



Friendship Focus May 2012

A Newsletter for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

VIBRANT FAITH MINISTRIES CONFERENCE MAY 5, 2012 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At their retreat in January, the Church Council established a Ministry Plan for 2012. Part of this plan is making disciples – not members – at Friendship. As part of this effort to make disciples, we have the opportunity to host the Vibrant Faith Ministries Conference on May 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Vibrant Faith Ministries is an effort to help equip disciples to pass on the faith to the next generation of Christian disciples. Thanks to the support of the North Carolina Synod we will participate in a three-year project in which coaches from Vibrant Faith Ministries will teach us how to become better disciples.

The coaching will begin with the conference on May 5. The first step will be an assessment of Friendship. Next, the coaches will teach us how to live a vibrant faith that is Authentic, Available and Affirming and how to equip families to partner home and congregation so that home is church, too. Our coaches will also help us practice using the Four Keys to pass on faith and values to loved ones. They will show us how to lift up milestones as ways to celebrate life and nurture spiritual growth. Finally, our coaches will share ways to integrate our faith talk and faith walk into all facets of life.

Come join us and grow as a disciple. Learn ways to pass on the faith.



PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

Pentecost Sunday will be May 27. This is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples years ago. It is clear that the Holy Spirit continues to blow in, through and among us at Friendship...in disciples offering words of encouragement and acts of love...in disciples being the 'next disciple up' and assuming new roles.

Below are some other ways I saw God's Spirit blowing in our midst in April.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONG US

- † The Holy Spirit inspired our worship throughout Holy Week culminating in a joy-filled celebration on Easter Sunday. The Spirit even brought us a new friend (our visiting dog) at the Son Shine Service.
- † God stirred the disciples at Friendship in our study 'Disciples Under Construction' throughout Lent.
- † During Lent, the Spirit inspired us to give over \$100 for the Buck-a-Chick ministry which means that over 100 chicks will be sent to families facing extreme hunger.
- † God called Ava Icenhour and Crystal Icenhour into our fellowship in April.
- † Jesus walked among us as we broke bread and reflected on the power of His presence at our Easter Dinner Theater. Thanks be to God for the work of Phyllis Little and all who helped to make the dinner theater so special.
- † Our Easter series 'How God Rolls' started with a laugh as we remembered that God laughs both at us and with us.
- † Let the Spirit blow in your life this May.

Pastor Todd

MISSION/OUTREACH

RELAY FOR LIFE SPAGHETTI SUPPER 2012

Please join us on Thursday, May 3, 2012, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. for the Relay for Life Spaghetti Supper in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert, dine-in or take-out. We also will be doing Luminaries along with special events—Balloon Art, Petting Zoo, and don't forget to see who has to Kiss the Pig! Some way or another each of us has come to face this terrible disease, so PLEASE come join us for FIGHT BACK AGAINST CANCER!! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in making a dessert or have questions, please contact Amy Palmer, 828-514-3477 or Becca Phillips, 828-320-8065. Thank you for helping fight against cancer!



FSV: COMING SOON

FSV is coming soon...

What is it? First Saturday Volunteers (FSV) is our exciting new way to serve God.

On the first Saturday of each month, Jesus' disciples will come together to undertake mission/outreach projects. FSV will begin with breakfast and the opportunity to fellowship with other disciples. After breakfast, we will have a variety of projects to complete.

FSV will begin on September 1, 2012. Mark your calendars and please watch future editions of the Focus for more details. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the latest ministry at Friendship.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Peanut Butter and Tuna

Our food items for the Christian Crisis Center this month are peanut butter and canned tuna. A grocery cart will be in the hallway near the chapel to receive your donations. Thank you.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY DAY

May is "Older American Month" and the Nutrition Program at FLC will hold a Golden Opportunity Day for seniors on May 18, 2012, from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. The day will offer health screenings, a health fair with vendors, door prizes, guest speakers along with lunch and entertainment. There is no charge, but a \$2 donation is suggested to

help cover the cost of the guest speakers. You must be at least 60 years old to participate. To pre-register for lunch or if you have questions, please contact Kelly at 632-4133.

MAKING DISCIPLES

THEMES FOR WORSHIP

In May, we will conclude our look at 'How God Rolls.' Each week, we will look at a different story to help us understand how God rolls. On Sunday, the service and sermon will focus on the text for the week. In addition, we will distribute a handout with space to take sermon notes and Bible texts/reflection questions for each day in the coming week.

Here are the themes and texts:

May 6:	God is our lifeline	John 15:1-8
May 13:	God in Jesus calls us friends	John 15:9-17
May 20:	God in Jesus prays for us	John 17:6-19
May 27:	God comes to be with us	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

WELCA

WELCA will meet on Sunday May 6, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Lynn Jolly and Pauline Shealy are program leaders. We will also do Homebound Sharing. We will each choose a name and then individually decide how we want to reach out to that person during the following week.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 27

**** ONE SERVICE ****

On Sunday, May 27, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday with one service at 10:30 a.m. Pentecost is the day the church remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples after Jesus' ascension.

Traditionally, the church has used red paraments and banners to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit. We are once again asking YOU to help us turn our worship space RED. So, please wear red on Pentecost Sunday. By all of us wearing red, our worship space will be a 'sea of red' reminding us of the power of the Holy Spirit.

On Pentecost Sunday, five young people who have completed three years of study as well as Confirmation Camp designed to strengthen

their relationship with our Lord will affirm their baptism. On this day, they will say “yes” to the promises our Lord made to them in baptism. These young people will now assume the responsibility their parents and others assumed on their behalf when they were baptized.

Our 2012 Confirmands are: Logan Gant, Jared Mooney, Taylor Payne, David Rauscher and Alek Watts. Please join us in celebrating this special day with them.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY **Sept 30**
Homecoming Sunday will be Sunday, September 30, 2012. Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us.

FRIENDSHIP VBS
goes Overboard
June 18-21



Prepare to take the plunge! Friendship dives into its 2012 Vacation Bible School program the day after Father’s Day. The fun starts on **Monday evening, June 18, at 6:30 p.m.**, as we dare to “Go Deep with God.” If you are interested in helping kids take the plunge, contact Guy Kerley at 632-5824.

FLYs: DINNER AND A MOVIE **May 6**
Pastor Todd will host the FLYs for dinner and a movie at his house on Sunday, May 6. We will meet at Friendship at 5:00 p.m. and then head to PT’s house. If you have questions, please see Pastor Todd.

FLYs: CONFIRMATION BANQUET **May 23**
The FLYs will be serving the meal at the Confirmation Banquet on Wednesday, May 23. The banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. FLYs should arrive around 5:30 p.m. to help set up and serve. If you have questions, please see Pastor Todd or Michelle Bowman.

GRADUATES TO BE RECOGNIZED **June 3**
On Sunday, June 3, we will recognize our high school and college graduates at both the Contemporary and Traditional services. If you or a member of your family (who is a member of Friendship) is graduating from high school or college this year, please contact the church office by May 15 so that we can assure their recognition.

CONTEMPORARY BAND JAMS: May 5 & 19

The Contemporary Band will hold 2 practices this month for singers and instrumentalists to look over new and familiar songs. Both practices are on Saturdays, but this month we'll meet at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Phil.

***The Best of Me* - Book discussion May 17**

After wrapping up *The Help*, the group has decided to turn its attention to a Nicholas Sparks book titled, *The Best of Me*. We will meet to discuss it on Thursday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m. For questions to aid discussion and reading, contact Pastor Phil.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

VISITATION MINISTRY MEETING May 29

The organizational meeting for volunteers in our Lay Visitation Ministry will be May 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We still have openings for volunteers. So, if God is calling you to this ministry, please see Starr Lynn Smith or Pastor Todd.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO: Teresa Birchfield and family on the death of her father, Grady "Sam" Link, who passed to the Church Triumphant on March 24, 2012. Please remember Sam's family in your prayers.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO: Evelyn Bowman and family on the death of her brother, Ralph Bowman, who passed to the Church Triumphant on April 8, 2012. Please remember Ralph's family in your prayers.

WELCOME: We welcome Ava Icenhour and Crystal Icenhour who joined our fellowship at Friendship on April 22, 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Ryan and Julie Miller whom God blessed with a daughter, Adriana Marie Miller, on March 24, 2012.

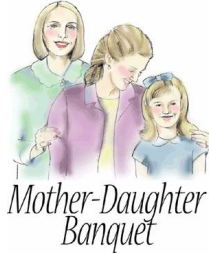
CONGRATULATIONS: To Don and Andrea Robinette whom God blessed with a daughter, Liza Ann Robinette, on April 18, 2012.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Thank you to all who participated in the Blood Drive. 57 units were collected. A special

thank you to those who contributed baked goods and drinks for snacks and to those who volunteered their time.

BEING HOSPITABLE

MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET



We will be having a Mother/Daughter Banquet, "The Secret Garden," on Friday May 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a meal provided, door prizes and a special guest. The cost is \$5.00 per person to help with the cost of the meal. Please sign up with Hannah Bostian or Jenna Buff by Sunday May 6th.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENT

THANK YOU

Thanks to an anonymous donor who has donated the money to replace the doors in the narthex. This gift is to the glory of God and in honor of the congregation. We give thanks to God that this donor has graciously considered the needs of our congregation.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Joe and Jewell Elder and to Steve Icenhour for providing fertilizer to keep our church grounds looking nice.

APRIL COUNCIL SUMMARY

Regular Council Meeting

The Church Council met on April 12, 2012. Eric Frye, Diane Hollar, Guy Kerley, Lynn Jolly, Pat Payne, Dennis Rhyne, Starr Lynn Smith, Todd Smith, Dana Frye and Pastor Todd were present.

Opening worship included devotions by Dennis Rhyne.

Minutes from the regular March, 2012 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Council received a report from Roger Toler.

MISSION/OUTREACH

Council received an update on plans for the Relay for Life Fund Raiser.

Council agreed to continue studying the idea of a Community Garden. We hope to start one in 2013.

Pastor Todd informed Council that the Lutheran Services for the Aging Fund Raiser (approved in 2011) will begin April 22.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Pastor Todd shared a new vision called 'First Saturday Volunteers.' Council enthusiastically approved the idea.

Council reviewed Lent/Holy Week. The feedback on the Disciples Under Construction Notebook/Theme was primarily positive.

All Holy Week services and activities were affirmed for their positive contributions to the growth of Friendship. It was suggested that the Easter breakfast only be served during the Sunday School hour in 2013 (as opposed to both before and after the Son Shine Service as in 2012).

Pastor Todd reminded the Council about the Vibrant Faith Ministries Conference and encouraged members to attend.

Council set September 30 as the date for Homecoming in 2012 and provided a list of candidates for guest preacher. Pastor Todd will contact the candidates.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Starr Lynn Smith reported that she has ten volunteers for the Lay Visitation Ministry. Pastor Todd and Starr Lynn will schedule an orientation meeting for these volunteers.

BEING HOSPITABLE

Council heard an update on the plans for the Easter Dinner Theater.

DEVELOPING LEADERS

Council was unable to identify possible candidates to serve as delegates to attend the 2012 NC Synod Assembly.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Eric Frye and Guy Kerley gave an update on the progress of the narthex doors.

Pastor Todd suggested the installation of a permanent cross in the cemetery (near the site where the temporary cross was installed for the Son Shine Service). Council eagerly agreed with the concept and requested additional information.

PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor Todd and Pastor Phil’s respective reports were accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Council adjourned with closing worship and the Lord’s Prayer.
Next regular meeting: May 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

OUR SHARING

OFFERINGS

	<u>MAR.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Current	\$24,188	\$77,853
Benevolence	\$1,040	\$4,042
Family Life Center	\$3,991	\$12,911
World Hunger	\$130	\$395
Hospice	\$60	\$280
Helping Hands	\$281	\$2,003
Advent Offering	\$ 0	\$ 0
Disaster Relief	\$ 80	\$280
Preschool	\$585	\$2,140
YMT	\$43	\$296
Adult Missions	\$ 20	\$65
Lenten Offering	\$1,089	\$1,683
Building/Improvement	\$195	\$624

EXPENSES

	<u>Mar.</u>
Current: Budgeted	\$26,910
Benevolence	\$1,040

BALANCE SHEET REPORT

Current	\$(3,071.59)
Building/Improvement	\$6,321

BUILDING LOAN

Loan Principal	\$353,569.25
Monthly Loan Payment	\$4,485.87

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

SETZER, Kristen	05/01	STAFFORD, Keri	05/11
BIRCHFIELD, Rachel	05/03	TUCKER, Kim	05/12
LITTLE, Cindy	05/03	KERLEY, Guy	05/13
FRYE, Kenneth	05/04	BARLOW, Penny	05/14
SHEALY, Steve	05/04	HENDREN Jr., Darian	05/14
FOX, Lorene	05/07	CHAPMAN, Shelly	05/16
BOSTIAN, Mae	05/08	FEIMSTER, Stan	05/16
CLINE, Eugene	05/08	BOWMAN, Michelle	05/17
HENDERSON, Judy	05/08	HENDREN, Dawn	05/19
SHEALY, Patsy	05/08	MITCHELL, Jeffery	05/21
SHEPHERD, Gabriel	05/08	BOWMAN, Betty	05/22
WINEBARGER, Pam	05/08	KEEVER, Doris	05/22
HEFNER, Terry	05/10	RECTOR, Eric	05/24
PALMER, Kasi	05/10	BUFF, Jenna	05/26
THORSEN, Matthew	05/10	FOX, Ray	05/28
BOWMAN, Stacy	05/11	WATTS, Allison	05/30
MITCHELL, Jearlean	05/11	BEBBER, Bennie	05/31



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

SHUT-IN AND NURSING HOME MEMBERS:

Valley Nursing — Nellie Fox & Kathleen Jolly

Taylorville House — Sarah H. Bowman

Conover Nursing & Rehab Center — Charlotte Sweet,
Room 309

Abernathy Laurels—Kathy Thomas
Room 509A

Mae Bostian
Sarah S. Bowman
Haven & Alice Bowman
Lorene Fox
Kenneth Frye

Lucille Icenhour
Carlene Jolly
Jazetta Sharpe
Betty Rector
Darlene Stafford

WE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER



4/1/2012
Jackson Fincannon (B. Cline)
Sarah H. Bowman
Pleas Icenhour
Lorene Fox
Mary Link
Alan Osborne (D. Ramsey)
Barry Fountain
Joe Romines (S. Sloope)

4/8/2012
M.L. Toler
Sara Benfield (R. Toler)

4/15/2012

4/22/2012
Grace Sadusky (H. Rauscher)
Kathy Thomas
Charlotte Sweet

4/29/2012
Alfriedia Bowman (D. Rhyne)
David Bonner (D. Ramsey)
Pleas Icenhour
Lorene Fox
Stan Feimster
Sharlene Peeler
Jennie Campbell (K. Ramsey)

Council and Staff Serving You

Council & Officers

Todd Smith, President
Dennis Rhyne, Vice-President-Finance
Roger Toler, Treasurer
Dana Frye, Secretary
Pat Payne
Marty Buff
Eric Frye
Starr Lynn Smith
Todd Smith-Scholarship
Jeff James
Doug Ramsey
Chris Jolly
Diane Hollar
Guy Kerley-Financial Secretary

Staff

Rev Todd A Rauscher	Pastor
Rev Philip L Thorsen	Pastor
Teresa Birchfield	Dir. of Choral Ministries
Lori Branch	Preschool Dir
Rosie Little	Parish Bookkeeper
Silsa Moore	Church Keyboardist
Cindy Reese	Preschool Asst. Dir.
Denny Teague	Sexton
Rebecca DuBose	Parish Secretary

FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH NON-PROFIT

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