



The Tidings

APRIL 2012

Ministerial Moments

Spring has sprung. Once again we had a successful Wurstmart serving slightly over 450 meals. Many thanks to all of you who put in such hard work.

On Sunday March 25 we took in 3 new members: Sandi Smith, who has been active in Evangelical Daughters and coming for several years, and David and Nancy Barbee. Nancy, as you know is our organist. She was an English teacher which makes for interesting choir practices when she and Carol are both here. David, you will see sitting by himself most Sundays, though the last two Sundays of March he got volunteered for usher duty. Nancy's origins were in the Unitarian Universalist church, but both of them were former members of Immanuel UCC in East Saint Louis which closed last year. Give each of these three a warm welcome when you see them.

I have been doing some research regarding revitalization of our church. I met with Rev. Jerry Bennett on February 21 and he gave me forms should we decide to apply for an 18 month revitalization grant. Before that, however, we have a lot of discernment to go through.

The last year or two, I have been working with the Spiritual Council to try to begin talking about who we are as a church. This last month I began that discussion with the Council, asking first how they define church and why they come to church. In the current Adult Sunday School program and some of my sermons, I am also trying to lead us to think about who we are and why we are a church. What does it mean to be a Christian in today's world?

Friedens does not seem to have a mission statement or vision statement in its constitution and by-laws that I am aware of. Does anyone know if one was ever written? Every thing we do, every bill we pay, should in some way reflect who we are as a church. Is our sole purpose to collect enough money to stay open, or is there another deeper reason for our being? I would like us over the next several months to think about what our mission in the world/community is. I know we have a mission in Sonshine Corner, but a church can produce good works and show signs of organizational strength and still not shows signs of vitality.

Here are some items to think about:

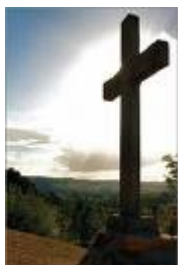
A declining church gives itself to:

1. growing the church rather than witnessing to faith. (The marginalized and hurting people in the community are viewed not as potential pew-mates or fellow disciples but as recipients of the church's benevolence.)
2. running the church rather than forming disciples.

Continued on Page 4

Inside this issue:

Food Pantry News	2
Greeter/Ushers for April and May	2
Easter Services Dates	2
V.B.S. News	3
DuBois Dinners	3
"Joy Divine" Conference	3
Church Mouse Comments	5
Day of Discipleship Meeting by Marlene	6
Wurstmart News	6
April Calendar	7
Birthday/Anniversary's	8



Food Pantry Needs Volunteers!!

The **Marissa Food Pantry** is in need of volunteers. They have had to close the food pantry on the first Tuesday of the month because there is no one to work. If you have 2 hours once per month to volunteer at the food pantry please contact Rev. Jim Ryan at Marissa Presbyterian Church.

Greeter and Ushers for April and May

April 1: Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Reinhardt

April 8: Easter Sunday - Church Council

April 15: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn

April 22: Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Neal & Donna Galle

April 29: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald

May 6: Linda Jones, Dale & Sharon Reese

May 13: Mother's Day - Sunday School, Carol Mercer, Susie Stewart

May 20: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner

May 27: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday service at Friedens UCC @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday service at Biddleborn UCC @ 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil service at Freeburg UCC @ 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise service at Marissa Presbyterian Church @
7:00 am Breakfast will follow.

V.B.S.!!!!

The United Methodist Church will be hosting the Community Vocation Bible School this summer. The tentative dates are July 30 to August 3 from 9:30-11:30 am. Volunteers are needed for the planning team. Please contact Pastor Becky Williams at 295-3281.

Faith Baptist Church will be offering V.B.S. as well in July. Watch for announcements. They also will be hosting the Thanksgiving service.

DuBois Dinners

April 22 will be the first of the **DuBois** dinners served from Noon until 2:00 pm. Meal that day is Pork Loin Roast. Reservations needed by April 16. Prices are \$9.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children 5-11 and children under 5 are free.

