

**THIS IS ONEIDA
OUR FRIENDS AT NEW FRIENDSHIP**

In my articles, I most often tell you about the events, staff, and students of Oneida. In this article, I'd like to tell you about a trip I recently made to visit some great friends of Oneida.

New Friendship Baptist Church in Auburn, Kentucky recently volunteered on our campus. I was so blessed by their visit, but the blessings didn't stop when they left campus. This church, like so many of you, blesses us in so many ways. They volunteer and support us in prayer and financially by sending proceeds from quilt sales. They also came last summer and provided a wonderful lunch for our entire campus. Before their visit, they had requested that I come speak at their church sometime after their visit to Oneida. Within a few short days of their visit, I headed for Auburn to be with them. Angie and I fell in love with this church and her people. As a matter of fact, we are sending our oldest son to youth camp with them later this summer.

One of their church members owns Federal Grove Bed and Breakfast. Federal Grove is a beautiful, quaint, and historic place in Auburn. My family rolled into town on a Friday evening and was quickly treated to some fudge pie that was heavenly. Terry and her staff spoiled my family rotten for two days, and it was some of the best Southern-style cooking you will find anywhere.

These generous accommodations enabled me to travel down to Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee on Saturday to look at some buses. I am in search of a bus that can meet the needs of our choir that travels 20-25 Sundays each school year. The owner of one of the companies I visited had briefly attended Oneida as a student over 20 years ago.

On Sunday I spoke at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. This little, country church is booming and the Lord is blessing, and I believe it is because they are so missions-minded. I made great contacts and friends, and thoroughly enjoyed our visit and the opportunity to share what the Lord is doing here at Oneida. I was the guest speaker, but I was the one who was blessed this day. After church, the pastor and a family member of some of our current staff treated us to lunch. We arrived back home Sunday evening encouraged and energized to continue to do the Lord's work here.

You wouldn't have to house and feed me fudge pie the way New Friendship did, but I would love the opportunity to come and visit your church one day. Give me a call any time and we'll see if we can arrange a date. Thank you to New Friendship and all of our Kentucky Baptist friends.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President**

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