



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 64, Number 15

July 21, 2021

Dear Friends,

Our congregation is a part of an interfaith, non-profit organization called MORE Justice. This is one of the most racially and religiously diverse organizations of which I have ever been a member. And our purpose is to come together to fulfill our scriptural mandate to “do justice” (Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:32-34) and make the Central Midlands a more just place to live for all people.

Doing justice is not easy or comfortable. I have personally squirmed under the weight of asking elected officials to take small measurable steps to address structural issues that need to be changed. Some of what this organization has done has really gone well, and some has not yet worked for much change.

The greatest success has been in winning commitments from both the City of Columbia Police and Richland County Sheriff's Department to train their officers in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). CIT trains police in how to deal with those in a mental health crisis in ways that de-escalate the tension and make everyone safer. Because of the work of MORE Justice, both the city and the county are on their way to requiring CIT training for their officers.

MORE Justice has also worked hard and won support from members of the Richland County Council to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund - a free-market incentive for the repair and creation of safe, affordable housing in our county. A Housing Trust Fund is established to support the preservation and production of affordable, safe housing. I learned this week that Richland County is asking for community input about how to spend the \$80 million that will come from the American Rescue Plan Action (ARPA). MORE Justice has asked that \$10 million of that 80 be designated to fund a Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Richland County has the 10th highest eviction rate in the country according to research provided by MORE Justice. Eviction and homelessness has generational consequences and the Midlands needs more affordable, safe housing options.

If you agree, please visit www.richlandcountysc.gov/ARPAfunding to find out more and give feedback to their survey. You can also provide direct feedback to gaither.steven@richlandcountysc.gov. Join me in asking that \$10 million of the ARPA funds be used to fund this purpose. Responses are due before August 20th. Let's put our thoughts and prayers for a reduction in homelessness into action by asking our officials to take this one, measurable action. I'm happy to send you the language I sent to Mr. Gaither if you'd like to see it.

Peace AND Justice,

Ellen

Ellen Fowler Skidmore

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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:

- * The Hoppmann family on the death of Harry's grandfather, Dr. Frank Strait, on June. 23.



Congratulations!



- ◆ To Jane Mason on the birth of her grandson, Samuel Williams Navarro on July 15, 2021.



Help Feed Elementary Students

Backpack Buddies is a food supplement program we implement with Forest Lake Elementary. We are looking for help with our program. If you would like to help pack food or shop for food, or have any questions please email [Dianne Poston](mailto:Dianne.Poston). A sign-up sheet is also available on the upstairs and downstairs desks at church.

Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday, July 24, 8am-noon Columbia Place Mall

Richland County residents may bring unneeded household hazardous waste to this free event. Materials accepted include: paints, stains, sealers and solvents (limit 10 gallons), household cleaners and chemicals, pool and photographic chemicals, lawn and garden chemicals, herbicides and pesticides, acids and bases, propane cylinders (grill and camp-size only), mercury, fire extinguishers.

Save the Date! - Red Cross Blood Drive
Our next blood drive is set for August 29
9:30 - 1:30
In the Fellowship Hall.





VBS—Disciple School—Re-centering in God with our Faith Family

FLPC Intergenerational Opportunity - August 1 – 4

Registration is now open for Disciple School programming and meals. Please pay for meals in advance. Catered dinner will begin at 5:15pm with programming beginning at 6:00 pm.

Register to Attend: <https://forestlake.flocknote.com/signup/61523>

Pay for meals: (Family cap \$50; Couples cap \$35; Individual meals \$5 per person/per meal): <https://www.osvhub.com/flpc/funds/disciple-school-2021> (Prices go up after 7/15)

Hearts and Hands Bazaar October 30th

Are you crafty? Do you like to create things? What gifts did God give you?

Would you be willing to share your talents with your church family and make a few items for the FLPC Hearts and Hands Bazaar on October 30th? This is a wonderful way to use your God-given talents to benefit FLPC-supported benevolences. All money raised will go to missions. [Register here](#) to indicate your contribution or contact Stuart Hunter at 803-413-0376 or mstuarthunter@gmail.com.

Meal Packaging Event Sunday, August 22, 2:00pm

We need your help packaging meals to feed food insecure people in our Columbia community. This event will be hosted by the Outreach Project and is open to all ages. Children must attend with an adult.

Our goal is 25,000 meals - will you come help? [Sign up here](#) for a shift: 2-3:30 or 3:30-5:00.

Thank you for your help in feeding our community!

Update from MORE Justice

At our Nehemiah Action this year we pressed for action in the area of affordable housing because in Richland County

45% of renters - more than 22,000 families - are spending more than a third of their income on housing.

