



The Tidings

January 2015

Ministerial Moments

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Epiphany. January 6. The celebration of the Three Wise Men/ Magi visiting the baby Jesus. Epiphanies are the occasions when the manifestation of God in Christ has become easily recognizable. As stated before, it is a revelation of who Christ is in the coming of the Magi. The second week of Epiphany, we hear further who Christ is in the Baptism of Jesus. As we go through the Season of Epiphany, more and more about Jesus will be revealed to show us what it means to be Christ. The season of Epiphany will end with the final revelation of who Christ is to Peter, James & John in the Transfiguration which this year is Sunday, February 15.

In cheering news, we had a couple of visitors this month who are not connected to the church by family. This is the first time in a while that that has happened. Also we were very glad to see Dale Reese and Julie lmes back with us. Dwayne brought Dale to visit one Sunday. Julie said she has moved back into the area. Hopefully we will get to see more of them.

Much is happening in the New Year. Carol Mercer has kindly agreed to be the guest speaker on Dec. 28 so I have time to help Ron celebrate his birthday. Reports are due to Lori for the Annual meeting on Monday January 5. Annual Meeting is January 18 after church with a pot luck. I have been told that Conference is having Pastor Appreciation days on January 28 at Okawville and January 29 at Trinity UCC in Belleville. I am presuming this is an either/or because we have never had two days together before, but I will await more information.

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2015 Annual Meeting Sunday, January 18th

Annual Meeting is Sunday January 18th.

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

All organizations should have all reports to Lori by January 7. 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.

Poinsettias - In Memory and Honor List

In Memory of	CLYDE FAUTH	from Janet Fauth
In Memory of	Parents Art & Julietta Bottiaux Grandparents Michael & Julianna Wagner	from Julie Imes
In Memory of	Dean Robert Of Loved Ones	from Kathleen Robert and Family
In Memory of	Family & Loved Ones	from Leroy & Marlene (Vogel) Karsten
In Memory of	Kenneth Lehman	from Lorrie Lehman
In Memory of	Janice Schmidt	from Evangelical Daughters
In Memory of	Alvin & Helen Patton Willard & Elsie Matzenbacher	from Kathleen & Larry Matzenbacher
In Memory of In Honor of	Shannon Cathcart Ryan, Crystal, Nolan & Ashlyn Catchart	from Susie Stewart
In Memory of	Albert Waeltz Edythe Waeltz	from Duane Waeltz
In Memory of	Eugene Barbee, Mildred & Art Cromer Gordon & Mary Walker, Helen Alderdice	from Dave & Nancy Barbee
In Memory of	Albert and Edna Pflasterer Kevin Tod Campbell	from Tim Campbell
In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pflasterer Kevin Tod Campbell	from Mike & Peggy Dierks
In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Eleanor C. Eichenberger Mr. & Mrs. John G. & Bernice A Geisel	from Ronald W. and Pastor Gail Geisel
In Memory of	Arthur & Elsie Sinn	from Dale Sinn

Comments from the Church Mouse



What good times happen at our church! I really enjoyed the December 7th Pancake/Sausage Brunch that Funds and Fellowship put on after worship service. The tidbits from pancakes are quite fit for a little mouse. Yum!

I'm in favor of more events like that.

I can look forward to the next Marissa Community Blood Drive, which is January 12. That's always a good time for crumbs and for me to see those special donors and helping volunteers. Last time the volunteers were Blanche Schmierbach, Lorrie Lehman, Sandy Smith, and Carol Mercer. Bless them for caring – and for leaving a few crumbs for me, unintentionally.

During the Christmas holiday season the church look especially pretty. People who helped decorate worked hard.

I'm told that the first Sunday of the month is a chicken dinner at the Macke Senior Center, but I can't get there. They have good desserts, and I just know there would be some for me, if only I were there.

Oh well, Grandpa Mouse used to tell me to be patient. I scurry around even faster than I have to. Maybe my scurrying goes back to a tiny field mouse ancestor over two thousand years ago. He lived in Egypt and was taking refuge in a cave when the Holy Family sought out the same cave in which to hide. Herod's men were trying to find them after they had escaped from the King's clutches.

Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus were tired and needed to rest, but Herod's men were on their trail and searching everywhere. My ancestor paced back and forth before the entrance to the cave, but he couldn't think of a way to disguise it. Then he saw a family of spiders and had an idea. He asked to spiders to weave webs across the entrance of the cave, and they did. Working diligently they wove their webs across the cave's mouth. and it looked as if no one had been there in years.

When Herod's soldiers passed the cave, one exclaimed, "Well, that's one place we don't have to look. No one's been there in a long time."

Meanwhile the Holy Family rested and were renewed, and when they were thoroughly refreshed, Herod's men had left the area and it was safe to continue their journey – thanks to a little mouse and a family of spiders.

I hope your holiday season is peaceful and filled with the love of Christ.

Greeters and Ushers for January and February

JANUARY

Jan. 4 & 11: Leroy & Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith

Jan. 18 & 25: Eloise Fauth, John & Janet Fauth

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 & 8: Bob & Imogene Lehman, Gary & Susie Stewart

Feb. 15: Mandi Schmierbach & Family

Feb. 22: Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Mayfield

Birthdays

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

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries

Gary & Susie Stewart	1
Ken & Joyce Fitch	14

Ministerial Moments Continued from Page 4

In addition, after the first of the year we will be arranging a number of speakers to come to the community and give workshops on "Eating well on a budget", budgeting, and possibly beginning some support groups. In addition, it has come to my attention that many of you were once in card groups which have lost important members. If we know what kinds of games you play; Pinochle, Canasta, Bridge, etc. we can start a community card club again. I have also had a person ask me about a non-Sunday morning Bible study. I will be meeting with that person and we will decide on a time and place and then spread the information.

Last June, Marlene took over for Ruby on the Pastoral Relations Committee, but since then she has been busy with family and getting my contract written. As the other two members are going off the committee this January, we have put off having a Pastoral Relations Committee training session. It has also been hard to get all three members together at one time. Carol Mercer has been the congregational representative. She can continue on the committee if she so chooses or we may need someone elected from the floor. Sandi Smith has been the Council representative and since she is going off Council, that chair will also need to be filled. Rev. Sheldon Culver will be with us for worship on Sunday Feb. 8. After which, council is planning a light lunch to be followed by Pastoral Relations Committee Training. If you plan to be on this committee, please mark your calendar so that you can take part in the training.

As many of you know, John and Pam Baker of the Methodist Church have taken over the food collections/fundraising of the Food Pantry as well as stocking the shelves when we have to order more food. They have put out boxes in many places as well as having a food drive at both the high school and the elementary school. Food Mart has run a special with Riess Ford in which if someone donates \$10 worth of food to the Food Pantry, they get \$10 off an oil change. We want to thank Food Mart and Riess Ford for this undertaking also. The bottom line is that for the first time I can remember we have run out of room at the Food Pantry! On the other hand, the number of people we have helped in October and November has reached record highs as well.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens and the soup luncheon Nov. 30.

Thank you to Funds and Fellowship for the pancake and sausage brunch Dec. 7. I have been told \$126.75 was donated.

Thank you to all who helped the 'giving tree'. I believe we had two MCOP families this year. Thanks also to Lorrie Lehman and Susie Stewart in their donation of gifts to a boy from KinderCottage. Thank you to all the Advent Wreath lighters.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Up Coming Dates; Feb 8: Rev Sheldon Culver—Lunch after church ; Feb. 14: Pre Lenten Breakfast ; Feb 15 & 16: Middle School Festival of Faith @ DuBois ; Feb. 18: Ashe Wednesday ; March 7: Day of Discipleship ; April 4: Region @ Easter Vigil at Trenton, Pastor Gail preaching ; May 3: ISC 50th Anniversary at Grizzly Stadium</p>						
4	5 Evangelical Daughters Mtg. 6:00 pm	6 Epiphany	7 Choir 7:00 pm Reports due for Annual Mtg.	8	9	10
11 Annual Reports Handed out	12	13 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	14 Choir 7:00 pm New Athens Care Worship service 2pm	15	16	17
18 Annual Meeting After Worship, potluck	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21 Choir 7:00 pm	22	23	24
25 Installation of new Council Members	26	27	28 Choir 7:00 pm Clergy Day @ Okawville	29	30	31



Greetings from your home church, Friedens United Church of Christ. We are updating our records and would like for you to fill out the form below and return it in the offering or church office. Drop this in the mail to: Friedens UCC, 820 N. Main, Marissa, IL 62257 or email this to marissaucc@gmail.com

Name: _____

Member: Y N

Birthday: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Member: Y N

Birthday: _____

Anniversary: _____

Address:

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Children(s):

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Would you like the Tidings newsletter emailed to you ? Y N



Pancake and Sausage Brunch

Funds & Fellowship would like to thank everyone that attended the pancake and sausage dinner . Also thank you for the donations, which went into the general fund.

2015-2016 Usher and Greeter List

The Spiritual Council will be getting together in January to make the 2015-2016 Usher and Greeter list. If you would like off the list or certain Sunday, please let Pastor Gail or a Spiritual Council Member know.



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