

# THE BOND



FEBRUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

*"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.

Buddy Rogers  
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

Like most of you, I am so over COVID restrictions, mask wearing, and waiting for a vaccination. And, I am definitely over “virtual” worship! I hope that the Executive Committee will be able to develop a timeline for the resumption of in-person worship in the very near future. Christianity is an “embodied” faith, and we need to be in each other’s presence in order to foster a deeper sense of community. Nevertheless, despite our pandemic fatigue and frustration, we still have to soldier on until we are certain we can re-open safely.

The season of Lent commences on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. I am still in the process of thinking through how we might be able to manage some sort of Ash Wednesday observance and anticipate having something to report quite soon. The forty days of Lent prompt us to follow Jesus on his journey to the cross, and typically we often give up something during the season. Let me encourage you to approach these days a bit differently. Instead of giving up something, focus on a practice or action that you can embrace. Look for opportunities to do good and to bless others. Find a good book that will feed your soul. Set aside a specific time for prayer and reflection. Instead of giving up something, find something good you can give yourself *to!*

Ginny and I are slowly making headway with regard to our move. With each passing day, the stacks of boxes grow smaller, and things find their place in our new home. Thank you again for your gracious generosity in underwriting the cost of our relocation. We are definitely glad to be here!

For the month of February, I’ll continue preaching from the Gospel of Mark. I don’t have the topics or titles worked out at this point but here are the texts we’ll be engaging:

February 7: Mark 1:29-39

February 14: Mark 9:2-9

February 21: Mark 1:9-15

February 28: Mark 8:31-38

That wraps things up for now. I do hope our paths cross soon. In the meantime, stay safe, keep warm, and remember that God loves you all more deeply than you can ever imagine.

Grace and peace,  
Bill

## Women’s Fellowship Meeting

The Norris Women's Fellowship will have a Zoom-only meeting on February 7th at 12:30. We plan to discuss the plant sale and other matters.

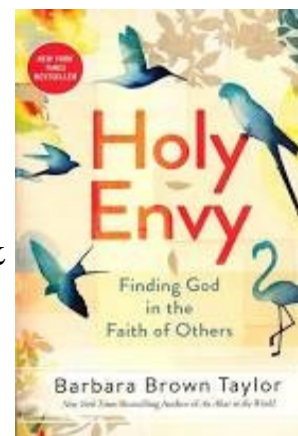
[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

Meeting ID- 870 1149 5625

Passcode- 7131

## Study Group

Study group will meet by zoom on Monday February 15 at 7 pm. We will discuss chapters 7 & of our book, Holy Envy.



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## Got Kids?

Have them check out Dr. Ireland’s weekly children lesson on the ABC’s of faith. These lessons are posted weekly to our website and can be found by going to [www.norrisrf.org/weekly-childrens-lesson-1](http://www.norrisrf.org/weekly-childrens-lesson-1)

## DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER

WEDNESDAY,  
FEB 10TH  
5:30-6:30 PM

\$5 per adult and kids under 12 free.

Stay tuned to our weekly newsletter for the menu.

## Volunteers Needed for Soup Supper

We are still in need of a couple of volunteers for the February Drive-Thru Soup Supper to make soup and help Dave Hughes serve it on Feb. 10th. If interested please contact the church office or Dave Hughes.

## Weekly Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday Nights at 7pm

Join Dr Bill for the weekly Virtual Bible Study on Philipians. If you are unable to attend or would like to catch up, contact Ashley in the church office for the links to the recordings of the previous meetings.

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
meeting id- 281 777 0471  
passcode- 7131

Zoom meeting ID and Passcode will be the same for each week.

### Janie Miller Memorial

Janie Miller's memorial has been rescheduled. It will now be held **on Friday, February 19th at 5pm** at Norris Religious Fellowship. Masks and social distancing will be required

### Watch us Live On Youtube!

Sundays Mornings at 11am



[www.youtube.com/norrisrf](http://www.youtube.com/norrisrf)

# FOOD PANTRY

## CLOTHING CLOSET UPDATE

Currently, the only donations being accepted by the Clothing Closet are men's and children's clothing. They have plenty of women's clothing. If you have items you must clear out, please take them to KARM and specify the donation be credited to Norris United Methodist or St Joseph Catholic. When you make a donation and designate one of the churches, the church receives KARM gift cards from those donations which can be used when people need items that we are unable to provide through the Clothing Closet. Thank you for your generosity. The Clothes Closet is currently not taking appointments due to some health issues with volunteers, but hopes to reopen soon. Clothing Closet items are not for resale. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Toennisson

## BOOK CORNER STILL CLOSED

The Book Corner is still overwhelmed by bags and boxes of unsolicited donations. We simply do not have the space right now to accept any more books. If you are able to hold your donations, please do so. If you really need to get items out, please consider taking your books directly to McKay's Used Book Store and donate the store credit to the Book Corner. This would be greatly appreciated for when the Book Corner is able to open back up. Just drop off or mail the credit ticket to Norris Area Food Pantry Book Corner, c/o Norris United Methodist Church, PO Box 327, Norris, TN 37828. Another option to take them to KARM and mention "Norris United Methodist Church." Your donations earn gift cards which can be used for items we do not carry in the Clothing Closet or Book Corner. Thank you for your patience and cooperation. Happy reading!

