



The Transformer

September 2013

717-866-4910

Friedens Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA

Flunking Witnessing

by John Fischer

I heard a story once about a girl who flunked witnessing. Though this was an actual course she failed at a Bible college, I think we can all identify on some level with flunking witnessing; not as a course, but as a reality in our daily lives. I've flunked witnessing numerous times by simply not making myself available to the Holy Spirit for the job. Others have probably flunked by not feeling prepared enough. We have all kinds of ways of disqualifying ourselves for this job – we wouldn't know what to say; we wouldn't know how to bring up the subject; we haven't taken the course, much less passed it.

But telling others about Christ is one of the five great purposes in our lives; why do we often find this so hard? Partly I think it's because we've made such a big deal about it. In some circles it's not one of five purposes, it's our only purpose, and it's usually presented as if we were at a sales conference getting pumped to sell our product.

I don't know about you, but I'm a very poor salesman. I'm the kind of guy whose sales pitch would be, "You don't want to buy this, do you?" I don't like interrupting people. I don't like infringing on their space. I hate it when people do that to me, so why would I engage in it myself? Plus, I don't like pretense. I don't like being nice to someone just to make a deal. I wouldn't want anyone to think they are a means to an end.

That's why I've been very encouraged to find out that true witnessing doesn't involve any of these things. It doesn't even involve having a memorized speech. Witnessing is really nothing more than befriending people and telling them your story at the right time (usually when they ask you).

Witnessing is being so in love with God that you eventually end up talking about Him. Witnessing is being so overwhelmed by the undeserved nature of your salvation that you can't contain your joy. Witnessing isn't coercing someone; it's quite the opposite. It's having someone coerce the gospel out of you, because they can't stand not knowing what's going on with you anymore.

If you want to prepare for anything, think about your own story, how you can tell it, and how you can connect it to the events that are happening around you, and the things that are going on in the world that you know people want to talk about. But don't worry about not being prepared. Probably some of the best witnesses around are people who would flunk a witnessing course, but make excellent friends.





UPDATE

Church Council, the Call Committee and the Mission Profile team met and completed paperwork for the Synod. A meeting with Representatives from Synod will be held shortly to finalize our work. Once this work is done and it is sent to the Synod, prospective candidates can then begin to contact our Call Committee.



Women of ELCA resume monthly meetings on Monday, September 16 at 7 P.M. in the parlor. All women of Friedens are invited to attend. We will be studying the topic, "Listening To God" with group members leading each month. Sr. Janice Ruch and Valerie Herron will lead the discussion "Discernment and the Hearing Heart" in September.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

July 2013

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,802.00	Goal to Date	\$187,614.00	86%
\$321,625.00	Rec'd	\$18,793.00	Rec'd to Date	161,880.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	23.00	Rec'd to Date	389.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	250.00	Rec'd to Date	1,775.00	



In September we will be offering a new member's class for anyone interested in joining Friedens Lutheran Church. If you are interested in becoming a member of Friedens please contact Ken Osborne for more information.



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL is continuing to search for a person or persons to serve as CHAIRMAN OF CEMETERY BOARD. Please connect with a council person if you or some one you know would enjoy using their gifts in this important ministry area. Council Persons names/pictures are posted on the bulletin board outside the Parlor



ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

On Sunday September 15, we will have a special service at the Traditional Service honoring Pastor Robert Kehrli and Sister Janice Ruch for their many years of service to God in the ministry of his Church. Pastor Kehrli celebrates 50 years in the ministry this year while Sister Janice celebrates 20 years in the ministry. The service will be followed by a light luncheon in Stauffer Hall. Please plan on attending to honor these two faithful ser-



On Sunday, September 1, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, Canned luncheon meat, jelly, 18 oz & 32 oz., complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



The volunteer cleaning team will remain in action for 2013. Because of our budget deficit, nothing was proposed for professional cleaning service again.

I want to thank all the members who helped to keep our facility clean this year. We hope that others might join in whenever they can.

Please call Barb or Gene Lessig, at 866-2291 if you would like to help.



COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP Ever wonder how coffee gets magically made in the morning for you nearly every Sunday? Well, all it takes is a few minutes of someone's time and a desire to help keep our social hour lively. Members of the coffee hour committee are seeking

helpers who are willing to volunteer to make it happen...we can't do it all ourselves! Coffee, cookies and munchies are all purchased and waiting for someone each Sunday to pull together. We even have a new coffee pot! **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BAKE OR PURCHASE TREATS BY YOURSELF.** Sign up on the list in Stauffer Hall or talk with Susan Harper, Caremla Deck or Annette Beamesderfer. Your help is appreciated by coffee drinkers everywhere!






Searching for a New Pastor



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Tad Achenbach
- John Flesher
- Chris Heft
- Sister Janice Ruch
- John R. Smith
- McKenna Achenbach

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>7 P.M.—Women of ELCA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>30</p>					

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

September 1
Mrs. Darlene Wise
Phoebe Berks Village
934 North Pens Dr.
Wernersville, PA 19565

September 2
Mr. Lawrence Snyder
338 W. Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 19
Mrs. Ellen Bucher
130 E. Reistville Rd., Unit 1
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 26
Mrs. Beatrice Fredrickson
Health Care Center
StoneRidge Poplar Run
Myerstown, PA 17067

CAPITAL FUND APPEAL

Goal: \$121,00.00
Committed: \$62,860.00
Making progress. Where are you with your commitment, please make it by **September 2?**



SEPTEMBER ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS

Wednesday, September 4, 7:30 P.M. **The first choir rehearsal of the fall will be Wednesday, September 4, at 7:30. If you'd like to join us, please contact Mike Yeagley at mikeyeagley@flcmystown.com or 717-383-0951. Hope to see you on September 4!**
Sunday, September 8, 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 11—**No Rehearsal**
Wednesday, September 18—7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 P.M.



SEPTEMBER HEAVENLY METAL HANDBELL ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

Thursday, September 5, 7 P.M.
Thursday, September 12, 7 P.M.
Thursday, September 19, 7 P.M.
Thursday, September 26, 7 P.M.



Dear Friends,

I can't tell you how surprised and pleased we were to receive all of the anniversary cards from the good people of Friedens. As the Psalmist proclaims, "My/Our cup overflows" due to the graciousness of God's people.

We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with all of our children in July at the lake. We are celebrating a second time by reading your greetings and remembering the warm relationship we had with each one of you in service to our Lord. We give thanks for you, and we hold the family of Friedens in our prayers.

Blessings, peace and love,
Pastor Jack and Susan

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
August 15, 2013

Jeff Gumpert, President, called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Church Council Present:

Jody Appleby (Vice President), Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (President), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer, Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary). Excused: Chris Heft, Denise Noll

Ministry Site Profile Team Present:

Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert, Roger Kauffman, Len Schott and Judy Zinn.
Excused: Violet Schaeffer

Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee) Present:

McKenna Achenbach, Tad Achenbach, John Flesher, Sister Janice Ruch, John R. Smith. Excused: Chris Heft

1. Jeff Gumpert, President, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Joanne Maurer opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Devotion/Scripture: Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16. Discussion followed.
4. The Ministry Site Profile Team, Call Committee and Church Council collaborated on the completion of the Ministry Site Profile. Jody Appleby made the motion to officially adopt the Ministry Site Profile. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.
5. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 6:45 pm.
6. Meeting closed with prayer by Ken Osborne, Pastor. Joanne Maurer made the motion to adjourn. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Riegel
Council Secretary

