



FCCH Congregational Chronicle July 2023

In this issue:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 From the Pastor's Desk / Coffee Hour | 11 New Members |
| 3 Moderator's Column | 12 Forum Schedule for July |
| 4 Sheryl Tellier Memorial / Small Group Happiness | 13 School Supply Drive |
| 5 Service & Giving Volunteer Spotlight | Tell me About.. / Attendance & Birth- |
| 6 Service & Giving Agency of the Month/ Small Group Happiness | 14 days |
| 7 Pride Picnic | 15 July Events of Note |
| 8 Peace Building and Justice Update / Meditation Group Update | 16 Announcements, etc. |
| 9 Get to Know Your Lay Leader / Hunger Coalition | June Council Meeting Highlights / |
| 10 Sunday School Update / Ministry of Physical Resources Recycling | 17 Small Group Happiness |
| | 18 Pet Memorial & Atrium Garden |
| | To Make You Smile / Inspirational |
| | 19 Quote of the Month |
| | 20 Staff Listing |





From the Pastor

This July, you are invited to observe sabbath time. Author Wayne Muller writes, "Sabbath requires surrender. If we only stop when we are finished with all our work, we will never stop, because our work is never completely done. With every accomplishment there arises a new responsibility... Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because it liberates us from the need to be finished."

I know I am guilty of waiting until I finish everything (which I never really do because there is always something) before I think I "deserve" a break. Muller's words remind me that the practice of sabbath is a surrender to Holy Love and Compassionate Presence, rather than being possessed by the demon of false urgency. And so, even in what feels urgent in these times and in your days, join me in putting it on a shelf. It will be there when you return to it, renewed and restored.

There will be no business meetings in July. In addition, the church office will close at noon on Fridays in July-August 4. Mark will be away for well deserved vacation and sabbath renewal. I hope you can move into sacred sabbath time away from whatever is occupying your heart-space these days.

Deep Peace and Big Love,
Karla

Coffee Hour Volunteers Questions Answered

Every Sunday after church, there is a coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. About 50 people come to enjoy fellowship with others, get a refreshment, and nibble on an assortment of sweets and healthy food choices.

*** How can I help with coffee hour?** Sign up to be a host. The host(s) will generally have a tray of some sweets (store bought or homemade) and some healthier options (fruits, veggies, nuts, or crackers and cheese). Bring these into the kitchen between 9:45 and 10 on Sunday morning. If you don't have your own platters/trays/serving dishes, we have them in the kitchen, and you can choose what you want to put your food on. At the beginning of the last hymn, leave church and come to the kitchen to help get the food out onto the serving tables in Fellowship Hall. Coffee Hour tends to wind down about 12 so, at this time, help clean up --- done by 12:45 the latest.

***Do I need to bring drinks?** The church provides all the drinks and coffee is made by others.

***Do I need to bring paper products?** NO, the church provides all paper products.

***How many people should I plan for?** Between 45-55

***What if I am in choir or ushering?** You can still host coffee hour and kitchen workers (Milton, Jeanne and Diane generally) will assemble and set out for you; just help with clean up.

***How do I sign up to be a host?** There is a calendar on the counter of the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Find an open date, and write your name. Leave your best contact info so you can be reminded the week prior to the date you signed up for.

***Questions?** contact Diane Rose 951-543-2771 or email dianerose617@gmail.com

Moderator's Column



Collective Gifts by Liz Miller

"Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:4 (NRSVUE)

My job description says I am a solo pastor of a mid-size church, but I learned early on that this job is only sustainable if I ignore the "solo" part. I rely on ministry partners of all sorts: staff who have the gift of recruiting volunteers or selecting singable hymns, church members who have the gift of a green thumb or leading small group discussions, and pastor colleagues who have the gift of collaboration and are willing to work together to better serve our congregations.

This model of ministry partnerships started with the first disciples, each of them tasked with supporting Jesus' ministry by using their unique gifts. While Jesus was healing people in the house, someone was outside with the onlookers explaining Jesus' backstory. While Jesus was walking on water and calming storms, someone else was reading the nautical chart and another was steering the ship. I imagine some disciples gravitated toward the elders in the crowds while others got the youth organized; some were great with groups while others excelled one-on-one.

