

# FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN INFORMER

NOVEMBER 2022

Established June 1926  
**FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2931 WEST MAIN STREET  
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153  
[www.flccsaalem.org](http://www.flccsaalem.org)  
[www.facebook.com/fortlewisc](http://www.facebook.com/fortlewisc)

office: 380-4636 fax: 380-4522

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. John P. Dunstan	Interim Minister
Rev. Dr. Terry Elkins	Pastor Emeritus
Bobbie Morris	Church Secretary
(serving since March 1967)	e-mail: <a href="mailto:sec.flcc@gmail.com">sec.flcc@gmail.com</a>
Donita Moore	Minister of Music
Gary Baldwin	Minister of Drama
	Nursery
Dana Witt	Pre-kindergarten to kindergarten
Amanda Murphy	grades 1 - 5
Sid Witt	grades 6 - 12

## WORSHIP PLANS

**ALL OF US THAT LOVE THE CHURCH ARE  
NEEDED TO HELP BUILD IT BACK.  
HELP WANTED - RIGHT NOW!**

Worship Service is being held in the sanctuary and on YOUTUBE and FACEBOOK. Before you enter the sanctuary, pick up your bulletin and communion.

*THE MISSION OF  
FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
The Mission of this Congregation shall be to glorify God's grace through the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout our Community and the World.*

## WITHIN THE CONGREGATION



**Jewell Epling**, Richfield Living  
Willow Cottage, 3719 Knollridge Rd.,  
Salem, VA 24153

**Bill Epling**, the Oaks, Richfield Living,

**Jackie Reynolds**, Richfield Living, 3719  
Knollridge Rd., Salem, VA 24153

**Karen Shelor**, Waddell Nursing and Rehab, 202  
Painter Street, Galax, VA 24333.

**Thelma Wilkes**, Richfield Living - Willow Cottage,  
3719 Knollridge Rd., Salem, VA 24153

**HOME BOUND:** Brandy Dickerson and  
Mike Prillaman

## ONGOING RECOVERY:

**Continue prayers for the following:**

Guy Jackson, Steven Brown, Cecily Morgan,  
Joy Carter, Carol Oliver, Tom Cook,  
Terry Wingfield, Betty Richardson,  
Glenn Prather, David and Carol Brown,  
Harvey Howell, Allen Moran, Marc Golden,  
Bari Neighbors, Carol Duncan Esau,  
Lance Brewer, Edith Good, Maxine Hance,  
Don Dye, Cliff Whitley, Dana Witt,  
Mark, Fredia, Larry and Debbie Blankenship,  
Robbie Francisco, Wayne Craig, Kati Wright,  
Sandy Mischianti, Esta Griggs, Helen Granger,  
Chris Morris, Monique Carroll, Betty Rice,  
Gary Baldwin, Heather Lawrence,  
Nichols family, Alouf family, Pete Broughman,  
Pruitt family, Ryan Pry, David & Sharon Moran,  
Ernest Moore, Patsey and Ortie Boyd, Pat Byrd,  
Jennifer and Indy Bradford, Eva Gordon,  
Terry McVey, Diana Smith, Susie Gipson,  
Peggy Nixon, Dorothy Thompson, Travis Eaton,  
Trish and Josh Hepler, Wayne Ayers,  
Doris Harris, Daniel, Arin and Jack Lowe,

Ricky Pinkerman and family,  
Jerry Cronin, Dawn Grant, Gale Bair,  
Sam Mountcastle, Steve Jacobs,  
Dale Byington, Lucy Prillaman, Joyce Lyons,  
Nastassia Huddleston family, Agnes Shores,  
Charlie and Guida Lefler, Larry Graham,  
Cochran family, Allen Watson,  
Susie Gipson, Dawn Derocher,  
Garland Humphrey's mother, Teacher, Olena  
Motsar and her students from Ukraine

~ After leaving Lewis Gale Hospital, Susie Gipson spent some time at the Salem Health and Rehab for therapy, but got home on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

~ David Brown is recovering from a surgical procedure he had on October 26.

**\*CONGRATULATIONS** to Tashy Huddleston and Josh Carruth on the birth of their son, Kyrie Trevian Carruth, born October 5, 2022. Proud grandmother, Ellen Richmond. Also, to Chess and Carly Lee on the birth of their daughter, Lilyan Nora, born October 14, 2022. Proud grandparents, Teddy and Sabrina Lee.

