

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN INFORMER

JULY 2023

Established June 1926
FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
2931 WEST MAIN STREET
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
www.flccsalem.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



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 and Sharon Jackson, Cecily Morgan,
Carol Oliver, Betty Richardson, Glenn Prather,
Tom Cook, Lance Brewer, Hamm family,
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, Joy Carter,
Bob & Donna Andrea, Sharon Grabreth,
Pete Broughman, Ernest Moore, Dan Akers,
Dawn Derocher, Debbie Thompson,
Dennis Carter, Coy Harris, Connie Smith
Jennifer and Indy Bradford, Susie Gipson,
Dorothy Thompson, Sarah Wheeler,
Tom Brewer, Lucy Prillaman, Don Shores,

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.*

Guida Lefler, Missy Richardson, Maurie Sutton, Hodges family, John Sutton, Debra & Al Lewis, Janet Epling Shaw, Debbie Bourne, Pat Cox, Tommy Eaton, Ortie and Patsy Boyd, Brenda Heath, Danny Crouse, Edna Moran, Matthew Billups family, Butch Boley, Telie McCoy, Terry Wingfield, Joyce Woodlief, Sidney Combs, Brian Palazzolo, Joyce Morris, Challenger families, Jerry and Linda Willis, Allen and Doris Harris, Mary Smith, Jane Looms, Leonard and Virginia Watson, Joyce Jones,

- ~ Joyce Jones has shingles.
- ~ Tom Brewer continues to recover from shoulder replacement.
- ~ Linda Willis is now at home and will begin out patient therapy at Richfield.
- ~ Dan Akers, brother to Pat Byrd, spent a couple of days at Lewis Gale Hospital for surgery then back to Berkshire Health Center for more therapy. He actually stood up for a second!
- ~ Jennifer Bradford is now in Georgia with her mother and step-dad. Hospice is caring for her needs. Cards are welcome, her address is: 363 N. Harrington Rd., Saint Simons Island, GA 31522-5343
- ~ Continue prayers for Pat Cox, Joy Carter and Susie Gipson

*Our deepest sympathy to Robert Mischianti and family on the loss of his dad, Andy, who passed away in June.



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. (double check the entrance door when leaving to be sure it is closed)

***WE HAVE A RECYCLE BIN FOR HARD PLASTICS! (NO STYROFOAM)** (located just inside the kitchen door). We also recycle batteries, eye glasses, soda tabs (bring these to the church office).



Thank you to all who donated blood on our last drive on June 5, 2023. Seventeen (17) pints of blood were donated. Also, thanks to all who donated food/snacks for the drive. **Our next blood drive is scheduled for August 7, 2023, from 1:00 - 6:00 PM.** Our thanks to George Hales who has been our blood program leader for the past 2 years. **Upon his resignation, we are in need of someone to take over the blood program leadership. Let Dan Oyler know if this is something you would like to do, so we can notify the Red Cross.**

CHURCH PICNIC AT GREEN HILL PARK SHELTER #2

JULY 23, 2023

10:00AM - 9:00PM

Worship Service at 10:30AM

See bulletin board and

SIGN UP FOR:

Baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, cold slaw, desserts, church will furnish hot dogs and hamburgers, buns, condiments (Sid and Brent will bring grills and cook)
ALSO, SIGN UP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

JULY BIRTHDAYS

David Brown (1), Ariel Cox (1),
Glenn Bowe (5), Danielle Marks (8),
Olivia Mischianti (8), Myra Barger (8),
Justin Salibrici (9), Jackson Hartman (9),
Howard Hartman (11), Mark Curtiss (11),
Jessica Cox (17), Kevin Jones (17),
Pat Byrd (18), Butch Boley (19),
Xander Burns (19), Sarah Jones (22),
Kristi Prillaman (27), Wilder Lee (30),

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Sid and Dana Witt 7-3-1998
Matt & Lucy Cox 7-6-1985
Mark & Fredia Blankenship 7-7-1950
OMark & Heather Burnette 7-21-2016
Terry & Carol Oliver 7-24-1971
Dan & Bobbie Oyler 7-30-1966

*On the bulletin board, see sign-up sheets for: moments with children, lighting altar candles, deacon schedule, reading scripture. 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.

