

# **2012-2013 Mission Statement**

## **Forest Hills Presbyterian Church Martinsville, Virginia**

### **Introduction**

In 2005, the Session of Forest Hills Presbyterian Church organized a Mission Design Committee to design a new vision statement for the church, focusing on the next five years. Since that time, many of the goals and accomplishments outlined in the 2005 Mission Statement have been achieved including the hiring of a Director of Christian Education, and the remodeling and repurposing of the original chapel into what is now known as “Common Ground” – a creative worship arts space which has been used for many educational, fellowship and outreach activities since its opening in early 2010. Although Fellowship and Congregational Care are two areas in which we feel we have improved, there is still much we feel called to do.

In January 2011, the Session decided to update and revise its Mission Statement for the coming years. This was initiated by mailing a copy of the 2005 Mission Statement to all members of the congregation, asking for input and inviting them to one of several meetings to discuss the existing statement and ideas for its improvement. Elders were called on to provide input based on feedback received from members, as well as their own experience and wisdom. The 2011 Mission Statement was finalized and adopted by the Session at its April meeting.

In the fall of 2012, after the arrival of Rev. Bradley Long as the installed pastor, Session decided to review the Mission Statement in an effort to continue to increase understanding and collaboration between Session, our Ministries and our members. This version required only minor changes that Session discussed over the course of 3 or 4 meetings and the 2012-2013 Mission Statement was finalized and adopted by the Session at its November meeting.

In addition, Session identified 3 points of emphasis from within the Mission Statement for focus during 2013. They are as follows:

- 1) Prayer – We commit to pray for one another and for the collective mission of this church. When we gather for meetings, study, ministry, worship, and fellowship we commit to praying together.
- 2) Small Groups – (See Mission Statement Section II. E.) To encourage growth in faith and involvement in the life of the church, we will look for ways for small groups to gather in a variety of settings.
- 3) Global Mission – (See Mission Statement Section IV. C.) We lift up and celebrate our unity with Christ followers throughout the world. While continuing to have eyes for needs in Martinsville and the surrounding area, we commit to pray for the work of God in Central Asia. The region has been identified because of the financial mission connection FHPC has with Mike at Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship.

Session would like to encourage our Ministries, our elders not currently serving on Session, and our members to consider these points of emphasis, including ways we can all become more committed and involved, as we strive to live out our faith together as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We remain committed to openness, respect and loving dialogue as we walk down the road God has called us to walk together as part of God’s Kingdom.

November 19, 2012

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Moderator: Rev. Bradley Long

***THE MISSION OF FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENRICH LIVES THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVICE.***

*Our vision for accomplishing this mission is as follows:*

- I. Provide for the worship of the people of God, including prayer, preaching of the Word, the sharing of Sacraments, and celebration with music.
  - A. Gather together weekly in an intergenerational Sunday morning worship service, combining traditional and casual worship styles which are theologically appropriate for the worship of God. Encourage one another to regularly participate in worship.
  - B. Mark significant events in the Church calendar or as called for in the life of our church or in our world with additional special worship services. These might include, but not be limited to Lenten, Advent, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services, funerals, memorial services, weddings, prayer vigils, Communion and/or other services conducted at Kings Grant or in the homes of members.
  - C. Incorporate worship into our daily lives. Utilize prayer, devotionals, scripture and/or songs in our meetings and gatherings. Encourage one another to worship individually on a regular basis through the sharing of resources and experiences.
- II. Provide for the nurture and growth of individuals, equipping them for ministry.
  - A. Conduct weekly educational classes for all age groups which are based on scripture, applicable to daily life, and encourage us to explore and share our faith with one another. Examples of these include “The Gathering” (Intergenerational Sunday School – youth through adult), at least one additional adult Sunday School class, “Kidstuf,” Wednesday night Family Nights, and bible study for youth as a part of youth group. Encourage everyone to attend a weekly class, adjusting classes as needed to address interests, participation and age levels. Our goal is to have everyone involved and for classes to be as age-appropriate as possible.
  - B. Provide enrichment programs in the form of seminars, classes or retreats which address specific interests and/or life stages such as Parenting, Grief and Crisis Support, Marriage Enrichment, Death and Dying, etc.. Enrichment activities for youth include things like Vacation Bible School, camps, Middle and High School conferences and retreats.
  - C. Maintain a library of resources to aid individuals and groups of all ages in their spiritual education and growth. Publicize available resources, encouraging members to utilize them and to make suggestions for further additions.
  - D. Build relationships by offering various fellowship activities throughout the year including but not limited to meals, movies, game nights, concerts, outings, retreats,

