

FORT LEWIS CHRISTIAN INFORMER

FEBRUARY 2026

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
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
baldwinboohar@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

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; Jackie Busey; Lance and Windy Brewer; 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 & Margaret Lacy; Kenneth Lee; Heather Lawrence; Debra and Al Lewis; Guida Lefler; Michael Lockhart, Jr.; Julia Lowan; Harriette Lawrence; Sharon Lowenberg; Peggy Lee; Susan Lawrence; Alan Lee; Jan Morgan; Paige Mitchem; Kevin Mays; Ernest Moore; Edna Moran; Cecily Morgan; Joyce Morris; Kevin Martin; Jason McMerry; Jean Musick; Coralee Meusburger; Chris Morris; Selene McCoy; 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; Debbie Smith; Shelor family; Ralph Taylor; Campbell Tims; David Thomas; Debbie Thompson; Meg Taylor; Carolyn Tasco; Jackie & Darius Turman; Dana Witt; Allen and Jane Watson;

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.*

Jerry and Linda Willis; Terry Wingfield; Cliff Whitley;
Mike Whitley; John White; Larry Williams; Keith Warren;

CONTINUED PRAYERS/HEALING FOR:

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

~ Our deepest sympathy to Joyce Jones on the loss of her brother, Pete Broughman, who passed away January 3, 2026.

~ **CONGRATULATIONS** to Sam and Josiah Cook on the birth of 10lb and 2oz Olivet Geneva Cook, born January 16, 2026. Proud grandparents, Brent and Vickie Richardson.

***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 HAVE BEEN COLLECTING CANNED FOOD ITEMS FOR LOA FOOD DRIVE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. Items will be delivered this week!**

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

SUNDAYS

***SEEKERS ADULT BIBLE STUDY** inside at 9:30 AM. A new study on Hebrews

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

MONDAYS

DISCIPLE PLAYERS

SIGN CHOIR - 9:00 AM

EXERCISE CLASS - 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 2 - 9 - 16 - 23

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2 - RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at the church from 1:00 - 6:00 PM. If you can help with the drive or help with snacks, let Jerry or David know. **SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE!**

ELDERS MEET- FEBRUARY 9
3:30 PM

CHURCH BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 9 - 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

NO FEBRUARY Disciples Women - CONTINUE IN MARCH. Study books have been ordered.

FEBRUARY 11 - SENIOR SOCIAL SOCIETY breakfast at Angelles on Wildwood Road, 9:00 AM.

THURSDAYS

FEBRUARY 5 - COMMUNION AT RICHFIELD - 2:00 - 2:30 PM

CHOIR PRACTICE - 5:30 PM
FEBRUARY 5 - 12 - 19 - 26

SATURDAY
DISCIPLE PLAYERS
DRUM CIRCLE - 10:00 AM
FEBRUARY 7 - 14 - 21 - 28

BRICK FUNDRAISER, You are invited to help enhance FLCC's garden for the glory of our Lord while honoring a loved one, family, or special individual through the purchase of a memorial paver brick. These engraved bricks will serve as a lasting tribute and a visible reminder of faith, love and legacy, Pick up a order form, fill out and return to Sid Witt.



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

\$5,000.00 FUNDRAISER
MATCHING FUNDS, when making a
donation, mark your check,
"NEW YEAR FUND"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fentress Boley (4), Samantha Cook (6),
Vickie Richardson (8), Callen Brown (13),
Valerie Johnson (14), Tobie Eaton (18),
Joy Carter (18), Makena Witt (26),
Ron Prillaman (27), Mike Prillaman (28),

*Mrs. Dorsey's **CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN** 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

'THIS AND THAT' We were contacted by the City of Salem that we have had an EXCESSIVE WATER usage at the church somewhere during the holidays, which instills the fearing we now have a water leak or problem to deal with (\$)! However, we are blessed and it seems to fix itself which logically speaking sounds like a stuck toilet continuing to run or water not cut off tight on a faucet. We will certainly see an increase (\$) for this mishap but the good news for now is that we don't have a major problem at the moment. PLEASE BE VIGILANT AND GOOD STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH AND MAKE SURE ALL FAUCETS ARE OFF AND TOILETS ARE NOT CONTINUING TO RUN AFTER USAGE. IF YOU SEE A PROBLEM, PLEASE REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY. ~ (property) (and speaking of water and sewer, the results of January bill are, water (\$295.19) and sewer (\$256.95) plus electric, tax and tote