After dinner there will be camp tours, pontoon boat rides, horseback rides and a special summer camp orientation from 2:30-3:30. This will be a great opportunity to see what changes have occurred at DuBois since you or your children were last there. Most of the area from parking lot to dining hall is easily accessible for our older folks. Let's get a group to carpool or caravan together after church.

"Joy Divine" Conference

April 29 3-5PM "**Joy Divine**". This is a conference activity to allow churches to fellowship together with a soup and salad dinner. They will be having hymn sings in three locations. The closest to us is Zion UCC in New Baden. Other locations are Alhambra and Marion.

Ministerial Moments Continued

3. being people-led rather than being Spirit-led. (Meetings are business. Scripture may be read, or opening prayer said, but rarely, if ever does a group think of bringing faith into the discussion.)
4. participating in mission projects without having a mission.
5. being more concerned about keeping members happy, that leading members in faithful living.

Here are three marks of inner health of a congregation:

1. continual spiritual formation as an essential for everyone rather than an activity pursued by some.
2. relationships among people that embody the kin-dom of God; relationships that are honoring, forgiving, loving, caring, mutual, and generative.
3. a deep, pervasive concern for the temporal and spiritual well-being of those beyond the doors of the church – a concern that manifests in action.

Any form of revitalization/renewal will take time. It is more a change in the way we think of ourselves as a church than the way we necessarily do things. There are no magic bullets: no pastor, no program, no special resources that will make it happen without the congregation making a decision regarding our purpose of being and living into that purpose. One thing I have always been pleased with, however, no one has ever said to me: “We never did it that way before”. Friedens seems to be willing to try anything. I may get grumbles afterwards, which I consider feedback, but not before.

Marlene, Ron and I went to the Day of Discipleship also. The theme this year was stewardship. By stewardship, we are not just talking about money but our care of all the things God has given us. One thing I am happy with is that this church has not allowed the building to fall into delayed maintenance. Also, when bequeathed a store-front, Friedens decided to use that storefront to create a thrift store from which the money goes back into the community to help others. Sonshine Corner is also used by the Food Pantry and MCOP. I feel our church building is underused, but that is partly because there is a lot of meeting space for groups in this community. Marlene is looking into starting a group of some sort which could meet here.

Stewardship also involves care and nurture of our members, especially the children. Is there a way we could do that better? I am sure Susie and Carol would welcome someone else to help out with Sunday school occasionally. With the Revs. Jim and Deb Harkness leaving First Baptist, is there a possibility of creating some kind of tutoring session or after school program again. Can we find people willing to help us?

The three common points of stewardship are: Time, Talent, and Treasure. Rev. Jane Heckles added Trash (care for the earth) and Tissue (care for our health). Other Ts which were added were Technology, Temperance, and Tradition. We need to stop thinking of what we can't do, and giving ourselves excuses, and start not only celebrating what we can do, but begin dreaming of what we would like to do and be.

“You got to have a dream. If you don't have a dream, then how you gonna have a dream come true?” from “Happy Talk”, South Pacific by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

Comments from the Church Mouse

Gee willigers, and wiggly whiskers! On March 17th our church had well over four hundred pairs of feet at our wonderful Wurstmarkt. At times it felt as if they were all doing a St. Paddy's Day jig as I was vibrated in my hidey holes.

Our Wurstmarkt workers did a fine job. Maybe I exaggerated the number of feet because we had a lot of carry outs that day, but it seemed like an awfully lot to me. And those well-fed people were kind enough to leave lots of great crumbs for me. I had to work really hard to appropriate them and carry them to my holes after the event because our workers clean up too fast to suit me. We had such fantastic food.



We've also had some fine services during Lent. I wish someone would be brave enough to take me to the other UCC churches when the service is not at Friedens on Wednesday evenings. The people at choir practice have good things to say about the Lenten services.

I enjoy the music of the Lenten season, and I heard Pastor Gail tell some of the choir members that there is going to be an old fashion hymn sing called "Joy Diving Celebration" on April 29th from 3 to 5. There will be three and the nearest one to us is Zion UCC in New Baden. Wouldn't anyone like to slip a little mouse into his pocket and take me along? I'd like it even if they didn't have food, which they do.

I also heard some talk of the UCC churches helping out the people of Harrisburg. I've never experienced a tornado, but I know any aid to those poor people is appreciated.

Change-over is happening at Sonshine Corner. Ruby Lehman, Peggy Dierks and others are working hard to clean the Corner and put out spring and summer clothing. That's another place I'd like to see. Our church has really done some good mission work there.

The Food Pantry is another fine mission, and although I never really go hungry at Friedens, I have heard that there are people in town who do. Since Grandfather mouse taught me that I must never bother the gathering basket for the Food Pantry in the Friedens' front foyer, I stay clear of it. I'm pleased though when I see someone contribute food to the basket.

Don't we have good people in our church? Oh, Happy Easter, and just to let you know, I love those little candy-coated chocolate eggs.

Day of Discipleship Meeting

On March 3, 2012 I had the pleasure of attending the "Day of Discipleship" meeting at St Paul UCC in Nashville along with Pastor Gail and Ron. The Title of this meeting was, Seeing God's Treasurers: Stewardship for Vital Congregations.

The meeting began with Registration and Refreshments, then Opening Prayer/Song and Announcements. The Keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Jane Heckles, a very inspirational speaker.

My first Workshop Session was "Our Relationship with God & One Another" presented by Rev. Dr. Don Wagner and Rev. Dr. Gretchen Sterrett. Here we discussed the relationship between God, Others and Ourselves all centered around The Church: The Body of Christ. We must practice Stewardship, our response to an active participation in our mutual relationship with God and each other.

After a very nice box lunch, my second session was "Church Presidents' Workshop" presented by Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, ISC Minister.

Here we introduced ourselves, named the Church we represent and shared the most important concern we have for our church. Large or Small the concerns were the same. Different practices and problems were shared. We received a guideline for the responsibilities of the Church council president.

What I came away with a true appreciation for the members of Friedens, Marissa.

Sincerely,

Marlene Vogel Karsten

Wurstmarkt News ! ! !

Funds and Fellowship would like to give a huge **THANK YOU** to the great help and **FANTASTIC** desserts. Everyone out did themselves.

The extra clean-up help was much appreciated. This proves to be one of our big challenges after a full day so the extra hands were a site for sore and tired eyes.

With the economy the way it is we are pleased to announce we served at least 460 people. Everything went so well!!!

The new grills proved to be a great asset. Profit was approximately \$2,700.00. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!!!!

APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday	2 Daughters Mtg @ 7 pm	3	4	5 Maundy Thursday @ Friedens 7 pm	6 Good Friday Service @ Trinity Biddleborn 7:00 pm	7 Easter Vigil @ Freeburg UCC 7 pm
8 EASTER Sunrise Service @ Marissa Presbyterian 7 am	9	10 Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm	11 Choir	12	13	14 Circus at Village Park 2 & 4 pm
15 RSVP Dealine for Dinner at DuBois	16	17	18 Choir	19	20	21
22 Dinner at DuBois	23	24	25 Choir	26	27	28
29 Joy Divine Sing at New Baden 3-5 pm RSVP needed for dinner	30	April 22 - Dinner at DuBois, lets get a carpool or caravan of people to go.				



April Birthdays

Ken Fitch	2
Mike Raban	3
Savanah Sinn	5
Kay Trotter	7
Betty Bollmeier	8
Eli Schmierbach	10
Sandy Triefenbach	11
Jeremy Dressel	15
Allison Curry	15
Karen Bearley	17
Danielle Sigman	18
Joyce Fitch	26
Melinda Schneidewind	30



820 North Main
 Marissa, IL 62257
 Phone: 618-295-2004

Friedens United Church of Christ

E-mail:
marissafriedens@gmail.com
www.marissaucc.org

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

April Anniversaries

Dean & Kathleen Robert	4
Irving & Mabel Schickedanz	23
Milton & Blanche Schmierbach	29



*Friedens United Church of Christ
 820 North Main
 Marissa, IL 62257*