

# PLYMOUTH CROSSING

## PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTOR MARILYN ALLEN

## OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS IN A FAMILY OF FAITH

VOL 14 NO. 3

April 2009

### PASTOR'S MEDITATION

*"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."  
John 20:29*

The covenant promises have wound their way through our Lenten worship this year. God has reached out to all creation in the promise to Noah; to all who are the faith children of Abraham; to all who would live in love with God and neighbor according to the covenant on Mt. Sinai. Jeremiah understood that the law of love is written in the hearts of those who live by faith. The covenant promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the one by whose self-giving love we also are given new life.

What does that new life look like in your life? How would you know that the promises are taking root and growing within you? For some of us, those signs are small and easy to overlook. Maybe in a time of trouble, it's a bit of hope for the future, a new confidence in God's future for you. Maybe in a time of serious illness, that new life is an adjustment of expectations, and you find yourself opening to a different kind of blessing. Maybe you hear the inner voice of the Spirit prompting you to express concern for a family member or friend in a non-confrontational way. The example of Jesus' self-giving love might be calling you to a new kind of service in the community.

As we pay attention to the small signs of new life within ourselves, we come to believe even more that God is with us and for us, and that we can join Christ in sharing resurrection life with others.

Though we have not seen the risen Christ with our own eyes, we can know his love and his call. With Christ, we can live into the promise of resurrection.

*Pastor Marilyn Allen*

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

**April 5** The Promise Anticipated

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

John 12:12-16; 42-3

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**April 9 – 6:30 pm**

The New Commandment

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

#### **EASTER**

**April 12** The Promise Fulfilled

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**John 20:1-18**

**April 19**

**Holy Humor Sunday**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

**April 26**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48



# Session Reports

## PEACE KEEPING AND MISSION

Easter falls on April 12<sup>th</sup> this year and that is also the time for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Ask yourself this question: Where and what is your treasure? In Matthew chapter six Jesus tells us not to hoard treasure down here on earth. He tells us to stockpile it in heaven. You might wonder what that means in reality. Jesus tells us that the place where our treasure is will be where our energy is, where our very being will be. He warns us not to make a big production out of what we do for others. God is not impressed by any desire we might have for applause. Matthew tells us that Jesus gives instructions even to pray, very simply, in a quiet, secluded place, so that we will not be tempted to try and impress others. Jesus also talks about reaching out to others with love, understanding and with sharing, in secret, our earthly goods with those in need.

This year, in this time of economic problems, for so many, let us all pray sincerely for guidance, before we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing. God never requires anything of us that is too much, or that would cause us undo hardship. The need is great and God will bless all that is given with love and thankfulness for the gifts that have been given to us.

The Mission Commission thanks you for all that you have done, and will do, for missions.  
 Claudia Eagle-Mission chair.  
 Kathleen Dinwiddie, Doris Perry,  
 Michele Rae and Kristen Perry-student representative



*Blessed are the Peacemakers,  
 For they will be called  
 Children of God.  
 Matthew 5:9*

## CHRISTIAN ED.

Greetings from Christian Education! Spring is springing, and we are trying to spring into youth group. After a lot of illness and other family challenges, it is time to get up and go! We welcome Nicki Sinner, who will help lead the group.

The youth group is meeting on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 at the church, except on the third Tuesday. That week we will meet on Friday evening, for a movie or other activity.

Holy Humor Sunday is coming on April 19. We will spend some time after church on Palm Sunday to work on the service, so all teens and young adults are encouraged to be here at that time.

Thanks to everyone who has brought in cans and Red Apple receipts. If anyone would like to donate snacks or drinks, please drop them off in the youth room.

*Jan Stites, Nicki Sinner, Yvonne Schoonover*

## FELLOWSHIP

A big thank-you for those who served snacks during the first quarter of 2009: Lorna Bradley, Les Christie, Helen Purkerson, Linda Liefeld, Bob & Val Gauen, Steve & Lib Hooper, Al & Audrey Sinner, Gina Harrington, Mark & Kathleen Dinwiddie, The Rae Family, Randy & Linda Dunn and Karen & Marsea Roldan. Fellowship Hour is an important part of our Sunday morning. Please consider hosting a Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

## ATTENDANCE

February 22	44
March 1	46
March 8	45
March 15	39



# CHURCH NEWS

## PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Priscilla Circle met on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-three were in attendance. Helen Purkerson and Ruth Cox served a delicious orange bundt cake and ice cream for dessert. Yvonne Schoonover closed the meeting with devotions.

Larry Bloom shared his life in faith, and what an interesting life he has had; please read his bio in this newsletter. Fran Pickering read a "Minute for Makindu", a children's program in Kenya. The Circle is collecting donations for this program and will be mailing our first check to them in April. Anyone interested in contributing to this worthy project is most welcome to join us. Donations may be turned into the church office.