"I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers the past two months when I was scheduled for surgery on November 25th which was cancelled; and on December 18 when I finally had the knee replacement surgery. I also want to thank those for the cards, texts, phone calls, flowers, visits and food. And especially to Dennis and Lisa who came the first week after my surgery and took my garbage out to the dumpster and brought in my Amazon order and put away my groceries. Carmel and Susie also came and took out my garbage the next week. I also have a special thank you to Susie for being my designated driver to the church for choir practice and worship and for taking me to doctor appointments. I really appreciate all that everyone has done for me during this time. I also ask for continued prayers as I go through physical therapy and continue to recuperate. I love you all!"

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!
Coralee Meusburger

SERMONS AND SCRIPTURE FOR FEBRUARY- 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)

FEBRUARY 01

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: *The Trinity*

FEBRUARY 08

Scripture: Mark 15:1-15
Sermon: *The Day of Atonement*

FEBRUARY 15

Scripture: John 1:29-42
Sermon: *Seen and Unseen*

FEBRUARY 22

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13
Sermon: *Would You Take the Crown
without the Cross*



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

APRIL 24/25,

September 25/26
YARD SALE 2026

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



Do You Know About the First Valentine?

This month we will celebrate the holiday referred to as Valentine's Day. It is a time when we show others that we care for them. Small gifts of cards, candy, and flowers are part of the tradition.

But it might surprise you to find out that this holiday started out as a day to remember a Christian hero. According to the history books, Valentine was a 3rd century Christian preacher who lived near Rome. At this time the Roman Emperor Claudius II was ordering all young men not to marry. He thought they made better soldiers if they were single. No man could marry until he was too old to serve in the military. He also commanded that all people worship the false gods of Rome.

Valentine was arrested for performing Christian marriages and preaching that there was only one true God - the God of the Bible.

Valentine knew that no man - even the king - had the right to stop Christians from marrying (1 Corinthians 7:8-9). You see, while Romans 13:1-7 tells us that we are to respect and obey our leaders, Acts 5:29 tells us that when man's law contradicts God's law, we should obey God. And that's what Valentine did ignoring the king's orders. Claudius commanded Valentine's arrest.

While in prison, many Christians threw little notes of encouragement through Valentine's prison window. These were the first valentines.

In the end, Claudius had Valentine beheaded for his faith. It was because he loved the Lord and his fellow humans so much that he was willing to risk his life to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

This gives us pause when we think of Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day represents much more than romantic love. It is a day that honors God and those who love Him ... and obey Him.

Happy Valentines! ~ Pastor Matt

ELDERS ECHO

As I write this I'm watching snow and sleet fall on the beautiful landscape that God created for us. I am thinking back on this past week, as two thirds of the United States watched as the weather man predicted a catastrophic storm, once in a lifetime, be prepared. I prepared for the coming doom making sure the generator was working properly, propane tanks for supplemental heat and cooking. My brother and I put together what we would need as our father taught us to do. This was going to be a twenty four hour event that could affect us for a week.

During our preparations it struck me that we were concerned about a week of disruption in our normal lives but how many are preparing for ETERNITY. We make a list for the grocery store but do we make a list for one day meeting our Savior. I know I have been guilty of not doing what I have been instructed to do. I believe we should be preparing for an eternity with our Creator harder than we prepare for temporary storms. I just want to give everyone encouragement to consider your personal preparation for eternity and not just become complacent with what we have done so far in our lives. ~David Carroll, elder

FIVE DIMENSIONS OF CHURCH GROWTH

Churches grow WARMER through fellowship

Churches grow DEEPER through discipleship

Churches grow STRONGER through worship

Churches grow BROADER through ministry

Churches grow LARGER through evangelism

Fort Lewis Christian Church
Board Meeting
January 19, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Board of Fort Lewis Christian Church was held at Fort Lewis Christian Church on Monday, January 19, 2026, 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, and Sid Witt.

Voting Members absent: Susie Sheppard.

Non-voting members present: Tom Brewer, David Carroll, Pastor Matt Cox, Roger Lacy, Dan Oyler and Debbie Repsher.

