Dear Friends,

In January we unveiled our strategic plan that takes us through the next several years. This guide for the future is encouraging in so many ways. It highlights goals for our ministry and life of the church and emphasizes our children and youth. One of the ministry goals articulated in this plan is for the church to become more permission giving. Ideas and creativity should be nurtured and encouraged, and that is our hope. This month we wanted to highlight two ministry areas that have emerged over this past month, the FPCA Stitchers and the FPCA Home Medical Equipment Lending Closet. These ministries were generated by lay leaders in our congregation. Members in our congregation saw a need and were able to think creatively about how to fulfill it. Read more about these ministries in this 1st Chronicle edition. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 it reads, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” Each one of us has unique and special gifts, and these gifts make up the body of Christ! We hope you are encouraged and excited about our hopeful and inspiring future.

Grace, peace, and health to you all,

Meagan

FPCA Stitchers

A new ministry group has formed called the FPCA Stitchers for the purpose of offering comfort & healing for those in need. Our goal is to provide handmade items to be blessed by our ministry team with prayers of healing. In the same way Jesus used his hands to heal the sick, the crafty hands of our members can also be a healing force. We believe in the healing power of the hand. Receiving a prayer shawl, lap blanket, or warm hat can have a great impact on the healing journey. As we are a new group, we will need time to create an inventory of items. If you are a knitter, crocheter, stitcher, weaver, please contact Susie Sweet at sesweet@hotmail.com.

FPCA Home Medical Equipment Lending Closet

We are establishing a lending closet of home medical equipment. We have on hand a walker, raised toilet seat (with arms), a quad cane, tub transfer bench, knee scooter, and boot. If you have a need or if you have similar items you no longer have a use for and would like to donate, contact Nancy McNeill nmcneill@fpcasheville.org to arrange a pick up or drop off.
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

FPCA Spring Hike at Sycamore Cove / Grassy Road Trail Loop  April 11 @1pm

Spring is a great time to be in the forest when nature is waking up. The church is planning a group hike on the Sycamore Cove/Grassy Road Loop on Sunday, April 11th, beginning at 1:00pm. This 4-mile loop hike is a lovely forest walk, much of it beside a creek; and on April 11th, the wildflowers should put on a good show. There is a moderate 500-foot elevation gain, most of this near the beginning. The trail will start from the Ranger Station parking lot on Highway 276 in Pisgah Forest. We will cross the highway and walk along the river and by the campground before crossing the road again and starting on the Sycamore Cove Loop. We will ascend to the Grassy Road Trail and follow that back down, with a final descent on the Black Mountain Trail. A short walk along the road and then a short path will bring us back to the parking lot. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Randy and Beth Fluharty, rfluharty54@gmail.com to receive final details before the hike.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

The church library at FPCA is a hidden gem. It has been especially hidden during this past year. As we anticipate open doors again, the Faith Formation Committee, with the guidance of our FPCA Library Coordinator Elizabeth Pearson, is compiling a list of books to add to our collection. In particular, we are focusing acquisitions for this year on children's books that promote themes of racial justice, diversity, and inclusion. We have a list of over 40 possible books so far! A few that we expect to add (with a read-aloud video of each)

I Am Enough by Grace Byers
The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson
Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi
When God Made You by Matthew Paul Turner
You Matter by Christian Robinson

What books would you like to see in this new collection? We invite your ideas and suggestions. You can send those to Elizabeth at epearson52@att.net

MISSION

During our Palm Sunday Parking lot party, the children of our church were able to hunt Easter eggs and turn them into mission dollars. The Mission Committee of FPCA had designated $1000 for the children to donate to organizations of their choice. Each child got to decide where to give their eggs/dollars. Some chose to put all their eggs into one mission project (helping animals through the Humane Society was very popular!). Some carefully distributed their eggs in equal amounts to each of the three projects. Some decided to help whichever mission project looked like it needed the most eggs to catch up. It was beautiful to watch them consider how they were being called to be good stewards. In the end, the children decided that $400 be donated to the Asheville Humane society, $300 be donated to the Creation Care Alliance, and $300 be donated to Manna food bank. Thank you for all who hunted eggs and participated in this mission project. Thank you children for caring for others in our community!
Members and Visitors, connect with us! We look forward to hearing from you. Members can share prayer requests or pastoral concerns. Visitors can reach out to learn more about the life of FPCA. Please go to this link HERE to find out more or contact Nancy McNeill at nmcneill@fpcasheville.org.

