

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN INFORMER

AUGUST 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, Joy Carter,
Carol Oliver, Glenn Prather, Betty Richardson,
Maxine Hance, Don Dye, Tom Cook, Cliff Whitley,
Dana Witt, Dawn Grant, Robbie Francisco,
Joyce Jones, Hamm family, Prentice Lowe,
Dawn Derocher, Challenger families, Bob & Donna
Andrea, Sandy Mischianti, Coy Harris, Ralph Taylor,
Wayne Craig, Kati Wright, Annis Eaton, Gary Baldwin
Monique Carroll, Mark, Fredia and Larry Blankenship,
Esta Griggs, Helen Granger, Chris Morris,
Heather Lawrence, Wayne Ayers, Pete Broughman,
Ernest Moore, Debbie Thompson, Hodges family,
Jennifer and Indy Bradford, Susie Gipson,
Dorothy Thompson, Sarah Wheeler, Tom Brewer,
Lucy Prillaman, Don Shores, Vickie See, Guida Lefler,
Missy Richardson, Lance Brewer, Maurie Sutton,
John Sutton, Janet Epling Shaw, Debbie Bourne,
Brenda Heath, Danny Crouse, Doris Harris,
Telie McCoy, Debra and Al Lewis, Matthew Billups
family, Butch Boley, Dan Akers, Joyce Morris,

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.*

Sharon Grabreth, Jane Looms, Terry Wingfield, Joyce Woodlief, Connie Smith, Ortie and Patsy Boyd, Sidney Combs, Brian Palazzolo, Tommy Eaton, Jerry and Linda Willis, Pat Cox, Mary Smith, Allen and Edna Moran, Harold & Karen Criner, Leonard and Virginia Watson

~ Annis Eaton is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on August 21, 2023 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

~ Tom Brewer is recovering nicely from shoulder replacement surgery.

~ Linda Willis now at home and continues with out patient therapy at Richfield.

~ Dan Akers, brother to Pat Byrd, remains at Berkshire Health Center for therapy.

~ 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 sisters, Pat Cox, (chemo & radiation), Joy Carter (remove cancerous kidney this month) and Susie Gipson (continuous recovering)

*Our deepest sympathy to Vickie Richardson and Peggy Carroll on the loss of their aunt, Doris Marie Chisom White, who passed away July 8, 2023.



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.** *Ellen Richmond has agreed to be our program leader for the month of August.* **Let Dan Oyler know if this is something you would like to do, so we can notify the Red Cross.**

A good time was had by all who attended our CHURCH PICNIC AT GREEN HILL PARK on July 23rd. Good Fellowship, good food!

***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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Katy Grieco (1), David Carroll (2),
Baya Grieco (6), George Hales (6),
Jackie Reynolds (9), Wayne Craig (9),
Zachary Curtiss (15), Teddy Lee (17),
Harriette Lawrence (19), Chris Jones (25),
Jerry Brittain (25), Carol Brown (25),
Allen Watson (26), Allie Mitchem (28),

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Allen & Jane Watson 8-4-2001
Terry & Becky Elkins 8-5-1989
Ken & Esta Griggs 8-6-1983
Brent & Vickie Richardson 8-10-1996
David & Peggy Carroll 8-21-1999
Paul & Kathy Comer 8-24-1962

***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.

***"WOMEN OF FAITH CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF CULTIVATING LOVE, HOPE AND PEACE"** - Church Women United in the Roanoke Valley held this celebration, Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 11AM - 1PM - at High Street Baptist Church, fellowship hall, 2302 Florida Ave., NW, Roanoke.

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

DISCIPLE WOMEN will take August off. Join us in September - 10:00 AM.

JUST WOMEN is our Bible study for women by women - ~ lesson pages 27-30 and 31-34 for August (self study). Lesson pages 35-38 and 39-42 for September

**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

**Virginia Disciples Women's Ministry 2023
Fall Retreat - October 6 - 8 - Registration
fee is \$155.00 and includes all programs, 3
Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast. Deadline
to register is August 31, you make your own
hotel reservations.**

If you plan to attend, pick up forms from the church office.

Retreat guest speaker will be Rev. Kelsey Creech, speaking at the Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg - *This is the First Day of the Rest of your Life*

QUESTIONS?

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

*ELDER'S meet August 14, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the church.

*CHURCH BOARD MEETING - August 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the church

***WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:**
(let Dan Oyler know if you are interested)

~ head up the Red Cross Blood Drives (Ellen Richmond will be in charge of our August blood drive) Can you help? Sign up!

~ volunteer to serve on the board as Member-at-large

~ serve as a co-chair of the Outreach Ministry

***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. Please be sure all clothing DOES NOT have stains.



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.

Turn Your Spare Change into a Pile of Extra Cash!



FOR OUTREACH

(plastic jug on table in gathering area)

"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.

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND

5-31-2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 80,409.74
	Deposits	\$ 13,123.00
	Checks/withdrawals	<u>\$ (26,450.04)</u>
6-30-2023	Ending Balance	\$ 67,082.70

BUILDING FUND

5-31-2023	Beginning balance	\$29,749.34
	Deposits	\$ 4,379.91
	Checks/withdrawals	<u>\$ (5,366.30)</u>
6-30 -2023	Ending balance	\$28,762.95



When I contacted Dan to ask for vacation time off, I was a bit worried because Dan is such a great

businessperson, I was afraid I would get this kind of response:

"So, you want a day off. Let's look at what you are asking for. There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have 2 days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available.

