



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

There is an old saying that "life is what happens while you're making other plans". I don't know if there is anyone whose life has turned out exactly as planned. There was a time when 5 year and 10 year plans were popular. They may work for corporations. I'm not sure they work as well for people.



When I was young and fresh-out-of-college, I wanted to set the world on fire. A few months into my first year of teaching I realized that the "world was very happy as it is; thank you very much." I have since learned that while change is something continuous which we cannot stop or control, it is also something we cannot force too much of on others. Too much change, too fast, causes resistance. A lot of what we have seen in the way of so-called "right-wing backlash" in the last twenty years is because so much change happened so fast in the 60s and 70s. The world continues to change. Not to change is to become stagnant and die, which is another change.

Since 9/11, a lot of people have lived in fear. I worked for FEMA for about 6 months after the 2003 California Wildfires. Everyday as I went into our offices I was confronted by a sign showing the terror level for the day. I don't remember it going above a yellow, which was moderate, but still, to see that sign every day does something to the psyche. The fact that FEMA had been put under the Department of Homeland Security two years before which limited them in the speed in which they could give aid and who they could give it to plus the sign, made morale low.

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ISC Happenings...

You are invited to join St. Paul UCC and Mr. Brad Harriman, Regional Superintendent of Schools for St. Clair County, to Celebrate Public Education in Lebanon and St. Clair

County on August 22. Public educators and school staff will be recognized at the 8 am and 10:30 am services. Mr. Brad Harriman will give the message at the 10:30 service. At approxi-

mately 1 pm, Mr. Harriman will speak on The State of Education in St. Clair County and Illinois. You can call the church office, 618-537-4991, with questions

Comments from the Church Mouse

Can we have Community Vacation Bible School every month? For a hungry little mouse, it was great.

Sometimes it was hard to hide from all the little ones and the teenaged and adult VBS helpers, but the crumbs left for me were worth the hassle. I decided that I even liked bananas.



As I peeked from my various hidey-holes, I saw a lot of our members and a lot of members from other churches volunteering with the kids. Of course, I didn't get to see everyone, but I sure saw a lot of Bobbi Duffie leading the singing. She was so good and spirited, too. I

also saw quite a bit of Susie Stewart, who seemed to be everywhere, and Carol Mercer, who tried to be a bee, but she didn't fool me.

So many of our congregation! There were energetic Susan Oyler, Kay Trotter, Brenda Kinzel and Ruby Lehman working with the kids, while in the kitchen there were

Peggy Dierks and Lorrie Lehman. They were helped by Marlene Vogel-Karsten's granddaughter Angie and her friend Jennifer. Pastor Gail Geisel was there every day helping at Bible story time, and Eli Schmierbach was a teacher's aide. Ron Geisel was on hand for many things, like working on air conditioners. Gary Stewart had done behind the scenes help and organizing the power point computer set up, and Marlene had worked ahead of time with the snack business. Lori Neely had used her talent with the computer for registration cards, and Dale Reiss had tidied up after all the kids. Whew, we were busy.

I've probably missed someone, but a scurrying little mouse can't be everywhere. We pulled off a great, well-attended VBS. Bless all that helped, and thanks for the contributions to my food storage.

AND we had a blood drive on July 19th. Now I can nibble to my little heart's content.

Oh, and before I saw goodbye, I need to remind you that my special friend Lorene Orth had her 99th birthday a few weeks ago. Even grandfather mouse didn't have such a long productive life. She's special.

Pictures from the 2010 VBS



Thank You!

Dear Rev. Geisel and the Members of Friedens UCC:

I and my family wish to thank you for all of the beautiful cards, prayers and memorial gifts given in remembrance of Bernice.

We also want to thank all those who worked and/or brought a dish for the luncheon following the service. We thank you so much.



Sincerely,

Rev. Schmidt and The Schmidt Family

Reunion Sunday September 19

I do not yet have a theme for the reunion so if you have any ideas what we can do to celebrate our church history that day let me or a council member know to discuss at the next council meeting.

Confirmation classes to celebrate reunions will be 2000, 1985, 1960, and 1935.

Class of 2000: Justin Dressel, Clinton Galle, Victoria Galle, Courtney Sinn,
Michael Triefenbach.

