

GOD IS  
*faithful*

FORTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP  
40

1979 - 2019



Friendship  
CHURCH





**“WE CHOSE  
THE NAME  
FRIENDSHIP,  
BECAUSE  
FRIENDSHIP  
WAS  
HOW GOD  
BROUGHT US  
TOGETHER.”**

## **HERE IS THE CHURCH. HERE IS THE STEEPLE. OPEN THE DOOR AND SEE ALL THE PEOPLE!**

When children recite that rhyme, it makes church building seem easy. But adults know it takes time, effort and the hand of God to build a church. These are some of THE STORIES of how God used events, prayer and friendships to form a new church.

### **THE FRIENDS**

During the late 1960s and early 1970s several families moved into a neighborhood in Savage, Minnesota. Some came from nearby Bloomington and Burnsville to make their home among the dozen or so houses on Highview Terrace. As it happened, many of those families attended area Baptist churches, and as was the norm back then, many of those families became friends. They played together, ate together and studied the Bible together.

About that same time, Dr. Richard Patterson, a dentist who attended Bloomington Baptist Church, acted on his idea of starting a church in Scott County. He began with a Bible study hosted by Harold “Butch” and Karen Louisiana, which became the first in many years of Bible studies in their home. They were joined by their neighbors Cecil and Virgie Anderson,



*It was bonds of friendship across neighborhoods and towns that helped create Friendship Church - and determine its name.*

Dave and Sherry Krausert and Jill Duffy.

In 1978, two of those families – the Louisianas and the Andersons -- moved to Prior Lake. A move that would be significant in the life of a new church.

It is from those bonds of friendship across neighborhoods and towns, a church was born: Friendship Baptist Church (name later changed to Friendship Church).

### **THE BEGINNING**

In the fall of 1978, ten people from Berean Baptist Church and Bloomington Baptist Church got

together to discuss this idea, this dream – “The Scott County Extension Project.” By then, the focus had been sharpened to select Prior Lake as the location of the new church.

Present at this meeting were Richard Turnwall, the extension director for the Minnesota Baptist Conference, Dr. Patterson and Pastor Bill Hamren from Bloomington Baptist and Pastor Bill Horn from Berean Baptist in Burnsville. Joining those professional men were the Andersons, the Krauserts and the Louisianas who all had been neighbors.

In addition to conversations about financial support, services and meeting space, there were discussions regarding a future building site and the name for the new church. Some of the suggested names: Bread of Life Baptist Church; Prince of Kings Baptist Church; and Prince of Life Baptist Church. Many years later, Butch Louisiana would explain why the name of Friendship Baptist Church was chosen.

“We chose the name Friendship, because friendship was how God brought us together,” said Butch.

## THE PASTOR

The group’s number one responsibility was to pray for the church. However, there was a need to find a pastor to lead the new church. Patterson, Hamren, Horn and Turnwall discussed the characteristics and qualities they were looking for in a pastor. They agreed it would be someone who was not mindful of established institutions, was interested in door-to-door evangelism, was excited about sharing the Good News, obviously on-fire for Christ, would

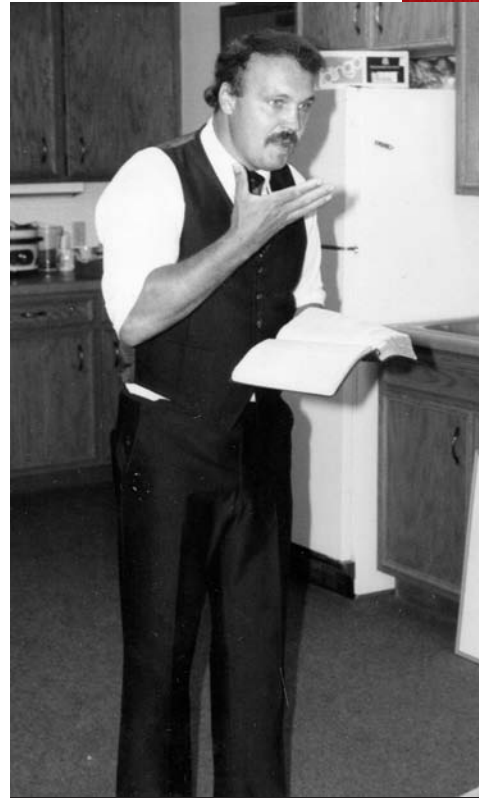
be skilled in the pulpit, gifted by God to lead the congregation in all aspects, and able to draw people together. On October 31, Doyal Van Gelder and his wife, Debbie, met with the four families of the new church. Days later Richard Turnwall recommended to the Minnesota Baptist Conference that Doyal Van Gelder be named pastor of the new church.

