

With all of the wonderful things that are beginning to happen here at Friedens I thought it might be a good time to just talk about the church in general. What is it? What does it really mean to be called the church? Most Christians see the church as the place that I go to worship God on Sunday and that is certainly true to some degree. It is important that we come together on a regular basis to praise God and to thank Him for the gift of salvation found in His grace. It is important that we share in the sacraments. However in my experience there are many that I have come into contact with that view the church as somewhat of a club with an emphasis on paying dues on a weekly basis so that they can stay a member in good standing. In my last congregation there were many "members" who would hand me a church envelope when I visited them and would ask if I would "turn in their dues." A teachable moment for sure.

Yet for those of us that may not understand the true nature of the church I offer this. The word "church" translated in the English Bible is *ekklesia*. This word is the Greek words *kaleo* (to call), with the prefix *ek* (out). Thus, the word means "the called out ones. The Universal Church (which is what we and every other church is a part of) derives its definition from the baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit. The key verse on this is 1 Cor. 12:13, "by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body." We see from this passage that the church is like the physical manifestation of Christ, i.e., his body.

You see, that is why Friedens cannot continue to exist as a closed entity. We would be in direct conflict to what the church is meant to be. We must be the ones called out to do the work of Christ. This is why I am so excited about the new ministries that we have in place for this summer and beyond. The Summer Lunch Program for the school children here in Troy is a good example of being the "Body of Christ." Will it be difficult to meet the needs of so many in our community?...yes it will. That is why we need your help in any way possible. Then there is the Community Garden which in the end will help serve Ministries Unlimited, Kindercottage as well as anyone in the community with fresh grown vegetables for their meals. Then there is the After School Tutoring Program we will be offering this fall. All of these things are examples of being the Body of Christ in our community. Examples of being the ones called out. And it is up to all of us to ensure that we continue down this path.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Doug

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for May:

	Sunday School	Worship
5/3	67	121
5/10		153
5/17	Joint worship at St. Thomas	
5/23		



Items collected for Ministries Unlimited in May were:

- 35 Easter baskets for 2016
- 1 pkg. – 20 rolls toilet paper
- 8 cans vegetables
- 30 bottles shampoo
- 6 cans disinfectant spray
- 50 single pkgs. Ramen noodles
- 6 boxes cake mix
- 2 Hamburger Helper
- 17 boxes macaroni & cheese
- 2 cans pasta



June 24th
6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your donation! The items for **June** are: **peanut butter, margarine, soup, jelly, and spaghetti sauce.**

Newsletter articles are due on **June 21st**

You may:

- bring your articles to the office
- e-mail them to:

friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com

- fax the article: 667-6006



Check out our website – look for new photos and photo albums, and program updates!

www.friedensucc-troy.org

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS




Birthday Blessings June

Ushers

June 7	Bob & Janis Little Doug & Debbie Brendel
June 14	Kellen King Crystal Gebhart Ron & Sandy Harbison
June 21	Amy & Abigail Schroeter Deb & Katlyn Spears
June 28	Lloyd Bliss Larry Bliss Tom Fischer Swiss Kamm
July 5	TBD

If you cannot be present on your day,
please call Yvonne, 667-8409

Liturgists

June 7	Georgia Wilkins
June 14	TBD
June 21	TBD
June 28	TBD
July 5	TBD

Bus Drivers

Pat will continue to make arrangements on a week to week basis.

1	Corey Grotefendt
2	Kim Talbert Carli Crews
6	Sara Mollet
8	Kaden Barker LaVonne Brueggeman Kara Kniser
10	Courtney Talbert
11	Larry Bliss Lloyd Bliss Braden Porter
14	Katlyn Spears
15	Randall Grady
19	Kacey Ruger
21	Tom Fischer
22	Glen Stipes
26	Cindi Hoppes
27	Rosemary Rose
30	Marilyn Wesselman



VBS starts on June 8!! Did you get a chance to sign up on the snack wish list? It may not be too late – call Laura at 830-2297.



Hello again,
Your envelope of labels has arrived and I thank you for continuing to save and mail them. Teachers now look on my desk to see if I have labels because I have occasionally forgotten to share them quickly. I hope you will continue saving and again, thank you.

Brenda Crisp
Uni-Pres Kindercottage

Thank you everyone for all the cards, telephone calls and Pastor's visit prior to surgery. I appreciated each and every one.

God bless you all,
MaryAnn Gaultney



June 21st
9 am



Community Meal SOS Sharing Our Supper

June 24th, dinner will be served from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Come join us for a great meal and fellowship. Spread the word, the dinner is free and open to the community!



Have you cleaned your closets, garages, basements, or attics?? Good, because we are having a rummage sale here at Friedens on June 20th. We would love for you to bring the treasures you no longer want to us. You can bring your stuff to the church basement starting June 14th. If you need someone to come to your house to pick it up please call the church office.



Summer Lunch Program for Those in Need

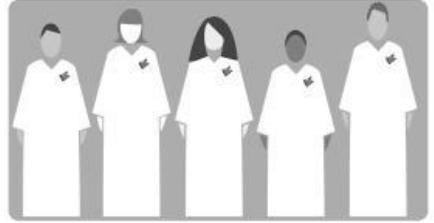
Beginning on June 1, 2015 every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Friedens will be handing out a bag lunch for those who are in need of it.

Distribution locations and times are listed below.

11:30 - Noon
The Meadow Drive Park
Or
Troy Park at the Gazebo



June 14 - Jane Maedge
June 21 - Debbie Byrd
June 28 - Debbie Byrd



Kudos to Our 2015 Confirmands

Kerstyn Deichmann

Parents: Kevin & Crystal Deichmann
Faith Partner: Stephanie Williams

Crystal Gebhart

Parents: Michael & Debbie Gebhart
Faith Partner: Linda Grotefendt

Kellen King

Parents: Tom & Jennifer King
Faith Partner: Joe Smith

Kayla Molohon

Parents: Kathy Raymond & Jim Molohon
Faith Partner: Audrey Deeren

Cami Talbert

Parents: Rick & Kim Talbert
Faith Partner: Carla Hall

Emily Toennies

Parents: Barbara & Charles Toennies
Faith Partner: Sandy Harbison

Brady Waggoner

Parents: Sheila & Randy Waggoner
Faith Partner: Ron Harbison

WHAT DOES VBS MEAN TO YOU?



But what does VBS mean to you? Or even bigger picture what does VBS mean to Friedens church, or the community?

In my eyes, VBS (Vacation Bible School) is like the Super Bowl of children's ministry. It's one of the biggest events we put on each year and has a major focus on outreach. We also take over the entire church, decorating to fit the theme for the week. I get to work with volunteers and show them how incredible Children's Ministry can be. All eyes are on VBS for that week and it ends with a presentation to the church on Sunday morning followed by the kids teaching the adults their favorite worship song from the week. I know I will never be a quarterback for a Super Bowl winning NFL team, but being a Christian Education Director and one of the VBS directors during VBS week is the next best thing.

There is another side to VBS as well. Suddenly, as summer arrives, it's not uncommon to spend many hours for weeks working on VBS.....the

meetings, ordering all the supplies, decorations And when you have volunteer work days, you spend an entire day just getting ready for the work day or the meetings. Then there is the recruiting, advertising, budget planning, the list goes on and on. VBS can be the most stressful and time consuming time in my year.

Yet, at the end of the day, VBS is the greatest week of my year. I think back to all the money we raised for our missions, hearing the kids singing all the wonderful, crazy songs during our worship and all the stress fades away. I also think of the friendships I have made working with leaders during VBS over the years and I am overwhelmed by how blessed I have been to have amazing teams who love serving kids.

So what does VBS mean to you? What 3 words do you think of when it comes to VBS? For me, my 3 words are:

Big: Everything about VBS has to be big! From our games to our snacks, I want the kids to remember what they learned at VBS for the rest of their lives. When we build over the top stage designs or come out in crazy outfits, it's not just to look good, it's because we want to transport the kids into a world where they can learn

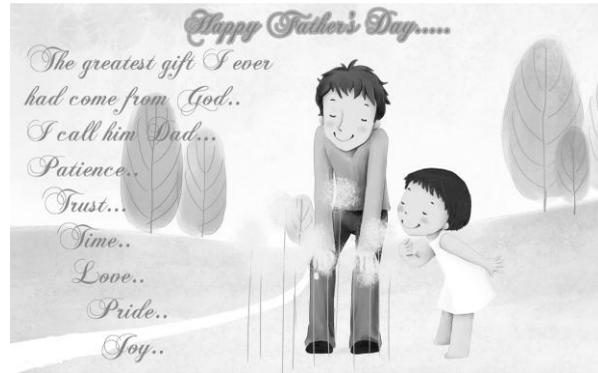
about a big God whose love for them is bigger than they could ever imagine.

Team: No one could ever put together and run a VBS without an amazing team. I also have to remember that my team is there to support me, so I don't have to do everything on my own. I also love how my kids work together as teams to play games, raise money, and learn about Jesus.

Jesus: There is no point having VBS if it's not focused on Jesus. I am so thankful that God has used me to help share Jesus with kids and families that had never been a part of a church before. All the stress and hard work is totally worth it!

Friedens VBS 2015 is just about here! Thank you to all the folks who have worked so hard to pull off in my book one of the best VBS themes we've had! God has been with us during the planning and will be with each night of our Everest VBS. I'm ready for a BIG, Fun, Crazy week; I hope you will join us.

Blessings,
Stephanie



What Is A Dad?

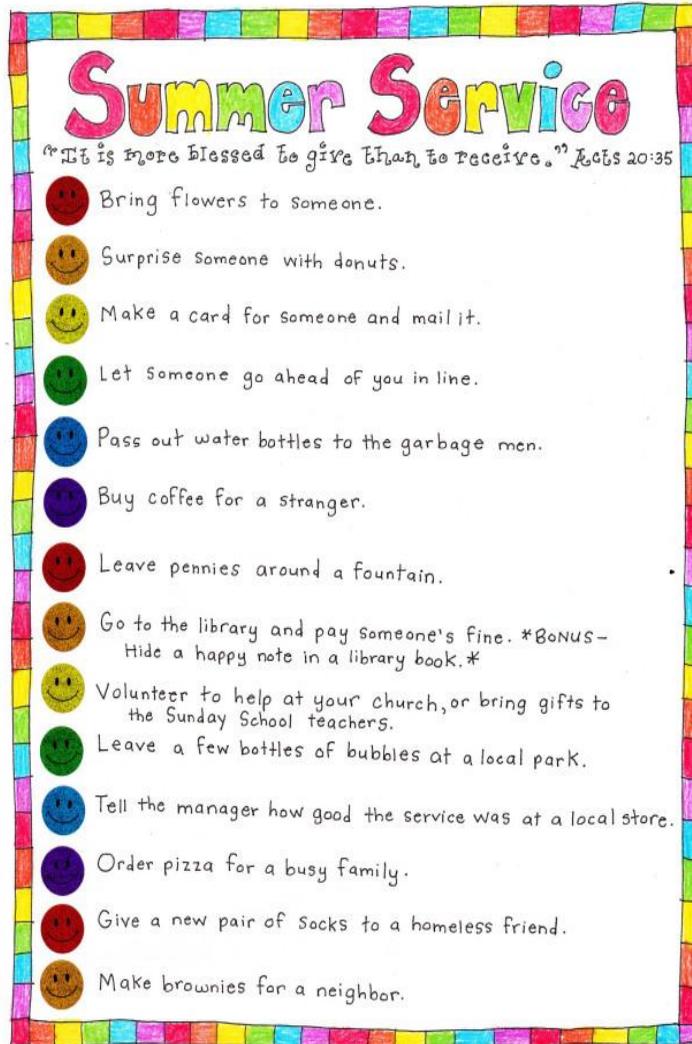
A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up brushes you off, and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.

Friedens Kidz

Here is a summer challenge for you! Check off each good deed you do and bring this paper back to Sunday School on September 13, Rally Day.



Summer Service

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

- Bring flowers to someone.
- Surprise someone with donuts.
- Make a card for someone and mail it.
- Let someone go ahead of you in line.
- Pass out water bottles to the garbage men.
- Buy coffee for a stranger.
- Leave pennies around a fountain.
- Go to the library and pay someone's fine. *BONUS - Hide a happy note in a library book.*
- Volunteer to help at your church, or bring gifts to the Sunday School teachers.
- Leave a few bottles of bubbles at a local park.
- Tell the manager how good the service was at a local store.
- Order pizza for a busy family.
- Give a new pair of socks to a homeless friend.
- Make brownies for a neighbor.

Happy Home Fairy