


REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

August 2018 - July 2019

First Presbyterian Church



**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength,
and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”** Luke 10:27



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Introduction

As I reflect on the past 12 months at First Pres, I first of all want to say thank you! Thank you for giving so generously of yourselves, your energy, your love, and your resources to support God's work. This report is designed to give you a glimpse of the ways we as a congregation are bearing good fruit in the name of Christ.

Dan Pallotta, an iconic figure in innovative philanthropy who challenges the ways we think about non-profit organizations, has noted how difficult it is to quantify what non-profits do. Speaking about a non-profit for the mentally and physically disabled that he supports, he observed, "These people need companionship, laughter, and love! How do you monetize that? Philanthropy is the market for love. The next time you're looking at a charity, don't ask about the rate of their overhead. Ask about the scale of their dreams."

At First Pres, Faith Grows Here is our dream. How in the world do we monetize that? How do we measure, for example, the faith of the 18 members who joined last year? How do quantify the life-changing grace given in the 12 baptisms we've participated in? Or how do we record the myriad ways members serve God's purposes beyond the walls of First Pres in countless acts of self-giving?

Not surprisingly, we can't calculate meaningful relationships. But hopefully, this report will give you a glimpse into the ways Faith Grows Here, while understanding that the best way for you to discover the value of what happens in, through, and among the people who are First Pres is to jump in and participate! 2020 is going to be a year of even bigger dreams as we continue to trust God with our whole lives.

With a grateful, hopeful heart,

David

“He has told you,
O mortal,
what is good;
and what does the
LORD require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?”

Micah 6:8



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Connecting on Park Street

Faith Grows Here



On the first Sunday of January at our Epiphany breakfast, the Session launched a \$4 million campaign to address some specific needs in our congregation. This is a big undertaking, and our theme “Faith Grows Here” is the foundation on which we build this campaign.

The project addresses many needs in our facility and our ministry:

Improving Building Access

- New elevator
- New dedicated Preschool entrance
- New dedicated church office entrance
- New and larger bathrooms

Expanding Education and Music

- Expanded music rehearsal space
- New classrooms for children, youth, and adults
- Connecting worship and fellowship spaces
- Improvements of children’s play areas

Updating Facilities

- Electrical, plumbing, energy efficiencies
- Bathroom configurations
- Hazardous material abatement
- Storage

Strengthening Our Mission

- Growing the Mission Endowment

Continued next page



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Connecting on Park Street

Faith Grows Here



The project is laid out in several phases according to highest priority needs and available funding. Phase One is well underway to make some needed upgrades in the Preschool and Sunday School area on the lower level. The groundbreaking for this took place on Sunday, May 5. Work is expected to be complete by the time the children return to class.

The timeline for Phase Two has not been determined. This phase will address the upgrades to some of our mechanical systems and then construction of the addition on the back corner for an elevator, new office space, and additional classroom and music rehearsal spaces.

Later phases will include the new welcoming space between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall as well as parking and landscaping.

To date, we have raised just over \$2 million. We are halfway there! We are grateful to those who have already given and pledged to the Campaign. Our leaders on the session and the diaconate have supported the campaign with their pledges and gifts. In addition, we have received gifts and pledges of all sizes from the congregation. If you have not made a pledge yet, please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how you might participate with a gift. Every gift/pledge is valuable because what's important is that you have participated.

Thank you for your faithful support of the Faith Grows Here Campaign and for the assurance of things hoped for at First Presbyterian Church.

Faith Grows Here Workgroup

Terry Forbes, Shana Pack, Craig Redinger, Tracey Schoch, Jim Snead, Bill von Reichbauer, David Forney, and Debbie Rexrode (Moderator)



“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Do Justice

SERVE one another, our community, and the world with humility and love, relying on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to lead us in witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Relying on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to lead us in witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ, FPC continued its loyal partnerships with organizations that serve those in need. For Habitat for Humanity, we continued monthly participation by the congregation and continued the growth of a youth council with one of our youth members. We also focused on efforts on communicating “bite-size” outreach opportunities to the congregation through a monthly COC email, connecting members to our mission partners in order to build relationships with the organizations with which we have financial commitments.

With the direction and discernment of members of the Christian Outreach Committee, we donated money from our discretionary fund to support initiatives such as Bibles for middle school students of Abundant Life Ministries (ALM), the new ID program in Charlottesville, and Habitat’s Southwood project.

