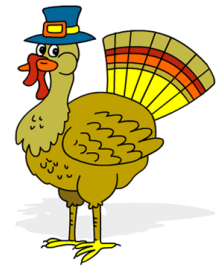


# The Tidings

Friedens UCC  
Marissa, IL

November 2015



## Ministerial Moments



Here we are in mid-October and the weather has become what I consider my favorite time of year. The skies are a beautiful blue, the air is cool, but not yet cold and the trees are turning. Today as we left for lunch I saw the most beautiful tree behind the old car wash, directly across from Kay Trotter's house. It was still nearly perfectly shaped, not having lost many leaves yet, and what could best be described as autumn orange.

I've always loved autumn. It was the time to get out my sweaters and wool skirts. (We wore skirts to school back then, although normal practice was to leave home with them at one length, and as soon as we got to school, stop in the girls' bathroom to roll the waste bands several inches higher.) This was also the time of year for my favorite sport in gym class, field hockey. I was never very good at sports. I couldn't run as fast as most of my classmates, but field hockey had a number of positions. I did not like goalie or full back positions because you basically had to stay in one place and wait for the ball to come to you, but when I got assigned half-back, I could travel the length of the field without having to move as fast as the forward line. Sometimes, like soccer, someone would run over the ball or the opposing side would get it through the front line and I would get a chance to pass the ball to one of the players on my team. I felt pretty good about that and like I was able to contribute something to the team which I could rarely do in other sports.

A great many people are disappointed that the Cardinals' season is ended, but they won 100 games and withstood a great many injuries to key players throughout the year. Paul, in his letters, sometimes uses "running the good race" and other athletic metaphors for being a Christian. Sometimes it does not whether we win or lose. It is surely not a sprint that we are running as Christians, but a marathon. Life is not easy. We all have ups and downs. We need to keep going even when we are ill or injured. We need rest, and yet, sometimes the needs of others come before our own and we do not get the rest when and where we would like it. Not everyone is an evangelist, anymore than I could ever have been considered an athlete, but we all called to ministry in some sort of fashion. We will not always be successful. We learn things from failures. We learn things from our hurts, even if it is to make a conscious decision not to treat others as we have been treated. We take these things we have learned along the pathway of life and use them in our ministry to others.

Christianity is not a solo sport, but a team activity. If we do not all act together, we will all fall down.

Blessings,  
Rev. Gail Geisel

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It's time to "Fall Back!"  
Daylight Savings Time  
Ends Sunday at 2am





## November Birthdays

Bobbie Duffie	2
Daniel Dressel	3
Melissa Curry	8
Carol Gladson	8
Mandi Schmierbach	12
Alice Childers	14
Robert Lehman	14
Kathy Matzenbacher	14
Ryan Cathcart	15
Delow Fruth	16
Kandice Unfried	17
Kathleen Robert	20
Caitlin Cowell	21
Mike Trotter	22
Amber Rahlfs	24
Susan Oyler	25
Dennis Galle	28
Blanche Schmierbach	28
David Reese	30



## November Anniversaries

Cameron & Lori Selman	11
Milton & Dorothy Dressel	13
Gene & Betty Bollmeier	14
Mike & Peggy Dierks	24



## Grant Received to Benefit Children's Reading

By Carol Mercer

Although the Marissa Elementary School has a fine reading program, there are students who have problems reading at their grade level. They might like reading but struggle to keep up with their fellow students. Sometimes a little help is needed.

Reading to another and feeling better about fluency or comprehension will help. Sounding out new words with someone to encourage the effort will help.

Rev. Gail Geisel, pastor of Friedens UCC, Robin Gerald, head librarian at Marissa Public Library, and Carol Mercer, president of the library board of trustees, thought such aid would be good for the community.



Pastor Gail wrote and received a grant from Deaconess Foundation to promote literacy and help the church engage and enhance the community reading needs.

"The Reading Club", to be held on Mondays at Marissa Public Library from 3:30-4:30, will start October 19<sup>th</sup>. It will help students with the steps or levels of their reading by mastering one level at a time. For each new level to which they advance, the readers will be rewarded with a book or something else suitable.

Volunteers have been trained by reading specialist Melinda Morgan, Marissa Elementary School teacher. She showed the reading mentors the methods the school uses to work with below level students. They will work with the children who have been signed up and have parental permission and hope to have enough trained volunteers to work one on one or with very small groups. Most of the volunteers come from the area churches.

After the children are escorted to the library following school, they will receive a snack and then go to work with their volunteer aids. Transportation home will be provided unless a parent gives permission for the child to be picked up or walk home.

The Deaconess Foundation grant will be another step toward promoting the reading welfare for Marissa.



## Walking the Labyrinth

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study has been studying different forms of prayer for the past month. One of those methods is walking a labyrinth. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a labyrinth is a curving path based on a circle which winds its way to the center. It is not a maze which has dead ends. If you start a labyrinth, you will get to the center and then be able to follow the path back out again. Although many religions and cultures have used labyrinths, they reached their popularity in medieval Europe when it was dangerous and expensive for people to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The most famous one is in the floor of the Cathedral of Chartres in France. Many of the labyrinths in this country copy that one.

I am told we have two fairly close. Some of those who attended the retreat with Pastor Clara at Ruma have told me there is one there, though it is not listed on the Internet, so I will have to call the convent and see if it still exists and whether it is open to the public. The other one is in Columbia, IL. The Bible Study class and I have chosen Nov. 8 after church as our date to travel to one of the two labyrinths. This event will be open to anyone who chooses to join us. While there is no wrong way to walk the labyrinth, there will be a short introduction at the sight based on my own experiences and study as to what might make this a more meaningful experience for you. If the weather is too cold, or inclement, the walk will be postponed to Nov. 15

## New Acting Conference Minister

You may or may not be aware, but Rev. Sheldon Culver announced her retirement several months ago and there was a celebration at the Conference Annual meeting. Recently, the conference has called an Acting Conference Minister who will serve until a Designated Conference Minister is able to begin their duties.

The person they have called is Rev. Douglas Anders. Rev. Anders is a graduate of UMSL and Eden Seminary. He served 27 years as local church pastor, including service at Calvary UCC in St. Louis. He has most recently served as Conference Minister in South Central Conference until his retirement last July when he moved back to St. Louis.

## Community Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held this year at the United Methodist Church on Tues. Nov. 24 at 7:00PM

## Cell Phone

I finally got rid of my cell phone that never worked for an old-style flip phone which stays charged forever. If you need to contact me when I am at a conference or on a Monday the number is (618) 443-7532.



## Fall Wurstmarkt News ! ! ! !

This scripture made me think of us!

We are assured and know that (God being a partner in their labor) all things work together and are (fitting into a plan) for good to and for those who love God and are called according to (His) design and purpose.--Romans 8:28

The Wurstmarkt was once again a huge success. We were anticipating a smaller crowd due to several affairs in the area that we knew would effect our numbers. With all of that in consideration we still served 420 dinners. The weather was great as was all of our wonderful workers.

We would like to say **Thank you** to our congregation, family, and friends for their dedication to our Wurstmarkt. Everyone's giving of their talents is our true blessings.

As a huge thank you we did save back some sausage to prepare a Thank You Meal for your kindness and dedication to this huge fundraiser for our Friedens Church. A true test of our labor.

We are Blessed

Funds and Fellowship

## Marissa in the News

I don't know how many of you read the County Journal, but the last two weeks, Oct. 8 & 15, have been filled with articles about Marissa. Carol Mercer has been a long-time reporter of Marissa and Friedens activities and Mike Trotter is the reporter for the Village Board. Other pictures and articles are not always credited so I don't know where they come from, but I would like to thank Carol and Mike for their service to the church and village in getting our news published.

## Christmas Bazaar

Evangelical Daughters sadly announces that there will be no Christmas Bazaar this year. We are getting older and there are fewer women to help put it together. Many things which would have been sold at the Bazaar were sold at the Wurstmarkt.

## All Saints Sunday

This year we have been blessed in having All Saints Day, Nov. 1, and All Saints Sunday being one and the same day. As you know, each year we honor those who have passed from our midst in the previous year. This year we have been fortunate enough to have lost only one person, Janice Schmid. Janice will be honored during the service, then after the service we will dedicate the gardens which Evangelical Daughters had Justin Dressel plant from the memorial funds donated in Janice's name.



## Comments from the Church Mouse



The Wurstmarkt was another success! For the church and for me. I have enough tidbits that fell to me to last me throughout the fall. Thank you, crowds of people, and thank you, cooks, grillers, and potato mashers for the good food.

Our Funds and Fellowship committee, led by Susan Oyler is great and hard working. I also saw some youngsters, such as Ashlynn and Rylie, who were really special helpers.

It is starting to get a bit cold outside, especially in the evening. My fur is not too thick, so I'm glad for my nice warm church home. When Friedens is host to the Marissa Community Blood Drive, they keep it cool inside. It lets me know how to appreciate the usual temperature. At the cool October 12 blood drive, my favorite crumbs were from the cookies that Peggy Dierks donated. I'd like more, please.

Although it is a bit nippy, I braved the outdoors while Ozzie was inside the parsonage to look at the "gardens" I heard people talking about. Nice.

At the choir rehearsal I heard that Larry Matzenbacher and his wife were going on a wonderful trip. That's great for them, but I'll miss his special voice. I do enjoy our choir. I wish more people appreciated their efforts the way Ruth Erb does.

I heard Carol Mercer telling Susie Stewart that Pastor Gail wrote and received a grant from Deaconess Foundation to promote literacy and enrich the church's connections with the community. Several from our church will help with a program held in the library on Monday's after school helping grade school children with their reading. Thank you, Pastor Gail and helpers for caring. Grandfather mouse taught me to read when I was tiny, and it has meant a lot to me.

Now I can read the church bulletins and the newsletter (if it is left on a table). I also can read the bulletin board and saw a newspaper of young David Schneidewind peeling potatoes with his mother, Mindy, for the Wurstmarkt. I enjoy our youngsters. I even like to listen in on Confirmation lessons with David, Emma, and Rylie. They are all good readers, too, and smart.

I hope when you read this, you will remember that as a little creature of God's, I am important in His eyes. We are all important and loved.

Isn't that special?!



# **BLESS YOUR NEIGHBOR**

## **Vendor and Craft Fair**

**Sunday, November 8th  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**The Bullpen in New Athens**

**All proceeds benefit Food Pantries in  
New Athens and Marissa**



**Vendors !  
Crafts !  
Baked Sale!  
Raffle!  
50/50 Drawing !**

**For every non-perishable food item  
brought in receive one raffle ticket!**

**Kids activity corner offered by  
Junior High Cheerleaders for a free will donation!**

**For information call Shannon 618-443-8747**

**The Bullpen's kitchen will close at 2:00 pm**

# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Soul's Sunday	2 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 6:30 pm	3 Sonshine Corner Mtg 1 pm	4 Choir 7:00 pm	5	6	7
8 After church, Labyrinth Walk	9	10 Council Meeting 7 pm	11 Choir 7:00 pm Veteran's Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Choir 7:00 pm	19 Spiritual Council Mtg 7 pm	20	21 Pastor Gail out at Conference Free Thanksgiving meal at Methodist from 6 to 8 pm
22 Thanksgiving Sunday	23	24 Community Thanksgiving Service @ Methodist Church 7 pm	25 Choir 7:00 pm	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent	30	Nov. 1—All Saints Day. If you have anyone you wish to have remembered, please get it to the office before Oct. 30. Also dedicating the greenery outside in honor of Janice Schmidt. Nov. 8— Labyrinth Walk - Watch future bulletins for more information				

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# Greeter and Ushers for November and December

**November 1** - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Duane Waeltz

**November 8** - John & Janet Fauth, Eloise Fauth

**November 15** - Duane Waeltz, Pete Dressel

**November 22** - Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Linda Jones

**November 29** - Ryan & Crystal Cathcart and Family

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*Happy Thanksgiving*

**December 6** - Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Linda Jones

**December 13** - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Lorrie Lehman, Neal Galle

**December 20** - Dave & Pete Dressel

**December 24** - Christmas Eve - Church Council Members

**December 27** - Ruby Lehman, Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher



*Friedens United Church of Christ*

*820 North Main*

*Marissa, IL 62257*