**\*CONGRATULATIONS** to Rev. Emily Sheppard who received a letter of call for the position of Associate Minister at First Christian Church, Salem.

\*Our deepest sympathy to the family of Betty Twigg who passed away October 7, 2022, daughter Debbie Bourne. Also, to Jerry Brittain on the loss of his brother, Jacques, who passed away October 13, 2022. Also, to Don and Dot Dye on the loss of Don's sister, Carol Rashella, who passed away October 12, 2022. Also, to Jeff and Terry Criner on the loss of Jeff's sister, Terry Hickson, who passed away Wednesday, October 19, 2022. Also, to Dan and Sharon Levesque on the loss of Dan's father who passed away on October 23, 2022.



Sgt. Marisa Baumann,  
First Lt. Tom F. Faucher 111,  
Kaleb Gallimore, Zack Setchel,  
Lindsey Roop, Jordan Griffin,  
Jason and Melissa Gilley, Airman Jocelyn  
Baumann and all other Military Troops

*'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us...bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. In Jesus Name, Amen'*

**\*Reminder** - when leaving the church, be sure all doors are locked, lights off and check air and/or heat.

\*On the bulletin board, see sign-up sheets for: moments with children, lighting altar and memorial candles, reading scripture and there is a sheet for congregation members to suggest songs they would like to sing during worship service. Also, we are needing people to help and get more involved with our young people. We ask that you prayerfully consider helping with and be a part of the rotation of teaching and planning things with our youth/children programs as a whole, bringing new ideas and thoughts. Together this will hopefully expand our program and allow the church to build more unity and since of community across all age groups.

\*A congregational meeting was held after church on October 23, 2022 to vote on church officer nominations and to vote on a new budget for years 2023 and 2024. They passed with an overwhelming majority.

~ Paul Murphy, board chair

**\*SEEKER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

Sunday, 9:30 AM, meeting in the Hearts and Souls Sunday School Class.

**\*YOUTH/CHILDREN CHURCH** inside at 10:30 AM on Sunday morning.

**\*DISCIPLE WOMEN** will meet Wednesday, November 2, at 10:00 AM. Lesson 8

~ **NEW PRICES:** Pecan halves \$10.75, Pecan pieces \$10.50, black walnuts \$11.50, 15 different flavors of Imitation flavoring (7 oz) \$3.00 each, natural flavoring (4 oz) strawberry \$10.25, \$8.25 each for maple, cherry, raspberry, brandy, blueberry, peach - dish cloths \$1.25 each.

**\*SENIOR SOCIAL SOCIETY** will meet on Wednesday, November 9, at 9:00 AM at Famous Anthony's for breakfast.

**\*ELDER'S meet - November 14, 5:00 PM**

**\*CHURCH BOARD MEETING - November 14, 6:00 PM**

\*Mark your calendar - **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED WORLD COMMUNITY DAY** will be held on Friday, December 2, 2022, at 10AM. (place to be determined)

**\*JOAN DORSEY CLOTHING CLOSET** at South Colorado and Seventh Street in Salem is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9AM to noon. Clothing is free and does not require a referral from a social service agency. Some household articles such as bedding and kitchen utensils are available.



Requests have increased and donations have decreased, so anything you can help with will be greatly appreciated. Place in the baskets when entering the church.

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Jason and Amanda Otey 11-2-2013  
Teddy & Sandy Baldacci 11-7-1964  
Teddy & Sabrina Lee 11-17-1984  
Robert & Sandy Mischianti 11-21-1992

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Scotti Hartman (1), Susie Gripson (3),  
Bethany Burns (4), Peggy Carroll (6),  
Mary Vargas Machaj (7), Adam Bennett (7),  
Alex Sheppard (8), Terry Eaton (9),  
Emma Rottkamp (9), Tom Stone (10),  
T.J. Shelor (10), Maddie Richardson (11),  
Rowland Wheeler (13), Diana Curtiss (14),  
Chris Brown (16), Dexter Prather (19),  
Dan Oyler (22), Andrew Baldacci (24),  
Miles Wigfall (24), Ali Brown (26),  
Sandy Mischianti (27), Maxine Hance (28),  
Terry Oliver (28),

**CORRECTIONS TO YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY:**

**Brent Richardson**  
Phone: 540-855-1766  
e-mail: [br07dodgr@gmail.com](mailto:br07dodgr@gmail.com)

**Maddie Richardson**  
Phone: 540-798-0063  
**MacKenzie Richardson**  
Phone: 540-819-6414

**Sam and Josiah Cook**  
4601 Oakdale Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1027  
540-397-6141

## "GET OFF YOUR CAN!"



We're talking about exercise with a twist. Picture it . . . Get your body movin', listening to contemporary Christian music, while helping the food pantry. How is that possible you ask?

