



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2012

Published monthly by

Plymouth UCC
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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 29 following worship. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 22. Report submissions need to be in the church office *no later than Sunday, January 15.*

Plymouth church wants you!

The Nominating Committee for 2012 is still working on the 2012 nominations for officers and commission members. If you would like to have your name placed in nomination for one of the commissions: Worship, Stewardship or Christian Education, or even for the Executive Council, please speak up! We do have an opening for Moderator Elect. Chances are, if you do not call me, I will call you!

Barb Kleist, Moderator-Elect

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Pastor David is on vacation from December 26 to January 8. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can call Rev. Mark Pirazzini (715-834-2668) from December 26 to January 5 or Pastor Dave Stratton (715-874-5422) from January 6 to 8.

Please note: The church office will be closed December 30 through January 5.

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

January Worship Notes

January 1

1st Sunday after Christmas

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Ecclesiastes 3:1–13; Psalm 8;

Revelation 21:1–6a; Matthew 25:31–46

January 8

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers for the People

January 15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20); Psalm

139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20;

John 1:43–51

January 22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3: 1–5, 10; Psalm 62:5–12;

1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

January 29

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111;

1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Mark 1:21–28

In January, we are praying for these

individuals/families: Sadie (Jacob)

Hulke, Judy Insteness, Nicole (Sonny)

Ivkovich, Rob & Linda Jaenke, Gerry &

Julie Johnson, Onita Jorgensen, Ruth

Kavanagh, Larry & Barb Kleist

Food for Thought

We will NOT have pot luck in January.

Don't forget we will be taking our monthly offering for St. Francis on January 1. As you travel, remember that the food pantry needs those travel size shampoos, etc that motels/hotels provide.

UN-decorating

The Worship Commission invites you to help take the Christmas decorations down. We will meet at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 11. With your help we should be done in short order.

January Birthdays

- 4 Barb Kleist
Susie Kleist
- 7 Bonnie Carter
- 9 Donald Blake
- 10 Dorothy Gilbertson
George Stecher
- 12 Paul Holmen
- 18 Edmund Noyes
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 22 Brayden Ivkovich
- 24 Ron Wendt
- 27 Nancy Champion
Larry Kleist
- 31 Steve Champion

Shut-in visits

The Service Commission has been expanded to include all members of Plymouth. If you visit, call, or even send a card to one of our shut-ins or another member of the congregation, we'd like to know (so that no one "falls through the cracks"). Visitation Report cards are available on the table and are easy to fill out. If you feel that something should be brought to the pastor's attention, there's even space to jot it down on the back of the card. Completed cards can be dropped into the manila envelope marked for them.

Memorials

- Gifts to the **General Fund:** *In memory of Dorie E. Smith:* John Smith
- Undesignated gifts to the **Memorial Fund:** *In memory of Bill Knight:* Crystal Magnuson, Dave & Shannon Johnson

Quilters please note ...

The quilters will not meet during the month of January.

Don't forget your SCRIP cards!

SCRIP cards are now available for Mega and Gordy's. It is a painless, cost-free fundraiser for our church. Here is how it works: On Sunday, you fill out a form requesting Scrip cards for \$25, \$50, and/or \$100. You pay for the cards when you order, with cash or check made out to Plymouth. We are able to keep 3% of the money that is paid for the cards, and pay Mega or Gordy's the remaining amount. So, if you buy a \$100 card, we pay \$97 and keep \$3 to help pay our bills. The next Sunday, your gift cards will be waiting for you at church to spend at Mega, Mega Holiday, Gordy's or Gordy's gas at their full value. They work just like cash, so if you use them to buy gas, you get that cash discount and help the church at the same time!

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.

PASTOR'S PEN



Dear Friends and family of Plymouth,

When I was ten, my church in Janesville sponsored a refugee family from Laos. I think it was just a husband and wife at the time, but they might have had a baby already. They first stayed in our parish house, and would often worship with us, even though I'm sure they spoke no English and probably weren't Christian. Dad and I and some others from church helped to move a washing machine, refrigerator, and other items when they found a permanent home in town once the husband started working at the GM factory. They seemed so exotic! They were a different color, had unusual eyes, and spoke a language that sounded so much more foreign than the Spanish I heard on TV or German I heard from some of our family's neighbors. Within a few years they had found their own community, and we didn't see them around church very much. I hadn't thought of them again until a few days ago when I received a newsletter offering an update on them. They ended up with five children, all with college educations and professional jobs in medicine, non-profit, and teaching. Some of them have children of their own now.

I was too young at the time they arrived to understand what "refugee" meant, except that they (and many others) were in danger in their home country and so we brought them here to be safe. That seemed perfectly reasonable to a ten year old. It seems perfectly reasonable to this older me as well.

Their story is much like the Christmas one, which is also a story of poor people, refugees, foreigners, and the kinds of folk that we often like to cast judgment on. Mary and Joseph were no one special. Mary was pregnant out of wedlock. Joseph decided to stick with her anyway. Forced to give birth in an animal stall, and put Jesus in the feed trough. They fled to Egypt as refugees for a couple years because they were unsafe in their own land. And yet look at what their son became! Many times in the law given to Moses, God puts in a reminder like "remember that you were slaves once, foreigners in a foreign land, and so you must treat the foreigners in your midst as one of your own." Thanks be to God for the people willing to help the Cambodian refugees find a better place to live, and for those willing help Mary and Joseph. "Kindness" could make an excellent New Year's resolution.

Many blessings,



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 5, 2011

Members present: Deb Zehms, Rob Jaenke, Kay Stecher, Jim Welk, Barb Kleist, Larry Kleist, Louise Partlow, and Pastor David Huber.

Deb called the meeting to order. The November Council minutes were approved as written.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2011

Year to Date Income	\$107,304.66
Year to Date Expenses	\$106,115.15
Ahead (Behind)	\$1,189.51
Building Fund Balance	\$10,800.79
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,609.74

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$8,907.80, expenses were \$7,693.12; leaving us with a November gain of \$ 1,214.68 and a check book balance of \$1,223.54. \$645.00 was passed on to OCWM and \$206.00 to St. Francis Food Pantry.

Reserve Fund Report:

Balance of \$1,717.39 at the end of November after a deposit of \$548.04 in interest.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of November is \$5,609.74.

Building Fund Report:

The balance at the end of November was \$10,800.79.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

The Christmas Pageant is December 18 during our regular worship service. It will be "A Visit to the Stable." No adult or youth Sunday School December 25 or January 1.

Stewardship Commission:

Larry reported—no meeting yet this month. So far 15 pledges received for \$45,860. Last year at this time we had 21 pledges at \$54,500. Stewardship will meet next Sunday, December 11. Rob is working on the budget for 2012.

Worship Commission:

Decorating the church on Saturday, December 3 went very well. Thanks to George and Kay for getting the tree and putting it in the stand.

Communion for January will be on January 15. Pastor David will be on vacation December 26–January 8. Christmas Eve service Lessons & Carols will be at 5:00 P.M.

Service Commission:

Continuing visists. Cards are being turned in.

Building and Grounds:

Jim reported that the snow blower is working after he made some adjustments. He cleared sidewalks early on December 4. Heat tapes on the roof are in working order.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

GOOD NEWS

Women of Plymouth:

No report. They have not met

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 48 visits in November. Director of Pilgrim Center Jeff Puhlmann-Becker has resigned. The UCC is looking for a temporary replacement. Camp registrations will be online this year. Pastor David will have an article in the "Faith Walk" publication in the Leader-Telegram on Saturday, December 10. Aaron Adams will be baptized on Sunday, December 11.

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Other Business:

- Barb is working on several new members and says it's going pretty well. She will make an announcement Sunday during church. We still need a moderator-elect and more members on the Stewardship Commission.
- We received a letter from Telephone Specialists about updating our phone system. We will not make a change at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2012</h1> 						
1 St Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	2 <i>Pastor David on vacation until 1/9</i>	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	9 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	10 9:00 A.M. Bible study	11 6:30 P.M. Help the Worship Commission to "un- decorate"	12	13	14
15 Prayers for the People OCWM offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship Annual Report Deadline	16 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	17 9:00 A.M. Bible study	18	19	20	21
22 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	23	24 9:00 A.M. Bible study	25	26	27	28
29 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship Annual Meeting follows worship	30	31 9:00 A.M. Bible study				