

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN INFORMER

MAY 2023

Established June 1926
FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
2931 WEST MAIN STREET
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
www.flccsaalem.org
www.facebook.com/fortlewiscc

office: 380-4636 fax: 380-4522

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matthew Cox (December 4, 2022)	Minister
Rev. Dr. Terry Elkins	Pastor Emeritus
Bobbie Morris	Church Secretary
(serving since March 1967)	e-mail: sec.flcc@gmail.com
Donita Moore	Minister of Music
Gary Baldwin	Minister of Drama
Vickie Richardson	infant - 3 years old

THE CLUB HOUSE ROOM

Dana Witt Pre-school to kindergarten

THE PLAY HOUSE ROOM

Dana Witt grades 1- 5

THE TREE HOUSE ROOM

Sid Witt grades 6 - 12

THE LIGHT HOUSE ROOM

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION



Jewell Epling, Richfield Living
3719 Knollridge Rd., (223 Willow
Cottage), Salem, VA 24153

Bill Epling, Richfield Living, 3719 Knollridge Rd. (117
Honeysuckle Cottage), Salem, VA 24153

Jackie Reynolds, Richfield Living, 3719
Knollridge Rd., (208 Blue Ridge Cottage)
Salem, VA 24153

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

Thelma Wilkes, Richfield Living, 3719 Knollridge Rd.,
(219 Willow Cottage), Salem, VA 24153

HOME BOUND: Brandy Dickerson and
Mike Prillaman

ONGOING RECOVERY:

Continue prayers for the following:

Guy Jackson, Cecily Morgan, Joy Carter,
Carol Oliver, Betty Richardson, Glenn Prather,
Tom Cook, David and Carol Brown, Lance Brewer,
Maxine Hance, Don Dye, Cliff Whitley,
Dana Witt, Dawn Grant, Prentice Lowe,
Mark, Fredia and Larry Blankenship,
Robbie Francisco, Wayne Craig, Kati Wright,
Sandy Mischianti, Esta Griggs, Helen Granger,
Chris Morris, Monique Carroll, Gary Baldwin,
Heather Lawrence, Wayne Ayers, Bob Andrea,
Pete Broughman, Ernest Moore, Dan Akers,
Dawn Derocher, Debbie Thompson,
Dennis Carter, Tony Ferris, Coy Harris,
Jennifer and Indy Bradford, Susie Gipson,
Dorothy Thompson, Sarah Wheeler,
Tom Brewer, Lucy Prillaman, Don Shores,
Guida Lefler, Missy Richardson, Maurie Sutton,
Hodges family, John Sutton, Debra & Al Lewis,

WORSHIP PLANS

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

*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.*

Janet Epling Shaw, Debbie Bourne,
Brenda Heath, Danny Crouse, Edna Moran,
Matthew Billups family, Butch Boley,
Telie McCoy, Terry Wingfield
Brian Palazzolo,



Thank you to all who donated blood on our last drive on April 3, 2023. 16 pints of blood were donated. The Red Cross had established a goal of 17 pints.

Thanks to Carmel Sheppard for advertising the blood drive on our sign in front of the church. Thanks also to Pat Byrd, Annis Eaton, Margaret Lacy, Harriette Lawrence and Ellen Richmond who made and brought snacks for the blood drive. Our next blood drive is scheduled for June 5, 2023. ~ George Hales

- ~ Guy Jackson continues his recovery from hernia surgery.
- ~ Butch Boley is recovering from knee replacement surgery done at the VA Hospital.
- ~ Sarah Wheeler is recovering from outpatient surgery, where they removed the 'plate' in her arm from a previous surgery.
- ~ Dan Akers, brother to Pat Byrd, was a patient at Chippenham Hospital in Richmond and continues to recover from surgery.



Sgt. Marisa Baumann,
Capt. Tom F. Faucher III,
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 - if you are having a meeting at the church, when leaving, be sure all doors are locked, lights off and check air and/or heat if used.