Homecoming celebrations and/or annual events where the congregation can celebrate its accomplishments or honor the deceased and living.

- E. Involve individuals in the life and work of the church through small groups which meet regularly for a common purpose or ministry, for fellowship and/or to minister to one another. Examples of small groups within the congregation include the Session, individual ministry teams, the choir, women's Circles, the men's breakfast fellowship, individual Sunday school classes, and the Youth group. Encourage everyone to become involved in at least one small group, adding additional groups as necessary to match individual needs and/or gifts. As relationships are built, encourage members to share their faith stories and to provide congregational care to one another.
- III. Reach out in loving concern to one another, our local community and the world by leading ministries of personal and social healing, promoting social righteousness, and exhibiting the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.
- A. Provide personal and pastoral care by praying for one another, calling, visiting those who are sick or homebound, sending cards, meals, gifts and/or assisting with transportation or other needs. Encourage every member to become involved in some aspect of providing congregational care.
  - B. Let the community know where we are and what we have to offer by improving our signage, advertising, and personally inviting others to join us for events we think they would enjoy. Encourage members to know what is going on at church, to participate, to look for opportunities to invite others, and to make visitors feel welcome. The annual Fish Fry, Children's Fair and Christmas Cookie distribution are excellent opportunities for us to introduce ourselves and to share our upcoming events with the community.
  - C. Assess needs within the community, reaching out with specific programs or activities that will allow individuals to become involved in meeting those needs. MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) and Financial Peace seminars are good examples of outreach programs aimed at ministering to individuals within our community and drawing them into the fellowship of our church.
  - D. Continue to support GRACE Network not only financially, but also by involving more individuals in hands on volunteer opportunities either with GRACE or elsewhere in the community.
  - E. Plan at least one mission trip annually, involving as many individuals as possible, either as direct participants or in the sponsoring of others. Respond to natural disasters financially and in more tangible ways as we are called and equipped.

- IV. Provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church, that members may be better equipped to articulate their faith, to witness in word and deed to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to invite people into a new life in Christ.
  - A. As part of our educational and small group activities, encourage witnessing and the sharing of personal faith stories.
  - B. Utilize our outreach activities to bring people into our fellowship and provide them with meaningful Christian-based programming.
  - C. Seek to establish an ongoing reciprocal relationship with at least one part of the world outside the USA. This relationship should be primarily aimed at promoting understanding and support of one another through prayer. However, as our relationship grows, we may be led to the sharing of other gifts and/or travel between churches.
  
- V. Challenge the people of God with the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship utilizing their money, time and talents.
  - A. Prayerfully develop and manage an annual budget in alignment with our mission and our resources. Encourage everyone to faithfully support the budget with their finances in response to God's call.
  - B. Maintain a prioritized list of items and/or projects not included in the budget that individuals may contribute towards (through memorials or other gifts) as they are called. Likewise, as additional undesignated resources become available, the Session may direct these toward one or more items on the list.
  - C. Encourage members to support Forest Hills' various ministries by serving on a ministry team and/or by contributing their time and talents to the work of ministry.
  - D. Provide regular opportunities for congregational meals, including luncheons and Wednesday nights, to enhance communication within the church and to encourage members to participate with their gifts of time and talent.
  - E. Participate in the work and direction of the larger church.
  - F. Practice and promote environmental stewardship in an effort to protect and restore the earth.
  - G. Intentionally explore, at the discretion of the Session, using the endowment that God has blessed Forest Hills with to further the Mission of Jesus in our world.