



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

VOL. XXXV

JULY 2021

NO. 7

YOUTH GHENT AREA MINISTRIES (GAM) PROJECT

On Saturday, May 22, from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon, 9 youth and 5 adults turned a part of the front yard of GAM into the beginning of a possible “urban garden”. We planted tomatoes and marigolds and discussed the possibility of what would be next.

Upon our arrival at GAM, we were greeted enthusiastically by Tim Giddons and the GAM staff. Tim is GAM’s Director and whom I would call their “cheerleader in chief”. After a tour of the GAM facility, everyone got to work; breaking up the ground, separating the weeds from the dirt, digging the holes for the plants, spreading out the dirt, compost and mulch, watering the plants, and we can’t forget the worms!

GAM provided us with much needed refreshments (it was hot out there!).

Many thanks and much appreciation to the youth and lots of caring adults who gave up their Saturday morning for this project:

Ellie and Elena Ilardi, Alana and Riley McElligott, Caroline and Gabrielle Ostroot, Grasea Pulliam, Wil, Jen, and Matthew Thompson, Jackie and Meghan Velotas and Merrie Jo Milner. Thanks also to Margaret Fleet and Sherry Scheib for the supplies, Diane Collins (Grace) for the tomato plants, and Judy and James Cobb for stopping by and giving their encouragement!

A very special thanks to Merri Jo for the idea and organizing this amazing service project!

Blessings,

Pastor Phyl



“Troubling the Waters”

It may not be common knowledge, but FLC has had a book group meeting on the first Sunday evening of the month for close to 20 years. It was decided at the outset that we would read a mixture of novels, biographies, and books that would challenge us as Christians. What we have read has led to lively and helpful conversations.

Our last book brought a powerful Christian message, full of insight into the political and theological setting in which we are living. The book, published in 2018, is entitled *Christ In Crisis. Reclaiming Jesus In A Time Of Fear, Hate, And Violence*, by Jim Wallis, a prominent evangelical activist and founder of the magazine *Sojourners*.

Here is an excerpt:

“The foundation of all human rights, equality, and dignity is all of us being created in the image of God — imago Dei. This was a radical new paradigm that God introduced to the world with and through Jesus, and we are still experiencing the shock waves of this new way of viewing others two thousand years later....I believe that reclaiming our obedience to Jesus will be tested by the issue of race more than by any other question in American life—given how our nation’s original sin of racism violated the creation of all human beings in the image of God. As I have said before, getting our houses of faith in order in regard to America’s original sin is necessary



if we are to be able to offer any helpful leadership to a nation whose very soul is now at stake in deciding who and what kind of country, culture, and society we want to be. So let’s look at what getting our places of worship in order might begin to look like if we are really serious about reclaiming Jesus.”

Come and join us on the first Sunday evening of the month to take part in a stimulating and important discussion as FLC faces the challenges of being a church which speaks words of prophetic power, integrity and truth. And do pick up a copy of *Christ In Crisis*, which, as one reviewer noted, is a gift to every Christian!

Thank You Note

Good morning Ms. Milner,

I want to thank you again for including the Ghent Area Ministry in “THE GREAT URBAN GARDEN” project. Looking forward to more neighborhood impacting partnerships and team-ups. GAM enjoyed your team and you are welcome here anytime!

Doing life together,

Timothy Giddens
Program Manager

JULY 2021

Office Hours: 9 AM—4 PM Monday-Thursday, 9 AM -1 PM Friday
Men's Bible Study: 7 AM, Wednesdays, IHOP, 114 E. 21st, Norfolk, VA 23517
Women's Bible Study: 2 PM Tuesdays online, please contact Pastor Mims for more information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		General Deadlines: 12 PM Tuesdays—Life Together Weekly Edition 3 PM Tuesdays—Altar Flowers 4 PM, 15th of every month—The Contact Email kminnick@flcnorfolk.com with your articles & information.		1	2	3
4	5 <i>Independence Day Observed</i> Church Office Closed	6 12 PM Adult Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry 7 PM Martha Circle	7 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	8 7:30 PM Service Committee	<div>Pastor Mims' Day Off</div>	
11	12	13 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry	14 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	15 <div>Contact Deadline</div> 5:30 PM Laundry Love 6:30 PM Christians United for Social Change	16	17
18	19	20 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry	21 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	22 7:30 PM Social Justice Committee	23	24
25	26	27 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry	28 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	29	30	31 Alyssa Kaplan's Ordination

Community Groups (Strickler Hall): Mixed Groups—Sun. 7:00-9:30 PM; Happy Hour AA Home Group—Mon. 4:30—6:30 PM; Happy Hour AA—Mon. 5-7 PM; SAA—Mon. 7-8:30 PM; Thur. 7:30—9:30 PM; Just For Today—Tue. 10-11:30 AM; Continuing Quest—Fri. 12-1 PM; Candlelight—Fri. 8-9 PM; SNL AA—Sat. 7-9:30 PM