The disciples were a cohort of collaborators, confidants, and colleagues that had to navigate ministry with one another and utilize all of their collective gifts. Even as a so-called solo pastor, I am dependent on the gifts of my fellow disciples that together we can minister in the name of Jesus.

Paul's words to the Corinthians remind us that every spiritual gift is valuable, and no person's gift brings them closer to God than anyone else. The challenge and the hope are to know what your gift is, use it, and then hold space for other people's spiritual gifts to shine as well.

Prayer

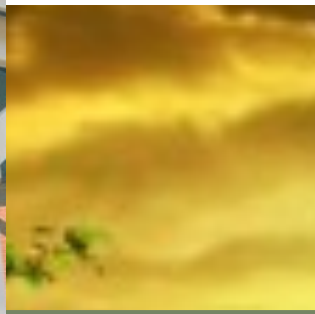
Bless our collaborators and co-conspirators, and may their gifts be a blessing in the body of Christ."

So, what gifts have you to bring to our collective group of ordinary people doing an extraordinary job on behalf of love justice and compassion for all? It won't be the same without you, because the Creator gave you a gift, or multiple gifts, that would help make us better and stronger. Come, join in, take our collective hands in yours, and help us be all we can be for the sake of love.

Sheryl

sherymendehall@rocketmail.com

Gazebo Dedication for Sheryl Tellier Tuesday, June 6th



Contributed by Lin Stogner alfandellie@gmail.com
& Sheila Clendenning bsheila.nc@gmail.com



Small group at Jump Off Rock. Mark Acker, Jan Buchanan, Angie Buchanan, Kenny Standley, Bonnie Standley, Jenn Kirby, Steve Matthews, John Fuller.

Contributed by Mark Acker
mark@fcchendersonville.org





Spotlight Volunteer of the Month

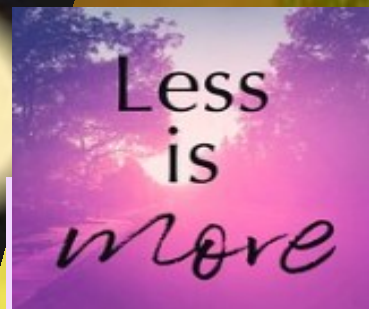
Sharon Johnson

Sharon has been a volunteer for several local agencies serving the community. An award-winning quilter for many years, Sharon used that talent to teach quilting at the Hendersonville Boys and Girls Club for eight years. She also volunteers for Books For Good in Fletcher and serves on the Service and Giving committee here at First Congregational

Sharon chose to volunteer at Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) in 2017 after learning of the many volunteer opportunities in this area. She was assigned to the clothing closet and has worked there once a week. When IAM opened a thrift store in 2022, Sharon volunteered to manage the book department for one year.

Besides quilting, Sharon enjoys photography, bicycling, reading, and traveling, especially in her little camper. Beaches and ocean waves are her "thin place", so that is usually where you will find her camping. Sharon's faith journey that brought her to FCC is fascinating. Ask her about it.

Courtesy of Bill Shaffer
wdsiii333@gmail.com
Service & Giving Ministry



BIG THANKS

to all who have contributed articles and many wonderful pictures to the Chronicle to make it really shine!

Because of all the great things going on at our church and the depth of our involvement in many diverse areas, please hold your submissions to a max of 200 words so that we may include more news of events across the board.

Again, thank you all so much for your involvement.---you are all so appreciated! And, please, keep them coming!

Service & Giving Agency of the Month

Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) provides crisis assistance with a range of essential items and services including \ assistance with food, clothing, linens, personal hygiene supplies, heat and utility bills, rent and mortgage payments, medications, pet food, and other basic needs.

The need in our community is great. One in 11 Henderson County residents visited IAM in 2022. IAM's 20 employees must count on the more than 200 volunteers. These volunteers interview people coming in for assistance, manage files and work in the Food Assistance and Clothing Assistance Departments. A typical volunteer shift is four hours a week. IAM depends on financial donations from individuals, churches and our synagogue, businesses, civic groups, to enable to continue to provide basic needs for Henderson County families in crisis. In-kind donations of food, clothing, personal care items, cleaning supplies, masks, gloves, blankets, towels, sheets, pillows, pet food, and school supplies are needed and appreciated.

