

The Tidings

February 2011

Ministerial Moments

Inside this issue:

Notes from Annual Meeting	2
Birthday/Anniversary	2
2011 Dartball Schedule	3
Church Mouse	3
New and Renewed Members	4
February Calendar	5
Greeter/Ushers	6
Patchwork of Love	6
Day of Discipleship	6-9
2011-2012 Greeter/Usher List	11-12

The best thing about dreary days is that when the sun finally comes out we appreciate it more. Last Friday, Ron and I were driving up to Freeburg to see Fred Keim and it was the first time in two days the sun had shone. The sunlight reflecting on the snow covered fields was beautiful. The other thing about having a number of dreary days in a row is that when we finally get a sunny day this time of year, I am always surprised that the day seems longer, which it should. It makes me happy because I realize Spring is coming.

Crocus blooming as well as other flowers are still a long way off, so we look for other signs of the end of winter. I will be celebrating my fourth year here on Feb. 7th. It doesn't seem that long. January 30 we took in Kevin MacDonald as a new member and Bobbie Duffie, Marlene Karsten, Curt Werner, and Susie Stewart were installed as new Council members. We will have to make some hard choices this year. Is there any-

thing more we can do to increase attendance? How do we improve Christian Education; adult and children's? What are our options for good Stewardship of the church? Should we begin considering the possibilities of yoking with another congregation or a part-time ministry?

I also feel the time has come to review our Constitution and By-Laws once again. This Council will have a great deal on its plate. I ask your prayers for them, the church, and me as we go through this process together.

By now, most of you have seen the picture of Benjamin Carpenter with his soccer ball in the ad on our bulletin board. There is also a good article Carol placed in the Sparta and Pinkneyville papers about our moving Nativity scene. It includes a good picture of Ron moving one of the statues.

(Continued on Page 4)

Funds and Fellowship Bowling Party - Feb. 20

Funds and Fellowship will be having their annual Bowling Party of Sunday February 20, 2011.



Bowling Party will be on Sunday February 20th. We will be going to Star Lanes in Sparta. Bowling starts at 1:00 pm and we will go until 3:00 pm. Bowling, shoe rental and pizza will be provided. Come enjoy the fellowship and please bring a friend or grandchild, etc. You do not have to bowl to attend. Any and all are welcome.

February

Birthday's

Lori Neely	16
Julie Imes	18
LaJune Fulton	19
Bryan Childers	20

Anniversary's

Dennis & Cindy Galle 21



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Notes from the Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone that brought food. The meeting was called to order by President David Schneidewind around 12:15 pm. Agenda, all reports were approved.

The new Council Members are: Curt Werner, Bobbi Duffie, Marlene Karsten and Susie Stewart. They will join the following that are already on the council: Kay Trotter, Imogene Lehman, David Keim and Larry Matzenbacher.

Christmas Eve service will remain at 9 pm. All reports were ap-

proved as written as well as the 2011 budget was approved.

Motion was made to move money from the Fruth Rental checking account to an ING account to earn interest. Motion was also made to move money out of the Cornerstone account and put into an ING account instead.

Susan Oyler volunteered to be the Region 8 delegate and John Barrett volunteered to be on the Pastoral Relations Committee.

2011 Dartball Schedule

February 11 7:30PM	Marissa at Plum Hill
February 18 7:30PM	New Athens at Marissa
March 4 7:30PM	Marissa at Addieville
March 11 7:30PM	Plum Hill at Marissa

Tournament and Banquet to be announced.

Comments from the Church Mouse

As a little mouse I don't get out of church much, but I have excellent ears and I like to eaves drop on conversations.

I heard Peggy Dierks and Carol Mercer talking about all that Ruby Lehman does for Sonshine Corner. When they went to "work" there the first day after the Christmas holidays, they saw that the holiday items has been moved to storage, and Peggy declared that Ruby must have spent a large part of the holiday working at the mission. Ruby's the manager, but, oh, is she dedicated.



However, as the church mouse, I get upset with her efficiency in the kitchen. She is almost always one of the first ladies cleaning up after a doings, and Ruby just whisks those crumbs right away from me.

She also is Friedens' representative to MCOP, Marissa Christian Outreach Program, and gives a lot of her time to their projects. Man, that Ruby is a worker.

Another worker is Ron Geisel, Pastor Gail's husband. I stayed in where it was warm and watched him faithfully move the church's Advent figures to tell the story of Christ's birth. Only a few times did he have help. (I wanted to tell them that they needed a tiny new figure to represent my ancestor Jonathan Mouse, who was also in the manger. But I didn't.)

I heard Susie Stewart telling Susan Oyler that articles and pictures made the area newspaper about our "Watch the story unfold" during Advent. That was a good idea of Pastor Gail's.

