

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2010

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*Cross illumination for
January 2010 is provided by
the family of Gretchen
Hotchkiss and Nancy
Shepler in their memory.*

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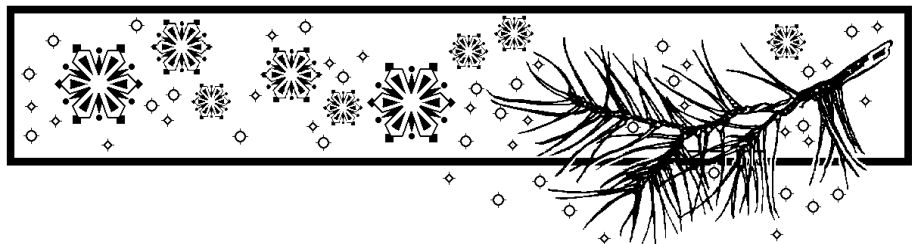
Stewardship update

The stewardship emphasis is now complete. The final results of the appeal for 2010 are as follows: 26 households of Plymouth United Church of Christ have committed a total of \$48,596 (last year at this time we had 29 giving units pledge \$51,167) for the coming year.

For this faith response, for your commitment to the Lord and his church, and for your trust that what we do in the name of Christ is important both here at home and to the far corners of the globe where we witness ... *thank you!*

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 31 following worship. The Executive Council will provide refreshments. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 24. Report submissions need to be in the church office ***no later than Sunday, January 10.***



Getting ready for church

January Sunday Worship Notes

January 3

2nd Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany

Pot luck

Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20;
Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:(1–9), 10–18

January 10

*1st Sunday after Epiphany/
Baptism of Christ*

Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

January 17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10;
1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

January 24

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

January 31

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4–10; Psalm 71:1–6;
1 Corinthians 13:1–13; Luke 4:21–30

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

No pot luck in January! We will look forward to February and the foods we love!

St. Francis is in desperate need of money and food. Please do not forget to give generously. St. Francis Food Pantry can still use 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.

We took 22 Christmas stockings over to them before Christmas. Thanks for all your donations!

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.

! Designated gifts to the **Memorial Fund:** *For the Youth in memory of Mary Lou Welk:* Jacqueline Andersen

! Gifts to the **General Fund:** *In memory of David Hash:* Deb Zehms, George & Kay Stecher; *In memory of Dorie Smith:* John Smith

Do you like to sing?

Last year singers from all over the Chippewa Valley came together to perform *The Psalms: A Liturgy of Prayer and Praise* by Warren Hermodson as a fund raiser for Feed My People. They raised \$5,000. This year's concert will feature Warren's *Songs of Faith and Love*, a collection of faith-based choral works and "pastorals," inspired by a love of our country, love of the countryside, love of family, etc. Participation is open to all singers—no audition required! Rehearsals are Sunday evenings, 7–8:30 P.M., at Trinity Lutheran Church beginning January 17. Concerts will be Sunday, March 7 at 2 and 7 P.M. at Trinity. For further details, contact Mimi in the church office.

The Worship Commission invites you to help take down the Christmas and Advent decorations on Saturday, January 9 starting at 10:00 A.M. If we have a lot of help we should be done by noon!

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.

November Financial Summary

Income: \$6,592.89
Expenses: \$7,278.79

November Loss: \$733.47

- ★ \$1000.00 was taken out of the reserve fund to cover the negative balance.
- ★ Quarterly payment of building insurance of \$1047.66 was paid.
- ★ At this point no money has been paid to OCWM for the year.

January Birthdays

- 4 Barb Kleist
Susie Kleist
- 7 Bonnie Carter
- 9 Donald Blake
- 10 Dorothy Gilbertson
George Stecher
- 12 Paul Holmen
- 17 Rod Cooke
- 18 Edmund Noyes
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 22 Brayden Ivkovich
- 24 Ron Wendt
- 26 Tom Leuck
- 27 Carmen Bernhagen
Nancy Champion
- 28 Wayne Wille
- 31 Steve Champion

Good News



Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

A new year is fast upon us! How quickly 2009 has gone, and yet it was so packed with stuff. The economic crisis loomed large this year. Many beloved celebrities died, and some found themselves embroiled in scandals. We have the swine flu scare, a balloon boy who was never in the balloon, and party crashers at the White House. America's first African-American president and first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. Massive fires in Australia and California. An amazing pilot who landed a plane in the Hudson, and others who flew 150 miles beyond their destination. Water was discovered on the moon, and new planets were found orbiting other stars. At Plymouth, we celebrated with new members and mourned the deaths of others. We celebrated the sacraments, sang hundreds of hymns, and read a lot of scripture. We worked together to have a thrift sale, a pie and ice cream social, and the holiday bazaar. 2009 was quite a year, indeed!

And as always happens, Jesus rose from the dead on Easter and was born on Christmas Day. In a world of change and

uncertainty, God's presence remains constant and God's love for us and all of creation remains steadfast. I have no idea what 2010 will look like, except that I'm sure much of it will be stuff I never could have imagined. But I do know that we can count on God to be with us through it all: comforting, challenging, working, wiping away tears and bringing hope, and forgiving us for all our wrongdoings. The ads for Vegas say "What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas." We who follow Jesus can say with certainty, "What happened in 2009 stays in 2009." While we can begin every day as new people living into the new life of God's grace, the beginning of a new year is an especially good time to remember that Jesus came to give us life, to relieve us of the burden of our past, and push us forward into the hope of the future.

