

# THE BOND

DECEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP  
AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Here are some December “doings” to mark on your calendar:

Good Neighbors swings into high gear very quickly. Please see the schedule of activities printed elsewhere in this edition of *The Bond*. I encourage you to volunteer as much of your time as you can for this very worthy effort.

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. I’ll be hosting a brief time of worship and reflection for those of you who have lost loved ones over the last year or in previous years. No matter how much time has elapsed, our grief resurfaces during the Christmas season. Gathering with those who find the season less than joyful can be encouraging. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Ginny, Mary Virginia, and I wish to invite you and yours to a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m. We’ll be serving some drinks and light hors d’oeuvres for the occasion. We look forward to welcoming you all into our home!

Our Christmas Eve service will take place on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Ethan and Eli Ferguson will be on hand to lead our music that evening.

For our Sunday morning worship, our theme will be “Advent Imperatives!” Here’s the lineup for each Sunday:

November 28: “Stay Alert!” Luke 21:25-36

December 5: “Level the Ground!” Luke 3:1-6

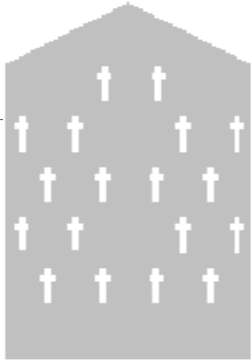
December 12: “Repent!” Luke 3:7-12

December 19: “Believe!” Luke 1:39-55

Once again, let me express how grateful Ginny, Mary Virginia, and I are to be in your midst. It is an honor to serve you and to be a part of this delightful congregation. We wish all of you “Merry Christmas!” and extend to you our best wishes for a “Happy New Year!”

Grace and peace,

Bill



*“In things agreed upon unity,  
In other things liberty,  
In all things the will to be one.”*

## **NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP**

23 Dogwood Road, P. O. Box 267  
Norris, TN 37828  
Tel. # 494-7131

**Dr. Bill Ireland**  
Pastor

Bireland.nrf@gmail.com

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
11:00 a.m.

**Tracy Crouch Hubbs**  
Pianist

**Ashley Goins**  
Administrative Assistant

**Dave Hughes**  
Custodian

**OFFICE E-MAIL**  
norrirf  
@comcast.net

**WEBSITE**  
www.norrirf.org

**WATCH ONLINE**  
www.youtube.com/norrirf

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9-3

**MEMBER of the  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
COMMUNITY CHURCHES**

### *Annual Christmas Party Potluck*

Join us on December 5<sup>th</sup> after service for a potluck with a special visitor. We will enjoy fellowship and food together. Everyone should bring a dish to share.

### *Christmas Eve Service*

Our Christmas Eve service will take place on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Ethan and Eli Ferguson will be on hand to lead our music that evening.

### *Open House*

Ginny, Mary Virginia, and I wish to invite you and yours to a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m. We'll be serving some drinks and light hors d'oeuvres for the occasion. We look forward to welcoming you all into our home!

### **Office Closed**

The office will be closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Supper Club**

Supper Club will gather on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 6 pm at Harrison's for a holiday meal. An offering will be taken for ADFAC, suggested amount is 10% of the bill. Please let Susan Miller know if you would like to attend by Monday, the 13th so we can make a reservation.

### *Blue Christmas Service*

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. I'll be hosting a brief time of worship and reflection for those of you who have lost loved ones over the last year or in previous years. No matter how much time has elapsed, our grief resurfaces during the Christmas season. Gathering with those who find the season less than joyful can be encouraging. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

### **Bible Study Schedule**

Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. There will be no bible study the following Wednesdays until after the first of the year.

### **Study Group**

Study group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 2 pm in the library. We will discuss Mary, mother of Jesus.

### **Dollar Sunday**

Sunday, December 12 will be our next Dollar Sunday which will benefit Good Neighbors.

### **Annual Leaf Raking at NRF**

The scouts will be doing their annual leaf raking at NRF on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am. If you are interested bring your blowers, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc. and come out and lend a hand. Thanks!

# ***Christmas Poinsettias***

***Kindly donated in memory or in honor of loved ones***

**Tom Post- In memory George and Irene Bradley & Sterling and Eleanor Post.**

**Jim and Susan Miller – In memory of our parents.**

**Susan Bowling, Janet Rains, and Lois Wolfe – In memory of Fred and Jeanette Tredinniek.**

**The Bowling's – In memory of Katherine Anderson Bradbury, Dexter, Butch Rains, & Vivian and Bill Behm.**

**Susan, James, Mark, and families – In memory of James D. Bowling Jr..**

**Susan Gawarecki – In honor of Stephan and Carolyn Gawarecki.**

**Bob and Pat Gregory – In honor of our children and granddaughters.**

**Terry and Michelle Queener – In memory of Zoë and Izzy Leach.**

**Mary Shelton – In memory of my parents Lee and Paul Evans.**

**Mary Shelton – In honor of my children Ryan, Glenn, and Emily.**

**Mary Shelton – In honor of my grandchildren Sophia, Paul, Ambrose, Cyllan, Vance, Evan, Lelah, and Paul.**

**Linda Crouch – In memory of Jack, Joy and Kenny.**

**Linda Crouch – In honor of Tracy Crouch Hubbs.**

**Dr. Bill and Ginny Ireland – In memory of our parents Ralph and Virginia Bridges & Billy and Jane Ireland.**

**Joan Hughes – In memory of Barbara Shelton.**

**Lloyd Farrar – In memory of Doris Farrar.**

***Thank You to everyone who contributed to making the sanctuary beautiful during the Advent season.***

## SCHEDULE AND SIGN-UP

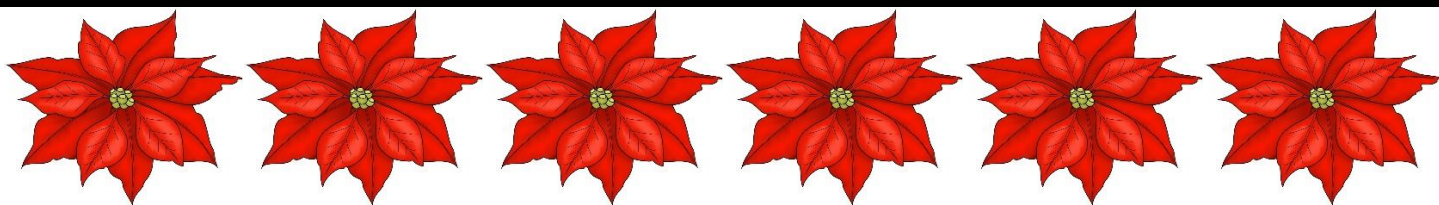
### FOR THE 2021 GOOD NEIGHBORS FOOD AND KID'S GIFTS PROJECT

- a. Thursday, December 9, from 10 am: store Second Harvest food in NRF, Fellowship Hall (FH).
- b. Friday, December 10, from about 10 am: collect and store food from Archers in NRF, FH. Meet behind Archers. Some trucks needed.
- c. Friday, December 10, from about 1 pm: collect and store food drive crates in NRF, FH. From 3 to 5ish, do preparations for sorting. Meet at NRF; some trucks needed
- d. Saturday, December 11, from about 8 am to 1 pm: Sort donated food, NRF, FH.
- e. Sunday, December 12, from about 3 pm until 5ish: Prep for filling boxes, NRF, FH. *Angel Tree gifts must be returned to the church no later than noon this day.*
- f. Monday, December 13, from about 7 am to 1 pm: Fill food boxes, NRF, FH.
- g. Tuesday, December 14, from about 7 am to 1 pm): Distribute food boxes in drive through fashion, NRF. (Toys and gifts will be distributed at St. Joseph's.)

**Help is needed for all these tasks. If interested, contact the NRF church office at 865-494-7131, as soon as possible, OR, use the sign-up sheet in the NRF Narthex, OR, tell Bob Gregory at 865-548-1705 or [robertgregory7103@hotmail.com](mailto:robertgregory7103@hotmail.com) and leave a message.**







# Norris Religious Fellowship's Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 8, 5:30-6:30  
"Drive-Through"



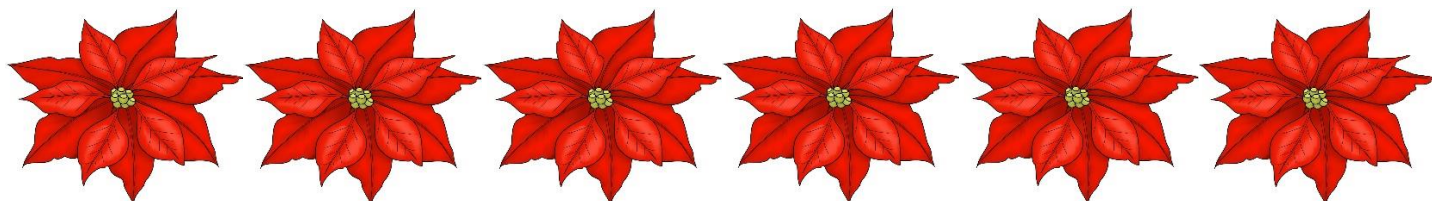
Choice of:  
Turkey Noodle  
Soup  
-OR-  
Beefy Cabbage  
Soup



With salad, bread, and dessert,  
ALL for \$5.00.

IMPORTANT----

*Please call the church at 865-494-7131 to reserve  
your meal(s) so we are sure to have enough,  
including extras for last minute drive ups.*



# FOOD PANTRY

## November Food Pantry Stats

**211 Families Served**  
**211 Families received USDA food**

**Families: 211**  
**People: 629**  
**Children: 198**  
**Seniors: 153**

## Clothing Closet Donation Focus

The Norris Area Clothing Closet has requested fall and winter clothing for men, women, and children (specifically **gloves, coats, and shoes**) Remember, they are also collecting **blankets and comforters (all sizes)**. Due to limited space, please limit donations to only requested items.

## FOOD PANTRY

**Next Food Pantry,**  
**Thursday, 12/16**

Drive-Thru Only

8:

8:30am-1pm

*December Donation Focus:*  
*Household Cleaners*

## CLOTHING CLOSET

**Now open on Tuesday's**  
**By appointment only**

10am-12pm

1 person per

family can shop

Face mask is required

**Call 865-494-9407 to schedule**  
**an appointment**

## Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Minutes Executive Committee, Norris Religious Fellowship, 4 November 2021

Members Present: Jocelyn Borgers, Rev. Bill Ireland, Jerry Crossno, Susan Bowling, Louna Kout and Emily Ott.

Also present: Joan Hughes, Lee Borgers.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jocelyn Borgers. Rev. Bill offered a prayer.

- Jerry had modified (corrected) the minutes from the previous meeting by adding the note after Emily's election as vice-chair: "Subject to acceptance by Emily." Minutes were approved with that correction. Emily did accept the office of vice-chair.
- Emily reported that she had made a number of phone calls the discontinue the alarm service by ADT, at one point waiting on the phone for thirty minutes. She thinks that it has been discontinued. Joan will check with Stacy Hauser, accountant, to make sure the church is no longer paying for this service.
- Joan raised the question regarding the fire extinguishers – they have not been inspected is a number of years. This was pointed out to her by David Hughes. Joan contacted the fire department (public safety) to see if they could inspect. She has not heard back. Will pursue.
- The parsonage renters are paying \$1,000 per month rent and paying the utilities. They pay the church, which then passes it on. Suggestion was made, that it be set up for the renters to pay those direct, getting the church out of the loop.
- Report from the accountant: As of 31 October, 2021:

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Checking/Savings  | \$4,570.04 |
| Checking (Paypal) | 315.96     |
| Vanguard #1       | 209,982.90 |
| Vanguard #2       | 8,816.59   |
| TOTAL             | 223,685.58 |

- Jerry pointed out that Vanguard #1 was the Endowment Fund and Vanguard #2 was "excess" funds; i.e. money now necessary for day-to-day operation and invested in Vanguard because it earned more interest than bank interest.
- There was agreement that Stacy (accountant) needs to set up a Balance Sheet of all the church funds. This with help from Joan, Jerry and maybe others. As a minimum, this should include: Bldg. Maintenance Fund; Endowment Earning Fund; Endowment Principal Fund; General Fund (or operating fund); and Memorial Fund.
- Rev. Bill's *From Here to Tomorrow* meetings will take place next year on 23 January, 27 February and 20 March. Bill expressed his total satisfaction with Ashley, the administrative assistant.
- The new streaming service has been installed, is working and is fully paid for. Bill is working on obtaining a lapel mike.
- The only heat in the offices is portable heaters – this has not been satisfactory. Terry Queener is working to correcting this. There is ongoing effort to correct the heating in the sanctuary and social area.
- Jocelyn, Emily and Bill had a meeting with David Hughes – was satisfactory.
- Bill and Genny will have an open house on 19 December.
- Emily moved that we go back to "in-person events." Susan seconded, passed.
- Community Thanksgiving service will be at St. Frances Episcopal Church on 21 November.
- 14 December is schedule for distribution of Good Neighbor's Christmas baskets.
- Church Christmas party will be 5 December. Emily is in charge.
- Jocelyn told Bill that the Trustees (members of the Executive Committee, less the minister) met. There have been no complaints regarding Bill's performance. Thus, the report is basically all OK.

### **Prayer Requests**

*Lisa Rains (Serious lung issues)*

*Charlie & Pat Duncan*

*Lib Morgan's*

*grandson Jackson*

*JR Johnson*

*Steve Johnson*

*Howard Helton*

*Leon Price*

*Lloyd Farrar*

"Let my prayer  
stand before you like  
incense; let my uplifted  
hands be like the  
evening offering."

PSALM 141:2



### **Let's pray for each other.**

A simple way to do this is  
through our  
*Birthday Calendar.*

#### ***December Birthdays***

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Susan Miller       |
| 2  | Michelle Leach     |
| 3  | Penny Duerksen     |
| 4  | Ken Strike         |
| 5  | Grayson Greenhouse |
| 5  | Nickholas Hietala  |
| 14 | Leif Hietala       |
| 18 | Terry Queener      |
| 21 | Caspian Haverkamp  |
| 23 | Frances Borgers    |
| 24 | Jean McEleney      |
| 25 | Jim Ryland         |
| 31 | Susan Mobley       |

### **Thank You From the Vecsey/Crossno Family**

Dear NRF,

With your kind words of grace, your child of God comfort, your thoughtful generous Christian deeds, your incessant prayer to our Father, and your sibling in Christ charity, you and yours faithfully acknowledged our dear Andie's light, her love, and her life ministry here on Earth. Thank you for holding our broken hearts and our empty hands during our loss, our pain, and our grief. In honor and in memory, we pray for his peaceful understanding and his healing embrace. We breathe the lifeblood gift of family and friend human touch...so do you. We all do. May our Lord bless you and keep your servants' hearts. Please know that he loves you all very much...so do we...and that Andie did too.

In His Name,  
The Vecsey Crossno Family