



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

*Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.*

## Fast Facts ~ August/September 2014

### **Moldova – the Final Countdown**

Exchange director, Barton Parks, has been dotting all the “i’s” and crossing the “t’s” as he counts down the final week before the group’s departure on Sunday, August 24. The destination of this exchange is Chisinau, the capital of Moldova; however, our ambassadors will also spend one night in Ungheni, the sister city of Winston Salem! The citizens of Ungheni will be celebrating “Ungheni Day” and the town officials have planned a full agenda for FFCNC that includes meeting the mayor, addressing the citizens of Ungheni during their celebrations and a dinner reception at City Hall. The following day our FFCNC ambassadors will meet with a group that is interested in starting a Friendship Force club in Ungheni.

Our group of ambassadors has met twice since the last newsletter – once to prepare the mentoring aspects of the exchange and more recently to review last minute details. Both meetings included pot luck dinners and, given that ten of our ambassadors will be traveling on to Turkey, several Turkish dishes appeared on the table to the delight of everyone’s palates.

Be certain to mark your calendars for October 30, the date of our annual meeting, when we will hear a full report from our FFCNC ambassadors.

### **White Nights and a Golden Ring**

Significant progress has been made in planning our 2015 out-bound exchange to Moscow and exchange director, Martha Brown, now has many details to share. The exchange is scheduled for June 9 – 25, 2015. The first week will consist of the home hosting component in Moscow. The remainder of the travel will be spent, first visiting several cities in the Golden Ring, and ending with several days in St. Petersburg.

Friendship Force of Moscow, the first FF club in Russia, was founded in 1991 and has 250 members ranging in age from 20 to 79. They typically host three clubs each year and consequently have lots of hosting experience. On the FFI website this club describes Moscow’s “most important treasure” as their “people: their world famous hospitality, warmth, friendliness, reliability, and open-heartedness.” While in Moscow our activities will likely include a city tour, visit to the Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basil’s Cathedral, the Tretyakov Gallery (famous for its Russian art), and more. We will frequently travel around the city by metro which is a site worth seeing in and of itself, often considered the USSR’s most extravagant architectural project. We will be living in a variety of homes from smaller Soviet era city apartments to new suburban homes.

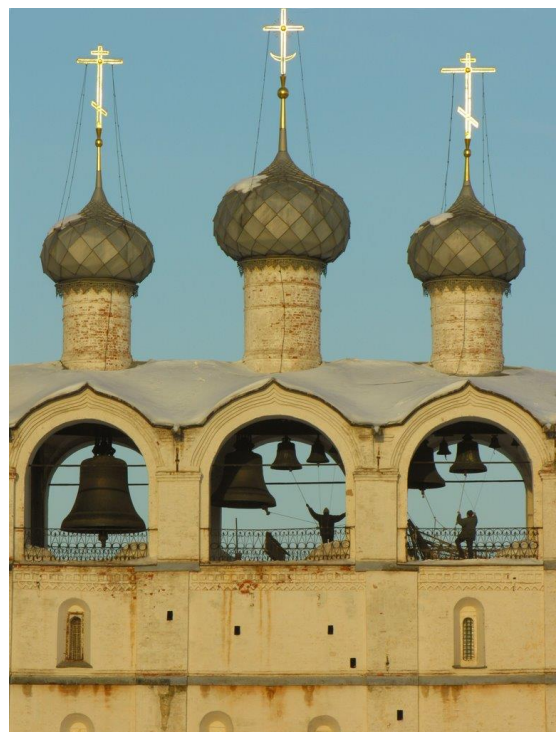


Many people think of the Kremlin as a single place or building, when in fact it is a complex of buildings situated within fortress walls as seen in this aerial illustration. Every ancient Russian city had a kremlin. The Moscow Kremlin contains several churches, two of which are over 500 years old, the Armoury which now houses ancient Russian state regalia, jewels, and other precious artifacts, and governmental buildings such as the Senate and the official residence of the Russian President.

Our week of home hosting will be followed by an eight day/eight night guided tour organized and led by MIR Corp. MIR's roots date back to the final days of the Soviet Union. With corporate headquarters in Seattle and satellite offices in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other Eurasian cities, they now travel to many destinations where the continents of Europe and Asia meet.

During the first half of our tour we will visit four major cities of the Golden Ring: Rostov, Ivanovo, Suzdal, and Vladimir. The Golden Ring is a ring of ancient towns northeast of Moscow that played a significant role in Russian history from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition to visiting some of the most picturesque kremlins, monasteries, and cathedrals in Russia, we will also learn about the art of bell ringing, enamel art, and the textile industry.

A high speed train ride to St. Petersburg will provide the opportunity to see the Russian landscape and catch a glimpse of life in small Russian villages. We will arrive in St. Petersburg just in time to experience



Bell ringing in Rostov

the summer solstice.

St. Petersburg is located south of the Arctic Circle, so the sun will set on the longest day of the year, June 21, 2015. However the city is located so far north that the sky will remain light all night long – hence the reference to the White Nights of summer. MIR has planned several very special activities for us on this day including a late night boat ride on the Neva River to view the raising of the drawbridges in the city and experience the festival atmosphere of this summer celebration.



The remaining days in St. Petersburg will provide the opportunity to visit several of its most famous sites as well as a couple of fun cultural activities such as a Russian cooking class (the products of which we will enjoy for dinner that evening!) and a lecture and walking tour focused on Russian literature.

Without a doubt these two weeks of home hosting and touring will provide a unique experience to become acquainted with Russia.

*White Nights in St. Petersburg seen along one of the canals with the Church of the Spilled Blood in the distance.*

The cost of this out-bound exchange and subsequent week of travel based on double occupancy is anticipated to be \$4700 - \$4900 per person. This will include airfare, all FF fees, visa fees, transfers to and from airports and train stations, accommodations in the Golden Ring and St. Petersburg, all but a few meals, English speaking tour guides, and entrance fees to museums, palaces, etc. Not included in the price of the exchange are travel insurance (which is required per FFI policy), gratuities, and a few meals.

A visa is required to enter Russia and the application process is lengthier than most, for this reason we are reprinting below the information regarding passports and visas which was included in the last newsletter.

There are many more tasks to be done over the course of the next nine months. Several orientation sessions will be planned for the winter/spring covering topics such as history, politics, language, art, music, literature, religion, and (of course) the final details and logistics of the trip. If you would be interested in assisting with the planning of these events and other tasks related to the exchange, please let Martha Brown know. You do not need to be an ambassador on this exchange to assist with the preparations. Help is always appreciated!

FF Moscow can host as many as 30 ambassadors and Martha is hoping FFCNC will be represented by a large contingent. Feel free to share this information with friends and relatives whom you think may be interested in visiting Russia and who would enjoy the home hosting experience. Questions may be directed to Martha at [brownfamily@triad.rr.com](mailto:brownfamily@triad.rr.com); however, she will be travelling on our out-bound exchange to Moldova and unable to respond until Sept. 11.



## Moscow Exchange Informational Meeting

Saturday, October 11 an informational meeting will be held beginning at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville. (This is the location of our annual meetings.) This will be your opportunity to hear the full itinerary for our 2015 outbound exchange as well as many other details. Look for an invitation in mid- September with all the details including rsvp information. In the meantime.....

*Save the Date.*

## Passport, Please

If you are considering participating on the out-bound exchange to Russia, it is time to pull out your passport and determine if it should be renewed.

Entry into Russia requires a visa. The application for this must be completed well in advance of your travel dates. The application is somewhat long and we are told that approximately 10% of the initial applications are denied due to minor technicalities committed when completing the application, thus making the application process even lengthier. With tentative travel to Russia falling in the month of June 2015, the visa application process may begin as early as January 2015. You will be required to submit your passport with your visa application, so plan to be without it for a month or two in early 2015. The Russian Federation requires that your passport not expire within six months of your entry into the country, so for our exchange that may be as soon as the end of 2015. Additionally, you must have at least two blank pages remaining in your passport on which they can affix your visa.



You should consider applying for a new US passport in the next few months if

1. Your current passport will expire on or before Dec. 1, 2015 or.....
2. By June 2015 you anticipate (considering your international travel plans between now and then) you will no longer have two blank pages in your passport.

If you have questions concerning this, please contact our out-bound exchange director, Martha Brown, at [brownfamily@triad.rr.com](mailto:brownfamily@triad.rr.com) or 946-0105.

## Friendship Force Logos

Please read the following communique from FFI president, Joy Di Benedetto:

*Hello Friendship Force Leaders:*

*I hope this note finds you all doing well today.*

*In 2008, the Friendship Force International board formally approved a new, standard, global logo for use in branding the entire organization in a uniform way, across the world. This logo replaced the clasped hands logo which was previously in use across the world.*

The current Friendship Force logo is available to all clubs on the FFI website, and all clubs are welcome to use the current logo on signage, apparel, letterhead, or other branded products. (See "Where to find it" below.)

This letter is to serve as a reference of the guidelines which govern the use of the Friendship Force logo, and offer a guide for what to do if you want to alter the logo for any specific purpose.

Additionally, this communique should serve as a reminder that if you are still using the old 'clasped hands' logo in your clubs, we ask that this icon be phased out in all forms, in compliance with the new standard logo.

In general, any deviation from the standard Friendship Force logo not explicitly permitted in the style guidelines ([found here](#)) should be reviewed and approved by the FFI communications manager, [Jillian Walters](#). Before making any changes to the logo, please write to Jillian, who will help you complete your project in a way that meets FFI's standards.

These rules apply to all official uses of the Friendship Force logo and in use on social media.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask myself or Jillian Walters at <mailto:jwalters@thefriendshipforce.org?subject=Logo%20inquiry>.

My appreciation to you for your understanding about this matter. Thank you for helping us keep the Friendship Force image strong!

With warm regards,  
Joy

**Where to find it:**

The style guidelines for logo usage can be read [here](#). The international logos and taglines can be found [here](#).

Your club's logos can be found **at the bottom of your club's [online profile](#)**. If your logos are not there, or if you have other questions, please write to <mailto:jwalters@thefriendshipforce.org?subject=Logo%20inquiry>.

## 2014 - 2015 Calendar Highlights

Aug 24 – Sept 17	Out-bound exchange to Moldova
September 25	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
October 11	Moscow Exchange Informational Meeting; 1 PM; MSUMC; Kernersville
October 30	Annual Membership Meeting; MSUMC; Kernersville
November 6	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
June 9 – 25, 2015	Out-bound to Moscow, Russia
Aug/Sep 2015	Domestic Out-bound to FF Pike's Peak (Colorado Springs, Co.)
October 2015	In-Bound from Cleveland County, United Kingdom