

# The Tidings

October 2011



## Ministerial Moments

It is finally beginning to feel like autumn, my favorite season if only my sinuses would agree. On the other hand, my sinuses tend not to be happy anytime of year.

It is shaping up to be a busy year. We are looking for a permanent organist again, though we all appreciate the help that Ruth Erb and John Barrett continue to give us. We are blessed to have them.

The Pig is up, but once the pig comes down, I have some new UCC yard signs I bought which will go up occasionally. There are six and unfortunately all the same so I can either keep some back until the first one wears out or if some of you would like to use one we can loan them out on occasion. These are not permanent signs, but are small enough that we might be able to put one the back as well as the front. I'll have Council decide on that.

Annual meeting at the Shrine was great fun this year; definitely the best one since I've been here. One of the big questions from the Keynote speaker, Felix Carrion, was "Why are you here?" Why are we on earth? What is our purpose? Why do we come to church? What is the purpose of the church, our church, the denomination, any church?

Change begins with us! If you are in the game, you have to do something. Since Felix is the current head of the Still Speaking movement, he encouraged us all to wear our comma pins. "Never place a period where God has placed a comma!" (Gracie Allen)

November 6 is "Invite a Friend to church Sunday." This might be a good time to get in touch with people who have visited but haven't been around in a while and invite them back.

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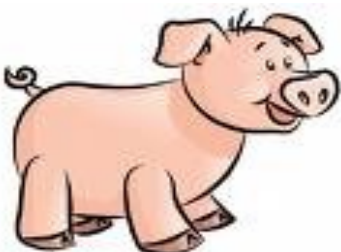
## Wurstmarkt Time!!!



What that in the front lawn of the church?? Well it's the pink pig in the front lawn of the church. Which means it's that time again. Wurstmarkt Time!!!

**Saturday, October 1 - 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

I'm sure that Funds and Fellowship could use as much help as they can get. See the sign up list or Susan Olyer to find out where help is most needed.



## Greeter and Ushers for October and November

**October 2 & 9** - David & Stacey Pilbean, John Barrett, Irving Schickedanz

**October 16** - Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Reinhardt,  
Milton & Blanche Schmierbach

**October 23** - Bob & Imogene Lehman, Dave & Pete Dressel

**October 30** - Dorothy Dressel, Carol Gladson, Susan Oyler

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**November 6** - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Cindy Galle

**November 13** - John & Janet Fauth, Eloise Fauth, Pat MacBeth

**November 20** - Dwayne Waeltz, Janice Schmidt, Pat MacBeth

**November 27** - Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Linda Jones, Karla Hellsten

## October Birthdays

Kelli Jenkins	4
Linda Jones	5
Mary Jo Warren	5
Michael Lewis	7
Milton Schmierbach	9
Ellie Schmierbach	9
Cindy Galle	13
Pat MacBeth	13
Gary Schmidt	13

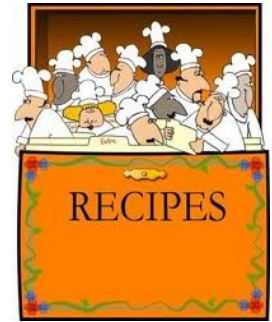


## October Anniversaries

Albert & Caroline Galle	17
David & Stacy Pilbean	18
Robert & Ruby Lehman	20
Jim & Dixie Ferrell	27

## RECIPES NEEDED ! ! ! !

Evangelical Daughters are still in need of recipes for their new cookbook that will be coming out. So if you have recipe that is your favorite or others would just love, send it in!!!!



## Marissa Trunk R' Treat - Friday October 28



Trunk R' Treat will be Friday October 28 this year from 6:00 – 7:30. At 8:00 will be another movie in the Park.

## Chili Cook-Off - Village Garage Sale - October 8

Marissa Chamber of Commerce will have their annual Village Garage Sale, Chili Cook-off and Krispy Kremes at the four-way stop on Saturday, October 8.



A big **THANK YOU !!** to Milton and Blanche Schmierbach for hosting the Haberkamp's when they were here.

## Ministerial Moments Continued from Page 1

Once statistic mentioned was that 73% of people who have never been to church have never been invited. We should remember that most of us, at sine time feel like misfits, or left-out. With God there are no outsiders. There is nothing more liberating than extending a welcome to strangers. The truest aim of God is compassion.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, Rev. Nancy Livingston went to the podium and found that Felix had left his notes there. First she asked him if he wanted them. He said that he had had everything on computer and then at the last minute got worried what if the computer went down so he wrote some notes. She asked if she could have them. He said yes and then some other people were asking for them so Nancy began to auction them off. The bid got up to \$350 and it was agreed that others could get copies for \$25 each (needless to say, yours truly did not engage in the bidding or this report would be better). Final results were \$550 from Felix's notes which went to the "Cure the Gap" fund. Cure the Gap is the fund-raiser for the purpose of filling the gap between conference budgeted expenses and income. In 2010, the Conference was able to cut costs such that they did not need to borrow from reserves.

I do not have the church results of how much we donated to KinderCottage or the Oak Lodge Project at Annual meeting, but the offering totals were \$4, 018.07 to KinderCottage and \$8,849.00 to Oak Lodge.

The overall budget for the conference has been cut by \$83, 203. \$10,000 of the cuts came when a couple of individuals decided they did not need as much insurance. Other cuts were made to certain committees and teams according to how funds have been used in the past. Giving to conference has an overall decrease of 5%. We have been challenged by the finance committee to each increase our giving by 1%. If our church's OCWM is increased by 1%, we are talking about \$30, definitely more possible than the \$300 we tried a few years ago. We also spent time in break-out sessions discussing the role of the Conference and what we expect of the conference. If you would like to take part in the Conference visioning the post-annual meeting gathering is at New Athens on October 16 and I think it includes lunch.

While at the Annual Meeting we also dedicated a Peace Pole for the Conference office. Official planting is October 23 at 3:00PM. The Peace Pole is four-sided galvanized aluminum. It says "May Peace prevail on Earth" in eight languages, including English, German, Spanish, Swahili, Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Shawnee. The purpose of the Peace Pole is to show that we are constantly striving for peace, particularly a "Just Peace", meaning not just the absence of war, but that we will strive for justice in all treaties and also in the way we treat each other as well as other nations. In 1989, Southern Illinois Conference was named a "Just Peace" Conference. Many of you know that Friedens means "Peace" in German. I would very much like to do a study regarding becoming a "Just Peace Church" some time in our near future. Hopefully it is something we can talk more about at our Annual Meeting in January.

Spiritual Council and I have begun meeting again this year. Pastoral relations committee is meeting about every two months. Pastoral Relations is a liaison between me and you regarding how the church is run. Spiritual Council is about the spiritual life of the church, including the worship service or care for the people and community. We are starting a prayer time and prayer partnerships for the church. I invite each of you to continually pray for our church and if you come up with an idea to enhance our worship or service to the community please let me or one of the Spiritual Council; Larry Matzenbacher, Marlene Karsten, Ruby Lehman, Lorrie Lehman, and Carol Mercer know.

Blessings Pastor Gail

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# OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31 Halloween		Preview to November Calendar: November 1 Beginning of Mission 1 ; November 6 - Daylight Savings Time Ends November 12 - Toast of Marissa November 19 - Evangelical Daughters Bazaar ; November 23 - Thanksgiving Service			1 Friedens UCC Wurstmarkt - 3:00 to 7:00 pm
2 World Wide Communion, Neighbors in Need Offering, Scripture is 1st 1/2 of 10 Commandments	3 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 7 pm	4	5	6	7	8 City Wide Yard Sale and Chili Cook-Off
9 Scripture: 2nd 1/2 of 10 Commandments	10	11 Church Council Mtg 7:00 pm	12 Pastor Gail On vacation	13 Pastor Gail On vacation	14 Pastor Gail On vacation	15 Pastor Gail On vacation
16 Pastor Gail On vacation Lay Sunday, Marlene Karsten leading	17 Pastor Gail On vacation	18 Pastor Gail On vacation ; New Athens Care Luncheon RSVP by Oct 5 \$7.50	19	20	21	22
23 Pastor Relations Committee after church	24	25 Spiritual Council Mts @ 7 pm	26	27 Family Care at Machete's	28 Trunk R'Treating 6-7:30 pm, Wedding Rehearsal at Church	29 Wedding at Church

## Mission 1

From November 1 – 11, the UCC is beginning a new campaign. This one excites me more than anything in years because it is doable even for small churches, and a lot of what we will do will stay local. I am even considering writing a letter to the County Journal and issuing a challenge to other churches in the area to do the same.

Mission: 1 is an opportunity to make real Jesus' prayer for his disciples: "That they may all be one." It is also an opportunity to live out our faith – in unity – by offering the worship that God most desires from us: loosening the bonds of injustice and sharing our bread with the hungry.

For the first 11 days of November (11.1.11 – 11.11.11), United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, and health and human service agencies, will join together in collective mission campaign to collect more than 1 million food items for **local food pantries and food banks**, raise \$111,111 in online donations for Neighbors in Need and \$111,111 for East Africa famine relief, and write 11, 111 letters to Congress (in support of Bread for the World's 2011 Offering of Letters campaign) asking that U.S. foreign assistance be reformed to more effectively serve the world's poorest people.

We will be asked to keep track of the food we donate and the letters we write. These will then be entered on the Conference and National tote boards to see how we are doing. I am asking that each member of the church donate 11 food items to our pantry during this time. The basket will be back out by the door of the church to collect the food. Each time we take a basket full to Sonshine Corner we will need to count the food and keep a running list.

On Sunday November 6 I will have letters prepared for you to sign and send to our Senators and Representatives. I believe this is Congress only, not state, so we are only talking three letters. If you prefer to write your own and mail it during those 11 days, tell me and we can add it to the count. They are asking people to donate \$11 on line for NIN and the African famine. If you would like to donate online so we get your count, but do not have a computer, come to the office and I will help you. More information will come next month, but I feel confident that this in one activity with which we can be successful

For more information: go to [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and click the Mission 1 icon when it come up or type Mission 1 in the search.

**Mission: 1**  
**11.1.11 - 11.11.11**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## Neighbors in Need

October 2 is World Wide Communion Sunday and also the day we collect our Neighbors in Need offering. The Neighbors in Need offering supports UCC Ministries throughout the United States. Two-Thirds of NIN goes to the Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and

direct service projects. Some of the issues regard the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil rights and environmental justice. NIN also supports the Council for American Indian Ministries. UCC works with the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak which are mostly

in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Min-



## Bazaar - Saturday, November 19th



The annual church bazaar is coming up on Saturday, November 19th. Any craft items, baked good or white elephant items would be appreciated.

## Church Wedding Funny

Our church will be hosting multiple weddings in the next few months, so here is a wedding funny.

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A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd. While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar. So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit. The little boy, however, was getting more and more distressed from all the laughing, and was also near tears by the time he reached the pulpit. When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."





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



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