

June 2010



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

By the time you get this, Ron and I will be home from our vacation hopefully with a whole bunch of new grandson photos. At last word, Nathan had entered his terrible two's at 18 months just like his mother ("Mother's revenge"). Skyler is now pulling himself up and beginning to walk. We'll miss their birthdays this year, but will probably buy presents while we're up there for them.

We are ending Easter Season and entering into Pentecost. Pentecost, of course, is the celebration of the coming of the Spirit over the apostles (men and women), and the birthday of the church. The week after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday and then Ordinary Time. I guess it's called Ordinary Time because no major church holidays occur during it, yet we know that it is in the ordinary that things occur. Children grow up, go to school. They get married and have children of their own. In the ordinary we have our life cycle.

I've read two remarkable non-fiction books of late. The first was called A Long Way Home and is a story of a boy who got caught up in the Civil War of Sierra Leone. At the age of 13 war broke out while he was away from home and in trying to get back he learned that his village had been destroyed. He and a group of other boys then tried to run from the violence. As time went on, they found more and more villages afraid of them rather than willing to help them. Eventually they were found by one of the armies and forced to become soldiers. They were fed drugs to numb the feeling of killing. After a truce, the by-now 15 year old was sent to the capitol to be rehabilitated. It wasn't easy but it was successful. Eventually he was able to live with an aunt and uncle, but when the war restarted and came to the capitol, he fled as a refugee to neighboring Tonga. Eventually he made his way to the United States where he was at last able to finish his education, go to college, and write his story. It is an amazing story of what children in the developing world sometimes go to, on the one side horrific and yet, at the same time, hopeful.

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Special points of interest:

- VBS starts June 28, See Carol Mercer or Susie Stewart for volunteering
- Council Meeting June 8th
- June 13 Celebrating Rev. Schmidt 50th Anniversary of his ordination
- Coffee at the Library with Pastor Clara Benson and Jim June 21 3-5 pm

VBS - June 28 to July 2nd

News That You Can Use!

- Congratulations to Rachel Galle who graduates from High School this year.
- June 19 is the 50th anniversary of Rev. Robert Schmidt's ordination. Because that is Father's day weekend, we will have a pot luck in honor of him on Sunday June 13.
- DuBois Camp has hired a new director. Her name is Shirley Asmussen. She was the former director of the Missouri Mid-South Camp, Mo-Val.
- Illinois South Conference is going to have a special event at Annual Meeting called: "Holy Ground: Our Sacred Calling". What they would like to do is make a video collage of your favorite places. It need not be a landmark. It may be your couch, your backyard, a local park, or a vacation spot. They want you to tell them where it is and why it is sacred to you. The deadline is August 16.
- DuBois has retired two horses and been donated a new one. The new horse is Jack, a 9 year old, beautiful Palomino quarter horse mix.
- Puentes De Esperanza, our mission to the Spanish speaking people of this region, has been given a grant by the Komen St.Louis affiliate to increase Breast Cancer awareness among Latinas.

Greeter and Ushers for June and July

June 6 - Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Katie Cowell

June 13 & 20 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher,
Carol Gladson

June 27 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind,
Daivd & Mindy Schneidewind



July 4 & 11 - Pat MacBeth, Carol Mercer, Kurt Warner

July 18 & 25 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn

Comments from the Church Mouse

Warm weather, nice people, almost enough food scraps - life is good.

The Community Vacation Bible School will be here soon, June 28-July 2. I can't wait! Kids will probably drop food bits every day that week. My stash will expand, big time.

As they are getting ready for VBS, I also noticed Janice Schmidt and Lorrie Lehman come in and make the windowsills in the sanctuary attractive. They change the window decorations quite regularly. Good job, ladies.

They were amount the other Evangelical daughters who made the Fellowship Hall look inviting for the Mother/Daughter Tea last month and made salads for the salad supper. I really enjoyed the program with the ventriloquists, who were also musicians. And the teenage boy could really juggle. I even enjoyed that as much as some

of the cracker crumbs that were inadvertently left for me.

My whiskers are still vibrating from the Dartball team's wins. They have won both regional and conference in both 2009 and 2010. Some of them even had their picture in the newspaper.



I also saw Ruby Lehman, Bobbi Duffie, Sarah Beer and her daughter Avery in the paper. Our church rocks! At the Mother/Daughter Ra there were several family groups that were at least three generations.

As grandfather mouse used to say, "There is nothing like family ties." He also used to quote a human who said, "The family that prays together, stays together."

WANTED !!!

We still need delegates for Annual Meeting at Rend Lake this year. Those who can go early can participate in a Golf Tournament on Friday. Friday evening, I am told there will be an owl banding and release. The bulk of the meeting is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12. Those of you, who is the past said you couldn't go because you said you couldn't miss work on Friday, this is your chance! There will be lots of free time arranged with pontoon boats and other things to do and a BBQ on Saturday evening. Sunday morning service will be led by the conference youth.



Vacation Bible School volunteers. I understand we need group leaders and possibly more. If you're willing to work, we're willing to find a place for you. See Carol Mercer or Susie Stewart.

DuBois Camp still needs volunteer counselors and nurses. If you enjoy being outdoors or working with children, this is the place for you.

Town Newsletter - Information

I hope most of you received the village newsletter. I don't know if it was mailed only to those in village limits or if it went out to the whole township. In case some of you didn't get it, these are the important (in my opinion) updates:

1. The village has received a USDA grant and low interest loan to replace about 70% of the old cast iron water pipes from the 30's and 40's.
2. Progress is being made of the demolition of the old high school. They hope to complete it by summer.
3. We now have a volunteer first responder unit to serve the Marissa Fire Department.
4. The police have an answering machine for non-emergency calls. To leave a message for an officer to contact you at a later time, call 618-295-3622. To see or speak to an officer, call 618-295-3022. For emergencies, call 911.
5. If street lights are out, contact Village Hall or Ameren at 800-755-5000.
6. Marissa Senior Center is open Monday-Friday for lunch if you are over 60 years of age. You need to call 295-3474 by 9AM if you would like to attend that day. Donation request is \$4.00. They also offer transportation around town and to Sparta for a small fee.
7. If you have tenants who are new to the community, remind them of the wheel tax.
8. Village Clean-up Day: June 5 from 8AM until noon. White goods can be taken to the Village Shed at 701 E. Lyons. If you are over 65 years of age, you may call the Village to pick up your unwanted items. Please call in advance to get on a pick-up schedule.
9. Coal Fest is August 13 & 14. The Parade is Saturday at 6PM.

August 29 will be a Poker Run to benefit the Youth of Marissa. Pre-registration is at Jim & Cindy's.

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The other book I read was Hour of Gold, Hour of Lead, by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. It is a collection of her letters and diaries from 1929-1932. It begins just a few months before her marriage to Charles Lindbergh and the euphoria of first love exudes from the page. I know that her major was in English Literature and yet, as I read the letters and diary, I longed for the lost art of letter writing. She comes to life from the page. After marriage, she and Charles did quite a bit of traveling and met a number of foreign dignitaries. Her descriptions of the places they travel and the people they meet are vivid.

Early on Charles had told her to be careful what she said in letters in case they fell into the wrong hands. The need for secrecy was difficult for her and as one of the earliest couples to fall victim to what we today call the “paparazzi”; she came to long for privacy. Those of you old enough to remember will recall that this came to a head in 1932. Charles and Anne had taken a trip which she later wrote about in a book called “North to the Orient”. They cut the trip short because of the death of Anne’s father. Anne was already pregnant with her second child and they decided to not travel awhile and spend time with their first born son, Charlie, Jr. One evening in March of 1932, after the 18 month old had been put to bed and checked on at least once, Charles came home at 10:00PM and wanted to see the baby. They went into the bedroom and found him gone with a ransom note on the window ledge.

