

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

September 2009

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*This newsletter is sponsored
by Jerry & Joanne Lowry.*

*Cross illumination for
September is provided by
Donald & Leatrice Mathison
in memory of Martha
McCarthy.*

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Plymouth Needs Your Help!!!

A message of extreme importance from Moderator Nancy Wendt

As I mentioned on Sunday, August 16 in church, Plymouth is going through some stormy times right now. However, instead of waiting for the storms to pass, we need to dance through the rain before the sun will come out.

Our church's monthly operating costs are not being met by the monthly income we are receiving. Our envelope giving is down and therefore, we are having difficulty meeting our monthly expenses. Executive Council has borrowed from the Memorial Fund, taken money out of our Reserve Fund, and depended upon other contributions from the Women of Plymouth. This has gotten us by, but will not sustain us.

Our church has some outstanding bills to pay such as lawn mowing (approximately \$1300) and insurance on our property (approximately \$800) as well as the continual need of maintaining the monthly salaries and maintenance costs for the church. We simply cannot keep borrowing to pay our expenses. **Plymouth members need to help generate more income per month.** Your church is depending upon you!

(continued page 3, Moderator's Memo)

“Worms in the Bread”

This was the theme of Vacation Bible School August 11–13. Youngsters had three evenings of stories, crafts, music and snacks. They even made their own sidewalk chalk from egg shells and decorated the back patio with their artwork.



Getting ready for church

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

September Sunday Worship Notes

September 6

*14th Sunday after Pentecost,
St. Francis Food Pantry offering*
Pastor David preaches on “Alpha and
Omega”

September 13

15th Sunday after Pentecost
RALLY SUNDAY
Pot luck cookout
Proverbs 1:20–33; Psalm 19;
James 3:1–12; Mark 7:24–37

September 20

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10–31; Psalm 1;
James 3:13–4:3; Mark 9:30–37

September 27

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22; Psalm 124;
James 5:13–20; Mark 9:38–50

In September, we are praying for these individuals/families: Jackie Andersen, Rob & Tiffany Beaström, Loraine Berg, Lorena (Paul) Berge, Carmen Bernhagen, Donald & Ruth Blake, Jim (Mina) Bliss, Sophie Bliss

Special Guest Preacher

On September 20, we will welcome a special guest preacher, our very own Rev. Roger Knight, who is celebrating his 50th ordination anniversary. Roger grew up at Plymouth UCC (and also when it was Second Congregational) and was ordained by us fifty years ago, in 1959. We look forward to hearing the Good News from Roger!

Food for Thought

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 out a list 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 September 13, RALLY SUNDAY, following worship. The theme this month is “The Last Days of Summer.” Bring a picnic food. Brats and hot dogs will be provided.

WANTED: Moderator Elect (Call Nancy Wendt, 874-6141)

September Birthdays

- 1 Rachel Konsella
Jim Ross
- 2 Steve Strassman
- 6 Katelyn Phillips
- 9 Nicole Ivkovich
- 13 Benji Stygar
- 15 Josie Hulke
- 16 Sam Wedge
- 19 Sophie Bliss
- 20 Keith Zehms
- 22 Kathryn Hamilton
- 25 James Bliss
- 29 Nancy Salter
Audrey Salter

* * *

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.

Flamingo Frenzy Update

Flamingoes are still adorning yards around Eau Claire. Remember to have some fun and call Nancy Wendt 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 \$155 from our Flamingo Frenzy. Every bit helps our General Fund, so take part in the fun while helping our church meet its financial burdens. Latest sightings have been:

*Home of *Sam Zehms* in honor of his birthday on August 16

Moderator's memo ...

Continued from page 1

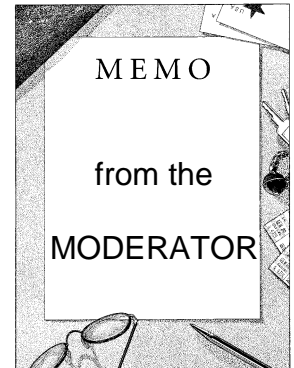
It would be wonderful to see our Plymouth family band together and help get us back on track monetarily. Your church needs you! Our monthly operating costs run around \$9,000-\$10,000. Our income many times is not even half of that, making it extremely difficult to pay bills and putting us in a situation of having to prioritize who and what gets paid. Also, it is important that we maintain a healthy income each month so we can pay back close to \$1800 to the Memorial Fund from which we had to borrow money during the 2008 year to pay bills.

How can **you** help? Please consider increasing your monthly/weekly offering and keeping up to date with your giving, take advantage of the extra little fundraisers Plymouth has to offer (examples: Flamingo Frenzy, Salted Nuts promotion, Pie/Ice Cream Social, Bazaar, etc.), donate your services, or offer to "Adopt a Bill" for us and get it paid.

Plymouth is a wonderful church with lots of great people and services. However, if we can't meet our monthly expenses, it could be possible that some services might need to be eliminated in order to generate more income. So... what do you say? Can you help us dance through the rain until the storm passes? Will you help your church back to financial wellness? Remember, if we can make it through the rain, the sun **will** come out!! **PLEASE HELP YOUR CHURCH!!!!!!**

Blessings to all of you!

~Nancy Wendt





Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth:

An old adage (and a song) goes, “be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home.” I recently experienced the truth of that statement. As many of you know, I missed my flight out of Japan due to train difficulties. Lo and behold, August is Japan’s big vacation month, so every flight out was booked up for the rest of the month. The people at the ticket counter, the travel agents, and the airline itself, had a constant mantra of “I’m sorry, there is nothing available until September” as they searched for a way for me to get home. September?! My stomach kept sinking, despair and worry came into my head, and then it all became so absurd I could only laugh. Once again, my illusion of control over my life was dispelled. It’s not always a welcome reminder, but is helpful once in a while to remember that God is the only one with any real control. And thanks be to God, the train company gave me an official document that my lateness was their fault. We gave it to the airline and within seconds I had a flight home (how so-called “overbooked” flights could so miraculously and immediately yield an open seat is an issue not to be explored in this column...).

For two hours, “home” was unreachable, and “home” seemed so magnificent a thing it became my sole desire. Even when they told me I’d be waiting about 30 hours for the flight, and would go through Honolulu and Portland with long layovers, I didn’t care. A path I would otherwise have scoffed at I accepted eagerly, because its final destination was home. I was elated just to know I could get there! And though it was a long trip with no shower for two days and uncomfortable seats, I also had the blessing of a long layover in

Honolulu. I rented a car and drove to my old apartment and neighborhood, went to a favorite restaurant and coffee shop, did some sightseeing of beloved areas, and swam in Waikiki. It was good to be back in another place that I had called “home” for two years, and that still fits like an old glove. God can shine a light into any darkness, and one can find blessings in unexpected places. In fact, in my experience, blessings seem to burst forth mostly in the unexpected places. All I have to do is remember to keep my eyes and heart open to what is around me.

It is good to be “home,” though! Nothing beats one’s own bed and one’s own stuff, and being able to cook instead of eating out, and to rest in the comfort of familiar and self-designed surroundings.

There is also the home that is the church, God’s community of unconditional love and grace where we gather to be God’s people and shine the light of Jesus’ love to the world. This September 13 is our Rally Sunday, the return after a summer of vacations and travel and the beginning of the church year. I invite you to come home this month, whether you’ve been here often or you’ve been away for a long time. Of all the homes in the world, there is no home quite like the church. And Plymouth is an especially good home.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Handwritten signature of Pastor David.

Executive Council Minutes

August 10, 2009

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

Nancy called the meeting to order and Cyndi opened with devotions. The July Council minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of July 31, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$65,061.98
Year to Date Expenses	\$66,602.90
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,540.92)
Building Fund Balance	\$28,748.03
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,716.64

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$10,468.64; expenses were \$10,925.33 leaving us with a July loss of \$456.69 and a check book balance of -\$381.97. Part of the income this month was a \$5000.00 transfer from the Reserve Fund. Large expenses this month were the property taxes, mileage for Pastor David, and the quarterly pension payment. The envelope giving is down around \$7400. Most of our giving units are not giving as much this year. We also had about \$5300 contributed last year from non pledging units that we do not have. The Reserve Fund is now down to \$1418.95, so there isn't much more to take out of it. We also have not paid \$1300 worth of lawn mowing, or any of the OCWM money or money collected for St. Francis for the last several months. Stewardship recommends we send out a **RED LETTER**. Larry and Rob will work

on the letter. We also need to make people aware where we stand weekly. We have to keep this financial crisis in front of the congregation.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$5716.64. We still owe the Memorial Fund \$1839.85 from the General Fund.

Building Fund Report:

Balance at the end of the month is \$28,748.03.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

VBS is this week. The theme is "Worms in the Bread." Kay wanted to thank all commission members for their dedication to this fun week for the kids. They are working on finalizing the new confirmation curriculum, which involves independent study.

Stewardship Commission:

Worked mostly on the financial crisis which was reported on in the financial reports. Also wanted to let everyone know the salted nut sales are coming up again, so if anyone has large orders they usually place they should start getting them together. The Stewardship campaign for this year will be similar to the one last year.

Worship Commission:

Paul Holmen is doing the sound on Sunday mornings while Pastor David is gone. Since Gene has left, the Worship Commission will need another member. Barb is looking into the price of liquid/oil candles which has been suggested as a Memorial gift.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Building & Grounds:

The light in the closet in Fellowship Hall does not work. Nancy will have Ron check it out. Ron has been taking care of the garbage, etc. while Pastor David is gone.

Women of Plymouth:

They will be donating \$2000 to the General Fund. They are planning some sort of Fall get-together. The Bazaar will be November 14.

Pastors Report:

Pastor David is on vacation until August 17.

Mission Committee:

We have signed up to serve the Community Table on August 29. We still need more people to help. We do not have to buy the groceries, but do have to have a donation of at least \$100 to give to them. We will be putting Christmas Bags together for St. Francis Food Pantry at Christmas. Now would be a good time for people

to purchase washable markers, small note pads, stickers, erasers, etc. to put in these bags. We have purchased small toys for the bags already. Kay commented that since we do not have a confirmation group this year or for the next several years, she hopes we can somehow continue the Souper Bowl of Sharing and the CROP Walk events that we participated in.

Listening Sessions:

Kathryn Hamilton has started to meet with people.

Piano Donation:

Cyndi has donated her piano to the church. The Interior Furnishing Committee will decide where it is to go.

Cyndi closed with a devotional.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 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.

**Moderator
Elect
needed!!!!**

(Call Nancy
Wendt, 874-6141)