We assessed and have ongoing relationships with seven local area non-profits whom we call our mission partners, including a new relationship with Abundant Life Ministries as one of partners. We held a church-wide Outreach Fair on August 25 in order to bring awareness and to educate our members on the who/what/whys of our mission partners, the organizations prayerfully chosen as our partners in loving our neighbors in Charlottesville and beyond, both with volunteers from our church as well as a financial commitment. In addition to those seven, we also support the First Pres Preschool, Presbytery of the James, Montreat Conference Center, and Mission Support for projects that involve our congregation members, such as the SWVA mission project with Binns County Community Center. With dedicated endowment funds for mission and benevolence, we have supported AIM and PACEM’s new Secure Seniors Initiative. Our church has continued its relationship with Blue Ridge House for the annual Thanksgiving meal, provided gifts and time for the ALM Christmas Store for our annual Advent project, and organized a collection of personal items for Love, INC. for our annual Lent project. We have continued to direct our “5 Cents a Meal” donations to the local food banks; served Soup Kitchen weekly; supported members to serve the needs of those in McClure, Virginia; volunteered at ALM’s Vacation Bible School, and continue to do more. The COC has evolved into a team who is focused on communicating and connecting First Pres members to our mission partners for the purpose of intentional engagement and building relationships with the very people whom we support beyond the dollar commitments.



"People like to see their donations lift up instead of hand out. That's what y'all have done for me."

—Alliance for Interfaith Ministries client



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

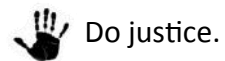
Love Kindness

NURTURE our faith in Jesus Christ through education and fellowship, growing in wisdom, and deepening our relationship with God and one another.

Fellowship is an integral part of life of First Pres. As part of our fellowship together, we held spring and fall churchwide picnics, as well as dinners for Hanging of the Greens and Maundy Thursday. Various groups and individuals hosted Sunday Fellowship Time.

New member classes were held in the spring and fall to invite those interested in membership to learn more about the church and discern whether or not they would like to join. Eighteen people joined this past year.

Additional ministries nurtured and supported members and the larger community: Blood Drive, Card Ministry, Flower Delivery, Prayer Team, 30 Minutes of Care, Transportation, Visitation, and more.



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Family Ministries

Godly Play and God Loves Me curricula anchored our children's classes, and families participated in Hanging of the Greens and Soup Kitchen ministry.

In January 2019, Laura Holbrook began as the Director of Family Ministries.

A Good Samaritan intergenerational event, the Palm Sunday "Walk Through Holy Week," and an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt were school-year highlights.

Summer launched with "Take Out Church," a box filled with activities for families to do on the go and a Flat Jesus to take along on vacation. Summer Surprises were offered Sunday mornings, with weekly ideas from the book "What Is God Like." Summer Suppers gathered families for a meal, recreation, a Bible lesson, and s'mores around a new firepit. There are plans to continue as a church-wide supper and fellowship time in the fall. Wednesdays at King Family Vineyard started as a young family event and blossomed into a church-wide success. Camp Hanover provided a great week of camp. Spirits Up for young women met, and David Forney continued Theology on Tap with young men.

"Summer Suppers ARE church for us. This was so wonderful and exactly what my family needs. I hope we can continue this and do them all year long and invite all ages. It was fantastic."

—Kristin Jones, mother to William and Andrew



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

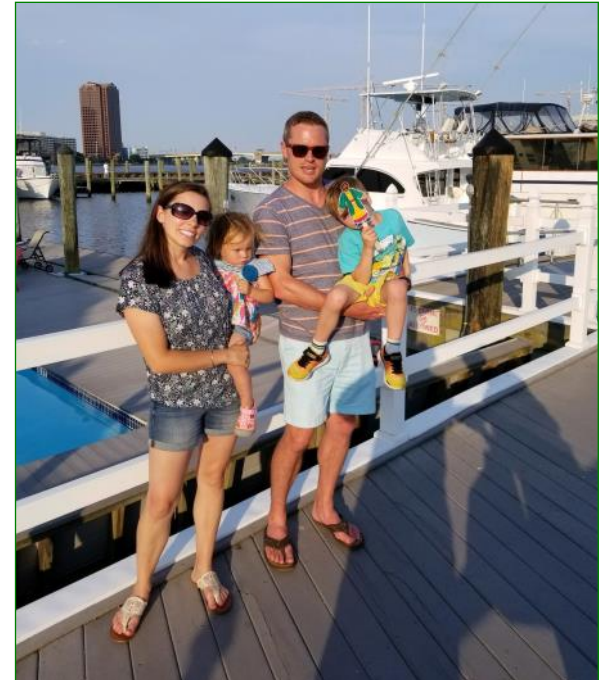
Flat Jesus went many places with members of the First Pres family this summer ...



