

A Note from Pastor Barry

In mid-August I was approved as Friedens new designated pastor. I would like to introduce myself. I am a retired pastor of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. Currently I am serving as the dean of the Schuylkill Mission District. My role as dean is to provide support to 23 congregations in the Mission District. The support could range from providing pastoral care to the rostered leaders, working with congregations on various matters that arise within their community, and various other matters directed by the Bishop and Synod. Prior to my retirement of full-time call, I served two churches in Pine Grove for approximately 14 years. I served as designated for two other Lutheran congregations in the area for over two years. I am involved in the Pine Grove community coordinating two food distribution programs for the community through Helping Harvest Food Bank. Prior to being ordained I was in partnership with my father-in-law for 22 years in the glass business. Later, I was a shipping and receiving manager for Lowe's, Temple PA. store. After leaving Lowe's, I was a manufacturing manager for Penn Allen Glass Inc, Allentown.

During my time at Penn Allen my youngest son, Phillip, completed basic training in the Marine Corp. His words to me were, "Dad, it is your turn now!" I returned to Albright College to complete my Bachelor of Science in Sociology after a 30-year break in attending classes, graduating in December 2005. I began seminary in August 2006 in Philadelphia. My third year of seminary, I interned at Huff's Union Church, Alburtis, PA. I graduated seminary in May of 2010 and ordained on July 17, 2010. I began my vocation as a pastor at the age of 54.

My wife, Carol and I have been married for 47 years, we have two sons Matthew (44) and Phillip (39). Both are married and we have 3 grandchildren (12, 8, and 5).

I honored to be the designated pastor of Friedens Church. I am willing to provide pastoral support to members of the congregation and the community. The highlight of my ministry is worship. Within the short time that I have been supplying at Friedens, it has been a blessing to me to join with you in worship. I am looking forward to continuing that time with you. As designated pastor, I will be walking along side of you and with you during our time together, through good times and bad. I am available to provide support to the leadership of Friedens Church to grow in various matters of the church missions and ministries. One of the supportive roles of a designated pastor is to continue to prepare the church and the congregation in the process of calling a pastor to the congregation. I am looking forward to getting to know you and to provide pastoral care for various needs of the congregation and community.

In the coming weeks, I will be addressing visiting the shut-ins, pastoral care to those in need, and providing opportunities for the growth of the community in spiritual enrichment.

I will be presiding at worship services at least 3 times a month, beginning in October.

Carol and I are looking forward to being a part of the community of Friedens Lutheran Church.

You can reach me via the church phone answering machine, by leaving a name, phone number, and message. I or the secretary will be returning the call as soon as possible. If you reach out to me by my cell phone, 484-332-0258, please leave a message and a number. Without a message or phone number, I will not be responding to the call.

You are welcome to email as well, pastorb1021@gmail.com. Communicating through texting is fine also.

Our time together will be a learning experience for all of us. With God's blessings upon us we shall strive to serve God and one another.

Thank You!

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Barry