



The Tidings

MINISTERIAL MOMENTS



Inside this issue:

Greeter/Usher List	2
Birthday/Anniversary List	2
Church Mouse	3
Congratulations	3
Pentecost	4
Strengthen the Church	4
125th Anniversary	4
Changes	4
Hymn Choices	5
Report on Literacy Grant	5
Mother/Daughter Tea	6
May Calendar	7

“I wonder that others have not discovered the real beauty of the Ozarks,’ remarked the painter.

The old shepherd answered softly, ‘One did.’ Then rising to his feet and pointing to Roark Valley, he said, ‘Before many years a railroad will find its way yonder. Then many will come, and the beautiful hills that have been my strength and peace will become the haunt of careless idlers and a place of revelry....’”
Harold Bell Wright, The Shepherd of the Hills, 1907.

It’s amazing how some authors have the ability to prophesize. On our vacation, Ron and I went to Branson for the first time in 40 years or more. I knew that once Nashville discovered Branson and different celebrities started putting shows that there was a necessity to widen roads and do other things to accommodate the tourists. Still, I was unprepared for just how much it had changed. Whereas, in the 60s and 70s when you drove in the Ozarks you traveled around and up and down the mountains such that you knew before you got there the difference between a “hill and a holler”, now days, the road is straight up and down; a wide four-lane freeway with a meridian and wide shoulders. As I looked to the sides of the roads and saw how much of the mountains had been cut away to make the wider, straighter, safer highway, I was saddened.

My favorite line from the Shepherd of the Hills play was always, “An acre of land in the flat lands is just an acre, but if y’ take an acre of this here hill country and lay it out no tellin’ how fer it would go.” (Accent to the best of my remembrance.) Now days, an acre is just an acre regardless of where it is. Even the Ozark accent was missing.

On the other hand, I thoroughly enjoyed Dolly Parton’s Dixie Stampede and Moses, which can best be described as an extravaganza. The Dixie Stampede, in particular, left me with a good feeling as I left.



GREETER AND USHERS FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 1: Linda Jones & Tim Campbell
 May 8: Mother's Day - Evangelical Daughters
 May 15: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner
 May 22: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb
 May 29: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb



June 5 - Dave & Pete Dressel, Carol Gladson
 June 12 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson
 June 19 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind
 June 26 - Carol Mercer, Curt Werner, John Barrett



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

Oh, I love these pleasant days. Most of the "April showers", or rain and wind storms, are gone. I even sneak outside for a little bit these days. Ozzie is not so bad, if you overlook his barking. He's actually quite nice behind the fence.

I'm ready for the May 9th Amercian Red Cross Blood Drive. It's on a Monday from 2:30-6:30 and it will be honoring Margaret Heil. Margaret is a long time donoe who started giving regularly after 9/11 and the tragedy of the Twin Towers, the plane crash, and the "attack" on the Pentagon. Unfortunately, she had a heart attack rather recently and can't give anymore. She had given about 68 units of blood. Besides, being a wonderful, Christian lady she took time to donate her blood for others.

I hope a lot of people come to give blood and honor Margaret Heil for a selfish reason. It will mean they will leave more crumbs for me.

The week before will be the Mother — Daughter Tea on May 2nd and will be special as always. The ladies will socialize, be entertained, and enjoy dessert bars. They have asked participants to bring toilet paper, if possible, as a donation to the Commodities Program. People who need commodities each month always use and need toilet paper. Other paper products are also appreciated.

Actually, the tea will have some great tidbits for me. Those fancy dessert bars always leave a few crumbs. Yum, yum.

Soon the camps at DuBois will start. They are always looking for donations, especially financially one. I'd love to go to camp, but I will be satisfied with my nice church home.

Come visit me when we have services or meetings. The congregation is full of wonderful people. You might not see me when you come because I'm usually in one of my hidey holes, but I'll see you and be pleased.



CONGRATULATIONS

Davey Schneidewind for getting straight As and to Emma Schmierbach and Riley Starr for making Honor Role. Emma was also on the Junior High girls' volleyball team which won Regionals.

PENTECOST

We know Pentecost as the birthday of the church, that day when the Holy Spirit came and settled upon all those who were gathered together in one place in the form of divided fire. They went from that place speaking in languages they had never been taught but the people of Jerusalem understood them, each in his own tongue. That day 3000 were baptized and became Christians. For this reason, I ask all who come on May 15 to wear red in honor of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. If you don't have anything red, Meteor Orange is a close second.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Also on Pentecost Sunday we collect one of our UCC 5 for 5 offerings, known as the Strengthen the Church offering. Strengthen the Church is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking" message.

You will receive special inserts in your May 1 and May 8 bulletins to further explain the work of the Strengthen the Church Offering.

125th ANNIVERSARY

Come one come all! As stated previously, our new Conference minister, Rev. Shana Johnson will be the guest speaker that Sunday. Also, Davey Schneidewind and Riley Starr will be confirmed. The choir is preparing two anthems, the second one to be done at the Offertory.

After the service we will go to the Fellowship Hall for a pot luck and entertainment which will include pictures of our church history to reminisce.

CHANGES

LaJune Fulton is back at Cedarhurst after a long hospital stay. Mabel Schickedanz has moved to room 25 at Cedarhurst, next door to Caroline Galle. Irving Schickedanz is currently back at Terrace on the Park in Mascoutah. Hopefully, Irving will get to move back with Mabel soon.

HYMN CHOICES

As we have been doing the last few years, the month of May is your chance to go through the hymnal and name your favorite hymns for use in the summer. You do not need to stick to the New Century Hymnal as Nancy and I have a collection of hymns between us and can find most of them. Last year's choices lasted almost to Advent.

REPORT ON LITERACY GRANT/BOOK CLUB PROGRAM

Well, another school year almost gone. I want to thank all the people from Friedens who helped with our literacy program, aka Book Club, for elementary aged children. Friedens members, and friends of members who helped tutor were Carol Mercer, Kay and Warren Trotter, Lea Barrett and myself. Of course, we had several other helpers from other churches whose names Carol or Robin could probably tell you better than I can.

We averaged between 20 and 24 children per week and although I've been noticing signs of "Spring Fever" amongst some of them recently, for the most part the children were ready and willing participants. Robin Gerald's told me the other day that the school had told her they had noticed a significant improvement among those children who attend on a regular basis. I was told that both of my grandsons have gone up two reading levels this year for which I am thankful. They are both making use of the library to check out books and they are going to activities at the library they never went to before. If the library activities can make the difference in other children it has made in my grandsons, it has done a lot.

If you have not been to the library in a while, go in and check it out. There are lots of places to sit and read as well as a wall-long book sale in the back by the rest rooms. At the check-out counter you can get a calendar of library events for two months at a time. Some of these offerings are for children, but others are for families. April 12, they showed the new Star Wars movie The Force Awakens. They also have two book clubs for adults which meet once per month. The calendar will tell you which book they are reading.

Carol Mercer has been the Chair of the Library Board for a while now and Robin Gerald's has been a great addition as head librarian. Please let them and other librarians and members of the Board know how much you appreciate the work they are doing for Marissa.

MINISTERIAL MOMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the “World’s largest Toy Museum”, we found the Harold Bell Wright museum. Harold Bell Wright is the one who wrote The Shepherd of the Hills. I had no idea how much he was self-taught nor how rough his life had been. I did not know that he had also been a painter or that he had become a Disciples of Christ minister. After retiring from the ministry, he wrote 19 books, the second of which was Shepherd of the Hills. Many of the books were made into movies.

In search of the Ozarks we remembered, we went out to the site of the Shepherd of the Hills farm and play. It was not as commercial and more like we remembered. From there we went over to Table Rock Lake and drove around on the other side of the lake to get the feeling of what we remembered.

Time changes everything. Some things for the better; some for the worse. The Ozarks were once on par with Appalachia as one of the poorest places to live in America. The tourism dollars alone have probably helped most of the people. We did not go into the School of the Ozarks which was started as a way to allow young people to work their way through college or find a vocation, so I don’t know how or if that has changed. There were also two Vocational Schools in the area.

Still, of the two Harold Bell Wright books I have read, I remember that much of what he was concerned about in the early 20th Century is not far off from the things many of us are concerned about regarding society in the 21st Century. The technology may be different, but the problems remain the same. We need to trust more in God to lead us in His way.



Blessing, Pastor Gail



MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA MAY 2ND

All women come! On Monday, May 2 at 7:00PM enjoy some dessert, fellowship and the music of Ken Treveer and family as Evangelical Daughters hosts its annual Mother/Daughter Tea.

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7 pm Mother/ Daughter Tea	3 1 pm Sonshine Corner Meeting Pastor Gail out of office	4 Holocaust Re- membrance Day 7 pm Choir Prac- tice	5 Ascension Day	6	7
8 	9 Friedens Blood Drive	10 7 pm Council Meeting	11 7 pm Choir Practice	12	13 8 pm Movies & More "The Pea- nuts Movie"	14
15 Pentecost - wear red, Dinner at DuBouis, Strengthen the Church Offering	16	17	18 7 pm Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 Trinity Sunday	23 Last Day of Book Club Tutoring Party	24	25 7 pm Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 Memorial Sunday	30 	31				



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