

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2009

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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Cross illumination for May is provided by John Smith in memory of Dorie Smith.

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Annual Thrift Sale



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BAKE SALE

May 1 8:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M.

May 2 8:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

Sale is indoors ... so come rain or shine!

On Saturday (only) you can even relax and have coffee and a “nosh” in the

Plymouth Café

If you have access to the Internet, please consider receiving this newsletter online. 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

May Sunday Worship Notes

May 3
Fourth Sunday of Easter,
St. Francis Food Pantry offering
Acts 4:5–12, Psalm 23,
1 John 3:16–24, John 10:11–18

May 10
Fifth Sunday of Easter,
Mother's Day
Acts 8:26–40, Psalm 22:25–31,
1 John 4:7–21, John 15:1–8

May 17
Sixth Sunday of Easter,
Confirmation
Acts 10:44–48, Psalm 98,
1 John 5:1–6, John 15:9–17

May 24
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15–17, 21–26, Psalm 1,
1 John 5:9–13, John 17:6–19

May 31
Pentecost Sunday
Strengthen the Church Offering
Acts 2:1–21, Psalm 104:24–34, 35b,
Romans 8:22–27, John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

In May, we are praying for these individuals/families: Eileen Polden, Kenny (Annette) Polden, Gloria Polden, Dorothy Preston, Jane Retallick, Jim & Linda Ross, Mel & Bobbie Rude, Doug & Nancy Salter

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. We will continue to take our special offering for them on the first Sunday of the month. **April's total for the matching funds was \$662.37.** Good job Plymouth!!!

May 3 our monthly pot luck theme is "Mexican Favorites."

We have set a date for serving at the Community Table. It is Saturday, August 29, not July 25 as reported in the last newsletter. That date had already been taken. So mark your calendars for August 29. More information and a sign up sheet will be coming soon.

Calling all past confirmands of Plymouth and Second Congregational!

Sunday, May 17, is Confirmation Sunday. Our confirmands will confirm their baptismal vows and become members of the church. Along with that celebration, this year we wish to include all who have confirmed their baptismal vows at Plymouth or Second Congregational, or who were baptized as adults here (and thus didn't need confirmation). We'll have a special litany and recognition for all you who have gone through the confirmation process here (and some special recognition for those who said their confirmation elsewhere). Please do make a special effort to be with us on May 17, and celebrate with our youth and our church!

Pharmaceutical waste collection

The first waste pharmaceutical collection is set for May 16 from 9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. at the County Expo Center and the Augusta Elementary School. This is a chance for people to dispose of unused medicines, whether prescriptions or over-the-counter products and avoid groundwater contamination caused when medicines are flushed or put in the trash. There is no cost to those dropping medicines off.

Memorials

! Gifts to the **Memorial Fund** (**designated**): *In memory of Bill McLeod*: Anna McLeod

Barb Kleist in memory of Wilma Kleist and in honor of Stacy and Susie Kleist; **Stacy & Susie Kleist** in honor of Larry & Barb Kleist; **Dorothy Kruschke** in memory of Bill Adams; **Faye La Pean** in memory of her son Bill; **Louise Partlow** in memory of Leol Partlow; **Maria Patton** in memory of Ronald Patton; **Erma Phephles** in memory of her husband Clarence; **Dorothy Preston** in memory of Frank, Gayle and Thomas Preston; **John Smith** in memory of Dorie Smith; The **Stecher Family** in memory of Les Gilbertson and Chuck Stecher and in honor of Dorothy Gilbertson and Vera Stecher; **Christena Strandt** in memory of Carl and Robert Strandt; **Jim & Mary Lou Welk** in honor of their families; The **Zehms Family** in memory of Carl Zehms.

* * *

Thank you!

The 3rd Annual Magnificent Muffin Morning was a success! Many thanks to those who baked muffins, worked in the kitchen, or donated juice, milk, and decorations: Adam Wendt, Sam Zehms, and Hannah Zehms (our campers), Faye LaPean, Louise Partlow, Tami Eisberner, Linda Jaenke, Nancy Wendt, Dorothy Kruschke, Pastor David, Dorothy Gilbertson, Deb Zehms, Jean Phillips, Kay Stecher, and Mary Lou Welk. And a big thank you to everyone who came to enjoy a breakfast fellowship and donate money to our campers! We raised \$250.00! We are still a little short of our goal though. Kay Stecher will continue to accept donations for the next few weeks so it's not too late to help out! Again, many thanks to all!

