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On Our Prayer List:

Amelia Foster and Marie Harris are recovering from surgery.

Ann Lockamy is recovering from surgery and is undergoing chemo.

Mary Merritt continues to recover from her broken ankle.

Sarah Tunick sends greetings from China where she is teaching.

Our Sympathy

To Milena Mesa on the loss of her father.

	Attendance	Offering
1/6	373	\$ 8,565
1/13	448	10,411
1/20	257 (icy roads)	6,145

Marriage Matters

With Jerry and Lynn Jones
Coming
March 30 – April 2, 2008

Not just for the married- This conference provides biblical and psychological insight for individuals in all stages of life.

Friendly Avenue Church of Christ Celebrating 40 years of service.

In February 1968, eight families began worshipping together in a nearby school. Currently, we have 240 households represented.

New in the Nursery

Congratulations to Jon and Ester Ohene' on the arrival of their second son, Sevastian Kofi on January 11th.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at 8 AM in the fellowship hall. February's speaker is Anthony Crawford. Please let Kevin Herrmann know if you plan to attend.

Opportunities to Serve

Teachers and assistants are needed for Children's classes, Children's Worship and in the Nursery. Contact Jennifer Hardiman or Matt Rennie for more information.



Peter's Perspective

February, 2008

John 3:16



A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner, the people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers. He walked up to a policeman and said, 'Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there for tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay.' The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, 'You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say John 3:16, and they will let you in.' So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, 'John 3:16.'

The lady said, 'Come on in, Son.' She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself: John 3:16 ...I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm.

Later she came back and asked him 'Are you hungry?' He said, 'Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food.' The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself: John 3:16 ...Boy, I sure don't understand it but it sure makes a hungry boy full. She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16 . I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out.

The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself: John 3:16...I don't understand it but it sure makes a tired boy rested.

The next morning the lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face. 'Do you understand John 3:16?' she asked gently. He replied, 'No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it.' She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought: John 3:16 -- don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe.

You know, I have to confess I don't understand it either, how God was willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they watched Jesus suffer and die. I don't understand the intense love for ME that kept Jesus on the cross till the end. I don't understand it, but it sure does make life worth living.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Keep the Faith!!



Friendly Avenue Missions

The Missions Ministry wishes each of you a Happy New Year and wants to thank you for your prayers and support during 2007. Without your support, our efforts to help plant Good News seeds would, undoubtedly, fail. In addition to sowing the seeds of the gospel, your support helped relieve body, soul and mental suffering in the Dominican Republic, Romania, Agape of North Carolina and Yadkinville.

In 2007 we sent a team of four people to Romania.

Included on that team was Joe Kaplan who was an instant and big success with the Deaf population in and around Sibiu. Based on the reception Joe received, we are beginning to consider the Deaf of that area in our future plans for Romania. The effort to reach out to the Deaf has great promise of being a very fertile mission field and it is believed that it would quickly out pace the effort we have exerted in years past to reach the hearing population of the area.

We also sent a two person team to the DR (Dominican Republic) for two reasons; first we discussed and sought their approval for our DR plans for the next 5 years and explained what our role as well as their role would be in that plan. When we finished, everyone was pleased and anxious to get to work.

When I asked for the secret to their great success in San Juan, I was told that it was no secret and they proceeded to tell me that the Elders and Deacons & Ministers from all congregations came together once a month to pray for the work in San Juan and the "outlying areas," and God was simply answering their prayers. They truly believe in the biblical concept that if they plant and water the seeds of the gospel, then God would give the increase. (1 Cor 3:6)

The DR mission field is very successful with an average conversion rate of 3 to 5 new baptisms per month. This is true "Kingdom growth" and not the mere shuffling of members from one congregation to another. In our latest regular report from the DR, we learned that they had 16 baptisms during the months of November and December. We believe that with the God's help, proper resources and more support, the San Juan congregation will continue to have a heavy impact on their city and "surrounding area."

On October 27th we hosted the "1st Annual Southeastern World Missions Workshop" here at Friendly Avenue. We had a wonderful slate of four excellent Presenters who reminded us in their unique ways that the primary responsibility of each and every Christian is to "Go and make disciples" (Mark 16:15-16). Mike Knappier of the Gospel Chariot Mission of Southern Africa, Dale Mitchell, Eastern European Missions, Don Wright on behalf of China Now and Jack Walker enlightened us on the mission's effort in Central America. We hope you will join us at our 2nd Annual Workshop in 2008.

As we venture into this new year, we thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support as well as the myriad of other ways you support the Missions Ministry.

May you continue to serve the living God in 2008 and may He continue to bless each of you with a healthy, joyful and prosperous New Year.

Grace & Peace



During the month of February, the GEMS ministry will collect paper products for the GIHN day center. Items needed include bath tissue, facial tissue, paper towels, napkins, paper plates and cups.

Drop boxes will be in the lobby and beside the office.

Thank You!

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



Rescheduled

The Mission Team has rescheduled the Pancake Breakfast for Saturday, February 23rd at 8 AM. Donations may be made to the Dominican Mission Trip Fund. The team needs to raise \$45,000 for this trip.

Baby Boy Twin Shower

Ladies, You are invited to a baby shower for Amber Silvers on Friday, February 8th from 6 – 8 PM in the fellowship hall. Amber is expecting **twin boys** in a few weeks. She is registered at Target and Babies R Us.

Deaf Women's Retreat

Following the baby shower on February 8th, the deaf ladies group will have a mini retreat and lock in. See Coral Kaplan for information.

New Ladies Bible classes Starting

Stepping Up will meet on Tuesday nights beginning February 5th. **Loving Well** will begin Tuesday, April 8th. Sign up sheets are in the lobby.

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

Deaf Ministry News

2008 is here! I can't believe how time went by and it is already FUNDRAISING TIME for the 2009 National Deaf Christian Workshop! We need your prayers and support to have a successful workshop! We will have a few fundraisers during the year and will let you on how you can help.

We're using a program called iBakeSale.com that helps organizations turn everyday savings into local fundraising. iBakeSale offers you savings at hundreds of your favorite stores, so you can shop, save, and automatically donate to FRIENDLY AVE CHURCH OF CHRIST which will help support our Deaf Workshop .

iBakeSale.com has partnered with hundreds of merchants to offer you up to 20% cash-back rewards on every purchase. All you have to do is shop from their site www.ibakesale.com/OnCard/iBakeSale/client/checkoutourdeals

To participate, you will need to visit www.ibakesale.com, register and in your profile designate Friendly Avenue Church of Christ to receive a cash rebate, then begin shopping. iBakeSale turns everyday savings into cash-back for our program - and it's completely free.

Suntrust bank has also extended their Charity Rewards program. Open and account by March 29th and designate Friendly Avenue to receive a \$100 donation. See all the details at <https://promotion.suntrust.com/mycause/> .

Thanks for supporting our Deaf Ministry.
Joe Kaplan

