



From our new National President

Dear sisters,

As your new National President, I want to say "Well done!" for your financial support for the 2021-2022 year! We all are experiencing disturbing financial issues (just go to the grocery store or the gas station). The economy was not in a good situation, but our organization was able to exceed our financial goals set for the 2021-2022 year.

Please give attention to the article entitled "2021-2022 Year-End Report." The Year-End Financial Report will be presented in detail at our fall meeting.

Speaking of our Fall National Meeting, Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. is the time scheduled for our meeting. We will be treated to a brunch provided by the Chester Co. chapter served at the Hardeman House. Please come and fellowship with fellow Associates and meet your new National Officers. At this meeting, "High 5" awards will be given to chapters who increased their donations in the 2021-2022 year. The financial budget for this school year will be presented at this meeting.

Something new for 2022-2023 is our involvement with the FHU Next program with our supporting of a new Diversity Endowed Scholarship. Please read the minutes from our last meeting (page 3) for more information on this new project that was proposed and approved on May 6, 2022.

With much prayer, God's blessing, and our hard work, I am confident we will be able to meet this year's goals. I ask your prayers for leadership and wisdom for this year's officers.

—Diane Smith, FHU Associates' National President

Fall National Meeting

Saturday, August 20, 2022

10:30 a.m. at the Hardeman House

Brunch will be provided, meeting will follow.

Please RSVP by FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, to associates@fhu.edu with the number of attendees from your chapter.

THANK YOU to our 2021-2022 National Officers; we are so grateful for your service. We are pleased to welcome our new National Officers for 2022-23:

President	Diane Smith (Chester Co.)
Vice-President	Bonny Moore (Huntsville)
Secretary	Robin Hulén (Music City)
Treasurer	Ashley Smith (Chester Co.)

2021-2022 Year-End Report

I have some pretty exciting news to share! Last year's total donations were FANTASTIC, thanks especially to a generous bequest from the estate of Wanda Sweeney from the Booneville chapter; we are continually grateful for her thoughtfulness. That bequest brought our total giving to an astounding \$129,860 for last year. But THIS YEAR's giving is super-duper awesomely wonderful because when you compare the \$115,190 shown below to our annual giving (not including the one-time bequest), it is the HIGHEST SINCE 1982!!!! Woo!

We had a full school year with Welcome Home, Homecoming, tea parties, Benefit Dinner & Merry Market, bike-a-thons, rummage sales, fall markets, bake sales, Bible Lectureship, PLUS our online sales of FHBrew Coffees and other things we implemented during the Covid years.

Thank you for your good work. Thank you for your love for our university students. We cannot wait to see you in August!

—Debbie McLaughlin, FHU Associates' Executive Coordinator

2021-2022 Financial Highlights

TOTAL TO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS: \$ 65,160.79

TOTAL TO ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS: \$ 50,030.00

TOTAL ASSOCIATES' GIVING 2021-2022: \$115,190.79

TOTAL LIFETIME GIVING AS OF 5-31-22: \$4,147,507.53

The detailed year-end financial statement will be provided at our fall national meeting on August 20.

NEW CHAPTER IN MISSISSIPPI

We extend a HUGE WELCOME to our newest chapter—the Mississippi Magnolia Chapter, based in Tupelo and Lee County, Mississippi! An excited group of 14 met on July 17, and they are planning a larger gathering on August 21. Come to the national meeting on August 20 and meet some of these new Associates!



Stay in touch.

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2021-2022 FHU Advancement Awards

By David Newberry, Assistant Vice President for Development Services

The FHU Office of University Advancement (which serves as the bridge between FHU and the Associates) recognizes the valuable contribution of the FHU Associates over the years. Because of the hard work and selfless attitudes, the Associates are directly responsible for more than \$4 million given to the university over the past 50+ years.

The Office of University Advancement honors two special members of the Associates each year who have distinguished themselves in areas of service. The LaVonne B. Scott “Heart of a Servant” Award and the “Leap of Faith” Award were conceived as a way to honor exemplary service and to say “Thank you” for the great work that the Associates as a whole (and these two members, in particular) are doing. The “Heart of a Servant” Award is named in honor of LaVonne Scott who continued to work tirelessly for the mission of the FHU Associates until she was in her 90’s. This award is given to an Associate who exemplifies the heart of a servant – who is happy to work at projects (even in the thankless jobs), who is excited about our mission, and who does not ask for recognition, but who deserves to be honored.

The “Leap of Faith” Award is given to the Associate who is an innovator, an encourager – an Associate who, perhaps, is responsible for getting a new project off the ground or who came up with a “big new idea” and had the courage to follow it through. This award honors the Associate who says “We can do that!”

Below are this year’s award winners along with the nomination letters we received, explaining why these two ladies are so deserving of these awards.

