

May 2015

Friedens United Church of Christ - Marissa, IL



# The Tidings

## Ministerial Moments



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### HAVE YOU GOT THE SPIRIT?

May is a month of special days, some secular and some religious, some take on a hint of both. I never encountered the celebration of May Day until I lived in Kansas and children would take home May Baskets to their mothers. I still have not witnessed a Maypole dance. Perhaps Mistress Carol can tell us the story of those origins in a future article.

Mother's Day and Memorial Day both hearken back to the end of the Civil War. Mother's Day was begun by Ann Jarvis as a "Mother's Friendship Day" in hopes of reuniting families who had fought on both sides of the Civil War. It was 1905 before the celebration became popular and by that time it had come to be a celebration of all mothers. It appears that the celebration has always taken place on Sunday and included worship services.

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was the day in which families went to decorate the graves of those who had died in the Civil War. By the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, when the name was changed to Memorial Day, it became a time to honor all those who have died in military service. This is different than Veterans' Day which honors all those who served in the military. This year, Memorial Day weekend coincides with Pentecost.

Of the purely Spiritual important days, first we mark the Ascension of Jesus on May 14. It is said in Acts and Jesus spent 40 days on earth after his resurrection with the disciples before he was taken up into heaven. Ten days later, while gathered together in an upper room we are told that the disciples heard a wind and then saw what appeared to be flames above each person's head. After this they went into the streets and began preaching the gospel of Jesus. Because this occurred on the festival of Pentecost, there were many Jews from different parts of the Roman Empire in Jerusalem, yet each heard what the disciples was saying in their own language. This day, which we also call Pentecost, has come to be known as the birthday of the church.

The following week is called Trinity Sunday. It is the one Sunday of the year in which we focus on the doctrine of the Trinity, or Three-in-one. Both Pentecost and Trinity Sunday also put an emphasis on the Holy Spirit. We wear red to honor the Spirit on Pentecost, and white to honor the Trinity on Trinity Sunday. (We also get to sing "Holy, Holy, Holy", thought there is really no reason for not singing it at other times of the year as well.)

So Spring has sprung and let the Holy Spirit of God move us to answer His call!



*Blessing, Pastor Gail*

## Greeter and Ushers for May and June



May 3: Linda Jones & Tim Campbell  
 May 10: Mother's Day - Evangelical Daughters  
 May 17: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner  
 May 24: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

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June 7 - Dave & Pete Dressel, Carol Gladson  
 June 14 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson  
 June 21 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind  
 June 28 - Mandi Schmeirbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner



### May Birthdays

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



### May Anniversaries

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

## Comments from the Church Mouse

Rainy weather....April showers bringing May flowers. Ah, yes, I'm satisfied being inside with my hidey-holes since I don't like getting wet.

I missed Pastor Gail one Sunday last month, but it was a meaningful service with the guest speaker. Boy, can that Larry Matzenbacher sing! What a gift he has.

At the Evangelical Daughters' last meeting, Ruby Lehman had a really good idea. She suggested that those who wanted to could bring toilet paper as a donation to the Mother/Daughter Tea, May 5. The Marissa Christian Outreach Program gives out monthly commodities, and there is always a need for toilet paper. The ladies were almost shy about saying the words toilet paper. But hey, even I like it because it shreds so nicely as nest filler. I say shout it out, "**Bring Toilet Paper**" to the Mother/Daughter Tea, if you so desire and remember.

On April 12 a group of eleven people went to Camp DuBois to have lunch. They said that it was a very nice lunch and a beautiful day to enjoy the camp. That was a happening sponsored by the Funds and Fellowship committee.

Although I have a sensitive nose, I didn't mind the paint that several people put on the walls of the children's Sunday School room. David Barbee worked on the west wall that was showing moisture damage and replastered it. Then I'm not sure if I saw all the people who helped paint, but I know I saw David, Curt Werner, John Barrett, and Bobbi Duffie.

We have a lot of talented, caring people in Friedens. Susie Stewart and the Sunday School attendees, Riley, Nathan, Skylar, and Carol helped put up curtains so the room looked really nice.

I love my church home and just wish we could get more two footed members to come and see how special we are. I'll pray about that.



## Mother/Daughter Tea

May 4th at 6:30 pm.

Entertainment by Ken Treveer with a salad supper.

All women of the church and their friends are welcome.

## THANK YOU !

Many Thanks to David Barbee, Curt Werner and John Barrett for all the work done to remove mold in the Sunday School room. They sealed it and repainted it. Looks great!!!

## **ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

### **Grizzilies Stadium May 3, 2:15-8:00**

Cost \$5/person \$10/ family. This looks like great fun with lots of activities for old and young.

Music Schedule:     2:30-3:00 Rainbow Bluegrass Pickup Band  
                           3:00-4:00 Venedy Band  
                           4:00-5:00 Waterloo German Band  
                           5:00-5:30 Rev. Geoffrey Black & Elden Jazz Band  
                           5:30-6:00 Steel Drummer, Nigel Thomas  
                           6:00-7:00 Backroads  
                           7:00-8:00 Sheltered Reality

Organized activities:

2:15-3:00 Warm Up and Try-Out for Home Run Derby  
 3:00-4:00 Home Run Derby  
 4:00-4:30 Tug of War  
 4:30-5:30 Kick Ball Tournament  
 5:30-6:00 Tricycle Races  
 6:00-7:00 Field open to kids wanting to hit and run bases

There will be other games galore and lots of food. Please come.

## **OTHER CONFERENCE NEWS**

Rev. Sheldon Culver has announced her retirement from the Illinois South Conference. It will be celebrated at the Annual Meeting in October. Along that line, Illinois South placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in conferences who got the most churches to get their yearbook information into the denomination by the deadline this year. As a result we will have a pizza party during Annual Meeting.

## **KINDERCOTTAGE NEWS**

As you may be aware, the Illinois Legislature came through with a last minute effort to keep Kindercottage and other preschools in the state operating through this fiscal year. Other news is that UNI-Pres KinderCottage has received the Illinois Silver Circle of Quality Designation from ExceleRate Illinois, the state's new quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development providers.

ExceleRate Illinois helps families make more informed choices about their children's early learning. It establishes standards to help infants, toddlers, and preschoolers develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. It is administered through INCCRRA under the joint direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education.

## **NEW ADULT STUDY GROUP**

We will beginning a small group study on the subject of grief beginning in June. The beginning date is tentatively scheduled for June 3 at 4:15. We will meet for 6 weeks at which time the group will decide if they want to meet a few weeks longer or stop. When that group ends, we will probably take a few weeks off before deciding on a new topic. One does not need to be a member of Friedens to attend, nor are you committed to attending once the group study changes subjects.

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called Strengthen the Church, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for young and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders.

We will be receiving this offering on Pentecost, May 24, the birthday of the church. This gift is directed toward local Conferences, Local Church Ministries to spread the word that God is Still Speaking. Please join and spread the love.

## **FAVORITE HYMNS**

It's that time of year again! Last year you did such a good job of submitting your favorite hymn that I did not have to choose one until nearly All Saints Day. Let's see if we can do it again! There are extra hymnals in the back if you want or need to take one home to look through it, but don't worry about keeping your choices to the ones in the New Century Hymnal. Nancy has a very large hymnal collection and can find almost anything you request, or if you know what hymnal the song is out of you can mention that also to give us a little easier way of tracking them down. You are not limited in how many hymns you choose either. The more, the merrier.

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Last I heard, we are waiting for the soil to dry out enough to mix the two soils together that will go in the boxes. I have bought seeds for lettuce, spinach, cucumbers, summer and winter squash. Tomato and other plants will be bought once the planters go in. I know that Carol Mercer is going to do a story time with the children at the Library to tell them about how seeds grow and how gardens work. This has become a truly community project with help from a number of organizations. The deacons have discussed having cooking lessons for what to do with left-over tomatoes, how to cook zucchini and also have instructions posted for how to cook acorn and butternut squash with the church address and information on it.

## **DENOMINATIONAL NEWS**

General Synod is coming up the end of June. There are some proposed changes to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws. I have not read them yet, but they will be posted on the bulletin board after I do.

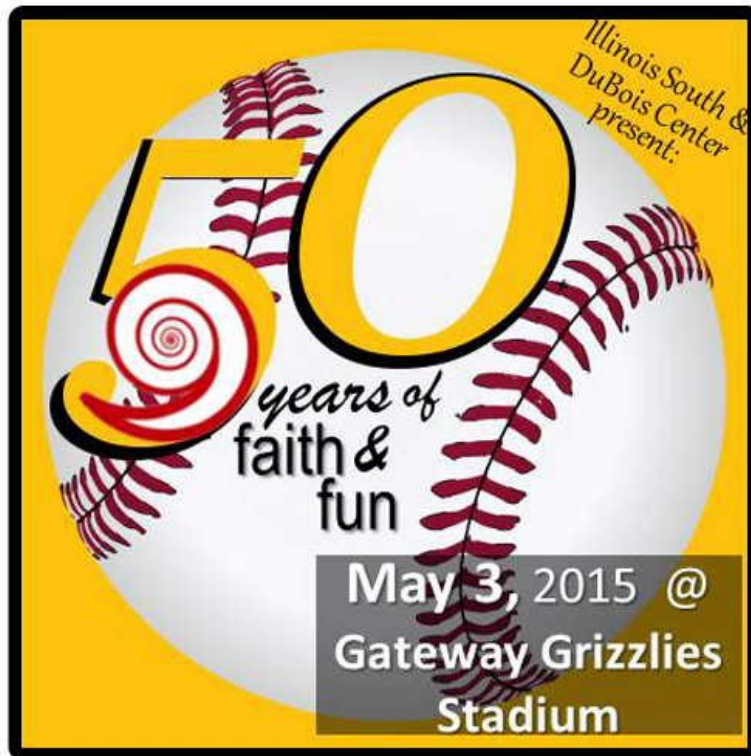
Of more importance is the choice of a new President and General Minister. Rev. John Dorhauer has been nominated. Rev. Dorhauer has lately been Conference minister of the Southwest Conference (Arizona & New Mexico), but before that, he served as Associate Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference with Rev. Culver. As a result, I feel we may finally have someone who understands the problems of that our rural communities and small churches are facing.

## **THE VOTE IS IN!**

Passing of the Peace is being moved to the end of the service every Sunday of the month. Vote was as followed:

- 14 Move it to the end of the service
- 4 Keep it where it is
- 3 Omit it
- 1 Move it earlier in the Order of Worship, after the Pardon





# Here's the pitch!


Join the family and friends of  
**Illinois South Conference & DuBois Center**  
 for a day of celebration filled with fun!

May 3rd  3 pm - 8 pm  
 Gateway Grizzlies Stadium

- ⊙ Homerun Derby
- ⊙ **Kickball Tournament**
- ⊙ Bag Toss
- ⊙ **Horseshoes**
- ⊙ Gaga Pit
- ⊙ **Washers**
- ⊙ Bocce Ball
- ⊙ **9-square in the air**
- ⊙ Bounce House
- ⊙ **Tricycle Races**
- ⊙ Historical Revue
- ⊙ **Music**
- ⊙ Concession Food Available
- ⊙ **T-Shirts**
- ⊙ Duck Pond

Cost: \$5/person or \$10/family *(Includes games. Does not include food & drinks.)*  
 For tickets, contact Shirley Hoy at 618-281-7375 or lahsjh21@gmail.com or  
 Carol Faust at 618-281-4891 or cjfaust@htc.net.

# MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 5th Sunday ; Trinity Sunday ; Last Day of Choir					1	2 City Wide Yard Sale
3 ISC 50th Celebration	4 6:30 pm Mother/ Daughter Tea	5 1 pm Shine Corner Mtg	6 Choir Practice 7:00	7 7 pm Spiritual Council Mtg	8 Movies & More in Park—Big Hero 6	9
10 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	11	12 Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm	13 Choir Practice 7:00	14 Ascension Day	15	16 Fellowship Hall in Use
17 Deadline June Tidings	18	19	20 Choir Practice 7:00	21	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday wear Red	25  MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 Choir Practice 7:00	28	29 MHS Graduation 7pm	30



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