



December 2009

Volume 41

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On Our Prayer List

Wanda Brown is undergoing some tests.

Jacob Hardiman is recovering from surgery.

Cary Skipworth's mother, Christine, is under hospice care.

Tricia Parker's father is recovering from a serious fall.

Caleb Lemming requests prayers to find a job.

Continue to remember those fighting cancer: Adrian Harris's

sister, Melanie Clayton's mother, Bryan and Mark Brown's

stepfather, Amy Gilbert's mother

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Susan Creed on the loss of her mother, to Walena Brown on the loss of her brother, and to Jennifer Mantle on the loss of her aunt.

AGAPE of NC Annual Collection Day

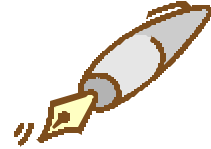


The annual statewide collection day is December 13th. AGAPE provides Christian adoption, foster care and counseling services.

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ^{al} the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."***

Luke 2:8-14

A Note From the Elders



Hello Church Family-

With the holiday season upon us, it is a great time to think about how Christians should observe Christmas. Should Christmas look different for Christians than for non-Christians? As we think about the hectic pace of this season, are we taking time to show Christ to the people around us, or do we look and act as harried as everyone else. Is our main concern finding that much sought after gift for our child? How to juggle family visits? How to make time for all of those holiday parties? How are we different from the world around us?

I would like to look at the example of James, Jesus' brother. Remember him? He was one of Jesus' family who thought he was insane and should come home in the early part of Jesus' ministry (Mk 3:21). Later he wrote a letter to the churches reminding them that following Jesus is about doing not just believing (James 2). The example his big brother set all during His life was about serving. Even when the religious experts were telling Him to stop, He kept on healing and meeting the needs of those around Him. He kept serving and giving, even to the cross.

As we go through this holiday season, let the people around us see that example as well. Find opportunities to serve the people around you and show Jesus through your service. Set an example for your children that Christians are different from others in the world. Let them see that your priority is to serve others.

The list below contains just a few things that are available at Friendly for service this month. Find time to do some things with your families that are on the list. Do other things that are not on the list. Let people see us living Christ daily. My prayer is that each of you has a great holiday season, but most importantly that you become more like Christ daily.

December Service Opportunities at FACC

1. Potter's House- 2nd Saturday from 9AM- 1PM- See Larry Plott
2. Holiday Dinner for a local Agency- December 10th- prepare, set up or clean up- see Rhonda Gould
3. Angel Tree- buy a present for a FACC member child- See Cynthia Parks
4. Clothing collected for refugee families- see Coral Kaplan by 12/2
5. Teachers needed- holiday is travel time- if you are in town- volunteer for the nursery or children's classes- See Ann Desmond
6. Food Pantry- many items needed- see Marie Harris
7. Agape Holiday drive- December 13th- bring your change (and checks) to support this great cause- see Nicole Spickard, Randy Morgan or Dan Kirby for more information about other needs for AGAPE.
8. Christmas fellowship- December 13th- clean up and serving needed- contact Staff
9. Visit someone in a Nursing Home
10. Call a person who has lost someone close this year and just give love- not advice.
11. Write letters to servicemen serving during the holidays.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27

Kevin Herrmann on behalf of the Elders

2010

Experience **family**

Enrich friendships

Explore **faith**

Friendly Avenue is a community of believers

We have several faith communities (groups) that will meet or begin meeting in January, 2010. These study and service groups are safe, nurturing environments designed as incubators for spiritual growth. To participate in one of these groups, you may sign-up in the lobby or contact the church office at 292-7649.

Missional Living, led by Peter Rode. This study group will meet on Sunday evenings beginning Jan-10 and concluding Feb-21st. The focus of this group will be to explore the ways in which our faith impacts our lives in terms of loving our neighbor and serving our community.

Men's Study Group, led by Kevin Herrmann. Will meet on Saturday mornings beginning Jan-16 and concluding March-6th. This men's group will study the role and significance of prayer in our lives as Christians.

Ladies Celebration of Disciplines group, led by Rhonda Gould and Nancy Blackwood. Will meet Tuesday evenings beginning Jan-19. This group is for ladies 35 years old or younger.

Formation Group, led by Jason Noble. Will begin Jan-10 and conclude Mar-14 meeting at various times, mostly on the weekend. This is a blended study/service group with an emphasis on spiritual formation. This group is limited to 10 people.

Parents Prayer Group, led by Nathan and Jennifer Hardiman. Will meet on Sunday evenings during LTC/Youth Group time beginning in Jan-10. Any parent is invited to participate, and we are especially encouraging parents who have children in the youth group to join this group.

Ladies Prayer Group, led by Ann Desmond and Amy Gilbert. Meets once a month on Sunday evenings for a time of prayer.

Gilbert Care Group, led by Randy and Debbie Gilbert. Meets weekly on Sunday evenings in Rockingham county. Starts Jan. 10.

Akers Care Group, led by Jim and Dixie Akers. Meets Sunday during lunch at the church building.

Sproles Care Group, led by David and Renee Sproles. Meets weekly on Sunday evening in Greensboro.

New to Friendly - Beginning February 7th

We are inviting anyone who is new to our church to join us on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45. Beginning Feb-7, this three week welcoming group is designed to help those who are new to Friendly more fully experience the family of faith at Friendly Avenue. This group is for both members and non-members. It is for anyone who wants to know more about our church.

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

Worship

Study

Serve

Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for the lovely basket of plants you sent to me at the time of my mother's death. It was a sweet reminder of your love and all of your prayers for me at this tough time.

Much Love,
Susan Creed

Welcome to our New Members

Ethan Chaffin was baptized on Nov. 21st
Anthony and Paula Serria were baptized on Nov. 26

Alan and Gina Mauldin have placed membership.

Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of our food pantry. We have assisted more than 530 people with food this year. You can help by donating non-perishable canned and boxed foods to the pantry or by donating money that our pantry workers can use to purchase items needed. If you would like to be on our food pantry shoppers group list, please contact Debbie in the office. We try to alert our shoppers by email when we see sales on items we use in the pantry.



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

*Jason, Peter, Bryan,
Willie, Joe
Ann and Debbie*