Visit the IAM website at www.iam-hc.org to see lists of needed food and clothing items and ways to volunteer.

Courtesy of Bill Shaffer
wdsiii333@gmail.com
Service & Giving Ministry



Circle of Friends

Two birthday girls blow out their candles at their small group get together.

Courtesy of Bruce Mills
bmills@att.net

Scenes from Pride Picnic June 10th



Courtesy of Bruce Mills
bmills@att.net

Peace Building & Justice Update

The PB & J Circle hosted its first of four forums on June 4th. Members introduced the congregation to its long-term mission of building Beloved Community through relationship and education. The attendees enjoyed a story-sharing activity and then were asked their thoughts and ideas on three questions that are the foundation to build a Beloved Community on:



- ♦ What would one look like in our community?
- ♦ Can you think of an example of injustice in our community?
- ♦ What neighbors are calling us into relationship and how would we bring that about?

The next Forum the Circle is hosting will be July 9th . We will have two guests who know all about homelessness in Henderson County. One person who lives it and one person who works to end it.

Courtesy of Pam Rogers
pamrogers525@gmail.com
PB&J Circle

Meditation Group Update

The Meditation Group has been busy!

We undertook a project to help with weeding and reconstructing the labyrinth. Those helping were Sherry Suddeth, Larry Johnson, Mindy Myers, Pete Heuberger, Mark Fagerlin, Joyce Tierney, Jean Craig, Sandra Ariatti, and Dale Brotherton. Thank you

Sandra Ariatti led us in learning Zentangle, a meditative art. We will continue Zentangle sessions in July and hope to exhibit our creations in August.

We have a meditation and yoga retreat coming up to Prama Institute and Wellness Center in Marshall from August 4 to 6 - this will be a silent meditation retreat including yoga, vegetarian meals, nature walks, meditation instruction, visualization exercises and journaling time. The retreat is appropriate for beginners and more experienced practitioners. We are inviting the congregation to come. If you would like further information, you can call or email me at katmart516@gmail.com or 704-562-7339. I may refer you to Jean Craig, who set this up for us and has obtained a 15% discount for our group.

We are in the process of scheduling Ronya Banks, the leader of Asheville Insight Meditation to lead our group soon, this is a special treat, so stay tuned!

Courtesy of Kat Martin
katmart516@gmail.com

May you all be safe, healthy, happy and free!

Get to Know your Lay Leader



Bob McLendon is the Assistant Moderator in our church. He has been a member for approximately 6 years, having visited for a year or so prior to joining. He grew up in church and for years was a member in Southern Baptist churches. He held various positions of responsibility, including Director of Sunday School and Chairman of the Board of Deacons. Bob was a member of a Southern Baptist church in this area when he reached a point where he just felt strongly that he was "not in the right place anymore". It was an uncomfortable feeling and he asked himself, "Lord, why are you rattling my cage like this?" He visited seven or eight other churches in this area, including First Congregational. He discovered our church because his wife found one of our brochures somewhere in Flat Rock. The brochure mentioned that we were open and affirming and also discussed the fact that we are a service-oriented congregation. Bob said to himself, "This could be what I am looking for!" He indicates that he visited a couple of times and attended the coffee hour after the church service. He said that Roger Smith walked up to him and they started discussing their mutual background in higher education. He indicates that it just "clicked" that this is where the Lord had been leading him. Since then, he has served as Chairman of the Reconciliation and Renewal Ministry, been involved with the Service and Giving Team and is currently the Assistant Moderator.

We are just grateful that the Lord has led Bob to us. His love of our church shows, as well as his level of commitment and dedication. We are fortunate, indeed, to have him as a lay leader in our church.

Courtesy of Bruce Mills
bmills@att.net



This is it!! The start of the 2023 Hunger Walk harassment campaign!

How much money have you collected so far for this year's Hunger Walk?

As I write this pushy update (June 28, 2023), there are only 86 days left before the September 23 Hunger Walk. Time is running out

and you may not yet of talked to every single person you know or have considered meeting. We all need to get out of our cozy nests and ask people for money right now and every day.

