

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

August 2009

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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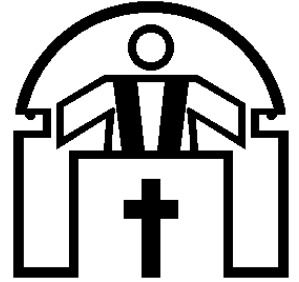
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*Cross illumination for
August is provided by
Donald & Leatrice Mathison
in memory of Robert
McCarthy.*



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NW Association Pastor feels fulfillment as Military Chaplain



Serving as a US Army Reserve Chaplain is by far one of the more challenging journeys that I have ever embarked upon. Chaplains serve as a commissioned officer in the US military, a spiritual advisor for their Command, a subject matter expert in the area of religion and spirituality, and as a pastor to soldiers within their unit.

While the challenges may seem like many, it is more than worth it to serve our nation's service members. The most difficult part of the deployment has been the separation between my loved ones and me. However, I am discovering creative ways to nurture these relationships to foster growth and thrive through our deployment.

My days are often spent teaching classes (in resiliency and relationship maintenance) and offering pastoral counseling to service members struggling with combat, work, or home front related issues. Soldiers entering our Clinics receive care from well-trained professionals that teach appropriate life and coping skills. And we have therapists who assist them in finding meaningful and purposeful activities to address inward chaos they experience due to being in a combat environment. As a chaplain I challenge soldiers to remain resilient and strengthen their relationships during their time in theater. In Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC) the mental health and chaplain communities are working together to offer a holistic model of care. By merging psychology and spirituality within the military environment we are targeting all components of our service members' being: the physical, mental, and soul.

As we move towards closure in one area of this war, it is even more important that our nation and communities of faith continue with their support of our service members. These men and women who have answered the call to serve in defense of our nation's freedoms and interests need this support and care. I would like to personally thank the NW Association (and the churches within its jurisdiction) for the support and care offered to my unit and the soldiers we support here in Iraq. Thank you for helping us to offer some sense of normalcy in a demanding and chaotic environment. I pray that the Creator of the universe will bless our church and other faith communities as we minister to a generation of warriors who are transformed and broken by their time in combat. Pro Deo et Patria (for God and Country)

Grace and Peace, Deris Rice

*Deris Rice is deployed with the 55th Medical Company Combat Stress Control out of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Getting ready for church

August Sunday Worship Notes

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

August 2

*9th Sunday after Pentecost,
St. Francis Food Pantry offering*
Dick Waltmire preaches

August 9

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Cyndi Bradbury preaches on “The Good Shepherd”

August 16

11th Sunday after Pentecost
George Stecher preaches on “Light of the World”

August 23

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor David preaches on “Morning Star”

August 30

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor David preaches on “Cornerstone”

In August, we are praying for these individuals/families: Sam Wedge & Devan Hodshire, Len Weisfeld, Jim & Mary Lou Welk, Larry Wendt (Lorraine Hagen), Ron & Nancy Wendt, Wayne & Elizabeth Wille, Sarah (Matthew) Wolfe, Jeanne Zehms, Keith & Deb Zehms

Food for Thought

We have set the date of Saturday, August 29 for serving at the Community Table, so mark your calendars. We need volunteers to help us make and serve the food. We will start cooking at about 8:45 A.M. There is a sign-up sheet on the table next to the sanctuary. We will also take a special offering on Sunday, August 16 and Sunday, August 23 to cover our costs.

Believe it or not!!! We are thinking about Christmas already. We are once again going to do Christmas bags for some of the children at St Francis. Since we are coming into the back-to-school time at the stores, we thought it would be a good time to get a list out of

what we would like to put in the bags. Here is our wish list: washable markers, little notepads, puzzle books, water paints, stickers, little stampers, Play Doh. We will have a box set out in fellowship hall to collect all the goodies.

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.

Our monthly pot luck will be August 2, following worship service. The theme this month is “Your Favorite Summer Dish.”

August Birthdays

6	Carter Hulke
8	Steven Green Burt Shepler
9	Jim Nelson
16	Sam Zehms
18	Pamala Leuck
24	Mary Stygar
25	Sue Thompson
26	Dillon Herrick
27	Marissa Walczak
29	Sharon Miller
31	Matt Gilbertson

* * *

Happy Hours Club will meet
Thursday, August 13.

Memorials

The Stewardship Commission has determined the following items/projects to which memorials may be designated: new flooring for the nursery, a lighting upgrade, on-demand water heater, the General Fund.

! Gifts to the **Memorial Fund (undesignated)**: *In memory of Marilyn Aweau*: Maria Patton, Rev. David Huber

You are invited to join the friends and family of **Gladys Green** as they celebrate her 90th birthday on Sunday, August 2 at Carson Park Pine Pavilion from 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Lunch will be served. No gifts, please.

Moderator's memo ...

Well, just another month of summer before the school year begins! I can't believe how fast the time goes. But as you have heard before, time flies when you are having fun! That is so true at Plymouth UCC Church.

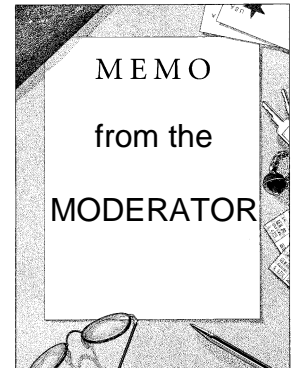
Members of our congregation have been enjoying family vacations, reunions, camping experiences, and outdoor fun these past few months. We are so thankful for the time to be with our families and others. Moon Beach has entertained Pastor David, Cyndi Bradbury, Hannah Zehms, Sam Zehms, Adam Wendt, and the Stecher family this summer. Nice showing of Plymouth folk! The summer movie series at church has brought camaraderie and fun to those attending. Shortly, our Christian Education commission will be hosting the Vacation Bible School for our children. What a great program they have planned! Spread the word, and invite others to join.

Flamingoes are still adorning yards around Eau Claire. Remember to have some fun and call myself or Linda Jaenke to have us deliver a flamingo or two for someone's birthday, anniversary, accomplishment, or just for fun. The price is \$5.00 a flamingo. So far, we have brought in \$125 from our Flamingo Frenzy. Every bit helps our General Fund, so take part in the fun while helping our church stay away from the infamous "Red Letter." Latest sightings have been:

- * Home of *Kayla Stygar* in honor of her birthday on July 18
- * Home of *Megan Eisberner* in honor of her birthday on July 19

Blessings to all of you! You truly inspire me by all your good deeds and teamwork. I am so proud to be a part of the Plymouth family. Have a great rest of the summer!

~Nancy Wendt



Good News



Pastor's Pen

Dear family of Plymouth—

As I head off to enjoy my vacation and the tropical humidity of Japan, I leave you in capable hands.

Pastor Dave Stratton is covering for me in case of pastoral emergencies (hospital visits, death, and so on). You can reach him through Mimi in the church office.

Sunday worship will be led by faithful members and friends of the congregation and watched over by our Worship Commission. On August 2, Dick Waltmire, Nancy Wendt's father, will lead worship, preach, and preside over Communion. August 9 will feature

Cyndi Bradbury as preacher and worship leader, and August 16 will be George Stecher preaching and leading. Many thanks to all three for their ministry to this congregation. Please be sure to thank them as well.

I will see you at the end of August! Until then, many blessings to you all, enjoy your last month of summer vacation, prayers for a good experience at Vacation Bible School, and may God watch over you and protect you in any traveling you might be doing.

