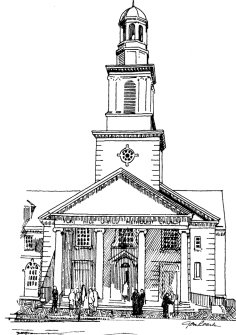


From the Hill



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone (434) 847-1251

Corner of Memorial and Oakridge
Website: www.FortHillUMC.org
Since 1908

Volume 46, No. 8

August, 2011

Do We Have Your Email Address????

Email addresses will be essential in receiving future church newsletters



At the Church Council meeting held on June 14, it was voted that the church newsletter would now be emailed to those members for whom we have an email address on file. Due to rising costs of postage, paper and printing cost, as well as more demanding criteria from the post office, it seems the most economical way to get our newsletter into member's homes is by email. **If you do not have email, you will be able to pick up a copy of the newsletter at the church. IF YOU ARE A SHUT-IN, YOU WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY REGULAR MAIL, UNLESS WE HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU.** Another way of receiving the newsletter will be to visit the church's website, www.forthillumc.org and click on "Newsletter."

The church is trying to be good stewards of the gifts that you give. Emailing the newsletters will save the church approximately \$200 per month. Please help us continue to be good stewards by providing us with your email address. You can call the church office, email us at secretary@forthillumc.org or write your email address on the attendance pad when you come to worship services.

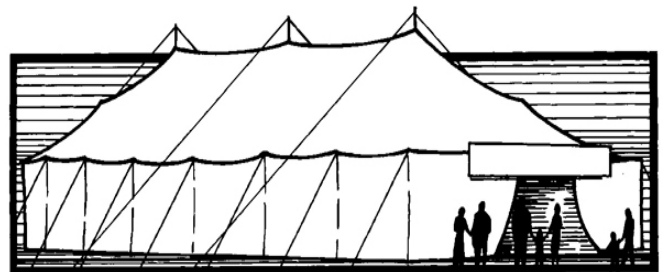
The targeted date for starting this new communication will be with the September, 2011 newsletter.

End-of-the-Summer Celebration Planned for Sunday, August 28!

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and join in an exciting worship and fellowship celebration. Wear your Fort Hill polo shirts or other comfortable clothing as we worship under the cover of a tent (chairs, water and fans provided!) as a witness to our community. Bring your friends and family. Here is the schedule of events for that day:

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for ALL ages
10:00 a.m. Worship under the Big Top
11:15 a.m. Catered lunch

We will be asking members and friends to donate a dessert for the congregation to share. Displays will be set up in the Fellowship Hall, which will spotlight new Small Group, Sunday School, Mission, and Choir offerings for the Fall. Put Sunday, August 28, on your calendar and plan on attending a celebration of God's grace and the ministries of your church family. Watch for more information in the bulletin, or contact the church office with any questions. See you there!



A Word From Our Pastor

What's Your Perspective?

There used to be a covered bridge, over twelve hundred feet long, in New England. The story goes that a Yankee farmer, who had never crossed it, approached it with a wagon load of hay. After one look down that long, dark wooden tunnel, he turned his team of horses around and started in the other direction. Asked why he was turning around, the farmer shrugged his shoulders and said, "Well, I could get in all right, but blamed if I could ever squeeze this load through that little hole on the other end!"

He was betrayed by his perspective. The light at the end of the tunnel was deceptively small. The intervening darkness obscured the breadth of the opening at the other end. The farmer's limited vision prevented him from reaching his destination.

In this age of demographic studies, sociological projections, strategic planning, and visioning processes, we don't enter the tunnels unless we are sure we can get out on the other side. We are hesitant to enter the tunnel unless the darkness has been removed and the exit on the other end measured. Most of us avoid the risks involved in pursuing worthy goals. Unless we are assured of success, we turn back toward the familiar and the manageable.

