

Friendship Fit for a King

When I was in school, I thought I had a multitude of friends. But at that time, my definition of a friend was more closely associated with what I would now call an acquaintance. A friendship requires *mutual* effort from both parties, and that is where I blurred the lines. Many of my relationships have been one-sided. So-called friends want to reap the benefits of the relationship, but rarely ever want to offer anything in return.

In this passage from John, Jesus discusses true friendship. Jesus states clearly that he wants to be our friend, and he strives to have a relationship with us. However, Jesus does not blur the lines between friend and acquaintance. Jesus makes it abundantly clear that friendship with him is one of *mutual* responsibility.

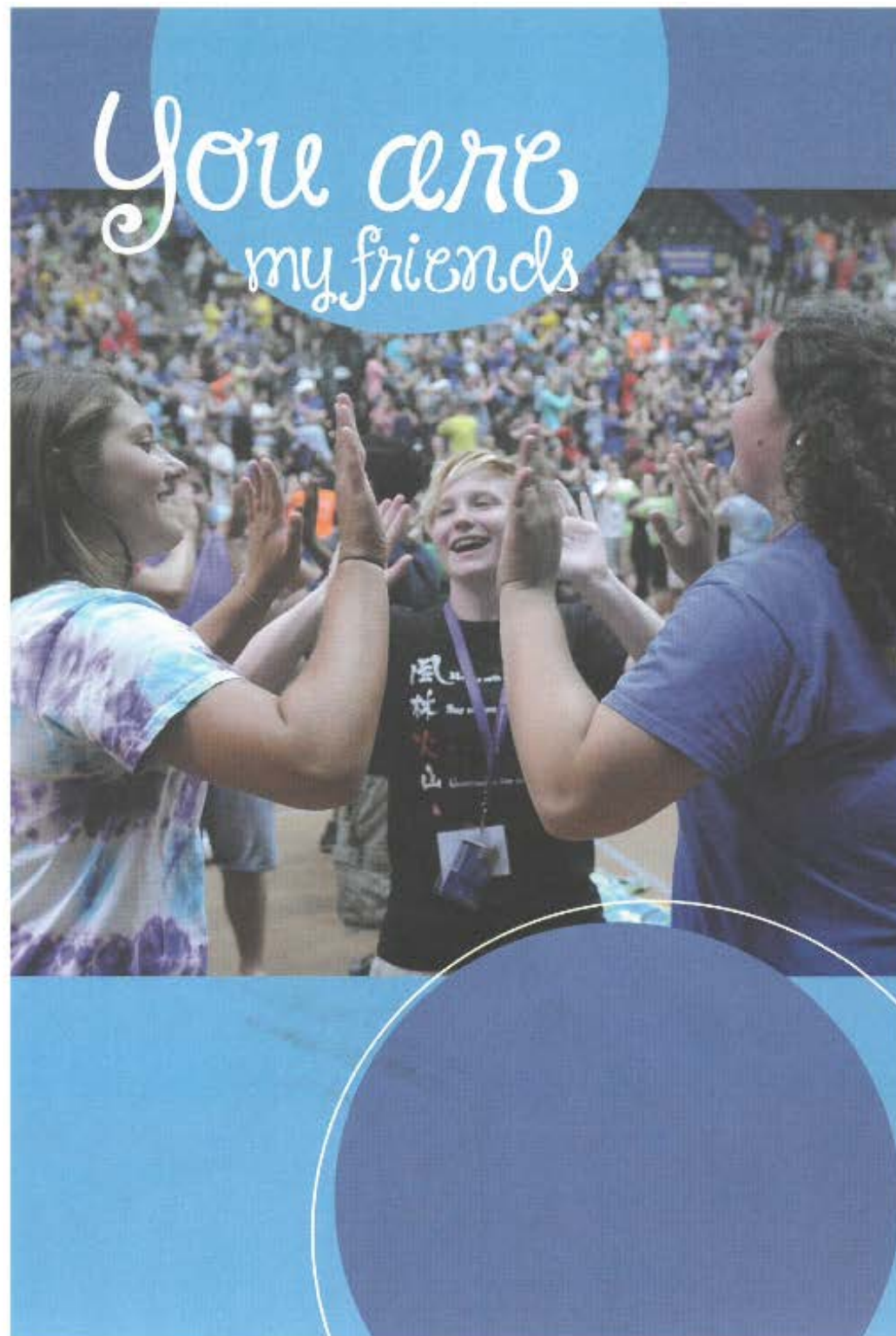
As believers we desire a relationship with Christ, but do we desire a *mutual* relationship? Here are a few ways that Jesus contributes to the relationship, as depicted in the Scriptures: forming the universe, creating all of life, performing miracles, dying on the cross, conquering hell and the grave, delivering those who believe, and promising that one day he will receive us into his kingdom.