***DID YOU SEE! WE HAVE A RECYCLE BIN FOR HARD PLASTICS! (NO STYROFOAM)**

(located just inside the kitchen door)

*Mark your church directory - new address for Robbie Francisco, 3730 Richfield Lane, #208, Salem, VA 24153 (phone is same)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Dana Witt (1), Matt Cox (1),
Hazel Rottkamp (8), Donita Moore (9),
Robert Mischianti, Jr. (13),
Kyle Rottkamp (14), Mark Morgan (15),
Esta Griggs (17), Sue Stone (18),
Sandra Brewer (18), Phoenix Cox (23),
Donnell Mitchem (26), Taylor Burns (26),
Nicole Brown (29), D.J. Sheppard (29),
Jennie Sue Murdock (29),
Robbie Francisco (29),

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Norman & Bobbie Morris 5-5-1961
Marshall & Michelle Barnes 5-7-1995
Butch & Fentress Boley 5-18-2013
Dexter & Joey Prather 5-18-2013
Chris & Nicole Brown 5-19-2001
Gene Morris & Angela Palazzolo 5-29-1999

*On the bulletin board, see sign-up sheets for: moments with children, lighting altar candles, deacon schedule, reading scripture, attending and helping with Vacation Bible School, work day at the church, May 20. 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.

SAVE THIS DATE!
2023 VDWM WOMEN'S MINISTRY
FALL RETREAT
OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2023
HILTON GARDEN INN
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
QUESTIONS?

Contact: Marney Brickhouse
cbrickhouse6@cox.net; 757-880-2545

***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.

***SECURITY DURING SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:** Sid Witt and Carmel Sheppard, will ensure that all doors are appropriately locked and all lights are turned off and heat/air is set properly following Sunday services and bathrooms are checked.

***ELDER'S meet** - May 1, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the church (note -change in time - they will be meeting the first Monday of the month)

***CHURCH BOARD MEETING** - May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the church

***SENIOR SOCIAL SOCIETY** will meet on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM at Famous Anthony's for breakfast.

***WORK WEEKEND at CRAIG SPRINGS**
May 19 - 21. Registration:
<https://forms.gle/V3imYVPT8QMhb9Fa7>

***WORK DAY AT FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SATURDAY, MAY 20.** See sign up sheet with list of needed things that need to be done around the property.

***GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Theme: *Kingdom of God Within Us Among Us* - in Louisville, KY, go on line to register. July 29 - August 1,

***CAN YOU HELP with needed items for Fort Lewis Elementary School**

1) Elastic waist pull-on pants - (sizes 8, 10, 12, for girls or boys, long or short, new or second hand, clean and in good condition) 2) Small bottled waters 3) Disinfectant spray. Please place items in the labeled bin when you enter the building. Items will be collected through Sunday May 7th. ~ The Outreach Committee

***DISCIPLE WOMEN** will meet Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM. All are welcomed!

JUST WOMEN is our Bible study for women by women - (lesson pages 11-14) *Can You Hear Me, O God? Are You Still With Me? Calling on God* when life is filled with worry and anxiety. Scripture reading from Philippians 4:6-7.

***The Disciple Women is sponsoring a CHURCH WIDE BLANKET DRIVE FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE for Mother's**



Day and Father's Day. There will be NO booklets. With all of the disasters happening in the world, this is the best way to show our support and love. All we are asking for is monetary donations for blankets. This outreach project has always been very successful and we hope, with your donations and support, it will happen again. Any amount will be accepted. ~ Thank you for your support

***2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Fort Lewis, Westhampton and First Christian, Salem, will be combining this year for our VBS. It will be held at First Christian, June 11 - 15, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Kay Ribble will be the director. Let Pastor Matt know if you are willing to help and if you plan to attend, signup sheet is posted on bulletin board.

"GET OFF YOUR CAN!"

EVERY MONDAY

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?

