

Food for Thought



1075 General Newsletter

September 2022

Vol. 2 No. 5

Message from Mary Ann

The Filling Station continues to be blessed by the community and volunteer support.

July and August were exciting months as we wrapped our 5th year of serving Jones County.

Thank you all for celebrating with us on Friday, August 26th in our renovated space here on the campus. The anniversary celebration kicked off with The Southern Gentlemen Chorus and Prayer by Charlie Dunn, Jr., VP of the Board of Directors. We are especially grateful for our guest speakers: Jacob Morgan, NC Extension/Jones County, Kirk Ronzheimer, The Epiphany School of Global Studies and Jane Peele, Atlantic Dance Theatre.

Thank you Tom Pike, Operator of Chick-Fil-A in New Bern, for making a special announcement about the True Inspiration Award being presented to The Filling Station and how everyone can VOTE by downloading the Chick-fil-A app and begin voting Sept 1-24.

Thank you to Triune Holiness Church and Atlantic Dance Theatre who performed a beautiful praise dance in the front parking lot. The celebration ended with Volunteer Recognition and a beautiful reception led by Geraldine Eubanks, Volunteer Coordinator. Special thanks to Marcy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator, who supported me with all the details of the event.

Everyone was invited to tour the facility and see the new artwork and Eagle Scout projects highlighted in the garden venue.

Special thanks to Briles Johnson, Executive Director of the N.C Commission of Community Service and Volunteerism, for traveling in from Raleigh, NC to attend this event.

Special thanks to Claire Curry, WNCT/Channel 9, for news coverage of the anniversary celebration. [Click here](#) to view.

What's next? Perfect 10 Annual Fundraiser on Sat, Oct 1st, 10 am- 5pm on Ten Mile Fork Road, Jones County, NC - Have you become a sponsor yet? Purchased a Cow Pie Bingo ticket? NEW THIS YEAR - Blackstone Grill Raffle. There will be something for everyone. Mark your calendar, invite your friends, bring your family and join us for a beautiful fall day enjoying all that Jones County has to offer. [Click here](#) for details.

The mission continues to assist filling unmet needs in the areas of Nutrition, Education and Connection to the residents of Jones County, NC. We are excited to have you on the journey with us. You make a difference!

Mary Ann LeRay
Executive Director

The Filling Station Celebrates Five Years of Service

On Friday August 26, 2022, The Filling Station celebrated five years of serving the community. Throughout the afternoon, we recognized volunteers who have helped us over the years and highlighted our new teaching kitchen, which is almost complete, along with a new forklift to help make food distributions easier.

"Well, it feels like just the beginning. And also an culmination of so many dreams that have come true. So yeah, it's been a pretty special day—I am almost speechless," said Executive Director Mary Ann LeRay.

Special thanks to Coastal Photo Club member Jeff Sherman for taking the photos!



Above: Southern Gentlemen Chorus.
Below: Noreen Jeckel, Ed Jekel and Sarah Ware



Top: Mary Ann LeRay; Center: Ed Jekel; Below Ed and Noreen Jeckel



The Filling Station Celebrates Five Years of Service



Jacob Morgan, Director Jones Co. Coop. Ext.



Kirk Ronzheimer, Dir. Of Spiritual Life at The Epiphany School of Global Studies



Elizabeth Pope, Executive Director, Jane Peele, instructor for Volunteer Enrichment at TFS and Joan Taylor, ADT Board Member



Above: Tharesa Lee; Below: The Governor Medallion Awards were shared with Bobby Darden, Board Member, Mary Ann LeRay, ED, Geraldine Eubanks, Volunteer Team Lead, Jimmy Bender, Food Pantry Director



The Filling Station Celebrates Five Years of Service



Thanks to (L to R): Zack Koonce (serving on Board since 2018) , Norma Sermon-Boyd (Delta Theta Sorority), and Noreen Jekel (garden art work).



Cynthia Kinsey (120 hours of service to Food Pantry)



Judy Hills (Newsletter editor & technical assistance)



Willie Smith (St. James AME Zion Church, Board member, and 150 hours of service)



Eileen Griswold (Pollocksville Presbyterian Church) served over 200 hours in the Food Pantry.

The Filling Station Celebrates Five Years of Service



Clyde and Julia Murphy—celebrating 50 years of wedded bliss and a combined over 600 hours of service to the Food Pantry.



Jimmy and Hilda Bender—as a labor of love, together they have given over 600 hours service.