“Doyal was the perfect person for Friendship,” according to Butch Louisiana. “He knew building and design; he worked with Cecil in building the church. He was a great teacher and preacher. He and Debbie were like our brother and sister.”

Doyal was also well known for his uncanny ability to remember names. He was never heard to say, “I’m sorry, but I can’t seem to recall your name.”

## THE FIRST SERVICE

On Sunday morning, November 5, 1978, those families answered God’s call and held the first service in the basement of the Scott/Rice Telephone Company in Prior Lake. Provided at no charge, the 30’ by 40’ basement had just enough room for 40 to 50 people. Included in the very affordable rent were a couple dozen folding chairs, a piano and restrooms. Richard Turnwall delivered the sermon. Dividers were used to create the illusion of separate Sunday School rooms.



*Pastor Doyal Van Gelder, Friendship’s first pastor, loved sharing the Gospel’s Good News wherever he could, including the Friendship kitchen.*





*The kitchen was not the only the place to find volunteers in the early days, as everyone served in multiple capacities.*

## THE FIRST YEARS

The day-to-day operations of the new church were shared among the small, but dedicated, congregation. Cecil Anderson was selected chairman of the trustee board. Butch Louisiana was the assistant chairman. Karen Louisiana was the secretary and Virgie Anderson accepted the role of treasurer. The Christian education department was headed by Sherry Krausert. Sunday School duties were staffed by Karen for the three-year-olds through second grade and Virgie had the third graders through fifth grade. On Sundays, Butch was the head usher; during the week, he was the custodian.

On December 1st, Doyal Van Gelder officially started as pastor and church planter for Friendship Baptist Church. Three months later, the new church, having already outgrown their first home, moved the worship services to Westwood Elementary School in Prior Lake, where they would occupy the gym and cafeteria. There were over 50 in attendance that first Sunday (March 8, 1979) at Westwood. That number would double in a little over a year.

## PASTOR DOYAL LATER WROTE:

*“Friendship Baptist Church is an answer to over 20 years of prayers by Audrey and Lawrence Berglund. The Berglunds have had a cabin in Prior Lake for over 20 years. When they first started to come out to Prior Lake, they looked for a church to go to. They did not find one that met their needs, so they began to pray. They prayed that God would start a church that would have a strong belief in the resurrected Jesus and provide a loving fellowship to all who would come. Not only has God answered the Berglund’s prayers, He has also provided Lawrence with the opportunity of helping to physically build it.”*

On August 7, 1979, Friendship Church officially became registered with the State of Minnesota.

## THE BUILDING

The young church, inspired by God's leading, began to look for land to construct its own building. Al Robinson, an airline pilot and member of Friendship, found 20 acres on the western edge of the town of Prior Lake. The land, located at the south east corner of State Highway 13 and County Road 81, was purchased with a loan and financial gifts. Trees were cut, a gravel driveway was put in where only a field road had existed and a sign was erected telling the world of God's plan for Friendship.

It was during that time that a pattern of giving was established – Friendship gave its first donation to the mission field from the money raised for the building project. In November of 1979 the church declared in its newsletter:

“Currently we have \$579 in our Building Fund. PRAISE THE LORD!!!”

Garage sales raised funds for the building fund and essentials (a vacuum was purchased in the spring and a broaster oven in the fall). The additional items needed for the early church were listed as dividers for rooms, folding chairs and a typewriter. On June 8, 1980, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the new church building.

The new worship center was completed early in the year, and the first service was held there on Sunday, March 1, 1981, with over 160 in attendance. The church was built by C.L.A. Construction



Groundbreaking, 1980



*The young church, inspired by God's leading, began to look for land to construct its own building and found 20 acres on the western edge of the town of Prior Lake. PHOTO ABOVE*

*The worship center (now chapel) opened for its first service Sunday, March 1, 1981, with more than 160 attendance.*

**PHOTO MIDDLE**

*Everyone pitched in for building and addition projects, even the kids.*

**PHOTO RIGHT**





(Cecil Anderson's company). The construction cost \$220,000, which did not include the volunteer labor provided by many people from Friendship and helpful folks from the surrounding countryside. The new worship center was 4,600 square feet and able to seat 250, with the hall, kitchen and office doubling as classroom space for Sunday School.

God had His hand in arranging the financing for the building project and again the church remembered to give back to God by budgeting a tithe of the funds received. A \$137,000 loan came from The Baptist General Conference Home Mission Fund; The Minnesota Baptist Conference gave a \$20,000 gift; Wooddale Baptist Church gave \$6,500, Berean \$4,000 and from Bloomington Baptist \$1,200. The people of Friendship also gave generously to the project. However, the new church was quickly outgrown.

## THE RAPID GROWTH

Due to rapid growth, Sunday School was described as "crunched" in the church bulletin (Glad Tidings):

"Two adult Sunday School classes compete with our youth for space in the sanctuary. Classes held in the narthex are a tribute to the teachers' ability in cooperative use of the space. A Sunday School class held in a member's home and the change of a baby's diaper on the pastor's desk further attest to our need for space." (1981 Annual Report)

Once again there was new ground to break and in August of 1982, construction of an educational wing was begun. The next spring the classroom addition was completed, and construction began on the gym addition.

"We needed a gym that could be used seven days a week," according to Cecil Anderson.

When the gym was completed in 1984, Friendship celebrated by holding its first mission conference there.

## THE MUSIC AND THE PRODUCTIONS

Music in the new church was often acapella and frequently led by the women and children of those first families. They and their musical instruments were the music department providing all the Sunday morning worship; the musical accompaniment ranged from Karen Louisiana's accordion to the Anderson children singing or playing their musical instruments.

Karen Mord became Friendship's music director in 1985; a grand piano was purchased the same year. The following year a "fine used organ" was purchased from Crystal Evangelical Church for \$4,000.

"It is a beautiful instrument, which could serve Friendship's needs for the next 50 years," according to the church newsletter. (As of 2019, its whereabouts are unknown.) In 1989, Dan Lundberg was hired as music director. Dan was "like a

pastor to the choir." The next year the choir grew to 50 members – Dan's first full year as Minister of Music.

"The willingness of the choir to cheerfully stand on risers for the better part of a half hour twice on Sunday mornings is a tribute to the sense of mission and dedication this group of kingdom-warriors has," said Dan.

Dan had a vision for the worship experience at Friendship: "Future dreams include the establishment of a drama troupe and instrumental ensembles."

Dan's vision of a drama troupe was realized when Friendship's Christmas and Easter productions began. These elaborate productions, using the church's in-house talent to serve as directors, actors, singers, dancers, set designers/builders, costumers, sound and light technicians would bring thousands of people to Friendship as part of their Christmas and Easter traditions. Many made first-time decisions for Christ after attending these first-class productions.

In 1995, Mark Alewine became the full-time worship pastor. The choir grew to 110 members in 1997 and overhead projectors gave way to PowerPoint presentations. Four years later cameras and live camera-feeds brought the worship service to other areas of the church.

During Mark's tenure (1995-2005) the drama department became part of the Worship and Arts Ministry. Other departments in



Dan Lundberg, Music Director hired in 1989, appreciated the willingness of the choir to cheerfully stand on risers for the better part of a half hour twice on Sunday morning. **PHOTO TOP**

Friendship's Christmas and Easter productions used the church's in-house talent to serve as directors, actors, singers, dancers, set designers/builders, costumers, and sound and light technicians. **PHOTO BOTTOM**



and tradespeople. It was a unique and marvelous production where people could experience the first Christmas in its culture and its glory.

These annual productions would be joined over the years by other theatrical productions including dinner theaters and Sunday service-time skits.

### **DOYAL REPORTED:**

*“The highlight of 1996 came with our Incredible Journey to Bethlehem -- 5,000 people came to see it and more than 300 prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.”*

this ministry included the choir, the Sunday morning worship team (singers, instrumentalists, sound, lights, cameras, PowerPoint) video, photography, dance and ASL (American Sign Language) led by Ann Boyd. Craig Wasner served as Worship Director from 2005-2012, and Mark came back in 2013.

The origins of Friendship's drama department can be traced back to 1982, when Debbie Van Gelder wrote the curriculum for King's Kids. King's Kids was a

program for children with adults performing skits to highlight a biblical principle or story discussed in the Sunday School classes, which followed the skits. Many of the actors in those skits became actors in the dramas, performed for the entire church and surrounding community. A special attraction was added for Christmas time in 1996: The Incredible Journey to Bethlehem. The entire church building was transformed into the 1st century, complete with costumed soldiers



## THE KIDS

Throughout all of Friendship's history there have been Sunday School teachers, nursery and youth workers, and Awana volunteers on Wednesday nights, guiding the children to lead a life with Jesus. In 1990, the first Children's Pastor was hired, Penny Zettler. She was a gifted speaker and storyteller, and often preached in Sunday morning services as well.

Sue Pickus, longtime Children's Education Director, reflected on the importance of this ministry:

"Friendship Church is the place where my children came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. And they also learned to serve faithfully at Friendship. And are now teaching their children how to do the same in their churches. Talk about counting your blessings!!!"

## THE YOUTH

The attitude of serving God while serving His church permeates the history of Friendship. This has never been better modeled than with the youth ministry, which in-turn greatly influenced Friendship's response to the mission field. A couple years after the founding of Friendship Church, the youth ministry launched with a list of fun activities: swimming, roller skating, volleyball, tubing down the Apple River, campouts, The Como Singspiration, and a Christmas musical. In 1982, John Whitmore, serving as a part-time Youth Pastor, coordinated the first short-term mission trip to Panama for three members of the youth group.



*Many Wednesday nights, AWANA leaders helped guide the children to lead a life with Jesus.*

Pastor Mark Gold served as Friendship's Youth Pastor from 1985 to 2005.

In Mark Gold's first year of full-time ministry, over 300 students were saved (including Mike Golay who, 16 years later, would become the first Pastor of the new Friendship Church Campus in Shakopee).

During Mark's time as Youth Pastor, annual fall and spring retreats for youth began. Mark recalled the impact of one retreat:

"Every fall retreat was marked with an

*In 1991, students enjoyed singing along with Pastor Mark Gold on their mission trip to Mexico. PHOTO ABOVE*

*Jim Barringer grew up going to Friendship and attending the youth group and came "back home" in 2002 to serve as Senior High Pastor PHOTO BELOW*

unusual movement of God. One particular year, Mark Cahill was the speaker. Spontaneous worship broke out one night and continued for hours. Open weeping and repentance took place. Transformed students returned to school the next week and they then led 120 people to Christ, including two high school teachers."

Space was precious, the youth outgrew all available spaces on Sunday mornings at the church. Grades 7 – 12 moved to Prior Lake High School.

"The idea was to create a two-hour experience on neutral ground for students. The first Sunday we had 65 students. We were at the High School, off and on, for the next 14 years," recalled Pastor Gold.





In 2002, Mark took on the role of Student Ministries and Missions Pastor, and Jim Barringer became the Senior High Pastor, at which time, he reflected:

“Having grown up going to Friendship and attending their youth group, I am very excited to give you the words expressing my most wonderful feelings about being in service here...BACK HOME.”

When the Shakopee Campus was built, a new youth service began on Sunday nights called The River for grades 9 – 12. A separate program, The Flood, started at each campus for grades 7 - 8 on Sunday mornings. Wednesday programming and special events for youth has also been a part of the ministry over the years.

In 2015, Jim Barringer moved to New York to take a Campus Pastor position with a church there. In 2016, Rob Rees was hired as the Youth Pastor, and served until 2019.

## THE ALPHA PROGRAM

In the early 2000s, Alpha, presented in multiple sessions over several weeks, started at Friendship Church. Alpha is a place where people come to explore Christianity. It is a place for folks newer to the faith, or long-term attenders to learn the foundations. Alpha presents the facts of Christianity so attendees can ask questions as well as learn about their spiritual gifts and about opportunities to serve the church. While their parents are in the Alpha class, kids at the Alpha

kids' program hear about Jesus and practice memory verses. “We’ve seen the faithfulness of God year after year after year, pray to remember God’s faithfulness and believe He will be faithful again,” said Lori McCormick, Alpha Coordinator. “After you’ve been to Alpha, you will now see some familiar faces on Sunday mornings, an opportunity for new friendships.”



*Butch (pictured right) and Karen Louisiana led teams of adults, medical teams and students to Haiti from 1990 - 2018.*

## THE MISSIONS

We all have our mission field; whether we travel across the world, across the country or across the street, we can have an impact. In 1987, Tom Vellani, the chairman of the Evangelism Board, explained that sentiment in his report:

“In the past year there have been so many areas that, because of their commitment to the tasks God has put before them, the people

of Friendship are having a real spiritual impact in the community. If you worked on the (church) building project, participated in a Bible study in a home or at school, worked in AWANA, Sunday School or Mom’s Time Out, or wrote a letter to a congressman or a motion picture studio (there are so many other areas that are too numerous to list here, but I’m sure you get the idea) you’ve shown to the community that God’s Word is a place where a people can stand secure and certain of the truth.”

Mark Gold recalled the origination of the trips to the Czech Republic:

“In 1990, Greg Stock, an intern, took our youth to Czechoslovakia for the first of now 18 years of summer mission trips (in 1993 it became The Czech Republic). Our church now has a deep partnership with the Christian Brethren Church in Letovice.”

Members of the youth group went to Chicago in 1987, and later onto SEMP (Student’s Equipped to Minister to Peers) in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Denver and back to Chicago. A youth mission trip went to Mexico in 1988, with two to three more trips in the following years.

Later the youth began going to Haiti with the Reimers, then with Butch and Karen Louisiana, the Stufflebeams and Randy Williams. The Louisianas led teams of adults, medical teams and students to Haiti from 1990-2018. They were later joined by Tim and Sharon Whitmore, who continued to lead teams there.

