



# The Fellowship Journal

*Rooted in Grace, Growing in Love*

339 LWE, Chambersburg, PA, (717) 504-8789

Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2016

## 12 “Surprisingly” Friendly Experiences of Church Secret Shoppers

By Chuck Lawless

1. **“The website had a video ‘invitation for guests.’”** Clearly located on the site, it was hard for potential attenders to miss it – and harder not to feel invited if they watched it.
2. **“They had clearly marked parking not only for guests, but also for senior adults and families with preschoolers.”** And, the parking spaces were close to the most logical doors for these folks to enter.
3. **“Greeters in the parking lot had umbrellas for everyone.”** Nobody had to walk in the rain without protection.
4. **“In the small group, somebody asked my name, and then *she* introduced me.”** This approach allowed a shopper to be welcomed without being put on the spot to introduce herself to the group.
5. **“Several members shook hands with me, and the pastor didn’t even tell them to do it.”** You can tell that this shopper was accustomed to the traditional, forced “meet and greet” time that few people seem to enjoy.
6. **“Somebody asked my name before the service *and remembered it at the end.*”** It’s hard to underestimate what it means when somebody actually knows your name, especially when you’re a first-time guest.
7. **“A man actually got up and gave me his seat.”** To be honest, we don’t hear this kind of report often.
8. **“Everybody was wearing a name tag.”** I’ve floated this idea in the past, and several folks took me to task. For this shopper, however, knowing everybody’s name was a plus.
9. **“A member asked how she could pray for me.”** Not everyone who visits would like this kind of friendliness, but a gentle, unassuming prayer warrior can surprise lonely hearts.

10. **“All the leaders on the stage introduced themselves.”** As a first-time guest, how else would I recognize who they are? Leaders invite others to know them when they tell their names each week. If the church uses screens, at least a name on the screen is a start.
11. **“They had a small gift for my kids at the welcome center.”** Most churches that provide a small gift for guests provide something for adults, not for their children.
12. **“The church even had greeters at the doors and in the parking lot *as we left!*”** Greeters before a service are often expected; greeters after the service are a surprise.

**What other “surprisingly” friendly experiences have you had at churches?**

## **7 Reasons We Old People in Church Need to be Willing to Change**

*By Chuck Lawless*

First, I’m an older adult (55), but I’m still years away from retirement. Ten years from now, I might think differently than I do now, though I doubt it. Second, I’m not arguing that we need to change everything. I’m not talking about compromising the gospel here. There is much good we can learn from older generations, and each generation needs the others. Nevertheless, here are some reasons we older folks in church need to be willing to change.

1. **What we do as believers is not about us in the first place.** Nor is it about young people, either, by the way. It’s about honoring God in such a way that others might want to follow Him. Our preferences we tend to defend don’t matter as much when we get that point right.
2. **Change may be uncomfortable, but we know it’s not always bad.** We didn’t always have a clock . . . or a car . . . or a computer . . . or robotic instruments used in surgery. If we’re honest, we know that some change actually promotes good, including in the church. I’m glad, for example, that we can use technology to reach people we wouldn’t have opportunity to reach twenty years ago.
3. **Few changes are actually as painful as we think they’re going to be.** Quite often, what we *project* will happen when the change occurs is not what *actually* happens. Once we get through the seeming “trauma” of change, the new routine is often okay.
4. **Our legacy depends on it.** Let me be frank: if many churches don’t change, they are going to die. The problem is that nobody thinks it’s going to happen on his or her watch – but my generation will likely see tens of thousands of churches close. To allow a congregation to die just because we like things the way they are is nothing less than unchristian selfishness.

5. **Our children and grandchildren need our example.** They don't know it yet, but the young people calling for change now will be old themselves some day. We need to model for them today how to navigate change well for the sake of the gospel.
6. **An unwillingness to change reveals our idolatries.** That's a tough word, I know. But, anything not mandated by Scripture that we are unwilling to change for God's glory is an idol. That's a problem.
7. **The nations need us to sacrifice.** If we don't reach young people, we'll someday have no pool out of which to send the next generation of pastors and missionaries. To reach those next generations, we must be willing to change without compromising the gospel.

