



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

November 2008

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We're getting closer to the Election Bake Sale

The Women of Plymouth will sponsor a bake sale on Election Day, November 4. We hope that everyone will do some extra baking since we expect a large crowd. Please bring your baked items to the church Monday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. so that we can price and wrap the items.



Annual Bazaar workers needed

The Annual Bazaar is fast approaching. We need lots of help to set up, work at the bazaar, serve the luncheon, clean up ... you know the drill. Please add your name to the sign-up sheets on the foyer table. Part of what makes the bazaar successful is a nice variety on the bakery table, so we hope many of you will contribute items for that too. Posters for the bazaar are available now. You can take a few and hang them at grocery stores, beauty shops, etc. to get the word out.

The newsletter is going green!

To be better stewards of our resources, and save on postage and also on paper, we wish to deliver the newsletter electronically to as many people as possible. We are posting our newsletter, including calendar, on the church web site. If you do not need a paper copy, please allow us to email it to you (it will come as a .pdf attachment). This will save money spent on postage, printing, and paper, and also save a lot of paper, keeping our planet greener. Please let Mimi know by December 31 if you wish to continue receiving paper copies of the newsletter or would like an electronic version.

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

November Worship Notes

10:30 a.m. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

November 2

*25th Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints' Sunday,
Community Table offering,
Congregational Meeting follows
worship (no pot luck)*

Revelation 7:9–17, Psalm 34:1–10, 22,
1 John 3:1–3, Matthew 5:1–12

November 9

*26th Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday,
George Stecher preaching
Gospellers Choir*

Scripture: Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25,
Psalm 78:1–7,
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18,
Matthew 25:1–13

November 16

27th Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1–7, Psalm 123,
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11,
Matthew 25:14–30

November 23

Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24, Psalm 100,
Ephesians 1:15–23,
Matthew 25:31–46

November 26

*7:00 P.M. Thanksgiving Eve worship at
First Congregational UCC*

November 30

First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1–9, Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19,
1 Corinthians 1:3–9,
Mark 13:24–37

In November, we are praying for these families:

Sam & Jean Dean
Mike & Lori Detjens
Lilah Eastzman
Tami (Chris) Eisberner
Jerry (Mary) Foote
Terri (Joe) Gilbert
Dorothy Gilbertson
Paul (Gay) Gilbertson

Cross illumination for November
is provided in memory of
Gretchen Hotchkiss
by her family.

Memorial Gifts

● Gifts to the **Memorial Fund:** *For a
new bird bath in memory of Greg
Kamrowski:* Donald & Patricia
Kamrowski

Be a sponsor!

Sponsor an issue of the newsletter or a
weekly bulletin in memory or in honor
of someone or in honor of a special
event, or even just because! All sponsors
will be recognized in the issue.
Sponsorship for the bulletin is \$15 and
for the newsletter, it's \$50.

Food for Thought

Coming up Sunday, November 9, we are hosting the Wisconsin Conference Gospel Choir, *The Gospellers*. They will sing during our worship service at 10:30 and then will join us for our pot luck.

There are about 35 members in this choir, so when you bring your goodies, bring a little extra. The Worship Commission is going to provide hot beefs for the meal, so bring things to compliment that.

The first Sunday of each month a special offering is usually taken for St. Francis Food Pantry. This month the offering will offset our expenses when we serve the Community Table on November 29. If you would like to volunteer to work, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the foyer or contact the church office and Mimi will put you on the list. We are also looking for cookies to serve for dessert that day. Contact Joanne Miller if you are interested in making a batch.

St. Francis food Pantry can still use money and basic food items; grocery bags (plastic and paper); motel-size soaps, lotions, shampoos and body wash; jars and lids (pint or quart size—washed and cleaned of course).

Don't forget your tickets!

