

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

June 2011

Published monthly by

Plymouth UCC

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Plymouth United Church of Christ

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The June issue of the Good News is sponsored by Larry & Barb Kleist.

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Wednesday, June 1
3:30–7:00 P.M.

PIE & ICE CREAM
OR
MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAE

BBQ OR HOT DOG,
BEANS, POTATO SALAD

Takeouts available!

If you have access to the Internet, please consider receiving this newsletter online. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. Contact Mimi at mimi@pcucc.com to be put on the electronic mailing list. *Otherwise, you will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.*

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

June Worship Notes

June 5

7th Sunday of Easter

Ascension Day

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35;

1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11; John 17:1–11

June 19

Trinity Sunday

Father's Day

Genesis 1:1–2:4a; Psalm 8;

2 Corinthians 13:11–13;

Matthew 28:16–20

June 12

Pentecost Sunday

Strengthen the Church offering

Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;

1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 20:19–23

June 26

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1–4; Psalm 13;

Romans 6:12–23; Matthew 10:40–42

In June, we are praying for these individuals/families: Floyd & Pat Sexter, Denny & Rose Shepler, Larry & Irma Shepler, Christian Shufflin, Isa (Jesse) Small, Jamie Stafford, Ardith Starr, George & Kay Stecher

Food for Thought

The next pot luck will be June 5. Since this is the Sunday after the Pie & Ice Cream Social, dessert will be left-over pies. Bring your favorite summer dish to pass.

Don't forget June 5 we will also be taking our monthly offering for St. Francis. Can we keep up the \$450 a month? As you travel this summer, remember that the food pantry needs those travel size shampoos, etc. that motels/hotels provide.

Mark your calendars! We will be serving at the Community Table on October 1 and we will need lots of help!

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.

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

I have recently returned from another wonderful week at the Festival of Homiletics, listening to amazing preachers preach and professors lecture on the art of preaching. I share a few things I heard there.

But first, since a number of you have asked what homiletics means, it is the study of writing and delivery of sermons. The theme this year was preaching in a time in a time of change. The church and the culture in which it finds itself is changing in terms of decreased membership, less cultural pressure to be a church member, less influence of Christianity in the social milieu, and increasing competing options for people's time and attention.

One constant theme from the speakers and preachers during the week (and one which I agree with) is that while the mainstream churches are declining in membership, it's actually an exciting time for the church because the people who ARE in worship are there because they choose to be, not because they are pressured to be there, or because there isn't anything else to do on a Sunday morning. It is in many ways more like the early church where believers made up a minority of the population, and thus were very free to be the church that Jesus calls them to be, unfettered by traditions or social expectations.

Our first lecturer was Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and professor. She spoke on Jesus' words about how a

grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die before bearing fruit. She said that we prefer to rise, not to fall, which is probably why Jesus had so few followers. But we need to learn to fall like the wheat grain, for there is salvation and new life—conversations can change to talk about redemption, forgiveness, and how to live in a new way. And we can live in the falling. It's not about living after the fall, but to live in the falling. We are in a time when the church is in a position to fall to the ground again, and rise up as something more nourishing than it has been. It will look different, yes; but will be able to serve the world better.

Thomas Long, professor of preaching, followed up with suggesting that one advantage of our current time is a change of attitude in churches to admit that some of the old ways of doing things don't work, and a willingness to try something new. We are in a time of being able to talk about what the church "should" look like, and to move toward that vision. I particularly liked one of Long's thoughts that it isn't the culture that is pulling the rug out from under the church but God is doing it to shake us up, tear us down, and rebuild us.

Taylor again on the church's responsibility to be part of the world: "A church that protects itself from the world is one that protects itself from Christ. Jesus is too busy being active in the world to focus attention on those who refuse to follow him into it."



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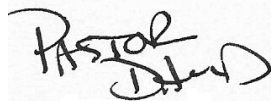
Anna Carter Florence posed the question, “Why do people change their minds about what they can and cannot do?” One answer is by recognizing one’s own story in sacred text as a point of intersection with a willingness or desire to change. Intersecting sacred text lets us know that we, too, have a script, a script of our own, not owned by someone else or at someone else’s whim or authority. And to take up that new script means giving up an old one.

Walt Brueggemann (one of my favorite thinkers) challenged us on the risks to the church of remaining silent in the face of evil as well as the risks of speaking out. He said we live in a Gospel time, but that the gospel has no value if we are not honest about naming what is evil in the world, our communities, and our communal lives even if we suffer for it. He pointed out that the prophet Jeremiah (who had a real bad time because of his honesty) came to joy and doxology only after he had broken the silence that had been enforced by priests and politicians.

