

## December 2007

Issue 12

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### *On Our Prayer List:*

Dixie Akers is in MCH. No calls or visits at this time please.

Sue Ann Laughlin is scheduled for surgery on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dorothy Young is recovering from a broken wrist and surgery.

Mary Merritt continues to recover from her broken ankle.

Jim Akers requests prayers for his brother, Donnie who is in very serious condition.

Continue to remember:

George and Edith Teeters  
P.D. Kirby  
Sandy Malsom's parents

**Our Sympathy** to Tom Allgood on the loss of his mother and Vic Moran on the loss of his uncle.

### **Serving Our Country**

Rachel Barrett is the latest Friendly Avenue member to enlist. Rachel has just begun her basic training at Lackland Air Force Base.

Other FAC members in service are:

Chris Plott                      Nathan Roll  
Matt Crabtree                  Neil Barrett  
Sam Watson                      Brandon Yarbrough

	Attendance	Offering
11/4	393	\$12,236
11/11	395	6,217
11/18	382	10,894
11/25	353	6,202
YTD		
Average	399	10,077

### *New in the Nursery*

Syndi Abigail Martinez, born October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Laura Elise Shough, born November 4<sup>th</sup>

### *From the Music Ministry*

The Music Ministry is planning to sing at a local nursing home on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who would like to spread some cheer to the residents is invited to attend. Please meet in the church parking lot ready to leave at 1:15 PM.

### **Christmas Caroling**

On Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, anyone who would like to go caroling in the neighborhood should meet in the lobby by 6:30 PM. Those who would prefer to stay in will meet in the auditorium at 7 PM. There will be no classes that night.

After the caroling, please join us in the lobby for refreshments. Questions? Contact Amy Gilbert



*Have a joyful holiday season!*

*Jason Peter Bryan Willie  
Joe Betsy and Debbie*

*The office will be closed on  
December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>*

## Thanks Living

**W**e have just celebrated Thanksgiving and I'm glad we have a special day set aside to remember God's gracious provision for us. But, that shouldn't obscure the reality that we are commanded by God to demonstrate a grateful spirit every day of the year - demonstrating an attitude of "Thanksgiving."

It's extremely important to be thankful to God for all His blessings. In Romans 1:21, Paul outlines the downward course of a person toward "a depraved mind." He says, "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him..." One of the first steps away from God is, not exercising a grateful spirit. Here are three ways we can maintain our gratefulness:

### **1. Be Content**

Ungratefulness and covetousness (greed) are closely related. In I Corinthians 6:9, 10 greed is listed right beside sins such as immorality and drunkenness. The sin of ungratefulness becomes the conduit by which we are led deeper into the sins of the flesh.

Hebrews 13:5 tells us that the secret to maintaining a grateful spirit is to be content. To me, contentment has always carried the idea of being satisfied, being at rest. Like the proverbial cow, chewing its cud. Paul writes in Phil. 4:11-13 that he had learned the secret of contentment - whether in need or plenty - because he relied on the Lord for his strength. Discontent, or ungratefulness is therefore a symptom of a lack of faith that the Lord is good and will supply your needs. Someone has defined contentment this way: "recognizing that God has provided everything I need for my present happiness." That attitude will insulate us from the materialistic mindset that is so pervasive in our culture.

### **2. Rest on our faith in God's promises**

Why can we be content with what we have? Because God has promised "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). It is a very emphatic statement which indicates ultimate security. And that's what we are seeking when we struggle with covetousness or greed; security. We must realize that true security is found in our faith relationship (trust) in God and His promises to us.

### **3. Demonstrate our faith by our lifestyle choices**

There is a vast difference between contentment and complacency! Contentment is active. It's accepting what God has given and using it for His glory. It's erecting a barrier to those things that foster discontent. Complacency is passive, it's the attitude of, "whatever." It gives the idea of not caring or not being concerned. I Timothy 6:6 states that "godliness with contentment is great gain." What are some practical things we can do to develop this quality of great value?

First; realize that all we have comes from God. Accepting the sovereignty of God goes a long way in helping us to be content. This applies to possessions, circumstances, abilities, spiritual gifts etc. Along with that we must be convinced that we are not defined by our possessions, and we must learn to flee from temptation.

Our lifestyle choices reflect our contentment or lack of it. Be willing to give as the Lord directs you. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in relation to giving. That will help you develop a contented heart. Finally, be aware of the plight of our brothers and sisters in other lands who suffer for their faith in Christ. By entering into their sufferings and seeing how committed they are and how little they have materially, we can be challenged to be more content.

*Keep the Faith!!*

## Missions Ministry Report:

On October 26 and 27, Friendly hosted our FIRST ANNUAL and FIRST EVER "World Missions Workshop." Although the event could have been better attended, especially by Friendly members, the information those in attendance were privileged to hear was very inspiring as well as motivational. It was thought-provoking to hear what others are doing on the mission field and the results they're achieving.

We heard all about the Gospel Chariot Mission whose mission is to "To take Africa for Jesus by equipping and empowering Africans to evangelize Africa." Their primary tool in this effort is a huge truck that travels throughout South Africa delivering bible correspondence courses and studying with people. They have established Bible Study Rooms in seven major cities and their long term goal is to establish Study Rooms in all major cities and to start a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Gospel Chariot (i.e., Truck) in other parts of the country.

The EEM (Eastern European Missions) shared information on their mission in Eastern Europe (formerly the Soviet Communist Block Nations) which is, basically, to go into all the schools in Russia and Ukrainians and provide them with bibles and other materials in an effort to teach the children Christian morals and values. EEM were invited by the government and the opportunity is so great, they are facing a massive challenge just to provide the Christian materials fast enough. In addition to that enormous task, they have now been invited into the Youth Camps during the summer months to continue the process. They are looking for teams to accompany them on these trips. If this interests you, please contact our mission team for more information.

Jack Walker gave us a stirring report on his ministry "Bridges To The World" whose focus is primarily to Central America. They are a non-profit organization that seeks to serve churches in Central America by empowering them to reach out into their communities to treat the mind, body and soul of those in need. Bridges to the World supports ministries in El Salvador and the Honduras, where they serve as an evangelistic tool in partnership with Christians in these countries to reach the lost for Christ. It's important to know that they seek to meet both physical and spiritual needs of the people. Its activities in Central America include the operation of medical and dental clinics, provisioning of educational materials for a kindergarten in Choluteca, Honduras, and the construction of homes for families in the Honduras and El Salvador.

We also had Don Wright, a representative from, China Now who shared with us all the wonderful things that's happening in the humongous nation of China. Of course we know all about what's happening there because we have a member from Friendly who is active in the program and doing a wonderful job teaching English at the University level.

During and after the workshop the feedback I received was one constant barrage of why, why, why? Why can't we do this or why can't we do that or what is keeping us from reaching out to more people in new and exciting ways? Sibiu, Romania and the DR (Dominican Republic) are very rewarding mission points for many, but let's face it, they are just not for everyone and several people have already expressed a desire to become involved in other areas around the globe. Two weeks after the workshop several Friendly members attended the Eastern European Missions Annual Dinner and after hearing about their exploits and the doors that are opening to them in Eastern Europe, especially Russia & the Ukraine the questions began anew. Why not Friendly, why can't we do that, what's keeping us from expanding our horizons? The answer to both sets of questions is the same. Nothing hinders us apart from resources.

I agree that opportunity abound, souls are waiting for someone to bring them the good news message and we can be that someone.

We currently enjoy a great level of success in the Dominican Republic, but Friendly Avenue is capable of so much more and I hope you're ready to do more. If you are willing, we are ready to launch out into the deep waters of missions work. However, to do so we'll need many more people involved more commitment, more money and more planning. If you are ready for that so are we and with God's help we will succeed.

Are you ready?

## Please Join Us

### Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM

### Sunday Evenings

Small Group Bible Studies meet in homes at various locations. Please call the church office for a group near you.

### Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

## Announcements...

### Ladies Ornament Exchange

Ladies, get ready for an evening of fun! Bring a gift wrapped ornament and a finger food to Julie Rennie's home on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

### Items Needed in the Pantry:

Flour & Sugar      Canned vegetables, soups, meats and fruit  
Cereal                Rice      Peanut butter & jelly

### Senior's Christmas Party

"A Holly Jolly Christmas"      Saturday, December 15th at 5:30 PM.  
Bring a gift for the Dirty Santa Game. Look for the sign up sheet in the foyer.

### GIHN HOST WEEK December 23 – 29

The sign up board is in the lobby. Cash donations are needed so that guest families can stay in a local hotel for 3 days this week. Please give your donations to Tammy Kuneff.

## Our Ministries

Assembly Management  
Audio – Video  
Benevolence  
Deaf  
Drama  
Education  
Fellowship  
Finance  
Financial Peace University  
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

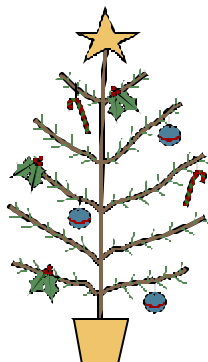


GIVE A CHRISTMAS  
2007

DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00 to 8:30

On Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> will have an opportunity to make a difference. **Everyone is to bring \$5 and two canned goods to the church.** The donated canned food is a part of the *Lazarus Project* which is an effort to provide food for families. With the money collected we will buy gifts for a family in need. Once we purchase the gifts we will return to the church to wrap them up. We will also right cards to the family wishing them a "Merry Christmas!". I hope you can participate in this wonderful service opportunity.

Let's go shopping!



'Tis the season to be jolly!

**Youth Christmas Party on December 16th.**

It will start at 6:00 and end at 9:00.  
Watch for an announcement about the location.  
Let's celebrate!