"You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break, which counts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a 1-hour lunch each day, you used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days per year available for work. We are off 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days. We generously give 14 days' vacation per year which leaves only 1 day available for work, and you need a couple of days off!?"

I hope you know I am joking around! We know that under the old covenant, God commanded the Jews to keep a Sabbath rest (Exodus 20:8-11). But did you know that God also commanded that the Jews take various weeks off, too? (Leviticus 23:4-8, 34). These "Sabbath weeks" are similar to our vacations.

Today, God no longer requires Sabbath-keeping under the New Testament (Jesus is our REST). However, it is still a good idea to rest 1 day out of 7 ... and to have an occasional week of rest. In rest, we are taking time to recharge ourselves. This was not man's invention. It was God's idea. One important thing to remember is to keep our focus on God and to not use such excursions as an excuse to stop worshiping God and studying His word. Instead, true rest includes strengthening our relationship with the Lord.

"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will never be shaken" (Psalm 62:1-2).

"Dear Lord, thank you for allowing us times for 'holy rest.' Amen!"

~ Pastor Matt

SERMON TITLES AND SCRIPTURES

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

AUGUST 06:

SERMON: Transfiguration

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1-9

AUGUST 13: Pastor Matt on vacation

SERMON:

SCRIPTURE:

AUGUST 20

SERMON: Jesus Walks on Water

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-33

AUGUST 27

SERMON: "Why Church"?

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:10-16



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.

AUGUST 19, 2023

END OF SUMMER YOUTH PARTY

SEPTEMBER CHURCH YARD SALE

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)

2023



Inside - Outside

**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**

see Ken if you can help with the
following:

- ~ setting up and taking down
and cleaning up the area
- ~ working day of the yard sale
- ~ cooking/selling hot dogs
- ~ selling baked goods
(need homemade goodies
from everybody)
- ~ we may need tents

Also, Ken may have other duties!

July 14th, 2023

Dear Members of Fort Lewis Christian Church,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Thomas Rexrode, and I am a member of your congregation. I have been attending the Sunday morning services at Fort Lewis Christian Church for several years now, most recently I have had the privilege of volunteering and playing the trumpet during those services. The experience has been truly fulfilling, and it has strengthened my passion for music and serving our community.

I am writing to you today with a special request. As a student at Patrick Henry High School, I am a dedicated member of the marching band. Our band has been invited to perform at Disney World in November, an incredible opportunity for us to showcase our talent and represent our school. The trip, however, comes with a cost of \$750, which includes travel expenses, accommodations, and performance fees.

Given my involvement with Fort Lewis Christian Church and my commitment to serving through music, I kindly request your support in the form of a donation towards this band trip. I understand that times are challenging, and there are numerous financial commitments that require consideration. Therefore, I am requesting at least half of the total cost, \$375, in donations from the church. I also have a lawncare service, and I request anyone who may need help contact me as it will serve as spending money for me as well as for food and rides.

Allow me to assure you that I am a young individual of strong moral character who truly believes in the transformative power of music. This trip to Disney World will not only enhance my skills in the marching band but also contribute to my growth as a musician and member of our church community. It will provide me with an invaluable experience to learn from other talented musicians, expose me to different styles of music, and broaden my horizons.

I genuinely believe that with your support, I can become better equipped to serve during Sunday morning services and continue to bring joy and inspiration to our congregation through my trumpet playing. Moreover, this trip will enable me to have fun doing what I love while representing Fort Lewis Christian Church and our shared values.

If you are willing to support me in this endeavor, your donation would be greatly appreciated. Please know that any amount, no matter how small, will make a difference and bring me closer to my goal. Additionally, I would be more than happy to provide updates on my progress and share my experience with you upon my return.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I am grateful for your continued support and guidance throughout my journey. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.

With sincerest gratitude,

Thomas Rexrode



Fort Lewis Christian Church

2931 West Main Street, Salem, Virginia 24153 | 540.380.4636

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Ron Prillaman, Treasurer

Date: July 13, 2023

Re: Treasurer Report, June 30 Financials

The Church's financial performance in June was fair. Incoming funds largely covered the Church's expenses; however, cash reserves were required to cover smaller shortfalls.

GF contributions in June were \$11,630 and expenses were \$14,007 with a monthly deficit of \$2,377. Donations and revenue improved from May and the monthly deficit declined. Expenses were normal and expected with the majority for personnel needs. The GF for the year had a deficit of \$2,324 with donations and revenue of \$75,969 and expenses of \$78,293. Stronger giving earlier in the year was used to cover recent shortfalls; however, the current deficit is manageable at this time. The Church had budgeted donations and revenue of \$79,108 through June 30.

BF donations and income in June were \$2,399 which just fell short of covering the monthly mortgage payment of \$2,681 and other smaller administrative expenses. Year to date performance in the BF was better with contributions and earnings sufficient to cover all mortgage payments with a slight surplus. Year to date income in the BF was \$17,625 while the BF budget through June was \$29,379. Despite the budgeting shortfall, the BF continues to perform because the mortgage payment was recast to a lower amount. Cash reserves in the BF continued to provide substantial support.

Outreach activity was light in June. Donations totaled \$1,015 and the largest ministry supported was the Disciple Women's Blanket Drive. 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.