill says. “The economic recovery will take much longer than the medical recovery. It’s important for our community to come together to help one another.”

On the front line of listening and serving clients in crisis, Bill explains the scenario.

“In March 2020, because of COVID-19, the economic slowdown began, resulting in hourly-wage earners receiving less hours at work. Then layoffs began, especially within hospitality and service industries,” Bill says. “For many, unemployment benefits were not available, but those who qualified used up the maximum amount fairly quickly. Savings accounts and 401K accounts were depleted. Then, bills went unpaid, and that led to skyrocketing car repossessions. Without transportation, people can’t get to jobs – even if Columbia’s suburbs have available jobs.

“As courts reopen, we can expect a rising number of evictions, potentially leading to homelessness,” Bill says. “People get so far behind on rent and utilities - it’s tough to make up that ground.”

Bill says a University of South Carolina study titled “Tracking the COVID-19 Recession Effects in SC” reports that 25-45 percent of the hospitality and service jobs will never reopen. “That affects thousands of workers, and especially women with children.” Most of The Cooperative Ministry’s clients are women caring for at least one child though COVID-19 has widened the age gap to include younger adults and seniors.

“People are scared and hurting,” Bill says. “When I talk to them, they are really struggling with basic needs like shelter, food, clothing, and transportation.”

There is optimism. “The one thing that I know about the Midlands is that our people rise to the occasion to help one another,” Bill says. “Yes, the economic recovery will be hard for a lot of people, but I am confident that people in our community will rally to meet the need, individually and through their churches, businesses, and neighborhoods.”