



Fort Hill

Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The 2009 Annual Report to our Congregation

Our Vision

*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.*

101 Edgewood Avenue, Clemson, SC 29631
864-654-2061; fax 864-654-8934; www.forthillchurch.org

Fort Hill Church Staff (2009)

Laura Conrad – Pastor*

Rodney Norris – Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Bill Gause – Associate Pastor for University Ministry

Mary Gause – Associate Pastor for Christian Education

Bill Diekhoff – Chancel Choir Director

Judy Bonham – Organist

Kristy MacRae – Children’s Choir Director

Fran Solesbee – Administrative Assistant

Lee Churchfield – Financial Secretary (Jan. – April 2009)

Lori Houck – Office Administrator (beginning April 2009)

Milton Benson – Sexton

Doris Clark – Assistant Sexton

*Alan Elmore – Interim Pastor (Jan. – April 2009)

Fort Hill Church Session (2009)

(Note: this is last year’s Session.)

Moderator: Laura Conrad

Building and Grounds

Bill Cato - Chair

Caleb Bailey

Congregational Fellowship

Becky DeWitt

Personnel and

Program Support

Charles Barron - Chair

Youth and Young Adults

Mark Pollard - Chair

William Spittler

Nominating

Chris Bandy – Chair

Bob Folsom

Christian Action

John Spragins - Chair

Cal Sawyer

Membership

Alice Thalheimer - Chair

Elizabeth Bost

Worship

Leslie Hicklin - Chair

Terri Bruce

Clerk of Session

Davis McGregor

Assistant Clerk

Sally Martin

Interim Clerk

Mary Dusenberry (Aug-Dec)

Christian Education

Amy Elrod - Chair

Kristen McInnis

Finance

Ethel Pettigrew - Chair

Will Gregory

University Ministry

Bobby Skelton - Chair

Linda Wofford

Treasurer

Mike Blackwell

Planning

Randy Moore - Chair

Trustees (2009)

Danny Gregg, Joe Dickey, Robin Weeks

Board of Deacons (2009)

Lee Churchfield, Moderator, Cynthia Gravely, Co-Secretary, Karen Lindenmeyer, Co-Secretary, Betty Dean, Myra Cato, Joan Dixon, Edmee Reel, Cathy Spragins, Tom Wooten, Michael Bailey, Susan Brown, Larry Goodwin, Betty Long, Stephanie Scott, Audrey Thompson, Eva Williamson, Janet Bean, Debbie Collins, Robert Key, John McGregor, Cathy McInnis, Alison Reynolds, Suzan Simmons, Bryan Young

Fort Hill Church Preschool (2009)

Shelley Burchfield – Director

Marcia Barker – Board Chairman, Donna McCubbin – Treasurer

Teachers: Shelley Burchfield, Kathy Greenstein, Janet Harrell, Diane Hilderbrand, Sharon Match, Kelly McRoberts, Jennifer Nelson, Tiffany Peters, Vernie Roberts and Chryssa Rutland

Fort Hill Pastoral Counseling Center

Jack Stevenson – Director

Board: Elizabeth Bost, Harold Cheatham, David Collins, Bruce Drukker, Leslie Hicklin, Don McKale

From our pastor

Usually this time of year, I look back as a Pastor and ask, "How has the Spirit of God moved in God's church this past year?" Although, I was not officially here until summer, we were on a journey together. I knew that Fort Hill Presbyterian Church was where I was called to serve, but more than that I knew it was where I was excited about being! This church has so many wonderful strengths and gifts: richness of membership in experiences, age groups, and abilities, a love of mission and in particular to our neighbors here including Clemson University, a committed staff, and a deep love of God and this church.

Before retuning to Fort Hill when I would imagine a Sanctuary in which I loved to worship, it was this Sanctuary, a house of stone and light. I have also loved the warmth and fellowship of our early worship in Tartan Hall. I could go on and on. I simply want to say what a privilege it is to serve as pastor here. Thank you for your kindness to our family and your warm welcome as we have transitioned to call Clemson home and to call you our church family. I cannot wait to see what God can do in this corner of the Kingdom with disciples who are ready to grow in faith and service.

