



Words of Friendship

January 2015

*Friendship Presbyterian Church
(USA)*

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

www.gotofriendship.org



Adult Sunday School 9:40 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

A Word from the Pastor

Dear friends,

My daughters, who are 8 and 10, have discovered New Year's Resolutions. One daughter likes to think of all the things she could do better in the New Year—she really likes the idea of resolutions. The other daughter cannot think of a single thing she would change about herself... I kind of envy her.

Over and above all the talk about a new year and personal goals and resolutions, we have a loving God who knows us completely and loves us still. We are the children of a God who has come to us in Jesus and has bound us to Godself, despite all our flaws and weaknesses. There is freedom in being loved so completely.

So, as we begin another year together as the Body of Christ, let's find those things in our lives that bind us closer to God and do more of that in 2015. Let's worry less about what we want to change and do and simply find those things in our lives that bring us closer to God and commit ourselves to that. For me, that will mean less of a focus on resolutions (lose weight, exercise more, be more productive!), and more of a focus on quiet and prayer and sabbath in my life. Let's each find our connection to God and strengthen that in 2015.

Grace and Peace to you,

Rev. Tara

Women's Circle 1



Circle One will meet on the second Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 9:45am at the church. Our Pastor, Tara, will lead our Bible study using the Lambeth method of Bible study. All women are invited to attend.

The Men will meet for their monthly meeting on the **SECOND** Thursday, January 8th at 7 pm in the Friendship Room. Kevin Kelly will be cooking country ham and eggs. We encourage all men to join us for good food and a time of fellowship.



Session Action

Tara Bulger, Moderator of Session



SESSION MEETING

The session received the Personnel Committee reports and recommendations after the staff reviews. The session also reviewed and accepted a budget for 2015. The format and overview of the Congregational Meeting was discussed. A review of 2014 was discussed with gratitude for outgoing elder Wendy Arthur expressed.

First Sunday Youth Dinner



All youth, grades 8-12, are invited to dinner with Pastor Tara on the first Sunday of every month at 6 p.m.

Meet up on Sunday, Jan. 4th, at Chops 'n Hops in Watkinsville. Friends are welcome, dinner is FREE!!!



I would like to thank everyone for the Christmas Bonus and other gifts you blessed me with during Christmas. You are a wonderful group of people to work for. I believe God has great things in store for Friendship in 2015!

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



Friendship Presbyterian Church

is excited to announce the

Installation of

Reverend Tara W. Bulger

as our new Pastor

Sunday, January 18, 2015, at 3pm

Reverend David Powers will be preaching

Reception to follow

*Please make plans to attend this special day
of celebration and joy!*



By: Kevin Kelly

CAROLS FOR THE NEW YEAR

It may come as a surprise, that carols for Christmas are predated by carols for the new year, which often took the form of sung blessings upon family and friends. Indeed, civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of the new year for at least four millennia, the earliest recorded festivities coming from Babylon. For these older civilizations, the new year coincided with the vernal equinox – the coming of spring and planting of crops, etc. Here I'd like to focus on several carols that pertain to the new year of the Julian calendar, and that will be more familiar to us today.

The text of “Auld Lang Syne” is by the Scottish poet Robert Burns , set to the tune of a traditional Scottish folksong.

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?*

The Scottish title may be translated as “old long since” or “days gone by” – or, more idiomatically, as “for the sake of old times.” The rhetorical question as to whether one should forget old times really implies a call to remember long-standing friendships. It is a common custom in Scotland, at the conclusion of New Year’s gatherings, for everyone to join hands and form a circle. At the beginning of the last verse, everyone crosses arms so that right hands join the neighbors’ on the left and vice versa. When the song ends, everyone rushes to the middle of the circle while still holding hands. Other than celebrating the New Year, “Auld Lang Syne” is widely used at farewells, funerals and graduations; Boy Scouts often sing it as a close to jamborees.

“Levy-Dew,” also known as “A New Year Carol,” is a British folksong of Welsh origins. The song was set to music by Benjamin Britten in 1934, using a version of the folk text that Walter de la Mare included an anthology of verse for children.

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew, the water and the wine...*

The text refers to the custom of children collecting fresh water from a well and going around with a sprig from an evergreen tree, which they use to sprinkle the faces of passers-by while singing the carol and begging for money. Also, in houses each room was sprinkled with New Year’s water. The meaning of the words “levy-dew” is unsure; it may be that the words represent the Welsh phrase “llef I Dduw,” or a “cry to God.” Others connect the words to Middle English “levedy” (“lady” or the Virgin Mary), or to the French phrase “levez à Dieu” (“raise to God,” a reference to the elevation of the Host in Christian liturgy). Thus, this carol may derive from an early pagan cult made acceptable to medieval Christianity by its association with the Virgin.

(continued on page 5)

(Music Notes—continued from page 4)

“Carol of the Bells” is well-known as a Christmas carol in its English translation by Peter Wilhousky in 1936, but originally it was composed by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1904, based on a folk chant known as “Shchedryk” that is associated with the New Year. In pre-Christian Ukraine, the New Year was celebrated with the coming of spring in April, hence its text referring to a swallow returning and lambs being born.

*On new year! The bird of bounty, the swallow, arrives this evening and begins her singing,
“Come out, Master of the house, and look upon your flocks.
See your fat ewes giving birth to healthy lambs.”*

With the introduction of Christianity to Ukraine and the adoption of the Julian calendar, the celebration of New Year was moved to January, and songs for this occasion are called “schedrivky.”

Lastly, mention should be made of “Deck the Hall,” the first two verses of which refer to Yuletide and the third verse to the coming of the new year.

*Fast away the old year passes, Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
Sing we joyous all together, heedless of the wind and weather.*

The melody of this carol is a Welsh tune that was first found in a music manuscript dating back to the early 1700s, though the “fa la” refrain may originate in medieval ballads. The tune belongs to a Welsh tradition where singers would gather around a harpist and extemporize the verses, the harp answering with the “fa la” refrain. When Welsh lyrics were first published, the song was known as “Nos Galan” (meaning "New Year’s Eve”) and extolled the virtues of love: “Oh! How blessed are the blisses/ words of love, and mutual kisses.” English lyrics were provided by the Scottish musician Thomas Oliphant in 1862, which obviously are not a translation but new words to an old song.

January Volunteers



	Liturgist	Money Counters	Rocker MOM
4	Olivia Bennett	Marks Towles	Melody Cartledge
11	Monica Graham	Alan White	Anne Lee
18	Kathie Shinholser	Barbara Remmers	Linda Kelly
25	Bruce Hildebrand	Bev Davis	Donna McGinty
Communion Servers for January 4, 2015 Dori Allen, Carl Cartledge, Linda Kelly, Ted Walker			



Preschool Happenings

By: *Kelly Jones,*
Preschool Director



The Preschool had their annual Holiday Musical and Market on Dec 18th followed by a visit from Santa. Thanks to all the church members who supported us during this event.



Open House for the 2015-2016 Preschool Year will be
Friday, January 23, from 9:30am to 11am.
Registration for Church Members and New Students will be
Friday, January 30 from 8am-12pm.



Scouting at Friendship

By

Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

Happy Christmas and New Year's to all, on behalf of the Scouts. December has featured some great things for Boy Scout Troop 149, including the Christmas Eve luminaries at Friendship, our longest-running service project. We also had a very successful Pancake Breakfast with Santa, despite the rainy weather; hundreds of folks from across the community enjoyed pancakes, sausage and drinks, along with a chance to visit with Santa's helper. This is one of our key troop fundraisers, allowing the Scouts to help pay their own way for the many exciting program activities we have all year long. Our annual recharter paperwork to the council is also due this month, for the Troop, Pack, and Crew.

Twenty of our Scouts and adults took on the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain to Hightower Gap, the second weekend in December, logging nearly 10 miles of cool but sunny hiking. This backpacking trip was a chance for those who might be interested in going to Philmont Scout Ranch in summer 2016 to get a taste of hiking. We actually will have to send in down payments for Philmont this month! In the meantime, we are also making progress on the planning for this summer's big adventure, sailing and snorkeling in the Bahamas.



Scouts on the Appalachian Trail

December also brought our annual troop lock-in, held at one of the gymnasiums at Athens Academy, where many Scouts and a few intrepid adults stayed up most or all night long, playing basketball, Frisbee, board games, watching movies, and celebrating the start of the school holidays. Our Scouts have also been involved in donation-related service projects, in rebuilding a handicap-access ramp for a local resident, and more. The Venturing Crew, who recruited several new high schoolers this fall, also took part in a district-wide December "lock out" where they did fun activities all night long, as well as a service project assembling toiletries for kits for the homeless. They also had a shooting sports (hand-gun) training weekend, and are looking forward to competing in numerous events at the regional "Winterfest" in Gatlinburg in February. The Cub Scout Pack had an off-site meeting in December, and is signing up boys and parents for their upcoming winter trip, to the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL on January 17-18.

At meetings, Troop members have been focused on backpacking (including a gear demo by Half Moon Outfitters), Family Life and Chemistry merit badges, and more. We also completed our annual troop reorganization, with Scouts electing new leaders and re-dividing into patrols for the term beginning January 1. This coming month, we'll be working on Citizenship in the World merit badge, taking part in leadership training, and getting ready for our camping trip focused on Rifle/Shotgun/ Archery.

As always, there is a lot going on. Thanks for your continued support of the Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, and Cub Scout Pack.



Worship Attendance & Giving in December				
	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
Attendance	54	48	52	25
General Giving	\$3090.00	\$522.00	\$4005.00	\$4175.00
Joy Offering			\$10.00	

Thanks to everyone's generosity Friendship was able to send \$1413.50 to the Thornwell Children's Home.

Friendship Presbyterian Church				
Year-To-Date Through November, 2014				
	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)	
			Budget	
Receipts				
Receipts from Congregation	126,982	124,273	(2,709)	65%
Dye House Rent	8,883	8,883	-	5%
Support from Preschool	46,051	56,285	10,234	30%
All Other Income	300	504	204	
Total Receipts	182,216	189,945	7,729	
Expenses				
Administration	64,325	66,945		
Personnel	100,133	100,530		
Discipleship	-	2,983		
Membership Development & Care	88	3,208		
Mission/Bldg & Grounds	9,028	12,760		
Worship	2,104	3,483		
Operating Expenses	175,678	189,909	14,231	
Net Income / (Deficit)	6,538	36	(6,502)	
Cash in Bank November, 2014				
General Fund	13,306			
Restricted Fund	4,944			
Total Cash in Bank		18,250		
Kerry Hill Educational Fund		6,544		
Savings August, 2014 -- New Covenant		55,412		
Mortgage Debt		65,999		



JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>Will Ross</i> 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	29 Church Office Closed <i>Holly Ivy</i> Preschool Closed	30 Church Office Closed Preschool Closed 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	31 Church Office Closed Preschool Closed	1  Church Office Closed Preschool Closed	2 Church Office Closed Preschool Closed	3
4 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service w/Communion 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting 6:00 PM Youth Group	5 <i>Ernie Perry</i> Preschool Closed 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	6 Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Choir Rehearsal	7 Preschool Starts Back 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM FPC Choir Rehearsal	8 <i>Kevin Kelly</i> 7:00 PM Men's Club	9 Church Office Closed	10
11 <i>Ben Ivy</i> 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	12 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	13 9:45 AM Circle One 12:45 PM Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Choir Rehearsal	14 <i>Alan & Suzanne White</i> <i>Wendy Arthur</i> 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM FPC Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 PM Cub Scout Meeting	16 Church Office Closed <i>Martha Courie</i>	17
18 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Installation of Rev. Tara Bulger	19  Church Office Closed 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	20 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Choir Rehearsal	21 <i>Bert Ivy</i> 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM FPC Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	23 Church Office Closed 9:30 AM Preschool Open House	24
25 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	26 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	27 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Choir Rehearsal	28 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM FPC Choir Rehearsal	29 <i>Kathy Perry</i>	30 Church Office Closed <i>Jason White</i>	31 <i>Henry Hibbs</i> <i>Jane Towles</i> <i>Lizbet Adams</i> <i>Mollie Nix</i>



*Friendship Presbyterian
Church (USA)*



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**
Sunday, January 4, 2015

Church E-mails:

Church Office: office@gotofriendship.org

Tara Bulger: tbulger@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 25, 2015.

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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