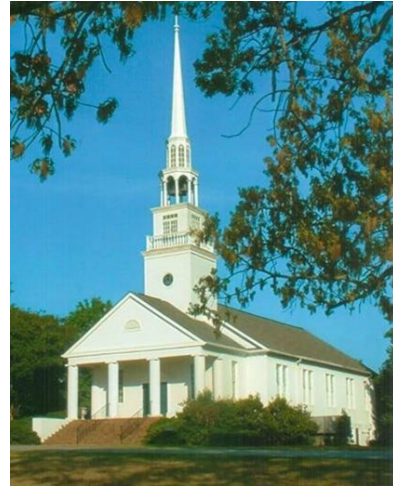


# WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP

## July 2015

*Friendship Presbyterian Church (USA)*

*8531 Macon Highway  
Athens, Georgia 30606  
(706) 543-6077  
[www.gotofriendship.org](http://www.gotofriendship.org)*



**Adult Sunday School 9:40 am**

**Sunday Worship 11:00 am**

### *A Word from the Pastor*

Dear Friends,

In Sunday's sermon, I read to you a welcome statement used by a church in Florida. I think it works well for our church too. I am included it here to remind you that as the church of Jesus Christ, we are bound together by our identity as children of God. All are welcome. All are loved. With so much divisiveness in our culture, we must extend this welcome and the love of Christ out in the world!

*We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.*

*We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more religious than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.*

*We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.*

*If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.*

*We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!*

Grace and Peace friends,  
Rev. Tara Bulger



## Session Stated Meeting

June 4, 2015

submitted by Marks Towles, Clerk

- It was agreed that a mission statement and job descriptions for the preschool director and preschool board should be developed and/or updated for later review and action. Tara agreed to prepare a first draft of these documents.
- Approval was given for the preschool to acquire a new swing set for the playground. Funds are to come from fundraising monies.
- Approval was given to accept a bid from Ricardo Gonzales in the amount of \$4,800 to paint the interior of the CE Building. Mr. Gonzalez has performed work for the church in the past; his bid was significantly lower than two others received.



	Liturgist	Money Counters	Rocker MOM	Communion Servers July 12, 2015
5	Nan McMurry	Pattie Ivy	TBD	Bev Davis, Linda Kelly, Donna McGinty, Ted Walker
12	Ryann Bulger	Linda Kelly	TBD	
19	Rebecca Hill	Ted Walker	Amy Ivy	
26	Wendy Arthur	Marks Towles	Evelyn Montgomery	

*The family of J. Swanton Ivy, Jr.  
is grateful to God for his life, for your friendship,  
and for your kindness and prayers.  
The outpouring of love from our church family  
in his memory would have touched Swanton  
as much as it does all of our family.  
Thank you.*







# Preschool Happenings

by: Kelly Jones,  
Preschool Director



## 2015 Friendship Camp





## Performing at Piccolo Spoleto Festival

By: Kevin Kelly



On Sunday afternoon May 31, the Friendship Community choir along with the Athens Recorder Ensemble, presented a concert in Charleston SC as part of Piccolo Spoleto. Spoleto is an internationally renowned arts festival that runs for three weeks. The Friendship concert was held at what is known as Circular Church on Meeting Street. This rather unique church is one of the oldest continuously active congregations in the South, and deserves a brief history here.

The original congregation was founded in Charles Towne in 1681 by English Congregationalists, Scots Presbyterians and French Huguenots. These religious dissenters erected a Meeting House (a term for “church” used at the time) in the northwest part of the then-walled city, and the street leading up to it was called Meeting House Street, later shortened to Meeting Street.

During the colonial period, the church was referred to as either Presbyterian, Congregational or

Independent, not conforming strictly to any one church policy in order “to leave themselves as free as possible from any modern shackles, that no moderate persons of either denomination might be afraid to join them” (Church records, 1775). Shaped by its independent mindset, this church became a forum for revolutionary sentiment in the colony for political and religious freedom.

In 1804 the time had come to replace the Meeting Street house with a more commodious building. The same architect who designed the Washington Monument in DC designed plans for a church in circular form; it turned out to be the first major domed building in North America.

