



Words of Friendship

January 2012

*Friendship Presbyterian Church
(USA)*

*8531 Macon Highway
Athens, Georgia 30606
(706) 543-6077*

www.gotofriendship.org



Adult Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

*May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace.
Rom. 15:13*



Women's Circle 1



Circle One will meet on Tuesday morning, January 10th, at 9:45am at the church.

The Bible study will be on the Beatitudes - Matthew 5:7; Luke 19:25-37

Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy!

The Men will meet for their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 5th at 7 pm in the Friendship Room.



We encourage all men to join us for good food and a time of fellowship.

Thanks to Donna McGinty, Nancy Graham, and Linda Kelly for preparing and serving the meal at the Athens Homeless Shelter in December.

Thanks to Barbara Remmers and family for the gift of wonderful Christmas treats for the Congregation after the service on December 4th.



Thanks to Shirley Harris and the Mission Group for a delicious lunch after the service on December 12th.



I would like to thank everyone for the goodies, gifts, and flowers left in the church office during the past month. You are a great bunch of people to work for. I believe God has great things in store for Friendship in 2012!

I wish each of you a Happy New Year,
Donna Rigsby




FADED or TATTERED FLAGS

Our Boy Scout Troop 149 conduct ceremonies from time to time for the retirement of “tired” United States flags. These flags are then disposed of in a dignified and proper manner. No flag retirement ceremony is scheduled at this time but they are collecting flags to be disposed of. If you have a flag to be retired, you could leave it at the church office or give it to a scout. In case you would like to attend the ceremony when your flag is retired, attach a note and you will be notified as to when and where the ceremony will take place.



HOUSES GREATLY NEEDED – Northeast Georgia Presbytery is for the 24th year responding to the great need for descent housing in Mexico. This Mexico Work Mission will not only move four families out of cardboard, dirt floored shacks but will provide the participants a first hand exposure to another culture and an opportunity to share God’s love with those less fortunate than we are. Applications need to be submitted before **Feb. 1, 2012**. Information sheets and application forms may be obtained from the presbytery web site www.negapby.org .



A Note of Thanks

Sue Harris would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls during the death of her sister.



Ben has just graduated from UGA with honors and has a job.



Philipp Nicolai

By: Kevin Kelly

One of the hymns we will sing for Epiphany is “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” by Philipp Nicolai. Some of the greatest contributions to the church’s hymn repertory are those of the early Lutheran writers, beginning with Martin Luther and reaching a peak in J. S. Bach, with Nicolai falling between these two giants.

Nicolai was born in 1556 in Hessen, Germany, the son of a Lutheran pastor. He studied theology at the universities of Erfurt and Wittenberg from 1575 to 1579 and became a pastor himself. Soon after his first appointment at Herdecke, he encountered many difficulties with the Catholic town council. Several times he had to go into hiding and minister to his Lutheran congregation in secret house meetings. These conflicts reached a peak in 1586, when Nicolai was driven from his post by Spanish troops of the Counter Reformation.

By the end of 1586 Nicolai had been appointed pastor at Niederwildungen, where troubles of his career continued, this time because of disagreement over certain theological issues with the Calvinists. Ten years later he began serving at Unna in Westphalia. While he was pastor there, the city fell victim to the plague in 1597-98, which took the lives of over 1300 people. From the parsonage that overlooked the churchyard, Nicolai could witness all the funerals passing by his window. From these scenes of death he turned to studying St. Augustine’s City of God and contemplating the eternal life, which apparently sustained him amid the surrounding distress. To comfort his parishioners, in 1599 he published the fruits of his meditations in a treatise called The Joyous Mirror of Life Eternal, and to these pious reflections he added two hymns that quickly attained widespread popularity.

The first hymn was “Sleepers Awake” (#17 in the Presbyterian hymnal). Regarded as an Advent hymn, it employs the image of a watchman on a city wall (Isaiah 52:8), the parable of the bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13), and the song of heaven’s triumph (Revelation 19:6-9). This hymn tune finds special prominence in Bach Cantata #140, and in Mendelssohn’s oratorio Elijah.

