

First Press

October 2022

A publication of First Presbyterian Church | Hilton Head Island, SC

Transforming Lives Near and Far



Your pledge dollars carry out the church's mission of *changing lives, making disciples*. But you may not know how far and wide the impact of your pledge extends locally and globally.

Thanks to our collective pledges, FPC is able to **help our neighbors** by providing food for the hungry, medical services for the sick, programs for those with special needs, and emergency aid for those in need of housing, transportation, and cost of living demands.

Your pledge also supports a variety of **educational opportunities** for both youth and adults, providing tutoring, job training, school uniforms, one-on-one mentoring, and a summer enrichment program.

Finally, the impact of your pledge goes beyond our church walls and makes a difference in the lives of people **throughout the world**. FPC has contributed financial support for Ukrainian war relief efforts, indigent care in the Congo, schooling in Haiti and Nicaragua, clean water in Africa, housing repairs in the hurricane-damaged Caribbean, and the important

ministries of our partner missionaries in Kenya and Sweden.

As you read the list of local and global programs that receive support from your pledge, imagine how your giving transforms lives near and far. FPC's Outreach Ministry plans to explore new partnerships in 2023 and will be open to whatever God may place on our hearts. Please pray for the missions we fund and the members of our ministry teams. And, as you pray, we ask that you reflect on how God may be calling you to grow in faith and generosity to glorify *Him*.



Impacting people around the world, your giving helps children in Africa and many other countries!

[Read more about transforming lives on page 4](#)

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry Awards \$18,000 to FPC's People in Need Ministry

First Presbyterian's People in Need program (PIN) recently received a grant totaling \$18,000! This money enables the ministry to provide more assistance to those in need in our community. As part of the Town of Hilton Head Island's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA/State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds (SLRF) Covid-19 grant process, the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry recently awarded grants to 15 nonprofit agencies that support residents on the Island. "As one of those organizations, the PIN ministry can now help more people negatively impacted by Covid-19 to pay their rent and utility bills," said Barbara Edwards who chairs the PIN ministry and coordinates the volunteers who help her staff it.

The funding is part of a \$5 million grant the Town of Hilton Head Island received. Of the total grant dollars, \$1 million was earmarked to support nonprofits providing services to low-to-moderate income residents on Hilton Head.

Continued on page 5

“Lifelong Learners of the Lord”



In the Bible a basic meaning of the Greek word translated “disciple” is “learner.” So, as Christians, we’re *lifelong learners of the Lord*. That’s why worship, Bible study (on our own and with others), fellowship with other Christians and service to others in Christ’s name are *essential*. For

example, when we have a devotional time (I recommend the free app “Pray As You Go”), we learn how the Lord would have us live that day usually by emphasizing some aspect of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord.

As a Christian and as a pastor, I’m grateful for the continuing education (con ed) that I enjoy each year. (Every PC[USA] pastor’s terms of call includes two weeks of con ed per year). It’s a *crucial* part of my own lifelong learning as a disciple of the Lord. From October

3-9 I’ll have a week of con ed in Charleston. I enjoy writing in service to the church (FPC and the larger church). A prime example of this is my book *Metaphor, Morality, and the Spirit in Romans 8:1-17* (which is based on my Ph.D. dissertation and available at a low, low price on Amazon.com!). You may also read two articles I’ve written for *The Presbyterian Outlook* by visiting the FPC website, **click here**. I plan to write another article that week of con ed. I’ll also read in preparation for upcoming worship-sermon series at FPC and for classes I’ll be teaching at the church in Advent and Lent. Finally, I’ll devote some of that con-ed week to preaching/homiletics and to the practice/art of teaching.

I pray that *you* will commit or recommit yourself to being a lifelong learner of the Lord at FPC.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Will

Don’t Miss the Art Exhibit in the South Wing



FPC’s Visual Arts Committee has installed an exhibit in the south wing (to your left when exiting the sanctuary) which celebrates Jesus’ life on earth seen through the eyes and imagination of a myriad of artists. Curated by Sarah Colago and Sandra Bowden, the exhibition begins with the Annunciation and birth of the Savior, follows His ministry,

and then moves through His Passion and Resurrection, culminating with his Ascension. Using a wide variety of media, 23 artists from ten countries picture Christ’s earthly life. These 26 artworks come together to provide a rich experience of seeing afresh Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection.

Immanuel is a Hebrew word meaning “God with us,” and it expresses the wonder of the incarnation, the mystery that God “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). God accomplished this with the birth of Jesus, when the Word, the Son and the second person of the Trinity became flesh.

This is the Incarnation. It is impossible to fathom the mystery of Christ’s Incarnation; nevertheless, Jesus does take form in our physical world. Many have called this the “scandal” of the Incarnation—which the infinite God could somehow be present in the created world.

The exhibit includes art from 11 countries, such as, Dominican Republic, Japan, France, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Slovakia, Mexico, England, Panama, and the United States. The pieces on display include paintings, embroidered molas, etchings, woodcuts, tempera, serigraphs, and woodcarving.