During the years 1820-60, Circular Church had a large congregation of both white and black members, most extraordinary for the antebellum years. The first Sunday School in South Carolina was started there in 1816.

In Dec. 1861 a great fire swept much of the city, and more devastation followed with the Civil War. Bricks from Circular’s ruins were used to erect a new sanctuary in 1890, which continues as the present-day meeting house. The new building with its Romanesque style was a radical departure from the traditional Charleston architecture. It comprises two forms, an exterior plan of a circle (universal symbol of eternity and wholeness) and an interior plan of a Greek cross (Christian symbol of death and resurrection).

Circular Church joined the Congregational Association in 1882; this organization in turn became the United Church of Christ in 1957. Circular also joined the Presbyterian Church USA in 1968, becoming one of the few ecumenical congregations in the South by belonging to two denominations.

(continued on page 5)





*(continued from page 4)*

Our concert there focused on music from Scotland. The Friendship Community Choir, accompanied by harpist Elizabeth Bennett, presented my arrangements of Scottish folksongs; the Recorder Ensemble presented Scottish consort dances from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The sanctuary wherein the concert took place was surrounded with walls of wood and topped with a ribbed dome estimated to be between 40 or 50 feet high, which contributed to splendid acoustics not to be matched in any local venues of our experience. The audience numbered just under 200 and more or less filled the seats. They were very appreciative of the concert, afterwards remarking on the beautiful blend of voices, the matching of harp and choir, the effectiveness of the composition, the message of its texts, and their enjoyment in hearing the unusual sound of a recorder ensemble. One attendee said that, of all the concerts that she had attended at the Festival, our group was “by far the best performances she had heard that week...absolutely loved it!”



Performing at Piccolo Spoleto Festival  
Friendship Community Choir  
and  
Athens Recorder Ensemble



## Scouting at Friendship

By

**Scoutmaster Paul Matthews**

Here at the end of June, Troop 149 is at Scout camp—spending the week of June 28-July 4 in Clayton, GA, at Camp Rainey Mountain. This year, we have 15 Scouts, and 7 adults in rotation, taking part in this annual resident camp, where the Scouts work on merit badges such as Swimming, First Aid, Reptile & Amphibian Study, Pioneering, and more. Older Scouts can also spend the week on programs such as climbing, kayaking, or

high adventure, and the adults can receive training and take part in special events. This year, Scoutmaster Paul Matthews and Assistant Scoutmaster Alex Pannell are running the two-day adult leader training for outdoor skills for new adult leaders, on behalf of the Council.



Scouts and adults at the marina dock in Ft. Lauderdale

Our other big summer adventure was, of course, our week-long Bahamas Sailing Trip! From June 6-13, thirteen Scouts, ten adults, and two captains chartered two catamaran sailboats (43' and 47') from Ft. Lauderdale, across the Gulf Stream, and into the Islands of the Bahamas. We had great weather for sailing, plus our Scouts spent lots of time each day fishing (catching blue runner, yellowtail snapper, mackerel and barracuda), and snorkeling sites ranging from shipwrecks to coral reefs to the "road to Atlantis." There was plenty of time for playing card games, enjoying the sun and wind, and learning how to operate the boats; and we went on shore to walk on two deserted islands (Gun Cay and Beach Cay), as well as spending one evening in port at Alice Town, Bimini, to sample the local culture. All in all, this was an outstanding trip!

On the service project front, one Scout's Eagle project this month was to run a swim clinic for children in Athens, and another finalized collecting and assembling care packages for cancer patients. Later this summer, our Scouts will also be helping with prepping the preschool playscape area, before classes start back.

At meetings, the Scouts have worked on preparing for the Bahamas and Camp Rainey Mountain, as well as merit badges such as Bird Study and Citizenship in the Nation, as well as skills ranging from knot tying to first aid. In June, the troop also elected its new youth leadership, who will begin their term of office at the start of July while we are at camp. Also forthcoming in July will be a "gem mining" trip to Franklin, NC, where the Scouts will get to "dig their own" in search of rubies and other gemstones, which promises to be a good opportunity to play in the dirt!