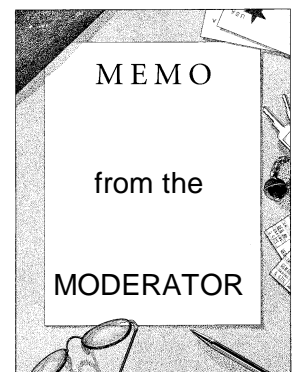
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The beautiful spring flowers adorning the sanctuary Easter morning were given by the following people: The **Eisberner Family** in memory of Vera Abramovich; Dorothy Gilbertson; **Carter Jaenke** in memory of Great Grandma Pearl Clouse; **Larry &**

Our Lord has risen! What a beautiful feeling to rejoice in his resurrection! The Easter season was filled with fabulous services led by Pastor David, members of our congregation, and the youth. Thank you to all for making the Easter season a memorable and moving experience.

Welcome to our newest members of Plymouth: Devan Hodshire, Sam Wedge, and Faye LaPean! We are so glad to have you join the Plymouth family. It is exhilarating to continue seeing new people and people returning to join us on Sunday mornings. Please extend the hand of peace and friendship to those worshipping with us whether it is for the day or on a continual basis.

May is going to be an exciting month at Plymouth! The month begins with the fantastic thrift sale. Please spread the word to neighbors and friends to come join us on that day. There will even be a new feature, "The Plymouth Café." Come see Pastor David and Nancy at the café! Also, later in the month our church will be confirming four of our youth: Megan Eisberner, Nathan Stygar, Sam Zehms, and Adam Wendt. Congratulations to them on their hard work and efforts! Also, thank you



Continued on page 4 ...

Good News

*Memo from the
Moderator continued ...*

to the many adults who have guided these youth members over the years. On May 17, Confirmation Sunday, our church is inviting all individuals who have been confirmed at Plymouth to attend service and renew their vows as a show of support for the new confirmands and our congregation as a whole. Let's strive to have every chair filled in our sanctuary with members of the Plymouth family, relatives, and guests. Join everyone in the fellowship hall for cake and coffee afterwards!

Ending May will be a church clean-up outside! Come join us on Saturday, May 30 to spruce up the outside of our church: rake, weed, plant, etc. Also, our covered entryway outside to the front entrance is in need of painting. On our clean-up day, hopefully we could get this entryway

painted. If any member of the congregation is willing to donate the money to purchase the paint, please let Pastor David or me know.

Looking ahead for the summer, Plymouth and Truax UCC Churches have planned another joint worship service and potluck. This year we will be hosting the Truax people. So, mark your calendars for Sunday, July 12!

Plymouth is truly blessed to have so many dedicated individuals. We might be a small church, but as the saying goes, "Dynamite comes in small packages." If we all continue to work together, we can make things happen. Plymouth rocks!

Happy Spring!!! Nancy Wendt



Pastor's Pen

One of the four strands in the United Church of Christ's history came together after the American Revolution and called itself the Christian Church. A seemingly haughty name, but they chose it because it was undivisive, unsectarian, and expressive. Like the Congregationalists (with whom they merged in the 1930s), they insisted that Christian Character (how one acts) should be the test of fellowship, rather than doctrine or creeds (what one says). Active out in the wild frontier (which was then still east of the Mississippi), the Christian grass-roots movement was a reaction against traditional religion and the current habit of sermons of forty-five to ninety minutes long, with lots of pacing, Bible waving, and foot stomping that seemed more about cramming as forcefully as possible the Word of God into the people, than it was about bringing the people to the Word. They strove to make "church" more fun and attractive to the unchurched. They had a good sense of humor, welcomed everyone, and met people where they were. In this season of Easter joy, I offer a few humorous quotes from their leaders and preachers. These come from an article from the UCC News by Rev. Barbara Brown Zikmund, editor of the multi-volume "The UCC's

Living Theological Heritage." I think you will enjoy these (and agree with) as much as I do.

"The minister who intends to drag out his days in long preaching, would better go to fighting steam, electricity, and civilization"

"Long hymns, long prayers, long sermons, long sighs, long faces, are not the natural accompaniment of piety"

"Long dry sermons! It makes one sigh to think about them, but the thought is paradise compared with the hearing. Long sermons, brethren nodding, sisters dozing, boys snoring, babies crying, Satan laughing—magnificent specimen of Christian worship!... Sermons must interest, and not disgust; rest the hearer, not weary him. The benediction should be pronounced upon smiling hearers, and not upon frowning ones."

And so I offer you a very short sermon: He is risen!

Easter blessings to you all!