**EVERY MONDAY - 10:00 AM  
IN THE DISCIPLE HALL**

## ***MONDAY MADNESS***

**9:00 AM - SIGN CHOIR**

**9:30 AM - LINE DANCE AROBICS**

**10:00 AM - GET OFF YOUR CAN  
EXERCISE CLASS**

**11:00 AM - DRUM CIRCLE**

**(for more detailed information, see Gary)**

Instead of weights, each person is asked to bring 2 cans of beans, or soup, or corn (the list goes on). - OR - 2 bags of beans, or rice, etc. After class, the cans, bags of food are collected for the **FOOD PANTRY**.

\*All ages accepted - chairs provided, however, if needed, you can use the whole time - work at your own pace - bring water - dress comfortable wear comfortable shoes for movement

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL 2022**

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Harvest Festival this year. As always, we combined trunk-or-treat with a chili cook off to make it an event for the young and the young at heart. We had a great turnout.

- Approx. 50 people in attendance
- 10 trunk-or-treat vehicles
- 14 chili entries
- Numerous cake walk treats
- We raised approximately \$160 in love offering for the children's program
- And there was \$55 in donations that was used for supplies/candy/food for the event - not to mention personal donations to ensure we had enough food for everyone

**Winners of the 2022 Chili Cook Off were:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Brent Richardson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Amanda Griggs
- 1<sup>st</sup> place tie: Dana/Sid Witt & Chris Brown

Thank you to those who participated in the chili cook off, those who decorated their cars for the trunk or treat, and those who made/purchased treats for the cake walk. Thank you to Ellen Richmond and Bobbie Oyler for bringing sandwiches. A big shout out to Missy Richardson & Dana Witt who helped with set up & food preparation and Ellen Richmond & Carol Brown for washing dishes & cleaning kitchen afterward!

It definitely takes a team effort to pull off an event like this!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: Pancakes with St. Nick - Saturday December 10. More details to follow!**

*Thanks be to God!*  
Christian Education Committee  
Sid Witt & Vickie Richardson

"I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all who kept me in your prayers while I was in the ICU at Lewis Gale and at the Salem Health and Rehab. I am home now and continue to recover". Thanks again!



~ Susie Gipson



American Red Cross

Thank you to all who donated blood on our last drive on October 3, 2022. 16 pints of blood were donated. The Red

Cross had established a goal of 20 pints. Thanks also to Sandra Brewer, Pat Byrd, Annis Eaton, Patricia Hales, Margaret Lacy and Harriett Lawrence who made and brought snacks for the blood drive. **Our next blood drive is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2022, from 1 - 6PM.** You can schedule your appointment now at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). There has been a severe shortage of blood and has been for 2 years due to the impact of Covid. Please donate if you are able. If possible, encourage your coworkers, friends and/or relatives. If anyone would like to bring sandwiches/cookies, etc., please have them in the kitchen area by noon on December 5, 2022. Thanks, George Hales

**FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
BUILDING FUND FINANCIAL REPORT**

**BEGINNING BALANCE \$49,261.69**

September 2022 deposits \$1,325.00  
(pledges, givelify, memorials, Kroger)

Disbursements \$4,465.20

**ENDING BALANCE \$46,121.49**  
9/30/2022

**SERMONS/SCRIPTURE FOR NOVEMBER**

November 6, 2022  
Scripture: Luke 20:27-39  
Sermon: Alive to God

November 13, 2022  
Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17-25  
Sermon: God Makes All Things New

November 20, 2022  
Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9  
Sermon: The Lord is Near

November 27, 2022  
Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5  
Sermon: God's Dream

HELP! does any one know how to make the phone in Bobbie's office to ring more than 3 times. Even if I am in the copy room, can't make it to the phone in time to answer.

**FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND**

**BEGINNING BALANCE \$74,612.50**  
(includes general fund, outreach, reserves)

September 2022 deposit \$8,408.00  
Givelify deposits \$1,388.88

Disbursements: \$12,114.56

**ENDING BALANCE \$72,290.82**  
9/30/2022



Thanks for the Memories

When I was younger, I had the opportunity to meet one of my favorite human being: Bob Hope...From my earliest memories Bob Hope was often on the 13-inch TV screen singing and dancing. Often Bing Crosby would be his partner in delighting the audience and the nation. Some of their stuff was silly, some dramatic, always patriotic, always warm and friendly. As Mr. Hope was ending his time with the audience, be that personally or on national TV, he would sing his little song "Thanks for the memories".

