



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

September 2012

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*Cross illumination for August
is sponsored by Don &
Leatrice Mathison in memory
of Martha McCarthy*

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Plymouth Street Ministry

by George Stecher

Plymouth's newly formed street ministry has a name: Plymouth Street Ministry! Okay, it's not the catchiest name, but it does say what we do—go directly to people on the street—mostly the homeless—and minister to them. Mike Henry, Darrick Carter, Joy Lobo-Carter, Deb Zehms, Pastor David, and I have all participated. Mike has a lot of experience with ministry like this, so we've patterned this ministry on his street ministry work in Chicago. We started a few months ago by meeting with a member of the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department to learn how to safely meet with the homeless and to learn more about the specific locations where they gather in Eau Claire. Since then we've gone out on five evenings. Typically we eat with and talk with the homeless at the Community Table, then drive around to known or suspected places where they gather, and talk with them and distribute cold water bottles (people on the street are often dehydrated) and small bags of candy (sugar can help ease the cravings of drug addiction and is a small treat for everyone). In the near future we hope to distribute hygiene kits—bags with small amounts of soap, toothpaste, etc.—to those who need them, so please save those small soaps and shampoo bottles from motels! We are taking special note of those who are particularly vulnerable—often women and the elderly—and are trying to get them additional help. With winter coming, we hope to distribute hot drinks and get gloves and clothing items to those especially in need. As we get to know more people, we also want to help celebrate birthdays (and perhaps give them a small present) and holidays. We are making progress. Already many of the homeless are getting used to us and recognize us as the people who give out water bottles.



We welcome more people to join us on our evenings out on the street. You can also participate by donating items (a list can be found below), calling local businesses and asking them for donations (for example, asking hotels for donations of little soaps, etc.), assembling hygiene kits, and, eventually, helping to prepare food items. And, of course, please pray for the homeless and for our ministry. Thank you.

Continued on page 3

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

September Worship Notes

September 2

*14th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Francis Food Pantry offering
The prophet Nahum*

September 9

*15th Sunday after Pentecost
Prayers for the People
Backpack Blessing
Rev. Sandee Kosmo on Zechariah and
Haggai*

September 16

*16th Sunday after Pentecost
OCWM offering
George Stecher on Joel and Obadiah*

September 23

*17th Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Sunday
Mike Henry on Malachi*

September 30

*18th 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: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Jackie Andersen, Loraine Berg, Lorena (Paul) Berge, Donald & Ruth Blake, Jim (Mina) Bliss, Sophie Bliss

Food for Thought

Our potluck this month will be September 9 with the theme “End of Summer.” Bring a dish that will celebrate the end of summer. We will take our offering for St Francis Food Pantry on Sunday, September 2.

COMING UP: CROP WALK is Sunday, October 14. We need walkers. More information will be coming out soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: We serve at the Community Table on Saturday, October 20!

As you travel, remember that the food pantry needs those travel size shampoos, etc that motels/hotels provide.

Rally Sunday Sunday, September 23

9:15 A.M. Sunday School &
Adult Study
10:30 A.M. Worship

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.

September Birthdays

1	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

“Want” list

Each month we have been giving you a “Need List.” Your response to that has been excellent. So now the Executive Council has come up with a “Want List.” These are items that will eventually be on the “Need List” but right now are things that we want and that are financially out of our reach. The list is pretty short, but it will get longer!

- Driveway and parking lot sealed and striped.
- New roof for the older section of the building.
- Gas weed trimmer for the lawn.
- Shelving for closet in Sanctuary

Street Ministry *continued ...*

List of needed and wanted items:

- 24-packs of water bottles (they are often much cheaper when on sale)
- Small toiletries for hygiene kits: soap, shampoo, hand lotion, tooth paste, tooth brushes, dental floss, deodorant, mouthwash, hand sanitizer, wash cloths, small towels, Q-tips, sugarless gum, nail clippers, 1-gallon or larger Ziploc bags, and inexpensive cloth bags to carry it all around.

- Winter clothing items—winter is coming fast: one-size fits all and extra-large sizes of men’s gloves (street people often have swollen hands in winter), stocking caps, wool socks, long underwear for men and women, sweatshirts, sweatpants, winter coats (men’s and women’s), sleeping bags, and handwarmers. Clean, used items in good shape are fine.
- Clothing items, especially T-shirts (oversize is fine), plain white socks, and women’s undergarments in all sizes. Again, clean, used items in good condition are fine.
- Old copies of the Upper Room and small Bibles.
- Five or ten dollar gift certificates from McDonald’s, Subway, Burger King, etc. (for birthday presents or when really needed).
- Finally, we could use a large cooler to hold water bottles (an old one would be fine), gas cards, and money for supplies.

We know this is a long list and we don’t expect Plymouth to provide all, or even most of the items on it. We are seeking other sources but anything you can provide will help.





