



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

October 2009

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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*Cross illumination for
October is provided by Ron
& Nancy Wendt in honor
of their 25th wedding
anniversary.*



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Plymouth congregation makes progress!!!

A message from Moderator Nancy Wendt

I was so pleased to hear from the Stewardship Commission this month that a positive response has been shown regarding our monetary issues. People in our church are catching up on their monthly/weekly offering, giving more, or helping with costs. Stewardship Commission is even thinking of new ways to generate more funds. This is all fantastic! You truly are servants of God.

Our church's monthly operating costs, however, are still not being totally met by the monthly income we are receiving. In plain talk, we are having difficulty paying our monthly bills. Many times decisions have to be made about which bills take priority to pay and which ones can wait another month. This isn't the best practice, and I'm sure that you don't want to put your Executive Council in a position where they have to continue any longer making those types of difficult decisions. There are so many more things Executive Council could focus on to benefit the members of Plymouth besides worrying about and discussing financial difficulties each month.

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The CROP Walk will be held October 11 at 2 P.M. in Carson Park. The walk is for 1-3 or 5 miles. This is a major fund raiser for the Feed My People Food Bank who receive twenty-five percent of what is raised. Last year the money raised on the walk bought over 250,000 pounds of food. (Feed My People supplies food to the area food banks, including St. Francis Food Pantry.)

The demand for food in our troubled economy is growing everyday. Please donate generously to our walkers. Our goal this year is \$700. Our walkers this year are Barb Kleist and Chris Shufflin. If you would like to donate and haven't been contacted, please contact Barb Kleist or the church office.

Thanks

The Community Table of Eau Claire has extended their thanks to Plymouth congregation for serving a meal on August 29. In addition, a total of \$155 was donated by our members to support this ongoing effort to provide hot meals to those who need food and hospitality.

WANTED: Moderator Elect, man or woman, need to be a member of Plymouth UCC Church, (Call Nancy Wendt, 874-6141)

Getting ready for church

October Sunday Worship Notes

If you can, wear something international (pin, button, scarf, clothing, etc.) on World Communion Sunday to help us get into a multi-cultural mood.

St. Francis Day

October 11 bring your pets to church to be blessed after worship. Children can have their stuffed animals blessed during Sunday School.

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

October 4

*18th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
St. Francis Food Pantry offering
Neighbors in Need offering
Pot luck*

Job 1:1; 2:1–10; Psalm 26;
Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12; Mark 10:2–16

October 11

*19th Sunday after Pentecost
Animal Blessing*

Job 23:1–9, 16–17; Psalm 22:1–15;
Hebrews 4:12–16; Mark 10:17–31

October 18

*20th Sunday after Pentecost
Children’s Sabbath*

Job 38:1–7, (34–41); Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1–10; Mark 10:35–45

October 27

*21st Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday*

Job 42:1–6, 10–17; Psalm 34:1–9, (19–22);
Hebrews 7:23–28; Mark 10:46–52

In October, we are praying for these individuals/families: TC Boyd, Cyndi Bradbury, Aurora Bradbury-Schoening, Calvin & Bonnie Carter, Kevin & Kristina Champion, Steve & Nancy Champion, Rod & Rhonda Cooke, Claire Cramblit

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 October 4, following worship service. The theme this month is “Celebrate Fall.” What can you bring made with the wonderful fall produce that is out now? Squash, zucchini, tomatoes, corn, melon, apples, peppers, etc are all readily available and possibly in your own gardens. Let’s see how many different dishes we can come up with.

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 honor of Sophie Bliss’ 100th birthday:* Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Jerry & Joanne Lowry

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

October Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Larry Shepler | 23 Joe Gilbertson |
| 4 Gladys Ulry | Mary Lou Welk |
| Hannah Zehms | 24 Cyndi Bradbury |
| 5 Jamie Stafford | 26 Justin Champion |
| 7 Greg Voss | 28 Bobbie Rude |
| Len Weisfeld | 29 Nancy Wendt |
| 9 Maria Patton | 30 Audrey Heimstead |
| 14 Kayla Leipnitz | 31 Alexandria Leuck |
| 18 Sadie Hulke | Lindsey Phillips |
| 20 Ardith Starr | Lori Phillips |
| 22 Kay Hestekin | |
| Denice Shepler | |
| Nathan Stygar | |

* * *

WOP Fall Get-Together

The Women of Plymouth invite all women of the congregation to join them for the Master Singers Concert on October 18 at 2:00 P.M. at the Heyde Center in Chippewa Falls. After church, we'll stop at the Bridgewater Restaurant for lunch on the way to the concert. Sign up at the table outside the sanctuary.

