



Friedens United Church of Christ, Marissa

# The Tidings

January 2011

## Ministerial Moments

Wow! Another year has gone by. By the end of this month, I will have been here 4 years. It doesn't seem possible. As you all know Mom moved in with us in November and we are beginning to adjust. Any time someone new comes into your life, or you change living arrangements, there are adjustments to be made. With change of any kind, even the most welcome, such as a marriage or new-born baby, there is anxiety and stress.

Christmas, just gone by, is often one of the most stressful times of year. Hopefully, we have all gotten through it with flying colors.

As you know, Mabel had decided to retire the first of the year. Unfortunately, she got sick before that time. Ruth Erb graciously agreed to substitute the first two Sundays, then Sharon Ebersohl came from Waterloo on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Sondra Meyer played our Christmas Eve service. Stephanie Reuss has agreed to play the second and fourth Sundays of the month, but we are still looking for musicians for the other Sundays. If you know of someone who plays piano, guitar, or organ who would be willing to play please let me know. We may need to think out of the box for ideas on this, maybe even some guest musicians to do services.

We now have an ad on the monthly Chamber of Commerce page of the County Journal. This is a gift from Leroy and Marlene Karsten. Thank you Lee and Marlene.

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### Special points of interest:

- 2011 Annual Meeting and Potluck
- Rev. Schmidt Turns 80!

## 2011 Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 23rd

We will enjoy a potluck dinner after church service and then begin our meeting.

All organizations should have already turned in your yearly report to Lori. If you have NOT turned it in yet, you may do so before January 9. Lori will not accept any reports after the 9th of January. You can email them to [lmneely71@gmail.com](mailto:lmneely71@gmail.com). If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

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# January Birthday's and Anniversary's

## Birthday's

Alberta Schifferdecker	2
Gary Stewart	3
Robert Schmidt	5
Terry Jenkins	10
Lindsay Lehman	10
David B. Schneidewind	11
Marilyn Wine	12
Judy Heil	14
Evelyn Schneidewind	15
Charles Walker	18
Sara Beer	19
Eloise Fauth	19
Dale Sinn	21
Kenny Lehman	27
Dennis Sinn	28
Matthew Lewis	30
Charles Schmidt	30



## Anniversary's

Gary & Susie Stewart	1
Ken & Joyce Fitch	14



## Carol Mercer - Selected as Honored Lay Women

Congratulations to three Illinois South Conference women, Virginia Ilch, **Carol Mercer** and Edna Dell Weinel, who have been selected as Honored Lay Women.

The Celebration of the Gifts of Lay Women has become a much beloved tradition. The Synod will receive the honored lay women at a gala luncheon at 12:00 pm on July 3 in the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida. The Lay Women will be guests of Local Church Ministries for the luncheon. Family and friends may join them for the meal and recognition. Special gifts and certificates will be presented as well.



There were several nominations this year, showing that we have many in Illinois South Conference who deserve the recognition as Honored Lay Women. We celebrate the fine service from these and all women within Illinois South Conference.

## Poinsettias - In Memory and Honor List

- In Memory of SHANNON RAY CATHCART & HOWARD RICHARDSON  
from Ken & Lorrie Lehman
- In Memory of WILLARD & ELSIE MATZENBACHER & ALVIN & HELEN PATTON  
from Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher
- In Memory of KENNY & DOROTHY GROH, JIM & LILLIE GROH & CHARLES & ANNA KNIPPEL  
from Kay Trotter & Carol Reinhardt
- In Memory of KEVIN TOD CAMPBELL  
from Timothy Campbell
- In Memory of ALBERT & EDNA PFLASTERER & KEVIN TOD CAMPBELL  
from Mike & Peggy Dierks and Tim Campbell
- In Memory of CLYDE FAUTH  
from "The Fauth Family"
- In Memory of LOVED ONES  
from Lee & Marlene Karsten
- In Memory of LOVED ONES  
from Eleanor C. Eichenberger
- In Memory of DON RIESS  
from Jean Riess
- In Memory and Honor of FAMILY  
from Kathleen Robert
- In Memory of BERNICE SCHMIDT  
from Robert M. Schmidt
- In Memory of ARTHUR & ELSIE SINN  
from Dale Sinn
- In Memory of HARRY SR. & SELMA HOLCOMB & HARRY JR. HOLCOMB  
from Dave & Pete Dressel
- In Honor of GRANDCHILDREN: ETHAN COWELL, ERIK, JACOB & LAUREN COWELL  
from Dave & Pete Dressel
- In Memory of NORMAN & ELAINE KINZEL  
from Kevin McDonald
- In Memory of ART & JULIETTA BOTTIAUX  
from Julie Imes
- In Memory of SHANNON CATHCART  
from Gary & Susie Stewart
- In Memory of LOVED ONES  
from Charles & Janice Schmidt
- In Memory of NORMAN & HELEN EDGAR & DEL NEELY  
from Paula & Lori Neely, Cameron Selman  
Marsha, Mark & Miranda Schulte
- In Honor of PAULA NEELY  
from Lori Neely, Cameron Selman  
Marsha, Mark & Miranda Schulte
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## The Church Mouse Remembers a Christmas Legend



As a wee little mouse I remember great-grandfather mouse telling us the story of an unusual event that was witnessed by a long-ago relative. He lived real long ago, about 2,000 human years ago. I was reminded of the story when Pastor Gail was getting out the miniature crèche in preparation for Advent.

My relative, who Gramps had called Jonathan, told his family that he had been living in a stable near an inn in a little town nestled among the Judean hills. The town was called Bethlehem.

Now you know that we mice have a very keen sense of smell. Well, Jonathan was used to the smell of the animals who used the stable, and even the smell of their dung. He liked the aroma of the new hay and the feed the animals got. He feasted on the horses, oxen's and donkeys' dropped oats and barley beneath their mangers, being careful not to be stepped on.

Well, one late, starry night weary travelers and their donkey were shown into the stable. Jonathan and the other animals were startled when the beautiful, but tired-looking, young lady and her bearded companion settled down for the night in the stable. People sleeping in a shed for animals!

Jonathan's nose twitched at the new fresh smells and sounds. Soon other new sounds had him scurrying up on the rafters to get a different perspective. To his astonishment, he witnessed the birth of a child, a boy child. The man and lady wrapped the newborn in strips of cloths and actually placed him in a manger filled with fresh hay. The other animals quietly and rather reverently watched in the background.

Within a few hours shepherds from the nearby hills came to the stable and told of angelic hosts singing in the sky above them while they were watching over the flocks and of how the angels had told them to go to Bethlehem and where to find the newborn child, **Christ, the Lord**.

Even the scent of a campfire on the shepherds' robes or the odor of the little lamb carried by one of the shepherds, did not register at first with Jonathan. He simply watched in amazement as the shepherds bowed down and worshipped the infant, the **Mesiah**.

Then he and the other animals lowered themselves to the ground in reverent adoration, thankful that they had been in the lowly stable for the birth of the long-awaited one.



## Thank you from the Schickedanz's

My Church Family:

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent Get-Well cards, kept me in your prayers, for your visits at hospital and home and all who brought food for Irving while I was in the hospital and all those blessed angels who brought meals to us before I was able to get back to cooking, ran errands for us when it was dangerous for Irving to go out. I can't express our gratefulness for all that was done for us during the past weeks. God bless all of you for your kindness and generosity

Thank you, thank you all! Mabel and Irving Schickedanz



## Thank you from Rev. Schmidt

Dear Friedens:

I want to express my appreciation to Pastor Gail and the members of Friedens United Church of Christ for all you did in making the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination such a memorable occasion.

I also want to thank you for, once again, warmly welcoming my family. We enjoyed our time with you.

Sincerely, Rev. Robert M. Schmidt

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## Rev. Schmidt turns 80!

The family of Rev. Schmidt has asked to post this in our Tidings newsletter. It came to us too late to make the December Tidings, but here is information on his 80th Birthday Party. More information can be found on the flyer that is in the vestibule on the church bulletin board.

Weather permitting, we will be gathering on **January 2, 2011 from 1-4 pm** for an Open House. (Paul and Elaine Schmidt's house at 8615 Hill Top Court, Dawson, IL 62520). We know it is a challenging time of year for travel (Mom was more considerate of things like this - she was born in July!) and so we understand if you can't make it. But if you can, refreshments and 80th birthday fun will be provided (Happy Birthday son at 2:30 p.m.)

No gifts please. We are preparing a memory book and you are invited to send something.

Blessings: Karen, Karla, Paul, Rob, Laura and our families

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## Ministerial Moments Continued from Page 1

Thank you to all who decorated the church and are helping to take the decorations down. Decorations will stay up until we get the Kings to the manger on Epiphany, January 6. Kings will be moving outside as well as inside, so keep watch.

I have two items of great joy to tell you about. Carol Mercer has been chosen as one of the three lay women of the conference to be honored at the Honored Lay Women's Luncheon at General Synod next June. In addition to her work in the community and church, Carol has spent many years on the Mission and Ecumenism Committee of our conference. I am also told that at one time she was the director of two confirmation retreats at DuBois. I am sure you will all be happy for Carol and proud of her accomplishment as I am.

My other item of joy is that I have procured the services of Rev. Marti Baumer and Rev. Nancy Livingston for our February 6 service so I can vacation that week. Both women are delightful ministers and Rev. Livingston is also a gifted musician who will be providing the music that week. Rev. Livingston is the current conference moderator. I have heard both women speak and thought they were fantastic. If I remember correctly, some of you have heard Rev. Baumer and can attest to that.

For those of you who like music, Ken Medema is going to be back in the conference in February also. Ken is the gifted blind musician who can and does make a song out of anything. A couple of years ago he performed at our Conference Annual meeting, where he took the subject matter of the key speaker or the business that had just been discussed and made a song out of it. During his concert, he had us all up on the floor dancing, clapping hands and acting silly. On February 5, he will have a workshop for church musicians in Columbia from 9:00-1:30. That evening at 7:00, he will perform at SWIC. Tickets are \$10.00. Please order them early as there are only 200 seats.

Also on the horizon is the Conference Day of Discipleship. It has been moved to a Saturday this year in hopes that more people will be able to attend. It will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 10:30 – 3:00 at St. Paul's in Columbia. I hope we can get a good number of people to come. I will have more information regarding the workshops in the next month's Tidings. (Lunch is included in the price of the workshops).

Sincerely, Pastor Gail

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## Greeters and Ushers for January/February

Jan. 2: Milton & Blanche Schmierbach,

Jan. 9 & 16: Leroy @ Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith

Jan 23 & 30: Eloise Fauth, John & Janet Fauth

Feb. 6 & 13: Bob & Imogene Lehman, Gary & Susie Stewart

Feb. 20: Fred & Marilyn Lewis, David Keim

Feb. 27: Dorothy Dressel, David Keim, Kay Trotter

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# January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	Upcoming Events in February: Feb. 6: Rev. Martha Baumer and Rev. Nancy Livingston guest preachers (Pastor Gail on Vacation) - Feb. 12: Chamber of Commerce Dinner at St. Libory				1
2 Celebrate Epiphany	3 Evangelical Daughters Mtg. 7:00 pm	4	5 Choir 7:30 pm	6 Epiphany	7	8
9 Social Time Before Church 930 am	10	11 Council Mtg 7:00 pm Homecare Mtg @ Macke Center 10:30 am	12	16	14	15
16 Start of the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity, ends on 22nd.	17 Martin Luther King Birthday	18	19 Choir 7:30 pm	20	21	22
23 Annual Meeting After Worship, potluck	24	25	26	27	28	29



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*"Through the Spirit we are  
a Church on the Move:  
Welcoming, Caring,  
Sharing."*



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