



Region 7 News & Notes

Highlights From Around The Region

(As reported by our churches,
compiled by Rev. Donald D Jones, Convenor)

A Time To Replenish



I will satisfy the weary, and all who are faint I will replenish, Jeremiah 31:25

- **Zion - Addieville**

Zion, Addieville: **150th** Anniversary of the founding of Zion Congregation, July 3, 1871; marked by service on July 4th and outdoor service August 15th, including lunch and return of alumni pastors; Ken Reichter and Wm. Graves. These two events were held in conjunction with the founding of Addieville, 1870, by Col Morrison, who provided 4 acres of land for the church and funds for the first church building. Rev. Wm. Groennert, current Zion pastor and "child of the church", celebrates **53 years** of ordained ministry. We celebrate his service to God and dedication to his calling.

- **St. John's - Plum Hill**

Members found new ways of serving the public by maintaining the **Wurstmarkt** (now a church-wide service project), providing drive-thru meals in November 2020. It was so popular and successful, we ran out of food! Funds collected benefit HYFS, Region 7 Food Pantry, W. Wash. County Senior Services, DuBois Center & OCWM.

The Women's Guild continues to serve the community and region by financially supporting and volunteering at the **Region 7 food pantry** (as part of a region-wide team approach to serving the pantry).

Infrastructure improvements continue to be made on the outside of the Worship building (constructed in 1876), to preserve its historical integrity, with new window coverings revealing the beauty of the stained-glass windows. Throughout the pandemic shutdown, Plum Hill successfully employed creative **social media** outlets to communicate and share worship experiences with its members and unchurched, long-distance friends.

Sunday School Christian education was suspended, but the Accelerated Confirmation Program continued remotely (virtual Zoom classes). A hybrid program will be initiated on September 26, 2021.

- **St. John's - Johannsburg**

St. John, Johannsburg: Dedication of renovated '**School House**' made useful for Sunday School and fellowship activities; renewal of Sunday School.

- **St. Peter's - Okawville**

I received a thoughtful note from Pastor Jeff which speaks volumes for each of us who have been challenged in the past 18 months...*"we have redone the statue of Gabriel on the top of our steeple-- maybe that's the most visual thing we've done. But the most important thing we've done (I feel) is we've*

had church every Sunday. One way or another, the people of God have gathered to worship. I hope we have learned to not take that privilege for granted.”

- **St. Paul’s - Nashville**

From Pastor Bev Kahle:

“As I think about this last year and our ministry, nothing extraordinary stands out as we were about returning to a **new normalcy** following all of the lockdowns. We have been intent on finding new ways that we can safely minister and worship. Our online presence is growing. We are investing in updated technology to enhance our online ministry. We are moving from a paper dependent church to one that is more adept at the internet. We still minister at the Region 7 Food pantry each month. We found a way to safely do VBS and WINK, our summer youth and hot meals program. We enhanced it by taking meals to shut ins. Our music department is ever expanding. They held their first summer music camp in July. When we first started meeting in person, we moved Sunday School to coincide with our worship, keeping both to about 30 minutes in length. This fall, we have begun to expand our worship to 45-55 minutes and have moved Sunday School back to meeting after worship.”

- **Frieden’s - Irvington**

Friedens (under the direction of Pastor Stacy Tate) continues to host the Region 7 Food Pantry and helps coordinate the Ministry Team which provides leadership and accountability in its relationship with the USDA and the St. Louis Food Bank. Other notable news from Pastor Stacy is that Friedens extended a call and installed Associate Pastor **Tarrah Vaupel**.

- **Zion - Hoyleton**

Zion welcomed a **new minister** last year (at the onset of the pandemic), Rev. Sharon Patton, and is partnering with HYFS in celebrating its 125th anniversary year (HYFS). The pandemic has delayed a planned worship celebration, which likely will be held in 2022.

- **Additional Note:**

Each of the regional churches supports the Region 7 Food Pantry located on the church campus of Friedens UCC, Irvington, IL. The Region 7 Food Pantry (USDA certified) is one of the on-going success stories of the region. An all-volunteer oversight committee represented by all member churches meets regularly to provide direction for the Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted



Rev. Donald D. Jones
Region 7 Convener