God's Abundant Blessings,
Laura Conrad

Ministry Reports

Building and Grounds

- ❖ Held a Spring Clean where a new bed of plants was developed between the lower and middle and upper parking lots. Additional plants were added to the lower area of lower parking lot. The bed in the courtyard around the fountain was completely replanted by Kathy McGee and Jim Eidson.
- ❖ A major expense item of the year was the replacement of a major component of the organ electrical system. Two hot water heaters were also replaced. Thanks to Jerry Christenbury, the lights in the parking lots were all replaced as was the timer system for controlling the lights.
- ❖ A number of loyal members participated in the maintenance of the grounds again this year. That includes mowing, trimming and blowing sidewalks and parking lots. Much appreciation and gratitude should be extended to all of the great volunteers that work with the Building and Grounds Ministry to keep our campus on of the best looking in the Clemson area.
- ❖ The purchase of lawn maintenance equipment for the church was approved by the Session last year. That equipment has been purchased and is waiting for spring to arrive. Equipment includes a Toro mower, Echo trimmer and Echo backpack blower. This is the first time in many years that the church has actually owned lawn maintenance equipment. Volunteers will no longer have to provide their own equipment.

Christian Action

- ❖ CAM has primary responsibility for administering programs to aid the less fortunate - locally, nationally, and internationally. Major food, medical and financial difficulties during 2009 made our efforts especially challenging and rewarding.
- ❖ The 2009 Christian Action budget was \$83,005, of which \$38,500 was sent to Presbytery to support the Presbytery Unified Budget; \$10,000 was sent to Presbytery to support three missionary families, Rodney and Sharyn Babe, Haiti; Michael and Nancy Haninger, Good Shepherd Hospital, Congo; and David and Susan Thomas, Mexico; and \$34,005, or 3.9% of total FHPC budget (General Fund plus Building Fund) for our ministry to aid the less fortunate.
- ❖ Denominational offerings: \$3,554 collected for One Great Hour of Sharing, \$1,619 for Mothers' Day and \$3,416 for the Joy Offering, each sent through Presbytery.
- ❖ Special fund contributions received during 2009 totaled \$17,698, with \$22,571 paid out. The extra \$4,873 came from Endowment funds allocated to CAM.
- ❖ Local organizations supported: Clemson Community Care (CCC), Clemson Child Development Center (CCDC), Clemson Free Medical Clinic, Clemson Area Congregations in Touch (CCIT), Clemson Meals on Wheels, Safe Harbor II, Camp Buc, InDwellings, FHPC Preschool Scholarships, Pickens County Habitat for Humanity, Homebound Missions, SHARE, Hospice of the Foothills, Our Daily Bread, Our Daily Rest, Golden Harvest Food Bank, Presbyterian Communities of SC, Alston Wilkes Society (Prison Ministries), Boy Scouts Troop 235, FHPC Youth mission trips, Montreat Conference Center, Stillman College Student Aid and YMCA Scholarships.
- ❖ International organizations supported: Ghana Project, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Haiti - Fondwa, Water Missions International, Adopt a Village in Kenya, and Plowshares Institute.