If you're an older reader, I really do get it. The older I get, the less I like change. On the other hand, I also more intensely recognize the urgency to reach people as I get older. We get only one shot at this work, and I don't want my preferences (and, sometimes, my stubbornness) to hinder the work of the gospel.

I can tolerate change if people are reached and lives are transformed. Accept and rejoice with the change. It's really that simple.

## Overwhelmed By All The Social Media Choices? Here's Some Help!

*From Ministries Best Practices*



Perhaps you and your church/ministry are overwhelmed by all the social media choices out there. **Where do you start?** What is the best use of your time and energy? Certainly not all social media channels are the same. **Here are some distinctions and highlights of the big 5 social media platforms.**

### 1. Facebook

Facebook was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg. As many are probably aptly aware, Facebook is one of, if not the most, recognizable social networking platform in the world. With over 1.4 billion users around the world, just about everyone you've ever known, or will ever know has a profile on this platform.

These **Facebook Statistics** will blow your mind. **Did you know?:**

- People share 1.3 million pieces of content every minute
- 350 million photos are uploaded each day
- Facebook adds 8 new users per second, or 7,246 people every 15 minutes

### 2. Twitter

What started as a microblogging site has now become one of the largest social media platforms. It all started back in March of 2006.

Since then, the site has garnered some impressive numbers:

- 300 billion tweets have been sent since the site's beginning
- Average number of followers is 208
- Tweets including images have 5 times the engagement

### **3. Pinterest**

This social media platform took off like a rocket, literally almost overnight. Despite behemoths like Facebook and Twitter, Pinterest became the third largest network in the U.S. within two short years!

Check out these Pinterest statistics:

- Despite the thinking that most Pinterest users are women, 33.3% of all sign-ups are actually men.
- 75% of time spent on Pinterest is done with a mobile device
- There are over 100 million active users

### **4. YouTube**

Yes, not everyone always thinks of YouTube in terms of social media, but it certainly is. YouTube began as an idea drummed up by three PayPal employees who wanted a website where they could upload, share, and watch videos. The domain became active in 2005. It's incredible how far the site has come since then, behind Google, YouTube is the second largest "search engine".

These YouTube numbers are mind-blowing:

- There are over one billion users on the site.
- 80% of YouTube's traffic comes from outside the U.S.
- YouTube has paid over \$1 billion to partners in revenue

### **5. Instagram**

What started as an iOS exclusive app has since become a mobile and internet icon for sharing images (and now video). It's a relatively young platform with roots dating back to 2010, but it's already built up some serious statistics:

- There are 400 million active users per month
- 51% of users are male, 49% are female
- 75% of Instagram users are outside the U.S.

Here are some tips on how to integrate social media into the life and fabric of your church and ministry.

1. **Consider where you constituents and audience are present and engaged before you decide what social media channels you choose to add.** If most of your audience are engaged with Facebook then it makes perfect sense to be active and participate there. Do you work with youth? Then perhaps Instagram is the place to be since it's demographic skews younger. If hardly anyone in your ministry is on Twitter, perhaps it's best to avoid that platform for the time being. It doesn't do you any good to spend a lot of time and energy talking within a certain social media channel if no one you want to be there and listen is NOT there.
2. **Consider your objectives and what you desire to accomplish before you dive in.** If you are looking to connect and communicate within your own community, Facebook may be just the right platform to connect with your group and tribe. But, if you are looking to network with other ministry and thought leaders, then you'll probably want to consider Twitter, given that it is a powerful place in which to accomplish that goal.
3. **Use tools to strategically help and assist you.** There are all kinds of tools to help you manage multiple social media channels such as Buffer and Hootsuite. These tools aggregate all your social media work in one place. And through these tools, you can schedule posts, monitor the conversations and receive great feedback on how others are interacting and sharing your content.
4. **Make sure you ask the question,** "How does using this particular social media channel improve the quality of ministry and help move the church's objectives forward?" I believe there needs to be **3 ROI Quality Goals and Objectives for Social Media** in place before you start.