LaVonne Scott “Heart of a Servant” Award – Diane Smith

The Chester County Associates would not operate without Diane. She is an effective leader but also knows how to serve. You will see her working full days at the Lectureship Kitchen, Rummage Sale and catering events, all events she has helped organize, but never just stops at the planning phase. I don’t think most people know how much work she does on a daily basis behind the scenes preparing for these projects and helping with others. She’s organizing rummage sale donations, grocery store shopping for a catering dinner, fulfilling her National officer responsibilities, and making tea for a tea event all in a week. Diane has the heart of a servant and deserves to be honored. — *Marah Collins*

Diane works so hard cooking and serving at various events. I have had the privilege of serving with her, and I have seen first-hand how dedicated she is to her work with the Associates. She jumped right in and took over when the Catering committee needed a leader, and she has worked hard for the last several years preparing for and serving during the annual fall and spring rummage sales. — *Molly Risley*

Diane is an instrumental member of our group. She has served as an officer for the local and national Associates. She gives of her time with enthusiasm, dedication, and spirit. If there is a project going on and all of a sudden an unplanned need arises, Diane steps up and takes the lead and sees to it that it is accomplished. She is a leader who can lead, work, and follow. Others love working with her because of her attitude and big smile. Diane is not one to do anything to be recognized; instead, she just quietly slips in and does what needs to be done. Her heart is truly the Heart of a Servant and an example for all of us. — *Connie Pritchard*



“Leap of Faith” Award – Connie Pritchard

Connie is a new Chester County Associates officer, and has come into that role with such enthusiasm. She is making people excited to be an Associate! It’s this excitement that draws people to Connie and makes her an incredible spokeswoman and saleswoman. Each booth Connie has worked at this year will have sold out of almost all of its products. Ask anyone and they will point to Connie. It’s this energy that started the new FHU coaster project this year. Connie saw the potential in this project and invested her time in researching how to make the coasters. She then invested her own resources to get the materials. With her committee, over 150 coasters have been made and sold. The coasters are beautiful and a tribute to FHU. Connie should be considered for this award — *Marah Collins*

Connie really pursued making the coaster project a reality. She could sell a hair dryer to a bald man, and she is fiercely determined when it comes to actively seeking out new ways to make money for student scholarships. I would like to nominate Connie for the Leap of Faith award. — *Molly Risley*

Each spring, Associate members from all chapters are invited to submit nominations for Advancement Awards to David Newberry at dnewberry@fhu.edu. The Office of University Advancement chooses recipients from the available nominations, and the awards are given at the spring national meeting.

National FHU Associates' meeting—Friday, May 6, 2022 @ the Hardeman House

By Debbie McLaughlin and Kristen Hicks for National Secretary, Shila England

After a lunch provided by the National Officers and a greeting and special request presented by President David Shannon (discussed below), the national business meeting began with a welcome by National President, Shirley Eaton and a prayer by Laurel Sewell.

Minutes from the previous national meeting in February, 2022, were submitted by Diane Smith on behalf of national secretary, Shila England. The minutes were motioned for acceptance by Diane and seconded by Shirley Eaton.

The treasurer's report was presented by Debbie McLaughlin on behalf of national treasurer, Chris Gann, who was away on a work trip. She mentioned that the report was not yet complete, but a final report will be made after the fiscal year-end on May 31. Since some projects have income spread out over several different accounts, we may need to create a "by project" report as well. Of our \$65K we give every year, we have given \$45,144.09 so far. Total giving all accounts (including endowed scholarship donations) are \$49,276.59. We have enough funds in our FHU income accounts to transfer to A/D scholarships to reach \$65K. Whatever we receive from the chapters before the end of May will be able to go to our endowed scholarship fund. Motion to accept – Shirley Eaton; second, Lynne Golson.

Old Business: Diane Smith gave a recap of our Lectureship activities, especially the Lectureship Kitchen. We really had great help this year. Booneville came with a group of workers and food, as did Perry County. Crockett County sent 20-30 desserts. Murray/New Concord sent sandwich fixings. Music City provided green beans and items for FHBrew. Diane asked Tom Childers who all Carole had contacted in previous years to ask for help from their old friends. Diane was able to contact some of these fine folks. One group from Ripley, Mississippi, came with a carload of desserts. Also, the Paris, TN church (Martha contacted) brought desserts. Shirley Eaton remarked that the Lectureship Kitchen is one of the best examples of all chapters coming together to work and provide items. Thank you on behalf of FHU.

New Business: Since our current endowed scholarship fund now has over \$250,000 in it, President Shannon asked the Associates to consider starting and working to fund a new endowed scholarship called the "pursuit of excellence" endowed scholarship that will be awarded to minority students. It will help the university and the church grow and will have a lot of influence. Debbie McLaughlin presented some background. Dave Clouse mentioned to us 1.5 years ago that they wanted the Associates involved in some way with the FHU Next Campaign, but they were not sure how. The FHU Next committee discussed how the Associates has made raising money for scholarships part of our identity, and they decided they would like us to continue in this same way. Our current endowed scholarship will still award \$8-10,000 in interest each year while we are putting contributions into and building up the new scholarship. FHU wants us to commit to \$250,000 total – ideally in 5 years, but all realize it will probably take longer. This is in addition to our \$65,000 we give to the university for annually-designated scholarships.