*PASTOR
David*

Executive Council Minutes

April 13, 2009

Members present: Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Nancy Wendt, Louise Partlow, Kay Stecher, Cyndi Bradbury, Aurora Bradbury-Schoening, Char Kozlowski and Pastor David

Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with devotions. The March Council minutes and special Council meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of March 31, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$26,188.17
Year to Date Expenses	\$27,240.09
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,051.92)
Building Fund Balance	\$26,353.92
Memorial Fund Balance	\$6,008.97

Financial Secretary Report/ Treasurer:

Income this month was \$9901.33 expenses were \$7955.04 leaving us with a March gain of \$1946.29 and a check book balance of 107.03. Rob transferred \$2000, the first week in March, from the reserve fund. He has paid in March the money collected for St Francis Food Pantry so far this year, \$901.15. Rob has compared the envelope giving, year to date and we are down about \$3300 in envelope giving. He reported that after taking the \$2000 out of the reserve fund it has a balance of \$4986. Expenses for April will once again be the quarterly payments of pension, health insurance and also any money we collected for St Francis, so that it can be matched.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$6008.97. We had a \$1000 deposit for the McLeod Memorial and \$600 deposit for the General Fund.

Building Fund Report:

At the end of March the balance was \$26,353.92

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

The Magnificent Muffins breakfast raised so far \$250.00. The Christian Education Commission is presenting for confirmation: Megan Eisberner, Adam Wendt, Sam Zehms, and Nathan Stygar. Kay moved that these four young people be confirmed and accepted into the membership of the congregation. Cyndi seconded, motion approved.

Confirmation will be May 17. There will also be a "reunion" of people who have been confirmed at Plymouth. There will be a short reception following worship.

Stewardship Commission:

May 1 and 2 will be the annual Thrift Sale. Members may bring their marked goods any time and make sure they bring lots of stuff. One of the goals of the Stewardship Commission will be to revamp the Memorial Fund report, so that it is easier to figure out where all the money goes. Jerry Tubbs has requested the memorial money for Lenore be put toward banners and the Bill McLeod money is to go toward a case for artifacts.

Worship Commission:

They worked on Easter and Lenten services.

Service Commission:

They have been doing lots of visiting for Easter.

Building and Grounds:

Balts Construction has fixed the ceiling leading into the sanctuary and also put in more insulation. They also saw a couple of areas around the door entryway that could be repaired with a bid of \$200. Ron felt that it was something we could handle and the Council concurred. There will be an outside work day May 30.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Women of Plymouth:

The election bake sale was a success. They made around \$200. They will be having a bake sale and coffee shop for the Thrift Sale. They would like to organize a day trip and if anyone has suggestions should let them know what they are.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 30 visits in March. Three new members were brought in on April 5: Faye LaPean, Sam Wedge, and Devan Hodshire. There are four more interested. Easter and Lent went well, although attendance was down at the Maundy Thursday Service and the late Easter Service. He has created a visitor pack which can be handed out by the ushers. Pastor David would like to take vacation July 27 through August 17; he will be going to Japan. Our joint worship with Truax will be July 12 at Plymouth, with pot luck to follow.

Mission Committee:

We have signed up to serve the Community Table on August 29, not July 25 as reported in the newsletter. We think we will be doing a cook out. We attended the toy sale that Truax had and picked up small toys for our Christmas project for St Francis. We will be making stockings for the children and filling them. The pot luck for May will have a Mexican theme.

Quilters:

A quilt has been put up on display in Fellowship Hall. They also have one almost ready for us to sell on e-bay.

NWA Meeting:

The Association meeting will be Sunday, April 26. Nancy will be going with Pastor David.

WI Conference Meeting:

The annual meeting is June 12-14 in Green Lake and we need one more representative.

New Members:

An informational meeting was held Sunday, March 22 and Sunday March 29 after church. The Council met after the March 29 meeting to accept seven potential members into the Congregation.

Three people were brought into membership on April 5: Faye LaPean, Sam Wedge, and Devan Hodshire.

Moderator-elect:

At this time we still have no one for this position. It needs to be filled soon.

New Business:

Nancy reminded all of us to remind others to use the appropriate committees and commissions set forth by our congregation and the Executive Council. There have been several instances lately where that hasn't happened.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Barb Kleist

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.

May Birthdays

- 1 Tami Eisberner
- Todd Konsella
- Jerry Lowry
- 6 Tyrone Stygar
- Jeanne Zehms
- 7 Eileen Polden
- 8 Rita Gosbin
- John Stecher
- 11 Briqué Beaström
- Ann Leipnitz
- Tony Shepler
- 15 Azariah Ivkovich
- 16 Lilah Eastzman
- Paul Gilbertson
- Ericka Leipnitz
- 30 Linda Jaenke