



# Friendship Focus

## July 2019

News for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

### Pastor's Word

Dear Friends,

Recently I was reflecting on what makes a congregation vibrant, full of life and energy. How do we measure the life of a church? Is it the number of programs or events going on each week? Is it reflected in Sunday School attendance or worship numbers? Is it reflected financially; how much is given to support the ministries of the congregation and how much does the congregation share with others outside its walls? These measurements or numbers are what often drive our view of church's health. We base decisions on the numbers of "bodies & bucks" but is this really the best determination of what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst? We like the numbers because they seem like facts, like hard data and we are used to businesses being evaluated this way but is there a better approach? The problem with relying too heavily on numbers like these is that while we can compare them year to year or week to week, they don't reflect what is really going on in the daily lives of God's people or what is happening in the spiritual life of a congregation.

So how do we measure whether people are growing in faith? Ideally worship and Sunday school or bible study attendance is a reflection that people are growing spiritually but without further information it is difficult to determine how deep the growth is or if it is even there at all. Because the reality is that some people attend or give out of a sense of obligation-to look good or because it's what they were taught they need to do to fit in. How different it is when attendance and giving flows from a heart on fire for Jesus, a desire to grow spiritually within one's self and to share in God's mission in the world! Now that is something to measure! That reflects a church's health and vitality!

It is easy to fall into the trap of counting numbers without thinking deeper about what is really going on in the spiritual lives of people. It's easier than engaging in conversation with someone about ways they are living out their faith daily and ways they are growing closer to the Lord. But I think it's more important that people become

more faithful disciples through a church's ministry than the raw data of "bodies and bucks". That's what I want to evaluate the health of Friendship Lutheran Church on.

Sometimes we miss seeing what God is up to because we aren't looking closely enough but more often it's because we aren't looking in the right place. The right place to look is in the hearts of the people who make up Friendship Lutheran. When I look at those hearts I am encouraged. I am excited. Because what I see there is God's love and grace and the Spirit of God dwelling there. And from my perspective, I see growth here. From the couple that calls me up on Sunday evening with a question about one of the weekly bible texts we publish to the young person wrestling with how to be faithful to God's word when it seems the world around them is always tempting them to live differently to the young adult who wants to start a ministry here at church so others can grow closer to Jesus to the older person who faithfully sends notes to or makes phone calls encouraging and praying for people on the prayer list to those who go out into the community and to foreign countries to be the light of Christ to those who plan fundraisers for people in need to the person who shares their faith with a co-worker and then invites her to worship to those who go into prisons to proclaim God's Word and see lives transformed; all these are reflections of the Spirit at work here in this place at this time! I could go on and on, there are so many other ways that I see people growing spiritually. What do you see? How can you help our church grow spiritually?

My challenge to you this month is to think about all the ways the Spirit is moving in your own life, in the lives of others around you, and in this church. And then tell someone what you see! Share the ways God is at work and together we will proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God! Let's move beyond simple number crunching to a more profound and deeper evaluation. If you want to talk more about this, let me know. I would love to hear your stories and see what God is up to in your life. And who knows, maybe we can start telling those stories regularly in worship to encourage and challenge one another even more!

Be blessed, be loved, be restored by the Holy Spirit this summer season of Pentecost.

*Pastor Carol*

## July News

**Congratulations** to **Robert & Amy Farrens!** They were married on **Friday, June 7th** in the church chapel.

**Friendship Fellowship Supper** is **Monday, July 1st at 6 pm**. Come enjoy good food & fellowship! Everyone is welcome.

**WELCA** will **not** meet in July.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** is **Sunday, July 14th, 12:30-5 pm**.



**American  
Red Cross**

To donate blood, contact Sue Bumgarner @ (828) 381-7058, or sign up @ [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). To donate homemade cakes & cookies, contact Donna Icard @ (828) 310-4890 or volunteer as a helper, contact Jewell Elder @ 632-3544.

**Anyone interested in being a part of a summer book club?** Pastor Carol would like to get a group of folks together who will commit to reading Brene Brown's book "Dare to Lead". We will read the book on our own and then gather at **6:30 pm on July 15th**. The book is available via Amazon, local bookstores or you can go to her web page <https://brenebrown.com/>. There is also a workbook to guide your reading. If interested please let Pastor Carol know.

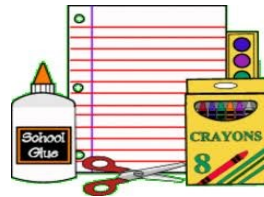
**Carowinds family fun trip**-Come join us for a fun family trip to Carowinds on **Saturday, July 20th**. **More details to come!**

**VBS planning meeting** is **Sunday, July 21st at 4 pm**.

**Visitation Team** meet **Monday, July 22nd @ 6:30 pm**. If you know someone who needs a visit, see Diane Hollar.

**Summer Book Club** will meet on **Tuesday, July 23rd, 6:30 pm.**

**CARE Team-**This summer, we will collect school supplies to be donated to Wittenberg Elementary School for the upcoming school year. There will be a collection box at the handprints area. Thank you all in advance for your loving support of our school kids. The items needed: Glue sticks, crayons, #2 pencils, 1 subject composition notebooks, construction paper (1 color per pack), highlighters, erasers, paper clips, dry erase markers and erasers, Clorox wipes, Kleenex (large box), post its, scissors, staples, tape, 2" binders, book bags, money pouch (3 holes to put in notebook), report binders 2 pockets.



### *Newsletter*



**Newsletter Deadline-**Send items for the **July** issue of **Friendship's Focus Newsletter** before **Tues, June 25th**. Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email to [friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com](mailto:friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com).

**Crisis Center** is in desperate need of food. Please donate any food items at this time if possible. Two grocery carts are in the hallway near the chapel for donations.

**VBS 2019 is coming to Friendship August 11-15 for all ages!!** Get ready for the coldest week of the summer with Polar Blast at VBS, where Jesus' Love is Cool!! We will explore Jesus' unfailing love through stories, songs, crafts, and games with our friends from St. Luke, Reformation, and Taylorsville Presbyterian. A meal will be served each night before VBS. **We will need volunteers for Sunday night meal and Sunday night classrooms.** Please contact Jenna Buff or Hannah Bostian if you are willing to help out in any way!

**Alex. County Nutrition Services:** Our nutrition program is administered by Dept. of Social Services. Our meals are catered & approved by a registered dietician. **Sites are open Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm,** & meals are served, with the exception of holidays. It's a place where older adults can come to enjoy a nutritious lunch, activities & fellowship with one another. Transportation to & from is provided by Greenway Public Transportation, but may be limited in some areas. There are no income requirements & it's free! Anyone 60 years of age or older (and their spouse-regardless of age) are eligible to participate. Come & get in on all the fun!

## Thank You

**Thank You-**On behalf of Randy, our beloved husband, daddy & papa, we thank all of you-Pastors' Carol & Greg and our church family & friends for the many prayers, gifts of help, cards, food, visits, thoughts & acts of kindness over the past 4 months. We felt every prayer. Please continue to remember us in the days ahead.

With much love,  
Cindy, Sommer, Heidi, Tabatha & family.

**Thank You to our Friendship Friends** for the kindness & support you have shown our family throughout Granna's sickness and passing. We are forever grateful for the calls, messages-texts, cards, meals, visits & most of all the cakes for her memorial. You all have been a powerful support system for us! Granna loved this church & all of you wonderful people!

Lena & TJ, Hollie & Rusty, Lance & Fred

**Thank You** everyone for all the calls, visits, cards & prayers during my surgery & recovery. They were greatly appreciated. God bless you!

Nina Windsor

## Friendship Lutheran Church Council

May 21, 2019

Members present : Hannah Bostian, Marty Buff, Wade Cline, Eric Frye, Diane Hollar, Jeff James, Guy Kerley, Monty Payne, Wendelynne Pearson, Doug Ramsey, Dennis Rhyne, Pastor Carol Yeager, Pastor Greg Yeager, and Dana Frye.

President Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order and Diane Hollar offered prayer.

Motion by Guy Kerley; seconded by Dennis Rhyne to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2019. Motion carries.

### TEAM REPORTS:

Finance – Marty Buff/Dennis Rhyne – Treasurers report was distributed. All cupola expenses have been paid.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye/Guy Kerley/Jason Icard – Some shingles are missing over the organ area. The entire roof is being inspected and further details will be forth coming.

Worship & Music – Monty Payne/Hannah Bostian – Preschool year end 50's program and their graduation will be held in the fellowship hall.

Sharing & Stewardship – Doug Ramsey/Diane Hollar – Diane Hollar has a meeting scheduled for the last week of May.

Learning & Christian Education – Jeff James/Hannah Bostian – Plans continue to be made for VBS 2019 which will be held at Friendship August 11-15.

Caring & Outreach – Wade Cline/Wendelynne Pearson – Mother's Day Celebration was a success.

### PASTORS REPORTS:

Pastor Carol presented her report. She is glad to be back home. Upcoming events will be confirmation, recognition of graduates and planning VBS. She and Pastor Greg have made summer travel plans and will be gone on the following days: June 18-21 visiting Greg's family in Kennewick, WA; June 22-29 continuing education at

Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center, OR (also family farewell for Doug Yeager); June 30-July 2 visiting Greg's family in Kennewick, WA; July 3-6 visiting Carol's family in Phoenix, AZ (meeting our new great nieces recently adopted from Haiti); July 11-14 continuing education at Wild Goose Festival in Hot Springs, NC; August 20 Mandatory Synod Boundary Training. Vacation days left for 2019 – 4; Continuing Education days left for 2019 - 2. Future USAF days are July 29-Aug 2; August 4-9; August 22-23; August 26 – September 6.

Pastor Greg presented his report. Synod Assembly will be May 31 and June 1 in Greensboro. Motion by Dennis Rhyne; seconded by Diane Hollar to approve Oscar Shepherd and Brittany Greathouse as delegates. Motion carries.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Landscaping project will be hold until fall of the year.

Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Dennis Rhyne to have the playground equipment installed on half of the basketball court. The concrete will be removed from the back half. Motion carries. This would allow for future expansion of the playground and will leave room for basketball activity as well.

Parking lot security continues to be a work in progress.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The family of Randy Hefner will receive friends in the fellowship hall at no charge.

Motion by Pastor Greg; seconded by Dennis Rhyne to ask Oscar Shepherd for a list of current obligations related to his seminary. Motion carries. After that Council will be better able to help him in his continuing education.

There being no other business, the meeting was dismissed with closing worship.

Due to the Pastors being on vacation the next monthly meeting will be moved up a week to June 13, 2019 at 7 pm.

## Caring for One Another



### **HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:**

Loretta Chapman—Brookdale-Falling Creek  
Alice Icenhour—Home  
Vickie Church—Home  
Deidra Locklear—Home  
Earl Huffman—Home  
Toyice Dagenhart—Home  
Lou Ann Frye—Shepherd's House-Trinity Village  
Kindola Ford—Home



**If you know of someone that should be added to or taken off this list, please speak with one of the pastors.**





## Prayer Concerns



**We continue to pray for these friends and family of Friendship.  
If you have someone you'd like the saints here to pray for, or  
who can come off the list, please call the church office.**

Hilda Bowman	(P. Carol-5/30)
Shirley H. Lail	(B. Bowman-6/3)
Tanner Jarrett	(P. Setzer-6/3)
Brenda Price	(E. Bostain-6/2)
Mary Ann Icenhour	(C. Icenhour-6/9)
Boyd Canipe	(W. Cline-6/12)
Jackie Smith	(T. Hefner-6/14)
Matt Chrien	(M. Jolly-6/17)
Ryan Chapman	(M. Bowman-6/20)
Nancy Pearson	(W. Pearson-6/21)
Patsy Daniels	(A. Palmer-6/21)
Mamie Wilson	(D. Shealy-6/25)

We ask special prayers for **all** our law enforcement officers who  
go over & beyond to keep us safe each day.



## Our Sharing

### OFFERINGS

	<u>MAY, 2019</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$21,756.96	\$118,310.98
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,411.00	\$7,201.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$4,578.00	\$30,484.00
PRESCHOOL	\$310.00	\$1,523.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$160.00	\$575.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$360.00	\$1,975.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$40.00	\$5,757.40
YOUTH MISSIONS	\$80.00	\$345.00
LUTH. DISASTER/HURRICANE	\$400.00	\$1120.00
LUTH. CHURCH HURRICANE	\$0.00	\$225.00
AUSTIN SCHOLARSHIP	\$0.00	\$80.00
HELPING HANDS	\$0.00	\$350.00
OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS	\$3,105.00	\$12,260.00
AUDIO/VISUAL IMPR	\$156.00	\$1,386.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS	\$25.00	\$25.00
SWAG YOUTH	\$0.00	\$470.00
CHOIR FUND	\$100.00	\$100.00

### SPENDING

	<u>MAY, 2019</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$22,467.39	\$119,696.68

## July Birthdays

Donald Smith	07/01	Ricky Wike	07/15
Bodie King	07/02	Judy Feimster	07/17
Marty Buff	07/03	Shelia Rogers	07/19
Dylan Jolly	07/03	Payton Boyles	07/20
Nikki Icard	07/05	Maverick Windsor	07/20
Ava Chapman	07/05	Mark Hollo	07/24
Lucy Icenhour	07/05	Keaton Pearson	07/24
Samuel Icenhour II	07/05	Todd Smith	07/25
Alek Watts	07/05	Myra Bowman	07/26
Aaron Watts	07/09	Wanda Tucker	07/26
Gail Hand	07/10	Matt Payne	07/27
Jolene Serrill	07/10	Michael Bumgarner	07/28
Tanya Fox	07/11	Carolyn Fox	07/29
Jean Stafford	07/11	Diane Hollar	07/29
Elan Hayes	07/12	Parker Cook	07/30
James Hayes Jr.	07/13	Sommer McDill	07/30
Tootsie Richey	07/13	Andrea Robinette	07/30
Leslie Elder	07/14	Steve Icenhour	07/31



## **Church Council and Staff**

### **Council & Officers**

Doug Ramsey, President  
Jeff James, Vice-President  
Jane Gant, Treasurer  
Dana Frye, Recording Secretary  
Guy Kerley, Financial Secretary  
Marty Buff  
Wade Cline  
Eric Frye  
Monty Payne  
Guy Kerley  
Wendelynne Pearson  
Hannah Bostian  
Diane Hollar  
Jason Icard  
Dennis Rhyne

### **Staff**

Denny Teague	Sexton
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Silsa Moore	Organ and Piano
Patrick Watkins	Choir Director
Lori Branch	Preschool Dir
Rev Carol & Gregory Yeager	Co-Pastors

## **FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH**

5300 Church Road  
Taylorsville, NC 28681  
Phone: 828-632-4482  
[www.friendshiptaylorsville.org](http://www.friendshiptaylorsville.org)  
[friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com](mailto:friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com)

**NON-PROFIT**  
**POSTAGE PAID**  
**PERMIT 106**  
**Taylorsville, NC 28681**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED