

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

September 2013

Published monthly by

Plymouth UCC
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 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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Cross Illumination for September is sponsored by Don & Leatrice Mathison in memory of Martha McCarthy.

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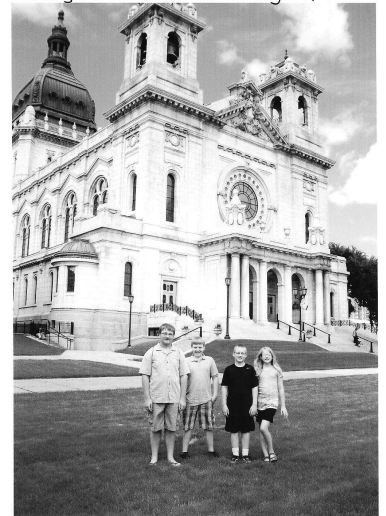
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Youth News

You may have noticed that we didn't have our traditional Vacation Bible School this year. Our "kids" are growing up! We replaced our usual activities with something a little different this year. On Tuesday, August 16 and Wednesday, August 17, we "camped out" at church and updated our confirmation room. We re-painted the walls, added borders, and rearranged furniture to give the room a whole new look! Many thanks to Rob Jaenke for priming the walls and Larry Kleist for re-hanging the window treatments for us. Stop in and take a look at our beautiful new room!

We ended the week with a second church visit. (We are trying to explore four to five different denomination and worship styles along our confirmation journey. This spring we visited Peace Lutheran in Eau Claire for a "Praise" worship service.) On Saturday, August 10 we drove to St. Mary's Basilica in Minneapolis to tour the church and attend mass. After about an hour and a half of walking through this historic building, studying the architecture, and looking at beautiful art and sculpture, we attended the 5 P.M. mass. We even had the opportunity to speak with the priest at the end of the service before heading home. It was a very interesting, educational and spiritual experience. Our confirmands are gearing up for a busy year as they complete their journey! Please keep them and their leaders in your prayers!

Visiting the Basilica of Saint Mary, Mpls., MN



Travis, John, Carter, and Morgan
August 10, 2013

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

September Worship Notes

September 1

15th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Proverbs 25:6–7; Psalm 112:1–9;
Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16; Luke 14:1,
7–14

September 8

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayers for the People

Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1;
Philemon 1–21; Luke 14:25–33

September 15

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28 or Exodus
32:7–14; Psalm 14 or Psalm 51:1–10;
1 Timothy 1:12–17; Luke 15:1–10

September 22

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1 or Amos 8:4–7;
Psalm 79:1–9 or Psalm 113;
1 Timothy 2:1–7; Luke 16:1–13

September 29

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15 or Amos 6:1a,
4–7; Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16 or Psalm 146;
1 Timothy 6:6–19; Luke 16:19–31

In September, we are praying for these individuals/families: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Jackie Andersen, Lorena (Paul) Berge, Donald & Ruth Blake, Jim (Mina) Bliss, Sophie Bliss, Cyndi Bradbury

**Rally Sunday
September 15**

9:15 A.M.

Sunday School/
Adult Study

10:30 A.M.
Worship

11:30 A.M.
Pot luck

Food for Thought

There will be a pot luck on September 15. The theme will be “Fall Harvest.” Bring a dish to pass that has some of those great fall goodies like apples, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, etc, in it.

We will collect our offering for St Francis Food Pantry on Sunday, September 1.

Mark your calendars: We will serve at the Community Table on Saturday, September 21. We will need about a dozen volunteers (sign-up sheet on the table by the sanctuary) and we need to collect \$100 for our donation.

Open Volunteer Day

Thursday, September 12, 4 to 7 P.M. at Feed My People Food Bank, 2610 Alpine Rd, Eau Claire

Come volunteer and learn more about your area food bank! Volunteers can expect to help repack bulk food items such as pasta or cereal or help label cans. Most activities are kid-friendly and children as young as 5 are welcome to volunteer with a parent. Volunteer for an hour or more—whatever works best for you. For more information or to sign up, contact Sara at sara@fmpfoodbank.org or 715-835-9415.

September Birthdays

1	Jim Ross
2	Steve Strassman
6	Katelyn Phillips
9	Nicole Ivkovich
13	Benji Stygar
15	Josie Hulke
19	Sophie Bliss
20	Keith Zehms
22	Kathryn Hamilton
25	James Bliss
	Isaac Ivkovich
29	Nancy Salter
	Audrey Salter

Memorials

- Gifts to the **Memorial Fund** designated for the General Fund

In memory of Roger Knight:
Lyle Shepler Family

Pastor David on vacation

Pastor David will be gone through September 8. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can call Rev. Dave Stratton from Truax UCC at 715-874-5422.

Coming in October

Clean-up Day at *your* church Saturday, October 5, 9:00 A.M. until ??? *Lunch will be provided.* Projects to be completed include raking, cleaning out flower beds, cleaning off patio, washing windows inside and out, cleaning out gutters, and trimming shrubs. This can be a fun day and full of family fellowship. There will be something for all members to do, whatever your age.

Thrift/Bake Sale September 14

We will have a Thrift/Bake Sale here on September 14 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 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 14!

Community Table

We are serving at the Community Table on Saturday, September 21. We need around 12 people to serve. There will be a sign-up sheet at church if you would like to help. We meet at the Community Table around 9 A.M. and are usually done by around 2 P.M.

Since all the food is already purchased for us, we need to donate \$100 to the Community Table to offset some of this cost. If you would like to donate, please send a check to church and mark it for the Community Table or give the money to Barb Kleist on Sunday morning.

Planning for the Fall Bazaar Saturday, November 23

- We want to expand our **Craft Area**, so be thinking of new or old craft ideas that you could make
- Be on the lookout for things to sell at the **Treasure Trove**. The supply from last year is just about depleted.
- We would encourage you to find your old recipes for **Scandinavian Baking**. We would like to advertise this as our specialty. Plymouth bakers are wonderful!

If you have any creative ideas we could use, please contact a member of the committee (the same as last year).

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

When you receive this I will be off on a vacation, but more importantly I will be at a reunion with my beloved, for which reunion I am most thankful. However, this particular reunion means that I will not be able to attend the Huber Family's annual Labor Day Fish Boil family reunion and community jubilee. I look forward to that event every year, and feel diminished when I am not there. I was not able to attend any while I was living in NYC and Hawaii, and have found being at them again to be quite a blessing. A good chance to catch up with cousins and other relatives. For many of us, that is the only time each year we see each other, except the occasional funeral or wedding.

There is always a choice to be made, and an opportunity cost related to it. That is much of what life is about, though, isn't it? As a child, I dreamed of the day when I could make choices myself. Now as an adult, I miss those days when my choices were limited. With maturity comes the need for balancing our own lives. We are in a world filled with marvel and wonder, and surrounded by people we love and love to see, and have opportunities to attend far more than we could ever manage. We can't do everything, so we have to pass up on some things in order to accept others. Sometimes I am absolutely positive I have chosen the right thing, such as choosing to see Yuki instead of choosing to see my extended family. Sometimes it doesn't matter, such as choosing whether to see Wolverine or Despicable Me 2 first. (The answer? Despicable Me 2: it

is, I kid you not, one of the funniest movies I have ever seen. I thought I was going to wreck a lung laughing.) Sometimes I just don't know, such as choosing a college, a life-mate, or a career.

One of the attractions the church has for me is that it is filled with people asking some of those questions, and filled with wise people who have had to answer them and can offer counsel. Where else but the church, or other religious institution, do people from age 1 to age 100, of all walks of life and experiences and careers, come together to share with one another and have those intimate relationships of helping each other through life. Outside of my family, the greatest help to me since I have been a child has been the church. Specifically, the people in the church. Because as the old children's song says, the church is not a building, it's the people. On Sundays, during quilting, at our socials and bazaars and thrift sales, I see you good people of Plymouth asking each other questions, asking advice, offering counsel, supporting and praying for one another. People who otherwise might have no reason to be together, are together because of your faith. I thank God for that spirit in this congregation, and I think it is a pretty special thing. So special that I think it ought to be shared—so many others are also searching, looking, aching for love and to belong, and to know people who will care for them. Invite someone to Plymouth this month.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PASTOR David".

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 12, 2013

Members present: Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Louise Partlow, Larry Kleist, and Pastor David Huber

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The July minutes were read and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of July 31, 2013

Year to Date Income	\$63,539.13
Year to Date Expenses	\$63,072.22
Ahead (Behind)	\$466.91

Treasurer's Report:

Income for July was \$6,168.64 (includes \$900 from Reserve Fund); expenses were \$6,752.44 for a loss of (\$583.80). Bank balance on July 31, 2013 was \$19.95. Envelope giving is down about \$3,600 from last year.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance is \$323.97.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance is \$2,375.61.

Building Fund Report:

The balance is \$908.75. This account will be closed (per Council) and the balance put into the General Fund.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Lock on the door in the Fellowship Hall has been repaired.

Christian Education Commission:

The Sunday School room has been redecorated and looks very good.

Stewardship Commission:

SCRIP program doing well. A check for \$600 has been deposited into the General Fund. A Thrift and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, September 14. Please be sure to bring your priced items whenever you have them ready. Our General Fund needs help. Larry and Barb will compose a letter for members to explain more on this.

Worship Commission:

Outdoor worship on August 14 with music and s'mores. A fall clean-up on the first weekend in October is planned. More info to come on this.

Service Commission:

Visits are ongoing. If you visit any of our shut-ins, be sure to fill out a visitation card and drop it in the envelope provided on the table outside the sanctuary so that we can make sure no one "falls through the cracks."

Women of Plymouth:

Women are working on the Fall Bazaar. Remember Saturday, November 23. Please be thinking of craft ideas and treasures for the bazaar.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor David will be on vacation to Japan from August 19 through September 8. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can call Mimi and she will help you contact Rev. Dave Stratton. Bingo Night went well. About 20 people attended. LGBT would like to do this each month.



Continued on page 6

Council *continued*

OLD BUSINESS:

- Evangelism—Mike will work on this. He is busy right now with the homeless and violence on the streets in downtown Eau Claire.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A river trip out of La Crosse is being proposed by Faye La Pean. Hopefully more people will be interested. It would tentatively be on Friday, October 4 if it can be arranged.
- We serve the Community Table on September 21. We need a total donation of \$100 to serve.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. Next meeting is September 9, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



The following is a list of items that are needed by the church. Next time you are in the grocery store and see these items, pick one up and donate it! This is one way to help out with the church budget!

1. Toilet paper
2. Paper towels
3. Garbage Bags-XL

Here is another way to help: Instead of donating these items, buy a SCRIP Card from Mega Foods and then someone can buy the items as needed. The church will get the items needed plus make a little money on it!

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.

Great time to get SCRIP cards!

As you probably know, SCRIP cards are available for Mega, Gordy's, and Kwik Trip. It is a painless, cost-free fundraiser for our church. Right now we make a 10% profit on Kwik Trip cards, a 5% profit at Mega grocery, and a 10% profit at Mega Holiday convenience stores, and a 3% profit on Gordy's cards. Through August 18, 2013 we have made over \$1,000 in profits.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
1 St Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 10:00 A.M. Quilters	4	5	6	7
8 Prayers for the People 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	9 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	10 10:00 A.M. Quilters	11	12 Division on Church and Ministry meets here	13	14 Thrift/Bake Sale 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.
15 OCWM offering RALLY SUNDAY 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot Luck	16 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Commission	17 10:00 A.M. Quilters	18	19	20	21 Plymouth serves the Community Table
22 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	23	24 10:00 A.M. Quilters	25	26	27	28
29 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	30					