Anne wrote in her introduction to 1932 that she did not understand how she could come off so “cold” and yet, I did not find her cold at all. I think being able to write, both in letters and in her diary, was a great catharsis. Her Mother, Mother-in-Law, and sisters were of great help. She and Charles each dealt with the kidnapping and then the grief in their own way. She describes the nightmares she had afterwards, and as an underscore to her writing there seems to be a fear for the new baby as well. After his birth in November she writes her amazement that she has a “fat”, healthy, and perfectly formed baby boy. The new baby does not take away for her sorrow for the one she lost, but by this time she knows it won’t.

What is the point of reading such books, you ask? For one thing, because she included much of her diary and letters of the time, we can watch her go through the agony of the search and the grief process. It adds to our compassion and our understanding. In our society, we often say when one person loses a child, whether by miss-carriage, or death, “Oh, well, they have (can have) other children!” Yet, the truth is, no matter how many children you have, you mourn for the child you lost. I have known women who gave up children for adoption, knowing that they did what was best for the child, who still wondered about that child years later, hoping something will happen that the child will confirm they made the right decision. It is for this reason, of mourning a child lost before his/her time, that women, particularly in developing nations find comradery in Jesus’ Mother Mary, as a woman who also knew what it was to lose a son.

The kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby was a life-changing event for Anne and Charles. They were less of a public couple after that, seeking privacy. The capture and trial of the kidnapper did not occur until after this collection of letters and diaries so we don’t know how she coped with having to relive it all again. Lindbergh, himself, fell out of favor with the American public for what were seen as anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi views. Perhaps his feelings were partially affected by the loss of the child and long drawn out trial. The kidnapping also affected the United States as well as Congress made kidnapping a Federal Crime.

All in all, such stories teach us compassion for other people and thanksgiving for what we have. God has given us so much and God is there with us when we are in need.

Pastor Gail

Pictures from Mother Daughter Tea



Four Generations of women; Susan, Melanie, Allie and Kathleen



Belle Schmidt (Janice's granddaughter), Gwendolyn Bald (Marlene's great-granddaughter), and Allie Curry (Kathleen's great-granddaughter) "singing" with the ventriloquist and her puppet.



Scene from the Mother/Daughter Tea



June Birthday's

Paula Neely	1
Pastor Gail Geisel	6
Sarah Galle	7
Bob Schmierbach	8
Irving Schickedanz	12
Courtney Sinn	13
Leslie Lehman	18
David Keim	27



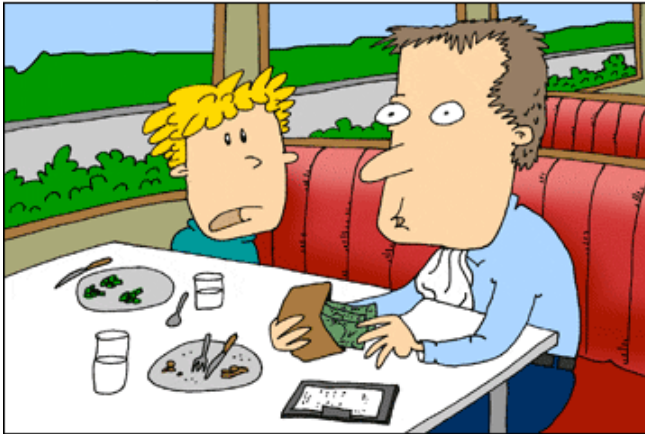
June Anniversary's

Neal & Joan Galle	2
Craig & Melanie Rahlfs	2
Tom & Bobbi Duffie	5
Fred & Marilyn Lewis	17
Martin & Alberta Galle	18
Bob & Lucille Schmierbach	27

JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Village clean Up Day 8 am to Noon
6	7 Evangelical Daughter Mtg 7:00 pm Region 8 Mtg 7 @ Lebanon	8 J & W Mtg @ Mascoutah 7 pm Council Mtg @ 7 pm	9	10	11	12
13 Special Pot- luck for Rev. Schmidt	14	15	16	17	18	19 50th Anni- versary Rev. Schmidt's Or- dination
20 Father's Day	21 Coffee for Jim and Pastor Clara Benson @ Library 3-5 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 VBS Start	29 VBS	30 VBS			

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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



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*"Through the Spirit we are
a Church on the Move:
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