So, how do we as Christians contribute to this relationship? Obviously, we are not expected to bring the same degree of contribution as Jesus. However, he does provide us with some very reasonable and achievable expectations as we bring our whole selves. Jesus tells us to keep his commandments and to show compassion to others. By fulfilling our part of this relationship, we are blessed with an eternal friendship that is fit for the King of Glory.

—Marty Murr
Jonesborough, Tennessee

Text for today: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. *You are my friends* if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” (John 15:12-17, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17 (14).

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship May 6, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (8:30) Jesus Calls Us *William H. Jude*
To Love Someone More Dearly Everyday *E. L. Ashford*
There's Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus arr. *Anthony Burger*
What a Friend We Have in Jesus arr. *Clarence Kohlmann*

PRELUDE (11:00) Familiar Hymns
"To God Be the Glory" *Doane / Swann*

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle
of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us.
After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

THE CHIME (11:00) The Norfolk Chime

MOMENT FOR MISSION (11:00) Refugee Resettlement
Jim Hershberger, Church World Service
Jan Flora, BWCOB Refugee Resettlement

Family Introductions
Aron Atsbaha, Haregu Mirach, Sara Aron, Yotam Daniel

***HYMN # 459** *I come with joy to meet my Lord* DOVE OF PEACE

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00)
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time
of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.
Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5th grade
are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:9-17

ANTHEM (11:00) The Name We Treasure *Jim Taylor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Robert Alley

SERMON "Chandler, Phoebe, Ross, Rachel, Monica & Joey" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

***HYMN # 574** *What a friend we have in Jesus* ERIE

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.
Brighten the Corner Where You Are *Chas. H. Gabriel*

OFFERING
Invitation
Offertory
(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.
Make Me a Blessing *George S. Schuler*
(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.
Introductory Voluntary *Edward John Hopkins*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***HYMN # 89** *For the beauty of the earth* DIX

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (8:30) On and On We Walk Together *R. J. Weaver*

POSTLUDE (11:00) Epilogue on DIX *William H. Harris*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

May 6-12, 2018 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Today	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	Agape Room
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch	Social Hall
	1:00	Council	Social Hall
	5:00	Sr. Hi. Movie Night	Youth Room
Tues.	7:00	Finance Commission	Lounge
Wed.	8 a.m.	Bridgewater Ministers	Maple Terrace
	5:30	Cherub & Carol Choirs Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Papa John's Pizza, Veggies, Grapes, & Chips,</i>	
		<i>Suggested donation: \$5 Adults / \$3 Kids</i>	
	6:00	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:45	Yorffs Rehearsal	Room # 35
Thurs.	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat.		Youth: Ropes Course at Brethren Woods	

NEXT SUNDAY– May 13, 2018 – *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Children's Ministry Sunday (11:00)

Worship featuring the music and ministry with and for our children.

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

YOrffs Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. – YOrff Room

Cherub & Carol Choirs Rehearsal – 10:15 a.m. – Agape Room

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – Interim Financial Secretary

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Jeanie Eye – Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

All Are Welcome brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Fellowship Host – Teshome Molalenge

Pianist (8:30) – Loreen May

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Decorators – Lori Lineweaver & Dwynn Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Alice Lee Hopkins

Van Driver – Teshome Molalenge

Worship Leader – Robert Alley

PASTOR CHRIS is away today to attend the Xcel Bronze VA State Gymnastics Meet with family. He will return to his regular schedule on Tuesday.

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 4/29/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 21 11:00 – 270 Sunday School: 150

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$10,353.87
Loose Offering	740.06
Food Pantry	25.00
Paul Bible Foster Estate	7,858.90
Rent – Refugee House	650.00
Wednesday Night Meals	237.00
Jesse Robertson Memorial Fund	20.00
Scouts Play It Forward	170.00
Anna Mae Will Memorial Fund	320.00

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Latin, trans. based on John M. Neale

To the Name of our salvation laud and honor let us pay,
Which for many a generation hid in God's foreknowledge lay;
But with holy exultation we may sing aloud today.
Jesus is the Name we treasure; Name beyond what words can tell;
Name of gladness, Name of pleasure, ear and heart delighting well;
Name of sweetness, passing measure, saving us from sin and hell.
'Tis the Name that who-so preacheth speaks like music to the ear;
Who in prayer this Name beseecheth sweetest comfort findeth near;
Therefore we, in love adoring, this most blessed Name revere;
Holy Jesus, thee imploring so to write it in us here,
That hereafter, heav' nward soaring, we may sing with angels there.
Alleluia.