Our Worshipping Fellowship *That all of us here may know each other...*

Date: 5/19/2019 (855) Check complete that week!

Name	Address	Phone	Member of the Church	Visitor	New Member	Guest in a Cell	Guest at Worship	Wants to Join the Congregation	My Church Home Name of Congregation, City, and State
FLAT JESUS			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	everywhere
Jakene Kidd			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Do justice.

Love kindness.

Walk humbly with your God.

Youth Ministry

FPC Youth continued to deepen their faith through biblical studies, worship, and experiencing faith in the community through outreach events in particular. Our youth have assembled care packages for Soup Kitchen guests, handed out brown bagged meals to those in need in the downtown area, created care packages for college students, baked desserts for Soup Kitchen, volunteered for PACEM, and participated in the annual Pilgrimage weekend in Washington, DC. Fellowship and discipleship opportunities included Montreat, Sunday Youth Group, mid-week morning devotionals, summer brunches, and more. Our youth and seniors led a meaningful service on Youth Sunday in May. They have continued to build friendships outside the church walls, encouraging each other on their faith journeys throughout the week.



“Our youth group has always meant that I had a group of close friends that I could depend on outside of all the school related drama that we teens face. Our cheery group loves the company of each other, whether we are trekking around DC helping the homeless or going to the Downtown Mall for dinner.”

—Natalie Peck



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Adult Ministries

To nurture adults through learning and discussion, we provided an exciting array of classes, small groups, and events.

A Worshipping Community

Sacraments, Music, Preaching, and the Word
Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)
Visio Divina (Praying with the Eyes of Your Heart)
Finding our Identity in Sabbath Keeping

A Studying Community

Biblical Historical
Getting into the Greek
Lenten Study: Why Jesus?
Easter Traditions
In the Beginning: Genesis

A Faithful Community

Faith and Family

New Small Groups

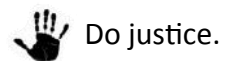
Men's and Women's Groups

A Caring Community

Christian Caregiving
Creating a Culture of Generosity
Conversations about Racism

A Fellowshiping Community

All-Church Retreat
An International Journey through Advent



Do justice.



Love kindness.



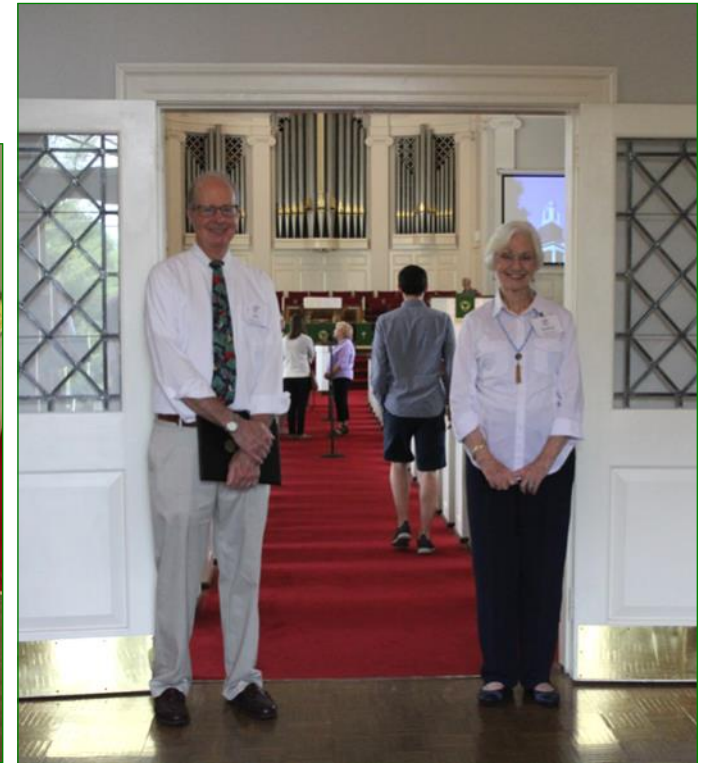
Walk humbly with your God.