Church Basement Ladies, the hilarious musical comedy at the State Theatre will be enjoyed by 21 Plymouth and Truax members on Saturday afternoon, November 8. We will meet at 11:30 A.M. at Plymouth for a light lunch; then, if desired, we will carpool to the theater. We should be back at church by 4:30 P.M. ***DON'T FORGET YOUR TICKETS!!***

November Birthdays

2	Phil Martell
4	Julie Johnson
5	Christena Strandt
6	Dan Hestekin Arvilla Kruschke
7	Jacob Leipnitz
8	Julie Leipnitz
10	Kevin Champion
12	Lesa Green
15	Bea Hancock Caroline Wille
20	Tyjha Stygar
21	Ruth Kavanagh
25	Samuel Cooke
26	Jean Peissig Kevin Phillips
30	Jacqueline Andersen

From Pastor David ...

As the leaves change color and fall off the trees, I am reminded of our Vacation Bible School and the tree, named Herb Green, that the children planted. At that planting, the children and I prayed the following blessing:

God of tree and flower

God of robin, deer, and fish

God of stone and water

We, the children and adults of this

Vacation Bible School dedicate this tree to you and to this church.

May it provide oxygen for us to breathe, shade to cool us off, branches for birds to build nests and raise their families, and leaves that fall to the ground to feed the worms and grass.

May this tree inspire us when we look upon it to remember to be kind to your earth to your people and to ourselves.

Let its presence be a symbol of your eternal presence with us always creating new things and always loving us. Amen.



PASTOR'S PEN



Dear Friends and
Family of Plymouth UCC,

The book of Proverbs is filled with good wisdom. One verse which speaks particularly to the Christian belief in generosity is 11:24: "The world of the generous gets larger and larger" (translation from *The Message*). This is true in my life. The more I give, the more I don't miss it and the more I find I am able to give away, learning I can live with less. "The world of the generous gets larger and larger" is our stewardship theme this year.

God is an abundantly generous God, and calls us to share in that generosity. We might feel at times the siren call of focusing on scarcity, especially in this time of economic unsurety, but God does invite us to give. To give for the glory of God's kingdom, to share in Christ's mission of spreading the Gospel message of God's abundant love and grace, and to give in thanksgiving to God. Jesus entrusts us with the holy vocation of bringing relief to the poor and downtrodden, to be a voice for the voiceless, and to bring freedom to the oppressed. Jesus entrusts us also with the sacred calling of Sunday School classes, adult education, table fellowship, and worship of our creator God. These missions and ministries are possible only through our generosity. The larger our generosity, the greater our impact on the world.

We begin our stewardship time on November 23 with guest preacher, Rev. Joanne Thompson, Associate

Conference Minister for Mission, Stewardship, and Renewal. We will complete it on December 7 when we will put our 2009 pledges in a gift box for Jesus by the Christmas tree, and celebrate with a Thanksgiving Meal after worship.

During each of the three weeks of "The world of the generous gets larger and larger," all church members will receive daily devotions for use in your homes. You will also receive a narrative budget of the many ministries of your congregation.

Look for your first mailing of introduction and daily devotions the week of November 9, and please set aside December 7 so you can be present in worship and at our delicious celebration Thanksgiving Meal afterward.

Blessings,

PASTOR
JAN

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

October 13, 2008

Members present: Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Kay Stecher, Barb Kleist, Louise Partlow, Mel Rude, Nancy Wendt, Gene Peissig, Char Kozlowski, Jerry Foote and Pastor David. Larry called the meeting to order. Gene opened the meeting with a prayer.