- ❖ Feed the 5000 Funds provided money (for food only) to Clemson Community Care, Our Daily Bread, Homebound Missions, Safe Harbor II, and Golden Harvest Food Bank.
- ❖ Our Advent Season Gifts that Give gave members a choice of 13 PC (USA), local, and international charities for alternative giving, with total contributions of approximately \$6,600.
- ❖ Special funds allowed extra support for our missionary families, CCC, CCDC, Clemson Free Clinic, Safe Harbor II, Water Missions International, Helping Hands, Presbyterian Communities of SC, Heifer Project, Church World Service, Medical Benevolence Fund, assistance to Kenya, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Camp Buc Scholarships (for 15 campers), Christmas Food Boxes (for 162 families), and support of an orphan in Ghana.
- ❖ CAM also participated in work of a number of organizations, including serving on Boards of CCC, CCDC and CACIT. Pickens County Habitat for Humanity completed four new houses plus one renovation during 2009. The Minister's Cook-off (to benefit Safe Harbor II) had a record number of churches participating.
- ❖ Fort Hill Medical Missions made trips to Rwanda and Haiti for cataract surgery, completing their 31st mission. Several hundred surgeries were performed and 12 members were ambassadors of healing. Groups from FHPC made several trips to Charleston for work with Water Missions International.
- ❖ As the lists above indicate, CAM has been supporting over 30 distinct organizations working with less fortunate people in our community, our nation, and around the world. Unfortunately, the needs are far greater than we have the resources to meet, so we have only been able to make limited starts toward answering these needs.

Christian Education

- ❖ Continued Sunday morning education program with 6 classes for adults and a full range of classes offered for children 0 – Senior High.
- ❖ Sent birthday cards to all Fort Hill children.
- ❖ Held various fellowship events for children including an Easter party, Halloween Carnival, Pizza/movie parties, children's "time outs" and an Elementary Lock-In.
- ❖ Hosted various CE events during the year including: Rally Day Kick-off Breakfast, Gift Day.
- ❖ Initiated a preschool ministry sub-committee to focus on events for our preschool age children.
- ❖ Held a week-long summer Mission Camp for twenty 2nd-5th graders and four adult leaders.
- ❖ Made donations to various organizations in honor of our 2008-09 Sunday School Teachers and Leaders.
- ❖ Held nighttime VBS for over 100 Fort Hill children and adults.
- ❖ Presented gift Bibles to five third graders.
- ❖ Continued Disciple Bible studies offering one per semester.
- ❖ Continued and strengthened operation of Fort Hill Preschool with 66 students in 5 classes led by 10 teachers.
- ❖ Gives great thanks for the many volunteers who give of their teaching, leading, cooking, recruiting and volunteering numbers of hours throughout the year to make our education ministry successful.

Congregational Fellowship

- ❖ With the help of dedicated coordinators, continued the current fellowship activities: Dinners for 8; Clemson Downs Apple Pie Social; and Super Seniors ministry.
- ❖ Continued Second Sunday Suppers using various session ministries to sponsor each month.
- ❖ Began monthly potluck breakfasts during the Sunday School hour during summer months.
- ❖ Added new opportunity for fellowship by planning and conducting a multi-generational, family oriented retreat – Montreat Mountain Mosaic.
- ❖ Planned and implemented the annual church-wide Loyalty Dinner and distributed the annual report.
- ❖ Continued to determine the goals of this ministry to provide additional fellowship opportunities for all ages/segments.

Endowment Fund

- ❖ During the 1st quarter of 2009, the worst recession that most of us can remember came to an end. This is not to say that our nation's or the world's economic challenges are ended, but the market indexes all bottomed around March 9, and a recovery proceeded throughout the year. For the year (total return) some of the most watched measures ended the year:

Dow Jones Industrial	+22.68%	US Treasury Rates	
S&P 500	+26.46%	2 year	+0.76%
NASDAQ Composite	+45.35%	5 year	+1.55%
Russell 2000	+27.17%	10 year	+2.25%

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| Gold | | +24.36% |
|------|--|---------|
- ❖ The end of year balances and allocation were:

Income	-	\$107,896.87 (45%)
Growth	-	\$102,753.77 (50%)
Treasuries	-	\$ 11,315.27 (5%)
Total	-	\$239,965.91
 - ❖ The fund was up \$92,625.58 or 63% for the year. When eliminating the additions \$62,690 (Joe Young's bequest) and withdrawals (\$6,482) the gain in fund was \$56,208 or +38% for the year.

