

FPC's Vision: *Every Member in Ministry* There really is something for everyone!

One of many wonderful attributes of First Presbyterian Church HHI is the number of members who volunteer. Whatever your personal gifts and talents, there is something for you to become involved with and make an impact.

Connecting members with volunteer opportunities is a priority at FPC. We are blessed to have a Volunteer Director of Volunteer Ministry! Church member Andrea Siebold has served in this position since it was created for her in 2018 by then Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Dr. Douglas Fletcher. In her job (remember, Andrea is a *volunteer*) she attends staff meetings, various small group meetings, assists in organizing monthly new member classes, and more! She is totally committed to involving every member of our church family to deepen their faith and increase their engagement.

"I make an appointment and meet in person with each new member to share about all that is going on at FPC," says Siebold who is past president of Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island and past chair of the Children's Center Board. "I help people identify their special gifts and passions so they can put them to use in a significant way!"

Siebold also meets with longtime members, identifying volunteer opportunities that speak to them spiritually or pique their curiosity. "I truly enjoy meeting people, helping them discern their unique gifts and interests, and connecting them with opportunities that best fit them." If you would like to schedule a meeting, call Siebold, 843.415.2211, or send an email,

asiebold@fpchhi.org.



In this and upcoming issues of *First Press*, we will focus on each of our five values – also recognized as areas of service at FPC. The first is Joyful Worship.

Joyful Worship

"In worship, the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world."

— PC(USA) Directory of Worship



Each Sunday we gather to pause and turn our attention to God with the hopeful expectation of encountering God's holy presence. We sing and pray. We give voice to what God is doing in our lives and in the world. We respond to God as we feel led.

First Presbyterian has long been recognized for a glorious tradition of music, with opportunities for people of *all* ages, interests, and abilities. Whether you are an accomplished musician or are simply interested in "exploring" your musical gifts, we invite you to learn about the various musical opportunities—vocalists and instrumentalists—available throughout the year!

Sunday services are at 9 AM for CrossRoads in fellowship hall and 10:30 AM for traditional worship in the sanctuary. Our spaces of worship are special and unique to the services held within them. Each week members of the Chancel Guild assure that the church sanctuary is ready for worship.

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“ICNU”

“The Spirit’s presence is made clearly known in each one of us for the good of all.” — 1 Corinthians 12:7



Think about what the apostle Paul is saying in that verse (above)! Not only does the Spirit dwell in each of us, but that indwelling Spirit is “made clearly known” in each of us. If that’s true, then we *should* see the Spirit’s presence in others, we *should* recognize the Spirit at work in others. The question is:

Do we? For example, do we actually see the Spirit’s gifts in other believers (particularly when they’re “made clearly known”)? I think the answer more times than not is that we don’t. As Annie Dillard observes in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, “Unless I call my attention to what passes before my eyes, I simply won’t see it.”

But if the Spirit’s presence (e.g., the Spirit’s gifts and “fruit”) are “made clearly known” in “each one of us,” then we *should* see it! To do so, Dillard urges us to “keep our eyes open.” We need to keep our eyes open to the Spirit’s presence in others. We can do that by establishing a practice of saying “ICNU,” which stands for “I see in you these spiritual gifts.” It’s about taking time to recognize the Spirit’s presence and work in others. This is especially needed in the church. For instance, what if our

ministry teams devoted time at some of its meeting to identifying the gifts of others so that they could use those gifts in their ministries?

Seeing the Spirit’s presence in each of us honors the God who created each of us in His image and is at work in each of us. Doing so also affirms our Reformed/Presbyterian belief that *every believer is a minister*, i.e., every believer has God-given gifts and abilities that are to be used to minister to God’s glory. Here at FPCHHI, that Reformed/Presbyterian belief is expressed in our Vision statement, which reads, “Every Member in Ministry.” This issue of *First Press* is the first of several that will highlight opportunities for you to use your spiritual gifts in the life and mission of this congregation (see cover story).

May we commit ourselves to practicing “ICNU” so that we *will* recognize others’ spiritual gifts, as well as our own, and thereby live our church’s Vision of “Every member in ministry” to the glory of God.

In Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will".

Pastor Will

Joyful Worship *(continued from cover page)*

Ushers welcome Sunday guests, answer questions, and walk worshipers to their seats. In the traditional service they provide bulletins which guide worshipers through the service.



We share communion on the first Sunday of the month as a reminder of Jesus’ love for us. Volunteers help prepare the elements, organize the servers, and assist with clean up.

FPC provides meaningful online worship experiences for both services. The church recently upgraded audio-

visual technology in fellowship hall and the sanctuary. By installing new equipment, using a new software program, and

training staff and volunteers about both, FPC has enhanced the worship experience for those who are online and in person.

Ongoing improvements are explored and implemented by AV Tech Coordinator Jane Jude and Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Will Robinson, under the direction of the Worship and Music Ministry. Jude is responsible for the systems that amplify sound; provides on-screen lyrics, scripture and images; and broadcasts services for viewing via our livestream or as recorded videos.