MONDAY MADNESS

9:00 - 10:00 AM - SIGN CHOIR

**10:00 - 11:00 AM - GET OFF YOUR CAN
EXERCISE CLASS**

11:00 - 12:00 noon - 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

***EVERY MONDAY - 6:00 PM the Disciple Players sign choir will meet at the church.**

***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.

***CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY - 10:00 AM**
Friday, May 5, Host: Rescue Mission
Labor with Love - A Heart to Care
Matthew 25:37-40
(Registration begins at 9:30 AM)

***CRAIG SPRINGS CAMP DATES**
Must register!

June 19-23	New Covenant Camp
June 25-30	Nature Camp (campers arrive on 26 th)
July 3-8	Special Camp
July 10-15	Triple 1 Camp
July 17-22	CAMPDD
July 24-29	Triple 2 Camp
August 4-6	Family Camp

*On Saturday, May 20, from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM, Disciple Women of Virginia will be holding an **OPEN HOUSE** at the regional office in Lynchburg for the purpose of finding and welcoming new leaders on the cabinet. If you feel you have the gifts and graces of leadership and passion for working with other women to further our shared ministry, we invite you to this open house. As a thank you for your faithful attendance (retreats and spring workshops) through the years, a luncheon will be provided at noon in your honor. If you are able to attend, please RSVP by sending an e-mail to Sue Gordon by April 30th, at the regional office at ccinva_sg@hotmail.com

SERMON TITLES AND SCRIPTURES FOR MAY 2023

(sign up, on bulletin board, if you are interested in reading scripture)

May 7 - "Battle for our mind"
2 Corinthians 10:1-7

May 14 - "Don't Worry, Be Happy"
Matthew 6:25-34

May 21- "Living in Oddville"
Romans 12:1-8

May 28- (Pentecost Sunday)
"Empowered" Acts 2:1-12

The Industriousness of the Proverbs 31 Woman. Because of her willingness to work and her ingenuity and business acumen, this woman's children would "rise up and call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28).

The Humility of Mary. When Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she would give birth to the Messiah, her response was, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38a). This indicated her submission to God and her willingness to humbly work in the role God planned for her.

How we need godly mothers in our world today! Children need teachers of good things, reliability, morality, industriousness, and humility, and righteous mothers can be great examples of these things. Thank your godly mother today! ~ Pastor Matt



"Benefit of a Godly Mother"

There are a lot of things in life that we might be able to do without, but the benefits of godly mothers are not one of them! Can anyone imagine what this world would be like if it were not for them? We would miss:

The Teaching of Eunice. Timothy's mother, along with his grandmother Lois, was said by the apostle Paul to have a sincere faith living in them, which they handed down to the young evangelist (2 Timothy 1:5), evidently teaching him the scriptures at an early age (2 Tim. 3:15).

The Reliability of Hannah. This godly woman desired a son, and promised that if God would grant her request, she would dedicate him to the Lord's service (1 Sam. 1:11). Being a promise-keeping woman, Hannah did exactly as she said she would (1 Sam. 27-28).

The Morality of King Lemuel's Mother. This royal mother encouraged him toward right living in the areas of intoxicating drink, sexual immorality, and protecting the poor (Proverbs 31:1-10).

Fort Lewis Christian Church Board Meeting at Church (2931 W. Main St., Salem, VA) April 10, 2023

The board meeting of Fort Lewis Christian Church was held on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6 p.m. Chair Dan Oyler called the meeting to order and opened with a devotion.

Voting Members present:

Jerry Brittain, Diana Curtiss, Pat Hales, Dan Oyler, Brent Richardson & Susie Sheppard.

Absent voting member: Iona Holland.

Non-voting members present:

Pastor Matt Cox, Cindy Jones, Donita Moore, Judy Oliver, Bobbie Oyler, Ron Prillaman, Vickie Richardson & Sid Witt.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 13 meeting were approved as submitted.

Trustees: Sid Witt. Internal audit is coming so that we may video all areas of the church.

