



# The Tidings

September  
2010

## Ministerial Moments

Each and every person needs to take some time each day to pray and meditate. One person once said that prayer was speaking to God and meditating is listening. I have a tendency when I'm being quiet and trying to listen to fall asleep. Maybe that's what I need. Sometimes when I wake up from the nap, I know what God is telling me and sermons come easier or other ideas come to try, sometimes there seems to be nothing. If everyone was always listening to God and hearing what God said, there would be (I think) less argument about God's direction and a much more peaceful world. It's not. God gave us free will and with free will, we often do what we are not supposed to. Sometimes, we get so involved in what we want that we forget what God wants, or block him out altogether.

An early mentor and pastor of mine once said, "If you agree with everything I say and I never make you uncomfortable, I'm not doing my job." A pastor cannot please everyone all of the time. There are times I may be "preaching to the choir" and there may be times you don't like what I have to say. I cannot guarantee that everything I have to say comes from God. I hope so. But in the end, God will be my judge just as He will be yours. I am human. I will make mistakes. I may make some HUGE mistakes, but I hope that God will guide me and you in the direction our church is to go.

Like many of you, I like to read. Occasionally I like to read something funny and I always read one or two daily meditation books. One of the books I read recently was It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump and other Life Lessons I Learned from Dogs by John O'Hurley. I expected it to be funny dog stories. While there is humor in the book, it is mostly a very gentle philosophical book about the lessons dogs teach us. As someone once said, "there's a reason dog in reverse spells "God".

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## Reunion Sunday - September 19

Don't forget that Sunday September 19 is Reunion Sunday. The confirmation classes of 1960 and 2000 have been invited.





## Greeter and Ushers for September



September 5 - Dale & Sharon Reese, Lorrie Lehman

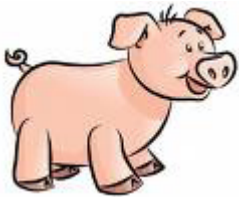
September 12 - Albert & Caroline Galle, Janice Schmidt

September 19 - Carol Mercer, Susie Stewart and Sunday School

September 26 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

October 3 & 10—David and Stacey Pilbean, John Barrett, Irving Schickedanz

## October Wurstmarkt - Saturday October 2



It's that time again . . . What time you say.. It's Wurstmarkt time!!

Pick up your apron, dust off those pie pans, get your potato peeler oiled and stretch those legs. Come one come all to the help at the Wurstmarkt.

The Funds and Fellowship are in need of workers and lots of those wonder pies/cakes.

If you have any questions please contact Susan Oyler or Bobbi Duffie.

See you at the Wurstmarkt!!

**“One of the very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating.”**

**~Luciano Pavarotti and William Wright, *Pavarotti, My Own Stor***

“If you find it in your heart to care for someone else, you will have succeeded.” Maya Angelou

“Don't cry because it's over.

Smile because it happened.” Dr. Seuss





## Comments from the Church Mouse

Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August was Lay Sunday, and we had a good sized congregation. My favorite part was at children's sermon time when six kids came in front and sang three songs from the Community Vacation Bible School Friedens had hosted.



Visitors Wyatt and Avery Beer joined Eli and Emma Schmierbach, and Nolan and Ashlyn Cathcart. Emma and Nolan were "the lead" singers, and Nolan announced each of their selections. Bobbi Duffie, who had been VBS song leader, had some copies of the songs so those in the congregation who wanted could sing along. Susie Stewart and Carol Mercer proudly sat in the front row encouraging the kids.

From one of my hidey holes, I saw a lot of smiles on people's faces. I'm sure God was smiling, too. I like to see happy folks in church,

September 1<sup>st</sup> will be choir practice and a Funds and Fellowship meeting. Maybe there will be snacks and crumbs left for me. I hope, I hope, I hope. Members of both groups are serious but know how to have fun while serving our church.

That makes me think of two recently departed church ladies, Bernice Schmidt and Arvilla Lehman. They had both contributed much to Friedens. Grandfather mouse had told me about Bernice being a caring, nurturing lady who raised a fine family. Arvilla was also a good mother and known for her baking and vegetable gardening. She worked hard at the Wurtzmarkts, too.

This is a fine church with good people!