Attendees discussed some special requests – that the scholarship be given first consideration to minority women and then to minority men. They discussed needing to contact alumni, supporters, and past scholarship winners to make special contributions. We also need to contact our at-large members. Melissa Hopkins made a motion to accept the challenge of funding the new Pursuit of Excellence scholarship (no matter how long it takes); Connie seconded. (1st choice minority women)

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Lynne Golson made the motion to go ahead and use the \$5,000 we had already set aside for the current endowed scholarship for the new endowed scholarship. Donna Steele seconded. NOTE AFTER THE FACT: Per Dave Clouse, monies given to the current endowed scholarship this year need to stay with the current scholarship. New funds can be given to the new scholarship account.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership committee: Lynne Golson mentioned that Jeanita Estes brought a visitor today, Brenda, who is a Booneville member. Donna Steele is a new patron life member. New Chester County members are Emily Hatfield, Beth Cook, and Charla Cook.

National Projects: Connie Pritchard, reporting, says that RADA is available for sale online now through the Chester County chapter; other chapters can also sell online and set up a separate account. CC has made \$200-300 so far with this method.

Lectureship booth – The booth this year made over \$1,800 (\$500 was pure profit because Becky Hysmith gave us embroidered tea towels to sell). Connie is always looking for new things to sell each year. Those crystal candy dishes – she filled with candy and tied with a ribbon. Sold for \$5. Unique things sell well.

Hardeman House: Laurel Sewell reporting, says we are about to host our first tea party in the renovated HH. Debbie prepared a letter about HH happenings to take to the Hardeman family. Laurel read that we have had since we re-opened in 2019:

66 outside rentals, birthday parties, holidays, showers

65 FHU reservations – meetings, classes, lunches, etc.

37 overnight stays from FHU

Many Associates meetings and tours, and, soon, the tea party.

Minutes continue on the next page...

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Milton Sewell made contact with the Hardeman family and asked them if they would give \$500,000 to the FHU Next campaign and they said yes. Laurel attributes a lot of that to our care of the HH. They are still interested in us because of that.

The Hardeman House Barn needed attention; it was cleaned out this week. Also, we have had some new landscaping. Per Courtney Insell, the new grounds supervisor, there is a plan from a professional landscaper in 3 phases - perennials and making the grass better. We will have a work day on Wed. May 11, 2:00 p.m. to do some housekeeping – dusting, swiffering, cobwebs, cleaning glass.

Nominating Committee: Connie Pritchard, chair of nominating committee, states that this is a hard job. She presented this proposed slate of officers for the 2022-2023 year:

President - Diane Smith

Vice President - Bonny Moore

Secretary - Robin Hulen

Treasurer - Ashley Smith

All have said yes. No nominations were added from the floor. Shirley Eaton motioned to accept this slate; Laurel Sewell seconded. All were in favor.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Martha Aills for Murray/New Concord – Their most involvement is Lectureship contributions. She sells some products at her store, but the store has not been open like usual.

Chester County – Kristen Hicks gave a tea party report and read the menu that includes our own custom tea blend, Mrs. Jo's Jasmine. A sign-up sheet for cooking parties and tea day workers was passed. Some cooking parties are during the day and some at night. She handed out flyers and patron forms.

Chester County's newest project is going very well – FHU Coasters. We have sold hundreds, and the coaster team will make more for the tea boutique.

AWCE – Debbie gave the background for the Associated Women for Christian Education conference that was last held in 2019 at Pepperdine. Each of the “sister schools” traditionally associated with the churches of Christ have an auxiliary group of fundraisers, similar to the FHU Associates. Representatives from each of these organizations meet together once a year to encourage each other, share ideas, problem solve, and network. In 2023, it is FHU's turn to host. This group voted to host the group in late May or early June, 2023.

Officer Installation – Debbie McLaughlin led the officer installation and the above-named new national officers will take office on June 1, 2022.

The meeting was concluded.



We're Hosting a Conference! - June 1-3, 2023



Join us on campus for the Associated Women for Christian Education Conference where members of groups like ours from our “sister” schools associated with the Churches of Christ gather to share, encourage, fellowship, and learn from each other. Our group has not been able to meet together since 2019; what a joy it will be!

Details, cost, and ways to serve will be shared later this semester.

Debbie McLaughlin, our Executive Coordinator, and her husband, FHU English Professor John McLaughlin, will be working with FHU's study abroad program this fall semester in Europe. Debbie will be out of the office from August 16—November 9. She will be back just in time for Homecoming at FHU! In her absence, National Treasurer, Ashley Smith, will be handling day-to-day office duties and will be assisted by National President Diane Smith and members of the Hardeman House committee and other Associates. National office contact information will stay the same.