*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.

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

*ELDER'S meet July 3, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the church.

*DISCIPLE WOMEN will meet Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 10:00 AM. All are welcomed!

JUST WOMEN is our Bible study for women by women - ~ lesson pages 19-22 *On Fire Yet Not Burned Out*, Exodus 3:15; 18:14-24 and ~ lesson pages 21-26 *Push Past the Seems* Exodus 18:14-23

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

*SENIOR SOCIAL SOCIETY will meet on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM at Famous Anthony's for breakfast.

*(no July board meeting) CHURCH BOARD MEETING - August 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the church

CRAIG SPRINGS CAMP

Miles Wigfall
will be attending Triple 2 Camp
July 24-29

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

"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

***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.

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND

4-28-2023 Beginning Balance	-	\$ 70,575.65
Deposits		\$ 25,106.99
Checks/withdrawals		<u>\$ (13,272.90)</u>
5-31-2023 ENDING BALANCE	-	\$ 80,409.74

BUILDING FUND

4-28-2023 Beginning balance		\$35,323.40
Deposits		\$ 2,365.00
Checks/withdrawals		<u>\$ (7,939.06)</u>
5-31 -2023 Ending balance		\$29,749.34

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

was held June 11 thru June 15 with combine FLCC, First Christian, Salem and Westhampton with an average of 25 children in attendance each night learning about the fruits of the spirit. Hazel and Ariel are pictured singing the VBS song.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:

- ~ head up the Red Cross Blood Drives
- ~ volunteer to serve on the board as Member-at-large
- ~ serve as a co-chair of the Outreach Ministry (let Dan Oyler know if you are interested)



In 1776, the 13 British colonies in North America protested the tyranny of the king of England and engaged in a struggle that gave

birth to a brand-new republic. The infant nation soon adopted that now famous document known as the Declaration of Independence. We celebrate this emancipation every July 4th. Almost 2,000 years ago, the Lord Jesus cried out on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30), proclaiming the believer's "declaration of independence." All of humanity was under the tyranny of sin and death. But Christ, the sinless One, took our place on Calvary and died for each of our sins. Having satisfied God's righteous demands, He now sets free for eternity all who trust in and obey Him.

Paul wrote, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13). Earlier in Scripture we read the inspired words of the apostle, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:1-2). Thus, those who have been redeemed and set free are urged to "stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free" (Gal. 5:1). Also, we are reminded never to use this liberty as a license to indulge sin in our lives, but rather in service for good (Gal. 5:13).

Jesus has set us free to live our lives to the fullest with peace of heart and joy of soul. Jesus has set us free to be fruitful and serve with great zeal. Jesus has set us free to show the world what true liberty, love, and life is all about. We should thank God for blessing us with this the freedom we enjoy as United States citizens. But even greater than that, we should praise Him for the eternal freedom that is found in Christ! And this we should celebrate every Sunday and live it out every day.

"So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Happy Independence Day!
~ Pastor Matt

SERMON TITLES AND SCRIPTURES

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

July 02

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: *As it was in the Days of Noah*

July 09

Scripture: Galatians 5:1

Sermon: *Freedom*

July 16

Scripture: Romans 8:28

Sermon: *Paul's Knows*

July 23

Scripture: John 3:16

Sermon: *What If?*

July 30

Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33

Sermon: *Mustard Seed Faith*

YARD SALE AT FORT LEWIS

SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

(Ken Griggs will head up the yard sale,
so if you have questions, see him)

WE NEED HELP:

setting up and taking down
working day of the yard sale
selling hot dogs and selling baked goods
etc. etc. etc

ELDER'S ECHO

Welcome to July, the months seem to get shorter and my to do list longer. Thinking on that, I question myself on working on God's to do list. I know and believe we are saved by God's grace, thru faith. But there are scriptures in which I am challenged to step out of my fear of change, worries, self doubt, and the mind set, of someone else can do that, and to step in the meaning of these scriptures:

~ James, Chapter 2:14


"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?"

~ James 2:26

"As the body without spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead?"

With this in mind, I pray, sisters and brothers, we live each day by faith and deeds to help lead others to the gift of salvation by working our own God's to do list in our church.