Walk Humbly with God


WORSHIP God faithfully and joyfully,
prayerfully seeking God's direction for our lives.


First Pres members, regular attendees, and guests worshiped together on Sunday mornings and participated in other opportunities at special times throughout the year, including prayer stations during the first week of Lent, worship services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The beauty of church seasons was enhanced with Hanging of the Greens for the Advent season, poinsettias for Christmas, and palms and lilies for the Easter season. This year we celebrated Pentecost with a birthday cake for the Church.

More than 200 volunteers supported Welcome and Worship at First Pres, including communion servers and preparers, chancel teams, ushers, greeters, musicians, and more.



 Do justice.

 Love kindness.

 Walk humbly with your God.



Do justice.



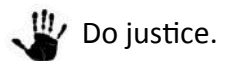
Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Music at First Pres

Each week, the members of First Presbyterian's music ministry come together in rehearsal and preparation to help lead the congregation in worship. Music is a special offering of worship helping us all to walk humbly with God. Highlights for this past year included a presentation of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* by the Sanctuary Choir with chamber orchestra and soloists, the release of our Praise Team's first CD recording, as well as handbell presentations during worship services and in the community. In addition, we presented several concerts in our Music on Park Street series as well as hosted many other concerts by community musical organizations.



Do justice.

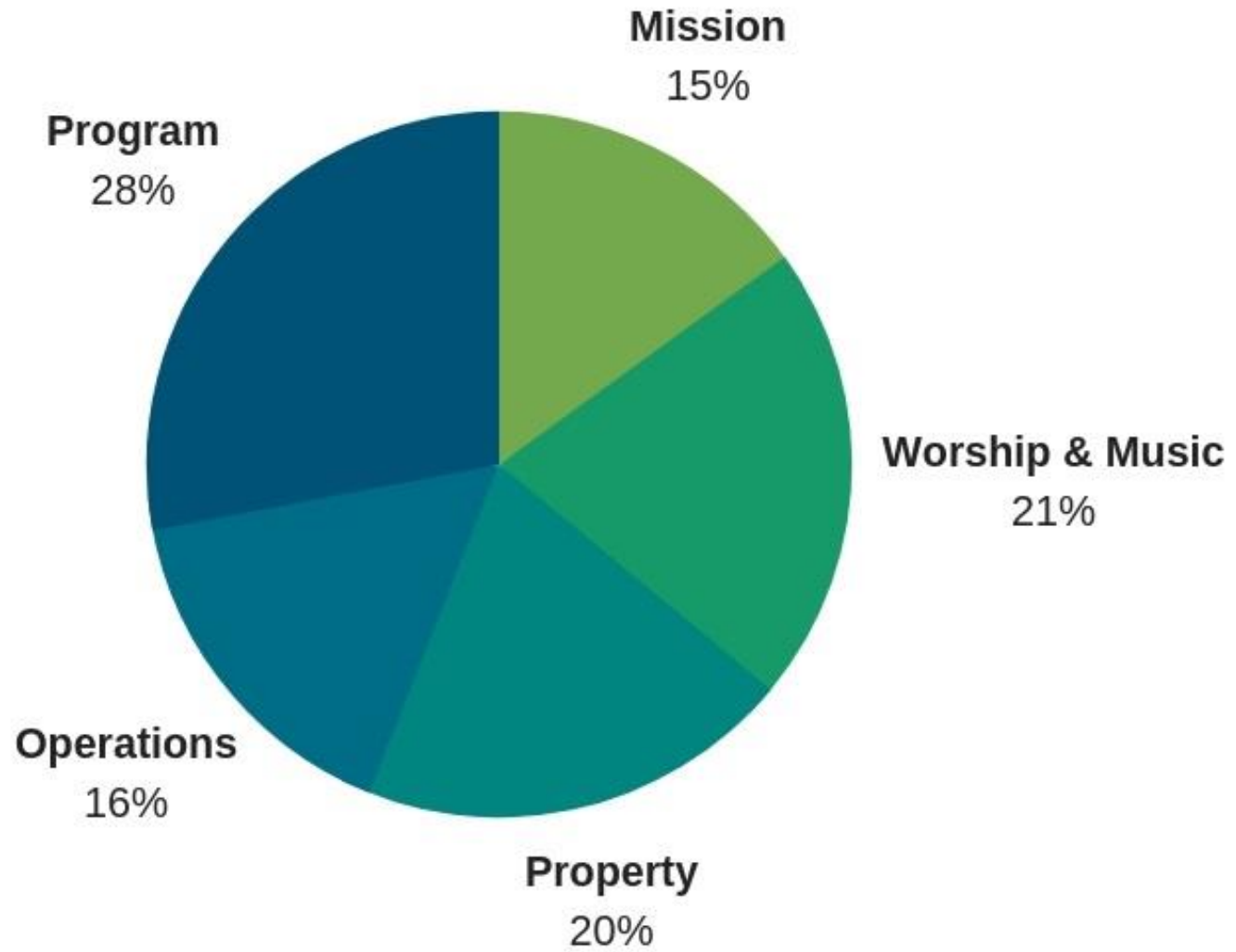


Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

First Presbyterian Church Expenditures



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.



Active Members

1,070

Average Worship Attendance

290

Services with Communion

61

New Members

18

Faith Grow Here Pledges

132

Baptisms

12

Youth Attending Montreat

21

Music on Park Street Concerts

4



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Yearly Outreach Contributions

\$110,000

Financially Serving Our Neighbors

Abundant Life Ministries

AIM

PACEM

IMPACT

Love INC

Building Goodness

Habitat for Humanity

Haven

International Neighbors

Montessori Education Trust

The Pilgrimage

