



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 2009

Published monthly by
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Wednesday, February 25

Annual

Serving begins
at 5:30 P.M.

Menu includes baked
potato with all the
trimmings.

Proceeds from the free-will
offering will be given to
OCWM. Sign up at the back
table or call the church office.



Plan to stay for

Ash Wednesday Worship

at 7:00 P.M.

Do you have access to the internet?

If so, please consider receiving this newsletter via email. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. Contact Mimi at mimi@pcucc.com to be put on the electronic mailing list, *otherwise, you will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.*

Getting ready for church

10:30 a.m. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

February 1

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany,
St. Francis Food Pantry offering*
Deuteronomy 18:15–20, Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8:1–13, Mark 1:21–28

February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21–31, Psalm 147:1–11, 20c,
1 Corinthians 9:16–23, Mark 1:29–39

February 15

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1–14, Psalm 30,
1 Corinthians 9:24–27, Mark 1:40–45

February 22

Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1–12, Psalm 50:1–6,
2 Corinthians 4:3–6, Mark 9:2–9

February Worship Notes

In February, we are praying for these families:

Stacy Kleist
Susie Kleist
Bill Knight
Todd & Cindy Konsella
Charline Kozlowski
Dorothy Kruschke
Tom & Arvilla Kruschke

Seven Deadly Sins in Lent

The Wednesday night soup and worship gatherings during Lent will focus on the Seven Deadly Sins. Each night we will explore one of the deadly sins through discussion led by members of the congregation. Envy will be led by Cyndi Bradbury, Greed by Gene Peissig, Pride by Aurora Bradbury-Schoening, Wrath by George Stecher, and Gluttony by Pastor David. Since we have just five nights, we are leaving out lust and sloth. These will start March 4, the week after Ash Wednesday, beginning the night with a supper of soup and bread and then discussion. A detailed schedule will go out in the March newsletter.

Food for Thought

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, and jars with lids (pint or quart size—washed and cleaned of course). We will continue to take our special offering for them on the first Sunday of the month.

February 1 we resume our monthly pot lucks. This month's theme is "Your Favorite Recipe." Bring your favorite food to share, and bring along the recipe so others will be able to make it, too. Mark Ruddy from Treatment Instead of Prison will be available during the pot luck if you would like any information on this organization.

The theme for the pot luck on March 1 will be "Your Mother's Favorite Recipe," so start researching that one! Kay Stecher will present her "Walking through History" program.

February Birthdays

- 3 Jerry Tubbs
- 5 Jean Phillips
- 12 Dick Gosbin
- 16 Kristina Champion
Charline Kozlowski
- 18 Joshua Champion
Travis Eisberner
- 19 Jeff Green
Gloria Polden
- 28 Richard Leuck
Kenny Polden

Memorials

! Gifts to the **Memorial Fund**:
In memory of Bill McLeod: Marian Spoolhoff, Rick & Amy Swenson, Charter Bank, Jerry & Joanne Lowry, Kevin & Jean Phillips, Floyd & Pat Sexter, Jerry Tubbs, Steve & Nancy Champion, Rev. David Huber, Kirk & Jacqueline Day, Kathryn Freitag, Patricia Hawkins, Neil & Amy Jarosz, Eric & Margaret Jentlie, Franklin & Eunice Johnston, Donald & Jean Parkhurst, John Stromwall, Richard Veleke, David & Barbara Cizek, Ann Bresina, Roger Bischoff, Roger & Karen Bell, David & Gail Barnes, Betty Anderson-Moore, Roger & Jocelyn Anderson, John & Jane Snyder, Vera Merrick, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Sam & Alice Retallick, Kim & Gayle Halverson

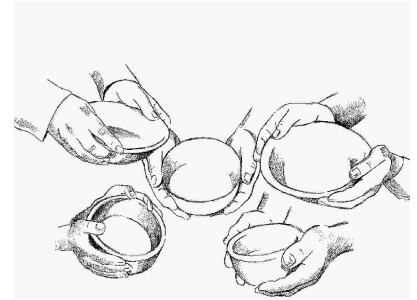
Treatment Instead of Prison

On Sunday, February 1, Mark Ruddy will be here after worship to talk about this somewhat new program in Wisconsin that seeks to provide treatment instead of imprisonment for treatable, non-violent criminals. Treatment Instead of Prison is a path that is much cheaper than imprisonment, and has long-term benefits in creating productive citizens and transforming lives. Mark will have a table of information and be available to speak with anyone who is interested, after worship and during the pot luck.

Empty Bowls Benefit

for
**Feed My People
 Food Bank**

Thursday, March 12
 11:00 A.M.–7:00 P.M.
 at
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 1314 E Lexington Blvd.



Meal includes choice of four soups, delicious breads, beverage and choice of dessert. The price for the meal and a hand-made pottery bowl is \$18; the meal alone is \$8. Children 10 and under may eat for free. Tickets are available from Barb Kleist. Please make checks payable to Feed My People.

Be a sponsor!

Sponsor an issue of the newsletter, a weekly bulletin, or the illumination of the cross on the front of our building in memory or in honor of someone or in honor of a special event, or even just because! Bulletin and newsletter sponsors will be recognized in the issue they sponsor. Cross sponsors will be listed in all publications for the month of sponsorship. Support a bulletin for \$15, a newsletter for \$50, or illuminate the cross for \$50. Sign-up sheets are on the table outside the sanctuary.

Congratulations to Joe Gilbertson!

Joe auditioned for and was accepted into the Master Singers choir. Well done! You can see and hear Joe sing at the Spring Concert at First Congregational UCC on Sunday, April 5 at 2:00 P.M.
www.TheMasterSingers.net

Pastor's Pen



Coming into February leads me to think of Valentine's Day, which leads me to think of love. And that reminds me of a quote from Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, who some called "the world's most famous man" for his preaching and abolitionist activism before, during, and after the Civil War. Henry's father, Rev. Lyman Beecher, was what we might call a Very Severe Christian: the family prayed often, sang hymns, learned their scripture, and had no time for frivolity, dance, theater, or anything but the most elevated literature. They did not celebrate Christmas or birthdays. And as you might imagine, attendance was required at all worship and prayer meetings, of which

Lyman held many. Henry grew up immersed in the church, but it was one which he described later as more fearful obligation than joyful gift. The quote I am reminded of this month comes from Henry's later years, and offers a compelling commentary on his life as a man who was always in the church. I leave it for your consideration and thought: "I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love."

May you be blessed in your pondering, and in these wintry days of February!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PASTOR DAVID". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

February Film Festival!

It's cold. Football's over. But it's also Oscar Month!!! Once again the Christian Education folks are having a "February Film Festival!" to help chase away the winter blahs! The rules are simple: choose a movie, make a donation, enjoy the movie for a week, bring it back, choose another movie... well, you get the "picture." We suggest \$3.00 per movie, but all donations are gladly accepted. And all the proceeds go to help our campers at Moon Beach. How great is that? You get to curl up with a good movie and our kids get to go to camp!

This year's movie selection will be everything from kids and family movies, classic dramas, comedies, and musicals, to contemporary films and documentaries. Many of these films were nominated for, or won, Oscars.

So lets enjoy our own "February Film Festival!" at Plymouth! Roll 'em!!!

Plymouth Youth on the Web

At the Jesus Core retreat in January, the participants recorded a music video with musician Andra Moran. Our own Kayla Stygar is featured front and center! You can see the video on our church Facebook page, linkable from our website, pcucc.com. We also recorded another song (without video) which you can hear by link from our website.

Construction Underway!

At Pilgrim Center in early January, construction began on the new Ley Chapel, scheduled for completion by the end of May. The chapel will be an air conditioned and heated (through geo-thermal heat) worship space with a magnificent wall-of-glass view of Green Lake. Funds for the chapel came mostly from a special fund-raising campaign, some private donation, and from our OCWM giving. Pastor David is part of the Pilgrim Center Site Committee, which designed the chapel.

Executive Council Minutes January 12, 2009

Members present: Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Char Kozlowski, Nancy Wendt, Kay Stecher and Pastor David

Larry called the meeting to order. Pastor David opened with a prayer.

The December Council minutes were reviewed. Rob noted that the date of the minutes was incorrect; it read November and should have been December. Nancy also noted that the company doing our repair work was Eau Claire Insulation, not Installation. Kay moved we accept the minutes as amended, Nancy seconded, approved.

Financial Reports:

As of December 31, 2008

Year to Date Income	\$121,275.36
Year to Date Expenses	\$120,831.90
Ahead (Behind)	\$443.46
Building Fund Balance	\$32,032.53
Memorial Fund Balance	\$3,761.08

Financial Secretary Report/ Treasurer:

Income this month was \$14,178.82, expenses were \$13506.42 leaving us with a December gain of \$672.40 and a check book balance of \$1158.95. A snow removal bill of \$625 was paid.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$3761.08. Barb made a motion to bring the undesignated funds to a balance of \$5371 and then zero out the remaining balance in the miscellaneous account and the mission accounts to offset the borrowed funds account. Kay seconded, motion approved. Rob will have Mimi redo the report so that we can keep better track of the gifts given to the Memorial Fund.

Building Fund Report:

At the end of December the balance is \$32032.53.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

Christmas Pageant was a great success. Kay expressed many thanks to Deb Zehms and the kids for all their hard work. They sent three confirmands to the Jesus Core Retreat at Pilgrim Center, January 10. Pastor David and Nancy went along to chaperone. They sent Christmas cards with their picture on them to the shut-ins. They also made bird/critter feeders to put on the Christmas tree outside.

Stewardship Commission:

Stewardship went over the 2009 budget. The pledge drive so far is \$51,000 compared to last year's \$60,000. The second request for pledges just went out, so there should be more pledges coming in. On Ash Wednesday, February 25, there will be a Potato Supper again.

Worship Commission:

The Christmas Eve Service had good attendance. We took down the Christmas decorations on January 10. Only four people showed up to help. We have to make sure we advertise this better next year. We will be organizing Lent and Easter next.

Service Commission:

No report.

Building and Grounds:

Eau Claire Insulation has finished all the repair work. The bill will come in at about \$4700. The sump pump went out and had to be replaced. We have a bill of \$478.44 from Wiersgalla to pay. We



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will bring that to the congregation and ask for permission to pay out of the Building Fund. The snow plower has been doing a great job.

Women of Plymouth:

They have purchased a new can opener for the kitchen and are now looking for silverware baskets for the dishwasher. They are changing the monthly meetings to the first Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. They will have a Cabin Fever Breakout on a Saturday in February. They have also purchased a memorial book for Mimi to record gifts in. The \$1000 scholarship for Cyndi will be sent to the school.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 27 visits in December. He purchased two more microphones and two mic stands from the Memorial Fund. The ecumenical worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Monday, January 19 at 7:00 P.M. at Lake Street Methodist Church. Pastor David will be preaching. Ash Wednesday is February 25. On Feb 1, Mark Ruddy from Treatment Instead of Prison will be here during the pot luck to talk to people who might be interested in that organization.

Nominating Committee Report:

Nancy presented the slate of officers which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. We still have a vacancy for Moderator Elect.

Mission Committee:

The pot luck on February 1 will be a "Favorite Dish Potluck." Mark Ruddy from Treatment Instead of Prison will be there for anyone who is interested. Kay's "Walking through History" presentation will be at the March 1 pot luck.

Listening Sessions:

Kathryn Hamilton is interested in the Listening Sessions; we need to get one more person to attend the training sessions with her.

Personnel Committee:

They met with the three employees and discussed any problems or successes.

New Business:

- The 2009 budget was presented and passed on to the Congregational Meeting for final approval.
- The Annual Meeting will be January 25. Council will provide bars and refreshments.
- There was a question on whether we stopped mailing the newsletter out, now that we are emailing. The printed version of the newsletter is still sent out to those who did not request email copies. They are sent out at the same time the email is sent. If someone is not getting the newsletter and should be, Mimi needs to know so she can correct the problem. If she doesn't know there is a problem, she can not correct it.

Larry thanked everyone on the Council and Commissions for their service this year. Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Kleist

Cabin Fever Break Out!
For EVERYONE
Saturday, February 21
12:00 noon

Families with kids *and* couples are invited to come for lunch and an afternoon of games.

Sponsored by Women of Plymouth.

*Council Minutes
continued ...*



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