## FOOD PANTRY

Next Food Pantry,  
**Thursday, 2/25**  
Drive-Thru Only  
8am-2pm

*December 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*

# 2, 448 EGGS

It's a quiet Friday morning, breakfast is over, we discuss our events for the day, and my cell phone rings. It's Hugo Hughes, an employee at Ingles Supermarket and a staunch food pantry volunteer. "We've got eight and a half cases of eggs that expire in five days. There are 24 cartons per case. You have to pick them up by 3:30 pm. Would you like them?" My reply is always the same when any grocer offers us food, "Sure." (This has not always been a successful strategy in the past, but that is another story.)

We hang up, then it sinks in... 8 cases of 24 cartons plus 12 other cartons times 12 eggs per carton. I dig out the paper and pencil (yeah, I still do it the hard way).  $8 \times 24 + 12 \times 12 = 2448$  eggs. Uh-oh, "Norris, we have a problem." The eggs will expire on the Tuesday before we issue food to our patrons. As I've written in a past article, whenever we have perishable goods that we can't issue we take them to Loves Kitchen. However, past experience has taught us that the most eggs they can handle is 60 dozen. That only leaves 144 dozen eggs to find a home for, and they expire in five days.

Boil them or save them for Easter? The look from my wife says, "not a good idea." Hmm...must be some organization out there. There is, Knox Area Rescue Ministry (KARM). In desperation we gave them a call and are handed off to the kitchen supervisor. The lady says they process 60 DOZEN EGGS A DAY! Off we go.

KARM is located in the heart of downtown Knoxville on Broadway Street. Visiting the area is a truly humbling experience. There were at least 100 people outside, mostly homeless, all bundled up in layers of clothes and trying to fend off the cold. They were lying on the sidewalks, sitting in doorways, and just trying to make it through another day. Without KARM some of them probably wouldn't.

KARM is open 24 hours a day and make food available even when they aren't serving formal meals. We met the Kitchen Supervisor and she told us that they serve 30 dozen eggs a day at this facility and they have another facility that shelters women and mothers with children. They too use 30 dozen eggs a day. She took all 144 dozen remaining eggs.

We see the advertisements and the billboards for KARM. We shop at their stores. We know what they do, but to see first-hand... the care they provide to those truly in need... is a total heartwarming enlightenment. At times I ask myself why we do this, why work so hard? The realization is that in Norris, at Loves Kitchen, and at KARM we feed the hungry and provide aid those who truly, truly need our help.

--Submitted by Tom Aldrich, Food Pantry Director

## Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

January 7th & January 14th.

All EC members were present via zoom. Bill Ireland opened the meeting with prayer.

- Minutes from the December EC Meeting were approved
- Joan Hughes gave the financial report. Rent from the parsonage will cover the funds borrowed from the endowment fund in early 2020. She suggested we continue to look at the budget month to month. An audit on the treasury books are being sought out before the books are handed over from Susan to Joan. The EC is searching for an auditor.
- The contract for the Alarm/security system was discussed. Should it be renewed or cancelled? It was decided that more information was needed before a decision was made, and it will be tabled until the next meeting.
- The minister reported that we exceeded our goal of the Heifer International Project of buying two mated cows. Virtual bible study will begin Wednesday, January 13 at 7pm. Ginny and he are in the process of moving to Norris. There is still no plan to physically come back to church due to Covid.
- Voting on the budget was discussed. Bill said he could send a letter or email to the congregation allowing them to vote on the budget. Jocelyn said she will review the bylaws to ensure we are not breaking any of the rules via letters/email.
- Bob Gregory wants to step down as Good Neighbors chair. A meeting with all those most involved in good neighbors will be scheduled to decide the direction that GN is heading.
- The EC still has no contract for the new minister, Dr. Bill Ireland. We have search for past contracts to no avail. It was suggested speaking to Joe Mawhinney, who was the previous church treasurer for years, if he has information on previous minister contracts. He was able to provide this information. Joan said she will find this information and use it as a template to create the contract for the minister.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting Scheduled for February 4th, 2021**

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

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

- 1 Kell Wilson
- 2 Rick Rushing
- 11 Mary Shelton
- 11 Marcia Evans-Slagle
- 13 Larry Sadler
- 13 Larry Beeman
- 15 Keith Haverkamp
- 15 Judy Ryland
- 16 Morgan Simmons
- 16 Jennifer Moore
- 18 Caius Miller
- 18 Susan Gawarecki
- 19 Rachel Vann
- 27 Marsha Baskins
- 28 Betty Lovell
- 29 Joel Ashton

Buddy Rogers, our pianist, is currently at the Patricia Neil Center in Knoxville. He is no longer in critical condition and is doing some better. For those of you that would like to send him cards and well wishes his home address is below.