The second of Nicolai’s hymns was “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” (#69 in our hymnal). With its wealth of imagery, this hymn celebrates the triumph of Christ as our deliverer. It became so popular in Nicolai’s day that it was often played on city chimes, and it was even printed on earthenware dishes. Since then it has become a favorite hymn for weddings, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

The text of “O Morning Star” marks the transition to a more mystical and personal phase of German hymn writing. Previously, hymn texts of the Reformation had been characterized by their impersonal and formal tone, fashioned primarily for use in church services. Now, however, in the writings of Nicolai and others a more individual approach develops. A favorite subject was the mystical union of Christ with the soul; more secular allusions and similes were admitted, and hymns began to be composed whose language manifests a new sincerity and personal feeling.

In 1601 Philipp Nicolai was elected chief pastor of St. Katherine’s church in Hamburg where he served the rest of his life, finally achieving the recognition and widespread esteem denied him in earlier years. He died in 1608.



Casa de Amistad

The mission of Casa de Amistad is to identify and address the needs of the under-served Hispanic community through direct service, education, advocacy and community involvement; and to create a just and harmonious, multicultural community.

Many thanks to our members who contributed a food box for Casa de Amistad. The Open House was a success, filled with music, food, fellowship, and piñatas for the children. There were 58 families that received a box this year. Friendship donated 11 of these, and they were very much appreciated. Gracias!

...Judy Hibbs



ATHENS AREA HOMELESS SHELTER

The end of 2011 marks the end of our association with the homeless shelter. We have found it to be a very erratic association, sometimes two meals scheduled for the same night or the residents having ordered pizza to eat on the same night we were providing the meal. Also at times no one there to eat the meal that has been prepared. It has gotten to the point of being so haphazard that we as a Session agreed to take our efforts in a different direction. This was not an easy decision, but we feel it is the right one for us at this time.

Beverly Davis, Mission Group



Preschool Happenings

By: Kelly Jones,
Preschool Director



The Preschool Children enjoyed a visit from Santa after their Holiday musical



Open House for the 2012-2013 Preschool Year will be Friday, January 13.
Registration for Church Members and New Students will be Friday, January 20 from 8am-12pm.



Scouting at Friendship

By

Scoutmaster Paul Matthews



Happy New Year to all from our Scouts and leaders!

This year's annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa in December was again a successful fund-raiser for our Troop and a good opportunity to showcase the Scouts and the Church to the community. This is especially important as January is when we pay our rechartering fees to the Scout Council, and also (believe it or not!) start making payments for summer camp.

One of our troop's Patrols did a cycling trip in December, and we held our annual "lock-in" at Athens Academy's gym, where Scouts and adults stayed up all night long playing football, board games, basketball, watching movies, and celebrating the completion of school for this fall. Many Scouts also took the opportunity to work on the new Chess Merit Badge at the lock-in! The Troop has also held its elections for the next six months of leadership, starting with the new year, and several Scouts also finished off Lifesaving Merit Badge at sessions at the YMCA. During our troop meetings, we have also been working on Geocaching, Family Life, and Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badges (Scouts working on the latter are planning a trip to the FBI in Atlanta this month!). January meetings will also bring Citizenship in the World Merit Badge, another Appalachian Trail pre-trek hike for Philmont participants, as well as preparation for the "Klondike Derby" camporee, where the troop will host the Webelos from Pack 149.

On Christmas Eve, our Scouts again assembled and lit the 700-plus Christmas Eve luminaries, our longest-running troop service project and one which we always enjoy. Other service projects are underway, including an Eagle project installing fruit trees at the Northeast Georgia Food Bank.

The Cub Pack and Venturing Crew also are busy with meetings and trips. The Pack took part in the Watkinsville Christmas parade again this year and is gearing up for a trip to the USS Yorktown over MLK weekend. The Crew held their annual party and white-elephant holiday gift swap, and is heading to Sugar Mtn, NC for snow skiing in January.

At the end of January, several of our adult leaders will be recognized at the annual Cherokee District Banquet: Mari Turner, Cub Scouter of the Year; Janet Smith, Boy Scout Troop Committee Member of the Year; Arthur Smith, Outstanding Leadership Award; Jason Flanagan, Pioneer Award; Jason Roth, Pioneer Award; and Jeff Sturm, District Award of Merit. Congratulations, all! Congratulations are also in order to Scoutmaster Paul Matthews, who married Michele Miles (Scoutmaster of Troop 44) at the Oconee Co. Civic Center on December 30, with many Scout families in attendance.

We hope that all of you at Friendship have a great New Year! It's not too early to remind you that we look forward to being with you all at our annual "Scout Sunday" on Sunday, Feb. 5th. Thanks for your continued support of the Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, and Cub Scout Pack. Best wishes from all of us to each of you for a great 2012!



JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

	Liturgist	Money Counters
1	Wendy Arthur	Jason Adams
8	TBD	Wendy Arthur
15	TBD	Beverly Davis
22	TBD	David Ivy
29	TBD	Donna McGinty

Friendship Presbyterian Church				
Year-To-Date Through November, 2011				
			Over / (Under)	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual (1)</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Receipts				
Receipts from Congregation	110,634	122,163	11,529	57%
Dye House Rent	8,883	8,883	-	4%
Support from Preschool	55,550	55,550	-	26%
Multicultural Grants	22,081	27,547	5,467	13%
All Other Income	229	770	541	
Total Receipts	197,377	214,913	17,536	
Expenses				
Ministry	118,426	112,911		
Administration	110,091	108,547		
Outreach	3,387	3,307		
Operating Expenses	231,903	224,764	(7,139)	
Net Income / (Deficit)	(34,527)	(9,851)	24,675	
Cash in Bank November 2011				
General Fund	2,618.81			
Restricted Fund	4,337.61			
Total Cash in Bank		6,956.42		
Kerry Hill Educational Fund		6,024.20		
Savings November 2011		61,697.57		
Mortgage Debt		140,088.36		



JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  New Year's Day 9:45 AM Adult English Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	2 Church Office Closed for the Holidays	3 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	4 <i>Carmen Rodriguez</i> 7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal	5 <i>Ernie Perry</i> 7:00 PM Men's Club	6 Epiphany	7
8 <i>Kevin Kelly</i> 9:45 AM Adult English Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	9 12:45 PM Preschool Committee Mtg 6:00 PM Pack Committee Mtg	10 9:45 AM Circle One 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers	11 <i>Ariene Crossley</i> <i>Ben Ivy</i> 7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 <i>Alan & Suzanne White</i> <i>Wendy Arthur</i>
15 9:45 AM Adult English Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	16 Church Office Closed <i>Martha Courie</i> Martin L. King, Jr. Day 7:00 PM Session Meeting	17 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers	18 7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal	19 <i>Thomas Akeley</i> 6:30 PM Pack 149 Meeting	20	21 <i>Bert Ivy</i>
22 9:45 AM Adult English Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	23	24 <i>Mery Moron</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers	25 7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal	26 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	27	28
29 <i>Kathy Perry</i> 9:45 AM Adult English Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	30 <i>Jason White</i>	31 <i>Henry Hibbs</i> <i>Jane Towles</i> <i>Lizbet Arana</i> <i>Mollie Nix</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers	1 7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00 PM Men's Club	3	4



Happy New Year

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Church (USA)*

Church E-mails:

Church Office: office@gotofriendship.org

Please check out our website @
www.gotofriendship.org for our online calendar

Please submit news for the February edition of
Words of Friendship

to the church office no later than

Sunday, January 22, 2012.

Due to office schedule submissions after this date may
not appear in next month's newsletter.
All submissions are subject to editing.

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

As followers of Jesus Christ, assured of God's unconditional love for everyone, we strive to be an accepting and joyful community that centers upon worship, encourages personal growth, celebrates diversity, nurtures individual gifts, and moves beyond boundaries to share, through service, Jesus' love, compassion, and justice in an uncertain world.

Grace to you and peace, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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