Finance

- ❖ Your financial support and ministry management of their budgets throughout 2009 enabled Fort Hill to finish the year with a \$23,937 surplus.
- ❖ An additional principle payment of \$19,180 was made with the excess Building Fund income.
- ❖ The mortgage was refinanced with a reduced interest rate from 5.75% to 5%. This will save over \$5,000 in interest payments.
- ❖ As of 1/31/2010 mortgage balance was 429,560 and will be retired in approximately 2.5 years.
- ❖ Primary banking and mortgage was moved from First Citizens Bank to Wachovia. Included in the move was the lower interest rate of 5% for mortgage and higher interest payment on money market account.
- ❖ Money Market Account earned \$440.60 in 2009. Earnings will increase in 2010 as interest rate increased from .25% to .85%.
- ❖ For 2010 the Building Fund was removed as a separate fund and was added to the budget as a line item "debt reduction."
- ❖ A successful Stewardship campaign entitled "Faith in Action...Continuing Our Christian Journey" and your generous pledges, met the 2010 asking budget goal of \$916,000.

Membership

- ❖ Fort Hill received 54 new members and 8 children under the age of 12.
- ❖ An updated, redesigned Ad was placed in the Clemson Chamber of Commerce annual magazine.
- ❖ The friendship pads were revised to include a request for e-mail addresses. These addresses were added to the group email list for weekly updates and bulletins.
- ❖ New member information and photo page in *The Window* was revised to serve as update to church directory.
- ❖ A 5 week orientation class was offered in early 2009 for new members as well as any interested members. We had an average of 12 in attendance. A class is also planned for early 2010.
- ❖ A breakfast was held at Keowee Key for 50 Keowee church members, including church staff.
- ❖ Presbyterian Partners were recruited for 35 families who have joined in the past two years. This serves to assimilate folks into the life of the church.
- ❖ The Service stewardship form and booklet were revised and distributed to the congregation with the annual financial pledge information. Our thanks to Barbara Westall and David Bruce who had many meetings with Nancy and Jerry Barton learning the ins and outs of the software programs.
- ❖ Elizabeth Bost has been working with Jerry Barton on a system for Retention and Review.
- ❖ Membership was over budget in 2009 as the responsibility of Service Stewardship was turned over from Finance to Membership in 2009, but not the budget.
- ❖ Meetings were scheduled with various ministry members on an as needed basis.

Personnel and Program Support

- ❖ Continued to maintain and upgrade the church computer system.
- ❖ Searched for and hired new Office Administrator, Lori Houck; and developed her job description.
- ❖ Developed a job description for new Pastor and Head of Staff using a revised format that was recommended by Heath Rada, retired President of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA.
- ❖ Completed needed updates and revisions to the PPSM sections of the church manual and revised the manual to include the Office Administrator.
- ❖ Contracted a computer service company to provide web site development services for the church web site; implemented the structure for this new web site.
- ❖ The PPSM would like to thank the many volunteers who have performed activities and tasks associated with the PPSM in 2009. Thanks also to the dedicated members of the PPSM.

Planning

- ❖ The Planning Ministry was created in 2009 for Fort Hill Church to assist in developing a long range plan, assisting in the movement toward accomplishing our vision, and to coordinate the annual session retreat.
- ❖ Several processes have been investigated to assist in the development of a long range plan with a recommendation now being presented to the session for approval. This process will also provide the foundation for effective movement toward our vision.
- ❖ A successful session retreat was planned and held utilizing the facilitation of John Wilkerson, a retired pastor who now works with pastors and laity leaders in creating more effective leaders of the church.

Worship

- ❖ Initiated CD recording of services.
- ❖ Purchased CD replicator and implemented program of sending recorded services to shut-ins.
- ❖ Set up Children's Worship Station where children ages 4-9 have clipboards with age appropriate materials for use during services.
- ❖ Children's Worship Education program initiated – 10 weeks for 1st graders during extended session of church.
- ❖ JAM, Jesus Jammers and Musical Explorers (preschool and elementary age) music program active.
- ❖ Worship Nursery secured 4th regular worker and recruited over 90 volunteers who assist in our church nursery.
- ❖ Special Services included: PC choir.
- ❖ Purchased set of youth chimes.