Roll Call: Cindy Jones recorded attendance.

Minutes: December 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, and had 1 Home Visit. "Looking forward to hiring a new Youth Minister. Hoping the person will have some fresh ideas on how we can attract some new young families to our church.

The following is our typical year's events, but we do need to consider if we want to add to our 100-year celebration.

- ~ February: Wee- Care Bags and Blood drive
- ~ March: Begin an 8 week Thursday 11am Bible Study called "God the Creator"
- ~ April: Easter (Resurrection Sunday) April 5th Blood Drive, also going to start the 3rd season of "Chosen" 8 Session, Yard Sale

- ~ May:
 - ~ June: Blood Drive, Wednesday Night Bible Study: "Tough Sayings of Jesus"
 - ~ July: Parents Night Out (Movie or Activities for Children)?
 - ~ August: Blood Drive, Movie Under the Stars?
 - ~ September: Church Picnic Sunday, Yard Sale
 - ~ October: Blood Drive, Harvest Festival/Bingo Trunk or Treat
 - ~ November: Recognize Veterans, Thanksgiving/Christmas meal after service? Craft/vendor show
 - ~ December: Blood Drive, Christmas Eve Service. ELF project. Breakfast? Christmas Program?"
- He asks for continued prayer for himself and our church.

Audio Visual Committee: Jerry Brittain reports they took down the spotlights and choir chairs. We were able to move cables and numbered microphones to get cables out of sight as much as possible in the choir loft. Mark was able to get YouTube on the TV in the gathering area so the in service greeter could watch the service. We organized and labeled our cabinet in the storage room so people could find things.

Christian Education Committee: Sid Witt reports that we are trying to publicize the Youth Leader position. Vickie says there is a job description.

Communications: no report.

Deacons: Carol Brown nothing to report.

Elders: Jerry Brittain says we discussed the concerns and health issues of the congregation. We discussed the 100th anniversary celebration. There was a suggestion to have a monthly newsletter about the events for the anniversary and also to send it to previous members. We could still use additional elders and will contact those who we feel may consider. No service at Richfield since our day fell on a holiday.

Evangelism Committee: Judy Oliver said nothing to report.

Information Technology: No report.

Membership Committee: Debbie Repsher said nothing to report.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Jones reported that she would be away during the last week of organizing and preparation prior to packing the bags on Sunday after church. She will continue to do the buying and preparation, and Susie says they will get it done! Mentioned that Carmel had the suggestion of giving the empty bags to congregants along with a list of suggested items, and letting them fill it, and then bring it back to church full. Bobbie says there are 50 active families in the church, so the goal of 150 bags can be achieved. If there are folks who can't take a bag for whatever reason, the committee can still get them done. Carol Brown says that as individuals we won't be able to take advantage of the 'deals' that Cindy gets, and others worried about those that aren't financially able or physically able. Pastor Matt says we would lose the unity aspect of packing. This year we will continue to do things as in the past, as long as it's possible.

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

Property Committee: David Carroll says the Security team seems to have been well accepted by church goers. 4 solar cameras have been installed along with solar panels. Thanks to Sid Witt for getting them delivered quickly and to my brother Freddie Carroll for helping to install them. Continuing to try and work the bugs out so the front two are not constantly activating and so they can be shared. The flush handle in the downstairs women's restroom has been replaced and hopefully this will fix the problem with water running and a higher utility bill. David Brown and Sid Witt each obtained bids for the heat and air replacement in the

choir room. A church member said they would pay for it, but they haven't been at church much, and he doesn't want to approach them to take care of it, so for now, it can be paid out of the building fund. David Carrol says the Building Committee makes a motion to have Airmasters proceed with the replacement. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship/Finance/Administration

Committee: Roger Lacy says there was no meeting in December. A training session was held on new ChurchTrak software, and 6 counters and 1 committee member attended. The new software is being used as of Jan. 1, and was successful on the first live use. 2025 contribution statements will go out tomorrow. Heather announced that Roger would be stepping down as SFA chair. Dan Oyler has agreed to fill in for a 1 year period.