Above: Norma McDonough (232 hours of service with Food Pantry). Right: Tom Pike, Chick-Fil-A operator in New Bern; Below: Triune Homeschool Group led by Jan Peele.



Church Spotlight: Christian Faith Assembly

CHRISTIAN FAITH ASSEMBLY



We as a body of believers support the Filling Station because we both have the people of Jones and surrounding counties at heart. When Hurricane Florence hit this area, the Filling Station was and still is a place of great support for the area.

Our church mission is to reach out into the community with the gospel of the kingdom as well as helping to meet some of the unmet needs of the residence. Supporting the Filling Station gives us a sense of accomplishing one of our goals.

Christian Faith Assembly was incorporated in 1984, it began with a vision from God to start a ministry in the Trenton area. After being ordained by the United Holy Church,

then minister Dunn and his wife Shirley began a house to house Bible study and prayer meeting. This grew to where we needed a place to meet at a fixed location. On the 5th Sunday in May 1992, we held our first Sunday worship service in a new facility which was built from the tithes and offerings of a very few faithful people of God.

In June of 1998, we received recognition as a 501(c)(3) church organization. We are grateful to our God and savior Jesus Christ for the opportunity to serve this area for these past 38 years.

Pastor Charlie Dunn, Jr.

Board Member Spotlight: John Taylor

John Taylor grew up in New Bern with great parents and one brother. He graduated from ECU in 1989 where he played Division 1 tennis and he still plays weekly when time allows.

John and his wife Joan have been married for 32 years and have three grown children, Max, Jake, and Mimi, whom they are extremely close with. They have three wonderful grandchildren.

John and Joan have lived in Trenton since 2014 and LOVE it! "Jones county people are fantastic! Its rally a wonderful place to live and is truly a hidden gem, we think," John said. They have several commercial real estate businesses, all headquartered in New Bern and John has been in the investment real estate business for 33 years.

John was asked to join the board of the Filling Station in 2018, not longer after its inception. "Not really knowing what I was getting myself into, I must say that it has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done....it is such a wonderful organization. We have always had an excellent 'working' board, great advisors, donors, and a fantastic Executive Director to work with. The Filling Station is blessed with great leadership and wonderful clients."

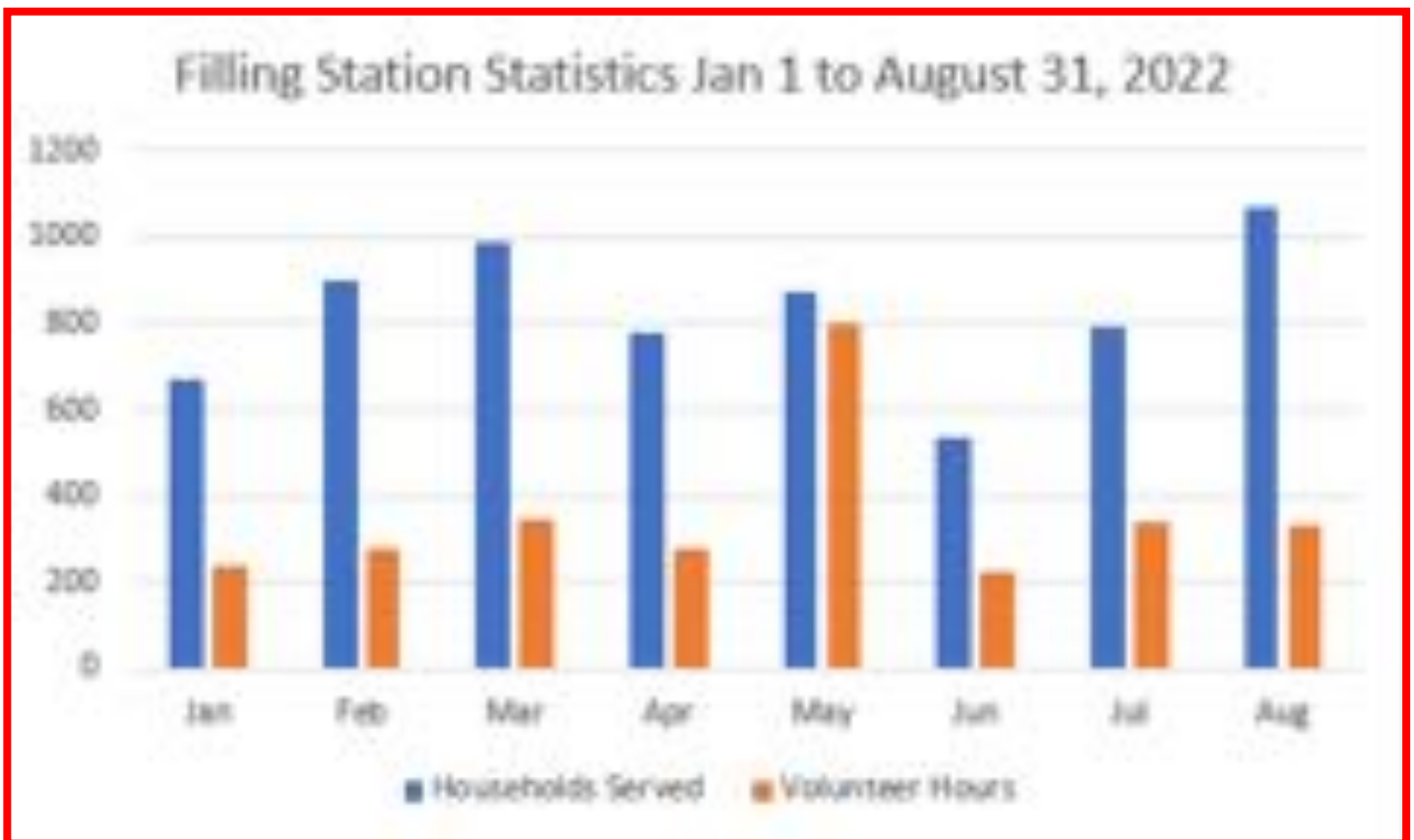


Volunteer Spotlight: Norma McDonough



Norma McDonough was born in Puerto Rico, went to school at Radford College, VA and was married to Air Force guy. She has three children and six grandchildren, one of them is a special needs young man. Norma also volunteers with the special needs baseball program. She began volunteering at a base hospital and was a volunteer interpreter at the World Special Olympics in Raleigh. Another program that got the benefit of Norma's time was the Guardian at Litem Program in Wayne County. Norma is also member of the Human Rights Committee at Cherry Hospital and the O'Berry Neurological Center in Goldsboro. She was the 2017 recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award in Goldsboro.

Norma moved to New Bern and was looking for a volunteer opportunity when she met Carol Mattocks. Carol immediately recommended that Norma contact The Filling Station. "I am feel blessed that I can help others," said Norma when asked why she volunteers with The Filling Station. Norma was honored at the 5th Anniversary party for serving 232 hours in the past year.



Chick-Fil-A True Inspiration Awards Contestant—Vote on the App

Through the annual True Inspiration Awards program, Chick-fil-A, Inc. provides grants to nonprofit organizations that are working to strengthen our neighborhoods and cities. The True Inspiration Awards program was created in 2015 to honor the legacy of Chick-fil-A's late founder, S. Truett Cathy.

The Filling Station is one of the recipients of Chick-fil-A's "True Inspiration Award." True Inspiration Awards grants range from \$30,000 to \$350,000, with a collective \$5 million awarded annually



to organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Applications were open through May 31, 2022. Voting for the 2023 True Inspiration Awards Regional Winners will occur Sept. 1-24, 2022, using the Chick-fil-A App. Depending on how many votes the nonprofit gets, it could receive between \$30,000 and \$350,000.

The award winners will be announced in December 2022 or early January 2023. The recipients may use the grant funds to further their missions.

Annual Board Training for The Filling Station Board of Directors

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, the Board of Directors met at The Father's Refuge in Dover, NC for the Annual Board Training. Everyone was welcomed by Scott Murphy, Executive Director of The Father's Refuge and served a home-cooked meal. (<https://mxnetwork.org>)

Mary Ann LeRay, Executive Director, and Cathy Smith, Strategic Planning Consultant

led the training for the afternoon. The Board of Directors reviewed the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and made no changes. The group worked together on 2022 SWOT analysis to determine areas of growth and areas that need fine tuning. We wrapped up the day with discussing the power of committees in creating a strong foundation for rotational leadership.



Pictured left to right front row: Sylvia Miller, Cathy Smith, Sheri Smith, Mary Ann LeRay, Maria Robles, Carol Mattocks
Second row: Left to right Clyde Murphy Jr., Willie Smith, Charlie Dunn, Jr., John Taylor, Ellis Banks, John Bender, Bobby Darden Not pictured: Willie Jones, Karen Plaster, Dr. Norma Sermon-Boyd

Updates

Brand New Backpacks for Students

Thank you to several Jones County Businesses for supporting Neuse River Bridge Run which in turn supports The Filling Station. We received a donation to be able to purchase 200 back packs and fill them with so many wonderful donations/ non perishable snacks and other wonderful goodies.

The Back to School event was held on Sat, Aug 13th at the Jones County Civic Center. Each child picked up a brand new backpack.



THESE NEW BACKPACKS WERE PACKED WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR.

This project is possible through a partnership with the Neuse River Bridge Run which serves our community by promoting a healthy, active lifestyle and through its financial support of community organizations.

Special Thanks to Jones County Businesses and Jones County Parks and Recreation for funding and participation with the 2022 Bridge Run.

Jones County was well represented with the volunteers, registered runners, and sponsorships. Thank you to the Jones County Sponsorships: Grilling Buddies, Mowing Buddies, Ford of Jones County, Driver Heating and Cooling, AB's Gravel Driveways, J&J Contracting, Charles and Taffy Jones and Copy and Print Warehouse. Thank you to David Mallard and Summer Koonce, Jones County Parks and Recreation, for promoting and leading a running group from the Jones County Public Schools.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR:
APRIL 28 & 29, 2023 FOR THE NEUSE RIVER BRIDGE RUN
We invite ALL of Jones County to participate with your time, talent and treasure. *More information: bridgerun.org*

FILLING STATION GETS BADLY NEEDED PROPANE FORKLIFT

After 1 1/2 years of not having a forklift, the Facilities Committee connected with Gregory Poole equipment company to locate the perfect forklift for our operations. Lightly used 2011 YALE forklift is being purchased through a lease to own agreement. In a time where the supply chain is greatly impacted, it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to work with Gregory Poole on making this possible for moving food more efficiently around the campus.

The forklift cost \$21,000 and is being purchased on a lease-to-own program. **Please consider donating to help defray the monthly expense for this important piece of equipment.**

Contact the Executive Director.



Garden Venue Looking Good

The Artwork has been completed for the two Educational Panels in the Garden. These beautiful pieces were donated to the The Filling Station Garden Venue by Community Artists Gallery and Studios, New Bern. N.C. Artists: Noreen Jekel, Heide Lock, Mary Phelps, Sue Callahan and Heidi DiBella. The mosaic stepping stones made by the children at Art and Dance Camp are in place located in front of the educational panels. Grape vines, blueberry bushes, honeysuckle and the herb garden are growing. In addition, the zinnias have been a great addition to the food distribution. Flowers are handed to the clients when picking up food boxes each week.



Jones County Garden Camp

On July 26th and 28th, six Jones County 4-H'ers attended 4-H Garden Camp at the Filling Station in Pollocksville, NC. The 4-H agent and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent partnered to offer this program. Youth spent the first half of the day outside in the garden learning about pollinators and their importance in our gardens and food supply, native plants that attract pollinators to our gardens, herbs and their uses in the kitchen and the plant and water cycles. 4-H'ers also planted a raised bed at the Filling Station and their own herb trays to take home to grow for their family to use for meals.

In the afternoon, 4-H'ers went inside to learn kitchen safety skills, nutrition information and food safety. While learning, youth prepared tasty recipes like peach salsa, refrigerator pickles, a garden skillet sizzle and a homemade house salad.

We believe that the life skills learned indoors and outdoors at 4-H Garden Camp will help youth be mindful, safe and successful when it comes to growing, preparing and storing their own food. [Click here](#) to read more.



Save These Dates

We all have busy schedules. Here are some dates we hope you will place on your calendars:

October 1 Perfect 10 Fundraiser

October 20 New Volunteer Orientation

October 27 Coastal Women's Shelter Prayer Vigil 5:30 PM

November 11 & 12 Jones County Heritage Festival

November 29 Giving Tuesday

December 3 5 to 8 PM, Christmas on Main in Pollocksville





“Jones County – A Perfect 10”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022 | 10AM-5PM

The Filling Station fundraiser

TITLE SPONSOR




We are planning an afternoon of good country fun to raise funds and awareness of The Filling Station and our community.

WE ARE “FILLING NEEDS”

We will be asking for support through voluntary donations.
The event will be held along 10 Mile Fork Road

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
Ceramics painting, Things From Yesteryear, a Hay Ride, Moosical Entertainment, a Walk in the Woods, Farm Animals, and shopping at Z.A.K.'s.