Thanks for your continued support of the Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, and Cub Scout Pack.





# More Pictures of the Scouts' Bahamas Sailing Trip

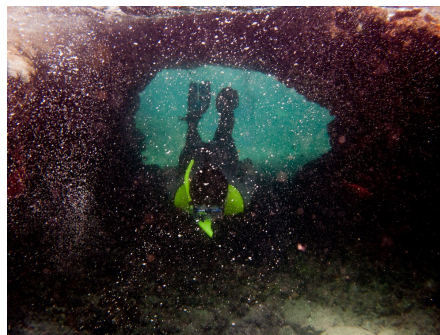
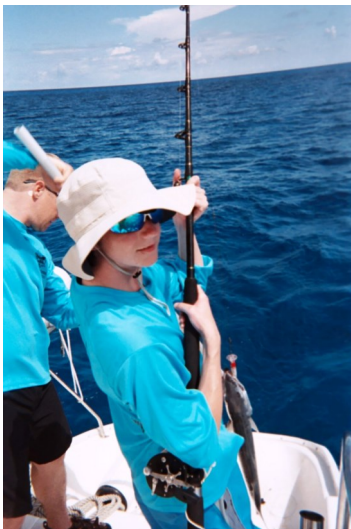
Getting ready to Snorkel!!



View of catamaran from the water



Fishing and more fishing!



Some underwater shots





Worship Attendance & Giving in June				
	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Attendance	37	40	36	40
General Giving	\$6466.00	\$650.00	\$1005.00	\$1086.00
Memorial Fund		\$255.00	\$1375.00	\$75.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church			
Year-To-Date Through May, 2015			
Selected Assets and Liabilities			
		Inflows Year to Date	Outflows Year to Date
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	37,634		
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	3,920	1,095	100
Total Cash in Bank	41,554		
Kerry Hill Educational Fund -- Oconee	6,749	200	0
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	56,769		
Mortgage Debt	49,824		
Income Statement Summary			
	Year to Date (Actual)	Year to Date (Budget)	Actual vs. Budget
Receipts from Congregation	58,829	57,817	1,012
Dye House Rent	4,038	4,038	0
Support from Preschool	28,701	23,084	5,617
All Other Income	1,073	229	844
Total Receipts	92,640	85,167	7,473
Administration Expenses	33,873	33,967	94
Personnel Expenses	46,674	49,642	2,968
Discipleship Expenses	0	167	167
Membership Development & Care	30	792	762
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	1,988	7,583	5,595
Worship Expenses	613	1,192	578
Total Operating Expenses	83,179	93,342	10,163
Net Income / (Deficit)	9,462	(8,174)	(2,690)





## July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Rob Hibbs 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	29 Ian Roberts 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	30 Marks Towles 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	1 Jay & Tammy Nix	2 7:00 PM Pack Committee Mtg	3 Church Office Closed	4 
5 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service w/Communion	6 Courtney Bennett Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	7 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	8 John Ivy	9	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	13 Jason Adams Judy Hibbs 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	14 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	15	16 10:30 AM Stated Session Meeting 7:00 PM Cub Scout Meeting	17 Bob Frantz Church Office Closed	18
19 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	20 8:30 AM Preschool Camp 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	21 Frank & Rosemary Stancil 8:30 AM Preschool Camp 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	22 8:30 AM Preschool Camp	23 8:30 AM Preschool Camp 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	24 Church Office Closed 8:30 AM Preschool Camp	25 Don Roberts
26 9:40 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	27 10:00 AM Presbytery Coordinating Team 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	28 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	29	30 Beverly Davis	31 Church Office Closed	1 Hayden Williams  Rhenn Prip





*Friendship Presbyterian  
Church (USA)*



Church E-mails:

Church Office: [office@gotofriendship.org](mailto:office@gotofriendship.org)

Tara Bulger: [tbulger@gotofriendship.org](mailto:tbulger@gotofriendship.org)

Please check out our website @  
[www.gotofriendship.org](http://www.gotofriendship.org) for our online calendar



Please submit news for August's  
*Words of Friendship*

to the church office no later than

**Sunday, July 26, 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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