Buddy Rogers  
120 Canterbury Rd.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

**Prayer Requests**

*Buddy Rogers*

*Tiffany Evans*

*Doug Bean*

*The family of Rev. Gene Perry*

*Charlie and Pat Duncan*

*(Susan Bowling's in-laws)*

*Stacy Simpson-Duke*

*(friend and colleague of Parrish's)*

*Lib Morgan's grandson Jackson*

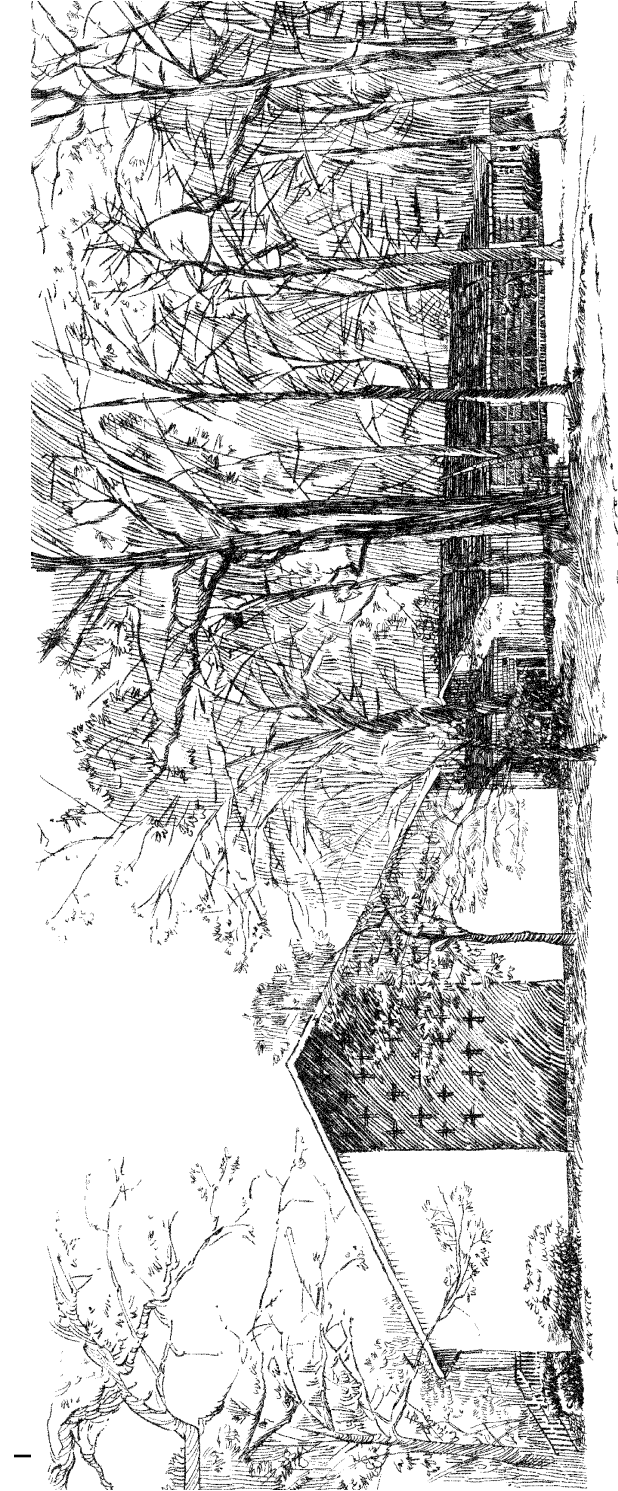
*Janet Rains*

*(Susan Bowling's sister)*

*Christopher Wolfe*

*(Susan Bowling's Nephew)*

***Join  
us in  
Prayer***



**The BOND**  
Norris Religious Fellowship  
PO Box 267  
Norris, TN 37828

**Check out our NEW web site at [www.norrisrf.org](http://www.norrisrf.org)**

*Log on & share the good news*

*of Norris Religious Fellowship in its faith journey.*

**Worship Services LIVE-STREAMING every Sunday at 11 am at  
[www.youtube.com/norrisrf](http://www.youtube.com/norrisrf).**