

The Tidings

February 2012

Ministerial Moments

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I know that the New Year is January 1, but there is something about Annual Meeting which always makes me feel that the year has *REALLY* started. The luncheon was great. The reports were good and business was done efficiently. We have a new Council (Kevin McDonald, Dwayne Waeltz, Carol Reinhardt, Brenda "Pete" Dressel) with continuing members; (Bobbi Duffie, Susie Stewart, Marlene Karsten, and Curt Werner) and all sorts of new activities to look forward to. Once again, many thanks to our outgoing Council members; Larry Matzenbacher, Kay Trotter, Imogene Lehman, and David Keim

Also, the Sunday of the Annual meeting each of you received an insert regarding adult education possibilities. I received 6 back. If you still have one or would like to answer the questionnaire, I can either reissue it, or Lori may have copies in the office. I'm not sure I have enough to really work with, but so far, here are the results:

1. Interested in Adult ed. if not on Sunday morning. 3 no 2 yes 1 unanswered
2. Interested if not long-term commitment 2 no 4 yes
3. Preferred time: Wed. afternoon, Wed. evening, morning (1 each)
4. Suggested study classes: care taker, 2Bible study, social issues, Spiritual growth, more about UCC, couple communication. (only Bible study had more than one vote.)
5. Commitment time period. 1-8 weeks. 1-4 weeks, 1 –special topic 1 week

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Funds and Fellowship Bowling Party - Feb. 12



Funds and Fellowship will be having their annual Bowling Party of Sunday February 12, 2012.

Bowling Party will be on Sunday February 12th. We will be going to Star Lanes in Sparta. Bowling starts at 1:00 pm and we will go until 3:00 pm. Bowling, shoe rental and pizza will be provided. Come enjoy the fellowship and please bring a friend or grandchild, etc. You do not have to bowl to attend. Any and all are welcome.

February



Birthdays

Lori Selman	16
Julie Imes	18
LaJune Fulton	19
Bryan Childers	20

Anniversaries

Dennis & Cindy Galle 21

Greeters and Ushers for February

FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 & 12 - Bob & Imogene Lehman, Gary & Susie Stewart

Feb. 19 - Fed & Marilyn Lewis, David Keim

Feb. 26 - Dorothy Dressel, David Keim, Kay Trotter

MARCH

Look for new Usher and Greeter List in March's Tidings

Next Wurstmarkt - Saturday March 18th 3 pm to 7 pm

Funds & Fellowship will have a meeting on February 1 at 6:00 pm to discuss the upcoming Wurstmarkt on March 18th. They are always needing help with set up, tear down and of course pies. They start at 8:00 am with peeling of potatoes and cooking. Tear down is around 7:00 pm. Bobbi will have the work schedule and pie sign up. So come on out and help Funds & Fellowship with the Wurstmarkt if your free.

Comments from the Church Mouse



At times this winter my small hidey holes have been rather chilly. I'm glad Larry Matzenbacher called the heating man because a little mouse has very thin fur. It's so much better now.

After the Congregation Meeting in January I was able to store up some nice tasty tidbits, and then there was my beloved blood drive on the 23rd and its wonderful accumulation of crumbs. I might be able to hold out until the March Wurstmarkt.

Thinking of food, which I usually do, just the other day I heard Peggy Dierks, Carol Mercer, and Susie Stewart praising Ruby Lehman. They immediately caught my attention because Ruby is one of my favorite cooks, but they were praising her for all her devotion to Sonshine Corner. She's the manager and works like a Trojan to keep the place well stocked, clean, pleasant, and running efficiently. According to the ladies I heard talking, Ruby does a fantastic job with Sonshine Corner.

Carol mentioned that Ruby passed her work ethics on to her children Jay and Bobbi. I've watched both of them help out at church and hear Bobbi in choir. According to Carol, Peggy, and Susie, Bobbi also is known for her kindness in providing food when someone is sick or when there is a death in someone's family. Our church has such nice families, doesn't it?

It was great seeing families when they lit the Advent Wreath. I also really enjoy it when there are children for the Children Sermons. They are so cute, they make my whiskers tingle.

As Lent approaches, I first look forward to the Women's Pre-Lenten breakfast on February 18th. Those hot cross bun crumbs are delicious. I just hope the people in Friedens congregation realize what a good job Evangelical Daughters and Pastor Gail do with the breakfast. My little mouse ears just burn with pride when I overhear all the compliments ladies from other churches give.

Yes, Friedens is a good place to be.

Ministerial Moments (Continued)

6. Occasional movie night: 2 both said social issue or documentary, one also said Bible related.

7. Book club -1yes

8. Sermon suggestions: 10 Commandments: (to do this in depth, I have learned I will need to break it down to about 5 weeks of two per week)



Other questions were: why we follow the lectionary; what other churches are doing to encourage new visitors and members; why we celebrate with music and poetry; building endowments and budget protection (not sure I read this correctly); and to pray with the children after each children's message. I have heard the request that I pray with the children after the children's message before and I keep forgetting, so keep reminding me. I know it is important. I am not sure that the questions about lectionary, music, budget, endowments, and what other churches are doing to invite new members are necessarily sermon material, although they may come up. We do talk about these issues in Spiritual Council and Church Council, however. I will try to keep those of you not on Church Council and Spiritual Council aware of what is going on through the Tidings and will ask that members of our various organizations do the same. Usually, the best way to get someone to come to church is to invite them. We do a good job of inviting people to Wurstmart, why not church? It can be done. The church does have a web page: www.marissaucc.org and a facebook page which you can "friend" or subscribe to. I do put announcements of upcoming activities on facebook. Lori is in charge of the website.

Some of these questions may also be answered by two activities I am hoping to do in the new year. The first is the Rural Ministry Conference March 4th -6th. This will be held in Dubuque, IA so Ron and I will have to leave church pretty quickly on the 4th to be up there for dinner. The conference is over by noon Tues. so I will only miss one day of the week. The title of the conference is CARE-SHARE-DARE, Courage in a Caring Community. The workshops I have signed up for are "Daring to Rethink Ministry", "Beyond Church Walls: Engaging Rural Communities in Mission and Transformation" and "Addressing Rural Poverty and Human Development". This fits in with my continual search for how to revitalize our church. The other activity will involve the whole church eventually. The Illinois South Conference now has a Church Development Ministry Team and I intend to meet with Rev. Jerry Bennett in the next month to get more information about it. My understanding is that the purpose of this committee is revitalization. Depending on what decision, or discernment we, as a church make, there may grant money available which we can apply to implement what we decide on. I will leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of Spiritual and possible physical growth.

February 12th will be our first Funds and Fellowship activity, with the Annual Bowling Party, open to anyone who wants to come and enjoy pizza, bowl, or watch. (I watch.) There is no cost. February 18th is Evangelical Daughters' Pre-Lenten breakfast for Marissa women. Last year I bought a book called Common Prayer: a Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals. Knowing that the Pre-Lenten breakfast was approaching, I checked the liturgy for the day and found that it centers on the story of Sarah and Hagar. Because this story is usually associated with domestic abuse, I asked the new president of Daughters, Donna Galle, if it would be okay for us to collect commodities for the Women's Shelter in Belleville as we usually do for the Mother's Day Tea. She has okayed it, so although we do not take up a collection, we are asking those who come if they would like to make a donation of toilet paper, bath soap, shampoo, etc. for the women's shelter. As usual, no one will be turned away should they forget and we know Daughters will provide a scrumptious hot breakfast besides.

As most of you have heard by now, Pastor Nancy Shubert is going to have back surgery on Feb. 7. As such, she will not be with us during the Lenten series this year. Rev. Jack Spratte will be doing the supply preaching for Darmstadt and Biddleborn churches. Pastor Nancy told me that he is aware of how



Ministerial Moments (Continued)

we have been rotating services in the past and has agreed to do so this year. I have not had a chance to talk to him yet nor a representative from Lenzburg, but will do so as soon as I get back from vacation I will then let you know the schedule of Lenten services from Feb. 29 through Easter.

On January 17, Susan Oyler and I went to the Region 8 meeting at St. Paul's in Lebanon. Susan says the region was pretty inactive last year. We had a change of leadership in September which has also slowed things, but we are hitting the ground running in 2012. Our speaker on Jan. 17 was Doni Driemeier-Showers from Hoyleton and she gave us a report on Hoyleton activities. They celebrated Christmas with 500 children. In addition to those children in foster care, or who live at the home, they also have a Community Independent Living Arrangement (CILA) home for 8 residents in Highland. These residents are developmentally disabled adults who have no family. They have 24 hour staff on the premises. Hoyleton also continues to have a site in East St. Louis which works with Spanish speaking immigrants. The moderator of Region 8 is Rev. Elmer Bowman, our supply pastor on Jan. 29. He is going to try to get special speakers for each Regional meeting. If we know who the speaker is in advance, we will try to get the word out. Anyone is welcome at these meetings. The next meeting of Region 8 will be March 27th at Lenzburg. The Region 8 Easter Vigil is April 7 at 7:30PM at Freeburg. On May 22nd, we will host. July 29th will be a Region 8 picnic and social at Biddleborn at 4:00PM.

March 3 from 9-3:30 is Day of Discipleship held at Nashville this year. You will receive inserts in your bulletins Jan.22 and February 6 regarding this. The theme this year is Stewardship. Some of the workshops are specifically for church officers, but some are regarding children, caring for the environment, health, covenant relationships, time management, worship, etc. The keynote speaker is Rev. Jane Heckles from Our Churches' Wider Mission. Ron and I knew Jane when she was a Conference minister in Southern California. Her expertise is church financing. I am really hoping we can get a big enough group together that we can carpool. The big form of the Day of Discipleship which describes the workshops in greater detail will be on the bulletin board. If you have your reservation in before February 11 the cost is \$20 which includes lunch. After Feb.11, the cost is \$25.

Another hope for this next year is that we can have some special speakers throughout the year to inform us of different conference missions. Camp DuBois will be having meals again this spring and fall and since we are out of church usually by 11, we should be able to make some. If I remember correctly the first one is April 22. Most of DuBois is handicapped assessable, so everyone should be able to get from their car to Oak Leaf Lodge to eat, if nothing else. As time gets closer, I will try to have a sign-up sheet so we can make reservations and go together. If weather is permitting, after lunch there is time to take a pontoon boat ride on the lake, walk the grounds or, maybe, take a wagon ride, or, for an extra fee, go horse-back riding. It would be nice if we could make this a church outing and I think everyone who goes will enjoy it.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

Try Jesus, If
you don't like
Him, the devil
will always
take you
back.

Church Council Members

Marlene Karsten - Bobbi Duffie
Susie Stewart - Curt Werner
Carol Reinhardt - Kevin McDonald
Duane Waletz - Pete Dressel

2012 Dart Ball Schedule

(January 20 game was postponed. Watch for re-schedule)

January 27 Addieville at Marissa
February 10 Marissa at Plum Hill
February 17 New Athens at Marissa
March 2 Marissa at Addieville
March 9 Plum Hill at Marissa



Team Captain Dennis Kinzel 295-3046

Pre-Lenten Breakfast - February 18

Pastor Gail found out the Liturgy for the day centers on the story of Sarah and Hagar. Because this story is usually associated with domestic abuse, She asked the new president of Daughters, Donna Galle, if it would be okay for us to collect commodities for the Women's Shelter in Belleville as we usually do for the Mother's Day Tea. She has okayed it, so although we do not take up a collection, we are asking those who come if they would like to make a donation of toilet paper, bath soap, shampoo, etc. for the women's shelter. As usual, no one will be turned away should they forget and we know Daughters will provide a scrumptious hot breakfast besides.


FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Feb 12 - 2 Kings 5:1-14, Mark 1:40-45 Feb 19 - Transfiguration Sunday Feb. 26 - Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15			1 F&F Mtg 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	2 Spiritual Council Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4
5 Mark 1:29-39 Healing & Sustaining	6 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 7 pm	7	8 Choir 7:30 pm	9	10	11 Deadline for discount for Day of Discipleship
12 Funds & Fellowship Bowling Party 1-3 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day Council Mtg. 7 pm	15 Choir 7:30 pm	16	17	18 Pre-Lenten Breakfast 8:30 am
19 Mark 9:2-9, Kings 2:1-12	20 President's Day	21	22 Ash Wednesday ; Choir after	23	24	25
26 1st Sunday of Lent	27	28	29 Lenten Service TBD Choir after	March 3 - 9 am to 3:30 pm Day of Discipleship @ Nashville March 4-6 Pastor Gail and Ron leaving after church for Rural Ministry Conference		

Sorry for the lateness of the Tidings

I would like to apologies for the February Tidings being late. It was done last week but slipped through my mind that I needed to copy and mail it out.

Lori



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



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