Our next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Hostesses will be Lorna Bradley and Fran Pickering. Al Sinner will be the "Person of Faith" and Helen Purkerson will provide the devotions.

Hope to see you there! *Fran Pickering*

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## DEACONS

The Deacons met on March 3rd. There had been one disbursement from the Emergency Fund. There were 6 prayer chain requests March.

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## Happy Birthday!

### April Birthdays

Claudia	Eagle	4	3
Diana	Heroux	4	3
Jessica	Galloway	4	7
Harold	Scudder	4	12
IdaMae	Larsen	4	13
Angie	Meres	4	17
David	Schilling	4	19
Gary	Dinsmore	4	26
Rose	Galloway	4	27
Devon	Gunn	4	27
Tom	Roldan	4	29

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The March 17 session meeting was also the long-overdue visit from the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. The elders presented to the three COM representatives the concerns of the congregation that were expressed at the annual meeting on January 25. As a result of our conversation, the clerk, Karen Roldan, will revise the letter to be sent to the appropriate committee and officials of the presbytery. Copies will be available to the congregation.

The session is actively working to get information about possible work projects for our Next Steps into the community. You will hear more in a month or so.

If you have any suggestions for the session or commissions to consider, please talk to any of the elders or to Pastor Marilyn.

*Clerk of session, Karen Roldan*

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## HELP WITH FLOWERS

Flowers by the Communion Table add beauty to our sanctuary and enhance our worship experience. Please consider signing-up to help with this ministry. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. You may either provide money for us to purchase flowers or bring your own arrangements. Along with everything else, the cost of providing fresh flowers has gone up. We will do our best to continue to use all donations prudently. Thank-you.

*Regina Bloom and Polly Rice*

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## PASTOR'S VACATION

**April 23-29, 2009**

Pastor Marilyn will have a week off to celebrate with her family as her son Kirk is married in Seattle. If you have a pastoral concern during this week, please call a deacon. Another local pastor will be on call for any serious emergency.



# Upcoming Events

## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### Palm Sunday – April 5<sup>th</sup>

What does it really mean to cheer Jesus as a king? While Palm Sunday provides a taste of Easter joy, there is another meaning. In what part of the crowd will find ourselves?

### Maundy Thursday – April 9<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm

The evening will begin with a simple dinner of homemade soup and bread. We will hear the story of the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples from the Gospel of John. This will be followed by a time of prayer for healing and wholeness. You may remain seated for silent prayer, or you may come forward with your prayer request and for laying on of hands and anointing with oil. We will share the Lord's Supper around the dinner table, and conclude the service in silence.

### Good Friday – April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12-1:00 pm

It is appropriate to observe a time of fasting on Good Friday. The church will be open from noon until 1 pm for silent prayer and the reading of the Passion.

### Easter – April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Good news! Christ is risen!** Let us celebrate the Resurrection together, with a service of festive music, Scripture from John's gospel, and sermon, *The Promise Fulfilled.*

### Holy Humor Sunday – April 19<sup>th</sup>

The celebration of new life continues, as we examine what it means to live that new life, with an earth day focus. This service will be led by the teens and young adults of the congregation.



## Women's Retreat April 24-26 Morning Song Acres

Its retreat time again ladies, so mark your calendar! The women of PPC will be returning to Morning Song Acres for their annual retreat the weekend of April 24-26. Bring books to read or share, crafts to work on, board games to play, boots or shoes for hiking, if you're so inclined and anything else you might want to do to relax and refresh for the weekend. Bring your swim suit if the hot tub calls to you. Audrey says the wildflowers should be blooming by then, so a wildflower hike would be in order if you wish. We will have a morning prayer on Saturday and Myrin will preside at Communion for us on Sunday. Fran Pickering and Jill Simmons will be bringing their instruments for music.

The cost per person is \$80 for the weekend. If we have 16 or more that attend, we will pay \$75 for the weekend. This fee includes snacks Friday night, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday as well as breakfast and lunch on Sunday, and all the food is absolutely wonderful. The sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Come join us for a great and relaxing weekend.

*Gina Harrington - Coordinator*

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**S.N.A.P.P.** Our church serves lunch at the St. Helens Senior Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. **Serving: April 27th at 10:30 a.m.**

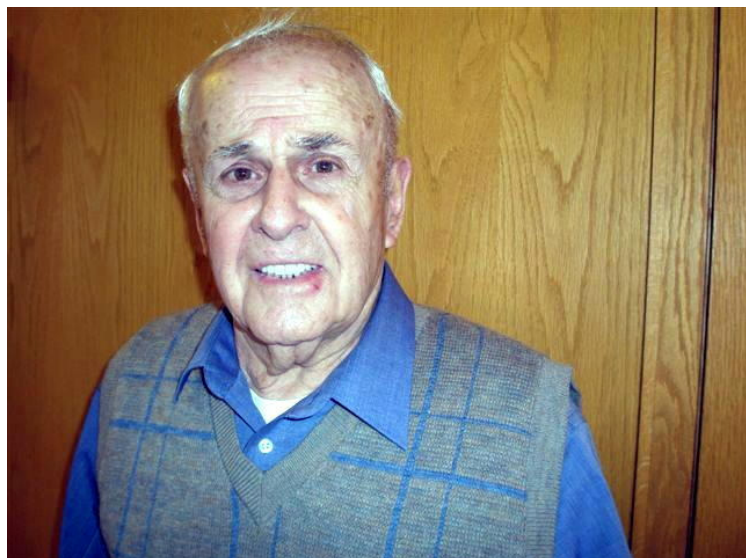
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## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of the church meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Warren Country Inn. There is no agenda--just lively and wide-ranging conversation. **Next meeting –April 25th.**

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The Lord is my light and my salvation... The Lord is the stronghold of my life... Psalm 27:1



## Sharing Our Faith

LARRY  
BLOOM

I was born on July 30, 1922 in Alberta, Canada, about 80 miles east of Edmonton. My parents were Jacob and Rosa Bloom. I was the youngest of two siblings, a brother and a sister. We moved to Portland when I was about one year old. I grew up in Portland and attended three different schools before high school. The last move was one of the greatest things that happened to me. There, in the sixth grade, I met this Irish lass named Regina Duggan. We were thirteen years old. We married nine years later in 1944 in Washington, D.C. before I was shipped out for the war.

My earliest memory of attending any church was in NE Portland at the German Congregational Church. There I was required to memorize a Sunday School verse in German every Sunday. If I didn't, my dad knew about it far before I got home.

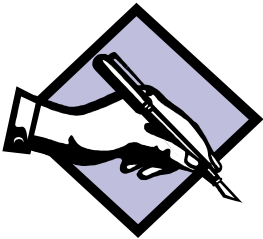
After several years, my family moved across town leaving the German area and I attended a Methodist church in my younger years. Then—came World War II--I attended church while in the service. After the war Regina and I joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland. My employment took me from Portland to Astoria, to St. Helens, and then back to Portland. We transferred to the Presbyterian Church at each location. We made many church friends and still hear from them. After 36 years with the telephone company, I retired in 1988.

We were blessed with two boys, Wade and Mark. Today, we have two grandchildren, Laura and Steven. It's been a rewarding sixty four years of marriage. Our church family has always been there when help was needed for both Regina and I.

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The CME commission has been working on ways that we can be more intentional in welcoming visitors into our church and insuring that all are made to feel welcome during Fellowship Hour. As a result, we would like to develop a Hospitality Committee, and we need your help. We are looking for someone with the gift of hospitality to Chair this committee and for others who would be willing to serve on the committee. We know that we are a friendly welcoming church, however sometimes we do not do a very good job of showing that to those who visit or come on occasion. Please contact **Kathleen Dinwiddie** if you are interested in serving on this committee. A brief training program will be available.

DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
5-April	Randy and Linda Dunn		Larry Bloom and Ida Mae Larsen	
9-April (Maundy Thursday)	Adrienne Schilling		Gayle Clemmer and Adrienne Schilling	
3-May	Ron & Jan Stites		Helen Purkerson and Lorna Bradley	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 10:00 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Larry & Regina Bloom	29-Mar			Rose Galloway
	5-Apr	Linda Liefeld & Helen Purkerson	Liefeld's	Josie Galloway
Fran Pickering and Carol Jones	12-April	Fellowship	Dinwiddie's	Marilyn Brinster
	19-April	Shirley Chulufas	Jean Anderson	Linda Dunn
Randy & Linda Dunn	26-April			
	3-May	The Dunn's		
	10-May	Men serving Brunch		
Rose, Jessica & Josie Galloway	17-May			
	24-May			
Lorna Bradley and Corrine Humbird	31-May			



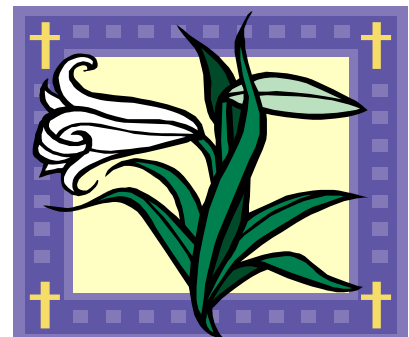
**Newsletter Deadline: April 22nd**

Linda Dunn – Editor

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*Happy  
Easter  
Hallelujah – Christ is Risen!*





THE GREAT LESSON IS THAT  
THE SACRED IS IN THE  
ORDINARY,  
THAT IT IS TO  
BE FOUND IN ONE'S DAILY  
LIFE, IN ONE'S NEIGHBORS,  
FRIENDS, AND  
FAMILY, IN ONE'S  
BACKYARD.

Abraham Maslow

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