

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN INFORMER

JAUARY 2026

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
mattflccdoc@gmail.com 1-804-658-8219

Bobbie Morris Church Secretary
(serving since March 1967) sec.flcc@gmail.com

Karen Hopkins Choir Director
karenetringer@yahoo.com

Gary Baldwin Director of Drama
baldwinboohier@gmail.com

Lucy Cox infant - 3 years old

THE CLUB HOUSE ROOM

Pre-school to kindergarten

THE PLAY HOUSE ROOM

Dana Witt grades 1- 5

THE TREE HOUSE ROOM

Makena Witt grades 6 - 12

THE LIGHT HOUSE ROOM

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.*

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION



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

~ Robbie Francisco, The Oaks, room 308, Richfield
Living, 3706 Knollridge Road, Salem, VA 24153-1938

HOME BOUND: Mike Prillaman

ONGOING RECOVERY:

Continue prayers for the following:

David Atwell; Donna & Bob Andrea; Bonnie Angel; Arnold family; Teddy Baldacci; Matthew Billups family; Jennifer Bodine; Lance and Windy Brewer; Pete Broughman; Steve Brown; Butch and Fentress Boley; Zoe Burnette; Monique Carroll; Kathy Comer; Kim Carroll; Joy Carter; Julie Chisman; Kevin Chocklett; Challenger families; Tom Cook; Ruby Creech; Joan Cooley; Scott Carr & family; Don Dye; Joan Duus; Logan Durham; Logan Evans; Ronnie Esquivel; Nancy Duncan Feazell; John and Beth Fronk; Katie Fletcher & family; Robbie Francisco; Suzanne Garrett; Edith Goad; Marc Golden; Maxine Hance; Dawn Grant; Paul Greghead; Dasiy Gilmer; Coy Harris; Doris Harris; Hodges family; Wanda Harman & family; Pearl Hodges; Rick Holbrook; Jim Highburger; Carsyn Hodges; Stephanie Henritze; Marie Hopkins; Guy and Sharon Jackson; Brenda Johnston; Joyce Jones; Kevin Jones; Robbyn James; Brian Kosko; Roger Lacy; Kenneth Lee; Heather Lawrence; Debra and Al Lewis; Guida Lefler; Michael Lockhart, Jr.; Julia Lowan; Harriette Lawrence; Sharon Lowenberg; Peggy Lee; Susan Lawrence; Jan Morgan; Paige Mitchem; Kevin Mays; Ernest Moore; Edna Moran; Cecily Morgan; Joyce Morris; Kevin Martin; Jason McMerrey; Jean Musick; Chris Morris; Dana Nelson; Pat Prillaman; Glenn and Alice Prather; Linda Day Payne; Susan Palen; Wayne Perfater; Dennis Price; Michael, Callie & baby Pruiett; Micah Parks & family; Sandra and Dawn Patterson; Jessica Pritt; Vickie See; Rose Robertson; Don Smith; Heather Stinson; Connie Smith; Nancy Shelton; Mary Smith, Maurie Sutton; John Sutton; Lauren Sutton; Shelor family; Ralph Taylor; David Thomas; Debbie Thompson; Meg Taylor; Carolyn Tasco; Jackie & Darius Turman; Dana Witt; Allen and Jane Watson; Jerry and Linda Willis; Terry Wingfield;

Cliff Whitley; Mike Whitley; John White; Larry Williams;
Keith Warren;

CONTINUED PRAYERS/HEALING FOR:

Mike Prillaman, Butch Boley, Fentress Boley,
Harriette Lawrence, Roger Lacy, Bill Epling,
Suzanne Garrett; Brenda Johnston, Marie Hopkins,
Guy Jackson, Teddy Baldacci, Brian Kosko, Katie
Wright, Robbie Francisco, Lance Brewer,
Rose Robertson, Monique Carroll, Cliff Whitley,
Steve Brown, Glenn and Alice Prather, Sandra and
Dawn Patterson,

~ Coralee Meusbarger continues to recover from
knee replacement surgery.

~ Fentress Boley is hoping to have answers about
her shoulder pain soon!

~ Judy Oliver's sister, Nancy Shelton, is now with
hospice care.

*Our deepest sympathy to Annis and Tobie
Eaton on the loss of Annis' aunt, Sue Golden,
who passed away on December 3rd. also, on the
loss of Tobie's brother, Frank Lee, who passed
away Saturday, December 20th

*Sympathy to Jerry Brittain on the loss of his
sister, Ellanor Perkins, who passed away
December 13, 2025. Ellanor visited us here at
Fort Lewis on many occasions.

***REMEMBER THOSE IN THE**

MILITARY: Airman Jocelyn Baumann; Sgt. Marisa
Baumann; Capt. Tom F. Faucher III; Kaleb Gallimore;
Jason and Melissa Gilley; Jordan Griffin; Lindsey
Roop; Zack Setchel; Capt. Brandon Broughman; and
all other Military Troops.



***WE WILL BE COLLECTING
CANNED FOOD FOR LOA
FOOD DRIVE THE MONTH
OF JANUARY!**

NEEDED ITEMS: soup, peanut
butter, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned
fruit, crackers, oatmeal, boost or ensure. Drop off
at the designated area in the gathering area.

SIGN UP TO HELP:

~ lighting alter candles ~ moments with children
~ read scripture ~ help with lunch at Fort Lewis
School ~ help with Red Cross Blood Drive

*If you would like to work on our 100th anniversary
of Fort Lewis Christian Church coming up in 2026,
let Heather Burnette or Vickie Richardson know.

"THANKS AND THANKS"

We were very busy during the month of December:
Blood drive; gospel singing group; holiday breakfast;
the Christmas program, *LET HIM IN*; ELFS
outreach food bags; angel tree gifts; needed items
for the Rescue Mission and Christmas Eve program.
There is a lot of people that we need to say a big big
THANKS to, as there was a lot of behind the scene
we did not know about. T H A N K S!

"A big thanks to all my church family for the
monetary Christmas gift". Going on 59 years!
~ Bobbie Morris

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

SUNDAY

***SEEKERS ADULT BIBLE STUDY** inside at
9:30 AM. A new study will begin in January
4th on Hebrews

***YOUTH/CHILDREN CHURCH** inside at
10:30 AM



ELF FOOD BOXES 2025

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Tobie and Annis Eaton 1-21-1966

MONDAY

DISCIPLE PLAYERS

SIGN CHOIR - 9:00 AM

EXERCISE CLASS - 10:00 AM

JANUARY 5 - 12 - 19 - 26

ELDERS MEET- JANUARY 12
3:30 PM

CHURCH BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 19 - 6:00 PM

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Linda Craig (4), Cami Harry (7),
Bobbie Morris (8), Joyce Jones (9),
Haylee Griffin (10), Sabrina Lee (11),
Monique Carroll (12), Sophia Biddle (19),
Glenn Prather (22), Katie Craig Wright (22),
Wren Prillaman (22), Kenzie Richardson (24),
Ken Griggs (26), Guy Jackson (30),

WEDNESDAY

NO JANUARY OR FEBRUARY Disciples
Women - CONTINUE IN MARCH

JANUARY 14 - SENIOR SOCIAL SOCIETY
breakfast at Angelles on Wildwood Road,
9:00 AM.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY
Office closed January 1 & 2

NO COMMUNION AT RICHFIELD

CHOIR PRACTICE - 5:30 PM
JANUARY 8 - 15 - 22 - 29

SATURDAY

DISCIPLE PLAYERS
DRUM CIRCLE - 10:00 AM
JANUARY 3 - 10 - 17 - 24 - 31

***Mrs. Dorsey's CLOTHES CLOSET WILL OPEN** up Monday, January 5, 2026 at their new location at 2121 Apperson Drive, Salem. Clothing is free and does not require a referral from a social service agency. Also, if you would like to volunteer at the clothes closet, see Margaret Lacy for more information.

ALWAYS NEEDED: white and black crew socks for men.

We still have a 'drop off' area here at the church and items will be taken to the clothes closet.

***EVERYBODY!** Let's all be responsible when leaving the church, check: **doors, lights, heat/air, kitchen area**, (double check the entrance door when leaving to be sure it closes good).



We still collect non-perishable food items for the Salem Food Pantry

*We continue collecting needed items to help "LAMPSTAND". See basket and list of needed items in the gathering area!

***WE CONTINUE TO RECYCLE:** plastic bottles, also soda tabs and used batteries.



FOR OUTREACH
*plastic jug
 on table in
 gathering area*

\$302.00 collected,
counted, deposited

**SERMONS AND SCRIPTURE
 FOR JANUARY- 2026**

*(when signing up to read scripture, be sure to let Jerry
 Brittain know what version you are reading from, so
 your reading is what Jerry has on the screen)*

JANUARY 04

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:16-18

Sermon: *Have No Fear the End is Near*

JANUARY 11

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-8

Sermon: *The Test of Faith*

JANUARY 18

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-14

Sermon: *Salty Saints*

JANUARY 25

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-7

Sermon: *The Pathway of Faith*



Never Die Easy

Walter Payton ranks second
 on the National Football
 League's list of all-time

leaders in rushing yards. Through 13 seasons as a Chicago Bear, Payton was tackled and knocked down thousands of times. He built an extraordinary career, not by getting knocked down, but by not staying down! He was knocked down a final time when he died on November 1, 1999 of a rare autoimmune liver disease, a few months over 45 years old. Payton had a motto in life—"Never Die Easy"—which he attributed to Bob Hill, his coach at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

In practice, this meant that Payton refused to deliberately run out of bounds and always sought to resist would-be-tacklers instead of going on or giving in without a fight. Never Die Easy is also the title of Payton's posthumously published autobiography. The words "never die easy" and the approach to life they represent have an application far beyond the football field. The Christian life requires that we commit to "never die easy." Jesus lived and died that way. One place that makes that clear is John 19:30 where, in His dying moments on the cross, Jesus cried, "It is finished." The context reveals that although He is nearing death, He did not die easy. He was scourged, beaten, spit on, mocked, stripped, and nailed to the cross (John 19:1-18; Matthew 26-27; Luke 22-23). Surrounded by a hostile crowd that taunted and jeered and insulted Him, Jesus hung on to God's plan and purpose for His life even as He hung on a rugged cross—held there not just by metal spikes but by a love stronger than even those spikes—a love His foes could not beat or crucify or shame or shout out of Him. In the midst of that gut-wrenching kind of struggle Jesus said, "It is finished"—not a cry of defeat but of victory! Notice the Lord did not say, "I am finished," but, "It is finished." Precisely what "it" was is made clear back in John 17:4 when He prayed to His Father (a few hours before dying on the cross), "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." By His death on the cross Jesus completed God's wondrous plan to save man, a plan born in eternity, carried out over thousands of years, and culminating in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. As He prepared to draw His last breath, in awful circumstances that included shedding His blood for our sins, the Son of God said, with a cry of triumph, "It is finished." He went on to die but then got up from the grave three days later!

How about you? As a Christian are you taking the easy way out, or have you committed yourself to "never die easy?" Some Christians leave the faith too easily. Some get tired of serving and just pitch in the towel. Others are let down by someone in the church and just quit the Lord. How many begin the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12) only to give up far before they finish? Are you close to quitting? Are your circumstances discouraging? Are you weary and heavy-hearted? Pessimistic about your job? Are you tired of the daily grind?

Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Do you find yourself just wanting to give up? Don't do it! Heaven will not be for those who die easy. Let us, like Jesus, commit to finishing God's will and work for our lives no matter what comes. Never die easy! Pray about it. Our work here at Fort Lewis Christian Church is only just beginning Happy 100th Year!

~ Happy New Year
~ Pastor Matt

**Fort Lewis Christian Church
Board Meeting
December 15, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Board of Fort Lewis Christian Church was held at Fort Lewis Christian Church on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the Hearts and Souls classroom.

Chair Heather Burnette called the meeting to order, and Pastor Matt opened with prayer.

Voting Members present: Jerry Brittain, Carol Brown, Heather Burnette, Peggy Carroll, Ken Griggs, Cindy Jones, Judy Oliver, Vickie Richardson, Susie Sheppard, and Sid Witt.

Non-voting members present: Mark Brittain, David Carroll, Pastor Matt Cox, Roger Lacy, and Debbie Repsher.

Roll Call: Cindy Jones recorded attendance.

Minutes: November minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes so they will be filed as presented.

Minister: Minister's report given by Pastor Matt Cox. He conducted 3 counseling sessions, made 8 phone contacts, made 1 hospital visit, and held Communion at Richfield. He is pleased at the recent events and says everyone should

count them as a success as much planning and preparation went into them. He is looking forward to finishing the year with the Christmas Eve service and will move right into 100-year Anniversary planning. He asks us to continue praying with him for our mission to spread love and the gospel, and that our church will grow.

Audio Visual Committee: Jerry Brittain says they moved, placed and tested microphones for the Christmas program. Floodlights and spotlights for the actors and choir were installed in overhead ceiling using wireless switches and faders.

Christian Education Committee: Sid Witt reported that 11 people total went to the "David" movie yesterday, with 3 young people attending. We are waiting on the guidelines for hiring the Youth Director.

Communications/Information Technology: Mark Brittain says YouTube grew 125 subscribers, and we are around 48% over last year's numbers. For October and November, we were up 53%.

Deacons: Carol Brown says that Charlotte Rhodes has agreed to serve as a Deacon. She said deacons will hand out a program and candles for the Christmas Eve service. It was mentioned that we need to get a 2026 schedule up so that we have Deacons in January.

Elders: Jerry Brittain reports that snow cancelled the Elders meeting.

Evangelism Committee: Judy Oliver reports that she and her group will be handing out Christmas bags to the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 21. She will deliver these to our Shut-ins on Wed., Dec. 17: Joy Carter, Paul and Kathy Comer, Bill Epling, Susie Garrett, Maxine Hance, Guy and Sharon Jackson, Mike Prillaman, and Jerry and Linda Willis.

Information Technology: Mark Brittain was happy to report that Pastor Matt has a new laptop. The cost was \$889. And there is a new phone system at the church.

Membership Committee: Debbie Repsher reports that our Holiday meal November 30th was wonderful with about 55 people in attendance. We had approximately 40 that attended the Holiday Breakfast on December 13th. Debbie wonders why her committee is called Membership when they coordinate MEALS. Vickie says that \$115 was collected at breakfast as a Love Offering.

Outreach Committee: Susie Sheppard said no report.

Policy & Procedures Committee: Jerry Brittain said nothing to report.

Property Committee: David Carroll says that snow was removed from the steps and the sidewalk.

Stewardship/Finance/Administration Committee: Roger Lacy says no report.

Treasurer's Report presented by Roger Lacy: The Church's financial performance in November was fair. The General fund had donations of \$10,538 with normal and ordinary expenses of \$13,387. The deficit for the month was \$2,847. The General fund is essentially breakeven for the year through November with a small loss of \$1,645. Building fund revenue was \$991 for November, with nominal expenses. For the 11 months ending in November donations were \$49,907 with the bulk of these being for the Sign. BF resources will continue to accumulate to maintain the Church facilities, as several ongoing concerns will have significant costs. Outreach donations in November were \$935 of which \$500 was internally from the GF. Outreach remitted/spent totaled \$545 with the bulk in the Good Samaritan Fund. YTD Outreach

donations were \$14,623 with \$17,007 remitted. Trust proceeds are included in the reserves section of the financial statements which included interest earned and an additional \$24,000 received in November. Roger says that at the time of the congregational meeting, our cash situation was predicted to be very bad at the end of the year, but things have improved, and we should be able to go into January with a positive number.

Trustees Report: Sid Witt says he will talk more with the attorney about the JSM trust, and the trustees will meet at the first of the year and make some decisions and present them to board.

Worship Committee: Susie Sheppard says she has no report.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Matt says he has found 2 organizations that we can give money to and they will handle the requests for help (instead of us having Good Samaritan disbursements from the church.) The Salem Area Ministers (SAM) group has a person that Matt can talk to and let them know in advance that a person he has talked to needs help, and they will do their best to accommodate this person. Matt said he was thinking about an amount of \$2,000 to last for 6 months. Other churches also handle requests in this way and send their money to SAM. Matt will talk to Ron and see how much the Good Samaritan Fund has been paying out for the last couple of years, and we can vote on it next meeting. Jerry says Gary Lautenschlager will hold an AED/CPR class for us. Jerry will look further into this.

New Business: We are discussing church security, because twice now the window in the copier room has been broken into. David Carroll says that for sure someone did get in the first time, and probably the second. Sid says that we also need to discuss a suspicious person that came in the sanctuary during a service, and

Mark Brittain can elaborate. He was invited to come in and stay for the service, but he refused. Chris Brown is currently working for the Roanoke County Police Department and David Carroll is retired from the City of Salem PD. David Carroll says that locking the doors seems unfriendly, but if we have greeters at the door at all times, that would make a huge difference. He says a friend that worships at Fort Lewis Baptist says they have greeters at the doors so no one knows that the doors are actually locked. David says once he officially takes over the Property Chair position in January, that he will be working on a Security plan. David recommends keeping the doors locked at all times with someone at the doors. Chris Brown says that he agrees. He wants to protect us, including the children that are downstairs. He mentions that previously in Alleghany County a lady walked into a church and abducted a child. The child was found safe, but there could have been a different outcome. Matt says everyone should understand, as there are church shootings and school shootings way too often. The subject of cameras was discussed. Because our entrance is on the back side of the building, this makes us especially vulnerable. Chris mentions the South Carolina incident. The guy came in as a stranger but sat in Bible study for over an hour before he decided to start shooting. There is much hatred in the world towards Christians. Chris says that as part of his job as an Active Threat instructor, he has done sanctuary presentations. Even though profiling is considered wrong, it is something that we need to do to determine a stranger's intent when they are about to come in. If they are acting 'weird' we don't want to open the doors to them. We need to practice 'due diligence'. We discussed that only a select few people would have the assignment of standing at the door. Mark suggested we call them "In Service Greeter." Then Mark also posed the question, "If there is an emergency situation downstairs, how is the adult in charge supposed to get the attention of someone in the sanctuary?"

We discussed having walkie talkies. Sid mentions that when he leaves the sanctuary during worship, that it's to double-check that all the doors are locked and everything is going ok downstairs. Peggy Carroll made a motion to: #1 have locked doors and an In Service Greeter, #2 install cameras around the church. Judy Oliver seconded the motion. David Carroll and Chris Brown will further investigate church security and be prepared to discuss it more. Sid Witt says he is ready to start selling the engraved bricks for a fundraiser. We will work quickly on this so that the Prayer Garden is cleaned up before our 100th anniversary celebration. Jerry Brittain asks what we need to bring in each month to break even. \$12,000 is an average expense month. The 100th anniversary is June 2026. Wayne Craig would like to make a documentary video to go along with the celebration. He would like to interview folks in the video including people with a long history in the church, as well as new members. Vickie asks that anyone interested in being on the planning committee should let her know, and then invitations to planning committee meetings will be sent. Vickie says that she has come up with a logo for the church anniversary and also has a QR code that links people directly to our Givelify page. We should use the new logo so that attention is focused on the celebration. Vickie has also talked to Jerry about a float in the Salem Christmas Parade. The planning meeting will be in January. Debbie says that she volunteered to wrap all the change that's in the big jug, and therefore, it wouldn't be a temptation for anyone to steal. We are looking into a safe with a drop box that would be bolted to the floor.

Upcoming Events:

December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 7PM
January - Soup for Seniors

Next meeting: Monday, January 19, at 6 p.m.
- Hearts and Souls Classroom. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. with Pastor Matt closing with prayer. **Cindy Jones, Recording Secretary**

REMINDER: Available-
Med-E-Lert Locking Automatic
Pill Dispenser Battery operated automatic
pill dispenser that reminds when and what
medications to take. Load weekly and then
alarms and lights flash when it's time to take
medication.

If you or someone you know could use this
device, please contact Bobbie Morris

ALWAYS PRAY TO HAVE EYES
THAT SEE THE BEST IN PEOPLE,
A HEART THAT FORGIVES THE
WORST, A MIND THAT FORGETS
THE BAD, AND A SOUL THAT NEVER
LOSES FAITH IN GOD.









Fort Lewis Christian Church

2931 West Main Street, Salem, Virginia 24153 | 540.380.4636

To: Roger Lacy, Stewardship Committee Chair

From: Ron Prillaman, Member

Date: December 6, 2025

Re: Financial Condition and Performance Report, November Financials

The Church's financial performance in November was fair. The General Fund (GF) lost \$2,847. Expenses remained relatively stable totaling \$13,385 and continued to be concentrated in personnel expense and utilities. The GF is essentially breakeven for the year through November with a small loss of \$1,645.

Building Fund (BF) revenue totaled \$991 for November. BF expense were nominal. Donations for the eleven months ended November totaled \$49,907 with the bulk from Sign donations. BF resources will continue to be accumulated to maintain the Church facilities as several ongoing concerns are being monitoring for future repair. The BF has no debt or liabilities.

Outreach donations in November totaled \$935 of which \$500 was internally funded from the GF. Outreach remitted/spent totaled \$545 with the bulk in the Good Samaritan Fund. Year-to-date outreach donations totaled \$14,623 with \$17,007 remitted. Trust proceeds are included in the Reserves section of the financial statements and totaled \$64,209 which included interest earned and an additional \$24,000 received in November.

	GENERAL FUND (\$)		BUILDING FUND (\$)	
	November	YTD	November	YTD
Revenue	10,538	139,389	991	49,907
Expenses	(13,385)	(141,035)	(314)	(14,766)
Net Income	(2,847)	(1,645)	677	35,142
Unrestricted Cash on Hand	25,316		30,075	
Debt	4,134		0	