In my brief encounter with Bob Hope I got the chance to shake his hand. It was brief but thrilling. As Mr Hope walked away that afternoon, I called out, "Mr Hope". He paused and turned facing me. Having the opportunity of a lifetime right before me I reached inside for some courage and in a flash, I bellowed out his song, \_\_\_\_\_ Thanks for the Memories. It was an intimate moment with a comic genius and great American. At first stunned, he stood erect and gave me a Thumbs Up, turned and departed.

That is much like I feel writing my final newsletter at Fort Lewis Christian Church. We weathered a once in 100 year Pandemic together. Through the whole thing so many folks stayed true to the church and true to the Lord that now this church is ready to go forth and prosper. Much still needs to be done. Everyone must continue to work together as Paul says "Without contentiousness or strife". Keeping the Lord Jesus ever before the the congregation, all the great efforts of the past can meet the renewed efforts of today and tomorrow that the Kingdom of God might be glimpsed in our midst. As I look back with fondness, and look ahead with great hope, I can join with my Hero, Bob Hope, to say sincerely "Thanks for the Memories".

You guys will always be with me and I with you:  
Till He comes again. In Christian Love and  
Appreciation, ~ Dr. John Dunstan

### **SEARCH & CALL UPDATE**

The Search & Call Committee has now transitioned into a temporary Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). We will continue this through the new year and at some point, this will be taken over and continued by the Elders in the church.

**What does a Pastoral Relations Committee Do?** A Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is a small group of persons who provide support for the pastor and provide a regular channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation. The PRC will assist the Pastor in his transition to the church as well as assisting the church in its transition to the new Pastor.

We will be assisting Matt and his family in finding suitable housing, moving, finding their way around town and getting them settled and rooted into the church. We are also available for the church in a similar capacity.

For more information on how you can be of assistance or how we can assist you in this transition, please contact myself or any of the committee members as we looking forward to our new beginnings and growth to come here at FLCC.

Many thanks!

Sid Witt (Cell# 540-309-6274)  
S&C/PRC Chair

Members: Vickie Richardson, Diana Curtiss,  
Dan Oyler, ex officio - Paul Murphy

## ELDERS ECHO:

"Never Practice What You Preach"

I like to write down quotes or articles which could be used in future Elder's Echoes. This "Thought for today" came from the Roanoke Times of April 24, 2018. It said: "Never practice what you preach. If you're going to practice it, why preach it?" It was from Lincoln Steffens an American journalist-reformer (1866-1936).

Anytime I think about a person's actions, I immediately think about how Jesus described our actions as being fruits which are an outward exhibit of our inner selves. A preacher whom I loved dearly had many sayings which I carry with me as food for thought. One was that the Bible tells us that we, as Christians, are not to be "judges" of others. However, he went on to say, it also tells us that we are to be "fruit inspectors".

In Matthew 7:16-20 Jesus warns his followers to be wary of false teachers by saying "By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*" (NIV)

In Galatians 5: 22-23 Paul tells us what good fruits to look for in those who proclaim to follow Jesus. He says "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." In nature, trees cannot control how their fruit develops. They do not have the means to stop bad fruit from forming. However, as Christians, we have complete control over our own fruit. We can choose whether to bear good fruit or bad fruit depending on how we respond to the Holy Spirit that resides in us.

In closing, if you really do want to preach, then you should only preach what you practice.

~ Roger Lacy, elder

Fort Lewis Christian Church  
Board Meeting  
at Church and via Zoom  
October 10, 2022 - 6:00 pm

The board meeting of the Fort Lewis Christian Church was held on Monday, October 10, 2022 at 6:10 pm at the church and via zoom. The meeting was called to order and Ellen Richmond opened with prayer.

Members Present: Paul Murphy, Roger Lacy, Diana Curtiss, Judy Oliver, Ellen Richmond, Vickie Richardson, Donita Moore, non-voting, Pastor John Dunstan, non-voting, Sid Witt, non-voting, Dan Oyler, non-voting, Ron Prillaman, non-voting

Absent: Jerry Brittain, Carol Brown, Cindy Jones, non-voting

The minutes of the meetings held August 8, 2022 and August 21, 2022 were approved.

**Treasurer**, Ron Prillaman presented preliminary numbers for September, 2022. A complete report will be sent to the board once it is available.

**Stewardship/Finance** - Dan Oyler presented the budget for 2023/2024. Motion was made by Roger Lacy and seconded by Ellen Richmond to approve the budget and submit to the membership at the meeting in October, 2022. Motion was carried.

**Search and Call** - Sid Witt announced that Rev. Matthew H. Cox had accepted the call to serve as Minister of Fort Lewis Christian Church at a beginning yearly salary of \$60,420 on September 24, 2022. Reasonable moving expenses will be negotiated separately. He will begin December 4, 2022. A pastor relations committee will be formed to help with the transition.

**Music Ministry Report** - Donita Moore/Paul Murphy - A report was submitted covering the period August 2022 - September 2022. The report will be filed in the church office.

**New Business:** Approval of Nominations - Susie Sheppard/Paul Murphy - The following were presented: Board Chair - Dan Oyler, Vice Chair - Diana Curtiss, Board Secretary - Cindy Jones, Treasurer - Ron Prillaman, Elders on the Board - Susie Sheppard, Elder Chair (selected by Elders), Deacons on Board - Iona Holland, Deacon Chair (selected by Deacons), Members at Large on the Board - Pat Hales, Brent Richardson.

**Deacons:** Sandy Baldacci, Teddy Baldacci, Tom Brewer, Carol Brown, Mark Curtiss, Ken Griggs, Iona Holland, Judy Oliver, Carmel Sheppard, Heather Burnette (new), Miles Wigfall (new, Jr), Kristi Prillaman (new), Wren Prillaman (new, Jr.), Ali Brown (new, Jr), Nicole Brown.

**Elders:** Fentress Boley, Jerry Brittain, Harriette Lawrence, Roger Lacy, Jennie Sue Murdock, Dan Oyler, Susie Sheppard, Ellen Richmond (new)

Motion was made by Judy Oliver and seconded by Vickie Richardson to approve the nominating committee report. Motion was carried. The Nominating Committee report will be presented at the membership meeting in October.

The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the church and via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Willis

\*Our total donations collected for the **CROP WALK** was \$1,070.00. We had 4 walkers and 2 virtual walkers. Thanks to Susie Sheppard as our coordinator and thanks to all who make a donation and walked.

\*Our special **Thanksgiving offerings, 2022**, will be taken on November 13 and 20 that will support Higher Education and Leadership Ministries. Each dollar received will be directed to strengthen the relationship between church and academy and to the formation of leaders that will transform the world for the better. For your donation, make you check out to the church and mark it for Thanksgiving offering. If you want to use the special envelope, they will be on the table with the bulletins.





# **FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

To: Whom it may concern

From: Ron Prillaman, Treasurer

Date: November 6, 2021

Re: Treasurer Report, October 31 Financials

October was a good month for the Church financials. Increasing contributions to both the General and Building Funds ended monthly deficits realized recently. Expenses incurred continue to be within what is expected.

Donations in the General Fund increased from \$8,125 in September to \$21,210 in October. The donations largely came from three sources: ongoing monthly donations of \$12,182, yard sale proceeds and memorial donations of \$2,178, and a large donation funded through an IRA/401K distribution of \$6,000. Typically, such a large donation is spread in monthly equal increments over the remaining calendar year but giving the timing of the donation, it was all included as October donations. Expenses in October increased around \$1,800 compared to the previous month. While monthly expenses do vary, the increase in October occurred primarily because of the sanctuary TV purchase, the cleaning of the sanctuary carpet, and guest speaker donations which do not occur regularly. Income from donations and other sources exceed expenses by \$7,461 in October. The year to date loss in the General Fund was reduced to \$1,928.

Donations in the Building Fund increased from \$1,865 in September to \$6,297 in October. The level of donations received this month were sufficient to cover the monthly mortgage without reliance on cash reserves. Donations at that level were last received in March 2021. The October donations included an IRA/401K donation of \$2,000 which is not a recurring source of monthly income but helped start rebuilding the cash reserve. The primary cash need in the Building Fund was the mortgage payment to Freedom First. Donations exceeded cash expenses by \$1,799 in October and reverses a six-month trend where cash reserves were needed to support Building Fund obligations. Approximately \$17,000 in cash reserves were needed in 2021 to offset lower donations.

Overall outreach and committee reserve activity was modest in October.

If I can answer any questions, please call me at (540) 761-1998.