

May 2012



## Ministerial Moments

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This may go down as the year of no winter. It has been unusually warm and so far we are having a wonderful spring. From the very start of Christianity Sunday became a celebration of Easter because Jesus rose on the first day of the week. Sometime later it was decided to designate one special Sunday during the year as Easter. This date for those of you who have forgotten is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. That is why it moves each year.



I'm not sure if there was any particular reason for choosing spring. Most of the Gospels put Jesus' crucifixion during the Jewish holidays of Passover, but one Gospel is not clear and includes some of the festive activities which are more in keeping with the Jewish holiday of Succoth, which is later. Spring is a good time for Easter, however, in that everything around us reminds us of the resurrection. Trees and flowers come back to life. Birds migrate back into our area. Animals which were in hibernation come out of their sleep and most livestock gives birth.

It is a time to remember renewal. It is a time of transformation. Both of these fit very well with the idea of the resurrection, Jesus rising from the dead, for sometimes a person can feel almost emotionally dead and have a renewal of faith or spirit with the change of seasons. Sometimes a person's transformation is much slower and not so obvious a rebirth, but still different for even though Jesus eats, and his wounds can be seen, he is still someone who can walk through walls. He is not recognized until he identifies himself even to his closest followers, so even though he seems the same, the resurrected body must in some way be changed. He comes bringing peace to his followers; those who denied him and ran away. He forgave them. He continues to teach and commission his followers to spread the word. Just as Jesus was resurrected and in some way transformed, so we are transformed when we give our lives over to Him.



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## Friedens Family Graduates

We have a few students of our Friedens' family members graduating this year.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Samantha Bollmeier: Granddaughter of Betty and Gene Bollmeier

Jeremiah James: Son of Dale and Sharon Reese

Abbie Lehman: Granddaughter of Imogene and Bob Lehman

Katie Schmierbach: Granddaughter of Milton and Blanche Schmierbach

### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Taylor Schreiber: Granddaughter of Carol Reinhardt

### KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES

Lillian Grau: Granddaughter of Mary Jo Warren

Maegan Pilbean: Daughter of Stacey and David Pilbean

Megan Waeltz: Granddaughter of Dwayne Waeltz

(sorry if we missed anyone)

## *Mother – Daughter Tea*

Come join us for our annual Mother Daughter Tea on **May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the Church basement. Any female is welcome to attend.

**Dinner** will be our fabulous assortment of salads.

There will be a fashion show from fashions found at Sonshine Corner and other fun happenings.

Items can be brought to take to the tornado victims in Harrisburg, it would be appreciated. Examples of items would be books, personal items, clothing, toys, etc.



## Comments from the Church Mouse

The other day I heard some of the ladies talking about a Mother/Daughter Tea that will be held May 7. They were talking about serving a variety of salads, and I kept wanting to squeak out, "With cracker and cheese, please." Oh well, some of the ladies might bring something like bread, crackers, or vegetable chunks. I'm not real fond of lettuce or Jell-O, but then the salads are not for me.

I'm confident I will enjoy peeking out of my hidey-hole and seeing some of the fashions from Sonshine Corner that the Evangelical Daughters will model and storyteller Carol Mercer will describe. I still haven't been taken to Sonshine Corner, but maybe someday I will be. Ruby Lehman, Marlene Karstens, Lorrie Lehman and Sandy Smith were saying that they sure would like for more people to know of the neat things that are on sale at the Corner – lots of clothing, shoes, purses, decorations, and linens. But then, maybe, I won't try to go to the Corner because they never mention food for sale.

They do mention the Food Pantry and how volunteers are needed to help distribute food to those in need in our community. I wish I could help, not just to eat, but to help those who don't get enough to eat. Having a full tummy is important to mice and to people. If I could, I would call Rev. Ryan or tell Pastor Gail that I would be willing to help. Want to do it in my place?

Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, I really enjoyed the sermon. What I really, really liked was that one of the chocolate "rocks" from the children's sermon ended up on the floor and it was mine. I wish the children's sermons had food more often. The little kids, Lily Grau, Nolan and Ashlyn Cathcart, and Chance and Reece Lehman were so good in church. They were quiet as a church mouse, at least most of the time. I enjoy kids in church.



Organist Nancy Barbee, can really "tickle those ivories". I am so pleased we have music and a choir. Nancy and the choir members are very dedicated, and that is special.

It's just good to live at Friedens.

## June and July Tidings Newsletter

June and July newsletters are normally slim pickings. Not much is going on in the summer. So we are going to combine June and July Tidings.

So when you receive the next newsletter at the end of May for June. The Tidings will be for July as well. This will save on paper and postage.

**Deadline for this issue will be: Sunday, May 13th.**

## Quilting at Friedens

I've spoken to several women of the Church about organizing a special time that will be both fun and productive. Quilting seems to be part of our heritage; our grandmothers, mothers and many of you are experts, then there are many like me who have a love for quilts but did not master the art and are anxious to learn. If you feel quilting is not your thing there will be embroidering, crocheting edgings around pillow cases & dresser scarves, cutting out quilt blocks; etc.

Our first project is underway, the embroidered blocks are being completed and should be set together & marked, ready to be put into the frame by May 15th. Last but not least we will have lunch !! Lets plan our first meeting for May 18th at 9:30AM. If you have any questions call Janice Schmidt 295-2633 or me at 295-3555 if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Marlene Vogel Karsten

## May Birthdays

Susie Stewart	1
Marilyn Lewis	2
Kenny Jenkins	2
Kevin McDonald	7
Fred Keim	13
Greg Ray	15
Elizabeth Stuart	18
Kenny Raban	25



## May Anniversaries

Larry & Linda Jones	3
Jim & Tari Carpenter	7
Calvin & Delow Fruth	30

## Ministerial Moments Continued from page 1

The first three Sundays of April had good attendance and I thank everyone who took part. The children performed on Palm Sunday and helped to hand out palm branches that day. We had 48 in attendance. On Easter Sunday we had 60 in attendance and then on the Sunday after Easter, Holy Humor Sunday, we had 48 again. I hope we can keep attendance up through the summer.



Just before Easter I received a nice sized check from Prairie State for the Ministerial Alliance and the Easter Sunrise service brought in \$895. On the other hand, in the past week I have had a great number of requests for help with water, Ameren, and rent bills totaling \$749.68. The Belleville News-Democrat listed Marissa School District as having 53% of its students on low cost or free meals. Our needs in this area, both for jobs and financial assistance continue. The food pantry has had to shut down the first Tues. of the month for lack of help. If you know someone interested in helping two hours once a month, please let me know.

Several activities are coming up in May. At 6:30PM May 7, Evangelical Daughters will be hosting their annual tea. The entertainment this year is a style show. May 13 is Mother's Day. I will be in the office May 14 because I am scheduled to have carpal tunnel surgery on May 16. May 17 is Ascension Day. May 20 we will celebrate Rural Life Sunday. It is also the second date for Dinner at DuBois with BBQ Pork Steaks on the menu. This will also be the last Sunday for the choir until fall. On May 22 at 7:00PM we will host Region 8. May 27 is Pentecost Sunday so wear your red or Meteor Orange. Since it is Memorial Day weekend, red, white and blue is okay too. That is also the day for the Strengthen the Church Offering.

Strengthen the Church Offering is one of our 5 for 5 special UCC offerings. This offering funds the Still speaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries and lay and pastoral leadership formation, administered by our church's conference, Local Church Ministries, and the Stillspeaking Ministry.

*Blessing, Pastor Gail*

## CONGRATULATIONS ! ! ! !

On April 9 Susan and Alan Oyler became grandparents for the second time which makes Kathleen and Dean Robert great-grandparents. Melissa and Tim Curry are the proud parents of a 4 lb. 12oz. boy, Drew Oyler Curry. I understand that Melissa and Drew are both doing well.

Pat McBeth has become a great-grandmother again for the 6<sup>th</sup> time. Her great-grandson weighed in at 9 lbs

## Greeter and Ushers for May and June

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

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June 3 - Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

June 10 & 17 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson

June 24 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

## Region 8 News

Region 8 meeting was held Tue. March 27th. Susan and Paster Gail attended. The meeting hosted by Lenzbug was well attended with Marissa, Lenzburg, Biddleborn, Darmstadt, Lebanon, New Baden and Trenton all being represented.

Our guest speaker for March meeting was Gary Holtgrewe Administrator of the New Athens Home for the Aged. His presentation mainly centered around them preparing for the homes 60th Anniversary. He took us on a little time line of the home from beginning to present day, highlighting changes to the home over the years. The celebration will be held in August and more details will be posted. He continued to thank all the churches for their involvement in the Home over the years.

We then shared news from each church, April was a busy time for most churches in attendance with Easter. Upcoming events to mark on your calendar Region 8 B.B.Q. July 29th at Biddleborn 4p.m. ( we will have more information after our May Region meeting) They also encouraged us to remind members of the Dubois Dinners.

So far 2012 has proven to be a more active year for Region 8. I will try to post updates after each meeting.



# MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20th - Rural Life Sunday, Pastor Relationship Mtg after church, noon to 2 pm Dinner at DuBois	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7 Mother/ Daughter Tea 6:30 pm	8 Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm	9 Choir Practice 7:30	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14 Deadline for Dinner @ DuBois, Pastor Gail in Office	15 Justice & Wit- ness Mtg @ 1pm	16 Pastor Gail out of office	17 Pastor's Appre- ciation Day at DuBois	18	19
20 Deadline for June/July Tidings (see note top)	21	22 Region 8 Mtg @ Marissa	23	24	25 MHS Gradua- tion 7 pm	26
27 Pentecost Sun- day, wear red or Meteor Or- ange	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

# FRIEDENS WILL HOST COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

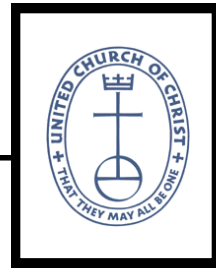
**MONDAY, MAY 14th**  
**FROM 2:00-6:00 P.M.**



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!

SUPPORT THE BLOOD BANK

**Donate your  
blood and  
make a  
difference**



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



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