

July / August
2013



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

We are about to try a new thing. As most of you know I will be taking a 6 week Sabbatical starting July 1 and during that time our talented lay people will fill in. Carol Mercer and John Barrett you have already heard speak. To them will be added Ryan Cathcart and Kevin McDonald. As a special treat Gary Holtgrewe of the New Athens Care Home will be speaking on July 28. I have been told that we will take a special offering on that date for the home which recently celebrated its 61st year. In addition, on August 4, you will have Rev. Schmidt and his daughter Carla serve communion.

The Spiritual Council and Kevin McDonald have put work into getting all of the speakers lined up for these six weeks. Larry Matzenbacher put together most of the bulletins and Marlene has gotten most of the speakers. Marlene or someone from the committee may still be calling you to help with reading the liturgy. We will need people to do the invitation of offering and lead the dedication and also give the announcements, lead the Call to Worship and the Unison Invocation. We may need people willing to give the Pastoral Prayer and lead the Lord's Prayer. The more people who take part the easier it will be for everyone and the more fun. "Pete" Dressel has been instructed in how to check the church phone for messages in case someone does not get information to correct party. I am hoping the phone will take as long a message as I need as I will need to state both that Rev. Becky Williams is handling Ministerial Alliance as well as who is on call. This is your list of pastors on call while I am gone:

July 1-14 Pastor Nancy Shubert (618) 475-2958

July 15-28 Rev. Bob Koch (618) 475-3390

July 29-August 12 Rev. Hugh Fitz (618) 566-7311

I will try to get this information to the funeral home in case it is needed also. So many things, so little time.

In other news, most of you know that we celebrated the confirmation of Logan Setterlund on June 9. Logan has worked hard this year and did a great job as liturgist. Logan has done so well this year as acolyte and liturgist that I am thinking that we have four young people old enough to take acolyte training to see if we can renew the practice this next year. I will be contacting parents in late August/early September to see if your young person is interested.

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Greeter and Ushers for July and August

July 14 & 21 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
July 28 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn



August 4- Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten
August 11 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbi Duffie
August 18 - Kevin McDonald, Ruby Lehman
August 25 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

Pastor Gail Convergence

If you are in need of a Pastor while Pastor Gail is on Sabbatical here is who is covering while she is gone.

July 1 to 14 - Pastor Nancy Shubert - 618-475-2958
July 15 to 28 - Pastor Bob Koch - 618-475-3390
July 29 to Aug. 12 - Reev. Hugh Fitz - 618-566-7311

Worship Speakers

While Pastor Gail is gone we will have guest speakers. Here is a list:

July 7 - Visitation Sunday
July 14 - Carol Mercer
July 21 - John Barrett
July 28 - Gary Holtgrewe from New Athens Care Home
August 4 - Ryan Cathcart and Rev. Robert Schmidt and
Rev. Carla Schmidt will serve communion
August 11 - Kevin McDonald

July Birthdays

Ruby Lehman	1
Kenny Bollmeier	5
Fred Lewis	11
Dale Reese	12
David Dressel	13
Larry Matzenbacher	18
Peggy Dierks	23
John Barrett	23
Nolan Cathcart	24
Janet Fauth	25
Craig Rahlfs	28

July Anniversaries

Mike & Debra Raban	11
Jay & Leslie Lehman	16
Leroy & Marlene Karsten	31

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 Gale	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

Ministerial Moments Continued from page 1

Depending on how you all feel about leading the liturgy during the time I am gone, I am thinking next fall that we will have a sign up sheet for those who would like to do it on occasion. We may not have enough to have a liturgist every week, but even once a month would be a nice change.

On a different note, earlier this month in one of my sermons I told you of my experience in 1966-67 when a girl from Turkey came to live with my family. After her time here, Sema went back to Turkey and then got married. Sema and her husband immigrated to Canada after their marriage in 1970 because the US immigration quota of the time had too long of a waiting list. Both of Sema's sisters eventually immigrated also. Bethul married another Turk she met in Toronto. Sema's youngest sister fell in love with a German Jew. They married in spite of his family's objections and immigrated to Pennsylvania. She has raised her children Jewish.

Both of Sema's children were born in Canada. The elder, Marat (Mark) has always considered himself a Canadian of Turkish descent. When Sema's husband lost his job in Canada during the economic downturn of the late 1980's they returned to Turkey but Mark stayed in Toronto to go to school. Sema's daughter, Erin, went with them, but returned to Toronto when it was time to go to college. Both are married to Canadian Christians and Erin's daughter has recently begun attending church with her father.

I tell you all this, because I am sure you have heard of the unrest and demonstrations in Turkey in recent weeks. Since Sema's mother and husband died, she has been spending six months in Turkey and six months in Canada. This is because of the laws pertaining to finances in Turkey. She sent me Birthday Wishes on my birthday and I wrote back and asked her how things were. I then regretted it, for if you think our e-mails and phones are watched here, imagine how closely someone overseas with Western ties is watched.

Today Sema forwarded an article Erin has written about the situation in Turkey (Erin is a journalist.). She re-iterates what I have read elsewhere. The people demonstrating in Turkey began as peaceful demonstrators to save a park. They have been attacked by the police with tear gas and in some cases worse. The demonstrations are becoming political. Sema has expressed to me several times in the past ten years concerns over the direction Turkey is going since the current Prime Minister is becoming more and more Islamist and taking away more and more rights of the people. Again, these are NOT militant Islamist trying to take over the government, but the reverse. These are mostly secular Muslims demonstrating to keep the government from becoming increasingly Islamist and taking away their rights.

Finally, while it is highly unlikely that Sema would ever take part in a demonstration, this is the time of year that she is normally in Turkey. I fear for her safety. I believe that anyone with as many ties to the West as Sema does; all of her immediate family is in North American, mostly Canada, will be closely watched if not targeted in the current unrest and crackdown. Please join me in prayers for Sema's safety and for her country.

Blessings,

Pastor Gail

Comments from the Church Mouse

This year's Vacation Bible School is the end of June at Marissa Presbyterian and will spotlight Paul's activities in Greece. I was kind of hoping the kids would be at Friedens this year because they have snack time every day, every class, and the kids can be messy. More crumbs for me! Maybe next year.



Father's Day Breakfast that was put on by the Evangelical Daughters had a decent turn out and good food. Our church ladies sure can cook. I think Mike Dierks deliberately dropped a piece of biscuit for me, but I'm sure he would deny it. He's a kind man.

We have a lot of kind people in our church. I heard that John Barrett, Kevin McDonald, Carol Mercer, and Nancy Barbee all volunteered to do lay services in Pastor Gail's absence. Isn't that gratifying?

It was gratifying and really special to see Logan Setterlund confirmed on June 9th. He is a cool young man, and the service was neat.

I already miss the choir. I like their music Sunday mornings and their practices. They sound good and they are fun people. At practice they pretend they don't hear me "eeking" along with them at times. If they do, they blame it on someone two legged, like Dave.

I also miss seeing Mabel Schickedanz on a regular basis, and it tickles my whiskers when I see her and Irving in church. My father and grandfather admired them, too. On such "rocks" of faithful Christians and their beliefs our church was built and exists.

Enjoy the warmth of summer and come share the warmth of Christian love and fellowship at Friedens UCC.

JULY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Gail on Sabbatical until August 12 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6
7 Visitation Sunday	8	9 Council Mtg - 7 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Carol Mercer—Speaker (See note)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 John Barrett—Speaker	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Gary Holtgrewe of New Athens Care—Speaker	29	30	31	NOTE: July 14 Region 8 Mtg for Pastors, Delegates and families. Potluck at Biddleborn		

AUGUST 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTE: August 4: Rev. Robert Schmidt and Rev. Carla Schmidt will serve communion.						
4 Ryan Cathcart— Speaker (See Note above)	5 Daughters Mtg 7 pm	6	7	8 Back to School Event 2-7 pm VBS	9	10
11 Kevin McDonald —Speaker	12	13 Council Mtg. 7:00 pm	14	15 First Day of School	16	17
18 TIDINGS DEAD- LINE	19	20	21 Choir Practice 7 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Choir Practice 7 pm	29	30	31



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



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