New volunteers are always welcome to join the Tech Team – and Jude provides training. No previous experience is required. There is a rotation for Tech Team members on Sundays and for other special events.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about any of these Joyful Worship opportunities, complete the form, [click here](#).

Joyful Worship: Preaching

*Where that Word is read and proclaimed,
Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.*

Preaching is a privilege. I so appreciate Pastor Will's generosity in sharing the pulpit. He has expressed to me that he wants the congregation to experience a variety of voices and perspectives. I'm excited for our summer sermon series on *Questions of Faith*, which will allow Will and me and some very capable guest preachers to tackle your questions.

In the Presbyterian tradition, preaching doesn't just "happen." Preparing a sermon requires prayer, research, conversation with scholars and other pastors (usually on the page, or on internet sites; sometimes via an emergency call to a colleague!), more prayer, and looking for life applications of the scripture text. Preaching proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ. As I conclude a sermon, I always try to encapsulate the good news of God's love so that if you take nothing else away, you will take that with you into the week.

While preaching most often engages the spoken word, we know that we all have preferred styles of learning. That's why we also integrate video clips, props, movement, art, and music into sermons as the Spirit leads.

Preachers always bring something of themselves to the sermon and I'm grateful that you not only accept the parts of me that I offer, but also have the eyes of faith to see beyond my words to the message that God intends to share with you through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Looking forward to a summer of joyful worship with you!

Blessings,

Pastor Diane



An Update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased and excited to report that God has connected our congregation to a wonderful candidate for our position of Associate Pastor for Congregational Evangelism and Engagement. We are further pleased to report that the APNC has called the candidate and the candidate has accepted. We are not in a position to announce the name of the candidate at this point as we are following the protocol of the presbytery for calling an associate pastor. The next step is an examination of the candidate by the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, which is currently scheduled for August 1. Assuming a positive outcome from that meeting, session will be calling a congregational meeting in the mid-August timeframe to obtain congregational approval of this call and other matters. Please continue to pray for the APNC as they work to complete their mission!

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Henry Brown
Jan Cale
Rosalyn Lester
Barb Magee
Dale Peters
Jean Vahey
Bob White, Chair



FPC's Prayer Project July-August 2023

*Never stop praying, especially for others.
Always pray by the power of the Spirit.
Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.
- Ephesians 6:18*

Words of Thanks from Local Groups Supported by Your Gifts

Born to Read

Your generous grant will be used to purchase books and materials that will be distributed at family workshops and hospital visits at Hilton Head and Coastal Carolina Hospitals. It is more important than ever to provide parents with tools that are needed to promote early childhood literacy.

Hopeful Horizons

We are so grateful for the grant! It helps us sustain services free of charge for survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault and helps us to move closer to our vision of a community without abuse or violence. As the area's only children's advocacy, domestic violence and rape crisis center, Hopeful Horizons works to create safer communities by changing the culture of violence and offering a path to healing.

Memory Matters

The families we serve appreciate your generosity and kindness! We truly value your support of our mission to provide compassionate services for those experiencing cognitive decline, offer caregiver respite, support families, and educate those who want to maintain or improve their brain health.

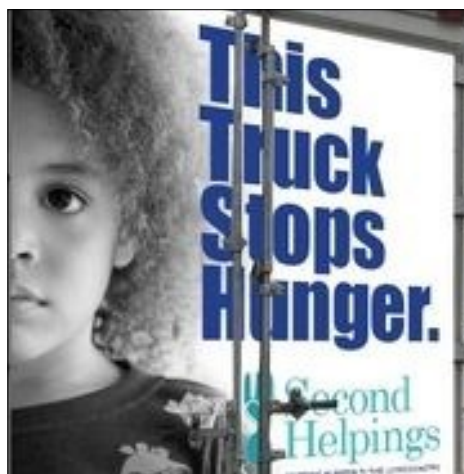
Neighborhood Outreach Connection

Thank you for investing in the empowerment of underserved communities in Beaufort County. In the past year, we were able to provide 100 percent scholarships and free tuition to our six learning centers in Beaufort County. With your support we will continue to provide pathways out of poverty for our neighbors in need.



Second Helpings

Thank you for your donation! With your gift, we continue to be the FIRST STEP to feeding those in our community who are suffering from food insecurity. Last year we delivered over 3 million pounds of food free of charge to local food pantries, churches and soup kitchens. We hope you feel proud every time you see our trucks on their routes, knowing you help make these deliveries possible!



Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

To our patients who are living in poverty and cannot afford healthcare, your gift means more than a visit to the doctor. Your contribution is an act of compassion and affirmation of worth to those who need VIM's services. You and your exceptional generosity are honoring the humanity of those waiting in line at the Clinic doors each and every morning to receive care.