A Message from Pastor Diane

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

--Romans 15:7

I'm writing this exactly 14 days after I opened my office door for the first time at First Presbyterian Church. By the time you read this, I will have met many more people, forgotten many more names (I'm working on it!), made many more mistakes, and discovered many more things about the life and ministries of this congregation. The descriptor, "It's like drinking from a firehose," has been used by Will, Susan, and others to kindly commiserate with my plight as a new staff person. There is SO much to learn, and I am loving it!

What I already know, and thank God for, is that members and friends of this congregation are genuinely welcoming. I have been greeted warmly by so many and invited to participate or drop into meetings, gatherings, groups and other activities. You have inquired about my move, my family, our living arrangements, and offered all manner of assistance.

Of course, you may say, "Well, you're a new pastor and we're on our best behavior!" But I suspect it's more than that. I've witnessed your warmth and genuine concern as you welcome visitors on Sunday mornings and welcome back those who may have not been attending due to the pandemic or other reasons. I've seen it in our staff and ministry leaders; in the ways in which they diligently work to make sure that no one "falls through the cracks" or is overlooked. I sat with our Lay Visitation Team and heard

their concern for the lonely and those who are shut-in, as they wrestled with how best to care for them. And I've seen it in our People in Need ministry in which those coming to FPC seeking assistance for food, rent or other needs are greeted as brothers and sisters in Christ and taken seriously in their need.



There's not enough space to list all I've been learning but I do want to say...to be continued. I hope each month to share my impressions or lift up the work of a particular ministry under Congregational Care and Connection. Although that's my area of oversight, please know I am an associate pastor for the entire congregation and am certainly praying for and wanting to learn more about the good things happening in other areas of ministry as well.

The welcome we've received in Jesus Christ sets the tone for how we share life together, doesn't it? Though we are imperfect, broken, prone to wander from the ways of God, Jesus calls us his own. I feel very fortunate to be called to a church family who lives joyfully, graciously, drawing wide the circle of welcome that all might be embraced by the body of Christ here at FPC and in our community.

Active Shooter Training to be Hosted by Facilities Ministry

FPC's Facilities Ministry has scheduled a presentation on Thursday, October 6, at 10 AM in the sanctuary on an "active shooter" incident. A representative from the Beaufort County Sheriff's office will facilitate the presentation and discuss how we can prepare for such an event.

All are invited to attend; volunteers on the Usher and Welcome teams are encouraged to attend.



*Continued from
the cover page*

Transforming Lives Near and Far

Your gifts transform lives *locally*

Antioch Educational Center (AEC)
 Backpack Buddies
 Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen
 Book & A Buck
 Brain Gain
 Deep Well Project
 Family Promise of Beaufort County
 First Presbyterian Day School
 Hopeful Horizons
 Memory Matters
 Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC)
 People in Need Fund (PIN)
 Pockets Full of Sunshine
 Programs for Exceptional People (PEP)
 Real Champions
 Sandalwood Community Food Pantry
 School Uniform Drive
 Thornwell
 Volunteers in Medicine (VIM)

Your gifts transform lives *globally*

Bahati Scholars, Nairobi, Kenya
 CCP Christian School and House of Hope,
 Nicaragua
 Haiti Outreach Ministries
 Adelynn Helms, Mission project, Gothenburg,
 Sweden
 Housing repairs in the Caribbean
 IMCK in the Congo
 Marion Medical Mission, Africa
 Operation Christmas Child
 Rev. Stephanie Black, Global Theological Educator,
 based in Nairobi
 Ukrainian War Relief



Parents at Antioch Education Center pick up school uniforms donated thanks to your gifts!



FPC youth often partner on projects with participants from Pockets Full of Sunshine.

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry Awards \$18,000 to FPC's People in Need Ministry

Continued from the cover page

The PIN ministry has been in place at FPC since 2009. "Through the program we provide assistance to low-income residents in the areas of rental or mortgage assistance, utility assistance, food assistance through food cards and a small food pantry, and on occasion childcare assistance and other miscellaneous expenses," said Edwards.

Edwards said PIN partners with other agencies such as Deep Well, St. Francis Outreach and Holy Family Catholic Church. Oftentimes, due to budget limits, an individual organization is not able to meet the entire need of the client. "We use a program called Charity Tracker to verify client information and to be aware of other assistance clients may have received from other local agencies."

Many PIN clients helped since the beginning of the Pandemic have been negatively impacted by Covid-19. Some have missed work due to having Covid or being exposed to it. Others have missed work because their children had Covid and/or their caregivers had it. Many have missed work because their employers cut back on their hours or shut down completely. The ongoing issues caused by Covid-19 have put many families at risk of being evicted from their homes, having electricity or

water shut off, not having food on their tables, not having childcare, and/or not having a vehicle that enables them to get to work.