Our church has such good people in it. A new one, Kevin McDonald, I was staying clear of - because he's big. Now I know he is also nice and wouldn't bother a little church mouse,

We had a blood drive on January 24, and I obtained some tasty tidbits, but I'm really looking forward to the Women's Pre-Lenten Breakfast of March 5. Those hot-cross bun morsels are divine.

Next Wurstmarkt - Saturday March 19th

**Try Jesus, If
you don't like
Him, the devil
will always
take you
back.**

New and Renewed Church Members

On Sunday, January 23 Friedens added Kevin McDonald as a new church member and renewed Carol Reinhardt and Dwayne Waeltz's membership to the church.

We are happy to have Kevin, Carol and Dwayne here at Friedens. Please welcome them.

Ministerial Moments (Continued)

At the Annual Meeting Susan Oyler graciously agreed to be our representative to Region 8. Hopefully this will increase our knowledge of what is going on in the other churches of our region as well as the conference.

John Barrett graciously agreed to be on the Pastoral Relations Committee with Imogene Lehman and Ruby Lehman.

I am going to miss our outgoing council members: David Schneidewind, Lorrie Lehman, Ryan Cathcart, and Janice Schmidt. Over the course of two years, one gets used to working with certain people and calling on certain people everytime there is a question or help is needed. It is my hope that they are not so worn out from the last two years that they disappear. We still need them and their leadership.

Alice Weilmuenster has been bringing me copies of the menu from the Macke Center which I've been posting on the board also. Meals are \$4.00 for those over 60. You do not need to go everyday, but if you know of an activity you'd like to take part in, or see a meal you would like to try, you need to call in a reservation prior to 9:30AM on the day of the meal you would like to eat. They also provide meals on wheels to those who can't get out and I understand they will provide shuttle service to a doctor's office, shopping, or other things for a fee.

Dartball has begun. Ron says they lost their first game to New Athens last week, (January 21), but came back to win the next two. The schedule is later in this newsletter. The team is still looking for members and you don't have to be a man to play.

Ron would also like to get together a men's fellowship group here at the church. He will probably be talking to the men on the dartball team about continuing some sort of fellowship after the season is over. If you're interested let him know how often you would like to meet and when. Like Evangelical Daughters and the Dartball team, you would not have to be a member of the church to take part in it.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail



FEBRUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Pastor Gail on vacation from Jan 31 to Feb 7. She will still be on call for emergencies: 314-631-3872 / 618-443-7532	2 Council Mtg. 7 pm	3 9 Funds & Fellowship Mtg 6 pm	4 10	5 11	6 12 Chamber of Commerce Dinner
6 * See Note at bottom	7 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 7 pm ; Region 8 Mtg 7 pm	8 15 J & W Mtg @ Mascoutah 1 pm	9 16	10 17	11 18	12 19
13	14 Valentine's Day	20 F & F Bowling Party 1-3 pm	21 22 President's Day	23 24	25 26	
27	28	Sunday February 6: Rev. Marti Baumer preaching and Rev. Nancy Livingston Accompanist ; Also Souper Bowl Chili St. Paul's UCC in Lebahon 1 to 3 pm March: 4th-World Day of Prayer, 5th-Pre-Lenten Breakfast, 9th-Ash Wednesday, 12th-Day of Discipleship in Columbia, 19th-Wurstmarkt				



820 North Main
Marissa, IL 62257
Phone: 618-295-2004

**Friedens United
Church of Christ**

E-mail:
marissafriedens@frontier.com

www.marissaucc.org

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

Greeters and Ushers

February 6 & 13 Bob & Imogene Lehman,
Gary & Susie Stewart

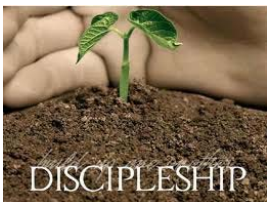
February 20 Fred & Marilyn Lewis, David Keim

February 27 Dorothy Dressel, Kay Trotter,
David Keim



Patchwork of Love

Our conference sponsors four primary missions: Hoyleton, Uni-Pres Kindercottage, DuBois Center and the Ecuador Partnership. This year, these four missions decided to go together in one campaign to raise a special offering to be divided between them. Starting January 23 each week there will be a flyer in your bulletin telling about one of the missions. Inserted in this Tidings is the envelope. The official date for collecting the offering is February 13, but anytime you decide to contribute between now and the end of February is okay. This is not meant to be I instead of the Pennies from Heaven jar, or any funds sent by Funds and Fellowship or Evangelical Daughters. I believe that at least part of the drive is so that more people are aware of the conference missions.



Day of Discipleship

For the first time, the conference Day of Discipleship is being held on a Saturday. This will allow for more people to attend and also allow us to take part in 3 rather than 2 workshops offered that day. It is being held at St. Paul UCC in Columbia Saturday March 12 from 9:15AM through 3:00PM. Lunch is included in the fee. Workshop schedules and registration forms are included in this Tidings. Please fill out the registration and turn it into Pastor Gail prior to February 17, so we can get the discounted rate.