Visit <https://fillingstation1075.com/> or call Karen at 252-635-0828 for more information.
A County Wide Mission: Nutrition, Education, Connection













Teaching Kitchen Update

The Teaching Kitchen is nearing completion. We still have to install the sinks and the counters.

We will be working with Sarah Ware, N.C, Extension - Jones County to organize the kitchen. We will also welcome visiting chefs from the American Heart Association and Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Programs may include: Canning, Baking, Guest Chefs/Culinary Camps, 4H, Simple meals for on the go lifestyle, Senior Nutrition and lots more.

We are working on policies and procedures for the use of the Teaching Kitchen to ensure safety and sanitation during use.

Perfect 10 Update

We have received over \$13,000 towards our goal of \$30,000 for this Annual Fundraiser. Cow Pie Bingo is back this year and tickets can be purchased for \$10. Also, NEW THIS YEAR, a Blackstone Grill has been donated for a raffle and those tickets can be purchased to raise awareness and funds PLUS one lucky winner will win a new grill.



Jones County – A Perfect 10!

"Do as much as you can! – Donate as much as you can!"

The Filling Station, Pollocksville's food pantry and community resource is hosting its 2nd annual fundraiser, **Jones County – A Perfect 10**, on Saturday, October 1, from 10:00 to 5:00 along beautiful 10 Mile Fork Road in Jones County. This is a lovely opportunity to enjoy a day of country living and support the Filling Station. Our mission is to assist with filling the unmet needs in the areas of nutrition, education and connection serving the residents of Jones County. We are proud to have Carolina East Health System as our Title Sponsor again this year.



What to do: This fundraiser offers activities at eight sites along a five mile stretch of 10 Mile Fork Rd conveniently located near Pollocksville, Trenton and River Bend. These sites include:

- + Jones' Best! – Test your skills on the Sheriff's climbing wall, and check out our Fire, EMS equipment, ham radios, and a NC Forest Service display.
- + Z.A.K.'S – A unique country store. Shop, enjoy cider and ginger snaps, just be sure to share some with the goat.
- + Hayride – Take a hayride along a country lane, check out the sheep and enjoy playing corn hole.
- + Animals – Feed carrots to the donkey and horse and check out the Castaway's puppy adoption event.
- + Tree Farm – Walk the trails and be Bearwise with a presentation by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.
- + Moosic – Relax and enjoy music along with the cows and calves across the road.
- + Things from Yesteryear – This museum is full of vintage treasures.
- + Kitty's Korner Etc – Let your creativity bloom as you paint a ceramic souvenir to take home.
- + Cow Pie Bingo
- + Food Trucks

How to participate:

- + No tickets needed! Just show up and *"Do as much as you can! – Donate as much as you can!"*
- + Information, maps and schedules for each site will be available at Oaky Grove Church, 1233 10 Mile Fork Rd
- + Water and Porta-Johns will be available.
- + Donation boxes will be available at each site. *Please use them!*

Where to find us:

- + We are located between Riverbend, Pollocksville, and Trenton.
- + Host sites stretch about 5 miles from 954 10 Mile Fork Rd to 4205 10 Mile Fork Rd.
- + A link to download the map will be available soon on our webpage www.fillingstation1015.com.

When to come:

- + 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, October 1, 2022.

Cow Pie Bingo:

- + Bingo tickets are \$10 each, available at the Filling Station and webpage
- + A ticket buys a numbered square and a chance to win 20% of the pot. A cow will be put out in a small pasture that has been lined to create the squares and she will select the winner the day of the event.





Nutrition · Education · Connection

Our mission is to assist with filling the unmet needs in the areas of nutrition, education and connection serving the residents of Jones County.

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Board Members

Chair: Maria Robles

Vice-Chair: Charlie Dunn, Jr.

Treas: Dr. Norma Sermon-Boyd

Secretary: Sheri Smith

Ellis Banks

John Bender

Beverly Collins

Bobby Darden

Willie Jones

Sylvia Miller

Clyde Murphy, Jr.

Karen Plaster

Willie Smith

John Taylor

Carol Mattocks, Board Advisor

Tharesa Lee, Consultant

Mary Ann LeRay, Ex. Dir.

Judy Hills, Editor

AUTUMN PRAYER

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you

for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy,

for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,

for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches,

for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,

for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,

for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,

for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit.

—Amen—

Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

