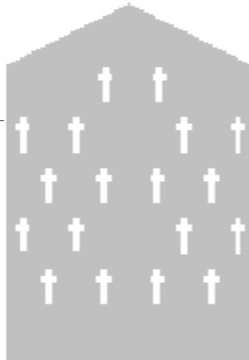


THE BOND

SEPTEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP
AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH



*"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
norrisrf
@comcast.net

WEBSITE
www.norrisrf.org

WATCH ONLINE
www.youtube.com/norrisrf

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday
9-3

MEMBER of the
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

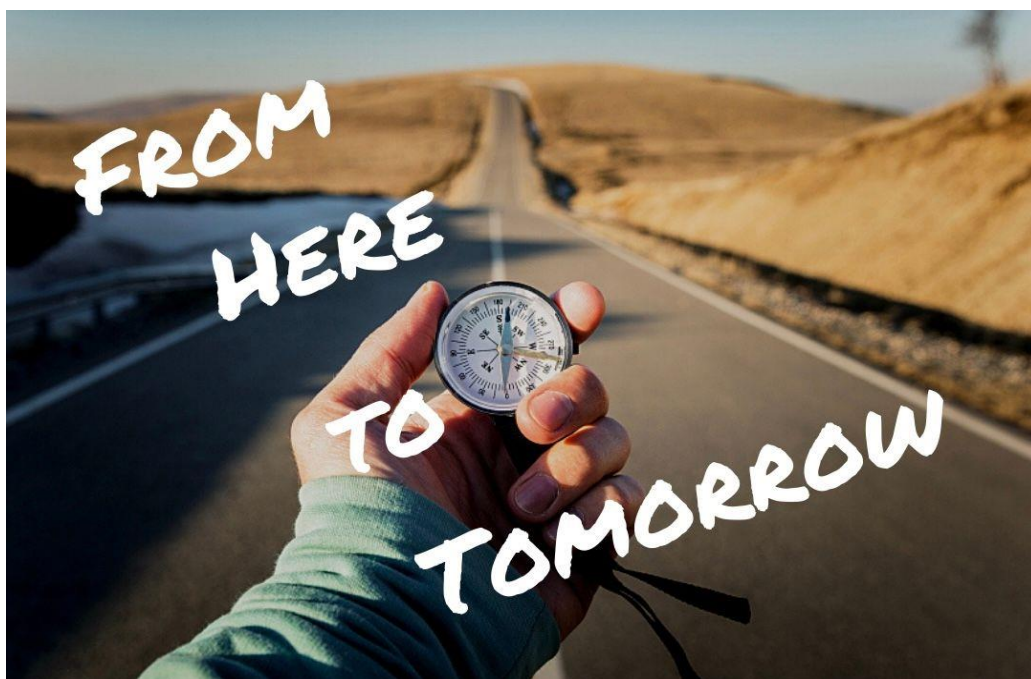
At the top of the list for this month is the start of our *From Here to Tomorrow* initiative. The full schedule is printed elsewhere in this edition, but I wish to remind you how important this effort is. At the heart of this work is three congregational conversations, each focused on an important topic related to our identity and direction. Full participation is essential to our success. I hope you will mark your calendars NOW and PLAN on PARTICIPATING!

Regarding this process, I have two goals in mind. The *first* is a clearer understanding of who we are as a congregation and what matters most to us. This is crucial because our mission and our sense of call for what's next grow out of our identity. *Secondly*, I'm looking for some specific ways we can extend God's kingdom to our community. What needs doing? Where does the need match our gifts? These are deeply spiritual matters, and as such, they require some thoughtful imagination. I'm excited about what's next!

As we round into the fall and (dare I say it?) the holidays, some routine housekeeping matters require our attention. We'll be having congregational meetings to elect our leadership for the coming year as well as developing a ministry spending plan for 2022. More about all that in the days to come. In the meantime, I invite you to join me in praying for our church in these exciting days.

Grace and peace,

Bill Ireland



Covid permitting, we will gather on three separate occasions for potluck lunch and conversation together as we seek to discern God's call for us as a congregation. *From Here to Tomorrow* is a planned process that will enable to work together to clarify our identity, our mission, and potential ministry opportunities. These sessions will take place on:

September 26th

October 24th

November 14th

In the first we'll *look within* to identify those things that make the Fellowship unique. In the second, we'll *look around* and discover what needs doing here in Norris and how we can serve our community. Finally, we'll *draft a plan* for moving forward so we can live into our identity and our call as God's people. This is exciting stuff! I know you've done something like this in the past, but this effort will be different. I urge you to mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. The more we have on hand, the better these conversations will be. First and foremost, however, this is a spiritual endeavor, so I encourage you to begin praying for this effort NOW!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawl ministry will meet on Thursday, September 23 at 7 pm. New members always welcome

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in the fellowship hall.

Study Group

Study Group will continue its study of women of the Bible in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 16 at 7 pm. This month's study will be on Leah.

Supper Club

Supper Club will gather on Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 pm at Calhoun's in Oak Ridge. As in the past an offering will be taken for ADFAC for their work with needy families in Anderson and adjoining counties.