Class of 1985: None

Class of 1960: Paul (Edgar) Neely, Frank Gaunt III, James Mahan, Sandra
Matzenbacher, Ronald Schiffendecker, Durlyn Wannath

Class of 1935: Clinton Brimfohr, Leslie Keim, Alfred Matzen-
bacher, Wilmer Kunze

If you happen to know any of the above mailing address, please forward them to the hurch office. Some of them we know, but most we do not.



Ben Carpenter's Wheelchair Soccer Team Go to Nationals in Canada (Son of Tari (Fitch) Carpenter)

BRANDON - There is no lack of excitement, speed and maneuvering when the Tampa Thunder take to the court for a fast-paced game of [power wheelchair](#) soccer.

The young men on the team, including team captain Benjamin Carpenter of Brandon, say the game has brought a freshness to their lives that has given them more self confidence and drive.

Oh, yeah, and there's that adrenaline rush.

"There is no A for effort in this game," Carpenter said. "It's competitive, not recreational."

The team just returned from Indianapolis where it took fourth place in the National [Power Soccer](#) Championship, making it eligible to play in the prestigious America's Champions Cup 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia, in October.

But, to take that next step, the team needs to raise \$12,000. The first [fundraising event](#) will take place Aug. 7 at [East Bay Raceway](#) Park, 6311 Burt's Road, Tampa, off U.S. 41. Gates open at 5 p.m., and racing begins at 6:30 p.m. The team will promote itself during the races and collect donations. The team will get the proceeds from beer and [wine sales](#) at the Third Friday Music Festival in Safety Harbor on Sept. 17. Several car washes and other events are also in the works.

The team hopes to raise the money its needs by the end of July. Team members are excited at the prospect of another major tournament.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for them to go and represent the United States," said Tari Carpenter, Benjamin's mother and the team's assistant coach.

"One thing about power soccer, it is the only sport designed for kids in power chairs. It's fast and furious and really amazing to watch."

And, she said, it gives the boys added confidence in their everyday lives. Every team member has benefited from the [group atmosphere](#) and the team building, [coach Don](#) Gorman said. And every one, he said, has improved their performance in school.

Carpenter, who is enrolled in the international baccalaureate program at King High School in Tampa, has spinal muscular atrophy. But even after back surgery to help straighten his back, Carpenter was on the sidelines for every practice, itching to get back into the game.

"He did not miss a practice," his coach said. "He was there assisting from the sidelines." David Masterson, playing his second year, met Danny Gorman at MDA camp and got hooked playing power soccer. "I didn't have any real direction before," he said. Now, he is planning to attend college. Other team members are Ryan Cotton of Tampa, Chris Rhoades of Safety Harbor and Andrew Gaiefskiof of Land O' Lakes.

To donate to the team or for information, contact Tari Carpenter at (813) 661-0917. To learn more about the game, visit www.powersoccerusa.net. To donate directly to the team, visit Tampa Thunder on Facebook and look for the link to the fundraising site.



Back to School Kick-Off Event @ MJSHS

Marissa CUSD #40 will be holding a Back to School Kick-Off event at **Marissa Junior/Senior High School** on **Saturday, August 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** Activities will include:

- Elementary and Jr. Sr. High School Registration—Book fees discounted 35% if paid on Kick-Off Day.
- School Physicals done by Deanne Rieckenberg N. P.—Call the Jr. Sr. High school @295-2393 for an appointment.
- Immunizations given by St. Clair County Health Department—Administration fee is \$10.00 per shot, or IL medical card can be billed. Unable to administer vaccine to children who have private insurance which covers the total cost of immunization through their private physician. Please bring a copy of current shot record. Call 233-6170 with question about eligibility.
- Finger printing and DNA collection by the Marissa Police Department
- Marissa Christian Outreach—school supply distribution. (If you are in need of help with school supplies you must sign up at Sonshine Corner before July 30.)
- Back To School Haircuts—Cost \$5.00
- Smile Illinois dental exam sign up
- Fun Run—Registration fee-\$5.00. Family registration-\$15.00 (3 or more members of one family) Registration forms must be picked up and returned to the Jr. Sr. High school by Thursday July 22 to receive a Fun Run T-Shirt.
- Face Painting
- Carnival Games-dunking booth, inflatable jump house and slide
- Food—hot dogs, chips, and soda
- Sign Up for free and reduced school lunches.
- Boy Scout sign up
- Fire Department—fire safety “Smoke House”
- Information on Latchkey, Day Care, Car Seat Safety and Library Programs

Students will be given a ticket from each booth they visit. These tickets can be used at Carnival games, jump house and slide. Students must be accompanied by an adult



Visit www.marissa40.org for more information and printable registration forms.