Sometimes, the darkness of our personal lives overwhelms the light at the other end. Can we squeeze the load being carried through the other side? Withdrawing into a safe cocoon, or turning toward the imagined security of an idealized past, seems preferable to moving toward an uncharted future.

Faith is the willingness to enter the tunnel when the light at the other end seems small and obscure. The Hebrew slaves stepped into the raging sea with little assurance that the waters would part. They marched toward the Promised Land without a road map or advanced lodging reservations. The fishermen left their nets to follow the One who said, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." (Matt. 4:19). They knew little of what lay ahead for them or the One who called them.

Faith in the God revealed in Jesus Christ does not remove the tunnels and the darkness. It does, however, offer two promises: No one enters the tunnel alone, and the One present within the darkness is also the light at the other end. We follow One who has entered the tunnels and emerged triumphant!

Peace, Philip

Spiritual Formation



August Prayer Focus is on Renewal/Sabbath

Our congregational prayer focus for August is Renewal/Sabbath. Let us all unite our hearts, minds, and spirits in prayer, thanking our Creator for His understanding our need for rest and relaxation. Pray for travel mercies and safety for those enjoying vacations. Spend time daily with God in meditation, Bible reading, fasting – seeking peace and spiritual refreshment. As God showed us in the Genesis story of creation, let us take time from our daily activities to observe Sabbath rest.

Prayer Walkers Take to the Streets!

Prayer walking in the Fort Hill area is continuing, bringing blessings to the neighborhood as well as to the walkers. If you can walk a mile, you can do it! If you can't walk, you can drive by and pray as you drive. Prayer releases the power of God to do His work.

Route maps may be picked up in Oxford Hall. After you do your route, please record your name, the date, and the route number on one of the "feet" provided. Those "feet" are walking all over the place!

For those who prefer to meet at the church and go out from there, times are scheduled for Thursday mornings, 9 AM, August 4 and 18.

Music Ministry

Worship Participation for 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Announced

August 7	Sanctuary Choir
August 14	Men's Chorus
August 21	Women's Chorus & Instrumental Ensemble
August 28	Worship Outdoors

Handbell Ringers Planning a Bell Bash

Plan now to attend Fort Hill's **Bell Bash** in the church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 7, at 6:30 p.m. This event is a "must" for EVERYONE who would like to ring handbells at Fort Hill UMC this fall.

Ice cream...Polish handbells...Ring bells... Organizing & planning for the 2011-2012 year...and of course, fellowship!

This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to re-connect and re-build the handbell choir program at Fort Hill. BRING YOUR CALENDARS!

Last Call for "Wannabe Singers!"

The not-yet-formed Fort Hill Women's & Men's Choral Ensembles will participate in the 10:30 a.m. worship services during August. This is the perfect opportunity for anyone, ages fourteen and older, to participate in Fort Hill's music ministry. This short term commitment involves two rehearsals (listed below). NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Contact Janet for more information.

Men's Chorus

Rehearse Wednesday, August 3rd & 10th at 7 p.m.

Sing for worship Sunday, August 14th

Women's Chorus

Rehearse Wednesday, August 3rd & Thursday, August 18th at 7 p.m.

Sing for worship Sunday, August 21st

Come join us!

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals resume Thursday, September 1 at 7 p.m.

Dinner Clubs To Organize for the Fall

Would you be interested in joining a small dinner group to eat and fellowship together on a periodic basis? This would be a great way to get to know some other Fort Hill folks that you don't normally have opportunities to be with. Those interested would be grouped with no more than 6 or 8 persons.

Groups could decide if they wanted to meet in various homes or at a restaurant. If meeting in a home, a suggestion might be to have the hostess furnish the meat and others to bring the side dishes. If meeting in a restaurant, each person would go "Dutch." In the spring, we might consider having the groups shake up some, in order to get to know others. This is experimental and open for suggestions from you. As we look around our Sanctuary, there are many faces we would like to get to know better and hopefully foster some new friendships.



During the month of August, a table will be in the Parlor for you to sign up if interested. If you have questions or suggestions, please call Sarah Housley at 385-6070 or Becky Spangler 586-6009 (Nurture Co-Chairs). We would love to hear from you.

Please cut off and leave in Parlor at Dinner Club Table or call the church office.

I (we) would be interested in joining a small Dinner group for the purpose of getting acquainted with others and eating together. Please pair me(us) up with this individual(s): _____.

I would like to be paired up with someone ___ yes ___ no. I would need assistance with transportation ___ yes ___ no.

I prefer meeting for lunch _____ supper _____ or either _____.

I prefer meeting in homes _____ restaurants _____ or either _____.

I have children and would prefer to be paired with others with children. ___ yes ___ no

I would prefer doing this once a month _____ or once during the fall _____

I would enjoy heading up a group of 6 or 8 and help coordinate that group. _____ yes _____ no _____ maybe

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Bits and Pieces



Our Youth Are Making History WWJD

The initials "WWJD" or "What Would Jesus Do" certainly defines the Youth Ministry we have going on in our church today. Through Teens Opposing Poverty, a street ministry called TOP, Kendra Toney and volunteers help our young people prepare food and box up clothing and other items needed by the homeless. On designated days, they meet with them at Miller Park, where interaction between the "haves and have nots" is as important as food and clothing. Some of us are shocked to hear their stories and learn how close we may be to poverty.

It is very impressive to know that young people from Fort Hill UMC are reaching out to others and following the example of our Lord and Savior. They are making a great history for us all. Surely, Jesus is smiling.

*-Jo Griffin, Historian
Jane Jesse History Room*

Lamb's Wool Project Needs Sweaters

It's not too late to knit a sweater for this great outreach program! Three members of our church family are working very hard to surpass the number of sweaters contributed last year to needy children for Christmas. Infant to size 5 are acceptable. Questions? Call Delores Layne at 384-3293.

Here is A Weekend Mission Opportunity for You!

We are trying to put together an intergenerational group of people who would like to partner with Rebuilding Together. At the end of the month or first part of August, we will build a handicap ramp and do some yard work/cleaning for an elderly couple in need here in Lynchburg, ALL AGES and abilities are welcome. We will need some to visit with the couple, some to do yard work, some to help build and some to make lunch for the team. If you are interested, please contact Kendra Toney at 546-0576 or kendra@forthillumc.org.

NEXT MEETING FOR FORT HILL SHEPHERDS is
October 16.

August Communion Offering to Benefit TOP

One half of the communion offering at Fort Hill United Methodist Church, received on the first Sunday of August, will be given to TOP, Teens Opposing Poverty. TOP works to develop ministries that give youth and young adults the opportunity to interact with homeless and poor people all throughout Virginia.



Their mission is to raise up an army of youth who are actively involved in the fight against hunger and poverty, not just as an annual event, but as a regular part of their lives. Fort Hill UMC Youth have been a very influential part of bringing TOP to Lynchburg this year. **Your support of the TOP Ministry will not only help the poor and homeless, but will enable the Fort Hill UMC youth and many other young people to be a part of this amazing ministry.**

The other half of the offering will go to our own Local Relief Fund, which is sent to Interfaith Outreach Association, to help those in need of rental or utility assistance, etc.

UMW Unit Meeting Set

The next UMW Unit Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A representative from Interfaith Outreach will be present to give an update on the organization.

The menu for the evening is a cold plate consisting of chicken salad, potato salad, a fruit and spinach salad, cottage cheese, a croissant, home-made dessert, and coffee and iced tea. Please make your reservation by giving Kim Beuerle \$6.00 in cash (or check made payable to Fort Hill UMW) **no later than Sunday, September 4.**



Watch for Your Next Group of Offering Envelopes!

The next group of offering envelopes for September & October, will be mailed out in mid-August. It is important that you use these envelopes to assure proper credit to your giving record.