In 2007, Mark Gold reported that Friendship Church had given more than \$200,000 to reach people of the world:

“This year you were supporters of 22 ministers or ministries in the Philippines, Mexico, Kenya, Ireland, Haiti, Scott and Dakota counties, Nepal, India, Japan, Czech, Cameroon, India, Bulgaria, Canada, and Israel. You also supported ministries in sensitive areas, ministries that reach and train leaders from the African American community and Muslim community and train pilots for missionary service. This year you (Friendship people) went to Czech three times, Haiti three times, India twice, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, the Philippines, Israel, Palestine, England, France, Holland, Germany, Poland, Costa Rica, Honduras, Canada, Kenya and Mexico to minister in Jesus name.”

As of 2019, Friendship supports 31 missionaries (as reported on the interactive widescreen monitor at the Prior Lake campus). Many of those missionaries call Friendship their church home.

Friendship commissioned Roxanne and Bijoy Manaen in November of 1999. They served in Nepal for six years and then in India for nine more. Roxanne recounts how they found Friendship:

“When Bijoy and I moved from South Minneapolis to Savage in 1993 we were looking for a Bible-based church. We went to several churches, but the moment we sat down and heard the message (at Friendship) we knew we



*In 1990, Friendship youth went on the first mission trip to Czechoslovakia (changed to Czech Republic in 1993), now an annual mission trip.*

were coming back. Because of Friendship’s mission support, many have been given the opportunity to be shown the love of Christ and many in return have given their testimony of receiving him as their Lord and Savior. God is at work and continues to be. Praise His name.”

## THE OUTREACH

Gretchen Havlicek became a staff member of Friendship Church in 1995 after having served as an intern for Pastor Gold. She started the Connections Ministry in 1998. There were 85 small groups then – a large increase from 1981 when Friendship’s first small group/ Bible study was that of the Van Gelders, Andersons, Louisianas and Sheplees.

One of the things Gretchen remembers from her days as an intern was:

“That every Thursday morning was prayer, and that all the interns

were told by Pastor Mark Gold that they needed to attend these prayer days.”

Gretchen credits Friendship in equipping her for ministry.

Gretchen was also in charge of baptisms at the homes of several members on area lakes (the first ones of Friendship were in 1981, when 12 people were baptized in Spring Lake at the home of Paul and Joanne Larson). Later, Rich and Judy Lambert were approached to have baptisms at their home on Spring Lake but had not yet agreed to it. However, apparently God had already decided, for one Sunday it was announced in the bulletin: “Baptisms at Lambert’s house on Spring Lake.”

Judy Lambert recalls one of the many baptisms at their home: “When a lady in a wheelchair wanted to be baptized, but was unable to walk, her two sons



carried her into the water. It was a very moving and God-filled time.”

Naomi Panek worked with Gretchen in the Friendship Connections Ministry. She saw first-hand how effective this ministry was.

“God uses Connections Ministry to personalize Friendship’s mission to the Friendship family.” Naomi said.

The Connections Ministry encompassed baptisms, Cell Groups (small groups meeting in homes to connect and have study together), Community Sections (a way to meet and get to know the people who sit in your section on Sundays), Friendship basics class, greeters, information class, membership, Mugs Ministry (bringing first-time attenders a Friendship mug filled with candy), new attender events, ushers, Visitor Calls Ministry, and Welcome Center hosts. These were all designed to help people meet and connect with others at Friendship.

When Lori McCormick became the Connections Director (2006), she and Naomi began to call all the families of Friendship, (this was when most homes still had a landline telephone). Naomi recalls that,

“We recruited staff members and prayer ministers to join us to check in with families about how it was going for them at Friendship and ask, ‘How we could pray with them over the phone?’ People opened up right where they were



*There were 85 small groups in 1998 - a large increase from 1981 when Friendship’s first small group/Bible study was that of the Van Gelders, Andersons, Louisianas and Sheplees. PHOTO ABOVE*

*Pastor Mark Alewine baptizes a family during services at Prior Lake. PHOTO BOTTOM LEFT*

*A mother, restricted to a wheelchair and unable to walk, was carried by her two sons into Spring Lake for baptism. PHOTO BOTTOM RIGHT*

– some amid a chaotic household of fussy children, some with weariness at the end of a long hard day, some facing life’s hard places. Many poured out burdens, concerns, heartache – and our team lifted them up to the Lord over the phone, asking God’s direction, guidance, peace and comfort. If someone had no immediate requests, we prayed God’s blessing over their family. Later, many people came to us in the halls of church, expressing sincere

appreciation for the prayers, with some asking, ‘How did you know to call me right then?’ Some shared how God answered the prayers. God blessed our people through prayer outreach. One gentleman asked if we could wait so that he could gather the whole family together for prayer over speaker-phone.”