Treasurer: Ron Prillaman gave a summary of church financials. Financial reports are accepted as submitted. Documents filed in church office.

Minister: Pastor Matt Cox. Report filed in church office.

Elders: Jerry Brittain. Report filed in church office.

Deacons: No report.

Stewardship/Finance: No chair selected.

Worship: No report.

Music Ministry Report: Donita Moore - report filed with church office. Donita also reported that the young musicians that have expressed an interest in playing more. She would like to work with Lucy Cox on forming a music ensemble of young folks playing once a month beginning in the fall. The board was agreeable to this.

Property: Dan Oyler says he is gathering quotes to fix the drop-down ceiling in the choir room, and notes that the condition has probably damaged all the wiring in the ceiling. He also notes that we have switched fire control companies from Johnson Controls that was charging \$500 a month to Liberty Fire Solutions, a local company that will charge \$200 a month. Also notes that Carmel and Susie Sheppard have weeded the playground area and Carmel has applied a weed control that was recommended by the county and is non-toxic. Carmel has obtained quotes from 3 companies to purchase designated playground mulch to be applied appropriately 4" thick. Jerry Brittain made a motion to approve the lowest proposed price of \$800.28 from Pine Ridge Nursery. Judy Oliver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Oyler formed an administrative committee consisting of chair Roger Lacy and members Tom Brewer and Ron Prillaman with first task at hand to explore the cost of the Canon copier as it is a large expense item in our budget that could possibly be reduced. Roger discovered that the lease, held by Wells Fargo, on the copier supplied and maintained by R. J. Young had expired on July 30, 2022 and had continued on a month to month basis. (R. J. Young purchased Ethos Technology, who was originally named Blue Ridge Copier.) During his research, he discovered that we had been paying sales tax on the machine. Wells Fargo has refunded the 867.23 that we had erroneously paid.

Roger then explored costs to be considered for buying the existing copier versus buying another copier. It was not considered wise to buy the copier as Canon would discontinue manufacturing parts for the copier this coming December and we could be left with a copier that would not be repairable. He then solicited quotes from R. J. Young and Cobb

Technologies for a comparable machine. R. J. Young proposed a remanufactured machine that would be brought up to spec. Cobb Technologies quoted a comparable new copier. Taking all of these 3 options and looking at the long-term cost of the copier and its operation, the administrative committee felt purchasing a new machine from Cobb Technologies would be the best option as we would be receiving a new model copier and be paying significantly less for the machine and the cost to run it. Roger also suggested that rather than borrow from another leasing company and repay their principal and interest, that we could authorize the General Fund borrow from the Building Fund Reserve and repay the fund that principal and interest. The Administrative Committee made a motion that we purchase the new copier from Cobb Technologies for \$7,939.06 (the lowest cost of the bids) and use them for supplies and support for the machine at an approximate cost of \$74 per month, based on actual usage. A verbal vote was held with all Ayes and no opposition so and the motion carried. The committee also made a motion that we authorize the General fund borrow the money from the Building Fund Reserve (that is undesignated) to purchase the machine and then begin to make monthly payments and interest from our general fund back to

Christian Education - Vickie Richardson. Report filed in church office. Sid Witt added emphasis on getting volunteer help from the congregation. Dan Oyler agreed to schedule a meeting with church board and committee chairs to ratify the upcoming schedule of events and times as presented by Christian Education and to discuss coordination, communication, and prioritization of church goals.

Evangelism - Judy Oliver. Report filed in church office.

Membership - Report filed in church office.

Outreach- Pat Hales. Report filed in church office.

Audio/Video - Jerry Brittain. Report filed in church office.

Pastoral Care - Sid Witt - reports that Pastoral Care has been dissolved and duties will be transitioned to Elders.

New Business - Sid Witt requested accessibility from the back parking lot be upgraded as needed to allow wheelchair access.

Next Meeting - May 8, 2023, 6 p.m. at Church.

Closing - Pastor Matt closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 p.m.

