

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

www.bereafriendshipumc.org

Internet Homepage:

Church Office: 864-246-4311

Berea FRIENDSHIP NEWS



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Greenville, SC 29617
8001 White Horse Road
Berea Friendship United Methodist Church

May 2021

Berea Friendship UMC Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Communication in churches is an interesting phenomenon! The Lord is my witness! Please let me share a story to prove my point. When in ministry at Bethesda UMC, I heard a church member had been admitted to the hospital so I went to visit. I stepped into the hospital room at 9:30 in the morning. I had barely stepped in the room when a doctor entered half a minute later, so I graciously stepped aside. Some test had been run, but Suzy had not received any news concerning her condition. NO NEWS! Forgive your pastor – the doctor was huge, 6 feet 8 inches about 300 pounds, and frankly I thought he looked like a gorilla! Apparently I saw him at his best!!! This doctor sat down and began telling Susie in detail how she would die - three agonizing pain filled weeks and nothing could be done. Suzy knew nothing! The doctor assumed she had most of the information, except the gruesome part. I was horrified, in disbelief! Had I witnessed an attempted ax murder it could not have been worse! The doctor began stammering and fumbling around! You didn't know? He quickly left! Suzy's life was obliterated by his thoughtless callus approach! Unfortunately he was correct about those three weeks.

Now fast forward to 3:30pm the same day, another visit. This is the story circulating among those talking back and forth at Bethesda UMC. **Oh he was the sweetest little man!** The doctor was so kind, so gentle, so compassionate, so understanding, and the accolades went on and on. It was difficult news for Susie, but it could not have been handled better. Thank the Lord! God was in it every step of the way. ??????????? I let the story stand as it was. I went home dumbfounded! The Lord is my witness!

Hear are some truths about human communication. We all hear things differently, each person focusing on what stands out in their mind. Every time a story is shared it gets distorted in that way for better, or worse. People hear and believe what they want to hear and believe, supporting their own perspective and interest. People are constantly forgetting and confusing the information they have. No matter how many times a truth is communicated, it needs to be said again and again. This is why it is imperative for the God's people to stay in God's word daily, so we have a true point of reference. That even includes the foolishness of preaching, when men and women like myself try to communicate what is divine and infinitely beyond human understanding. The church must hear truth over and over, to be who God intends us to be.

This is the preacher's point. Berea Friendship UMC is entering a most crucial time in its history. Berea Friendship is positioned to launch into an amazing future, or continue slowly declining. We will make that choice! Your pastor is going to make sure no one can say, "I didn't know anything about it." That comment will no longer be relevant. Please ask the persons who can answer your questions correctly - committee chairpersons or myself. I am always available, and will return all requests to speak. Communication is going to be my priority in this crucial time! Hard copy information will be available in the church, always on line, always with a call to someone who knows. And the buck stops with me! A new section will be in the Newsletter, "Meeting Minutes." If minutes and other available info does not provide what you need, please call! The most accurate information is available to you Berea Friendship. Please use me!

Much Love In Christ,

Pastor Davon



May Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 01 | Vivian Day |
| | Jean Busha |
| | Linda Crouch |
| | Craig McClain |
| | Monroe Stone |
| | Joyce Tucker |
| 02 | Roddy Moore |
| 03 | Bobbie Bogan |
| 04 | Barry Childs |
| 07 | Martha McWhite |
| 08 | Dismas Beeson |
| 09 | Susan Baird |
| 10 | Don Baird |
| 10 | Renee Teat Zorn |
| 13 | Katie Rawson |
| 15 | Bob Helms |
| 16 | Melissa Hughes Hazel |
| 17 | Janet Stone |
| 18 | Allen Zorn |
| 19 | Becky Mann |
| 24 | Brenda Benton |
| 25 | April Gray |
| 26 | Debbie Jo Smith |
| | Daniel Surett |
| 27 | James Wesley Gray |
| 30 | Brandon Hester |
| 31 | Glenda Argo |

