



# Friendly Family News

Friendly Avenue Church of Christ  
 5101 West Friendly Avenue  
 Greensboro, NC 27410  
[www.friendlyave.org](http://www.friendlyave.org)

## April 2008

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### Ministers

Jason Noble  
[Jason@friendlyave.org](mailto:Jason@friendlyave.org)

Peter Rode  
[prode@triad.rr.com](mailto:prode@triad.rr.com)

Willie Costa  
[cwrvq@hotmail.com](mailto:cwrvq@hotmail.com)

Bryan Brown  
[friendlyyouthdude@triad.rr.com](mailto:friendlyyouthdude@triad.rr.com)

Joe Kaplan  
[joedeafpreacher@sprint.blackberry.net](mailto:joedeafpreacher@sprint.blackberry.net)

### Shepherds

James Akers  
 Richard Creed  
 Charles Delcambre  
 John Harris  
 Dewey Merritt  
 Randy Morgan  
 John Newton  
 Ed Thomas  
 Leonard Uitenham

Group email:  
[elders@friendlyave.org](mailto:elders@friendlyave.org)

Office  
 336-292-7649

Fax  
 336- 299 – 3736

Web site  
[www.friendlyave.org](http://www.friendlyave.org)

### *On Our Prayer List:*

Juliet Manuel is recovering from surgery.

Sam Watson has been deployed to Iraq.

Ann Lockamy is undergoing chemotherapy

Dan and Susan Girdner request your prayers for their family. Dan's grand mother is in ICU following a heart attack. Susan's mother is going through chemotherapy. They would also like prayers concerning Dan's job.

Janet Neely's mother is recovering from surgery.

Continue to remember Sarah Tunick who is teaching in China.

Prayers are requested for former member Nancy Rochelle Heard. She is making progress as she recovers from a stroke.

### *Congratulations*

Congratulations to all of our LTC students. They did a wonderful job at this year's convention. Thank you parents and coaches for your time and energy.

### *LTC Awards Night*

Everyone is invited to join us for Awards Night on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM in the auditorium.

Attendance		Offering
3/2	390	\$ 11,153
3/9	353	10,827
3/16	388	9,670
3/23	368	7,753

## Children's Education

The Children's Education Ministry has a new Coordinator. We are please to announce that Ann Desmond will be working with our Children's Ministry. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, you may contact Ann at [Ann@friendlyave.org](mailto:Ann@friendlyave.org).



## **Your Rules, My Rules**

**R**ead *Real Time with Bill Maher* on HBO has a segment that is quite amusing. Maher does a segment that he called "New Rules." He outlines the old rule and then he comically (at least in his mind) unveils the new rule. To be fair, some were funny.

I got to thinking about how that applies to us to as followers of Christ. We often look at the struggles of the journey and declare "new rules" for ourselves. Part of the spiritual battle is being deceived into believing that we are exceptions to the rule. Pride whispers that God is pretty lucky to have me on the team. Perhaps we imagine we are special like those selfish folks who drive down the shoulder of the highway instead of waiting in the traffic jam like everyone else. Rewriting the rules could result in the making of a special set of "my rules" that only I get to play by. For example, here is your rule followed by my rule.

When you gossip it is sin...

When I gossip it is "sharing."

When you stand up for a belief you are stubborn and rigid...

When I do I have the strength of my convictions.

When you make a mistake you are an immature Christian...

When I screw-up I am going through a "difficult time".

You are selfish...

When I act selfishly I am looking out for myself because no one else will.

When you miss church you are letting down the fellowship...

When I miss it is because of my difficult week that you can't even begin to understand.

When you don't work at a church function you are lazy...

When I don't volunteer it is because I can't possibly take on another thing (sighhhh)

When you take initiative you are self-centered...

When I take charge I am following God's direction.

When you get angry you have a terrible attitude...

When I get ticked off I am "filled with righteous indignation"...or something.

I think I have made the point. I can run my sin through my filter, apply my special rules and remove every shred of personal responsibility and accountability. C.S. Lewis pointed out our nature when he said, "It is only our bad temper that we put down to being tired or worried or hungry; we put our good temper down to ourselves." The good things I do are me being spiritual, the bad things I do are because of whatever excuse I can muster that day.

I have had enough of the excuses in my own life. George Washington said that "It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one." For Christians there should be no excuses...good or bad. On those "off days" (and all of us have them) we just need to learn the following phrases.

I am sorry.

Forgive me.

**Keep the Faith!!**

April 6<sup>th</sup>-May 11<sup>th</sup> 2008

# 40 Days of Forgiveness

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,  
just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Ephesians 4:32

*40 Days of Forgiveness* is a church wide, spiritual growth emphasis. We kick off *40 Days of Forgiveness* April 6th, 2008 at our 10 AM worship service. Everyone is invited to participate.

## *40 Days of Forgiveness Personal Commitments*

Pray daily

Read my Bible 40 consecutive days

Consistently and joyfully join other believers in worship

Participate in a five-week, *40 Days of Forgiveness* small group



## **40 Years of Life... 40 Years of Ministry**

You are invited to a ***Service of Thanksgiving*** on Sunday morning, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Come and celebrate with us as we offer thanks to the Lord for giving the Friendly Avenue Church of Christ 40 years of life and 40 years of ministry.

- If you have contact information for former members, please send that to the office so that they can be included on the invitation list.
- A picnic lunch will be catered and served immediately following service.
- If you would like to help please contact the church office.

## 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

## 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

## Welcome to our New Members

David and Jennifer Savage placed membership on March 9.

## Items Needed for the Pantry

Canned Corn	Pork & Beans	Flour	Sugar
Cereal	Rice	Ketchup	

## New Ladies Bible Class Starting

*Loving Well* will begin Tuesday, April 8th. Sign up sheet is in the lobby. Cost for a book is \$7.

## Baby Items Needed

Lavonza Roberts is in need of baby boy clothes and nursery items. Contact Coral Kaplan for information

## Reminder

You must be registered to vote by April 11 in order to vote in the NC Primary on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Simulcast Tickets Available

Ladies, tickets are available for the Beth Moore Simulcast which will be held at Friendly Avenue on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The price is \$30 per person and includes ticket and simulcast materials. Please see Holly Barrett or register on our web site at [www.friendlyave.org](http://www.friendlyave.org)

## Wedding Invitation

Ben Clinard, formerly a FAC member, will marry Marcella Walker on May 11 in Abilene TX. An invitation and their picture is posted on the bulletin board downstairs.

## Letter From China

Sarah Tunick sent a letter when she visited with the Neely's while they were in China. Sarah's letter is posted on the bulletin board downstairs.

## Coming this Summer...

Summer Story Time will begin on June 12th at 10 AM

PBC Camp Week – June 29 – July 5

Mission Trip to Dominican Republic - July 19 – 28

VBS – August 3 - 7