FOR SALE = NEW PRICES:

~ Pecan halves \$11.25 (price increase)

Pecan pieces \$10.50,

black walnuts \$13.75 (price increase),

~ 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



"I would like to thank all of you
for the prayers, cards, and visits
while I was recovering from my
fall and surgery. All good wishes
was very much appreciated".

~ Sarah Wheeler

Dear Congregation of Fort Lewis Christian
Church,

"This card should have come sooner but its
just taken me awhile so I apologize. I think
about you all in the congregation everyday. What
you all did at Christmas just astounded me and it
helped me so much. I want to thank you all for
your continued donations, also. Your acts of
kindness and generosity have helped me so much
since Christmas. It's actually helped relieve
some of my anxieties and believe it or not, it's
helped me sleep better at night. For a group of
strangers to help one person they don't know has
taught me so much about giving back and acts of
kindness even when I'm sure others may be going
through their own troubles. I've learned that its
possible to find strength when you need it by
helping others that need it also.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for
your support and kindness".

~ Love to you all!

Jennifer and Indiana Bradford

"Some of us did not know what a 'Fanfare' was so
we need to apologize and thank Thomas Rexrode
and Miles Wigfall for the wonderful music they
performed on Sunday, April 9th. I did not get
their names in the bulletin, sorry guys. I think it
is important that we recognize our children and
youth and show them and their talents to our
congregation".

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

2-28-2023 Beginning Balance -	\$75,004.52
Deposits	\$20,894.14
Checks/withdrawals	\$18,703.22

The General Fund section comes straight from
the Truist monthly statement.

3-31-2023 ENDING BALANCE -	\$77,195.44
Unrestricted	\$55,277.06

is the ending balance less GF Outreach and
Reserves found on the Treasurer's Report.

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

2/28/2023 Beginning Balance -	\$39,676.60
Deposits	\$ 6,251.95
Checks/withdrawals	\$ 4,683.66

The building fund section comes straight from
the Truist monthly statement

3/31/2023 Ending balance -	\$41,244.89
Unrestricted	\$36,297.71

Is the ending balance less facilities reserve
ending balance found on the treasurer's report



Fort Lewis Christian Church

2931 West Main Street, Salem, Virginia 24153 | 540.380.4636

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Ron Prillaman, Treasurer

Date: April 3, 2023

Re: Treasurer Report, March 31 Financials

March overall was a fair month for the Church financially. Both the General Fund (GF) and the Building Fund (BF) realized cash losses requiring the use of reserves. Other funds were donated and discussed below that will help offset future premises expenses.

GF contributions in March were \$9,057 and expenses were \$12,428 with a monthly deficiency of \$3,371. Expense were normal and expected with the majority for personnel needs. GF contributions year to date were \$43,429 with expenses of \$37,561 and an excess of \$5,867. Excesses from January and February helped cover a slower March.

BF donations were again anemic in March at \$2,338. The mortgage payment of \$4,680 remained the primary cash need of the BF. The mortgage paperwork has been completed, and the recast should result in a reduced monthly payment over the next 15 years. However, the level of donations in March would not be sufficient to satisfy the new lower monthly mortgage payment. BF donations this month also included a nonrecurring transfer of funds from an inactive committee. Available reserves supplemented the shortfall.

Outreach, Committee, and Reserve activity increased in March. Outreach receipts were \$5,475 and \$6,431 was remitted or used. Wee Care Baskets comprised the bulk of the outreach activity and donations for the Week of Compassion also improved receipts. Funds held in the Over 55 Reserve were transferred to the BF as requested since the group is now inactive. A larger donation of \$4,947 was made to the Facilities Reserve, this is a fund maintained for premises improvements/repairs that has been inactive for several years. Since designated for a specific purpose, Facilities Reserve funds are maintained separately from the GF and BF until spent as intended.

If I can answer any questions, please call me at (540) 761-1998 or email at xkrpx@yahoo.com.