
VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

New Friendship Baptist Church

From the Pastor's ...

What a year for missions we celebrated in 2024: mission trips, special collections, offerings for local ministries, shoe boxes, backpacks, disaster relief...

As we dawn a new year, I'm sure there will be more opportunities for missions and I want to assure you that God has proven himself faithful to us. He rewards us with far more than we can ever give.

While December's focus was Jesus' birthday and honoring him with a special missions gift, in January it would be great to honor our church's birthday with a generous gift to the Building Fund. New Friendship first met on January 27, 1827, 198 years ago.

Our sanctuary was built in 1964 and has served us for sixty years. That's three full generations that have worshipped within these walls. We recently appointed a Sanctuary Remodel Committee to consider plans to poise us for ministry through the next sixty years. Let's pray for their wisdom and guidance and strengthen our Building Fund to begin this project.

**Be His Light in 2025,
Pastor Chris**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT

It was November 2022 that we paid off the balance of our debt on our Education/Administration Building, so we have enjoyed that freedom for 24 months. ***Praise the Lord!*** As we look at the new year and the future of ministry, our church leadership has prayerfully sought the Lord concerning a significant update / remodel to our Sanctuary. Obviously this is a team effort and you are asked to prayerfully consider how you can assist. The church will hear and see many ideas in the coming weeks, but for now we just want you to know that donations into the Building Fund will be targeted toward this major project. Our Sanctuary has seen only minimal change since its construction in 1964. Please join us as we move forward!

PRAY FOR THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

The church is referenced as the Bride of Christ twice in the Book of Revelation. The Deacons are inviting you to join us on the first Sunday of the month at 8:15AM for a focused time of prayer for our church. Our next meeting is Sunday, ***January 5th.***

Associate Pastor News:

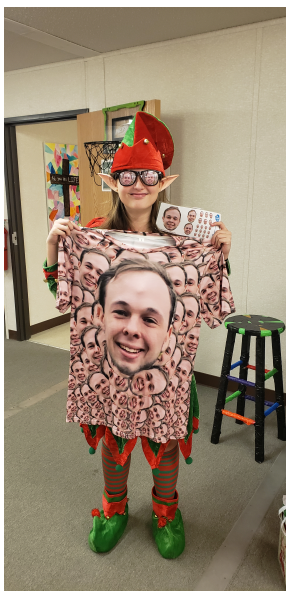
NFBC Family,

By the time you are reading this we will likely be with several of our college students in Louisville, Kentucky for Cross Conference. If you are reading this before or during **January 2nd – 4th**, would you join me in praying that this would be a time of eternal impact in their lives? Our world so desperately needs people of all generations who are passionately sold out for the cause of Christ and the decisions made in one's early 20's so often set a trajectory that lasts a lifetime. Will you join me in praying for this time?

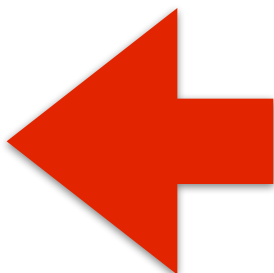
Looking forward, on Sunday, **January 12th** the youth group is going bowling. We will leave the church at 5PM and return around 7PM. Please note that this is earlier than our usual Sunday night youth time! \$5 will cover bowling, shoes and supper.

Then on Sunday, **February 9th** Brittany and I will host the youth group for a Super Bowl party at our home. We live at 188 Virginia Road, Lexington, NC, 27295. As always, teens are encouraged to invite friends!

As I have done before in January, I would commend the Bible to you as this month's book recommendation. The almighty God of the universe inspired the very written words of God, preserved them through 2,000 years and hundreds of languages and He did all of this so that you could hold it in yours hands and read it! Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 4:4** that **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."** It is God's will for your life that you read every word of the precious Scriptures! The benefits of regular time in the Bible are too numerous to mention, but the simple fact that it is God's will for our life should be enough motivation for us to dig into the Bible. I would encourage you as strongly as I know how that if there are portions of the Bible that you have never read make it a point to do so this year! Choose one book of the Bible that you have never read before and make a plan for how you are going to read through that book verse-by-verse. Every day we are given *1,440 minutes*. If you will give God just 10 or 15 of those *1,440 minutes* I can promise you that your life will be wonderfully changed. I am thankful for people who poke their head into my office often and ask how my Bible reading is going. I have my plan for 2025 and by God's grace I intend to make every effort to follow through on it. Will you join me?



December
Christmas Party
Costume Winner
with Prize!



For His Glory,
Pastor Brandon



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Wednesday Night Suppers in 2025 will start up on **January 8th**. Signing up lets us know how much food to buy and prepare; therefore, having enough prepared but also not being wasteful. We strive to serve God's people and be good stewards of His resources. If you wish to sign up as a permanent attendee, please contact the church office and you will be added to the permanent list. Serving with love, the Wednesday Night Supper Committee. Contact Linda Spiva with questions.

To sign up you can:

1. Call the church office and place your name on that weeks list or on the permanent list
2. Fill out the orange card in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate
3. Sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office.

We are in need of desserts for Wednesday Night Suppers. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office to bring a dessert.

JANUARY MENUS:

1/8 - Spaghetti, Salad, Italian Bread

1/15 - Chicken Stew or Brunswick Stew

1/22 - Taco Bake, Cheese Quesadillas, Rice, Lettuce

1/29 - Parmesan Chicken, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese, Rolls

Please Do Not Forget to Sign Up For Wednesday Night Suppers!

(Our first WNS for 2025 will be January 8th at 6:15PM! We are still in need of desserts!)

YOUTH GROUP BOWLING

Join us Sunday, **January 12th** for an evening of bowling at 5PM. ***(Please note that it is earlier than our normal meeting time.)*** You will need \$5 which will cover bowling, shoes and supper. See Pastor Brandon with questions.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION

The morning WMU group will meet on Monday, **January 13th** at 10:30AM and the "After Hours" group will meet at 6PM. We will be filling gift bags for local Women's Shelters. Let's continue being the hands and feet of Jesus even more in 2025 by sharing His love, praying, giving and spreading the gospel to those who are still lost.

YOUTH GROUP SUPER BOWL PARTY

The youth group will have their annual Super Bowl party at Pastor Brandon and Brittany's house on Sunday, **February 9th**. Make plans now to attend. More information will be available closer to the date.

WITH SINCERE CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:

We extend our sincere Christian sympathy:

- ~ to Faye Fincher & Ila Mabe in the passing of their brother, Bill Hester of Missouri
- ~ to Darlene Calhoun in the passing of her husband, J.C., on Nov 30
- ~ to Dwayne Hines and family in the passing of his mother, Pauline, on Dec 16
- ~ to Sharon Carter and family in the passing of her mother, Betty Beck, on Dec 20
- ~ to Delores Romesburg and family in the passing of her daughter, Lorie Lee, on Dec 22

URGENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We are so blessed to have food on our tables and electricity in our homes. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for many in our neighborhood. There are many adults and children in our surrounding area that are **food** insecure. The NFBC food pantry has been actively serving many families in our community and we are in need of the items listed below. Please pick up a few as you food shop this week. Food Pantry Needs:

- ~ Saltine crackers
- ~ Macaroni & cheese
- ~ Stove Top Stuffing
- ~ Canned pintos, blackeyed peas, whole & creamed corn
- ~ Bath soap
- ~ Peanut butter and jelly
- ~ Chef Boyardee pastas
- ~ Ramen noodles
- ~ Toilet paper (4-6 roll pack)
- ~ Spaghetti noodles and sauce
- ~ Instant potatoes
- ~ Canned Fruit
- ~ Pancake mix with syrup
- ~ Paper Towels (Individual Rolls)

Save The Date:

Ladies Banquet

April 12, 2025

“Finding Joy in The Journey”

Guest Speaker:

Jennifer Ziglar Smitherman

#livelikenorah



December Numbers	2024	2023	Years Offerings
Sunday School Average:	130	109	2024: \$584,950
Avg AM Worship Attendance:	165	130	2023: \$537,278
General Offering:	\$73,523	\$71,658	

Christmas with a “Capital C” and the Baptist Men’s Outreach for the local homeless mission (Salvation Army) are self-supporting. You can contribute any time using an offering envelope. All donations are appreciated.

If you need to reserve the building or the bus for any reason, please call the church office at 336-788-3112 or email us at newfriendship@icloud.com as soon as you know about your event so that we can keep the calendar organized. If you have information that needs to be put in the bulletin, please have that to the church office by **10AM on Thursday mornings**. If you have information that needs to be put in the monthly newsletter, please have this information to the church office by the **20th of each month**.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday (8AM to 1PM)