Dear Friends,

August has so far gone way faster than it ought to have, but also a good month for the ministry of Plymouth. You will see another article about this elsewhere, but our Plymouth Street Ministry has taken several trips into the city of Eau Claire to bring water, food, and other needful things to the poor and those living on the street. This is such an important ministry, and one which you can easily become involved in. We are looking for people willing to join this ministry. It really is quite simple and takes no special skills other than compassion and an ear ready to listen. You can also join through financial and other donations. See elsewhere for a larger list of needs. This is an exciting ministry, which not only has brought needed help to some of the least of our city, those of us who have participated have found our faith and our spirituality deepened.

September will see me away for most of the month as I take my vacation. Sandee Kosmo will lead worship on Sept. 9, George Stecher on the 16, and Mike Henry on the 23. I will see you again on September 30. Revs. Dave Stratton and Mark Pirazzini will cover for any pastoral needs. Please call the office if anything comes up, and either Mimi or the answering machine will help you know who to call and how to reach them.

And we are now a podcast, "Sermons and Sounds of Plymouth." Subscribe for free through our webpage or iTunes store.

Many blessings, and I look forward to see you again at the end of September,

Thrift Sale September 22

We will have a Thrift Sale here on September 22 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. to help raise money for a new dishwasher. You may bring your pre-priced items any time starting now. Please donate items for the sale and bring your friends to shop on Saturday, September 22!



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 13, 2012

Members present: Kay Stecher, Pastor David, Larry Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Barb Kleist, Deb Zehms

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00. Pastor David opened with a prayer. The July minutes were read, amended, and then approved.

Financial Reports:

As of July 31, 2012

Year to Date Income	\$63,154.13
Year to Date Expenses	\$63,434.90
Ahead (Behind)	(\$280.77)
Building Fund Balance	\$10,866.86
Memorial Fund Balance	\$4,191.58

Treasurer's Report:

Income for July was \$8,831.05, for a loss of \$364.82. Income through July was up \$961 from last year.

Reserve Fund Report:

The Reserve Fund has a balance of \$388 following a withdrawal of \$2500.

Memorial Fund Report:

The Memorial Fund has a balance of \$4,191.58.

Building Fund Report:

The Building Fund has a balance of \$10,866.86.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

VBS was a great success. Kay extended thanks to everyone—children and adults—who made “The Power of Prayer” very educational and fun!

Stewardship Commission:

They haven't met, but will meet in September to begin work on the Stewardship Campaign. An announcement will be made to the congregation about the need for a new dishwasher to ask for any donations to get us started on fundraising to replace our currently broken appliance. To supplement these donations, a Fall Thrift Sale will be held on September 22. Larry will measure the space and price out a new dishwasher.

Worship Commission:

This commission also did not meet. However, outdoor worship has been set for Wednesday, August 22 at 7:00 P.M. There will also be a joint “ragtime” worship service at First Congregational on Sunday, August 26 at 10:00.

Service Commission:

No report.

Building and Grounds:

The sign is now completed. The mowing schedule is going well. The dead tree has not been cut down as yet.

Women of Plymouth:

There was no report as Charlene is in Germany. The dishwasher situation was outlined in the Stewardship Report above.



Minutes continued on page 6

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David will be on vacation from September 3 (Monday) through September 23 (Sunday). He will be back in the office on Monday, September 24. Sunday services will be covered as follows:

September 9: Sandee Kosmo

September 16: George Stecher

September 23: Mike Henry

Rev. Dave Stratton will be covering any pastoral needs. Pastor David reiterated the dates and times of the outdoor worship and joint worship services. He covered a funeral last week for the pastor at First Congregational. Plymouth services are now podcast under "Sounds and Sermons of Plymouth."

Old Business:

- We are using one of the congregational fundraising ideas of having a second thrift sale to help fund the dishwasher.

New Business:

- Nominating Committee: As an Executive Council, we need to gather ideas and names to discuss next month.

Next meeting: September 10, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Zehms

***Help us replace
our broken dishwasher***

Our dishwasher has been broken since the Pie & Ice Cream Social in June. The women of Plymouth have decided that it is not cost effective to spend the \$750.00 to repair an 18-year-old appliance. It has been decided to replace the old one.

In order to have the new dishwasher installed and ready for the November Bazaar, we need to raise \$3000.00 by October 1. The Executive Council has decided to have thrift sale on September 22 (See thrift sale info). We need everyone's help to bring their slightly used items, marked with thrift sale pricing. If the items are too big, call the church office and we will make arrangements to pick up. You can start to bring items at once and we will store them until the event.

In addition we are asking everyone to make a voluntary donation toward the new dishwasher. Just mark your check or envelope designating the dishwasher fund. Please make your donation by September 16.

In the past when the church has needed funds for a purchase, the people of Plymouth have always come through. Our hope is that we will succeed again and will be operating with a new dishwasher at the Women of Plymouth Bazaar in November. See You There.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>September 2012</h1>						1
2 St. Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	3	4 10:00 A.M. Quilters	5	6	7	8
9 Prayers for the People Backpack blessing 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot Luck	10 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	11 10:00 A.M. Quilters	12	13	14	15
16 OCWM offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	17 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Commission	18 10:00 A.M. Quilters	19	20	21	22 Thrift Sale 8am–4pm
23 Rally Sunday 9:15 A.M. Sun. Sch and Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	24	25 10:00 A.M. Quilters	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission						