



THE TIDINGS

MINISTERIAL MOMENTS

Wow, another year has ended with another beginning. It's amazing how when we're children we can't wait for summer, then we can't wait for school to start, then we can't wait for Christmas. When we become adults, it seems that each year goes faster and faster and that we just can't get everything done we wanted.

As of this writing, we have some thanksgiving. Milton Dressel who was hospitalized is home again. His wife, Dorothy, has had a couple of procedures which went well and she is home and Ruth Erb is home again after a few days in the hospital. This is a hard time of year to be sick and yet many of us have a tendency to over extend ourselves leaving us vulnerable to illness.

I want to thank all of the Daughters and the men who decorated the church. It's a lot of work and looks beautiful as always. Many thanks also to Susie Stewart for taking care of the poinsettias. I don't know if it was the price, the fact we were buying them from the FFA, or if there was just more reason to honor, memorialize, or give thanks, but we have a beautiful abundance of poinsettias for which I am grateful.

In late November, I went into a Borders Bookstore (always a dangerous/expensive place for me to go) for the purpose of picking up the new Norah Jones CD. Of course, I couldn't just pick up the CD and go, I had to look around. I wound up with three books also. Two of the books were on the "buy one get one 50% off" table. I actually don't remember what I picked up that I was first attracted to, but the second book is called Living Life as a Thank You, by Nina Lesowitz and Mary Beth Sammons. Knowing that this time of year is a time that I get stressed and tend to enter into "pity parties", I decided to begin reading it almost immediately. Like the Chicken Soup Books, it contains short stories of different persons. Unlike the Chicken Soup Books, it also includes exercises at the end of each story to help you keep a positive attitude and attitude of gratitude. It seems to have really helped, because I am much more relaxed now than I was a month ago.

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2010 ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 17

We will enjoy a potluck luncheon after church service and then begin our meeting around 1:00 p.m.. Please remember that annual meeting is a time to voice your opinion as a member of this church; the more ideas we have gives the church more ways to constructively grow.

If you have not yet turned in your annual report to the church secretary, please contact her and do so as soon as possible.

You can email the reports to lmneely@newwavecomm.net If your report does NOT get to the church secretary by Tuesday, January 5th, your report will NOT get put in the Annual Report.

See you there!!!

FELLOWSHIP TIME!!!

Funds and Fellowship would like to invite everyone down to Fellowship Hall in February and March to enjoy refreshments before worship.

February 7th and March 7th

They are also in the process of planning a couple of afternoon gathering; like bowling, pizza and everyone's favorite game afternoon.

If you would like to be on the Funds and Fellowship team, contact Susan Oyler.

GREETERS AND USHERS FOR

January 3: Milton & Blance Schmierbach, Cliff & Sally Owens

January 10 & 17: Leroy & Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith

January 24 & 31: Eloise Fauth, John & Janet Fauth

**GREETERS AND USHERS FOR FEBRUARY**

February 7 & 14: Bob & Imogene Lehman, Gary & Susie Stewart

February 28: Dorothy Dressel, Daniel Dressel, David Keim

COMING IN FEBRUARY**FRIEDENS ON THE WEB**

Marissa Friedens UCC is finally be on the world wide web, the internet, the www come February.

Lori will be designing the website and also updating it.

So if you have a computer at home and can get to the internet, go to the website and check us out.



www.marissaucc.org

If you have any suggestions or want to see other items on there, please let Lori know.

SONSHINE CORNER REPORT

The Sonshine Corner is again in full swing. After being closed for the Thanksgiving holidays. We again are giving Christmas food vouchers to Marissa Food-Mart through the Marissa Christian Outreach program.

Sonshine Corner will be closed December 23rd thru January 5 for the Christmas Holidays but we will open with a bang on January 6, 2010, see you at Sonshine Corner where the best bargains in town are.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

- The front doors of the church were sanded and varnished.
- Peggy Dierks has taken over as the CEO of Sonshine Corner, replacing Dorothy Dressel
- Ron Geisel will be collecting aluminum cans for the church. A collection bin will be outside on Sundays.
- Lori Neely will be the new Treasurer. Larry Hanna will be stepping down. A big THANK YOU to Larry!

ELECTRICIAN NEEDED

As most of you know electrical outlets in the church are few-and-far between. At the December council meeting this was discussed and they would like to get at least one outlet in every room.

So that brings us to the "Electrician Needed". If your talents deem you an Electrician, and would like to help your church, please let Pastor Gail know that you would like to help.

The church council as always would like to get someone that is volunteering their services, but they know that an electrician is a skilled person and they are willing to pay someone a small amount.

Not only will this help out through out the year, but we are hosting Vacation Bible School this summer and it would be great to have access to more outlets.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

There is a need for some volunteers in areas of the church. Please take the time to consider volunteering for any of the following areas.

- Sunday School Teacher
- Someone to attend Region 8 Meetings - 5 Meetings per Year.

- Vacation Bible School Co-ordinator
- Any of the Church Groups

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.”

Luke 6:35

Birthdays

Alberta Schifferdecker	2
Gary Stewart	3
Robert Schmidt	5
Terry Jenkins	10
Lindsay Lehman	10
David B. Schneidewind	11
Marilyn Wine	12
Judy Heil	14
Evelyn Schneidewind	15
Charles Walker	18
Sara Beer	19
Eloise Fauth	19
Dale Sinn	21
Kenny Lehman	27
Dennis Sinn	28
Matthew Lewis	30
Charles Schmidt	30

Anniversaries

Gary & Susie Stewart	1
Ken & Joyce Fitch	14

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

MINISTERIAL MOMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another point of thanksgiving is a point of health of the church. While we continue to lose members due to death, the nominating committee met and got their new slate of council members in less than a week this year, definitely the fastest I have seen since I've been here.

I have not been meeting with the Pastoral Relations Committee as I should have this past year, but I am still hoping to put together a short survey/clergy review for you to fill out at the Annual Meeting. I'm hoping this will be rating on a scale of 1-10, or multiple choice answers so that it will be easier to fill out than the last one.

Another item I would like you to think about before the Annual Meeting is the time of the service. Some have suggested keeping the services at 9:30 all year long. There were many Sundays last summer, however, when a good number of people did not get to church before 9:40. My thought is that we consider moving the services to 10:00AM year round, 9:40 year round, or keep it like it is, but with 9:40 instead of 9:30 in the summer because it may be easier to remember.

In meeting with the Budget Committee, I asked them to increase the OCWM by 10% this year. They were able to do this by cutting spending elsewhere. I think there is still some confusion about OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission). Most, approximately 2/3 of the money stays in Southern Illinois. Those of you who were on the Search Committee know of the help and training you received from the conference office in this matter. When a pastor is searching for a church there is a 13 page form which they fill out and send to our offices in Cleveland. Cleveland does a background check of the candidates and sends their profiles to the conference offices where the candidate prefers them sent. The conference office then tries to send the appropriate profiles to the churches in search. The conference office also helps the church put together its profile and gives it instruction in interviewing and finding an appropriate candidate. They also keep a list of available supply preachers and help supply Interim ministers during the search.

In addition, when the conference minister or another member of conference staff comes here to preach, we do not have to pay them extra. The conference communications coordinator is also available to aid or teach us in improving our communications on the web and keeps the Illinois Southern Conference (iscucc.org) web site going, as well as sending out Weekly Connections of what is going on in the conference and has now got accounts on facebook and twitter.

In addition, the conference offers many learning opportunities for clergy and lay people at a reduced cost. One coming up is the Mission Interpreter's Event on January 23, 2010 in Lebanon from 9:00-4:30 for \$10.00. That includes a morning snack and lunch. Child care is \$5.00. Deadline is January 13. Another opportunity for Lay people to learn more about what is going on in the conference and UCC at large are the Regional meetings. Region 8 meets the first Monday every other month except in the summer time. That is about 5 meetings a year. Annual meeting this year is at Rend Lake and is over the weekend. Those who have gone to it have really enjoyed themselves and this next year is being planned to be family oriented.

Lastly, we have DuBois Camp. DuBois is not just a summer camp and it is not just for kids. They have RV hookups as well as cabins and there are many weekend events for adults and families throughout the year. The bottom line is that our conference, which receives its support from OCWM, has many resources which we have not been using. It is my hope that in the future we will begin to use those resources and that even if we don't, that we do not deprive other members of our conference who do, by not paying our fare share.

Pastor Gail

DIRECTOR OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES FOR DUBOIS CENTER

The conference is currently searching for a new director of DuBois Center. If you know someone who likes the outdoors, including horses, lakes, and fishing, and has an interest in children and adults, please tell them. More information regarding the position as well as an application can be found at www.iscucc.org or www.duboiscenter.org.

JANUARY CHURCH EVENTS

Tues., Jan. 5:	Deadline for Annual Report
Wed., Jan. 6:	Choir Practice - 7:30 pm
Wed., Jan. 13:	Choir Practice - 7:30 pm
Sun., Jan. 17:	Annual Meeting - 1:00 pm, Potluck before Meeting
Mon., Jan. 18:	Deadline for February Tidings
Wed., Jan. 20:	Choir Practice - 7:30 pm
Wed., Jan. 27:	Choir Practice - 7:30 pm
Sun., Jan. 31:	Loose Offering for Scholarship Fund

JANUARY SCHOOL EVENTS

HS GBKB=HS GIRLS BASKETBALL , HS BBKB=HS BOYS BASKETBALL, HS F/S BKB= FRESH/SOPH BOYS BASKETBALL, JH BBKB=JH BOYS BASKETBALL, JH VB = JH GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

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|---|--|
| <p>1—No School</p> <p>4—No School—JH BBKB @ St. Libory Tourney; HS G BKB @ Home vs. Steeleville</p> <p>5—HS GBKB @ Chester Tourney; JH BBKB @ St. Libory Tourney</p> <p>6—HS GBKB @ Chester Tourney; JH BBKB @ St. Libory Tourney</p> <p>7—HS GBKB @ Chester Tourney; JH BBKB @ St. Libory Tourney</p> <p>8—HS GBKB @ Chester Tourney; HS BBKB @ New Athens</p> <p>9—HS F/S BKB @ Lebanon; HS GBKB @ Chester Tourney; HS BBKB @ Home vs. Valmeyer</p> <p>11—HS BBKB @ Chester Tourney; HS GBKB @ New Athens; HS B F/S BKB @ Home vs. Steeleville</p> <p>12—HS BBKB @ Chester Tourney</p> <p>13—Section 22 FA Parliamentary Pro Contest @ Kaskaskia; JH BBKB @ Home Cahokia Conference Tourney; HS BBKB @ Chester Tourney</p> <p>14—HS BBKB @ Chester Tourney; JH BBKB @ Home vs. Cahokia Conference Tourney; HS GBKB @ Lebanon;</p> | <p>PTT Meeting @ Elementary 6:00 pm</p> <p>15—JH BBKB @ Home vs Cahokia Conference Tourney; HS BBKB @ Chester Tourney</p> <p>16—HS B F/S BKB @ Freeburg; HS BBKB @ Chester Tourney</p> <p>18—No School; HS BBKB F/S @ Columbia</p> <p>19—HS GBKB @ Home vs. Madison; JH BBKB @ Home vs. Coulterville; School Board Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>20—FFA IAVAT @ SWIC; District 40 Science Fair @ Elementary</p> <p>21—HS GBKB @ Home vs. Red Bud</p> <p>22—HS BBKB @ Home vs. Madison</p> <p>23—Early Dismissal Elem 11:35/JSBS 11:45</p> <p>25—HS GBKB @ Home vs. Valmeyer; HS F/S BKB @ Dupo</p> <p>26—HS BBKB @ Lebanon; Family Fun Night</p> <p>27—JH BBKB @ Regional Tourney; FFA Job Interview Contest @ SUIC</p> <p>28—JH VB @ Red Bud; JH BBKB @ Regionals; HS GBKB @ Home vs. New Athens</p> <p>29—JH BBKB @ Regionals; HS BBKB @ Dupo</p> <p>30—HS F/S BKB @ Home vs. Lebanon</p> |
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JANUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Happy New Year!!	2
3	4 DEADLINE for Annual Reports	5	6 Choir Practice- 7:30	7	8	9
10	11 Life Smart for Women @ St. Paul Lebanon 6:30 pm	12	13 Choir Practice- 7:30	14	15	16
17 Annual Meeting Potluck	18 DEADLINE for February Tidings	19	20 Choir Practice- 7:30	21	22	23 Mission Interpreters Event—St. Paul's Lebanon
24	25	26	27 Choir Practice- 7:30	28	29	30
31 Loose Offering to Scholarship Fund						



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**FRIEDENS
UNITED CHURCH**

*"Through the Spirit we
are a Church on the
Move: Welcoming,
Caring, Sharing."*



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