## “For The Kids” of Chambersburg



**Mark your calendars** for the upcoming event: April 5, 2016, “Taste of the Valley.” This event has 13-14 area restaurants and caterers that come and donate a “taste” of their specialty foods for 240 people. This will be their 13<sup>th</sup> year! The event will be held in the church gym. Tickets are \$25 and are available now. There will be a live auction and silent auction, also we hope to have entertainment. The food is great — you will not go away hungry, the fellowship will be great. Lists of restaurants and caterers involved will be available soon. The proceeds for all fundraisers go to continue the work of “For the Kids” of Chambersburg, to help those non-profits that strengthen our community by helping children in need. God Bless you all! For information or tickets please contact Mrs. Lynn Rotz at 717-816-1510 or llrotz@comcast.net.



**You're invited to an  
Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast  
to support The Brethren Fellowship Youth Group**

**Saturday, April 2, 8:00—10:00 a.m.**

**Tickets Cost: \$10.00**

**Children 10 and under eat for free**

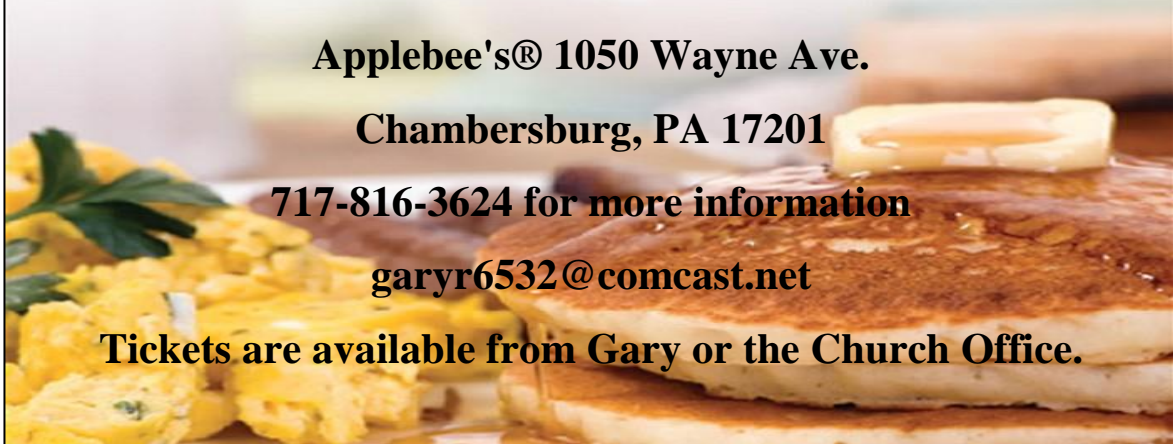
**Applebee's® 1050 Wayne Ave.**

**Chambersburg, PA 17201**

**717-816-3624 for more information**

**[garyr6532@comcast.net](mailto:garyr6532@comcast.net)**

**Tickets are available from Gary or the Church Office.**



Total Offering to date: \$ 74, 342.74

Total Special Offerings to date: \$ 2478.10

“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.”

Proverbs 21:5

### **If you have a heart for children**

Consider helping out with Nursery or Toddler babysitting during Sunday School. It would be once a month or as a sub (when someone is sick) from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Also consider helping out with Nursery and Toddler babysitting during the Worship Service Time on Sunday mornings from 9:40 – 11:00 a.m. For more information or if you can help, contact Lynn Rotz at: 816-1510; [llrotz@comcast.net](mailto:llrotz@comcast.net) or Jen Shover at: 414-2596; [jenshover12@gmail.com](mailto:jenshover12@gmail.com).

## **Committee Updates**

### **Church Council Votes for Décor Improvements, Next Steps for Affiliation**

In the March 13 meeting of the congregation as the Church Council, members approved, on the unanimous recommendation of the Leadership Team, the refurbishing of selected church spaces for new painting, wallpapering, and other improvements for the lobby, offices, library, stairwells, nursery, and other matters in the months ahead. Through the generosity of two families in the church, the decor and property teams will begin with a budget of \$20,300; much of the work will be put out for bids. The improvements will be done in phases, and the members will be kept informed of changes and improvements being made. The vote on the proposal was 87 yes, 7 no.

The second vote was on the matter of the congregation affiliating with a denomination. The proposition, on the unanimous recommendation of the Leadership Team, is to proceed with the congregation's affiliation with a denomination and for the Leadership Team to narrow the potential candidate denominations to two or three from a list shared earlier. That vote was 82 yea and 15 no, which was a percentage of 84.5 in favor.

The Leadership Team, plus one "at large" member from the congregation, will study those two or three denominations further and chose one for an up or down vote of the congregation in weeks ahead. The Council selected Frank Keath from a nominated slate of four individuals to serve in that study with the LT.

The church's leadership is focused on a process that is very open, transparent, and unity-based as possible. Two additional small group sessions will be held in the near future to further respond to those who have questions on Brethren Fellowship affiliating with a national denomination and to hear the advantages to BF in doing so.

### **Outreach Team**

The Outreach committee met on March 15, 2016, with these items reported: L.O.T. donations will be distributed in April. April spotlight organizations will be Habitat for Humanity and Rhodes Grove. They need a list of new organizations approved by the Leadership Team for giving. The committee would like people to start saving empty pill bottles (prescription and over the counter).

### **Fellowship Team**

The Fellowship Team met on March 1. A discussion was held regarding the Scavenger Hunt, may have a different month next year. The Municipal Pool may not be available due to renovation, the team is checking on prices with Cluggy's Amusement Center as an alternative. The committee helped provide the meal for the Church Council meeting on March 13. Sign-ups for the Hershey Bears Hockey were sold-out.

## Worship and Music Team

After prayers and devotions they discussed the pastor's Bible study, WWJD, and welcome bags, and the canvas message boards. They delivered donuts to all fire stations, Chambersburg Emergency Room and Police Department. We have sufficient welcome bags. Childcare during worship is in need of volunteers. Also needed are volunteers to help with the projector and sound board.

### “Seasoned to Serve” Upcoming Events

- April 20: Bus trip to Sight and Sound to see “Samson” \$56 per person for play. Lunch at Shady Maple Restaurant is on your own. Sign-up sheet will be on the Church Office door.
- May 12: Ladies’ Day Dinner at the church, 5:30 p.m. The men of the group will prepare the meal. Entertainment: Elvis Presley. Cost is \$10.
- June 23: Men’s Day Dinner at the church, 5:30 p.m. The women of the group will prepare the meal. Entertainment: Not scheduled yet.

Contact Reid and Linda Pletcher for information or sign-up for events: Phone 423-5288 or email: [reidlinda@hotmail.com](mailto:reidlinda@hotmail.com)

### April Birthdays

Brandon Angle  
Marina Barnhardt  
Leon Bierbower  
Steve Brunner  
Mike Clugston  
John Cook  
Chris Hall

Menno Landis  
Darris McNew  
Chad Murray  
Tiffany Myers  
Toshia Myers  
Donald Roof  
Pam Seibert

J. Ryan Shipp  
Dennis Statler  
Jesse Statler  
Cody Toms  
Connie Washabaugh  
Kimberly Younker

### April Anniversaries

Chuck and Terry Armstrong  
David and Charlotte Carbaugh  
John and Pam Cook  
Veron and Louise Forsythe

### Changes to Your Information

If your address, telephone number, cell phone number or email changes, please let the church office know so we can keep in touch with you. You can email Mona at [brethrenfel@hotmail.com](mailto:brethrenfel@hotmail.com) or place a note in the church mailbox. If you haven't received a birthday card or anniversary card, please let us know the correct dates for our records.



**“SEASONED TO SERVE”**  
**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY**

**APRIL’S EVENT**

**“SAMSON”**  
**SIGHT AND SOUND MINISTRY**



**The “Seasoned to Serve,” senior adult ministry, will be traveling to the Sight and Sound Theater on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, to view the production of “Samson.”**

**We will leave the church parking lot at 10:30 A.M. and have lunch at the Shady Maple Restaurant at 12:15 P.M. . The play begins at 2:45 P.M. and we will return to the church parking lot by 7:00 in the evening. Cost: \$56.00 per person, lunch price not included. Sign-up on the church office door by Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## Letter for the Church from Church Member

The scripture tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

I would like to share a few of my thoughts about this upcoming presidential race, and the importance of prayer, seeking God's face humbly, and realizing that we, Christians, need to turn from our wicked ways.

In my view we have more upheaval taking place in this presidential race than ever before. If we, as God's people, would support Godly candidates, our nation would not be so easily deceived by Satan (2 Tim. 3:13), for he is the author of chaos. As you know, many candidates are cunning enough, and they will say what the people want to hear (2 Tim 4:3, 4), but in the end may not be Godly at all, and there are, I fear, many being deceived, even some Christians.

We know that Satan comes to kill and destroy (John 10:10), and that is what I am afraid he is doing to our country. I would encourage everyone to go on line to [ivoterguide.com](http://ivoterguide.com) to obtain information about each candidate before the Pennsylvania primary on April 26.

In closing I would just like to remind you, that if every Christian of voting age would have prayed, searched the scriptures, and sought God's face we would not have so much immorality facing our nation today. The important issues of our day would not be spiraling out of control, and there would be millions of precious babies living today. When you cast your vote for an individual who supports abortion, same sex marriage, and suppression of religious freedoms, you are in essence agreeing with their position. I know that I would not feel comfortable or would want to be accountable for that position.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to vote, and we should vote according to the Holy Spirits leading regardless of party affiliation or gender. We need to be in prayer seeking God's face humbly and be led by the Holy Spirit on April 26 and in November.

Diane Christman (ed. by Manny)

## May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is our Yard Sale

We are now accepting items for the Yard Sale. Please make sure items are clean. Unfortunately we cannot accept TV's. Please contact Ruby Pentz at 263-7650 if you have any questions.

# Calendar for April 2016

April 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00a-Beth Moore	2
3 9:00a-Sunday School	4 6:30p-Property Team	5 12p-CTC 12:30p HOG Yoga	6 Room C-HeadStart Picture Day	7	8	9
10:00a-Worship	Taste of Valley- Setup	Taste of Valley-doors open 5p; dinner at 6p	5:30p-Prayer Time		6-11p MidAtlantic Baptist Association- Gym	8a-12p MidAtlantic Baptist Association- Gym
Setup Taste of Valley		Room C-HeadStart Setup for School Pictures	6:30p-Youth			Hockey Game-Hershey Bears
10 9:00a-Sunday School	11	12:30p-HOG Yoga	6:30p-Bible Study	14 8:30a-Evangelical Fellowship	15	16 Gym-reserved all day
10:00a-Worship		6:30p-Worship and Music	5:30p-Prayer Time			
			6:30p-Youth			
			6:30p-Bible Study			
17 9:00a-Sunday School	18	12:30p HOG Yoga	5:30p-Prayer Time	21	22	23
10:00a-Worship		6:00p-Finance Team 6:30p-Deacons 6:30p-Outreach	6:30p-Youth STS-bus trip			
			6:30p-Bible Study			
24 9:00a-Sunday School	25	12:30p HOG Yoga	5:30p-Prayer Time	28	29	30
10:00a-Worship		6:30p-Leadership Team	6:30p-Youth			11:30a-2:30p-Gym reserved
			6:30p-Bible Study			
			6:30p-Church Prayer Time			
a=a.m.	HOG Yoga-Chapel					
p=p.m.						
Pray Time is held in the Prayer Room				<b>**Plan ahead the Yard Sale will be the first week of May</b>		
STS=Seasoned to Serve						

# Months of the Year

D E G X Q M M K Y U G G J K A S S R  
N N C R X E X T C R V J R B G H L L  
Y J W X T Q M L H P A O T C V F I R  
A B O R D R Q E F A C U H E N P R C  
R T Y X Y W E K Q T U U N W V A P P  
K H J V X L W B O E J P L A O E A U  
U E W Q O D U B M W I O V U J D X E  
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Q L O S B R I J T C T P M W D I S U  
D H U V K N R Y C D D P J T S B T J  
B F H F E I L Y K O H M E M K J V E  
N I C I M M R C Y S X C A S M C R G  
O I P R O A B P R H O U R G O W Y G  
R R I X U C Y E I D G W O A U G K P  
B A C R S E M B R U W C Y T M X T Q  
N P B H S F J V S H B P N Y J D Q S  
T E L D A Q H T L M K J X I P R N Y  
F H Q R E B M E C E D O G H C B B T

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY  
AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