FPC's Outreach Ministry in Action



Members (from left) Linda Ellis, Jody Hoffman, and Jane Bush, delivered more than 200 books in early June to Allendale-Fairfax High School, Estill Middle, Hampton Middle, Brunson Elementary, Varnville Elementary, Hampton Elementary and Estill Elementary.

They were greeted by enthusiastic and grateful principals such as the one in this photo. Thank you to all of you who helped with the spring 2023 book donations!



Members of the Empty Chair Men's Small Group recently dedicated a morning to packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. In addition to their time, the group also donated financially to this FPC ministry.

Marion Medical Mission



Marion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with the extreme poor in Africa by providing all in need with a sustainable source of clean, safe, drinking water. Learn more about this global ministry supported by FPC during the month of July on Sundays, July 9 and July 23, in the Gathering Space during fellowship time.

Youth Ministry & FPC Kids



Seven members of FPC's Youth Group—along with Director of Faith Formation Jackie Wilhelm, Assistant Director Jodi Krivda, and member Amy Cross—spent a week (June 11-17) at a retreat focused on Joy.

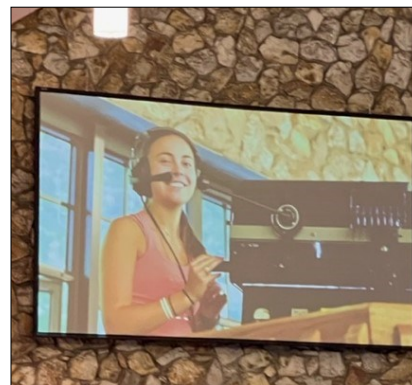


Youth Group members (from left): Channing Coulter, Kacie Tharin, Millie Jones, Celia Walter, Eliza Jane Coulter, Hanna Walter and Liza Jones. Photo taken before evening worship at Montreat.

**In June,
Youth Group
members enjoyed a
fabulous week
at Montreat!**



A stroll along one of the many beautiful trails at Montreat.



Eliza Jane helped with AV throughout the week.

It's Time for FPC Kids Summer Camp!

FPC Kids Summer Camp for children ages 3-5th grade takes place July 10-14. We're excited that 65 children—including many from the community—will have fun and learn more about Jesus! Watch for photos and news of camp week in upcoming church communications.



Share Generosity & Kindness. Change the World.



In March, you were challenged to *spring into kindness* daily with your gifts of generosity and kindness. In reflecting on your experience with being mindful to make these intentional acts daily, how did it impact you and others? You probably felt that when you made a difference for others, you *truly* received.

Scripture shares many stories of generosity and kindness throughout the Bible. One is in Acts 28:2, "The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all."

As disciples of Jesus Christ, it starts with us, and our collective acts of generosity and kindness can make a big impact. Together, we can *truly* change the world, and the world could use *more stories* of generosity and kindness. While the challenge ended as the heat of the summer crept in, you can share generosity and kindness everywhere every day. What acts of generosity and kindness will you commit today?

Member Giving

Summer is a time to visit family and friends or go on an adventure. While you are away from home, remember your church family. Worship continues, our PIN Ministry office is as busy as ever and activities for children abound! When you are here, please share your time and talents by ushering, greeting or assisting with children's Sunday School. Below is an update on member giving through May. Thank you to those who are current in your giving. If you have slipped behind, we appreciate you catching up. By sharing our time, talents and treasures, church life remains in balance and we can do wonderful things!

MAY MEMBER GIVING			
	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	VARIANCE
MAY	\$136,804	\$159,663	(\$22,859)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$843,453	\$939,444	(\$95,991)

Is your pledge up-to-date? If not, please catch up!

- GIVE button at fpchhi.org; a one-time or recurring gift
- Texting "FPCHHI" to 77977
- QR code below, right
- Check: Mail a check to 540 William Hilton Parkway, HHI, SC 29928; please indicate on the memo line how the gift is to be used, (i.e., pledge, etc.)
- Stock transfer – Gifts of securities are welcome (consult your financial advisor or tax advisor for details). The process is simple. Please contact Director of Administration Susan Brannon, sbrannon@fpchhi.org, for the information required for this transaction.



FPC's Amazin' Grazin'

A monthly "Dining Together" event



Amazin' Grazin' Will be Back this Fall!

- Enjoy fellowship, meet new people and get to know others better!
- Adult couples and singles are placed in a different dinner group each month.
- Groups of 7-8 people are randomly assigned, with a different host each month. The host determines the format (i.e., picnic, gathering at a restaurant, potluck meal at the hosts home, etc.) and the location.
- Watch for sign-up information in August!

540 William Hilton Parkway
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

July ~ August Newsletter

FPC's Breaking Bread Ministry Hosted Another Wonderful Evening of Fellowship!

Wow! So much fun at the BBQ, Bingo & Brownies event on June 21. We share a huge "thank you" with members of FPC's Breaking Bread Ministry who prepared a delicious dinner for 130 people. After the yummy meal, all ages enjoyed playing Bingo with caller and member David Lauderdale.

