

## Celebration Moments #11 The Ministers of Friedens

Today we recognize those who have answered the call to be pastors at Friedens. These pastors-- or shepherds--share their gifts with us in the most joyous, and the most trying times of our lives, offering their prayers, comfort, and guidance.

In 1911, Rev. Louis Kleeman, pastor at St. John Evangelical Church in Cumberland, was appointed as Synod Representative to guide the new Friedens Congregation. He was then called to be our first pastor. He labored faithfully to help the young congregation to become established.

Rev Carl Hildebrand served as pastor for six years, and was able to win new people to the membership of Friedens. After his resignation from Friedens, he started Garfield Park Evangelical Church.

Next came one of our longest pastorates--that of Rev. Robert C. Kuebler, from 1928 to 1946. His family became an integral part of the congregation, and he was able to help the steady progress of the church. He was the last pastor to lead services in the German language.

In August of 1947, Rev. Raymond Buck came to us from New Orleans. Rev. Buck led us to reach out to the neighborhood around our church. He had done similar outreach on the streets of New Orleans. His interest in Christian Education led him to serve as Sunday School Superintendent as well as Pastor.

Dr. Ralph Holland, who was the executive secretary of the Indiana Council of Churches, served as interim following resignations of Rev Kuebler and Rev. Buck. Dr. Holland had been a missionary to Japan, and brought his vision of mission to Friedens.

Marcus Engelmann, who also served as a missionary in Japan, began his ministry in 1954. He patiently shepherded our congregation through the major decision to move to our current location in 1964. Engelmann Hall is named in honor of his 17 years of faithful service.

Rev. Marvin Marheine was a firefighter before entering the ministry. He continued as chaplain of the Perry township volunteer fire department. He was an innovator. One of his projects was the Maundy Thursday Drama. He also began the Friedens Folk, senior citizens group.

Rev. Richard Fraser came to us from DeKalb Illinois. He enjoyed trying different approaches of sermon delivery. One Sunday during Advent, he disappeared behind the chancel screen, and emerged dressed as a shepherd to deliver his sermon. He was also known to chide the organist from the pulpit.

Rev. James Bell was passionate for social justice, including world hunger. Also, as court ordered busing began in Perry township schools in 1981, he encouraged us to help the transition go smoothly. He invited northern community pastors to meet at Friedens for breakfast and offer them our prayers and support during those first crucial days.

Rev. Donald Orander brought a wide range of concerns to the attention of the congregation.. While at Friedens, he earned his Doctorate studying ministry to the aging. He showed special concern for our ministry to our senior members.

Dr. Erling Peterson has served Friedens as Interim Minister, as part time Associate Minister, and as Minister of Visitation over a span of two decades. The Peterson Education Wing of our church is named in his honor.

Interim Pastor John Iliff began his ministry in Pennsylvania and served many congregations across the country. He served as interim here at Friedens from 1992 until 1993.

Pastor Marc Hayden came to us in 1993. As early as 1996, one member referred to his pastorate as our Golden Age. He brings many gifts to us. Most obvious is his phenomenal ability to remember everyone's name, even after meeting them only once. Pastor Marc is a superb preacher, and he displays genuine concern for all of his parishioners. He encourages us all to use our gifts to share the love of Christ beyond the church walls. Under his guidance, Friedens looks forward to a bright future.

After retirement from a successful pastorate at our mother church, Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. James Clark served as minister of visitation from 2004 till 2010 when he and Inis moved to Arizona.

As our first full-time associate pastor, Sarah Haas has greatly enriched the life of our congregation. She has been referred to as a human dynamo. Her energy and enthusiasm are highly contagious. Her dedication to our children and youth is evident everywhere.

We thank God for sending these ministers to us, and gratefully remember their service to Friedens Church.