## THE 20TH YEAR

Commenting on Friendship’s position in God’s plan and its

response to The Great Commission Doyal wrote:

“Friendship Church has just completed its 19th full year. 1999 will be our 20th year as a church ministering in the West Minnesota River Valley. From a humble beginning of just a few families, Jesus has built His church. It shouldn’t surprise us because that is exactly what He said He would do. ‘On this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not be able to stand against it’ (Matt. 16:18).

“A lot has happened over the last twenty years. Archimedes said, ‘Give me a place to stand, and I can move the world.’ Over the last two decades, God has given Friendship Church a firm place to stand, and from that place I believe we can affect and move our world as never before. The need of the hour is for us to see ourselves as God’s army, equipped by His word, empowered by His spirit, emboldened by the gospel, and sent by His commission.

“Who could have seen or predicted all God would do through Friendship Church? I think it can be safely said that Friendship Church is having a profound impact in our community as well as a number of places in our world.”

## THE PRAYER

In 2002, Growth in Grace Ministry, led by Marlis Kulus, declared that its mission was “to extend God’s love and grace to hurting and needy people as they grow and mature in Christ.” Working closely with her was Judy Wagner,

Director of Prayer Ministry:

“Prayer is a vital part of the ministry at Friendship Church,” said Judy.

There was a lot of prayer help from some very dedicated members. For almost 25 years, Warren and Betty Rylander were strong prayer warriors at Friendship and mentored many others to become prayer warriors as well. Along with George Hoaglund (a retired pastor) those three made many visits to hospitals and nursing homes and offered rides.

Prayer has always been important at Friendship. In 2003, there were 45 different intercessors praying for the different ministries of Friendship. In addition to the intercessors, there were about 80 people actively praying for the Shakopee and Prior Lake communities. Twice a month, individuals would choose a zone and either walk or drive around

that area praying for the people who lived there. There is also a Prayer Chain that connects dozens of people in prayer for hundreds of requests every year. There continues to be a group praying every Thursday at 6 a.m. at both campuses and a group that meets off-site in New Prague. As was stated in the 2009 annual report: “Friendship believes in the power of prayer.”

# “PRAYER IS A VITAL PART OF THE MINISTRY AT FRIENDSHIP CHURCH”



Warren and Betty Rylander were strong prayer warriors at Friendship and mentored many others to become prayer warriors as well. **PHOTO LEFT**

In 2002, Growth in Grace Ministry, led by Marlis Kulus, declared that its mission was “to extend God’s love and grace to hurting and needy people as they grow and mature in Christ.” **PHOTO RIGHT**



## THE SECOND “FISHING POND”

Pastor Doyal’s vision was to have one church with two campuses – the second “Fishing Pond.” Research showed that Shakopee was an under-churched community. There had been churches that had tried to establish roots in Shakopee community but had failed. Forty acres was purchased in Jackson Township from the Theis family for the second campus, then the prayer warriors went to work. The community was mapped out, people chose sections and began praying – for two years before the second campus opened.

“I believe because people prayed the Shakopee Campus lives today along with other churches in the community,” reflected Donna Swanson.

The 3.com (Compassion. Commitment. Commissioned.) capital fund drive garnered \$6.1 million in pledges for the new campus. Sheila Smith, co-chair of the 3.com campaign reflected:

“It is an honor for me to be part of a body that will joyfully sacrifice time, talent, and treasure for the salvation of others.”

When the new church building was completed at the Shakopee Campus in 2003, Pastor Doyal proclaimed:

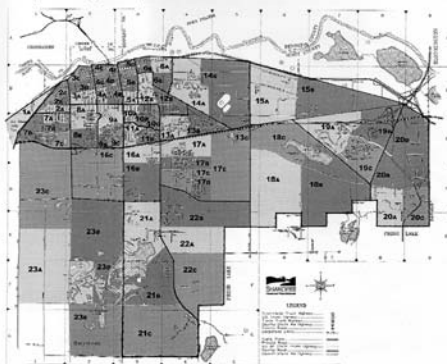
“We have been able to add approximately 800 new people to our worshipping body.”



### II. The Spiritual Mapping and Prayer Team Report

1. As we began to get serious about a second campus project, God led us to first develop and implement a **spiritual prayer invasion plan**. A number of exciting factors have been uncovered and some key plans set in motion.
2. The Spiritual Mapping Team has divided Shakopee into **prayer zones**. These zones may be prayer walked or prayer driven. The goal is to have the whole area prayed for at least twice a month. Judy Wagner, our Prayer Director, is leading this effort. We have asked the other Shakopee churches to join us in choosing prayer zones.

#### 3. Prayer zone map of Shakopee:



4. If you live in Shakopee, **pick a prayer zone** and a **prayer walk/drive handbook** and join in!

*The community was mapped out, people chose sections and began praying - for two years before the second campus in Shakopee opened. PHOTO LEFT*

*The new church building was completed at the Shakopee Campus in 2003. PHOTOS TOP*

## THE PARISH NURSE

The Parish Nurse ministry provided pastoral care to hundreds of sick and hurting church family members during the early 2000s. The ministry's nurses would visit acutely ill people as well as minister to those with long term health needs. The staff helped assess people's needs whether they were physical, emotional or spiritual and helped them navigate through the health care system.

"There is no compromise when giving care to God's most fragile lambs. What an honor and privilege it is to be the hands and feet of Jesus," said Jan O'Day, Parish Nurse Ministry Director.

## THE TURMOIL

In 2006, Friendship faced a painful leadership transition, which caused division within the congregation. Pastor Doyal moved on to start a church in Elko called New Day. During this transition, Friendship experienced a decline of financial contributions and attendance. It was a difficult time, but God taught Friendship many lessons it still benefits from today, such as peacemaking, biblically based conflict resolution, spiritual maturity, communication skills and humility. As Pastor Mike Golay recalls:

"It was a deeply humbling experience for all involved from which it took many years to heal."

## THE FELLOWSHIP

Friendship Church is all about building and maintaining friendships, whether it's through

Life Groups, College and Career, Sunday School, Men's/Women's groups, Double Nickel and Change or other groups.

John Just became the Adult Ministries Pastor in 1996 and developed a strong core group of "30 something" adults. He had a unique preaching style, remembered for tossing candy to the congregation at times when he spoke.

Chad Murphy became the Prior Lake Campus Pastor 2003, oversaw the Small Groups Ministry and had a heart for connecting people to others. He had a conversational preaching style.

Bill and Charlotte Jessee started attending Friendship in 2001, and in 2004 they started Double Nickel and Change, a ministry for those 55 years and older. They got the name from the Trucker's CB (citizen's band radio) vernacular --Double Nickel refers to 55 miles

per hour, anyone over the age of 55 is the change.

"We've seen friendships bloom and grow on trips with the group, as people got to know each other," says Bill.

They also played games, went to concerts and shared meals together. Bill is known as an encourager with a strong Texas accent and positive attitude. His wife, Charlotte (residing on a ranch in Heaven now), was never without a smile; she made sure everyone else had one too, with her oft repeated sweet suggestion, "Smile."

## THE FOOD

Donna Swanson, the Children's Education Pastor was famous for the "veggie tray" she kept in her office as a treat for visitors. However, her definition of "veggies" did not include vegetables of any kind, unless you consider processed and sweetened



*Friendships bloomed and grew on the various trips and events with the Double Nickel and Change group.*



cacao beans to be vegetables. Donna was an “idea person.”

One of the ideas she advanced, literally fed thousands. Working with the “Seasonings Ministry,” almost 4,000 meals were served annually on Wednesday nights for those attending and involved in the Wednesday night programs.

Donna also introduced a monthly “Donut Sunday.” That idea caught on -- now coffee, tea and pastries are offered every Sunday at both campuses.

## THE PASTORS' REFLECTIONS

In 2004, Doyal reflected on his 26th year as Pastor of Friendship Church:

“I have seen our body go from three core families representing 16 people to around 1,200 families representing 3,600 people. God has been so good to us as a church and as a ministry. I still find it such a thrill to stand and say to you, ‘Thus saith the Lord.’”

That same year Friendship surpassed the 2,000-attendance mark in regular weekend attendance

Pastor Keith Missel became the lead pastor of Friendship Church in 2008. In 2010 Keith wrote:

“As I reflect on the past year a marvelous hymn penned by Fanny Crosby in 1875 comes to mind: To God Be the Glory [great things He has done]. I hope you would agree with me that God has brought glory to His name as He continues



*Potluck dinners always have been popular at Friendship. Pie and fellowship help Friendship attendees get to know each other better.*



to build Friendship Church.” Also, in 2009, Pastor Mike Golay expanded Friendship’s mission outreach into the military. “I have been praying for some time that I could get into the Air Force Reserve to serve as a chaplain. This is the year it happened! I have always loved my country and had a desire to serve, but due to other demands, it has been delayed until now. I want to thank my family, Friendship Church and my fellow leaders for supporting me in this endeavor.”

In 2009, Pastor Jon Tolly came from Mitchell, South Dakota to join Friendship as the Prior Lake Campus Pastor. His gentle manner and warm speaking style endeared him to our church family. When he left in 2016, he left a big void, but fortunately God had a plan for him and for Friendship. Jon became the lead pastor at another church and God sent another pastor to Friendship the following year. Pastor Matt Clausen joined Friendship in 2017, as the Prior Lake Lead Campus Pastor. Pastor Clausen quickly became comfortable at Friendship. When he delivers his sermons, you feel that he is just talking to you, much as a real friend would. When he

visits the Awana classes, he gets down on the floor with the kids and talks to them at their level. Pastor Clausen can make everyone feel comfortable in his presence.