May God's Amazing Love Shine thru you today
~ Ellen Richmond, elder

 'THANK YOU' for your support of our CHURCH WIDE BLANKET DRIVE (a Mother's Day and Father's Day outreach project sponsored by the Disciple Women's group at FLCC).
Total collected, as of 6/20/2023 - \$1,065.00

Also, THANKS to all who came out on Saturday, June 20th WORK DAY at the church and helped complete several projects: playground, clearing back lot, painting and cleaning the sheds, cleaning creekside, replacing projectors in sanctuary, fixing ceiling in choir room. Cleaning educational wing is in progress with Diana having cleaned all the windows.

Dear FLCC family,

I am writing to let you know that on July 22-29th, I will be going on a mission trip to Nassau, Bahamas. While I'm down there I will be helping host a 1-week camp (like VBS) for Deaf children and 2 outreach events for Deaf adults. The organization I will be going with is called International Christian Centers for the Deaf (ICCD) which is an organization that seeks to reach the Deaf culture for the gospel of Jesus. I have chosen to go on this trip because the Deaf culture is the largest unreached (no access to a handheld copy of the Bible in their language: American Sign Language (ASL)) and most overlooked people group for the gospel. In fact, about 98% of Deaf people have never heard the name of Jesus and less than 1% are believers. While there, I hope to be a blessing to everyone I meet and make Jesus evident in all I am doing through love and flexibility. I'd love it if you could join me in praying not just for safe travels down there, during my time there, and traveling back to the United States, but also please pray for the financial availability to be able to go on this trip. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely, Makena Witt

Turn Your
Spare Change
into a Pile of
Extra Cash!



FOR OUTREACH
(plastic jug on table in gathering area)

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

These are tentative scheduled dates. We need to have "leads" for each event and the dates confirmed before we can finalize the actual schedule. Can you help with any of these? Let Vickie Richardson know.

JULY 23, 2023

Church Service at the Park

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: Green Hill Park

AUGUST 19, 2023

END OF SUMMER YOUTH PARTY

SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16

CHURCH YARD SALE - **Ken Griggs**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

PARKING LOT PICNIC
WITH ICE CREAM

OCTOBER 21, 2023

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Truck or Treat & Chili Cook-off

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

VENDOR AND CRAFT SALE

Vickie Richardson

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Holiday Dinner

DECEMBER 9, 2023

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS
(ALL AGES ARE WELCOME)

Fort Lewis Christian Church

Board Meeting

June 5, 2023

The board meeting of Fort Lewis Christian Church was held on Monday, June 5 2023 at 6 pm. Chair Dan Oyler called the meeting to order and opened with a devotion.

Members present:

Jerry Brittain, Linda Craig, Pastor Matt Cox, Diana Curtiss, Ken Griggs, Iona Holland, Cindy Jones, Donita Moore, Judy Oliver, Dan Oyler, Brent Richardson, Vickie Richardson, Susie Sheppard, Sid Witt. Also present was Wayne Craig.

Members not present: Ron Prillaman.

Minutes: No changes to the May 8 minutes that were distributed electronically.

Trustees: No report given.

Treasurer: No reports given due to moving the board meeting up 1 week.

Minister: Minister's report given by Pastor Matt Cox. Report filed in the church office.

Elders: Elders report given by Jerry Brittain. Report filed in the church office.

Deacons: No report.

Stewardship/Finance: No report, no chair secured.

Worship: No report.

Music Ministry Report: Music ministry report given by Donita Moore. Report filed in the church office. In addition, mentioned getting folding chairs for the room to make the room versatile.

Property: No report, no chair secured.

Christian Education: No report.

Evangelism: Evangelism report given by Dan Oyler. Report filed in the church office. Invitation for Hoe Down will be given to VBS participants.

Membership: Linda Craig reported that they will be doing the food for the Hoe Down. Does not have a report on cards sent since Fentress is caring for Butch.

Property: Dan reports that of the 13 goals established earlier this year that were property related, 8 have been completed: playground, clearing back lot, painting and cleaning the sheds, cleaning creekside, replacing projectors in sanctuary, fixing ceiling in choir room, cleaning educational wing is in progress with Diana having cleaned all the windows, trimming trees.