August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7:00 p.m. UMW Executive Committee	<i>2</i> 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Bell quartet 7:00 District Common Table	<i>3</i> 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Men's & Women's Ensembles Rehearsal	<i>4</i> 9:00 Prayer Walking	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Youth TOP Ministry at Miller Park
<i>7</i> Holy Communion	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Finance 7:00 Bell quartet 7:30 Church Council	<i>10</i> 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Men's Ensemble Rehearsal	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 9:00 - 11:00 Visioning Retreat follow-up at the church
<i>14</i> Youth TOP Ministry at Miller Park	<i>15</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>16</i> 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Witness 7:00 Bell quartet	<i>17</i> 7:00 Men's Group	<i>18</i> 9:00 Prayer Walking 7:00 Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	<i>19</i> Kid's Backyard Campout	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Lunch Out Group to King's Island Restaurant	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Bell quartet	<i>24</i> 7:00 Men's Group	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Outdoor Worship 12:00 Church Fellowship Event	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Bell quartet	<i>31</i> 7:00 Men's Group	SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary		YOUTH ACTIVITIES During summer months, watch newsletter and bulletins for up- coming events.



August Birthdays

8/1 Brad Cassidy	8/11 Sarah Johnson	8/18 Jenny Epperson	8/27 Maxine Wood
8/2 Ray Booth	8/12 Donna Garner	8/19 Jack Blackburn	8/28 Ron Wright
8/2 Diane Thompson	8/12 Emma Kelly	8/19 Delbert Spangler	8/28 Scott Roberson
8/2 Mary Carson	8/12 John Hamilton	8/20 Warner Burford	8/29 Tillie Hunter
8/5 Linda Fisher	8/12 Michael Decker	8/20 Sylvia Morgan	8/29 Dennis Johnson
8/7 Brittany Mistretta	8/13 Debra Miller	8/21 Kim Bolinsky	8/29 T. J. Beuerle
8/8 Mary Kidd	8/14 Anne Gardner	8/22 David Almond	8/29 Matthew Robertson
8/8 Gray Wilkinson	8/15 Ed Fielding	8/22 Jessica Robertson	8/30 Stuart Porter
	8/15 Mason Grant	8/24 Ruth Burford	8/30 Mickey Minnick
	8/16 Ryan Englund	8/24 Robert Feese	8/31 Tony Gillespie
	8/16 Casey Wrabley	8/24 Lynn Hughes	8/31 John Toney

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, it may be because we do not have the date in our data base. Please call the church office at 847-1251 with your information.

August Wedding Anniversaries

8/1 Fred & Ernestine Reburn	63 years	8/20 John & Mary Ann Carter	56 years
8/8 Michael & Betsy West	3 years	8/21 Don & Joyce Baker	29 years
8/14 John & Joan Cocke	46 years	8/22 Don & Daryl Knott	18 years
8/16 Jim & Sandi Kiger	42 years	8/24 Charlie & Ann Buchanan	15 years
8/18 Bob & Pat Staton	55 years	8/28 Farrar & Nancy Marsh	57 years
	8/29 Norm & Nancy VanZant	58 years	



To my Fort Hill Family: Thank you all so much for the amazing graduation gift of *The Message*. Words cannot express how blessed I feel to have such a loving and supportive family of amazing Christian people. I would not be the person I am today, without Fort Hill's influence and encouragement. I've been raised in the church my entire life and that is something I will always treasure, along with my faith. I'm so excited to begin the next leg of my journey as a strong and confident young woman. This church has always been a huge part of my life and will continue to be in the future. I'm so grateful for all the love, teaching, and kindness I've received from all of you. Thank you for all you've done for me, and you will always be in my heart.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Robertson

ON behalf of Churches for Urban Ministry, I want to thank you for your contribution of \$50 for Camp Timothy supplies. Because of your support and generosity, Lynchburg's inner-city youth will have supplies for this wonderful summer program. Thank you again,

Sue Thornton, Corresponding Secretary

Thank you so much for the book you gave me in celebration of my graduation. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. As I approach the world the world of education, your gift will be the inspiration I can hopefully pay forward. Thank you!

