



## October 2009

Volume 41

Issue 10

### Ministers

Jason Noble – Preaching Minister  
Jason@friendlyave.org

Peter Rode – Outreach  
Peter@friendlyave.org

Bryan Brown – Youth Minister  
friendlyyouthdude@triad.rr.com

Willie Costa – Spanish Minister  
cwrvg@hotmail.com

Joe Kaplan – Deaf Minister  
Joedeafpreacher@sprint.blackberry.net

### Shepherds

Jim Akers  
John Harris  
Kevin Herrmann  
Dewey Merritt  
Randy Morgan  
Steve Mullinix  
John Newton  
Tal Solomon  
Ed Thomas  
Leonard Uitenham

Group email: Elders@friendlyave.org

### Office – 292-7649

Debbie Gilbert - secretary  
Debbie@friendlyave.org

Ann Desmond – Children’s Education  
gann\_desmond@yahoo.com

## On Our Prayer List

Susan Creed’s mother is undergoing tests.  
Michele Harris requests prayers as she recovers from shingles.  
Rachel Solomon’s brother-n-law has a brain tumor .  
Cary Skipworth’s mother is recovering from surgery.  
Howard Spradlin would appreciate your prayers. He has been diagnosed with ALS.  
Adrian Harris’s sister, Tami, is having difficulty with her cancer treatments.  
Melanie Clayton’s mother needs additional chemo.  
Caleb Lemming requests prayers.

## United as One Celebration

*“One Heart One Mind”*

*An evening of worship sand prayer*

Sunday, October 25th  
6:00 – 7:30 PM

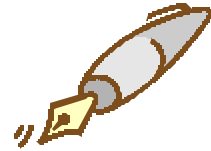
## Annual Eastern European Missions Dinner

Tuesday, October 27, 2009  
7:00 PM at the Embassy Suites

Learn more about EEM’s work in Europe and getting  
Bibles to school children.

Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

# A Note From the Elders



**Hello Church Family-**

**WOW- can it really be the first of October? It seems like we have just begun, but we are in the middle of the 40 Days of Prayer focus. We have had 3 weeks of Small Group meetings, Jason's Sermons from Acts, the Men's retreat focused on prayer, Wednesday night prayer time, the Men's monthly prayer breakfast and in just 2 week, the Ladies retreat, also focused on prayer! What an intense time of prayer or our church!**

**I can feel a change in the way I view and practice prayer because of this focus- How about you? Learning about how God defines prayer compared to what I have been taught and practiced has been eye opening and exciting.**

**At the end of the prayer retreat, the men were asked to sum up what they had learned over the weekend. I want to share three of those thoughts with you.**

- 1. Prayer is a relationship with God.**
- 2. In prayer you are not only seeking God, but God is seeking you! (Marco-Polo)**
- 3. When we pray, the Spirit within us interprets our groans and inadequate words and sends them to Jesus, who is standing at the right hand of the Father presenting our prayers. This is a time when all three parts of God are perfectly aligned.**

**As part of our renewed passion for prayer, The Shepherding Elders want to invite any member that wants to talk and pray with us to meet with our group for the first half hour of our regular monthly meeting. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30PM in the conference room. Please call the office beforehand and let Debbie know you plan to attend.**

**As we spend the next several weeks continuing to learn about prayer, the hope and the prayer of the elders is that each of you gain insight into what prayer can be, and that you will allow the Spirit to ignite and grow within you. God is waiting on us. Now is the time of revival and it begins with prayer.**

**In his Love**

**Kevin Herrmann for The Elders**



## ***Never Lose Hope***

**W**e are encouraged to continue in prayer and minister to the needs of others (cf. 1 Thess. 5:17; Gal. 6:2); to stand in the gap for those who need protection against enemy attacks. Our responsibility is to stand for as long as necessary. This requires perseverance and complete trust in God. It can be difficult when we continue to "stand" while God appears slow to respond. We can also become extremely discouraged when we think we understand how He should respond.

A good example of this is the friend of Jesus, Lazarus, who had become sick to the point of death, and his sisters were standing in the gap by ministering to his needs. They even sent word to Jesus in hopes that He would help. His reaction was, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." (John 11:4). John goes on to record, "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days" (vv. 5-6). Jesus did not immediately respond - and during this delay, Lazarus died. Yet this tragedy was for God's glory. When Jesus finally arrived, He raised Lazarus from the dead and taught the important message, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies" (John 11:25). Lazarus and his sisters would have preferred a healing during the early stage of the sickness - but that was not God's plan. His plan included much more than the temporary suffering of one family. His plan was to teach many people, through all generations, even to the present and beyond, that He was the sure way to eternal life. His plan was perfect. His timing was perfect. Just like when He was born (cf. Gal. 4:6 - "But when the time had fully come...").

We are all given opportunities to serve by meeting the needs of others. But as we serve, we must never take our eyes off our Heavenly Father. Our "job" is to stand in the gap and minister as His Spirit directs. It is never our responsibility to "fix" the people or circumstances we have been called to serve. When we faithfully serve we will find that God actually uses our effort to work on issues in our own life, e.g. trust; "Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge" (Psalm 62:8). Our lack of trust is revealed when we give up - when we despair and lose hope.

When our area of service seems out of control - when the need seems to outpace our ability to serve and God seems slow to respond - we must continue to trust Him with all our heart. These times of testing will draw us closer to God as we place everything in His sovereign care. He alone knows His plan, and His plan remains perfect. Let's continue to trust Him and serve as He directs. Let's continue with our eyes fixed on God, and never lose hope!

**Keep the Faith!!**

**Keep the Faith!!**

## Please Join Us

### Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM

### Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

## Our Ministries

Assembly Management  
Audio – Video  
Benevolence  
Deaf  
Education  
Fellowship  
Finance  
G.E.M.S. (Women's Ministry)  
Hospitality  
Interior Design Coordination  
Interfaith Hospitality Network  
LASC  
Leadership Training for Christ  
Maintenance (Building, Grounds)  
Marriage and Family  
Missions  
Man to Men (Men's Ministry)  
Music  
Nursery/Children's Worship  
Rainbow of Christians  
Small Groups  
Spanish Ministry  
Super Seniors  
Worship  
Youth



## Serve

**Leaders wanted** – Do you have an idea for a short term service group? If you would like to lead a group January – March 2010, please let Jason Noble know. 292-7649

**Grounds Clean Up Days** – October 24 and November 14 starting at 8 AM. Please bring yard tools, gloves. Sign up in the lobby.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network** will celebrate 10 years of service at with a Benefit Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 24th at the Embassy Suites. Tickets are \$50. Please contact Eric Cassetty for information. 298-4595.

**The LASC ministry** (Ladies Assisting, Sharing & Caring), which helps provide meals for our church family when there is a need such as death, illness, surgery and birth, is seeking additional volunteers. If you would like to serve in this ministry and occasionally be called upon to provide part of a meal please contact Sandy Henderson at 337-3882 or shenderson56@triad.rr.com.

**AGAPE of NC** Collection Day–The annual statewide collection day is December 13th. We are asking every family to save their spare change to add the collection. AGAPE provides Christian adoption, foster care and counseling services.

## *October Senior's Fellowship Night*

Where: at the Gilbert's house in Madison

Hosts: Vic & Teresa Moran *And* Randy & Debbie Gilbert

What: Dinner and Costume Party

Time: 5:00 PM

Wear a funny costume or disguise.

Please help us prepare by signing the list in the foyer if you plan to attend.

Soup, bread, dessert, tea and coffee provided.

Worship Study Serve