Breakfast Club

“Join the informal men's and women's breakfast at 9 am at the Golden Girls Restaurant the first Sunday of each month. We order from the menu. There is no agenda; we just meet to enjoy each other's company. The next breakfast is Sunday, October 3rd.

HARVEST BAZAAR CRAFT WORKSHOP

The Women's Fellowship bazaar committee continues to be planning ahead for our annual Harvest Bazaar, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th, 9:00-2:00. To all those interested in making handcrafted items to sell this fall, we've decided to meet next Tuesday, September 6th, 10:00-12:00, in Pat Gregory's garage instead of in Fellowship Hall. Many seem to prefer making things at home instead of gathering as a group. This time we'll be making pine cone ornaments...angels, birds, and more. Please let Pat or Dianne Cole know if you'll be joining us. Thanks!

Contact Info Update

We are in the process of updating the church directory to have the most up to date contact info for our members and our friends. Please update this information with the church office by email at norrisrf@comcasr.net or by calling 865-494-7131.

Please include name, email, phone number, and birthdays.

Blossom Center

\$77 was taken up for the Blossom Center when they visited our church on Sunday morning.

FOOD PANTRY

August Food Pantry Stats

174 Families Served
174 Families received USDA food

Families: 174
People: 488
Children: 139
Seniors: 128

FOOD PANTRY

Next Food Pantry,
Thursday, 9/23
Drive-Thru Only
8am-2pm

September Donation Focus:
Toilet Paper

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*

Coffee & Fellowship

1st Sunday -	Bob & Pat Gregory
2nd Sunday -	Dianne Cole & Yvonne Webb
3rd Sunday-	Kathy Decker & Mary Shelton
4th Sunday-	Wendy Hall & Tom Post
5th Sunday-	Penny Duerksen & Joan Hughes
Alternate -	Lee Borgers, Jim McGann, & Joan Hughes

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes August 12, 2021

EC Members present were Dr. Bill Ireland, minister, Jocelyn Borgers, chair, Patti Treece, vice chair, Mary Shelton, and Tracy Crouch-Hubbs, secretary. Fellowship members present were Bob Gregory and Lee Borgers.

Bill opened the meeting in prayer.

The July Minutes were approved.

- Good Neighbors: Bob Gregory, coordinator of Good Neighbors, gave a thorough presentation about Good Neighbors and the NRF involvement. Bob asked for the following actions to be approved by the EC: Good Neighbors scheduled use of NRF resources including the Administrative Assistant. Put the schedule on the church calendar and discourage other groups from using Fellowship Hall from December 9 through 14. Solicit help from the congregation to work on the Christmas Project and attempt to locate a person to be Assistant Coordinator. Consider the NRF's position on discontinuing the Food Basket portion of the Christmas Project but keep the school food drive and the children's toys and gifts. Bill suggested we focus on holiday staples such as flour, sugar, etc... Bob said the Norris Food Pantry has a good budget compared to Good Neighbors budget and perhaps they buy those staples. The EC approved all of Bob's requests.
- Financial Report: ADT alarm company agreed to lower the monthly charge to \$44.99 which includes camera and breaking entry but doesn't include fire monitoring. It was moved to
- cancel the security but see if ADT will just do fire monitoring and if too expensive, look to
- another company. It was suggested that 2 of the Trustees meet with Susan Gawarecki and the accountant, NRF hired, in order to transfer our financial books. The motion was approved. The Finance Committee will work on a budget report in September and present the report in October.
- Minister's Report: Bill said VBS went very well. He believes we have the beginning of a nucleus for a potential Youth Group. Bill plans on beginning the vision quest with our church on Sundays September 26, October 24, and November 14 including potluck luncheons. Bill talked with Susan Miller and would like to begin taking a special offering once a month for Benevolence. We will be monitoring the Covid situation to keep our members and friends safe.
- Nominating Committee: Lee Borgers reported that the following members agreed to be nominated for the EC: Jerry Crossno, Susan Bowling, and Jocelyn Borgers along with Louna Koeut as assistant treasurer. The congregation will vote on the nominees September 26.
- Other Business: Regarding church usage, Jocelyn will present a form at the September EC meeting. Lee brought to attention the matter of having the community wide Thanksgiving potluck dinner. The EC decided to wait and look into the matter in September because of Covid. It was decided that Joan Hughs and Tracy Crouch-Hubbs will co-chair the Soup Suppers beginning in September. Bill, Jocelyn, and Emily will talk to David Hughs about his janitorial responsibilities.

The next EC meeting will be September 2.

Prayer Requests

JR Johnson

Steve Johnson

Ryker Jenkins

Michelle Queener

Howard Helton

Leon Price

Lloyd Farrar

Doug Bean

Lib Morgan's

grandson Jackson

***Join
us in
Prayer***

Let's pray for each other.

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

September Birthdays

1	Greyson Wilson
9	Louna Koeut
9	Sarah Maxwell
12	Amy Bakaletz
13	Jacob Pierce
16	Bob Gregory
17	Scotti Whitmire
18	Jim Miller
20	Kian Borgers
21	Matthew Borgers
23	Robin Loiseau-Archer
23	Hannah Haverkamp
26	Dara Koeut
29	Emily Haverkamp

Today I pray for you
a heart free of sadness,
a mind free of worries,
a life full of gladness,
a body free of illness
& a day full of God's blessings.