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BWCOB BLOOD DRIVE

Our church social hall will turn into a temporary location for a BLOOD DRIVE on Sunday, May 20, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. It's easy to sign up by going online to <https://donateblood.vablood.org> or by calling Shannon in the church office (828-3711). Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

DISASTER MINISTRIES AUCTION

The Shenandoah District Disaster Ministries Auction and Sale will be held at the fairgrounds Friday & Saturday, May 18-19. More details can be found in the Disaster Relief Auction Booklets and brochures available from the literature rack and the hospitality desk; or for more information contact Doris Harsh at 828-6547.

GRADUATE INFORMATION REQUESTED

If you are aware of someone who has, is, or will be completing their course(s) of study during this school year (high school, college, or graduate school), please contact Pastor Chris or the church office with their name(s) and information about their completed program and future plans so that they we can recognize them! We will be recognizing our high school graduates during Sr. High Youth Sunday on May 20 and will publish a spotlight compilation of all of our graduates in a future edition of *Connections*.

Staff Member Report

Senior Pastor Jeff Carr reviewed the 2017 Senior Pastor's Statistical/Activity Report. Report is filed with the official minutes. Pastor Carr noted the following:

- Intent to introduce Interim Financial Secretary Hunt at the next Finance Commission and Church Board meetings.
- Appreciation to Jim Benedict for overseeing the Roof Project.
- Continued work with families through the transitions of life and death.
- Gratitude to Tony Stovall and the Properties Commission for cleaning the church building while Fortunato Correa was on leave.
- Completed proofreading the Church, Organizational and Pictorial directories. These directories will go to the printers soon.
- The beginning of his 9th year pastoring the Church (March 1, 2018).

Other Business and Announcements

- Appreciation to the Church leadership for anointings performed.
- Expression of thanks to the pastors for their continual leadership in all facets of the Church.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Jane Conner
Church Clerk

Church Council - Agenda May 6, 2018, 1:00 PM Steve Longenecker, Moderator

- **Opening** Steve Longenecker
- **Prayer**
- **February 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- **2018 First Quarter Financial Report** Phil Flory, Treasurer
- **Board of Administration** Steve Watson, Chair
 - **Update on Roof Project**
 - **Van Purchase Update**
 - **Recommendation for Voting Precinct Location**

In early March of 2018 members of the Rockingham County Electoral Board and staff contacted BWCOB following an unplanned stop at our facility. The Electoral Board is considering splitting the 401-Bridgewater voting precinct because of its size. Additionally, the Electoral Board is interested in using our social hall as a voting place for the new precinct. This would involve March and June primaries, if held, and the November general election.

On April 18, the BWCOB Board of Administration acted on a motion from executive committee and approved a recommendation to Council that BWCOB serve as a voting precinct for the Rockingham County Electoral Board.

- **Announcements**
- **Adjournment**

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
Council Meeting
Minutes
February 11, 2018
(Meeting rescheduled from February 4, 2018)

The Bridgewater Church of the Brethren (BWCOB) Council meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Moderator Steve Longenecker. Moderator Longenecker began the meeting reading from Matthew 4 NRSV, followed by prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 5, 2017 BWCOB Council meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Phil Flory reviewed the treasurer's report ending December 31, 2017. Income for the year totaled \$638,327.67, which was under the budgeted amount of \$656,848.00. Expenses for the same period were \$621,019.13. The amount budgeted was \$656,848.00, leaving a gain of \$17,308.54. After reducing the interest expense on the line of credit, the net operating total gain for the year was \$15,911.79.

Board of Administration

- 2018 Board Officers – Church Board Chair Steve Watson reported the 2018 BWCOB Board Officers are Steve Watson, chair, and Gladys Remnant, vice chair.
- Interim Financial Secretary – Chair Watson reported that Karissa Hunt has been hired to fill the role of Interim Financial Secretary.
- Master Planning Committee – Chair Watson reported that Blue Ridge Architects is preparing a site plan for the church property. The Master Planning Committee has determined that the top three priorities are the kitchen, storage and parking.

- Boy Scouts of America – Paula Neher, church member and Troop 38 leader, spoke to the Council regarding the proposal for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) action to welcome girls into the organization. The following, parts of which were included with the agenda regarding this proposal, was taken from scouting.org. The Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Board of Directors unanimously approved welcoming girls into its Cub Scout Program and delivering a scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Beginning in 2018, families can enroll their sons and daughters in Cub Scouts. Chartered partner organizations may establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens, or remain an all-boy pack. Cub Scout dens will be single gender – all boys or all girls. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts Program, the organization will also deliver a new program for older girls, to be available in 2019, that will enable them to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Chartered organizations have the option to select from the numerous BSA program offerings.

BWCOB is the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 38 and Cub Scout Pack 38. Local Scout leadership supports the acceptance of girls into the Troop and Pack. Therefore, the BWCOB Board of Administration recommends, *endorsing the admission of girls into Boy Scout Troop 38 and Cub Scout Pack 38, which are chartered by the BWCOB.* After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.