There was so much more, I could go on for pages (I took about 40 pages of notes!). So I end here with thoughts of Krista Tippett, religious commentator, who said that our time of upheaval is a kind of new reformation, an exciting time in which we are being forced to again ask the questions, Who are we? What matters? What are we about?

Very important questions, and I leave you with those.

Many blessings,



Pastor David will be at MADD Camp June 19–25. While he is gone, Rev. Dave Stratton and Rev. Mark Pirazzini will handle any pastoral emergencies.

June Birthdays

- 2 Joanne Lowry
- Jeanne Strassman
- 4 Deb Zehms
- 7 Dorothy Preston
- 8 Rob Jaenke
- 9 Ruth Blake
- 10 Carter Jaenke
- 13 Floyd Sexter
- Adam Wendt
- 15 Gordy Heimstead
- 16 Onita Jorgensen
- 17 Linda Ross
- 19 Morgan Jaenke
- 20 Denny Shepler
- 27 Jim Welk
- 29 Stephanie Leipnitz

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

May 9, 2011

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

Deb called the meeting to order. The April Council minutes were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$9,315.99; expenses were \$9,199.15; leaving us with an April gain of \$116.84 and a check book balance of \$164.86. \$500.00 was paid to St. Francis Food Pantry. \$1,774.75 was paid for quarterly insurance. \$565.68 was paid for January and February snow removal.

Reserve Fund Report:

Balance of \$1133.17 at the end of April.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$4,124.29. \$800.00 was paid for the Nursery floor.

Building Fund Report:

The balance at the end of April was \$21,705.15.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

Kay reported The Magnificent Muffin Morning breakfast on Easter raised \$572.00! All donations for this event help send our campers to Moon Beach Camp. So many thanks to all who

helped make this event a tremendous success. We gave carnations to each person in worship on Sunday, May 8 in celebration of "Festival of the Christian Home." Thank you to Mega Foods for donating the flowers to us! May 22 is Teacher Appreciation Sunday and the Sunday that we recognize our Moon Beach Campers. It is also the last day of Sunday School for youth and adults until September.

Stewardship Commission:

Larry reported that the Plymouth Annual Thrift Sale raised \$1194.00. The Ice Cream Social will be June 1, with sign-up sheets to work the event outside the sanctuary. This year it will be \$7.00 for a meal and \$3.50 for dessert alone. There will also be a sundae bar.

Worship Commission:

Barb reported that we had a great Easter and Holy Week. We also ask that people continue to wear their nametags. We are also looking at serving at Community Table in October.

Service Commission:

We will continue to announce the new cards for the Service Commission record keeping. This helps us keep track of which shut-ins are being visited by members of the congregation, so that we can be sure no one is missed. In March we had approximately 6 cards, in April approximately 10.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Building and Grounds:

Larry reported that there was a meeting with the builder regarding the roof, windows and some cracks. Discussed the conditions of current outdoor signs. We need possible suggestions for lawn mowing options for the spring. Spring clean-up day will be May 21.

Women of Plymouth:

The dishwasher has been fixed; de-calcifier needs to be run through it occasionally.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David thanked all the readers and musicians who participated in Holy Week and Easter services. Also thanks to everyone who participated in Soup and Scripture Wednesdays, including leaders Kay and George; and Barb for being "soup-bearer." The WI Conference Annual Meeting is Friday, June 10–Sunday, June 12. We can send two delegates. The position of Association Minister will be eliminated on June 30, 2011. He will be attending the Festival of Homiletics May 16–20 (Mon–Fri) and MADD camp June 19–25 (Sun–Sat).

Commission reports were accepted as given.

Other Business:

- We will start participating in the Mega Foods SCRIP program, which will be announced and explained in church.
- We are looking at having another new member introduction and information meeting soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Aurora Bradbury-Schoening

**April
Financial Summary**

Income: \$9,315.99

Expenses: \$9,199.15

April gain: \$116.84

\$989.00 deposited from Nut fund raiser.
\$1,194.68 deposited from Thrift Sale.

Bills paid:

\$1,774.75 for quarterly retirement
\$565.68 for January & February snow removal
\$500.00 for St. Francis Food Pantry

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>June 2011</h1>						
			1 Pie & Ice Cream Social	2	3	4
5 Ascension St. Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	6	7 10:00 A.M. Quilters	8	9	10 Pastor David at Conference Annual Meeting June 10-12	11
12 Pentecost Prayers for the People Strengthen the Church offering 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	13 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	14 10:00 A.M. Quilters	15	16	17	18
19 Trinity Sunday OCWM offering 10:30 A.M. Worship Pastor David at MADD Camp June 19-25 Father's Day	20 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	21 10:00 A.M. Quilters	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	27	28 10:00 A.M. Quilters	29	30		