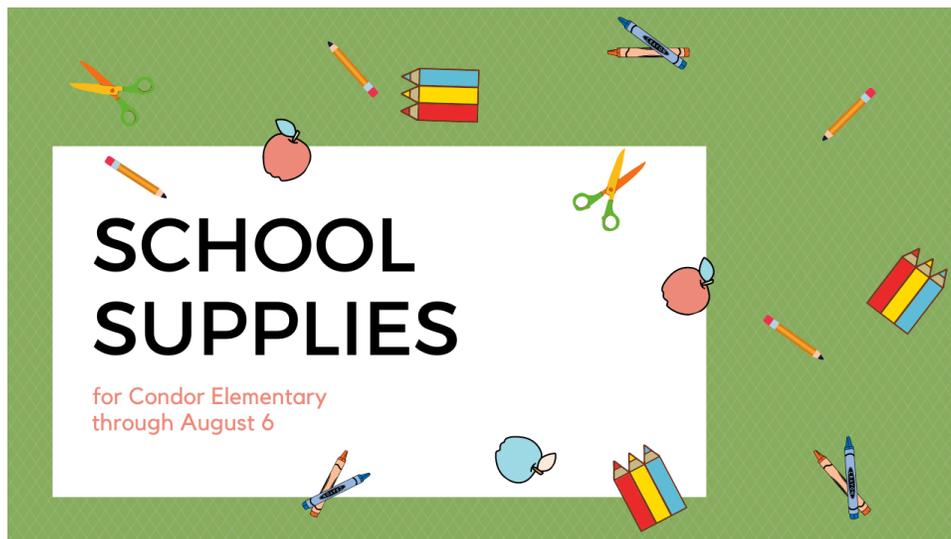
Columbia has the 8th highest eviction rate in the nation and Richland County has an average of 19 evictions per day.

In Richland County alone, more than 24,000 school aged children are housing insecure, causing them to suffer academically and psychologically.

In an effort to address this issue, MORE Justice has been meeting with officials to establish an "Affordable Housing Trust Fund" for Richland County. This Trust Fund would provide free market incentives to encourage the creation of affordable housing in our community. Sustained and serious funding has the potential to create safe, decent homes for hundreds of families in Richland County every year. These Trust Funds use local public money to spur the creation or rehabilitation of affordable housing.

At the Nehemiah Action, 1,100 people gathered on Zoom to press members of the Richland County Council to present and then vote yes on a Trust Fund. The four Council members in attendance were Paul Livingston, who agreed to present the proposal, Allison Terracio, Overture Walker and Gretchen Barron. All four agreed to vote yes! They deserve our appreciation for their commitment. We will continue in our efforts to meet with the other Council members.

The work continues in four different areas: Housing, Education, Mental Health and Gun Violence. We want and need FLPC members to participate in this ministry. If you have questions or wish to get involved please do not hesitate to call Ellen Skidmore, Jodi Beckham or Peggy Carey.



School Supplies Collection

We are once again collecting school supplies for Condor Elementary through August 6th. Items can be left in the white collection box, in the welcome area downstairs. Any of these items are appreciated. If you would like to donate a backpack stuffed with each of these items, that is most helpful for the school. Items needed are pencils, erasers, colored pencils, crayons, markers, pencil sharpeners, ear buds, spiral notebooks, composition books, pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors, highlighters, small bottles of hand sanitizer, blue and black pens, and backpacks. Contact [Jodi Beckham](#) with questions. *Thank you!*

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Farley, Tommy Stallings
- 2 Pearson Fowler, Carey Mears
- 3 Caroline McKenzie
- 4 Warren Counts
- 5 Hayden Blaylock, Coe Hankinson, Mark Johnson
- 6 Tracy Etu, Cindy Powell
- 7 Caroline Streater, Owen Tyer
- 8 Gisele Akah, Cary Beckman, Mike Bowman, Dottie Boyd, Peggy Carey, Dave Cook, Paige George, Marshall Pierce
- 9 Steve Hyman, Blythe Raines, McNair Rieger, Bill Wannamaker
- 10 Alan Port, Sallie Warren
- 11 Destiny Prinski, Domenick Wright
- 12 Matt Agee, John Walter Newman
- 13 Taylor Barr, Kathy David, Judy Timmons
- 15 Maggie Santino, Anna Warren, Guy Watson
- 16 Sally Templeton, Sid Thomas, Janice Timms, Trent Watford, Lynn Whitehouse
- 17 Alex Winslow
- 18 Margaret Amodio, Emily McCrae
- 19 Linda Maddox, Kate Todd, Mark Trimmier
- 20 Ann Gibson
- 21 Linda Etheredge, Paul Rogers, Dukes Scott
- 23 Judy Holford, Scotty Radeker
- 24 Charles Huff
- 25 Skip Slaughenhaupt
- 27 Precious Akah, Wendell McCoy, Hailey Streater
- 28 Kathy Rowland, Marc Shook
- 29 Chris Beckham
- 30 Lyles Fogle, Margaret Haymaker
- 31 Walker Collins, Tyler Etu

Fall Co-Ed Softball

Come play softball with our FLPC team in the City of Columbia Parks and Rec league. Cost to register is \$40, which includes your t-shirt. The season begins August 15. Games will be 5-9 on Sundays at the Earlewood Ballfield. Contact [Stephen McCrae](#) to register/questions.