Blessings,

*PASTOR
DAVE*



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



Our church is still in need of a Moderator-Elect. Yes, it is totally possible for some past Moderators to do this position again; however, I encourage everyone to look deep in their hearts. We have so many talented individuals in our congregation who could do and serve in this position for their church. I realize that everyone is busy and has other commitments, but any previous Moderator has juggled jobs, families, other committee work, public service work, etc. and has managed to still serve the church in this capacity. Please consider stepping forward and doing your part to help our church. The term of

the Moderator-Elect is for the remainder of this year, taking over as Moderator at the Annual Meeting in January. Let us not have to depend on past Moderators to do a second term. If you have any questions about the Moderator-Elect position or would like to take on this role, please feel free to call me at 874-6141.

Listen closely ... is God speaking to you?

Nancy Wendt, Moderator

Executive Council Minutes

July 13, 2009

Members present: Nancy Wendt, Louise Partlow, Cyndi Bradbury, Kay Stecher, Rob Jaenke and Pastor David.

Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with devotions. The June Council minutes were reviewed. There were a couple spelling errors. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Financial Reports:

As of June 30, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$54,593.25
Year to Date Expenses	\$55,677.57
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,084.32)
Building Fund Balance	\$28,339.99
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,747.59

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$9,501.61 and expenses were \$8,703.17, leaving us with a balance of \$74.72. Income included \$2,500 transferred from other accounts. Rob paid Health insurance of \$1,781.65. Lawn mowing still needs to be paid and OCWM has not been paid.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$5,747.59. Designated monies of \$25 given for the Lowrys. We need to find out what they would like done with these monies.

Building Fund Report:

Balance at the end of the month is \$28,339.99.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

Kay reported that the Campers did an excellent job representing Plymouth Church. Good for them. Linda Jaenke

and Kay have begun planning for VBS (Aug. 11–13). The theme is “Worms in the Bread” and they are planning for about 10 children. The first Family Movie Night was great fun. They had about 16 in attendance and look forward to the next two Movie Nights. They will meet Monday night to finalize Confirmation for this fall.

Stewardship Commission:

Rob reported that the final total for the Pie & Ice Cream Social was \$1,769.50.

Worship Commission:

Nothing to report at this time.

Service Commission:

No report at this time.

Women of Plymouth:

No report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 25 visits in June. WI Conference Annual Meeting was well done, relaxing and good. MADD Camp was wonderful. He will be on vacation from July 27 to August 17. Rev. Stratton will cover. Roger Knight's 50th Anniversary of ordination is this year, so hoping to have him come and preach in the fall sometime. No NW Association news. WI Conference still working on restructuring, based on feedback from meetings with clergy and others. In national UCC news, General Synod held the end of June. Rev. Geoffrey Black was elected as the new President and General Minister of the UCC.

Building and Grounds:

No issues at this time.



*Minutes continued
on page 6 ...*

Council Minutes continued ...

Old Business:

- One Great Mission: more flamingo money \$35
- We will provide Christmas bags for St Francis Food Pantry
- Pastor David reported we may have found a banner maker who is also our insurance person. Her name is Wanda Veldman, and we will have more info in the future.
- We may need to take a second look at our “Use of the Church” policy for other events such as weddings and funerals.
- Nancy will put an “Opportunity Notice” in the newsletter before approaching past moderators to serve as her replacement.

New Business:

- Church Growth: There will be a session in August on Increasing Membership, and maybe another in October. Motion to give Pastor David emotional and financial support to attend was approved.
- Kay noted that while at Moon Beach they raised \$600 for a Mission in Haiti in a short time with not too many in attendance. Suggested we try to keep our Souper Bowl Sunday going, using younger children.
- Kay noted we could use a cart for the movie projector and DVD player to be designated just for that, as cords get tangled when moved around. They are looking for one that will work.
- Cyndi, our seminarian, needs to meet with her “anchor group” before September and back to school. She has also been encouraged to take one Sunday off per month to visit other

churches. Nancy will fill in as pianist. She will keep council posted of changes. Cyndi also reported she got all excellent in her courses this year.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M.

Next meeting will be at Ron & Nancy Wendt’s home on August 10.

Respectfully Submitted, Louise Partlow

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.