FPC member and long-time PIN volunteer, Edwina Dunlap, wrote the grant application that enabled the PIN ministry to receive the recent grant. "The program has seen an increase in requests for help in 2021 and 2022," said Dunlap. "We have received requests for much more help than our normal budget could handle. Thankfully, we had received many generous donations for the PIN program from members of our congregation and were able to handle these requests. However, our reserves were almost depleted and we would not have been able to continue helping residents of the Island at the same rate we have done for the last 18 months. Receiving this grant will help us to continue to assist our most vulnerable neighbors."



PIN Chair Barbara Edwards

SAVE THE DATE

Journey to Joy

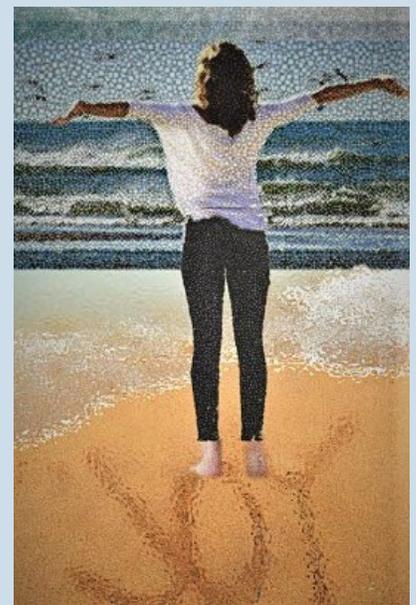
Lingering at the Trailhead

2023 Women's Retreat

January 20-21

First Presbyterian Church HHI

To learn more about the retreat, visit the
Ministry Table in the Gathering Space
between services on Sunday, October 9



Children's & Youth Ministry



FPC Kids ~ A variety of Options for Children on Sundays

Children are welcome to sit with their parents in worship or to use the Family Worship Center, a space in the Sanctuary that helps engage children in worship. It has a book-case of supplies, a learning table and a Faith Formation staff or volunteer guide. We also provide a Bible lesson for children from 10-10:30 AM in Creation Station (upstairs in Room 216), followed by crafts and music. After the crafts and music in Creation Station, children return with FPC staff to the Sanctuary. Child care for infants and toddlers is available from 8:45-11:45 AM in Room 109. If you need to leave with a child, you can listen to this service in the narthex (just outside the Sanctuary's front doors).

To learn more about our children's ministry, contact Jodi Gregg Krivda, 843.681.3696, jkrivda@fpchhi.org.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER was a huge success!

FPC Youth Group raises more than \$2,000 at Lowcountry Boil

The courtyard provided the perfect backdrop for the delicious Lowcountry dinner prepared by FPC member Otto Ferrene. The Carmines Family graciously donated 40 pounds of fresh South Carolina shrimp. Dinner was followed by game night, a super fun event for folks of all ages!



Above: Chef Otto Ferrene



Right: More than 130 people attended the Lowcountry Boil

**Adventures in Music (AiM) Choir
To Sing in 10:30 AM Worship on October 9!**

Right: Laura Floyd directs AiM rehearsal on Wednesdays, at 4:15 PM, in the choir room



Get Connected!

Note these upcoming activities at the church...



Coffee & Conversation to be Hosted by The Social Witness Task Force

Join us for the first Coffee & Conversation this fall! On Thursday, October 20, at 9:30 AM, come to the Gathering Space for an informal presentation by Shari Manning, PhD, who will talk with us about “Typical Post-Pandemic Anxiety: How Have Our Lives Changed?” We’ll talk about how life has changed these past few years as well as losses that may have been experienced. For more information, contact Judy Pizzuti, 843.422.3797.

How to Protect Aging Muscles & Joints: A Physical Therapist’s Perspective

Hosted by FPC’s Health Ministry, this informative program will be held on Tuesday, October 25, at 4 PM in Fellowship Hall. The Speaker will be Dennis Ittenbach, PT, CLT-LANA, a local therapist who has practiced here for many years. Topics he will address include:

- What happens to human muscle tissue as we age?
- Common impairments and injuries associated with seniors
- Fitness strategies for the prevention of injury

Members of Health Ministry hope you will plan to attend!

Adopt-A-Highway Program Volunteers Needed for Next Clean-up on November 12

The “Adopt-A-Highway” team tackled the third cleanup of FPC’s two designated county roads on Saturday, September 17. Upon arrival, someone in the group said, “I drove by our area and it looked pretty clean.” According to coordinator Juliana Kim, the group managed to fill 17 large trash bags and collected some unusual items, including a discarded tire, 20 empty mulch bags, a vacuum cleaner, and a “new” angel food cake that was in the box!

The last event for 2022 is scheduled for November 12. The group meets at the church at 9:30 AM to review the safety precautions, get gloves and tools, and then pretty quickly gets to work. Volunteers are always needed!

FPC began participating in this program last year as part of being an Earth Care Congregation.

For more information and to sign up, contact Juliana Kim, Julianabkim@gmail.com.



October

NEWSLETTER

Some of the friendly faces of FPC!