University Ministry

- ❖ Clemson University Presbyterian Student Association and University Ministry experienced an active, fulfilling, and worshipful year in 2009. Led by Associate Pastor Bill Gause, University Ministry continued to provide students with a place, a community, and opportunities for spiritual growth, service to others, fellowship, and worship.
- ❖ Ashley Rube worked as a PSA student assistant during the Spring Semester.
- ❖ Kerin Watts began working as the PSA intern in August.
- ❖ Activities during the year were:
 - Montreat Collegiate Conference in January
 - Semiformal in February
 - Spring Break Mission Trip in March and PSA Sunday in March
 - Hosted First Sunday Supper in April
 - Graduation Reception in May and Beach Week in May
 - Wednesday Discussion Groups in June and July
 - Welcome Back Week Festivities in August
 - Instituted Connector Families matching students with families from Fort Hill in September
 - Fall Retreat at Camp Buc in October
 - Participated in the Crop Walk in November
 - Annual Christmas Party in December
- ❖ Mission projects this year were Football Parking and Visits to Foothills Retirement Center in Easley.
- ❖ Weekly Activities include: Collegiate Coffee Hour, Sunday Morning Worship, PSA Sunday Dinner and Program, Lunch Bunch and Intramural Sports.
- ❖ A special "Thank You" goes out to Presbyterian Women, Men of the Church, Women's Circles, numerous members of Fort Hill, and churches from around the presbytery who provided meals, donated items for the PSA center, and gave of themselves in committee work and in so many other ways to support University Ministry.

Youth and Young Adults

- ❖ The Middle School youth (of about 13) went on the first mission trip in at least 10 years. They went to Atlanta, Georgia and did urban ministry with the homeless. This proved to be powerful for both our youth and the homeless they encountered.
- ❖ Our Senior High Youth Group (of over 30) went to Monticello, Arkansas and worked with the Vera Lloyd home. This is a home for needy children (the parents are unable to care for). Our group built a deck onto the home and spent valuable time with the resident youth.
- ❖ Another positive event was our Prayer Partner/Prayer Partner Picnic. We had over 100 people participate in prayer partnering where our youth were matched up with an adult and they prayed for each other.

- ❖ The Youth Groups participated in the Crop Walk and also raised \$600 for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth ended the year by helping pack and deliver Christmas baskets to the needy in our community.
- ❖ The Young Adults met quarterly for multiple gatherings such as: Theology on Tap, Cook Outs, Baseball Games, Football Tailgating, and the annual Christmas party.

Board of Deacons

- ❖ Divided FHPC membership into “Circles of Care” headed by a Deacon and with the shepherds having close contact with the members of each group.
- ❖ Blood Drive was held in the spring and fall to enable members to be donors to the Carolina Blood Bank and also enable our members to use the services if needed.
- ❖ Flowers were given to our shut-ins in our Circles of Care which had been in the sanctuary during 10:30 worship service if the donor did not want to take the flowers.
- ❖ Transportation included to/from worship services, special services and individual transportation trips as needed by our members to doctors’ appointments, etc.
- ❖ Food provided for Special Needs and Bereavement Meals. It could be a family in crisis, hospitalization, or death. We provided the meals for the individual or family in a loving and caring manner. This is also coordinated with PW, SS classes and various other church groups.
- ❖ Coordinated receptions for funerals, special events, honoring members over 95, etc.
- ❖ Books for Babies - As part of the caring ministry of the Deacons the delivery of the books, cradle crosses, etc. will be a part of the joy of sharing with the families in addition of the newest/youngest members of congregation.
- ❖ First Aid Kits which are located in various parts of our buildings were updated as needed.
- ❖ Temporary Medical Equipment Need - Provided to people with short-term needs for walkers, wheelchairs, etc.
- ❖ Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly to make knitted or crocheted shawls and then provides shawls to members in times of need or celebration.

Presbyterian Women

- ❖ Financial support was extended in our church to: Church Mission Worldwide, Love gifts to missionaries, Medical Eye Mission, Youth Mission Trips, Camp Buc Scholarships, Christmas Baskets, FHPC staff, FHPC Building Program.
- ❖ Financial support to the community-at-large: Mission Haven, Clinton Community, Foothills Community.
- ❖ Local community support to: Anderson Interfaith Ministries, Clemson Child Development Center, Clemson Community Care, Safe Harbor II, Clemson Free Medical Clinic, Hospice of the Foothills, Duke Energy Share the Warmth Program, Meals on Wheels, InDwellings.
- ❖ Service to PSA included: Sunday night suppers, graduation receptions.
- ❖ Service to our church family: Welcome Back Luncheon, family meals, Valentine boxes for members’ college students, bud vases for widows and widowers.
- ❖ Community service: Prayer Shawl Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Minister’s Cook-Off to benefit Safe Harbor II, Clemson Child Development Center Tour of Homes, magazines for Veterans Hospital, paper products for Helping Hands, Samaritan purse.
- ❖ PW support: Birthday Luncheon, Honorary Life Memberships, spiritual retreats, Christian fellowship.
- ❖ Seminary: Come See Columbia Day.
- ❖ Presbytery: workshops and meetings.

Pastoral Counseling Center

- ❖ The Pastoral Counseling Center is a ministry of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church.
- ❖ Since 1991, Rev. Jack Lovett Stevenson, Ph.D. has been the director of our center.
- ❖ Appointments offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.
- ❖ Appointments are made by phone at the church, or evenings at 864-442-9003, between 8 pm – 10 pm.
- ❖ Between 90% and 92% of appointments are for non-FHPC members and are a ministry of our church.
- ❖ Fees are chosen by the client from a sliding scale and are based on family income and are negotiable.
- ❖ Scheduled an average of 4-7 hours each week and about 45 weeks this year.
- ❖ Dr. Stevenson has held SC License #7 as a Marriage and Family Therapist since 1986, but only about 25% of appointments are with couples.
- ❖ Objectives are to help bring healing for many issues: relationships, depression, anxiety, grief, and personal growth, and for a variety of women’s issues including survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

**Session Annual Statistical Report
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Year ending December 31, 2009**

Membership Statistics

Membership Gains – 54
 Profession of Faith (17 and under) – 12
 Profession of Faith (18 and over) – 42

Membership Losses - 3
 Certificate Losses – 0
 Deaths – 3
 Other Losses – 0

Total Active Membership – 763
 Female members – 473
 People with disabilities:
 Hearing – 22; Sight – 10;
 Mobility – 18

Racial Ethnic Composition
 Asian – 0; Black – 2
 Hispanic – 0; Native American – 0
 White – 761
Session – White – 21

Average attendance – 340

Christian Education Enrollment

Birth thru age 3 – 40
Age 4 through Kindergarten - 14
Grade 1 through 5 – 26
Grade 6 through 8 – 18
Grade 9 through 12 - 44
Young Adults (ages 18-24) – 12
Over 25 – 86
Teachers – 55

Child Baptisms – 9
Adult Baptisms – 1

Active Officers

Session: Men – 11; Women 10; Total Elders – 21
Deacons: Men – 6; Women 18; Total Deacons - 24

Financial Data

Budget Figures

Potential Giving Units – 417
Budgeted Income - \$644,756 GF
Budgeted Expenses - \$670,492 GF

Receipts

Regular Contributions - \$828,785
Capital Building Fund - \$227,886
Investment Income - \$6,482
Bequests – \$62,872
Other Income - \$7,905
Subsidy or Aid - \$84,931 Univ. Min.

Expenditures

Local Program - \$676,617
Local Mission - \$52,369
Capital Expenditures - \$759,821
Per Capita Apportionment - \$6,150
Validated Mission - \$65,020
Theological Fund – \$0
Other Mission - \$44,932