Outreach: No report.

Audio/Video: Audio visual report given by Jerry Brittain. Report filed in the church office.

Administrative: Roger Lacy submitted report that Cobb Technologies has installed the copier and completed training, and will physically ship the old copier to Wells Fargo. Cobb will advise shipping cost once complete. The final payment due Wells Fargo for the old copier has been submitted. Replacing the copier was a goal that is now complete. We are gathering information on replacing lights in the sanctuary and will report at the next meeting.

Old Business: Another goal complete is the fire control system being changed. Dan is working on billing disputes with Johnson Controls. Jerry has completed the Comcast contract renegotiation with substantial savings and equipment upgraded.

New Business: Pat Hales has resigned from her position as Member at Large on the board and as Outreach co-chair due to time constraints.

Wayne Craig addressed the board regarding the creation of a 7 minute video by the Disciple Players using the song God is in Control by Twila Parris. It would involve the Disciple Sign Choir as well as Disciple Players. The video would represent the church on various mediums and would use the church name and building. Mark Brittain will be doing audio and video. Hoping to complete this fall. Topics approached with the video will be homelessness, poverty, grief and domestic violence. Wayne would like to involve the congregation by having members dressed in white shirts wearing white gloves doing 4 simple signs for one scene. A motion was made by Jerry Brittain and seconded by Susie Sheppard to have our Executive Committee review the completed product before it is published anywhere.

Donita Moore introduced an idea to promote our church: Have an interviewer ask congregants, "What Do You Love about FLCC?" and give folks an opportunity to respond and witness. It would be good

to put on our website to help people who might be shopping for a church want to visit us.

Donita also mentioned the idea of a designated area where people could share plants or other various items. Vickie mentioned removing the pew that sits in the gathering area back into the sanctuary and that way we would have more usable space.

Linda Craig discussed going back to funeral dinners vs. giving a family a gift card. Motion was made by Diana Curtis and seconded by Jerry Brittain to give families both options and letting them decide their choice.

Dan asked if we would like to take a board meeting holiday for July. Everyone agreed.

Dan has appointed a Bylaws committee to review and update bylaws. Members are Jennie Sue Murdock and Jerry Brittain. Sid Witt and Vickie Richardson also volunteered to assist.

Ken Griggs asked when we would return to passing the offering plates and communion. Group agreed that it could be done at any time but more deacons would be needed. Ken will get interested deacons together for a meeting and training and will begin as soon as possible.

Jerry Brittain mentioned that we have 2 old computers, and a GPS that are not needed. He will have the information put in the bulletin and announced on next 2 Sundays that they are free for the taking and will take them to Best Buy for recycling if they are not claimed.

Ken Griggs agreed to head up the yard sale and it will be held September 15 and 16. Vickie Richardson offered to head up the vendor sale in November.

Next meeting will be Monday, August 14 at 6 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Matt at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Jones



Fort Lewis Christian Church

2931 West Main Street, Salem, Virginia 24153 | 540.380.4636

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Ron Prillaman, Treasurer

Date: June 15, 2023

Re: Treasurer Report, May 31 Financials

Donations slowed in May resulting in cash flow deficits in both the General Fund (GF) and Building Fund (BF). Better months earlier in the year helped offset less contributions in May leaving the Church essentially breakeven for the year.

GF contributions in May were \$9,279 and expenses were \$13,896 with a monthly deficit of \$4,617. Monthly revenue decreased \$2,352 compared to April. Expenses were normal and expected with the majority for personnel needs. A similar trend in May of last year was noted where recurring donations declined. The GF was essentially breakeven for the year with contributions of \$64,339 with expenses of \$64,456.

BF donations also declined in May to \$1,610 which fell short of the monthly mortgage payment of \$2,681. Year to date performance in the BF was better with contributions and earnings sufficient to cover all mortgage payments with a slight surplus. The mortgage balance was \$332,895.

Outreach activity was light in May. Donations totaled \$1,055 and were primarily focused in the Disciple Women's Blanket Drive and Pentecost Offering. Activity in the Committee accounts was low.

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