Treasurer's Report presented by Roger Lacy: The Church's financial performance in December was fair. The General Fund (GF) lost \$3,679. Expenses remained relatively stable totaling \$12,458 and continued to be concentrated in personnel expense and utilities. The GF lost \$5,324 in 2025 or on average \$444 per month. Building Fund (BF) revenue totaled \$16,180 for December including a notable \$15,000 donation. BF expense was nominal. Donations for 2025 totaled \$66,189 which included 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 December totaled \$862. Outreach remitted/spent totaled \$743 with the bulk in the Good Samaritan Fund. Outreach donations for 2025 totaled \$15,485 with \$17,750 remitted. Trust proceeds totaled \$64,423. Roger says that there is \$21,000 in unrestricted cash going into 2026. Heather says that she received an e-mail says that the Good Samaritan was overdrawn. Roger says

that is on paper, and there are no bounced checks. Additionally, Pastor Matt says that we are going to start giving to Salem Area Ministries and then they will handle the disbursements. Roger says that Bobbie writes checks and Trustees sign them.

Trustees Report: Sid Witt reports that the brick fundraiser is under way, and Bobbie has the information to take orders and keep track of it. Also, our property insurance went up 15% last year, and this year went up 16%. This is because Virginia has been labeled a 'high risk' state, and we can't get around this. However, the type of insurance plan that we are on is what Church Mutual labeled a 'blanket' policy, and we have been on it for years. It covered us when we had, for instance, the parsonage on the property. Because we don't have multiple structures, we don't need this type policy any more, and we can switch to a newer plan, referred to as "Premier" and we will not lose any coverage, but can save around \$600 if we can get switched over before the policy renews in February. Also, we have an umbrella policy that doubles all of our existing policies. The cost of this policy is approximately \$700 a year, but doesn't renew until August. We will also be checking to make sure that we are not underinsured. The Trustees make a motion to switch to the Premier policy, and leave the umbrella in place until August, and we can take that matter up again at that time. A vote was held and the motion passed unopposed.

Worship Committee: No report.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Matt

New Business: Vickie will send out the survey again to those who have not completed it. Also, she says that there is some overlap between the Events Planning Committee and the 100 Year Planning Committee, but they are separate, and will work together on some things, but can also function independently.

And smaller subcommittees may branch off of the 100 Year Committee. Heather wanted some clarification of the \$5,000 donation. She would like to see the "New Year" fundraiser to go on until the end of February. She would like to see all the \$5,000 match and the donations to stay in the "New Year" fund, to be used as needed, anywhere in the church to provide something that is not provided for in the budget. Any uses and disbursements would need board approval. Maybe used towards the 100th Anniversary Celebration. The JSM fund use still needs to have a recommendation from the Trustees before any disbursements.

Ken Griggs wants to get 2 yard sale dates set up on the calendar. April 24 and 25 are suggested. (During the meeting, April 17 and 18 were discussed, but since then, Ken has asked that the dates be changed to April 24 and 25.)

September 25 and 26 are set up for the fall, with a craft/vendor show to happen in November. The folks in the congregation who work craft shows will be consulted so as to avoid any conflicts. Carol Brown will head the vendor show, with guidance.

Upcoming Events:

March, May, August and November have 5th Sundays (potluck).

Dates need to be set for Spaghetti dinners, Fish Fries, Chicken Dinner, etc. fundraisers.

100 year Events need to have dates set. June 12, 13 & 14 are suggested.

Next meeting: Monday, February 9, at 6 p.m.
- Hearts and Souls Classroom,

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. with Pastor Matt closing with prayer.

Cindy Jones, Recording Secretary



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: January 10, 2026

Re: Financial Condition and Performance Report, December Financials

The Church's financial performance in December was fair. The General Fund (GF) lost \$3,679. Expenses remained relatively stable totaling \$12,458 and continued to be concentrated in personnel expense and utilities. The GF lost \$5,324 in 2025 or on average \$444 per month.

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	GENERAL FUND (\$)		BUILDING FUND (\$)	
	December	YTD	December	YTD
Revenue	8,779	148,168	16,282	66,189
Expenses	12,458	153,493	426	15,191
Net Income	(3,679)	(5,324)	15,856	50,998
Unrestricted Cash on Hand	21,837		46,372	
Debt	4,001		0	

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

Fort Lewis Christian Church 2931 West Main St.

February 2, 2026

1:00PM – 6:00PM

Give Blood and Get Lunch

Call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit RedCross Blood.org

Enter: Fort Lewis to schedule an appointment

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS