

Senior Pastor

By Brandon Lemons, Senior Pastor

Friedens FAQ

During my first 14 months at Friedens, I've received a wide variety of questions; some are deep and theological, some are about the way we do things at Friedens, and some are off-the-wall. Since there are certain questions that come up over and over, I would like to address a few of them right here; let's call it "Friedens Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)." There is much more that could be said about most of these questions; take this as the "Cliffs Notes" version, and please continue to ask whenever a question comes to mind.



Why don't we recite the Lord's Prayer more often?

The Lord's Prayer elicits radically different responses from people, depending on factors such as age and church background. Since we value a "blended" church service, we must remember these different views. More importantly, Jesus' teaching of the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4) does not encourage frequent verbatim repetition of this prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a "model prayer," showing us "how" we should pray, more than "what" we should pray (Matt. 6:9). The different wording in Matthew's and Luke's versions of the prayer shows that the exact wording is less important than the prayer's themes. It is also instructive that two verses before the Lord's Prayer, Jesus warns against praying with mindless repetition (Matt. 6:7), which can easily happen when reciting the Lord's Prayer if we aren't careful. Our practice is to recite the Lord's Prayer at Friedens about once a month.

Do you get nervous when you speak in front of groups?

Until a couple of years ago, I got very nervous in front of groups; my voice would shake (as would my knees) and my mind would move like molasses. Despite this nervousness, I have spoken in front of groups quite frequently since becoming a Christian in 1999. Then, as I began to sense my calling shift more toward a Senior Pastor role, God began enabling me to be more calm in public

speaking (though my mind still moves a little slower in front of groups). Being prepared and enjoying what I'm saying definitely helps. On an average Sunday morning, I typically don't get nervous, though I can still get a little jittery right before a big event like an Easter service or a wedding.

How do I become a member of Friedens?

The primary step is participation in the *Friedens Foundations* course, and except for a brief meeting with the elders, all of the other requirements are contained within *Friedens Foundations*.

Why doesn't Friedens baptize infants?

The Bible teaches that baptism is a symbol of a person's conversion to Christ through faith in Him. Therefore, we don't baptize people until they express a personal faith in Christ, which can't happen in infancy. We do, however, practice Parent/Child Dedications, in which parents commit to pointing their children toward Christ and surrender their children's future to God.

Is it possible to give my offering electronically?

Yes. If you go to www.friedenschurch.org and click on the "Resources" tab, you will see a link called "Donate automatically." From there, you can find a form to fill out that enables your financial giving to be automatically withdrawn from your bank account either once or twice per month.

How can I get more involved at Friedens?

Beyond the church service, my first recommendation is that you get involved in a small group to grow and connect with others. We have a number of them now (see the Sunday bulletin), and we will be starting many more in early 2011. Sermon Discussion Groups between services are also an easy way to get connected. There are a variety of ways to serve as well, which you can discover in the *Friedens Foundations* course or by talking with me or Pastor David.

Do you have any new adoption news?

Often, the answer is "not really." But now, the answer is "yes"! We recently received our "court date" in Ethiopia, so Shelly and I will be traveling there for a week in the middle of November, and then we'll travel again about six weeks later to bring our son home. Thanks for your prayers!