



THE WINDOW



THE NEWSLETTER OF FORT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH * CLEMSON, SC 29631 * (864) 654-2061

Repentance; Getting Fit for the Kingdom of God

I am writing this in the beginning of the real New Year, Advent. While we all ring in a New Year on January 1, the season of Advent marks the New Year for Christians. And usually at the beginning of the Advent, that crazy prophet John is read and proclaimed as he prepares the way for Jesus. John is his usual charming self. He starts off by calling the crowds a brood of vipers.

Read the Scripture- Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance..."

The prophet is talking of repentance, or turning in a new direction. What a better New Year's message? John is a man of action, and he demands action in return. "Bear fruits worthy of repentance," he says. Show that something is different with your lives. Traditionally we decide at the New Year to turn over a new leaf and make some changes. As many of us vow to change our eating and exercise habits, John is like the trainer who is demanding our discipline. But John advocates something bigger than personal fulfillment and well-being. John says get your life in line with God's kingdom. Make some changes that will serve God and show love for your neighbors. Examine your life and decide what you can do.

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

Common people, a tax-collector, and a soldier seek ways to be in right relationship with God and neighbor. As one person sums up John's response, "SHARE. BE FAIR. DO NOT BULLY." That may sound more like Kindergarten than the Kingdom of God. The profound can be that simple, though. John says that faith will be seen in how you live and treat others. John yells his message to institutions, empires and governments, and to each one of us. None is exempt.

So this New Year's many will vow to lose weight, exercise more, and manage time better. But, the prophet John reminds us to more meaningful resolutions:

Share- clean out our clothes closets and food pantries.

Be fair- clean up our financial practices.

Do not bully- examine our behavior, our greed.

Ultimately, we all need to examine ourselves, individually and collectively, repent, and get fit for the Kingdom of God. John's message of judgment is good news for all of us!

Laura Conrad

January 2010

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THE WINDOW

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

399 College Avenue

Clemson, SC 29631

864-654-2061

www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

Bill Gause, Associate Pastor for University Ministry

Mary Gause, Associate Pastor for Christian Education

Rodney Norris, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

Pansy Duke, Parish Visitor

Jack Stevenson, Pastoral Counselor

Upcoming Scriptures for Sunday Worship

2nd Sunday after Christmas -January 3rd

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-4, John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Baptism of the Lord-January 10th

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time-January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time- January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

Presbyterian Women

Women's Winter Retreat

Date: January 23, 2010

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Place: Keowee Key Marina

Speaker/Facilitator: Debbie Foster

Topic: Tapestry

Cost: \$15

Debbie Foster is a dynamic speaker who is presently the supply pastor at Fair Play Presbyterian church.

All women in the church are invited to attend. Send

your name and a check for \$15 made out to

Presbyterian Women to Joan Booth, 12 Yeoman

Lane, Salem SC 29676

Safe Harbor II

Help Safe Harbor II women's shelter without spending an additional cent. Bloom grocery stores are having a Happy Point promotion that offers Cuisinart small kitchen appliances. For each \$10 you spend at Bloom, you get a Happy Point. The points are collected on cards and exchanged for toasters, coffeemakers, etc. Please join with other area churches in this effort for Safe Harbor II. The promotion began on Wednesday, October 7 and runs until Tuesday, February 2. Put your Happy Points and/or cards in the red topped clear plastic container labeled "Bloom Happy Points for Safe Harbor II" located in the FHOG office.

Dear Presbyterian Elf,

I really want to thank you for the dried flower arrangement. I put it on the dining room table. It was very nice of you and

I appreciate it.

Love, Susan Beckwith

February 2010 WINDOW DEADLINE

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the February 2010 issue of *The Window* is Friday, January 15th. Please email your item as a Microsoft WORD document (.doc) to Amy Elrod at **window@forthillchurch.org**. or type the item directly into your email and send. If you don't have access to a computer, please leave the item in *The Window* mailbox in the FHOG office.

Building & Grounds Ministry

Bill Cato, Moderator

Now that the year has drawn to a close, it is time to thank the many wonderful people who have maintained our campus so well during 2009. I'm certain to leave someone out of this thank you and I apologize. First I will thank all of you who came out for the "Spring Clean at the Fort". We created a bed of plants between the lower and middle parking lots and at the east end of the lower parking lot that will that will look better with each passing year. We (our youth) also washed and cleaned the van and the bus.

Those who mowed the grass and blew the parking lots and walk ways all summer were Bill Thalheimer, Michael and Caleb Bailey, Jay Jones, Jack Merrill, Doug Carlson and Walt Owens. Rameth Owens often worked on weeding flower beds while Walt was mowing the McHugh property. Tim and Karen Burg pressure washed the entire front and side of the student center and planted plants at the center.

New member Kathy McGee and Jim Edison completely replanted the fountain area in the courtyard. Marv Dixon was a great help on many tasks such as replacing the hot water heater in the education building. Jerry and Kevin Christenbury again, for who knows how many years, replaced lights in the sanctuary as needed. Jerry also replaced all of the lights in the parking lots and installed a new timer for those lights. Milton Benson and Doris Clark also helped the moderator when he needed an extra pair of hands for a choir.

Garland Gravely was responsible for having the enclosures for the trash areas constructed and for having the window sills outside the club room repaired. Larry Goodwin painted these structures.

All in all, it was good year for the B&G ministry and again I thank all who were a part of maintaining our beautiful campus.



Church Mouse

Happy Holidays to all!

Life here at Fort Hill is so busy right now with Christmas coming up. I watched with interest as JIM EIDSON & KATHY MCGEE made our rose garden in the courtyard so much better. It really is neat now.

Then Gift Day was so much fun as the children made special gifts for their parents. JACKIE ELLIS did a great job getting it organized. She had help from BECKY DEWITT, MARGARET NELSON, KAREN SAWYER, GRACE HAWTHORNE, HEATHER WRIGHT, ELIZABETH BOST, HELEN MOHR, ELIZABETH HAWTHORNE, SARAH JO SKELTON, VIRGINIA ELLIS, KRISTEN MCINNIS, CATHY MCINNIS, TOMMI JONES, MARY STUART TURNER, JEANNIE BAILEY, GABBY BAILEY, LISA BRITT, AUSTIN ADAMS, MIMI BORICK, MARY GAUSE, and the MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH.

Did you know that WES WORLEY is coordinating people to work on a Habitat House for the Kerswell family. Mama Mouse said this is for a family who cannot afford a house but the community and the university helps every year to build one.

Advanced Children's Church graduates were 1st and 2nd graders: CARTER BANDY, BENNET BOST, SAM BRUCE, ELYSE HOLLINGSWORTH, CATHERINE JONES, MAC MARTIN, CLAY MOHR, KRISTEN SMITH, SYDNEY WEEKS, ALLY WILSON, & TIPTON WRIGHT. This same group ushered one Sunday.

Then there were elders who served communion on the first Sunday in December: BILL CATO, CALEB BAILEY, CHRIS BANDY, ROBIN DENNY, BECKY DEWITT, LESLIE HICKLIN, BOBBY SKELTON, CAL SAWYER, JOHN SPRAGINS, & WILLIAM SPITLER. That same Sunday the JAM (Jesus and Me) group sang and played for the congregation: SAM BRUCE, SYDNEY WEEKS, BAZE GIANIODIS, ELYSE HOLLINGSWORTH, JENSEN MCINNIS, PEYTON MCROBERTS, CATHERINE NORRIS, KRISTEN SMITH, WILL TURNER, ALLY WILSON, CAILA WORLEY, COLEMAN WRIGHT, & TIPTON WRIGHT were the K-2nd participants. The 3rd-5th graders were: HALLIE CONRAD, ALYSSA HOWARD, CARTER MCINNIS, HANNAH GRACE RUTLAND.

Then the following helped with stewardship - that's giving to the church to help it run. They were: JIM EIDSON, GENE JOHNSON, BOB LITTLESON, CHUCK CRUNCKSHANK, & GUS GUSTAFSON shopped and cooked for our pancake supper while ALICE THALEIMER helped get it off and running. COREY NORRIS, NATHAN WEAVER jumped in and helped with the dishes. CHERYL & HACK TRAMMELL ran the cake walk. COLIN PEETIGREW, JUDY BLACKWELL, STEPHEN PETTIGREW helped to set up. Many women in the church helped to bake cookies and cakes. COREY MCCUBBIN & BETH OLKER helped with the little ones. The committee consisted of JOY VAN DAELE, ETHEL PETTIGREW, WILL GREGORY, JEREMY WRIGHT, JESSICA GOODWIN, LIBBY HENDRICKS, MIKE BLACKWELL, & HACK TRAMMELL

Wow! That's a lot of people to thank. You better get started .

Report on the 30th medical mission trip taken by Fort Hill Medical Mission:

Kibuye Hospital, Rwanda October 30 to November 16, 2009

This, the second visit to Rwanda, was a special milestone for Fort Hill Medical Mission as it represented the 30th trip taken since 1998. As we look back over the years of its existence, we see the many ways Fort Hill Medical Mission has been a blessing, most especially to Susan and me as we have had the opportunity to be of service to many people in many cultures and to enjoy the camaraderie of those wonderful people who have made the journeys with us and also to be very aware of the prayers and love and support of so many, inside and outside Fort Hill Church, who have allowed us to stand on their shoulders.

Joining us on this most recent trip were Raenota and Jack Merrill, Marlene Nicholas, Nancy Oates, Dr. William and Pat Stevens (Colorado) and Dr. Walt Donnelly (Connecticut). These truly fine people never complained or grumbled no matter what, and this was to a destination requiring very arduous journeys going and coming. Our work location was the Kibuye Hospital in Kibuye, on the western side of Rwanda where we looked across Lake Kivu to the Congo. Other than a worrisome glitch going through customs in Kigali upon our arrival at 2 AM November 1, where precious eye drops were removed from our bags and kept, we had no problems and were very well supported. Our hosts included a fine young man, Piet Noe, who is an ophthalmologist from Belgium serving with Christian Blind Mission (CBM) in Kabgayi, about two hours from Kibuye, the Kibuye Hospital and its staff, and even the Saddleback Church in California (Rick Warren's church).

Many patients had been examined prior to our arrival and those needing surgery arrived on a daily basis, allowing us to operate on up to 18 per day. Needless to say, such days as that required much work and energy. You folks would have been so proud of Nancy as she helped prepare the patients for surgery, showing great love for them and for the staff. She truly was an ambassador for good will. And proud of Marlene and Susan as they beautifully assisted the surgeons on the many operations, standing by their sides all day long. And proud of Raenota as she performed the multitude of tasks required of an operating room circulator. And proud of Jack as he cleaned to perfection the instruments after each operation, making them gleam for the next one. And proud of the good friends from other states who worked so hard, sharing and caring, and adding tremendously to the ability to accomplish so much.

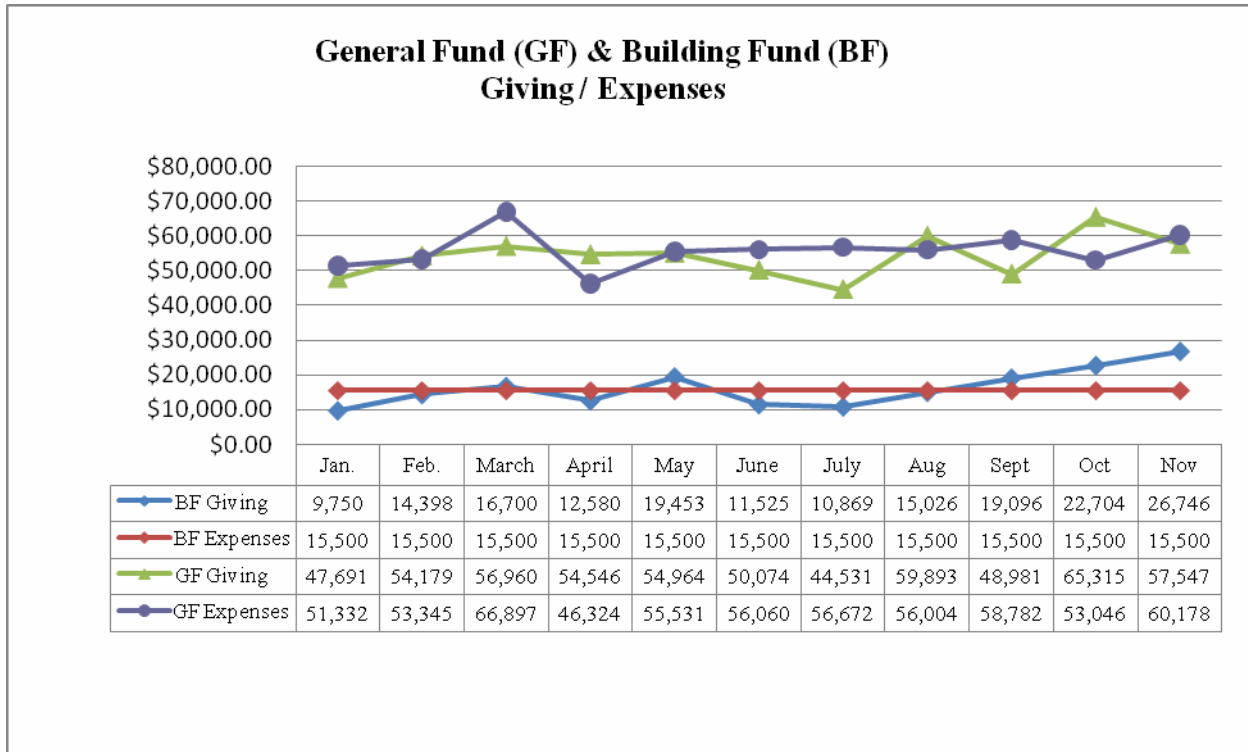
At the end of our two week stay we had operated on 104 precious people who offered us their appreciation with smiles and love, the best "currency" ever made. We were very pleased with how these people were doing as they left us to go back to their homes, sometimes hours away. Transportation to the hospital and back to their homes was provided, removing one of the biggest roadblocks the poor have in obtaining medical services. Those new eyes are now perfectly healed, with bright new vision giving them and their families relief, joy, and independence.

Rwanda is a beautiful country, truly the "land of a thousand hills". As you are aware, it suffered a terrible genocide in 1994 when 800,000 people were killed in 100 days. It will take a couple of generations for the horrors of that time to ease, but these people are making big efforts to move forward, and we were privileged to be with them. They offered us warm hospitality and friendship, and we are very grateful to have had the opportunity to be with them, helping in the special ways we could.

This page does not offer enough space to fully cover this magnificent trip. Please ask any of the travelers about details and we will be very happy to talk with you and even to show our slides. We are so thankful to Fort Hill Presbyterian Church. These accomplishments would be impossible without you. God bless you and your families.

Bob Brown – for the Rwanda eye team

From the Finance Ministry – Through November, General Fund (GF) income is below expenses by \$18,240. The Building Fund (BF) giving has returned to pledged levels and is \$8,347 above expenses. The combined shortfall for the year to date is \$9,893. Please continue to support to the GF and BF to avoid shortfalls. The Finance Ministry would like to thank you for your monetary support to Fort Hill’s missions and programs, and with your help, we can finish the year without any shortfalls.



C H O I R

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Why am I writing these thoughts? I hope that some new potential choir members will read them and decide to join the Chancel Choir. Contrary to popular belief, some of us are not super musicians. We simply enjoy this activity and find it to be a very pleasant way to serve the church and get to know a small group of the congregation. I have been heard saying when asked how I happen to be in the choir at all; “I believe that the choir tolerates my singing in order to benefit from my wife's lovely voice.” All of us enjoy singing, and I am convinced that a rehearsal never passes that I do not learn something new. Bill Diekoff is an excellent teacher and his passion for music is contagious. Our job is to do our best and to assist the congregation in worship. We do need to have some of the younger members singing in the choir so that we can grow as a group to be representative of the entire church. So there it is, we invite any of you who enjoy singing to join us at 7:30pm on Wednesday evenings in the choir room, upstairs in the Education Building. Come and see for yourselves just how much you can enjoy this activity of service to the FHPC.

Charles Barron

FHPC New Members

The information below each dotted line can be used to update your church directory! Welcome these new members to Fort Hill!



Tom and Sue Hunter

Welcome Tom and Sue Hunter. They have returned to Clemson in retirement from Charlotte where they were members of Avondale Presbyterian Church. Tom is a CU graduate who was employee in Waste Water Mgt. Sue is a nurse Practitioner who continues to work out of her home as a mentor to students.

The Hunter's live at 210 Payne Lane in Clemson and their phone # is 643-0687.



Kenny, Helen, Clay and Dulcie Mohr

We welcome Kenny, Helen, Clay and Dulcie Mohr to our church family. They come to us from Seneca Presbyterian Church. Kenny and Helen are CU graduates. Kenny works for Coca Cola and Helen the US Forest Service. The family enjoys hiking and spending time on the lake.

The Mohr's live at 226 Heather Drive in Central and their phone # is 654-2141



Laura, Caroline, and Steve Hunter

We welcome Steve, Laura and Caroline Hunter to our church family. They come to us from St. Giles Presbyterian in Greenville. Steve graduated from Western Carolina and worked for GE for 39 years. Laura has an MS from CU and currently teaches English at TL Hanna HS in Anderson. Caroline, Steve and Laura's daughter, is majoring in Early Childhood development at Tri County Tech. the Hunters enjoy fishing, golfing and spending time on the lake. Steve belongs to the Rotary club.

The Hunter's live at 108 Hazelwood Drive in Clemson and their phone # is 654-3097.

January Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

Dec. 28th-Jan. 3rd Mary Gause
Jan. 4th-10th Laura Conrad
Jan. 11th-17 Mary Gause
Jan. 18th-Jan. 24th Laura Conrad
Jan. 25th-31st. Mary Gause

8:30 Nursery

January 3– Need a Volunteer!
January 10– Donna Crader
January 17– Mary Stuart Turner
January 24- Helen Wooten/Elizabeth Hawthorne
January 31- Bolger Family

10:30 Infant Nursery

January 3– Lou Phillips
January 10– Don and Janna McKale
January 17– Tootie Poteet
January 24– Stephanie Scott and Nancy Oates
January 31– Nina Norris

10:30 Toddler Nursery

January 3 -Lisa Britt and Mimi Borick
January 10– Jackie and Joanna Martin
January 17– Betty Dean and Virginia Ellis
January 24– Ellen Torrence
January 31– Bolger Family

10:30 2-3 Year Old Nursery

January 3—Myra Cato and Jordan Weir
January 10– Anita, Mik, and Erik Fredman
January 17– Phillip and Meri Kate Marcum
January 24 David and Debbie Collins/ Amy Worley
January 31– Audrey Thompson/Claudette Bennett

10:30 4-5 Year Old Nursery

January 3– Pete and Jake Crowther
January 10– Kristen McInnis and Corey Norris
January 17– Chryssa Rutland and
January 24– Need a Volunteer
January 31– The Sawyer Family

Offering Counters

January 3– Raenota and Jack Merrill
January 10– Linda Gahan and Betty Dean
January 17– Betty and Jimmy Dean
January 24– Kitty and Jim Dunn
January 31– Joan and Paul Borick

Announcements and Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS TO CPT Tony and Nicole Mayne on the birth of their first child, Luke Harris Mayne on November 2, 2009 at Ireland Army Community Hospital on Fort Knox, Kentucky. Luke weighed in at 7 lbs., 14 oz. and measured 21 in. in length. Both mother and child are healthy and happy.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Michael and Helen Steele and family upon the death of Michael's great –grandmother, Eunice Black, of Pawley's Island on November 14th.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Lynette Seffick and family upon the death of her father, Charles E. Ellenburg, on December 5th.



To learn more about our denomination
go to www.pcusa.org

LAY ACADEMY 2010

February 4, 11, 18 2010

Sponsored by Clemson Area Congregations in Touch

Thursday, February 4 - - **The Theology of Poverty**

Our responsibility for those in need is deeply grounded in Jewish and Christian tradition. Joyce Klein (Jewish), Father Emmanuel Andinam (Roman Catholic), and Rev. Cynthia Prescott (Unitarian Universalist) will explore the theological basis for our social justice work in addressing poverty.

Thursday, February 11 - - **The Reality of Poverty**

With special guest speaker Rev. Beth Templeton of United Ministries in Greenville, and Director of Our Eyes are Opened. She is the author of the book "Loving Our Neighbor: A Thoughtful Approach to Helping People in Poverty and is a national speaker on the issue of poverty.

Thursday, February 18 - -**The Response to Poverty:**

What are the needs and how can we collaborate to improve services in the area where we live, work and worship? This session will feature roundtable discussions among providers of and those seeking to provide food, shelter, education, health care and financial assistance to the needy.

Programs will begin at 7:00 PM at the Clemson United Methodist Church on Frontage Road. The public is invited.

*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.*



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Clemson, SC 29631

399 College Avenue

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