



The Tidings

January 2013

Ministerial Moments

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Another New Year! Where has the time flown? I presume if we are all reading this now that we have survived the Mayan End of the World prediction of 12-21-12 and are going on with our lives. It reminds me that each of the two times we went to the Rose Bowl Parade, before the actual parade there would be a parade of vendors and clowns with balloons. Somewhere in this motley crowd would always be at least one person carrying a sign predicting the end of the world. I wonder how many years he has been predicting. Oh, well, it will happen one day but I for one, am not going to worry when that day will be as I believe God calls us to make the best of what we have today and to make the world we live in a better place for all. All the rest will happen in God's time.

Many, Many Thanks!

November 25 was a wonderful Sunday! First was the celebration of my 10th anniversary of ordination and 5th anniversary of being at Marissa. I am told that when Marlene first got the quilting group together, Lorrie Lehman had put in her ear that I really wanted a quilt. I, however, knew nothing of this. When I saw everyone of the Daughters taking a square to embroider I really wanted to take part as I used to love to embroider but Carpel Tunnel syndrome of my right hand had gotten to the point in which I could only write with a pen 10 minutes and I knew from the last time I had tried to replace a button that I could not feel a needle. I think I watched all the ladies as they

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2013 Annual Meeting Sunday, January 20th

Annual Meeting is Sunday January 20th.

We will enjoy a potluck dinner after church service and then begin our meeting.

All organizations should have all reports to Lori by January 1. No reports will be accepted after this date. You can email them to loriselman@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Comments from the Church Mouse

We have such nice people here at Friedens. After Kay Trotter and her son Mike read the December Tidings, they decided that they knew how to help a little church mouse who had so admired the quilts that our quilting ladies worked on. Kay brought a miniature quilt to church that she had made years ago. She left it with one of the Sunday School teachers to give to me.

My little nose twitched and my whiskers trembled at such thoughtfulness. Now if the furnace acts up again, I can snuggle under my very own beautiful quilt. Thank you, Trotters. (Maybe I'll have Carol or Susie take a picture of me and my new quilt.)



I had heard Susie Stewart telling the Sunday School kids about caroling at First Baptist Church on the evening of December 2. Later I heard that it was nice weather and that people had a good time. Larry Matzenbacher sang, "O Holy Night", and I hear it was wonderful. What a blessed gift he has and is willing to share with us.

At Daughters' December meeting Betty Bollmeier and Sandy Smith served some excellent food. Not many crumbs were left, but I sure enjoyed what I could scabble.

The Daughters talked about a luncheon on December 4th at St. John's in New Athens. Janice Schmidt reported that 13 ladies from Friedens would attend. Oh, if only one of them could have snuck me in her purse. Those New Athens ladies are also good cooks. Then I overheard that Funds and Fellowship is sponsoring a special meal for Friedens members and friends on January 6th at Roemer Topf's in Mascoutah.

Hey, I know I like German food, Could someone take me along?

If not, I guess I'll have to wait until the next Blood Drive on January 14 or for the annual church meeting. They'll be "offerings" for me to take to my hidey-holes from those two events. Till then I'll just snuggle in my lovely quilt and dream of more food and wish you all a Happy New Year.

The Church Mouse found these Christmas time quotes in an email that Susie has left on the table and he wanted to share them.

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is beautiful." ~ Norman Vincent Peale

"The only blind person at Christmas is he who has not Christmas in his heart." ~ Helen Keller

Poinsettias - In Memory and Honor List

In Memory of	ART & JULIETTA BOTTIAUX	from Julie Imes
In Memory of	MR. & MRS. ALBERT PFLASTERER KEVIN TOD CAMPBELL	from Mike & Peggy Dierks & Tim Campbell
In Memory of	HARRY SR. & SELMA HOLCOMB; HARRY HOLCOMB JR. DALE HOSICK ; MEP HINRICHS	from Dave & Pete Dressel
In Honor of	GRANDCHILDREN – ETHAN, ERIK, JACOB & LAUREN COWELL	from Dave & Pete Dressel
In Memory of	JVONNE R. KARSTEN ; NORBERT W. VOGEL	from Marlene Vogel Karstens
In Memory of	LOVED ONES	from Dean & Kathleen Robert
In Memory of	LOVED ONES	from Charles & Janice Schmidt
In Memory of	BERNICE SCHMIDT	from Robert Schmidt and Family
In Memory of	ARTHUR & ELSIE SINN	from Dale Sinn
In Memory of	NORMAN & ELAINE KINZEL	from Kevin McDonald
In Memory of	FRANCIS HARRIMAN ; LES, MARTHA, PEARL, LORENE LEHMAN BUTCH FAUTH FAMILY ; MARLE HEIL	from Bob & Imogene Lehman
In Memory of	MR. ADAM SCHICKEDANZ ; AMANDA SCHICKEDANZ BAIRD MR. & MRS. HENRY TRIEFENBACH	from Mr. & Mrs. Irving Schickedanz
In Memory of	LEVI & ALICE WEILMUENSTER	from Paul Weilmuenster
In Memory of	CLYDE FAUTH	from Janet Fauth
In Memory of	SHANNON CATHCART	from Gary & Susie Stewart
In Honor of	RYAN, CRYSTAL, NOLAN AND ASHLYN CATHCART	from Gary & Susie Stewart
In Memory of	ELEANER C & DONALD L EICHENERGER JOHN G & BERNICE A GEISEL	from Ron & Pastor Gail Geisel
In Memory of	IRVING & MABEL'S PARENTS	from Irving & Mabel Schickedanz
In Honor of	MERVIN & RUTH ERB	from Todd Erb
In Memory of	ALBERT & EDYTHE WAELTZ	from Duane Waeltz
In Memory of	MILDRED & ART CROMER EUGENE BARBEE & HELEN ALDERDICE GORDAN & MARY WALKER	from Dave & Nancy Barbee

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did the quilting, stitch by loving stitch wishing I could help. When the quilt was done, I kept asking Marlene and Janice what they were going to do with it, if it would be the raffle quilt for next year, etc. I kept getting the answer, "No, we have another use for it". So I was greatly surprised to find that the beautiful quilt was for me! I will treasure it always.

I do have to say, however, that when Marlene said they had gotten Ozzy a puppy and I saw the kind of box Janice had, I was sure something was going to bounce out at me! The first thing I saw was the lovely pillow cases Ruby made and then the quilt. There were so many people that took part in the making of the quilt that I am sure if I try to name you, I will miss someone, so let me just say Thank you All!

After service on the 25th, we had a luncheon and then those who stayed helped put up the Christmas decorations. It was so nice to have so many church members help out and I understand jobs were even found for the children who were there also. By the time we were done, not only was the inside done, but the outside as well. Larry Matzenbacher and John Barrett even stayed longer, made some adjustments to the sound system and tried to get the back speaker working. Thanks.

I have already been told that we should put another "Hanging of the Greens" on next year's calendar.

More stuff

By the time you get this we will have hosted our first Blue Christmas Service. I do not know how many will attend, but four of the pastors of the Ministerial Alliance are taking part so I am hopeful that this will be something we can continue as a community service, possibly rotating between churches in the time to come.

Joan Galle has sent a note thanking all who participated, donated a tree, or brought cookies to the Community Carol Sing. We had really nice weather this year. Larry did an acappella solo of O Holy Night which was greatly appreciated by those there.

January 20 is our Annual Meeting. As you know we have had to have the church furnaces repaired twice this year and replaced both the Air Conditioning and furnace at the parsonage. This means our building fund is empty and maintenance budget is over. Hopefully it will be a while before we need major repairs again, but it may be something to be discussed. Also, Feb. 1 is my sixth anniversary at Friedens. I would like to take a Sabbatical. The normal Sabbatical is 12 weeks plus vacation in one year. I would like to divide my Sabbatical into two years of six weeks each. The money is set aside. It will be up to the church to decide how you wish to choose to have someone either as a Sabbatical Interim or Supply Pastor during the time I am gone.

My present plans for this year would be time for Spiritual Growth, possible at a retreat or Spiritual location and sometime to study and reconnect. I continue to study "smaller and rural" churches in several aspects. If you have other suggestions, I am open to hear them. The other goal for this time would be to get more physically active. The following year, depending on how this year goes, I would like to take a trip to the Holy Lands, but there are a number of "what-ifs" in that, so we will see when the time comes. There will be more on the Sabbatical in the Minister's Annual Report.

It has been requested that we redo the prayer chain. There will be a sign-up sheet for the next several Sundays in the vestibule. If you cannot get to church but would like to be included please call the church office.

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Funds and Fellowship has scheduled a special outing to Roemer Topf Restaurant in Mascoutah for January 6. I believe the deadline to sign up is Dec. 23. They have also scheduled an afternoon of Bunco for February 24 from 2-5PM. There will be more information regarding this in the next Tidings.

BOOKS

I have read two wonderful books in the past couple of months. The first was a novel called, A Place on Earth, by Wendell Berry. Wendell Berry is primarily known as a poet and essayist, but he did write a number of novels about a small town called Port William in Kentucky. The book begins in 1944. One man has two sons in the War, one of which has died and another man's son is soon declared MIA. If I were to describe the story line it would sound depressing and I'm not sure that I wouldn't have found it so had I been in a different frame of mind when I read it. As it was, I found it a "gentle" book. I don't know if I have ever called a book "gentle" before or not, but that is the best description I have for it as it shows a slice of life of the people of this small town at the end of World War II (it ends shortly after the end of the war.) Berry has been described by some as a spiritual writer and I think that word may fit.

The other book was part of my continuing education. This one is called Amazing Gifts: Stories of Faith, Disability, and Inclusion by Mark I. Pinsky. This is a marvelous book of short stories of how people with Disabilities, their churches and families have learned to more inclusive. In some cases the church in some way reached out to the family to make them feel welcome. In other cases, the person or family had to go to a pastor to work with them and educate them and the congregation regarding how to best accommodate the person with disabilities. In some cases, either the person or a family member found themselves creating a ministry for others with disabilities. One thing interesting is that this book not only includes Christian and Jewish congregations (the publisher organization mainly works with Christians and Jews), but also showed examples of Hindu and Muslims working with the disabled as well. The best part of the book is that most of the things described did not seem difficult. Story after story I found myself saying, "We could do that!" I hope others will want to learn more about the stories in this book which range from physical disabilities to developmental disabilities to forms of mental illness.

Blessings

Pastor Gail

Daughter Bazaar Winners

The winners in the raffle held at the Evangelical Daughters Bazaar were:

Quilt - Theresa King

Baby Quilt - Anna Wildeman

Cutlery - Steve Kinzinger

Snowman Light– Peggy Dickey

Daughter served over 40 people plus some carry out at the Soup Luncheon.

Crafts made over \$2,600.00 and the Raffle made \$465.00 for a new latal for the quilt.

Thanks to all for your support!

Greeters and Ushers for January and February

JANUARY

Jan. 6 & 13: Leroy & Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith

Jan. 20 & 27: Eloise Fauth, John & Janet Fauth

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3 & 10: Bob & Imogene Lehman @ Gary & Susie Stewart

Feb. 17: Fred & Marilyn Lewis, David Keim

Feb. 24: Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Reinhardt

Birthdays

Gary Stewart	3
Robert Schmidt	5
Terry Jenkins	10
Lindsay Lehman	10
David B. Schneidewind	11
Marilyn Wine	12
Judy Heil	14
Evelyn Schneidewind	15
Eloise Fauth	19
Dale Sinn	21
Kenny Lehman	27
Dennis Sinn	28
Matthew Lewis	30
Charles Schmidt	30

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries

Gary & Susie Stewart	1
Ken & Joyce Fitch	14

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Reports due for Annual Mtg.	2 Choir 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Funds and Fellowship trip to Roemer Topf 5 pm	7 Evangelical Daughters Mtg. 6:00 pm	8 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	9 Choir 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Annual Reports Handed out	14	15	16 Choir 7:30 pm	17	18	19
20 Annual Meeting After Worship, potluck	21	22	23 Choir 7:30 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Choir 7:30 pm	31		



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

Funds and Fellowship
is sponsoring a trip to



A German restaurant in Mascoutah

Sunday, January 6th
5:00 p.m.

Sample menu can be seen at the church.

If you are interested in going, please sign on the sign up sheet in the vestibule. We need to give the restaurant an approximate number of people attending.