OK. You are shy. I get it. But think about it. If someone has not been asked to donate to the Hunger Walk, will they know to do so? This is an opportunity to satisfy our need to help our friends and neighbors in need. Sure it pushes us out of our comfort zone, but how else do we grow?

Give it a try. I really don't think it will hurt you to actually "talk" to someone.

Information concerning the Hunger Walk is available on the website:

hendersoncountyhungercoalition.org or by asking either a Service and Giving Mission member or myself.

Thank you for your support. Love, Ken (Whitney)

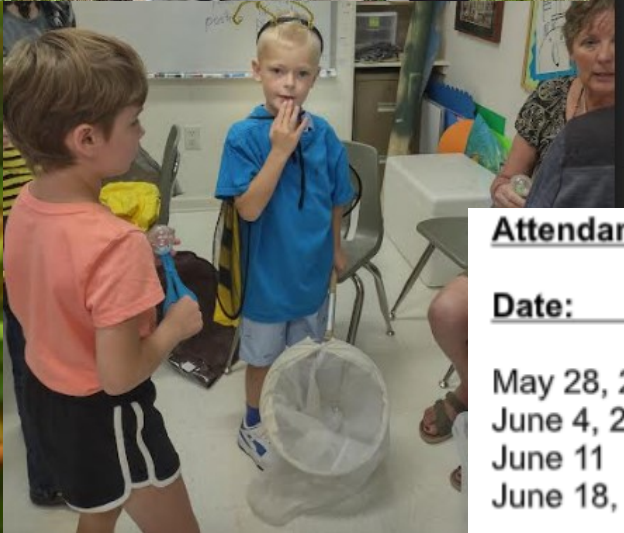
(whitneykenneth9@gmail.com)

Sunday School Monthly Update

The Wonders of Nature in Our Own Back Yard



The children have planted their vegetables and are excited to learn all about insects and turtles. They take their responsibilities of weeding and watering the garden seriously, and their potato crop is growing fast! They have caught and studied several key pollinators and are planning to present an original play about what they've learned to the congregation next month.



Courtesy of Ginger Zemp & Virginia Tegel
 Sunday School teachers
fishervirginia42@gmail.com
virginiategel@icloud.com

Attendance:	
Date:	Attendance:
May 28, 2023	4
June 4, 2023	3
June 11	4
June 18, 2023	5



Notes from Ministry of Physical Resources - thank you all for your contributions!

Vegetable Garden Compost Bins

YES: Vegetables, Fruits, Coffee Grounds & Egg Shells

NO: Flowers, Yard Waste (Pruning waste, grass clippings, twigs/branches) & corn cobs

These donations can be placed at the back of Church near gate to vegetable garden in blue bin. There are many other things that can be composted, but our Garden needs things that compost more quickly for use in the Garden.

Aluminum Can Recycling Please place cans at the back of the Church in cart under porch near back door.

Metal Recycling

Scrap metal such as metal posts, grates, pipe, wire shelving etc. See Milton Stewart for questions.



Kitchen Supplies

We are no longer buying polystyrene foam cups or dinner ware (and request no donations of these). Our new coffee cups are sustainable, and our disposable dinner ware is paper. Money received from aluminum cans & metal recycling is used for new garden plants and new vegetable garden supplies.

Courtesy of MindyMyers
mindy7myers@gmail.com

New Members



**JAN & JOCK
APLIN**

Jan grew up in the cornfields of Iowa, Jock in the hills of eastern Tennessee. They met in Iowa and lived there for 30 years.

Jock was an Engineer, Jan a teacher, later a Medical Transcriptionist.

They lived in Eastern Iowa, the last 25 years in the Quad Cities area along the Mississippi River.

Jan was on the staff of a large ELCA Lutheran Church in Davenport, as a manager of the Book/Gift Shop and as a co-leader for many adult home rebuilding mission trips. After retirement, Jock volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Seven years ago, Jan and Jock moved to Western North Carolina to thaw out and be closer to remaining family in Chattanooga.

Since moving to Hendersonville, they have continued volunteering. One opportunity allowed Jan to become manager of the new Friends of the Library bookstore for two years (she likes books), and Jock with Meals on Wheels and miscellaneous church activities.

Pictures courtesy of Dawn Kucera
dawnkucera@mac.com

Forum Schedule for July

Sundays @9 am

July 2—Joel Helfand tells the amazing story of his musical life with humor and insights that will surprise and entertain everyone. Don't miss this fantastic morning with our favorite saxophone player! You have heard him play—you need to hear him speak!!

July 9th—Hosted by Peace Building and Justice Circle (PB&J). The lack of affordable housing and home/"house-lessness" in Henderson County is an issue that concerns many of us. Yet, we don't typically cross paths with anyone who can tell us about it. Sunday's Forum will have two guests – one person who has lived the experience and one person who is working to alleviate it through affordable housing. Come hear their stories.

July 16th—Dowsing with Romella Hart-O'Keefe. Dowsing is an ancient practice whose origins are lost in long-forgotten history. It's an ancient art used for finding water, hidden objects and even missing people. Usually, this is accomplished with the aid of a dowsing stick, rods or a pendulum. Dowsing is also known as divining, water witching, doodle-bugging and other names. It can also be used in determining health, emotional or practical needs. It's also very fun to try! Romella will talk about the benefits of dowsing and teach us how to practice it!

July 23rd—All the Things with Rev. Amy Smith. Amy currently serves as Chaplain with Four Seasons hospice. She has over 30 years experience in healthcare, the last 20 years working in a community hospice setting. She's a certified InterPlay leader, grief support, group facilitator, and community educator, specializing in end of life issues, grief and bereavement, compassion fatigue and resilience. Amy blends her arts background and deep compassion as she accompanies individuals and groups in facing the Big Questions and Annoying Limitations that are a part of being human in this world.

July 30th—WWLD? (What Will Larry Do?) Join us in another wonderful session on Progressive Christianity with Larry Anderson. You never know what he is going to do, but it is always profoundly meaningful.

School Supply Drive June 17th



A mother and her two children stumbled on our event and were confused about what we were doing. She said that her children needed school supplies. We quickly invited the two children to help themselves to supplies and we gave them each a bag to do some "shopping". You should have seen their eyes! It was enough to bring tears and a lump in the throat.

Interestingly, the mother cautioned each of the children not to be greedy and to take only what they needed. A team member was helping them pick supplies when one of them whispered to her that, if not for us, they would not have had these nice supplies when they start school.

Contributed by Bruce Mills
bmills9@att.net

Tell me About...

Prayer Shawl Group

Prayer Shawls are handmade by people in our own church, for anybody who could use a hug. We make shawls in sizes for babies, children, teens, and adults, in all sorts of situations—joy, sorrow, comfort, love. We use shawls to say to people who are homebound that their friends and their church remember and love them. We say “Welcome to the world” to new children and grandchildren, or “We believe in you” to someone going through a difficult experience. We say “You’re in our prayers” or “We love you” or “Even if we’ve never met, you are held close in the arms of the Holy Spirit”.

Our shawl-makers give them as an offering to the community so that you may have one or give one to a relative or friend who could use a hug. We don’t know most of the recipients; but anyone who receives a shawl will remember the person who cared enough to send them one.

And yes, we also make “pocket prayers”, a little 3” piece that fits into your pocket or purse, to remind you that you are beloved. We hand them to visitors on Sunday mornings, to people in hospitals and hospice settings, and at Pride Fest each year.

If you would like to join the makers, we would love to see you. We gather on the first Tuesday of each month in the parlor (just off the sanctuary) between 10 and 11.30 am. We have no facilitator, secretary, minutes—we just make shawls and gather monthly to share what we’re doing

Contributed by Barbara Rathbun
bmrathburn@bellsouth.net

Birthdays

June Attendance

Day	# Attend- ing
4	113
11	115
18	118
25	114

Name (First Last)	Birth Date
Lydia Gossett	07/06/23
Mindy Myers	07/07/23
Josephine (Dede) Walton	07/12/23
Bal Goleman	07/13/23
Cary Battle	07/14/23
Roger Dashner	07/14/23
Catherine Fairbanks	07/16/23
Bob McLendon	07/18/23
Hank Federlein	07/19/23
Louise Vier	07/19/23
Joan McKinney	07/21/23
Sharon Pearson	07/23/23
Phil Taylor	07/25/23
Roger Woolsey	07/26/23
Lynn Conchado	07/28/23
Sharon Schultz Pratt	07/31/23

July Events of Note

NEW PRAYER MINISTRY BEGINNING JULY 9

There are times when each of us is faced with a problem, a need, a concern, a relationship, grief, disappointment, illness, or some other thing that is too big to face alone. Beginning July 9, immediately following worship, a chaplain will be available in the choir loft area at the front of the church to pray individually with anyone who desires to pray about any issue they are facing.



