



The Tidings

August 2012

Ministerial Moments

Back from two weeks' vacation and ready to hit the ground, or is that oven? It was hot when we left and only about 10 degrees cooler in Fargo. We saw the grandsons and had a few more adventures. Each has grown about a head taller, though they are still a head apart in height. The younger, Skyler, has become a runner and Hope and Phil were afraid we could not keep up with him so before we tried to go anywhere they bought a little harness with a monkey attached and a leash. The first day we tried it out, he protested wildly, but by the end of the day Hope was calling him her "monkey boy" and the leash was called a "tail". Skyler would ask, "Who has my tail; do you have my tail? I want to hold my tail."

In West Fargo there is an Old West Town called Bonanzaville. I thought it was in reference to the TV show Bonanza, but found out later that Bonanzavilles were developments of the northern plains created when the government gave large land grants to the railroads. Instead of selling the land to settlers as earlier railroad land grants had done, these were sold to large land owners who would hire up to 600 men to run and farm the property. Because they were large, they could also try out a lot of the newer farming equipment of the late 19th and early 20th Century. I was greatly surprised how well the boys held up to going through a bunch of old buildings, but they liked the trains, early autos, and planes best.

The next day was Ron and my chance to solo, so we introduced the boys to Chuck E. Cheese. It's quite a bit different than I remember from when Hope was little, but it did give them a chance to have fun. We went back for the boys' joint birthday party where they actually got to meet Chuck E Cheese in addition to cake, pizza, and games. On our last day with them we went to the Red River Fair. It was very hot but before we left there was a great big slide which the boys wanted to go on. Nathan was tall enough to go by himself, but Skyler was not. To slide, they had to put a burlap sack under them before taking off. Skyler got to the top, got on the sack and almost left Ron behind! We saw Ron lean over and then kind of jump into position. For those with a better view, it must have been a funny sight.

We took a short break during our visit to go to Bismarck where we saw the state historic museum and the capitol building. The capitol is unusual because it is an Art Deco 13 floor building built by the WPA in 1933 to replace a more traditional building which had burned. The chandeliers are meant to represent wheat. Bismarck is along the Missouri River which is dammed into a series of lakes in the region. It was strange to see sandy beaches and recreational boating on the Missouri. It doesn't look anything like the river as we know it here. Ron and I followed the travels of Lewis and Clark and saw Fort Mandan (where they stopped the first winter) and later found the remains of three villages, one of which is believed to be where Sacagawea lived. The Mandan lived in earthen lodges, farmed and traded. They had summer and winter villages and teepees were only used during the buffalo hunts. Most of the Mandan who befriended Lewis and Clark later died of smallpox.

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Comments from the Church Mouse

As the days pass by, life continues to be an adventure – sometimes pleasant, sometimes sorrowful, but always interesting.

On these hot summer days, I do not leave the church, but I did get to peak out the window of the basement storage room the day of the Marissa Coal Festival parade and see Larry Matzenbacher drive parade marshal Irving Schickedanz in Larry's red convertible. They are both such special men. Ninety-four year old Irving grew up at Friedens and is a wealth of knowledge about the history of the church and of Marissa.

I was also able to witness the luncheon that followed the funeral of Alice Weilmuenster on July 2. I was so shocked at her death. Alice was another one of my favorites. At ninety-one she was so “with it” and attractive. I got to see many of her relatives, most of whom my family had occasionally seen over the years. All three of Alice and Levi's chil-



dren grew up in this church, now they all have children and grandchildren.

Yes, at the funeral luncheon that was prepared by a large group of our church ladies, there were crumbs left for me. However, much as I appreciated the extra food, I would have liked to have received it some other way. Our ladies sure can cook though, can't they?

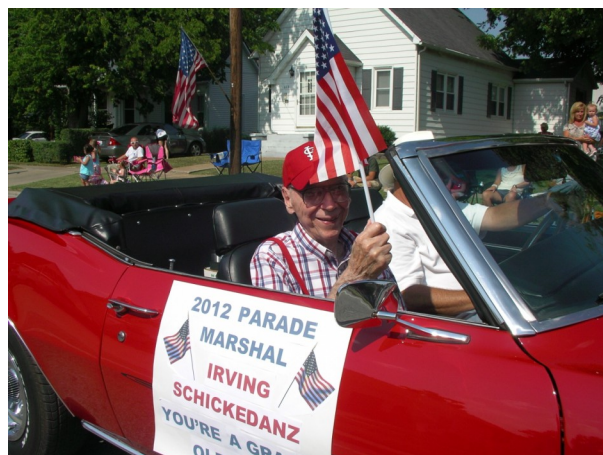
One of the events I would have liked to see was the Funds and Fellowship day at the Grizzlies ball game the end of June. Even though the Grizzlies lost the game, the Friedens crowd of members and friends, all 42 of them, had a good time. I heard Susan Oyler, Peggy Dierks, Carol Reinhardt, and Bobbie Duffie talk of eating popcorn, peanuts, and pretzels at the game, and my sharp little teeth just automatically chewed the air. They could have brought some samples home to me.

Stay cool the rest of the summer, and remember how special Friedens UCC is, even to a little church mouse.

2012 Coal Festival Parade Marshall

This year one of our members was selected as the 2012 Coal Festival Parade Marshall.

Congratulations to
Irving Schickedanz!!!



Greeter and Ushers for August and September



August 5 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten

August 12 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbi Duffie

August 19 - David & Stacey Pilbean, Ruby Lehman

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

September 2 - Dale & Sharon Reese, Lorrie Lehman

September 9 - Albert & Caroline Galle, Janice Schmidt

September 16 - Carol Mercer, Susie Stewart and the Sunday School

August Birthdays

Dixie Ferrell	1
Martin Galle	3
Carol Mercer	4
Alan Oyler	4
John Childers	5
Neal Galle	8
Tari Carpenter	9
Ann Peters	10
Gene Bollmeier	14
Lorrie Lehman	14
Irene Triefenbach	15
Isabella Schmidt	20
Victoria Galle	27
Debra Raban	28
Jean Riess	29
Andrew Stuart	30
Gina White	31
Warren Trotter	31



August Anniversaries

Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher	1
Tim & Melissa Curry	5
David & Pete Dressel	15
John & Alice Childers	16
Ron & Gail Geisel	22
John & Janet Fauth	30

AUGUST 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 VBS	2 Back to School Event 2-7 pm VBS	3 VBS Red Lehr @ Presbyterian Church 7 pm	4
5	6 Daughters Mtg 7 pm	7 9 am Quilters; Sonshine Cor- ner Mtg 1 pm	8	9 Pre-Annual Mtg @ Valmeyer 6:30 pm	10	11
12 Christmas in August New Athens Open House	13	14 Council Mtg. 7:00 pm 9 am Quilters	15 First Day of School	16	17	18
19 TIDINGS DEADLINE	20	21 9 am Quilters	22 Choir Practice 7 pm	23 Travelogue @ City Library 6 pm	24	25
26	27	28 9 am Quilters	29 Choir Practice 7 pm	30	31	

Ministerial Moments Continued from Page 1

The city of Mandan, south of Bismarck, includes the restoration and remains of Ft. Lincoln and On-a-slant Village. On-a-Slant-Village was a Mandan village. Six of its lodges have been restored to allow people to get a better idea of how Indians lived. Ft. Lincoln was the last post Custer was assigned to before the Little Big Horn and the house he lived in has been fully restored with period furniture.

On the way home we stopped at Pipestone National Monument in southwestern Minnesota. It is the one area in the US where tribes would quarry the red stone to make their pipes. Today only recognized members of six tribes can get permission to quarry the stone. There is a waiting list. Even as a National Monument it is considered Sacred Ground by Native Americans and the park service emphasizes the need for visitors to respect that.

Our next stop was Sioux Falls. I don't know how many times I have been through there without ever seeing the falls. It is a beautiful park in the area. Finally, we stopped at Omaha which was incredibly humid. We went to Boys' Town. Today the community is co-ed and the boys and girls live in group homes with husband and wife couples to give the youth the most family-like feeling possible. I had always thought that because Father Flannigan was a priest, the institution was connected to the Catholic Church. It is not. There are both a Catholic and a Protestant chapel on the grounds and a Rabbi is on call for any Jewish youth who may be in need. It's hard to think of such an organization needing to be in Omaha in 1917, as the city couldn't have been all that big then. We think of such organization beginning in Chicago or New York, yet Omaha was where Father Flannigan felt the call and need.

Each of us has a call. Early in my life, I felt my call was to follow Jesus as closely as I can. Later, I felt my call was to help churches in changing communities fit that change. I entered seminary with the thought that my emphasis would be on urban ministry but God has never placed me in an urban setting. Later, I trained as an interim feeling called to help churches through the change of the in-between times. I did serve a couple of churches as interim. Both forms of training help in all situations. I also have a passion for justice issues. I know God placed me here in Marissa for a reason, but it came upon me in our last stop on the trip at the Mormon Trail museum that I had lost sight of my primary calling dealing with change.

The last few months I have really tried to push for some changes, partly because I didn't think things are changing fast enough and partly because I have let outside opinions override my original call. I know full-well that when a minister pushes too hard, too much, or too fast, that there will be some dissension. I need to step back and re-evaluate both myself and my calling. There is a day later in August for pastors to discuss a book called Falling Upward by Richard Rohr. I have the book and it has been in my "to read" pile. Also, I have decided to take part (maybe half) of my Sabbatical next year which will allow me to get my head on straight again.

We will have a lot of hard decisions to make between now and January I think, mostly financial. I hope that while considering those choices, we can also make some decisions about what we want to do as a congregation and where God is leading us.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail



The Church exists by mission,
just as fire exists by burning. -Emit Brunner

Illinois South Conference

Of the United Church of Christ

48th Annual Meeting

September 7-8, 2012

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

OFFERINGS

LOCAL...REGIONAL...INTERNATIONAL

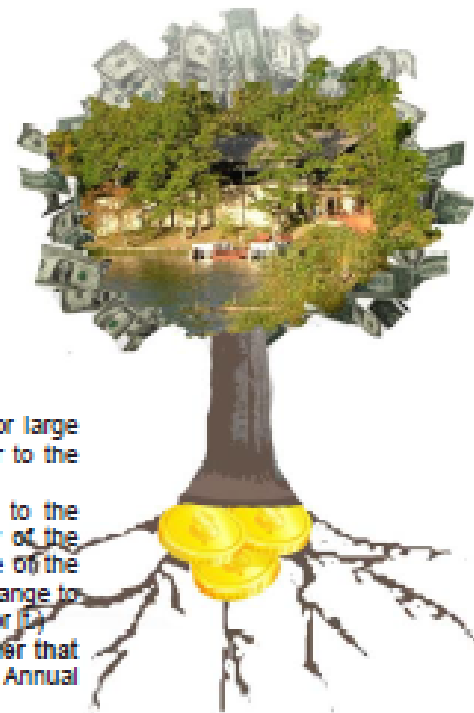
PREPARE NOW!

1

A MIGHTY OAK (LODGE) GROWS DUBOIS CENTER OAK LODGE PROJECT

Here's the plan...

- Each church asks its members to donate small or large amounts of change at each service or meeting prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Bring a representation of the change collected to the Annual Meeting at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on September 7 - 8. (You can convert some of the change to dollars or one large check by taking the change to a bank. They will count it and give you paper money for it.)
- Bring some of the change as change in a container that can make some noise at the presentation at Annual Meeting. Bring the rest as a check or paper money.
- Designate a representative from your church to present the money during worship



#2

UNI-PRES KINDERCOTTAGE

Here's the plan...

- Collect items from the Uni-Pres Kindercottage wish list.
- Bring those items to Annual Meeting. We'll stack them up to show the generosity of the congregations of Illinois South Conference.
- We'll haul them over to Kindercottage and see all the smiles they generate.
- The wish list is on the back of this flyer.

ECUADOR #3 PARTNERSHIP

During worship on Friday...

- Ask your Church Council to support the efforts of Ecuador Partnership.
- Bring a check with you to give during Annual Meeting's worship service.
- During worship offer your financial support to our international friends.
- You may wish to offer your own financial support as well.



Infants

- (Formulas) Similac Advance, Enfamil or Parents Choice
- Vaseline, oil, lotion, shampoo, baby bath, powder, butt cream
- Pampers Sizes 2-5
- Wash cloths- white no perfumes/colors
- Teething rings
- Mobile
- Baby chest w/drawers (nothing big)
- Push and pull toys
- Fabric books
- Mirror toys
- Stacking blocks
- Soft balls
- CD- Music Soothing/Sleepy/Happy
- Bathtub
- Bibs
- Size D batteries
- Wall decorations for baby room
- Fitted crib sheets
- Dreft detergent
- Fabric softener

(Remember 12 of any foods or drinks)

- Baby Vegetable
- Fruits
- Juices
- Distilled Water
- Crackers/snacks
- Infants Stage @ Fruits , Vegetables & Meals
- Animals from the Zoo, Farm, Jungle
- Insects of all types
- Puzzles- Careers, Multi-Ethnic People, Colors, Shapes, Numbers, etc.
- CD Players, Digital Cameras, Picture Printing Paper
- Copy Paper
- Ink Cartridges (HP 96 & 97)

Toddlers 13 months- 23 months

- Nerf balls
- Smocks/aprons
- Dress up costumes
- Large picture cards/story books

2 year olds

- Soft or nerf balls
- Puzzles/large
- Story or music cd's
- Hard plastic large trucks and cars

Other Things

- Bathroom tissue
- Kleenex
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- Bleach
- Vanish/sani flush
- Tub n tile cleaner
- Window cleaner
- Disinfectant
- Sanitizer
- Liquid soap

Food

- Large cans of fruits, vegetables, juice (full strength only)
- Pastas- spaghetti, egg noodles, macaroni
- Boxed cereal, hot cereal (oatmeal, cream of wheat, quick grits) (Nutritious types, although a little sweetness is appreciated and wanted)
- Healthy snack foods
Vanilla wafers
- Crackers
Boxes of jello
- Oatmeal/oatmeal with raisin cookies
- Fresh fruit
- Individual cups of yogurt (there are many brands targeting children)
- Cheese/peanut butter crackers
- Rice cakes (caramel)
- Nutri Grain Bars
- Granola Bars (chewy)
- Cookies of all types, although we really need to be sure they are healthy, according to the State guidelines, every once in a while, sugary and crème- filled is good.

<http://unipreskindercottage.org/directors/wish-list.html>

Sonshine Corner Scholarship

On May 15, 2012 Sonshine Corner was pleased to present to Sadie Albert their first ever scholarship to a member of the 2012 Marissa High School graduating class. This was made possible by a gift to Sonshine Corner from the Girl Scouts and will be used for tuition.

Quotes the Church Mouse likes

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.” James Dent

“A life without love is like a year without summer.”

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” Romans 12:10



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