Binns County

Emergency Food Network

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Meals on Wheels

Union Seminary

Local ID Program

Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)



Monthly Events Held at First Pres by Outside Groups

20

Our Building Supports ...

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings
American Needlepoint Guild meetings
Arc of the Piedmont meetings, events
Blue Ridge Church of Christ events
Boy Scout leaders meetings
Charlottesville Area Spiritual Directors
Charlottesville Music Teachers Association
Charlottesville Bar Association lunches
Charlottesville Special Needs Support Group
Charlottesville Symphony
Congregate Charlottesville events
Easter Seals meetings
Fire concerts
First Presbyterian Preschool
Homeschooled Teens dances
Hospice of the Piedmont events
Impact meeting
Music by the Bedside performances
Narcotics Anonymous meetings
Oratorio Society and Consort performances
PACEM hosting
CASA training sessions
Presbytery of the James meeting
Ready Kids events and meetings
Royal Conservatory of Music assessments
Three Notch'd Road performances
Victory Hall Opera performances
Virginia Glee Club performances
Wednesday Music Club performances



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

Staff



Rev. Dr. David G. Forney
 Rev. Dr. Aram Bae
 Rev. Liz Forney
 Kimani Alexander
 Donna Buchanan
 Cathy Dalton
 Lindy Deen Magness
 Ashley Grundler
 Laura Holbrook
 Michael Joyce
 Susan Lawson
 Claire Linden
 Nancy Lutz
 Jen Snook
 Tracey Schoch
 Dr. Jeremy Thompson

Pastor and Head of Staff
 Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission
 Covenant Pastor
 Custodian
 Preschool Director
 Assistant Preschool Director
 Seminary Intern
 Assistant Director of Children's Music
 Director of Family Ministries
 Facilities Manager
 Office Administrator/Receptionist
 Finance Manager
 Parish Nurse
 Program Coordinator
 Communications Director
 Director of Music



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk

Leadership

Class of 2019

Elders of the Session

Jessica Ammons
 Downing Miller
 Deborah Rexrode
 Nancy Roche
 Jim Snead
 Mac Walker
 Bill vonReichbauer

Board of Deacons

Charlie Chadwick
 John Dillery
 Elaine Knight
 Tom Phelps
 Diane Schmidt
 Wanda Towberman
 Polly Wehmann

Class of 2020

Elders of the Session

Michelle Katstra
 Nancy Lutz
 Donna McCauley
 Jim Patterson
 Craig Redinger
 John Wehmann