These prayers are confidential. This ministry is not counseling. It is simply an opportunity to put your heart before the Spirit and find blessing and peace through the energy of prayer.

For additional information contact Romella O'Keefe (knit4urohk@gmail.com) or Susan Huff (thorazgirl@gmail.com)

JULY IS SABBATH MONTH FOR FCCH: Author Wayne Muller writes "Sabbath is more than the absence of work; it is not just "time off", when we catch up on television or errands. It is the presence of something that arises when we consecrate a period of time to listen to what is most deeply beautiful, nourishing, or true."

Sabbath is essential for health! So, there will be no business meetings in July, and the **church office will close at noon on Fridays in July through August 4**. Mark Acker will be away for a well deserved vacation and sabbath renewal. We hope you can move into sacred sabbath time by setting aside what is over-occupying your heart and mind so that you can invite the Holy to reside within you.



FCC Office will be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence Day

Join Hendersonville downtown for music, food, and fireworks, 5 pm until fireworks end.

Announcements, etc.



Buddy K Band auditioning for a new female vocalist in the next few rehearsals. if you are interested, contact John Caldemeyer at drjohncaldemeyer@yahoo.com



"If you would enjoy bringing the light of God's love into the world as an acolyte, please contact.....
joycie47@gmail.com

Buddy K Band would like to thank all of the enthusiastic people who attended our recent concert . Our Thursday evening rehearsals (7 pm - 9 pm) in the Fellowship Hall are open to all for listening or dancing. if you are interested, check the church calendar or bulletins for rehearsal dates.

Paperback fiction, historical fiction, murder mysteries (but not true crime), science fiction requested for inmates at Henderson County jail.. No magazines or hardback books.

Please drop the books off any time at the Blue Ridge Ministry on the corner of 1st Ave. E and Pine St. It's a small house with a sea chest on the front porch... just put the books in the chest.

A four-hour CPR class (possibly two classes) will be scheduled for the approximately twenty people interested. The class(es) is free and will be taught by local firefighters. The cost to participants will be \$5 to pay for their AHA Certification Card. The schedule for classes will be finalized sometime in late July or August.

June COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Important Note: Council meetings are always open to all FCC Members and Friends. Please notify Moderator Sheryl Mendenhall if you would like to attend.

- Financial results year-to-date remain very favorable. Net result of the General Operating Fund YTD (as of 5/31/2023) is \$20,053 better than budgeted.
- A four (4) hour CPR class (possibly two classes) will be scheduled sometime in late July or August. The cost to participants will be \$5 for the AHA Certification Card.

□ Groups and Committees are encouraged to take the month of July off as a Sabbath Month. The church office will close at noon on Fridays during the month of July.

□ A volunteer is needed to coordinate FCCH's commitments to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission. To volunteer, please see or contact Bill Shaffer.

□ One of our HVAC units needs repair. Replacement is being considered due to the age of the unit (30+/- years).



Contributed by Lin Stogner
alfandellie@gmail.com

Circle of Friends

Our group has had some fluidity since the beginning - some original members have dropped out for several reasons but, this month, we added new folks. Our new additions are Jan and Jock Aplin, who just recently joined the church. In May, a small subset met at Southern Streams Coffee House, and we had a great in-depth discussion on a number of topics. We met again in June at Southern Streams. We've signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour in Sept.



From left: Dawn Kucera, Mindy Myers, Jock Aplin, Shelia Clendenning, Jan Aplin (in middle).

Contributed by Dawn Kucera
Dawnkucera@mac.com

Our Pet Memorial & Atrium Garden

Pet Memorial Garden

Did you know that First Congregational has a Pet Memorial Garden? It is located outside the Atrium (next to the choir room). This garden is the final resting place for the cremains of the family pets of our church members and friends. Our pets' ashes are interred in this beautiful garden which is maintained by the Ministry of Physical Resources' volunteers. A page with a picture collage or picture(s) and a brief biography, created by the owner of each pet, is placed in the Memorial Book in the Lobby outside the Atrium. The Lobby, which is inside the church, offers a quiet spot to sit, reflect, and watch the birds that feed in the Atrium.

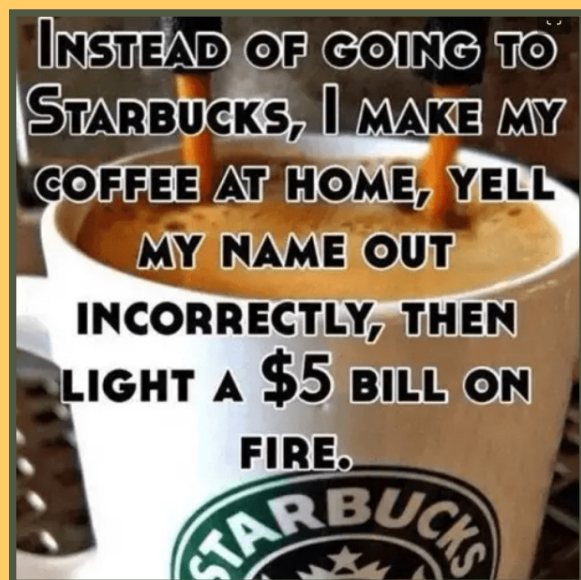
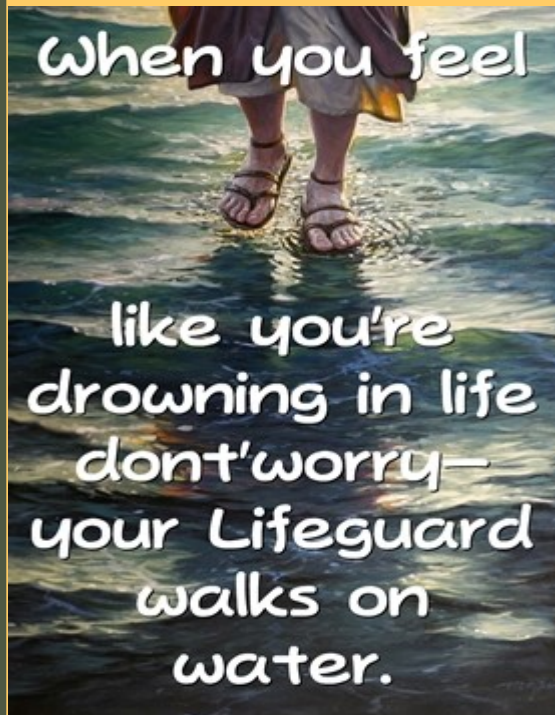
Please contact the church office for more information at office@fcchendersonville.org or call (828)692-8630.

Contributed by Lin Stogner
alfandellie@gmail.com

To make you smile / Inspirational Quote of the Month

- My teachers told me I'd never amount to much since I procrastinate so much.
I told them, "Just you wait!"
- ♦ My wife and I laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.
- ♦ This grasshopper walks into a bar and the bartender says, "Hey, I have a drink named after you!" The grasshopper looks confused and says, "You have a drink called Irving?"
- ♦ Optimist: The glass is half full.
Pessimist: The glass is half empty.
Mother: Why didn't you use a coaster???
- ♦ My roommate says I have schizophrenia.
Jokes on him, I don't have a roommate.

Inspirational Quote of the Month



We are Here for you!

First Congregational UCC
1735 Fifth Ave. West
Hendersonville NC 28739-4013

Phone: 828.692.8630
E-mail: office@fcchendersonville.org
Website: www.fcchendersonville.org

Rev. Karla Miller, Pastor
(karla@fcchendersonville.org)

Mark Acker, Minister of Music/ Pastoral Associate
(mark@fcchendersonville.org)

Jo Freeman, Administrator
(office@fcchendersonville.org)

Dora & Charles Littleton, Custodians