



Asheboro Friends Meeting

**PO Box 987
Asheboro, NC 27204-0987**



Asheboro Friends Meeting

**East Kivett and Main Streets
Asheboro, North Carolina**

**Mailing Address
PO Box 987, Asheboro, NC 27204-0987**

Hope

LOVE

JOY

PEACE



"I Have Called You Friends" John 15:15

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December 15, 2021

A Message from our FCNC Superintendent Mike Wall

Tychicus. Not a word that we hear very often. It is the name of a man who was a friend and colleague of the apostle Paul. We tend to focus on Paul, because we have the letters he wrote in the New Testament. But apparently Tychicus was a “living” letter.

His name only appears 5 times in the New Testament.

First in Acts 20, where he is mentioned as one of the TEAM that Paul travelled with in his journeys, who helped Paul plant churches so the Gospel would spread.

Later, Paul sent Tychicus to the church at Ephesus.

Then to the church at Colosse.

Then to the church at Crete.

Read these words from Ephesians 6:21-22: “*Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, ... I am sending him to you for this very purpose, ...that he may ENCOURAGE you.*” Tychicus was sent when a letter just wouldn’t do! Apparently Encouragement was a specialty for this brother!

In the past 2 years, people and churches have experienced ... well, you know. Our lives have been even more difficult and confusing than in the past. We need a few more like Tychicus! Encouragers!

In a conversation this week, I heard someone say: “If all you are going to do is complain, just keep your mouth closed.” Count the number of times the word “encourage” is in the Bible. We are told to encourage one another.

In the letter Paul wrote to the Ephesian church, he said: “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the HOPE to which he has called you.” A lack of encouragement leads to diminishing hope. It may be slow, gradual, but hope fades. But even a small pill of encouragement can restore hope.

We have a plant in our house, I think it is a lily? It just sits there being green, with long shoots reaching toward the sky, until, one day, it’s not reaching. I look at it and it is drooping and fading brown, and looks as if it is dying. I get a small cup of water and pour it into the little pot, and next day, that plant has sprung to life again. That’s encouragement.

Part of my job as Superintendent is to help our pastors. I have said several times that the pandemic has affected our pastors in FCNC more than anyone else. Part of the job of those pastors is to be an encourager, but, given the stress of the past months, some of them may be “drooping.” And now, just when it looked like the pandemic was going away, the “experts” have come up with another version, and there are threats again of disaster. This cannot be good for pastors. What about a little encouragement? As we approach Christmas, spread some encouragement and hope to the ones who give it all during the year.

You know, when I pour that water on that plant, it actually makes me feel better too!

Pray against the pandemic

Pray for your church and for your pastor.

I am Praying for you and your church regularly !!

Mike

(Sign up for Mike’s weekly emails at MWALL22@carolina.rr.com)

COVID-19 Vaccine inoculations are available to everyone over age 5. Vaccine booster shots are also available to those over 65 years of age or who have occupations posing a high risk of exposure. Go to: www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Public-Health/COVID-19 or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 336-318-6227.

Feeding Locals First USFW has a new list of items for the homeless:

- Socks and gloves
- Sweaters and vests
- Toboggans and scarves
- Adult face masks

Birthdays & Anniversaries

B Susan Coltrane — December 20

B Pat Hurley — December 29

CUOC for December:

Canned Chicken & Dumplings

November Financial Report:

Income:	\$ 59,652.03
Expenses:	\$ 9,088.14
Gen Fund Balance:	\$ 55,937.01

Meals-On-Wheels Volunteers needed!

Meals-on-Wheels provides a nutritionally-balanced meal to homebound eligible persons 60+, Monday through Friday. The MOW program supports independence while promoting the social, physical, and emotional well-being of seniors. For many, their MOW volunteer is the only person they may interact with all day and the only meal they may receive.

RSAA needs your help to get back to delivering daily hot meals to our many clients in need. If you have any time to give, please contact Kim Allgood at 226-625-3389, 212. Or email outreach@senioradults.org

Stille Nacht

The world’s most famous Christmas song, “Silent Night,” comes to us from Austria (*Österreich* in German). Called “Stille Nacht” in its original German, this beautiful Christmas carol is now sung and enjoyed around the world in over 140 languages.



Joseph Franz Mohr (1792-1848)

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1818 pastor Joseph Franz Mohr (1792-1848) walked the three kilometers from his home in the Austrian vil-

lage of Oberndorf bei Salzburg to visit his friend Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863) in the neighboring town of Arnsdorf bei Laufen. Mohr brought with him a poem he had written some two years earlier. He desperately needed a carol for the Christmas Eve midnight mass that was only hours away. He hoped his friend, a school teacher who also served as the church’s choir master and organist, could set his poem to music. And one of the many amazing things about this carol is that Franz Gruber composed the “Stille Nacht” melody for Mohr in just a few hours on that December 24, 1818.



Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

Recent flooding of the nearby Salzach river had put the church organ out of commission, so Gruber composed the music for guitar accompaniment. A few hours after Gruber finished his composition, he and Mohr stood before the altar of the St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf to perform their own work. A local choir group backed them up as the sounds of the brand new carol broke the silence of that “Stille Nacht.”

(From The German Way <https://www.german-way.com/>)