My your 2010 be filled with new hope, new life, and countless blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord and savior.

Blessings,

Take time to live: it is one secret to success.
Take time to think: it is the source of power
Take time to play: it is the secret of youth.
Take time to read: it is the foundation of knowledge.
Take time for friendship: it is the source of happiness.
Take time to laugh: it helps to lift life's load.
Take time to dream: it hitches the soul to the stars.
Take time for God: it is life's only lasting investment.

—Mounds Park United Methodist Church
St. Paul, MN

Executive Council Minutes

December 14, 2009

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

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

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$100,425.92
Year to Date Expenses	\$102,318.34
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,892.42)
Building Fund Balance	\$30,497.50
Memorial Fund Balance	\$7,173.69

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$6592.89; expenses were \$7278.79 leaving us with November loss of \$685.90 and a check book balance of - \$733.47. \$1000.00 was taken out of the Reserve Fund to cover the negative balance in the check book. The only large unusual expense this month was the quarterly payment for the building insurance. We still have not paid any of our OCWM or special offerings to the Conference. Rob reported that the envelope giving is down about \$6800 for the year. He will be paying St. Francis Food Pantry around \$470 in December. Expenses are down about \$5000.00 for the year. The Reserve Fund balance is now \$1786.50. Women of Plymouth will be giving \$500 for OCWM. The nut fund will be used to pay the special OCWM funds.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$7173.69. We still owe the Memorial Fund \$1667.35 from the General Fund.

Building Fund Report:

The balance for the end of November is \$30,497.50. The Stewardship Commission will make a decision early next year on the checking account for the building fund, since we will not be collecting any more funds.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

Kay reported that the kids made cards for the children for Thanksgiving and received a really nice thank-you back from the Gosbins. The crafts they made for the Bazaar were a big success, they sold most of them. The kids worked the table at the Bazaar too. The Christmas Pageant will be on December 20. Kay thanked the youth for helping out with this in advance. The Adult class will start discussing hymns in January. There will be no classes December 27 or January 3.

Stewardship Commission:

Larry will be meeting with the Interior Committee to discuss the first banner to be selected. We now have four designs. Audrey and Dorothy Kruschke will be going through our artifacts to determine what is worth keeping. So far the Stewardship campaign has produced 26 pledges for a total of around \$48,000, which is \$5000 less than last year. There are



*Minutes continued
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still outstanding pledges that haven't been turned in yet and a reminder letter will go out to those people. As of this meeting the profit for the nuts is \$781.50.

Worship Commission:

Barb reported that they decorated for Advent and Christmas. Along with the pageant on the 20th, there will be a hymn sing. Christmas Eve Service will be at 6:00 P.M this year. Saturday, January 9 we will be taking down the Christmas Decorations and everyone is invited to help.

Building & Grounds:

The new snow removal service was called back by Ron for not doing a very good job and all that they were being paid for. Hopefully, this has now been corrected.

Women of Plymouth:

They made around \$2600 at the Bazaar this year. They served 111 adult dinners and 4 children's. They need new letters for the sandwich board and asked if anyone knows where to get them. They are going to meet four times a year this year. They will be giving funds to both OCWM and the General Fund before the end of the year. They also need someone to be in charge of the funerals.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 30 visits in November. He will be on vacation from December 25 to January 2. Rev. Pirazzini will cover while he is gone from December 25-30 and Dick Waltmire will cover from December 31 to January 2. He led worship at Heatherwood and is now on their rotation of pastors for leading worship.

Nominating Committee:

Larry has nominees for all of the Executive Council except for Moderator Elect and Service Commission chair. He still has some

openings on the commissions and needs another PIP member this year.

One Great Mission:

Barb reported that they took over 22 stockings for the children at St. Francis Food Pantry. There will be no pot luck in January.

Annual Reports:

The annual reports are due to Mimi by January 10. The annual meeting is January 31.

Other Business:

Cyndi is on contract through March 28 at Bloomer and will only be here one Sunday a month. She will keep David and the Council informed as to her situation, so that we can get replacements for her. Jim Welk reported that he has found the church's silver at his home. After discussion regarding the insurance coverage, it was decided that he will bring it to the church to be stored, as our building coverage should cover it.

2010 Budget:

Rob presented the 2010 budget. Several changes were discussed and made, including one to lower our OCWM pledge for next year, so as not to distort the conference budget, if we can't make the payments to them. Kay moved the budget be approved with changes and sent to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Aurora seconded, motion passed. Many thanks to Rob for all his work on the budget.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Kleist

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2010</h1>					1 Office Closed	2
3 St. Francis Pantry 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship No Pot luck	4 7:00 P.M. WOP Board	5 9:00 A.M. Bible study	6	7	8	9
10 Prayers for the People 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship Annual Report Deadline	11 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	12 9:00 A.M. NO Bible study 10:00 A.M. NW Assoc. Exec Committee (at Plymouth)	13	14	15	16
17 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Service Comm.	18 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	19 9:00 A.M. Bible study	20	21	22	23
24 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	25	26 9:00 A.M. NO Bible study	27	28	29	30
31 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship Annual Meeting follows worship	