Board of Deacons

Jane Brennan
 Anita Brockette
 Diane Brownlee
 Shelley Matthews
 Richard Myers

Class of 2021

Elders of the Session

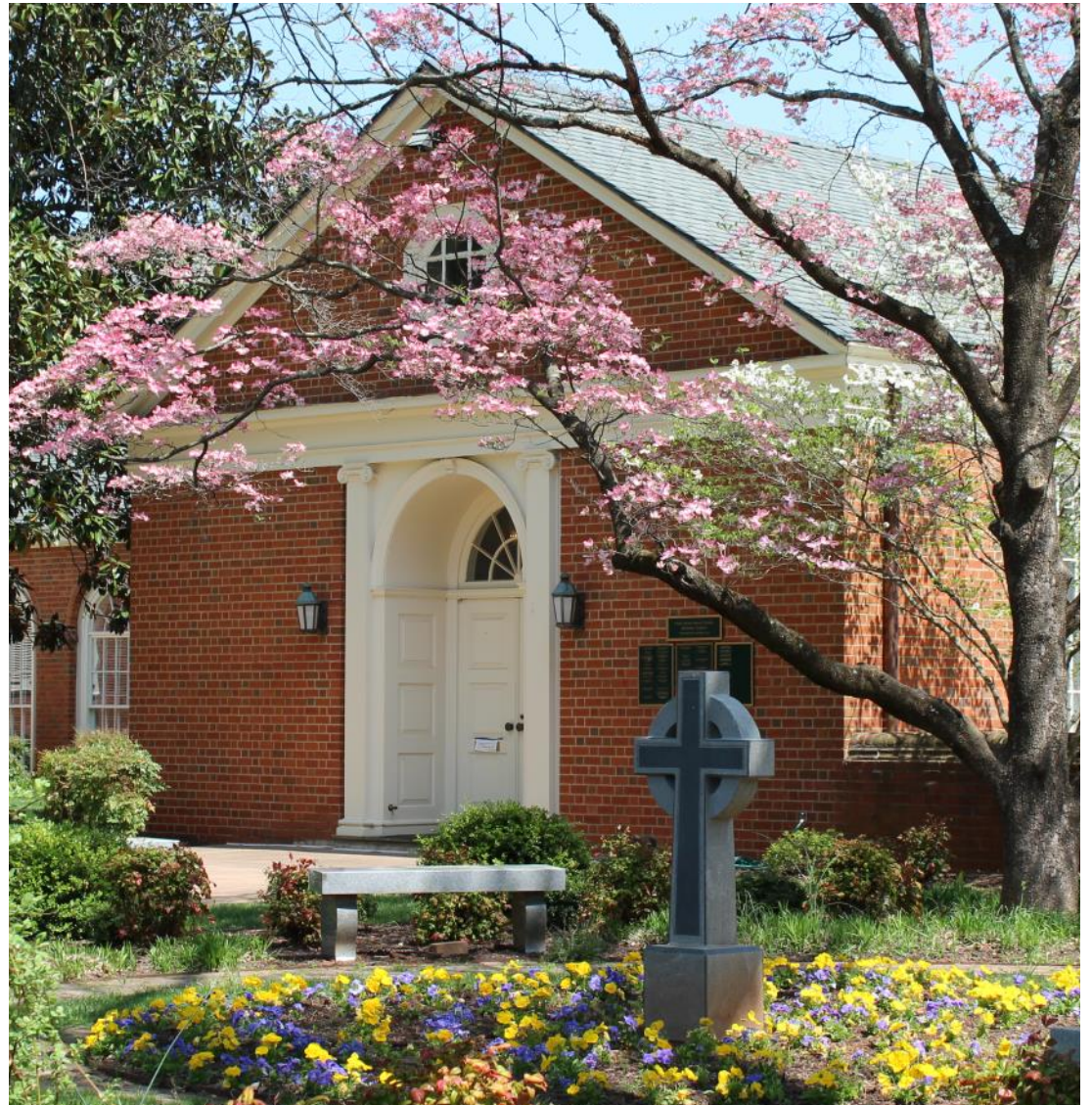
Robert Brewbaker
 Lori Chapman
 Terry Forbes
 Susan Howard-Smith
 Jennifer Jones
 Gary Selmeczi

Board of Deacons

Allen Bailey
 Anne Bear
 Anna Farrell
 Brenda Lipscomb
 Yvonne Rice
 Ellen Roberson
 David Swett

In Memory

Joan Hanna
Dorothy Brickhouse
Tom Baber
Mary Jean Craddock
Gail Houser
Dick Miller
Mary Rohmann
Tom Baylor
Jeanne Busse
Ralph Feil
Joe Miller
Gracie Dulaney
Eric Redinger



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.