Happy Anniversary

May Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 05 | Millie & Bob Dunn |
| 12 | Debbie Jo & Tom Smith |
| 13 | Patti & Bobby Taylor |
| 16 | Pam & Davon Harrelson |
| 17 | Jan & Andy Vaughan |
| 19 | Debbie & Steve Capps |

PLEASE HELP UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

We are only listing those who we know are in nursing/Assisted living homes, the home-bound, those who are hospitalized at present, and those who are at present undergoing medical procedures such as chemo, etc. We do not want to leave anyone out so if you want your name or loved ones name listed, please notify the church office. We will up-date this list every 30 days—please help us with this important endeavor.



Sympathy

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Bobby and Patti Taylor** upon the death of Bobby's brother, Stephen Wayne Taylor, 62 years old, husband of Jessica Fricks Taylor. Stephen passed away on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

He is survived by wife Jessica Taylor; daughters Elizabeth, Ricki, Monica, and Zoe; brothers Jim, Chuck, Bobby, and Travis; grandson, Richard.

The Memorial service was held on Friday, April 30, 2021 at Thomas McAfee Northwest visitation was held from 12:00 to 1:15 and the memorial service was held in the chapel at 1:30 pm.

Sympathy

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Jan Smith and family** upon the loss of Jan's mother in law Helen Smith who passed away on April 10, 2021.

Helen is preceded in death by her son Jerry A. Smith. Helen was buried at Woodlawn Memorial Park on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

Helen joined us on many occasions at Berea Friendship UMC and will be so missed.

Prayer List

- | |
|---|
| Bobby and Patti Taylor upon the loss of Bobby's brother Steve |
| Laura Childs as she awaits surgery |
| Jan Smith and family on the loss of her Mother in law Helen Smith |
| Howard Johnson as he waits on test |
| Brenda Johnson's niece, Debbie Hawkins as she takes Chemo |
| Bobbie Bogan as she heals from surgery and her fall |
| Milton Mullinax, hospitalized with sepsis following knee replacement is home doing better |
| Pastor Davon and family upon the death of his Aunt Virginia |
| Beverly Jardin and family upon the loss of Richard Jardin |
| Disher family upon the loss of John Disher |
| Dawn Stewart, Bob & Donna Helms in the death of Shain Stewart |
| Stone family in the death of Alex's Father Buddy Stone |
| Blanche Creswell |
| Beverly Jardin |
| Molene McDuffie Family in the death of Molene |
| Philpot Family in the loss of Joe |
| Hester Family in the loss of Joe |
| Mann Family in the death of Elmo |
| Clements Family—Greer Family in the loss of Troy Clements |
| Durham Family in the loss of Barbara's sister |
| Laura Childs |
| Patty Bowers doing much better |
| Nancy McCants |
| Robert Moler, Linda Crouch's brother |
| Janet Stone and Alex Stone |
| Mildred Pollard |
| Allen Zorn |
| Millie Dunn |
| Shirley Dickson |
| Jane-Hunt Grady |
| Kathleen Griffin |

In Need of a sitter?

If you know of someone who might be in need of a sitter. Someone you would be completely at ease with staying with your loved one and taking care of them. We have the perfect person for you. Barbara Thackston (Molene McDuffie's daughter) is looking for a job sitting. She is in need of someone to help after the passing of her mother Molene. If you are interested, please call her at 864-246-2118.

Administrative Council Meeting

Highlights from Administrative Council Meeting

April 20, 2021

- Church is financially stable at present
- Trustees have been productive – room ready for Epworth staff to move in May 5th
 - Projects include seek bids for heat and air contract – preventative maintain
 - Expected site visit by insurance company in preparation renew contract
 - Inventory of building to be conducted / furniture etc.
- Young children's ministry - Children's Program committee working to have new plans and programs in place by May 16
- May 22 – Car show to sponsor outreach ministry for Berea Elementary
Also UMW hosting Vendor fair on May 22nd in addition to a food vendor for Barbeque
- Worship Committee organize sacraisty – in process clean paraments – obtain new flower arrangements
- Updated technologies being researched for sound systems
- External hard-drive to be obtained to store videos of services and other data
- Agreement to purchase copyright contract to enhance music program
- CDC doing well. With increased children in programs intent to increase donations to church – agree donations to be spent on projects that benefit both church and CDC.
- Forward FOCUS group making progress. Report to congregation expected soon,
- Quilters to begin some new activities soon – one sewing / one other activity per month. Watch for more details – plan Tues morning session at 10am and Thursday evening at 6:30
- Discussion of – developing a “wish list” by church – items that could be purchased as permanent memorials of members and loved ones of church. Committee may be subcommittee of bereavement committee.

Contact Pastor Davon for more details if requested.

BFUMC / Trustees

Location: Huckabee Classroom
Date: April 10, 2021
Time: 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

- I. Attendance: Dena, Ronnie, Rob, Dawn, Corky, Rick, Davon, Vickie,
- II. Trustees voted to extend Rental Agreement with McCall Residential Management, LLC, and our current Tenant.
- III. Extending the current Fire Alarm System for coverage to the upstairs classrooms. Pye Barker advised that current system can be expanded and will be submitting a quote for adding Fire Pulls, warning siren, smoke detectors to the upstairs area, and include a warning siren in the gym.
- IV. Security, researching how to secure the Sanctuary doors by getting quotes from Priority One Security, Southeastern Alarm Systems, and Comelit
- V. Quotes from 2 Heating and Air Companies. (McGee & OHI) Handouts to each Trustee, Davon, and Vickie (AC). Asked Trustees to study over each quote, ask questions, and
- VI. Fire Extinguishers in the Sanctuary, Upstairs, and on the Mezzanine to be checked 1 time each month. The Trustee of the Month will take this duty.
 - a) Look at the Extinguisher Pressure Gauge and make sure the Dial is in the GREEN. If in the Green, then Initial and Date the Card.
 - b) If Not in the Green, this mean undercharged, discharged or leaking. Report this to Pye Barker and they will switch out that Extinguisher with a new one. Report at the next Trustee meeting.
 - c) CDC checks Fire Extinguishers in their area and the Kitchen.
- VII. Reviewed the Workday Task List and work was divided.

A New Day in Children's Ministry

In the Old Testament we read: *Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.*

In the New Testament, Jesus himself says: *Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.*

Inspired and challenged by these simple yet powerful words, an effort to reignite Berea Friendship's ministry to children is underway. The Children's Education Committee, formed earlier this year, has as its goal to establish a program for preschool and grade school children that **introduces them to the teachings of Jesus Christ – a program, in the words of our pastor, that is “second to none” in presenting the power of the Good News of our faith to the “tender plants” throughout our community.**

The idea for such a ministry began nearly two years ago; initial efforts included reviewing possible resources as well as visiting another church with a strong children's ministry. Like so many other things, those efforts were suspended during the pandemic.

But, beginning in March of this year, those early efforts have been renewed with much enthusiasm and a great sense of purpose. The Children's Education Committee has been officially established and has met regularly to look at these key items as we move forward: determining the best resources to use as the foundation of the ministry, the best formats to put in place, the most effective way to begin, and the additional volunteers needed to make the program come to life.

At its April 14 meeting, the committee agreed that while it is still working through the above issues, some initial steps need to be taken right away. All committee members agreed it is so important to ensure that when children walk in our doors on a Sunday morning, we are ready, that we are prepared and can offer them a quality Children's Moment in the service followed by a well-planned lesson during Children's Church. Several members of the committee are currently preparing material from resources already purchased for those Sundays to come.

Continued from front page

Our goal is to begin this first part of the church's renewed ministry to children Sunday, May 16. "Experiencing God's Love" is the theme we will share with children that day. The date and theme will be publicized through our website and on the church's Facebook page as well as through this newsletter and announcements from the pulpit. All church members are encouraged to spread the word about this special Sunday to family and friends.

It is the committee's hope to build on what has taken place thus far so that, ultimately, we can have in place resources and leaders not only for Children's Church but also for Church School classes for children, for Chapel and special sessions involving the CDC children, and for a Vacation Bible School.

As the Children's Ministry Committee continues its work, its prayer is that all that is done will glorify God and support one of the key goals in the *Forward Focus* strategic plan - "*to reach out into our community to engage in mission ministries where God is calling us to serve.*"

Additional information will be shared in the weeks ahead. The committee welcomes the ideas and, most of all, the prayers of all members of BF.

It has often been said that children are great imitators; it is our challenge and our opportunity at BFUMC to give the children who come our way something great to imitate – the example of Jesus Christ.

(Committee members: Davon Harrelson, Shannon Finley, Ellen Holman, Margaret Rawson, Carol Presnell, Martha McWhite, Brenda Benton, and former BF members Kim Embler and Becky Mann)



Finance Committee Meeting

April 13, 2021 Finance meeting

Attendees: Tony Earnest
Pastor, Davon Harrelson
Treasurer, Debbie Gissendanner
Financial Secretary Pat Teat
Administrative Council Vicki Failor

Prayer Pastor Davon Harrelson

Business: A review of offerings vs expense was discussed.

As of March 31 we currently have an available bank balance of \$70,011.30

The conversion of conventional lighting to LED lighting in the church has resulted in a savings of around \$100 on our monthly electric bill.

The committee discussed the new Pay Pal method of giving. Pay Pal will charge a 3% fee on each transaction. Vicki Failor is our point of contact for the Pay Pal account and is providing a monthly summary of Pay Pal giving to Pat Teat.

Finally a discussion on how Memorials should be directed toward church needs was discussed with a recommendation that the issue would be discussed in the next Administrative Council meeting.

Thank you

Tony Earnest

Forward Focus Update

Our church's Forward Focus team continues to meet and work on BFUMC's strategic plan to fulfill our mission and vision. Various groups within the church are already addressing some of the goals as they plan projects and events. Please check the church website for the outline of the plan to see ways we can all become involved in this exciting time in the life of BF. The team's next meeting is Wednesday evening, May 19, at 6:00 in the fellowship hall.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will be sponsoring a Vendor Show on May 22. If you have any one you think might be interested in participating as a vendor please let Anne-Marie or Vickie know. We will also need ladies to volunteer to help us that day. If you are willing to volunteer for any length of time please let Anne-Marie or Vickie know.

We will also be doing our yearly fundraiser of Mother's Day and Father's Day Recognitions.

The donations help us support our mission projects. You can complete the attached form and mail the form and your donation to Anne-Marie Wallace –651 Sulphur Springs Rd., Greenville SC, 29617 or you can mail it to the church with the attention of UMW on it at 8001 White Horse Rd., Greenville, SC 29617. Since we are not having bulletins for the weekly service, we will publish the donations list in recognition of these special people in our lives in the newsletter for June. Please have your donations turned in by May 1st for Mother's Day and June 6th for Father's Day, you can turn in both by the first deadline if you would like to. We will also try to have them on the church website. We request a \$1.00 donation for each special person you recognize.

The Friendship Circle will meet on May 18, 2021 at 2 pm at the Church.

The Shalom Circle will meet on May 15, 2021 at 11:30 am at the Church.

Our prayer focus for May is on the Moore Community House in Biloxi, Mississippi. Moore Community House is a mission agency of United Methodist Women and has served the families of East Biloxi since 1924. Other partners who work with them to make it a success include United Way and the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Their goal is to help the community flourish by creating economic security for women through affordable child care and job training for work that pays a living wage.

The Moore Community House "Women in Construction" program trains women for careers in construction and advanced manufacturing. This helps meet the needs of families as well as the demands of industry in the area.

The Moore Community House Early Head Start program provides early childhood and comprehensive health and family support services to low income families, pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age three. Head Start activities include art, music, and story time.

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Nora Marker in California and Robin Minick in North Carolina.

UMW Special Recognition

I/We have enclosed \$1.00 for each of the names I/We are recognizing for a total of \$ _____

UMW Special Recognition

I/We have enclosed \$1.00 for each of the names I/We are recognizing for a total of \$ _____

Responsively Yours: Opening the Door and Keeping It Open

by Harriett Jane Olson

Women's History Month in the United States and International Women's Day (March 8) are times when we celebrate many "firsts." The recent U.S. presidential inauguration showcased several such firsts: Vice President Kamala Harris, first woman, first African American and first South Asian in this position; Justice Sonia Sotomayor, first Hispanic on the U.S. Supreme Court; and Amanda Gorman, first youth poet laureate. Did you know that Kizzmekia Corbett, a lead scientist for coronavirus vaccine research at the National Institutes of Health, is a team leader for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine? One of several women making a difference in this highly specialized field, Corbett is a 34-year-old African American woman from North Carolina.

It is good and right for us to notice firsts, and, at the same time, we would be well served to look around them for the people who supported and paved the way, people with skills and attributes we need to learn from. We are not all equipped to be viral immunologists, but we can all work to lift up the women and girls around us, pray for them, help them to believe in themselves and to exert the effort required to remove barriers—especially the interconnected barriers of gender and race.

The history of United Methodist Women is full of stories of doing just that. Theressa Hoover broke barriers when she became the highest ranking woman executive in The Methodist Church as the head of staff of the Women's Division. She leaves a legacy of breaking barriers herself and addressing barriers faced by other women and girls. One of the blessings of times of remembrance is the opportunity to learn our predecessor's stories and to recommit ourselves to follow as they have led. It was at a Women's History Conference that historian and missiologist Dana Robert encouraged me to learn the story of Mary Clarke Nind, a barrier-breaking leader early in the history of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society that many of us have met through our 150th anniversary study and Robert's earlier work, *Joy to the World*. So, yes, let's look back and celebrate.

It's important to recover the names of women whom history might neglect—think about the power of the research that led us to name the heroes of Hidden Figures fame: Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson. Look to the stories of women in the Bible, both named and unnamed, who broke barriers and lifted others up.

It's also important for us to know that these were real women—not paragons. Some of the highly lauded women's suffrage leaders used racist tropes in their advocacy, and many did not press forward after the adoption of the 19th Amendment to work for effective access to the vote for women of color or for poor women. This makes it all the more important for us to stand against voter suppression today and to be willing to examine who is excluded and who might be harmed if we are not alert.

So, let's celebrate. Let's remove curtains of race or gender that hide accomplishments of our foremothers. Let's learn from them and from the people around them about breaking barriers so that women and girls have freedom to flourish and to follow God's call. And let's lift up our sisters, showing leadership and giftedness at every age and all over our organization and our communities.

OUTREACH/UMW MINISTRIES

The UMW/Outreach Ministries will be hosting a Vendor Fair on May 22, 2021 from 8 am- 5 pm. In addition to this we will have a car show and games from 1 pm – 5 pm. We will have a BBQ truck from 11 am – 5 pm. There will be games and inflatables along with music. Please come out that day and enjoy a fun filled day. Please share with your family members and neighbors. If you would like a flyer, please see Larry McCants, Vickie Failor or Anne-Marie Wallace.

Flyer included in newsletter

Spring Family Fun Day



Car Show

May 22, 2021

1pm - 5pm

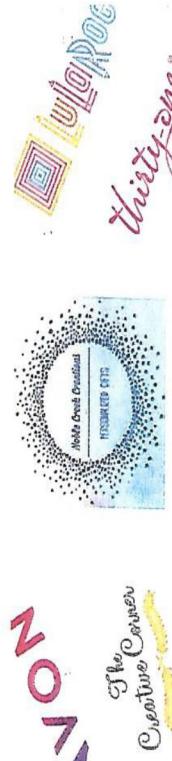
Nut'n Butts BBQ Food Truck

11am - 5pm

Games for all ages

Inflatables for kids

Snacks and Drinks



Vendor Show

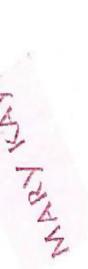


May 22, 2021

8am - 5pm

Nut'n Butts BBQ Food Truck

11am - 5pm



Berea Friendship United Methodist Church 8001 White Horse Rd, Greenville, SC 29617

Thank You from the church Staff

Dear Berea Congregation,

I want to thank you for the Christmas Gift I received today. You have been a congregation who has been very loving and kind to me and it is a privilege to be a part of the music ministry at Berea Friendship. I am grateful that God allowed me to be a part of this church.

I am looking forward to bringing the choir back into rehearsals within the next month. We will spend the first few weeks in working with our voices . It has been a long absence and our voices will need to get back into shape. The choir has almost completed their vaccine shots. They have also purchased "Singers Masks" which will not muffle their sounds, keep the masks dry and also protect the congregation from droplets in the air. Unless there is extreme Covid 19 variances that inflicts our congregation, we will be looking forward to doing the Christmas program and of course, begin singing Sunday services sometime this summer.

I would also ask you to pray for new singers to join the choir. We have had great loss in the choir, and if any of you are able to sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass to consider being a part of this special group.

Again, I thank all of you for your caring and kindness. Joan Kotrady

Thank you for the Christmas Gift I received from the congregation. I really appreciate it and thank you for all your support during the years as I have took care of paying the bills for Berea Friendship UMC. Your love and thoughtful acts of kindness mean so much to me.

Debbie Gissendanner

I would like to say thanks to my church family for the Christmas Bonus that I received recently. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. I am blessed to be on the staff of Berea Friendship UMC,

Blessings and love to all! Pat Teat

I want to say a big "Thank You" to the church congregation for the Christmas Bonus I received. Your kindness and love means so very much to me. Thank you for all your support over the years you have been such a blessing to me.

Much Love, Debbie Capps

Thank You

Thank you all so much for the kind donation in memory of Mary Penland. We are confident that God will bless this donation and multiply it many times in the ministry of Berea Friendship UMC.

Our sincere thanks,

The Penland Family

Dear Church Family,

How blessed I am to have such a loving and supportive church family! To know that so many of you were praying for me each day while I was in the hospital and after I came home, was so gratifying! God heard and answered those prayers and made me whole again! This church family means so much to me and I can't thank you enough for all of your prayers, the calls, cards and meals brought to us.

God bless all of you and Berea Friendship as we go forward and grow in His will.

With love,

Bobbie Bogan

North Greenville Crisis Ministries is currently in need of the following items:

Jelly

Peanut Butter

Green beans

Sweet Peas

Canned Soups

Pasta Sauce

Mac & Cheese

Plastic grocery bags

Toiletries (Shampoo, Soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant and toilet paper). Coats, and Blankets

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1 Gym and fellowship hall reserved for basketball 8 am to 8 pm</i>
2 <i>Worship inside 10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m.</i>	3 <i>Trustee Meeting 6:30 p.m.</i>	4 <i>Pastor Parish Relations Committee 6:30 p.m.</i>	5 <i>Epworth Director moving in today Shannon Effah</i>	6	7	8
9 <i>Worship inside 10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m.</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Shalom Circle 11:30 am at the church</i>
16 <i>Worship inside 10:00 a.m. Program for children during the worship hour</i> <i>Worship 10:00 Live streamed</i>	17	18 <i>Fellowship Hall Reserved 5-8pm</i> <i>Friendship Circle 2:00 pm at the church</i>	19 <i>Forward Focus meeting 6:00 p.m.</i>	20	21	22 <i>Car show to sponsor outreach ministry for Berea Elementary</i>
23 <i>Worship inside 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 Live streamed</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Worship inside 10:00 a.m. Live Streamed</i>	31 <i>Worship inside 10:00 a.m. Live Streamed</i>					