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Today, many people live in fear of the "other". The "other" is anyone different than what you are used to. It may be a new person in town. It may be people of different skin color or ethnicity. It may be someone with a strange accent, or strange behaviors.

The good thing about living in a small town is that school classes are small enough that children can get individual attention and some of the name-calling and bullying that goes on can be dealt with early, but how do we deal with our own fear of the changes happening? How do we deal with our fear for our community, or state, or nation and the changes we see that we fear are not for the better? Gossip amongst ourselves does not alleviate the problems. Only by prayer and open discussion with others can decisions be made which will improve things. Speak to your mayor, village board, township trustees, and school board. They are here to serve you, but they can only serve you if they know what you want to improve Marissa. The same goes for the county and the state. We may be a small church in a village. We may not be able to change the world, but we can improve our lives in our community if we are not afraid to speak out or act. Christ was constantly moving to teach, include people, and draw them into the community. He was not about keeping the "status quo", but about being open and inclusive of all regardless of our differences. We should work to become more welcoming, seeking out the "unchurched" in town and bringing them in.

Wow, the year is going by fast! It seems like summer just began and school is ready to start again. We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School the end of June/first of July. Chaired by Carol Mercer and Susie Stewart, it was wonderfully well organized. We averaged 60 children per day and 30 helpers. On the last day, Peggy Dierks and Lorrie Lehman put together a hot dog and chips lunch that was well attended by parents and children after the closing worship service. I have no idea how many meals were served. I have heard so many good comments regarding VBS and we collected enough offering to buy 5 bee hives to help families in other parts of the world. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a success. You should be proud of yourselves.

HAPPENINGS

On Saturday, August 7 the school will have a back-to-school festival with a one or two mile fun run, school physicals and immunizations, MCOP school supplies, carnival activities and more. If you know someone with school age children, please encourage them to go to the Marissa Jr. /Sr. High on that date between 9am and 3pm.

The following weekend is our annual Coal Fest with the parade on Saturday, Aug. 14 at 6:00PM. I believe there will also be another Movie in the Park, Friday Aug. 27. More information to follow.

August 22 is Ron's and my 40th Wedding Anniversary. To celebrate we are taking vacation from August 18 - August 31. August 22 will be a Lay Sunday and August 29 will be "visitation" Sunday.

September 11 & 12 is the Illinois South Conference annual meeting at Rend Lake. Imogene Lehman has graciously agreed to be a delegate. If someone else would like to go, we can still have one more delegate. I will come back for the service Sunday. The following Sunday is Illinois South Conference Sunday and our Reunion Sunday. The theme for ISC is "diversity". I do not yet have a theme for the reunion so if you have any ideas what we can do to celebrate our church history that day let me or a council member know to discuss at the next council meeting. Confirmation classes to celebrate reunions will, hopefully, be 2000, 1985, 1960, and 1935. I will be going through the church record books to send out invitations.

Blessings, Pastor Gail

AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Conference Pre-Annual Mtg @ Stone					Hiroshima Re- membrance Day	Marisa School Kick-Off 9-3:00 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Council Meet- ing 7:00 pm	Ramadan Begins		Marissa Coal Festival	Marissa Coal Festival and Parade 6 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Faculty/Staff First Day Back to School	First day of School - 1/2 Day Pastor Gail on	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Pastor Gail on Vacation TIDINGS	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail on Vacation
29	30	31				
Pastor Gail on Vacation	Labor Day Pastor Gail on Vacation	Pastor Gail Back				

Greeter and Ushers for July and August



August 1 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn

August 8 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten

August 15 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbi Duffie

August 22 - David & Stacey Pilbean, Ruby Lehman

August 29 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

August Birthday's

Dixie Ferrell	1
Martin Galle	3
Carol Mercer	4
John Childers	5
Elsie Sinn	5
Neal Galle	8
Tari Carpenter	9
Ann Peters	10
Gene Bollmeier	14
Lorrie Lehman	14
Irene Triefenbach	15
Melody Jenkins	25
Victoria Galle	27
Debra Raban	28
Jean Riess	29
Gina Oyler	31



August Anniversary's

Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher	1
Tim & Melissa Curry	5
Mark & Sara Bear	9
David & Pete Dressel	15
Ron & Gail Geisel	22
Terry & Melody Jenkins	23
John & Janet Fauth	30