The September Council minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of September 30, 2008

Year to Date Income	\$84,037.50
Year to Date Expenses	\$84,909.77
Ahead (Behind)	(\$872.27)
Building Fund Balance	\$30,086.48
Memorial Fund Balance	\$4,264.80

Financial Secretary Report/ Treasurer:

Income this month was \$9257.53; expenses were \$7386.04 leaving us with a September gain of \$1874.49 and a check book balance of \$-156.88. Major expenses this coming month will be a pension payment, health insurance payment and lawn mowing expenses for the summer. We are now in debt to the Memorial Fund for \$4500.00. The Stewardship Commission brought to the Council the resolution that the 50/50 distribution of PIP interest money should be changed to be used at the PIP Committee's discretion, since OCWM is a budget item now. Council felt we should bring this to a congregation vote. Mel moved that we present to the congregation the proposal to change the PIP guidelines to eliminate the 50/50 split on interest distribution to be used at the PIP Committee's discretion. Char seconded, motion passed. A congregational meeting will be set.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$4264.80. There was a withdrawal of \$2000.00 for the General Fund and deposits of \$7.33. Rob will also use \$80 in undesignated money, \$174 in General Fund money and \$40 in Building Fund money to help offset the money taken out for the General Fund.

Building Fund Report:

The balance as of September 30 is \$30,086.48

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

Kay reported that the Blessing of the Backpacks and Animals in September was very successful. They are continuing to write their own curriculum for the year. Upcoming events are the Children's Sabbath on Oct 19 and a Halloween party on Oct 29. The kids will be working on craft items to sell at the bazaar in November.

Stewardship Commission:

Stewardship is going to do the first nut order and needs the commitment from those who place large orders. The stewardship campaign will include three mailings and Pastor David will talk about a narrative budget on Sunday mornings. Dedication Sunday will be December 7. They also talked about the PIP interest money; see the Treasurer's Report area for the motion.

Worship Commission:

Dec 6 will be the decorating day for Advent and Christmas. It was also brought up that we should think about dimming the lights during the service and also that the fans blowing during the worship service should be shut off. Pastor David will look into the dimming



*Minutes continued
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*Council Minutes
continued ...*

of the lights and will reprogram the heating/air units so that the fans, etc. are not blowing at all during worship time.

Service Commission:

Bill McLeod is now at Oakwood Villa.

Building and Grounds:

We are having an informal energy audit done. The estimate from Eau Claire Insulation came in at \$4500-\$5000. Stewardship would like council to go ahead with scheduling a congregational meeting to get approval to go ahead with the repairs. Kay moved to schedule a congregational meeting on November 2 to get permission to reinsulate the church, using funds from the building fund and to discuss the PIP guideline changes. Jim seconded the motion, motion approved. Larry will send the notice out to the congregation. We need to find a new person for snow removal. The company we have used is going out of business. All suggestions of people to use for this should be given to Ron Wendt.

Women of Plymouth:

They will be attending the play “The Church Basement Ladies” on Saturday November 8. November 4 is the election bake sale and they need lots of bake sale items. November 15 is the bazaar and they need everyone’s help. There have been more electrical problems in the kitchen. Mel will look into it.

Pastor’s Report

Pastor David made 30 visits in September. He has been updating the church website each week. Check it out at peucc.com. Thanksgiving Eve service will be at First Congregational this year. Pastor David will be preaching. Rev. House is back from her sabbatical in October.

New Business:

- Jerry Foote presented the Association’s Listening Session idea. We would need to have a committee that would set up time to visit every member of the congregation and listen to them. The committee would have training so that they would know what questions to ask and how to react to them. The committee would have about five–six people on it. Everything that was said would be kept confidential. The sessions would take about a year to complete. The Council will consider this over the next several months.
- Nancy is beginning to work on the slate of officers for next year.
- Joyce has resigned as historian. We need to find a couple people to work on this, maybe one to get the old stuff organized and one to take over the current stuff.

Gene closed with devotions. Meeting adjourned 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Barb Kleist

Sanctuary temperature

After a long process of tuning our sanctuary temperature and environment, we found a solution a few weeks ago. The sanctuary will be heated (or air conditioned) until 10:30 A.M., at which time the furnace and fans will turn off. This is a warmer temperature than we had earlier, and will also eliminate the breeze. The sanctuary has been much more comfortable since we tried this solution, but do please let us know if it is now too hot, or if you still find it too cold.