Clean-up Day set

Spend some time at the church on Saturday, October 17 as we work together to do the fall clean-up chores (indoors and outdoors) that need doing. We'll start at 9:00 A.M. and work until ??

Order nuts now!

We will again be selling fancy mixed nuts this fall. They will be sold at the bazaar, but we can make them available earlier if anyone needs them. Prices are as follows:

\$12 for a 14 oz. box

\$20 for a 28 oz. box

\$22 for a 28 oz. tin

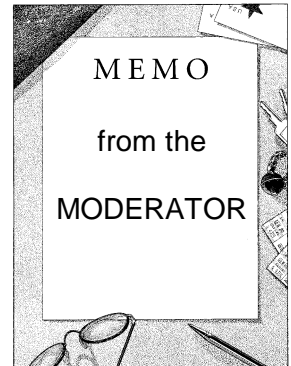


Please place your order on the sign-up sheet at the back table, or email your order to Keith Zehms at zeat73@aol.com.

Continued from front page ...

Plymouth members, we need you to help generate more income per month. Your church still depends upon you!

You have been so gracious in your giving in the past. You even worked together to build a debt-free sanctuary. So I know Plymouth members will realize that your church **is** counting on you! Wouldn't you like to see our operating costs of \$9,000-\$10,000 per month covered, bills paid on time, donations to missions completed, and a positive balance at the end of the year? What a feeling that would be!!!



Remember, you *can* help. Please continue increasing your monthly/weekly offering and keeping up to date with your giving, taking advantage of the extra little fundraisers Plymouth has to offer (examples: Flamingo Frenzy, Salted Nuts promotion, Pie/Ice Cream Social, Bazaar, etc.), donating your services, offering to "Adopt a Bill" for us and getting it paid, or seeking new members to our congregation. Every little bit will help.

Don't give up on Plymouth now— BELIEVE, AND WE WILL ACHIEVE!

Blessings to all of you! ~Nancy Wendt

Annual Bazaar

Saturday, November 14
10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

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 sheet 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.



Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth:

Here's something amazing—89% of people who come to a church and stay came in on the elbow of a current member. That is, 89% of people who join a church were *invited* by someone. We often ask how to bring in members. There is your answer—*invite* them! Invite your friends, co-workers, and whoever needs to know the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In August I attended a mini-seminar on church growth, which will have a follow-up in October. I shared my notes with the Executive Council and we thought I should share some of them with you to learn a bit more about church growth:

- Nowadays, many church visitors have little or no history with Christianity.
 - The number one reason people visit a church is because someone invited them.
 - The number one reason people return to a church is because *they like it*.
 - The theology and mission of a church are important to some, but most people are simply seeking a church they like and where they are liked.
 - Visitors to a church are asking themselves two questions: 1) Is this normal?, and 2) Do the members seem genuinely grateful that I came?
 - Ministry to others is all about *relationships*—being vulnerable enough to reach out and invite people in. Welcoming people is important, but inviting is more important.
 - Churches that are growing have a heart for people beyond finding people to help pay bills—a heart to invite them to know God's abundant love and mercy.
 - Churches that grow are the ones in which people are authentically liked and cared for.
 - Many progressive churches have unprogressive music with copyrights that are old or expired. This is one reason why the mainline is shrinking.
- Churches should be asking the question, "Who is our Mission Field?" That is, who are the people we seek to invite to church?
 - Think of current members as The Customers, and the potential members as The Mission Field—the church's methods should be dictated by the needs of The Mission Field, not the customers. The methods will determine the ministries that the church provides.
 - A church should focus on the "brand" of the congregation itself—its missions and ministries—and not so much on the denomination

And some interesting thoughts on the role of the pastor:

- After leading worship, the primary role of the pastor is to bring in new people. Visitors to small churches *want* to meet the pastor.
- Over the past 50 years, churches have slowly restricted the pastor's mission field to the office, which is another reason for shrinking churches. Pastors should do less administration and more of being out in the community, volunteering in activities and organizations, being seen and meeting people.
- Churches should call people to be pastors to the whole community, not just to members.

