

Greetings from the Friedenskirche. We are happy to inform you that though after a long time we have managed to deal with most of the recommendation that the Mission Committee has given us. We had a workshop on the 9-11 September 2011 and dealt with the SWOT Analysis and other recommendations. In the absence of the pastor everything is going well. The Congregational Council though not fully fleshed is functioning well with all the monthly meetings being attended and also the English Forum and a very peaceful AGM on 27 March 2011. We have been receiving pastoral care and support from the bishop and pastors from our sister congregations and for this we will always be very grateful.

The Lay preachers are continuing to attend and we had one of them being inducted on 24 July 2011. Confirmation classes were conducted by one of the Congregational Council members and confirmation took place on 13 November 2011. The relationship between the Lutheran Community Outreach Foundation has also improved and this saw us staging two very successful events; the harvest festival on 9 October 2011 and Christmas Carols on 5 December 2011. The congregation has two representatives in the board of the Lutheran Outreach Foundation and all the meetings have been attended.

The youth of our congregation and the young adults have been assisting the Congregational Council members with duties on Sunday and they are growing from strength to strength. The Youth attended the Youth Camp in August 2011 in Hermannsburg and the Kailager in December 2011- January 2012. The Children's church is fully functional with the number of kids increasing and the participation in the kid's week also going very well.

The church choir is continuing to sing during services every Sunday and also doing home and hospital visits also attending funerals, tombstones and weddings of fellow congregants. The choir hosted the mini Sangerfest and also participated in the Sangerfest that was held at Hermannsburg.

The financial status of the congregation is showing a slight improvement but our biggest challenge is that we are losing our German speaking members who contributed a lot financially and now we find ourselves being more and more of a transitional congregation with a lot of new members consisting of students who are staying for the duration of their studies and unemployed people from all over Africa who after finding employment move to other places. This makes it very difficult for us to be self-sustaining. We highly appreciate the support we have been receiving over the years and would be grateful if this can still continue.

We had a meeting with other users in our premises and we have we are in the process of finalizing the MOU and they will start paying for the use of our premises. We are also embarking on a number of fundraising drives, e.g. raffles and selling of T-shirts and mugs. Our biggest mountain to climb now is the celebration of the 100 years of the church building that is planned for 23 September 2012. We are still at the planning stage and will provide more information in due course.