Christian Service Committee

THOU SHALT SHOP THE SALES! While not one of the commandments, the Christian Service Committee would like you to shop the Back-to-School sales for supplies for Lutheran World Relief. School kits will be filled and packed for shipping during God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 12. Since our cupboard is completely bare, we need lots of items to fill 150 school bags: 600 70 sheet spiral notebooks, either wide or college ruled, 150 pink 2 1/2" erasers, 150 30-centimeter rulers, 150 pairs of blunt scissors, 750 ballpoint (no gel) pens blue or black ink, 750 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 150 pencil sharpeners, and 150 boxes of crayons, 24 in a box. Shopping lists and a cart for donations will be in the Welcome Center. If you have questions, contact Pam Baynard (757)681-0157 or pbaynard65@charter.net. Thank you!

Eleven enthusiastic people from FLC gladly ventured out from their pandemic bubbles to volunteer at the Mercy Chefs kitchen in Portsmouth on May 24th. They scooped and packed (1750 fruit cups and 150 meals) and chopped (25 pounds of red onions and 4 pounds of cilantro.) They assembled boxes and counted containers. Using incredible upper body strength, they stirred huge vats of chicken teriyaki. As a reward for their phenomenal service, they got ice cream and t-shirts! Thank you to Pam Baynard,

Judy Cox, Joanna Griffin, Joy Kelly, Pam Martin, Merrie Jo Milner, Sarah Minnick, Liz and Bob Ritchey, Carl Spangler, and Julia Siik for helping Mercy Chefs provide 8400 additional meals for Nurses and Doctors Appreciation Week. Undoubtedly because of the excellent volunteers from First, the Mercy Chefs staff accomplished their goal a day early!

Despite extreme challenges during the last year that prevented the Christian Service committee from maintaining its usual work schedule, the group delivered 47 quilts to LWR in September 2020 and 36 quilts in June 2021. Those who persevered deserve much credit. Olivia Christianson, Lorette Horsboll, Joanne Lundquist, Pam Martin and Mary Zelasko cut and sewed countless squares together. They, along with Dolly Hinton, Kaye and Kacy McGinnis, and Evelyn and Wilma Robinson knotted the quilt layers together. Crystal Wass was our "binder in chef" and enabled us to finish as many quilts as we did. Chuck Baynard facilitated packing and delivery to Hampton. We are anticipating a return to normal in September and can always use more help. If you can tie a knot, consider joining us in the fall. Contact Pam Baynard, (757)681-0157 or pbaynard65@charter.net if you would like more information.

Mercy Chef



In Thanksgiving for 50 Years of Service

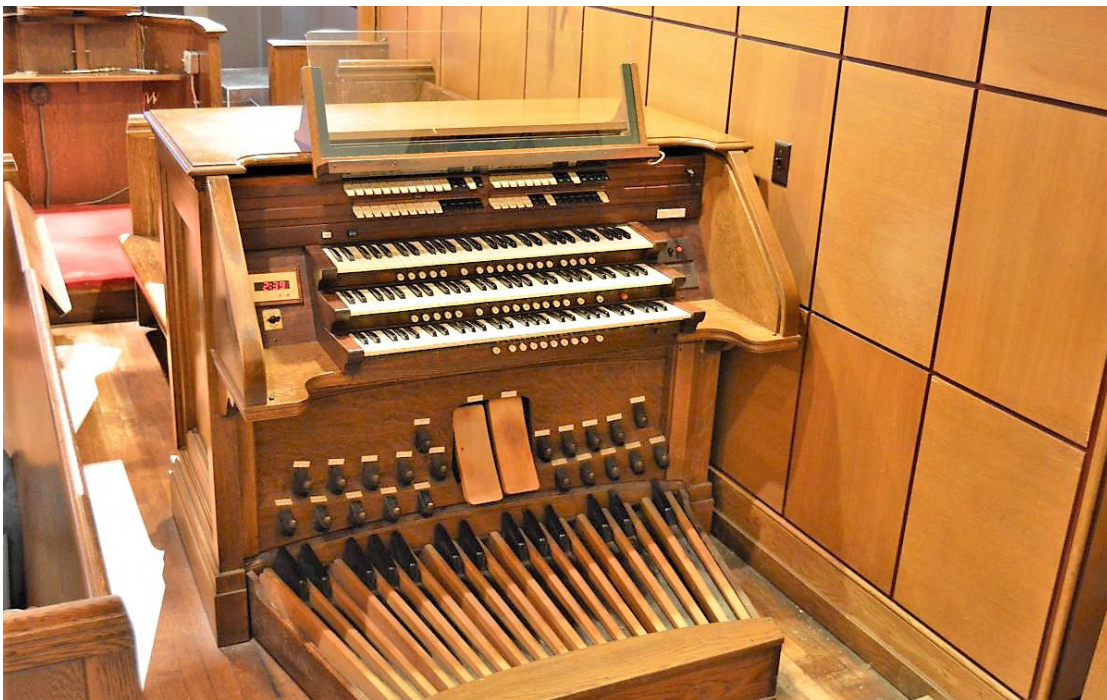
Many of you remember July 1970 when the Möller Organ, having served the congregation since that first service at Colley Avenue in 1930, was removed to prepare for the installation of the new Austin Organ. Those who were in the choir remember that the instrument was truly on life-support for the last several years. In a letter to the congregation, J.W. Parsons III wrote:

Yes, the organ continues to sound fairly well, but my-o-my! If only you were aware of the mechanical apprehension that accompanies the organist as [Mrs. Vogan] compels the instrument to produce those familiar sounds..! The gracious lady who commands our console (the organ keyboards) is, we believe, the finest organist in the city; but she is no mechanic – nor should she be!

In most respects the present organ console is at the end of its life. Contacts have corroded, causing notes not to play; wiring and switching is misfiring, causing the memory system to be unreliable; some parts (fuses, etc) have not been manufactured for some time and are increasingly harder to find. Some components of the console are controlled mechanically (a product of the time) but have been controlled digitally on new instruments since the 1980s. Of the 21 chime tubes, only a few work as they should, and some even play when you don't want them to.

But all is not lost! There are many pieces of the present instrument (in most cases, the pipework itself and the windchests) which are in satisfactory condition and therefore, primarily in the interest of stewardship, it was desired that we retain as much as we can of the existing organ, rather than building a new instrument altogether. For those suggesting that we are spending too much, let's look at the numbers: on July 30, 1969 the congregation agreed to a sum of \$49,540 (although it ended up costing more). They paid approximately two-thirds from the Ausley-Jordan Estate, and most of the rest was raised as a memorial to The Rev. Luther Strickler, and there was still a small deficit remaining. If the exact same company built the exact same instrument today that they built in 1970, using 2021 dollars, it would cost \$1,015,266. It wouldn't be able to do even half as much as the organ we are getting, and we're spending about a quarter of the price!

So after 50 years, it is time to give thanks for the instrument which has so faithfully supported the worship of this people. The console will be disconnected and removed during the last week of July so that the floors can be refinished and electrical work configured in preparation for the installation. Look to the August issue of *The Contact* for information about the new project!



July Birthdays

1 Jul Adam Levensalor	9 Jul Jim Brady	16 Jul Jonathan Miller, MD	23 Jul Holly Wittmann
3 Jul Joel Ostrout	10 Jul Thomas Douglas	17 Jul Samantha Farpour	24 Jul Madelyn Baker
4 Jul Cathy Delaney	10 Jul Debbie Porter	17 Jul Randy Milner	24 Jul Darrell Kristo
4 Jul Benjamin Farpour	11 Jul Sean Duffy	17 Jul David Perron	25 Jul Matthew Nordan
5 Jul Margaret Ackley	12 Jul Mary Boardman	18 Jul Marilyn Jersild	25 Jul Chris Powell
5 Jul Hannah Duffy	12 Jul Emily Davidson	18 Jul Julia Siik	26 Jul Ivana DiNini
5 Jul Virginia Temple	12 Jul Patrick Seaman	19 Jul Annika Fox	26 Jul Donna Mangubat
6 Jul Jennifer Echea	14 Jul LeeAnn Azar	19 Jul Rebecca Poston	28 Jul Debbie Acors
6 Jul Parker Gates	14 Jul Connie Kaiser	20 Jul Ethan Hutchings	28 Jul Judy Basco
6 Jul Rebecca Poston	14 Jul Helen Parker	20 Jul Ella Kopf	28 Jul Mimi Hill
7 Jul Juliet Kuehl	15 Jul Alex Loope	21 Jul Janine Brown	28 Jul P. Fay Rogner
7 Jul Lani Silsdorf	15 Jul Jane Van Wolkenten	21 Jul Kathryn Haugen	28 Jul Lauren Silsdorf
8 Jul Katie Buckley	16 Jul Barbara Chapman	21 Jul Anna Mason	29 Jul Vicki O'Rourke
8 Jul Kiersten Hilton	16 Jul Sarah Delaney	21 Jul Marilyn Melchor	30 Jul Lynda Behnke
8 Jul Lee VandeWater	16 Jul Joelle Griffith	23 Jul Adam Clifford	30 Jul Joy Kelly
9 Jul Jennifer Boykin	16 Jul D.T. Hurdle	23 Jul Bill Seaman	31 Jul Isa Zamani

Congregation Council Summary

At our May meeting held June 07, 2021 via Zoom, the Congregation Council:

- Devotion by Pastor C. Mims – What are you Thankful for? Psalm 138
- Introduction of Angela Hogan
- Discussed Service Committee topic with Pastor Jean Bozeman God's Work Our Hands – Matthew 25. Going out into the community (Tentatively September 12, 2021)
- Discussed First Lutheran Church landscaping - SOW – contacted three (3) landscapers. Meeting with one (1) landscaper on June 15, 2021.
- Discussed the maintenance of the ground surrounding FLC – Clean-up Day scheduled for June 19, 2021 (rain date is June 26, 2021)
- Discussed moving forward with the hiring of the Youth Coordinator employee
- Discussed in-person services We ask that, at this time, all who come to FLC continue to follow standard safety protocols:
 - o Wearing a mask
 - o Maintaining physical distance
 - o Washing hands frequently
- Discussed Maynard's educational opportunities for the Summer/Fall sessions
- Discussed the Incorporation task force meeting in late May 2021 and the upcoming meeting on July 1, 2021. Goal is to provide information on Incorporation at the Annual Meeting in November 2021.
- Discussed Nominating Committee for Council Members rolling off in November 2021
- Discuss Council meeting in person instead of by Zoom for the August 2021 Council Meeting – possible hybrid council meetings in the future. There is NO Council Meeting in July 2021
- Discussed the Ministry Site Profile approval
- Announced that the Call Committee will meet weekly
- Approved minutes from May 2021 Council Meeting
- Approved to invest in advance technology/better equipment for live streaming
- Approved temporary youth position for a full calendar year
- Approved the Call Committee
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Congregation Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. The meeting is open to the congregation.

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for JULY

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Give joyful thanksgiving

...For the birth of Wade Thomas to Katie & Jake Alexander

...For elected officials who speak humbly, seek peace, justice, reconciliation and who act to secure community for all

...For the wisdom of scientists & healthcare professionals, for the courage of volunteers, & for the patience of those who have sustained us

Help us

...Defend the cause of the fatherless and the widow, to love the foreigner residing among us, & to love our enemy

...Move from privilege and protocol, to partnership & pilgrimage; from isolation & insularity, to inclusive community

...To break the silence around mental illnesses & grant us more wisdom & understanding to include all people in your kingdom

Pray for

...Peace and comfort to **Nickie Stewart** and family on the death of her father, Stan

...Healing and comfort for Vickie (daughter of **Mary Zelasko**)

...In remembrance of those killed at the Pulse nightclub and Mother Emmanuel AME Church

...Healing and comfort for those with HIV/AIDS and for ongoing medical research to find a cure

...Healing for Ron Bishop (friend of **Carl Spangler**) who has Covid

...For unaccompanied children at our borders

...For Covid relief in India

...For the cease-fire between Israel and Palestine

...For healing and cooperation in our own country.

...Healing for Brian Thorpe, son of **Nancy Thorpe**

...Healing and comfort for the family of **Al Miller**

...Guidance, patience, and discernment for our call committee

...Blessing and protection of children, the elderly, and the sick who cannot be vaccinated

...Justice for the victims of racial oppression & violence

...Those who are dying, that they are secure in knowing that God loves them & will welcome them into everlasting life.

...People fleeing dire humanitarian situations for a better life.

...The sick, that they are comforted and the despairing, that they receive hope.

...Those struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

...Those mourning the death of loved ones.

...For all who cry out to God in any need.

Margaret Ackley, Gail Anthony, Alvene Buckley, Don Buckley, Lucian Clare, Tina Dulong, Jennette Franklin, Roger Fuller, Joelle Griffith (mother of Paula Barwick), Valerie & Jim Harvey, Marion Ingersoll, Joann Klotz, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, David Perron, Betty Phillips, Fay Rogner, Gail Simos, Shirley Skees, Beth, Betty Lou, Brian, Casey, Dave, Donna & Robert, Gert, Heather and Kevin & their family, Jimmy, Katrina, Mark, Rema, Rob, Rocko, Tim

Those dealing with cancer

Alissa (friend of **Dorothy Shaffer**), **Bob, James Collier, Iris Corbin, Dave Guelcher (father of Beth Zaletski), Jenn,** David Kelly, Laura Ann (granddaughter of **Kay McGinnis**), Vickie Mack, Mark, **Melvin (Jack) Smith,** Phil, Ralph Munsey, Rob, Sandy, Andie Seagraves, Gerald Stover, Dallas Williams, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

All military personnel around the world.

Fox family, Austin Davidson, Kyle Hefner, Dan Kelly, Bobby Masters, Nick Masters, Ted Peterson, Brian Becker, Amy Hardbower, Nicolette Huntley, Tim Kelly, Ian Logan, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. — **Amen.**

Readings for JULY

JULY 4th

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalms 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

JULY 11th

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalms 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

JULY 18th

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalms 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

JULY 25th

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalms 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

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