## THE STORY CONTINUES...

The stories of how the Hand of God sheltered and nurtured Friendship Church throughout 40 years are too many to recount here. Accounts of how God impacts the lives of those touched by the people and programs of Friendship will no doubt continue for years to come.

In 2018, the Prior Lake Campus was remodeled to include a larger stage, new classrooms and office space, and an inviting commons area for fellowship where people can make and continue friendships. In 2019, Friendship voted to sell a portion of the unused Shakopee Campus property to housing developers. The new nearby neighborhood will give opportunities to invite new friends to our church.

When you see Friendship’s founding families -- the Andersons or the Louisianas – be sure to say, “Thank you for your friendship, thank you for our Friendship.”



Cecil and Vergie Anderson reminisce with Butch and Karen Louisiana recalling the story of Friendship's beginning. **PHOTO TOP**

Pastor Doyal reflected: "It feels to me like our Lord Jesus has set before Friendship an open door."  
**PHOTO BOTTOM**

In conversations about those early days, Cecil and Virgie Anderson and Butch and Karen Louisiana shared these thoughts:

"I wanted a place where the kids were involved. We got people involved by being friendly and greeting folks."  
-- Cecil Anderson

"We all did what we were capable of doing; we were blessed."  
--Virgie Anderson

"Looking back, God brought us to Prior Lake. Friendship was in God's eyes – He prepared us. Never any doubt."  
--Harold "Butch" Louisiana

"God kept providing."  
--Karen Louisiana

Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the door and see all the wonderful people at Friendship Church.



*"In the book of Revelation, chapter 3:8 Jesus said to the Church of Philadelphia, 'See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.' It is a wonderful thing to see a church to whom the Lord says, 'I will set before you an open door.' It feels to me like our Lord Jesus has set before Friendship an open door."*

**PASTOR DOYAL VAN GELDER**



## **MISSION STATEMENTS AND A KEY VERSE**

**“Bible Based, Family Building”  
(1984)**

**“Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in so that my house will be full. Luke 14:23”  
(1994)**

**“To reach unchurched people and empower them to become fully dedicated followers of Jesus Christ.”  
(1997 - 2007)**

**“Friendship Church exists to glorify God by engaging people everywhere  
in the adventure of becoming fully devoted followers of Christ.”  
(2007 - 2018)**

**“Love, Live and Serve like Jesus.”  
(2018)**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Doyal Van Gelder | Founding Pastor/Lead Pastor | 1978 - 2006

Mark Gold | Youth/Speaking/Missions Pastor | 1985 - 2005, 2007-2009

David Johnston | Assistant Pastor | 1985 - 1987

Dan Lundberg | Minister of Music | 1989 - 1995

Penny Zettler | Christian Education, Women and Family Life Pastor | 1990 - 1995

Donna Swanson | Children's Education/Operations Pastor | 1992 - 2009

Mark Alewine | Worship Arts Pastor | 1995 - 2005, 2013 - Present

John Just | Administrative/Speaking Pastor | 1996 - 2004

Mike Golay | Shakopee Campus Lead Pastor | 2003 - Present

Jim Barringer | Youth Pastor | 2003 - 2015

Chad Murphy | Prior Lake Campus Pastor | 2003 - 2008

Craig Wasner | Worship Arts Director | 2005 - 2012, 1995 - 2005 Band Leader

Jon Tolly | Prior Lake Campus Pastor | 2009 - 2016

Keith Missel | Lead Pastor | 2008 - 2017

Ron Brist | Care Pastor | 2009 - 2019

Art Hansen | LifeGroups Pastor | 2011 - Present

Rob Rees | Youth Pastor | 2016 - 2019

Matt Clausen | Prior Lake Campus Lead Pastor | 2017 - Present

Thomas Gold | Grades 5 - 6 Pastor | 1999-2005

Gretchen Havlicek | Connections Director | 1995-2005

Lori McCormick | Connections Director | 2004-present

Dan Metzger | Executive Director | 2003-2005

Tom de Petra | Executive Director | 2018-present

Jan O'Day | Parish Nurse | 2000 - 2006

Marlis Kulus | Growth in Grace Director | 1998 - 2006

Lee Ann Yoder | Growth in Grace Director | 2006 - 2009

Judy Wagner | Prayer Ministry Director | 1998 - 2005

**DOCUMENT COMPILED FOR  
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40TH ANNIVERSARY  
AUGUST 7, 2019**



Friendship  
CHURCH

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AND SERVE  
LIKE JESUS**

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