That's only about a third of my notes. Some of it I do not fully understand. Some of it I'm not sure I agree with. We will have more follow-up in the next seminar in October, including a chance for explanations. But it is good food for thought. In the meantime, invite someone to church! We have the world's most important message: God's infinite love and mercy. Invite people to hear it. It really is that simple.

PASTOR
JAN

Executive Council Minutes September 14, 2009

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

Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with devotional reading. The August Council minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of August 31, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$75,199.06
Year to Date Expenses	\$74,612.59
Ahead (Behind)	\$586.47
Building Fund Balance	\$31,221.66
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,717.61

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$10,137.08 expenses were \$8009.69 leaving us with an August gain of \$2127.39 and a check book balance of \$1745.42. Part of the income this month was a \$2000.00 donation from the Women of Plymouth. Some larger expenses were the building insurance, and a partial payment for the lawn mowing of \$400. The envelope giving is now down around \$5700. Rob hopes to pay more of the lawn mowing in September and some of the money that was collected for St. Francis. The reserve fund is now around \$1605.00. There will be a PIP interest payment into that account in the beginning of October. We still have not paid any of our OCWM or special offerings to the Conference and the outstanding lawn mowing bill.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$5717.61. We still owe the Memorial Fund \$1839.85 from the General Fund. There is an undesignated amount in the Memorial Fund of \$67.50 which will be used to offset a little of the balance.

Building Fund Report:

Balance at the end of the month is

\$31,221.66. Louise will transfer another \$2000 into the savings from the checking account. October will be the end of the pledging for the Building Fund. Larry noted that the Building Fund should be eliminated after that time and no more donations accepted for it. The left over balance will be put in some sort of interest bearing account.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

The Sunday School year has started, with the same staff as last year. George Stecher will be leading adult education. Youth Choir is on hold until someone can be found to lead the music. They would like to put a box in the kitchen to collect Campbell soup labels and cash back for Education labels. They will divide the labels between the schools the children go to. On September 20 Bibles will be given to John and Carter, our third graders. A Family Halloween party is planned for October 28 at 6 P.M.

Stewardship Commission:

Larry and Pastor David will be meeting on Thursday with a minister from Wausau that does banners. The stewardship campaign will send out fewer mailings this year. Part of their efforts will include encouraging those who gave to the Building Fund to now give that money to General Fund. December 6 will be Stewardship Sunday. The mixed nuts will be out shortly. Larry asked that we think of people we can sell the nuts to in quantity. He also asked if we would like to do a Younkers coupon fund raiser. We would sell the coupon books for \$5 a booklet and the proceeds from selling these books would come back to us. It was decided we should try it.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

Worship Commission:

Roger Knight will be preaching on Sunday, September 20, in honor of his 50th year of ordination. October 4 is Worldwide Communion Day. They are still looking into liquid candles for the front of the church.

Building & Grounds:

We need to find someone new for snow removal, since our person has moved out of state. If anyone knows of someone, they should have them give us a bid. Ron will look over the bids and decide on one. A Fall Clean-up will be Saturday, October 17.

Women of Plymouth:

They will be going to the Master Singers concert on October 18 at the Heyde Center and also out to brunch at Bridgewater's. They will be serving for Sophie Bliss' 100th birthday celebration on September 19. The Bazaar is November 14.

Pastors Report:

Pastor David made 19 visits in August. He had a relaxing and refreshing vacation. Kathryn has done eight or nine listening sessions so far. He attended a church growth seminar on August 26. He will publish some of his notes in the next newsletter. There is a follow up seminar on Thursday, October 22 and a lay person is supposed to go with him. Up-coming events: Oct 4 – World Communion Sunday, Oct 11 – Blessing of the Animals, Nov 14 – Church Bazaar, Nov 25 – Thanksgiving Eve Service at Truax, Dec 5 – Advent decorating, Dec 6 – Stewardship Sunday, and Dec 24 – Christmas Eve.

Mission Committee:

A group of members served at the Community Table the end of August. We would like to do it again around Thanksgiving. We will be doing the Christmas bags for St. Francis. The box for the school supplies will be out in Fellowship Hall. Kay asked if we would do the birthday bags again. It hasn't been planned yet, but will probably do that in spring.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is set for January 31. There is still no Moderator-Elect.

125th Anniversary: Pastor David mentioned that next year will be our 125th anniversary and to start thinking about how to celebrate it.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 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.