CARE LINE:
PHONE: 828 222 0113
EMAIL: careline@fpcasheville.org
For emergency pastoral care needs, you may reach our pastor on call by leaving a message with the On-Call Service Provider Receptionist; a pastor will return your call.

For prayer requests or non-emergency care needs:
PHONE: 828 222 0113
EMAIL: careline@fpcasheville.org
Call to leave a message, email the Care Line or fill out the Connect With Us Form on our church website. If you have scheduled a hospitalization, please let us know as soon as possible.
April 2021

Community Joys and Concerns

Please join the FPCA Family as we celebrate joys among us and pray for loved ones. Our full list is a part of the First Chronicle Newsletter. Please contact Nancy McNeill (nmcneill@fpcasheville.org or 828-242-5774) with prayer requests and updates.

Prayers for:

DAWN ASHER, sister-in-law of Mary Beth, as she recovers from a lumpectomy for a recent cancer diagnosis and receives daily radiation treatment.

ANN LOUISE ATHERTON and FAMILY, as Ann Louise will have neurosurgery in Boston on 4/5 and remain there for several weeks of recovery.

BETSY WHITE, Mother of Margaret Black, in rehab recovering from surgery after falling and fracturing her hip.

ANN HUNTER as she continues recovery from surgery on her neck.

BOB MOLLEZZO, friend of Pat Harr, recently diagnosed with dementia and for discernment in the next steps for his care.

SUSAN NEFF for continued strength and healing as she recovers at home from a recent fall.

SUSAN RAMOS AND FAMILY as they grieve the death of her father Rev. Gary Waller on 3/15.

KENT MULLERT and his parents MARK AND KENDA, friends of the Gruver family, born with an enlarged heart on 2/17. Kent will soon undergo a high-risk surgery while he remains on the pediatric transplant list. He is currently in the NICU in Charlotte.

MARK LAABS, son of Albert and Meta Laabs, and for their family as Mark continues surgical recovery for a recurrence of melanoma cancer, and for wisdom for the next steps in his medical plan. For their daughter-in-law Denise and family in the recent death of her father.

JIM MCNEAL, husband of Robyn McNeal, receiving treatment for a cancerous spot on his liver. Jim recently completed treatment for colon cancer.

JD THOMAS, father of Kim Thomas, JD has been diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic lung cancer.

DAN AND ELIZABETH TURK, who live in Madagascar and continue to work as Presbyterian mission co-workers.

LUKE AND LEANNE TURK AND THEIR SONS, who continue their mission work in the Central African Republic (CAR).

THE FAMILY of NANCY YOUNG, Evelyn Jarrett’s Aunt, as they mourn the death of Nancy on 4/1/21.

THE EBENEZER CHURCH, our sister church in La Blanca, Guatemala.

THE KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, our sister church who were worshiping at FPCA.

ALL THE ESSENTIAL WORKERS and MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS who are working tirelessly to care for our communities and patients in the midst of this pandemic.

We celebrate with:

MARY SHEAROUSE who is back at home, and we pray for her continued recovery from a fracture in her back.

ROGER O’BRIEN on his recovery from surgery for a fractured hip. Roger is now able to walk with minimal assistance.

Those who are receiving their first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccinations and for the increasing availability of the vaccine.
WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

LINDA ADAMS 03/02/21
CHARLES ADAMS 03/02/21

Retiring to Asheville in September of 2020, Linda and Charles found us during the COVID crisis. They came to us from Memorial Drive United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. Their love of nature and hiking are well suited to our beautiful surroundings. They enjoy ministries involving missions, homeless ministry, and outreach. They are already involved in our Pop Up Pantry mission and look forward to attending services in person.