-Karen Seale Beverly



Congratulations to Michael and Betsy Kiger West upon the birth of their daughter, Ella Elizabeth, on June 26, 2011. Ella is the granddaughter of Jim and Sandi Kiger.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Cheryl Johnson upon the death of her sister-in-law, Pamela Minnix of Clayton, NC on July 12.



Miscellaneous

THE BOX SCORE

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1

Average worship attendance in 2010 — 167

Average worship attendance as of

July 17, 2011— 191

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . And put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10

SUMMARY BRIEF OPERATING FUND REPORT

Your first line of giving — mission and ministry!

Budget for 2011 as approved by the Church Council is:
\$482,225.00

We need an average of \$9,273.56 per week to meet this budget.

As of 29 weeks, our weekly receipts
have averaged \$8,343.29

**Thank you for your support of the mission
and ministry of your church!**

Lunch Out August 21

Join others from Fort Hill UMC for Lunch Out on Sunday, August 21 at King's Island Restaurant, 2804 Old Forest Road. If you have never tried a "Lunch Out" on Sunday with Fort Hill friends, maybe this is the day. No reservations needed, just meet at the restaurant as soon as church is out and enjoy this time with new and old friends.

UMM/UMW Annual Picnic Planned

The annual District UMM/UMW picnic is planned for Sunday, August 7, at 5:00 p.m. at Timberlake UMC. Bring enough food for your family plus some to share, lawn chairs, and enjoy the fellowship. Entertainment will be various singing groups.

Each unit is asked to bring information on a current mission project that it is supporting. Tables will be available to set up a display of your project, or you may bring a card table to set up your display.

From the Hill

is a publication of Fort Hill United Methodist Church, 106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1308

Phone: 434-847-1251

Fax: 434-847-2536

Web: www.FortHillUMC.org

Times of Worship

8:30 a.m. Traditional; in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Staffed nursery provided from 9:15 a.m.- 12:00 Noon

Susan Zenz, Nursery Attendant

Rev. Philip M. Waltz, Pastor

Philip@forthillumc.org

Rev. Janet Hawkins, Minister of Music &

Congregational Care

Janet@FortHillUMC.org

Kendra Toney, Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministries

Kendra@FortHillUMC.org

Jeanette Seale, Administrative Assistant

secretary@FortHillUMC.org

Fort Hill is located on the Lynchburg District

Rev. Larry E. Davies, District Superintendent

Phone: 434-832-0401

Fort Hill is one of 1,299 congregations of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church

337,641 Virginia United Methodists engaged in ministry to others on behalf of Christ

Rev. Charlene Kammerer, Bishop

Richmond, VA

Phone: 1-800-768-6040

"Fort Hill United Methodist Church reaches out and welcomes ALL people by sharing God's LOVE through care, worship, education, and service."

-Fort Hill UMC Vision Statement

theParentLink

For important parent information about Youth and Children's Ministries, please visit www.forthillumc.org. Go to the children's or youth pages and click on the ParentLink logo. You may also contact Kendra Toney at 847-1251 or 546-0576 or kendra@forthillumc.org.



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Address Service Requested

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Rev. Philip M. Waltz
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Music & Congregational Care

Worship Times:
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the Chapel
(only September—May)
10:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the
Sanctuary

Sunday School for All Ages: 9:15 a.m.

**Staffed nursery provided for
all services and Sunday School**



Will This Be Your Last Newsletter?



Starting with the September issue, all newsletters will be sent via email (except for shut-ins, who will continue to receive their newsletter by regular mail). Get on board and provide us with your email address right away, so you will not miss out on the happenings at your church. Questions? Please call the church office at 847-1251. (See front page for additional information)