I heard one of those good people, Ruby Lehman, say that Sonshine Corner was having a big sale before something called change-over. (A lot of devoted members volunteer at Sonshine Corner.) It's too far away for a little church mouse to venture there, but I wish I could see some of those great bargains that I heard Blanche Schmierbach, Lorrie Lehman and Ruth Erb talking about. I don't think they have food at the Corner, though, at least the crumbly kind, so that is an incentive for me not to try.

I'll just be content in my church home and listen for news beyond the building. Peace be with you.



## Ministerial Moments Continued from Page 1

He tells the story of the different dogs he has known in his life and how they deal with life, always giving love, never giving up when the task seems insurmountable and yes, when “you miss the bed on the first jump” go around and come up the easier way.

The book I've been using for meditations is called If Jesus were a Therapist: modern parables for emotional and spiritual healing by Philip R. Hengen. Dr. Hengen is a psychologist from St. Louis whom I met at Erasing the Stigma, a conference on Mental Health held at the Shrine two years ago. You may hear some of these in sermons in the future. In fact, I wish I could plagiarize and read some of them instead of giving a sermon some Sunday. They include humor and reactions that Jesus might have to the world if he were here today. There are comments about his post-resurrection body being perfect, but going through with a physical anyway to set a good example. Other stories (about as long as a Chicken Soup for the Soul story) about a trip to the mall, new shoes, the computer, haircuts, a child's drawing, etc. One story even included a trip to a Cardinals' game. The hope is always when I read good writing that it will creep into and improve my sermons. Sometimes what I read helps me know where God is leading.

### CHANGES, WE HAVE CHANGES

Last week, due to problems I was having with the phone in the office which was no longer holding a charge, we got “voice mail”. In addition to voice mail, we now also have caller ID and Lori was able to get Rev. Tripp and Pastor Clara's names removed from the phone. We also now have unlimited long-distance. Lori got all this less a month than we had previously been paying Verizon which is now Frontier.

The caller ID has already paid off in that I recognized the name of someone who had called the church but not left a message. As it turned out they had questions about the Reunion Sunday, so we may get a couple extra people.

Invitations have gone out to the classes of 1960 and 2000. All members of the 1935 confirmation class have been reported deceased and there was no confirmation class in 1985. We still need an address for Michael Triefenbach. Many of those from 1960 and 2000 still live in the area so I am hoping for a good turn-out of 10-11 visitors.

I am no longer on the board of the Chamber nor Chair of the conference Justice and Witness Team so I am hoping this will free me up to do more in town. There has been a request for clergy to take part at the Senior Center. I am not sure exactly what is wanted, but I intend to look into it. I also promised Rev. Deb Harkness that I would give her a break from being treasurer of the Ministerial Alliance come October. When I get back from vacation and Annual meeting, I am planning a meeting of the Spiritual Council and sometime late September or early October, there should be a meeting of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Eli Schmierbach has begun confirmation. He and his dad, Brandon, attended the Youth Day at DuBois this summer and Eli will be a youth delegate from the church for Annual Meeting. There is also a confirmation day at Eden Seminary on October 16 which I am hoping we can go to.

Our condolences to the families of Bernice Schmidt and Arvilla Lehman, who both were called by their Creator this summer. I wish to thank all of those who helped with the hospitality to the families.

~ Pastor Gail ~



# SEPTEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Scholarship Offering	6 Labor Day	7 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 7 pm	8 Choir 7:30 pm	9 Rosh Hashanah	10	11 ISC Annual Mtg @ Rend Lake
12	13	14 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	15 Choir 7:30 pm	16	17	18 Yom Kippur
19 Reunion Sunday—Potluck after church	20	21 International Day of Peace Church open	22 Choir 7:30 pm	23 Pastor Gail at Conference	24 Pastor Gail at Conference	25 Pastor Gail at Conference
26	27	28	29 Choir 7:30 pm	30		October 2 Wurstmarkt





# September Anniversary's

Alan & Susan Oyler	2
Mervin & Ruth Erb	3
David & Evelyn Schneidewind	6
Jeremy & Jessica Dressel	10
Ryan & Crystal Cathcart	11



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

# September Birthday's

Jessica Heep	5
John Fauth	6
Nicole Sinn	10
Cynthia Walker	10
Marlene Karsten	11
Pete Dressel	11
Imogene Lehman	12
Todd Erb	13
Donna Galle	15
Melanie Rahlfs	21
Dorothy Erb	21

