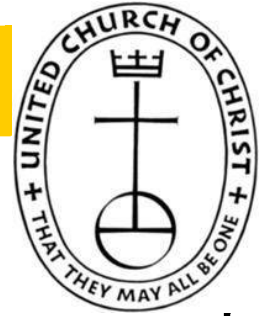


June / July 2011



# The Tidings

## Ministerial Moments

Wow! Where has the year gone? I can't believe it's June and school's out already. The last I heard Katie Cowell was scheduled to graduate May 25. Have not heard yet what she is planning after graduation. Eli Schmierbach is graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade on May 31. Seems like only yesterday Katie was confirmed and Eli was baptized. Eli is getting ready for confirmation.

June 12 is Pentecost and will be the date for Eli's confirmation. Eli helped with Vacation Bible School last year. He helped with both Wurstmarts. He went to one youth day last summer at DuBois, was a youth delegate to Annual meeting, and attended confirmation day at Eden Seminary. He has worked hard to this point of passage and is ready to take the next step of becoming an adult member of the church as he continues on his Journey of Faith. In other steps of growth, he has made the Honor Roll at school, played basketball, and helped his grandmother move to Marissa from Belleville. We look forward to him taking a more active part in the church.

Lori and I will both be on vacation from June 27 through July 12. For this reason July 3 will be a Visitation Sunday. July 10, however, will be a special treat, as a member of the board of KinderCottage will conduct the worship service. The entire service will be centered on children. They will even have a special children's message that day and there will be a new DVD about KinderCottage shown as part of the sermon. KinderCottage has been a long time mission of the Conference and I know Friedens has had a long relationship with them also, so I hope you all will come and both celebrate the mission of KinderCottage and learn of the continuing changes and growth of the mission.

On Sunday, May 22, I had two or three people ask me about a Biblical quotation they heard on TV telling people that they must sell his cloak and buy a sword. The exact quote comes from Luke 22:36B. It takes place during the Last Supper just after Jesus has told Peter that he will deny him 3 times before the cock crows. The exact section beginning with verse 35 reads:

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## Greeter and Ushers for June, July and August

June 5 - Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Katie Cowell

June 12 & 19 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson

June 26 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind



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July 3 & 10 - Pat MacBeth, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner

July 17 & 24 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn

July 31 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn

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August 7 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten

August 14 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbi Duffie

August 21 - David & Stacey Pilbean, Ruby Lehman

August 28 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

## Strengthen the Church Offering June 12

Strengthen the Church Offering is one of our Five for Five national UCC offerings. It is the only one where our Conference **retains** 50% of the offering for our own use.

The national UCC through Local Church Ministries uses their 50% for:

- i funding new church starts and invigorating existing congregations
- i nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
- i building youth and young adult ministries
- i supporting the God Is Still speaking ministry and its extravagant welcome for all within the UCC

Conferences have used their 50% in a variety of ways. Among them:

- i media evangelism such as ISC's recent "All the People" ad campaign
- i gathering young adults in Conference-wide gatherings
- i pay for a Coach for Church Development and Congregational Development
- i supporting youth to attend their Regional Youth Event
- i supporting a Conference Resource Director
- i supporting youth and young adult ministries

We encourage all ISC churches to support the Strengthen The Church offering. Your 50% helps us to renew churches as well as fund new developing churches.

If your local church is not collecting this offering, you can send a check directly to Illinois South Conference (payable to ISC with STC in the memo), 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249 or you can contribute on the UCC website: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

# JULY BLOOD DRIVE

## MONDAY, JULY 11 - FROM 2:30-6:30 P.M.

**SUPPORT THE BLOOD BANK**  
**Donate your blood and make a difference**

If you can't give blood, please help us out!  
There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.  
Please sign up your help is needed!



### June Anniversary's

Neal & Joan Galle	2
Craig & Melanie Rahlfs	2
Tom & Bobbi Duffie	5
Fred & Marilyn Lewis	17
Martin & Alberta Galle	18
Bob & Lucille Schmierbach	27

### June Birthday's

Paula Neely	1
Pastor Gail Geisel	6
Sarah Galle	7
Bob Schmierbach	8
Irving Schickedanz	12
Courtney Swartzkopf	13
Sharon Reese	16
Leslie Lehman	18
Gertrude Heil	22
David Keim	27

### July Birthday's

Ruby Lehman	1
Kenny Bollmeier	5
Fred Lewis	11
Dale Reese	12
David Dressel	13
Larry Matzenbacher	18
Peggy Dierks	23
John Barrett	23
Nolan Cathcart	24
Janet Fauth	25
Craig Rahlfs	28



### July Anniversary's

Mike & Debra Raban	11
Jay & Leslie Lehman	16
Leroy & Marlene Karsten	31

## Comments from the Church Mouse

There were many, many visitors to Friedens on Sunday afternoon, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, as it was an Open House in honor of Mabel Schickedanz's retirement as Friedens' organist and music director. Fellowship Hall really looked beautiful, and as a little church mouse I know the arrangement and decorations were mainly due to Marlene Vogel-Karsten's creativity. I was so proud of my home and the committee that worked on the affair.

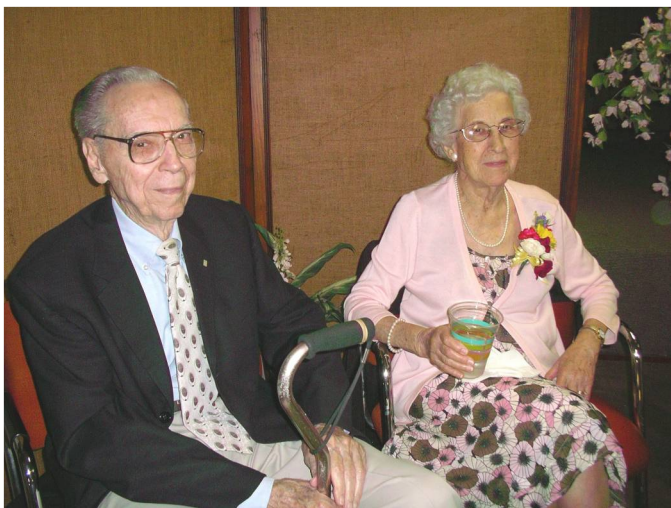


(May I just say again that the ladies who clean up do too good a job. Luckily, I did get to scurry out and get a few crumbs without being seen. Peggy Dierks had made a wonderful dessert, but then I like all desserts.)

I think Mabel and Irving Schickedanz are awfully special. Grandfather mouse used to tell me how Irving would always be the one who would keep the old clock that it in Fellowship Hall running – the one above the serving table outside the kitchen. That clock was from the “old church”, which is before my time, but Larry Matzenbacher, who has inherited Irving's clock maintenance job, was heard saying that Irving remembers the clock from his youth. Irving admits to sitting in Sunday School and watching that clock slowly move forward until the time when the lesson would be over.

Irving also told someone his memories of the little bank above the drinking fountain in the downstairs hall way. It is also old. Irving says he remembers when a child had a birthday, he would be called up and put coins in the bank. It is a piece of Friedens memorabilia. (That's a new word I recently learned. I think it means a piece of history or something to be remembered.)

I've learned that Mabel and Irving went to church at Friedens Evangelical Reformed (the German church) as kids and went to school together, although Irv was a bit older. I bet he thought she was cute. They both had lived in “old town” is what I overheard. My ears are good, but I don't always understand all that I hear. I'm not sure the difference between an old town and a new town, I just know that the Schickedanzes had many school and church friends when growing up and music was part of their lives.



After being confirmed, Mabel began playing the piano for church and has served Friedens' and its music for over 70 years, since 1936. Eeeek, it makes my whiskers tremble. I really will miss Mabel playing the organ, for one of my favorite hidey-holes was right beside it. When she would come in to practice, it would almost be as if she were playing a concert just for me.

Mabel and Irving have been, and continue to be, foundation stones of Friedens UCC.

At the May 16<sup>th</sup> blood drive I heard donor Paul Weilmuenster tell Lorrie Lehman and Carol Mercer that he remembers being in Mabel's children's choir years

ago, and that there were over a dozen young singers. Blanche Schmierbach remembered that Mabel and her late sister Millie Gorman changed the altar cloths for decades. As a church mouse, I can attest to that. Ron Geisel commented that it was Irving who was always called when the elevator was stuck or needed adjusting, and Stacey Pilbean told of her grandpa Irving putting empty soup cans in the sanctuary lamp fixtures to help them reflect better lighting.

There's just no end to their talents. I was so pleased that a lot of people came by church on the 15<sup>th</sup> to let them both know how special they are.

I love my church family!!!

## Ministerial Moments Continued from page 1

*He said to them, "when I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing." He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me. 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled." They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He replied, "It is enough."*

After this section Jesus and the remaining 11 went out to the Mount of Olives where Jesus went off for awhile and prayed. Judas brought the temple guard and betrayed him with a kiss.

*Verse 49: "When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord. Should we strike with the sword? Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him."*

The scripture is very different in the whole context, isn't it? When someone quotes scripture, we should always try to ask the context that they are reading from. Those who are students of American History will remember that because there is slavery in the Bible, scriptures were used to support slavery leading up to the Civil War. The "curse of Ham" which comes at the end of the Noah story was used to support racism and the fact that Jesus' disciples were men, has been and is still used in some churches to keep women from being in the pulpit, even though the Apostle Paul did have women church leaders.

Whenever someone is using Biblical quotes and confusing you by them, it is always safe to go back to the "Great Commandment" also in Luke, just before the story of the Good Samaritan and remember the lawyer said, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10: 27) Remember also that Jesus told us to "love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you." In my opinion, anyone who tries to preach something different, which is not the God of Love, is preaching false gospel. (But of course I'm one person and I could be wrong.)

Blessings,

Pastor Gail



## NEEDED Delegates for Annual Conference

Two delegates to the Annual Conference to be held at the Shrine, September 9-10. Church pays fees. There are 3 pre-annual meeting sites to choose from, 2 on Sunday afternoon (1 of those is at DuBois) and one evening. Pastor Gail will get you more information if you are interested.



## 2011-2012 Marissa School Dates to Remember!

Back to School Day Sign Up - Thursday, July 28 - 2-8 pm @ Marissa High School

August 16, Tuesday - First Day Back to School, 1/2 day of school

August 17, Wednesday - First Full Day of School

Christmas Break - December 19th to January 2nd

Easter Break - April 5th to 9th, 2012

Last Day of School (No emergency days) - May 22nd, 2012



## THANK YOU ! ! !

Once again, Friedens' family, I want to say "Thank you all" for honoring me with a lovely reception on my retirement as your organist and choir director for so many years. I will miss doing those things. I was happy to see so many friends and family; a few came from quite a distance away. The refreshment table was a "knock-out"; Thanks so much to those who filled it. The piano music was much appreciated by me and others. The musician was a friend of Marlene Karsten's great-granddaughter. So, thanks to the church council and all who planned it all and did so much work.



With love and gratitude,

Mabel Schickedanz

# JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 12: For Pentecost wear red or Meteor Orange. Lois Waeltz will play organ						
5	6 Daughters Mtg - 7 pm Region 8 Mtg - 7 pm	7	8	9	10	11 Chamber Golf Tourney
12 Pentecost Confirmation of Eli Schmierbach Strengthen the Church	13 VBS @ First Baptist 9-11:30 am	14 Council Mtg - 7 pm VBS	15 VBS	16 VBS Coal Festival	17 VBS Coal Festival	18 Coal Festival Parade 6 pm
19 Father's Day  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	20	21	22	23	24 Movie in the Park "Avatar" 7 pm	25
26	27	28	29	30		

# JULY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Loose offering to Scholarship Fund					1	2
3 Visitation Sunday	4 Independence Day	5 	6	7	8	9
10 KinderCottage will host worship	11	12 Council Mtg - 7 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Back to School Registration 2-8 pm Marissa High School	29 Movie in the Park, 7 pm	30



## Evangelical Daughters Cookbook! ! ! !

It's been over 10 years since Daughters have put together a cookbook.

Well the time has finally come, they are in the process of gathering recipes to put in a new cookbook.

Evangelical Daughters is asking for everyone to share recipes with them. If you have a recipe that you would like to publish in the book, give it to Janet Fauth, Susie Stewart or Stacey Pilbean or any member of Daughters.



## Vacation Bible School - VBS ! ! ! !

VBS will be held at First Baptist Church in Marissa (at four way stop) on

**June 13 to June 17 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am**

Registration will be on Monday June 13 from 8:00 am to 8:30 am. The program is for children 4 years of age through 6th grade. Connie Hodges is the coordinator this year. If you would like to help call the church at 295-2272.

Theme for this years VBS is “**Big Apple Adventure - Where Faith and Life Connect**”

## Things Happening in Marissa in June and July

Saturday, June 11 - Chamber Golf Tourney

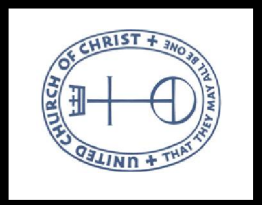
Thursday to Saturday, June 16-17-18 - Marissa Coal Festival - Parade on 18th @ 6 pm

Friday, June 24 - Movie in the Park - Movie “Avatar” @ 7 pm

Friday, July 29 - Movie in the Park - Movie TBA @ 7 pm

# HOW TO MAKE CHURCH BRILLIANT





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*“Through the Spirit we are  
a Church on the Move:  
Welcoming, Caring,*



Friedens United Church of Christ

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