

PLYMOUTH CROSSING

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2615 SYKES ROAD, ST. HELENS, OREGON 97051, Phone: 503-397-0062

Website: www.PlyChurch.org

E-mail: Pastor@PlyChurch.org

PASTOR MARILYN ALLEN

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS IN A FAMILY OF FAITH

VOLUME 13 & 14, NO. 12 & 1
DEC 2008/JAN 2009

MARILYN' S MEDITATION

“She gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

These very familiar words are at the heart of the Christmas story. The One who would be the Messiah, the Savior, was born into a poor family on the road. The God of all had reached into a tiny human life, and the world would never be the same. Jesus' message of peace and love, his challenge to greater faith and a life of service still echo in our own time and place.

It has been a difficult several months economically and emotionally for many in our congregation, and life will not be the same this next year. Some families may need to do Christmas differently, and that could seem like a loss. But it doesn't need to be. There are old traditions that point us to the most important part of the season.

So we are inviting you to ACome Home for Christmas.” If Plymouth Church has ever been your church home, if you haven't been here in a while, or if you're here every week, this year more than ever, Acome home for Christmas.” Invite a friend or two to come with you.

We'll have candles to light and carols to sing. We'll remember the story and share it with children. We'll have cookies and a warm welcome. Most of all, we are inviting Christ, as always, to be here with us.

Come home for Christmas, and know that you are welcome in this part of Christ's family of faith.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

SUNDAY WORSHIP

DEC 7 *The Angels Bring the Promise*

Isaiah 61:8-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

Matthew 1:18-21 (-25)

Dec. 14 *The Shepherds Hear Good News*

Isaiah 61:1-6

Psalms 23

Luke 2:8-15

Dec. 21 *The Son of Peace is Born*

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 131

Luke 2:1-7

Dec 24 *The Light Shines in the Darkness*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Dec 28 *Caroling Our Faith*

Luke 2:22-40

Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 4 *A New Beginning*

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

Session Report

Deacons

The Deacons met on Tuesday, November 4th. For the month of October we had 7 prayer chain requests and had one disbursement from the Emergency Fund. Your Deacon will be contacting you over the next two months to update your Emergency Contact information; we appreciate your assistance with this effort. The Deacons will not meet in December; rather our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 6th, 2009.

The Future of Plymouth Presbyterian Church

Information gathered from the meetings and mail-ins will be compiled by Adrienne Schilling and presented to Session for a review on December 8th & 9th. The information from the review will be presented to the congregation in January.

Peace Keeping and Mission

It is always exciting and fun to share good news. We, as Christians, have much to share. I hope that none of you are troubled or embarrassed about sharing God's love with others. If you find it hard to start that kind of conversation, you could always begin by asking them to come, with you, to church. Christmas is a great time for that. Ask them to the Christmas Eve Service. You might even plan a small group get together yourself, like a morning coffee or an evening dessert. Just an idea.

We also have some other smaller, good news. Our total now for the Peacemaking Offering is \$635. Plymouth's 25% of the offering was recommended, by the Mission Commission, to go to Dr. Tillie Makepeace's special youth program with Janus. This was later voted on and accepted by the Session. The Mission Commission and the Session wish to thank all of you who gave to the Peacemaking Offering. The funds are very much needed here and around the world and very much appreciated, especially due to our present, economic situation in this country and in other parts of our world.

Your Mission Commission
-by Claudia Eagle -Mission Chair

Finance




November	
Income	\$6,395.23
Expenses	\$7,487.23
Net	-\$1,091.91

Thank you for your generous support of our church's work.

Session passes 2009 Budget

The 2009 Budget was reviewed and passed by Session on November 18th. A report will be available for review at the January Congregational meeting.

Emergency Procedures

 The Emergency Procedures that were created by Session a couple of years ago to address medical emergencies have been updated. The revised procedures are now posted in: the kitchen, Hutchison Hall, Fellowship Hall and near the pulpit in the sanctuary. Please take time to review these procedures so that you may be aware of how to respond in case of a medical emergency.

Worship Attendance

October 26	61
November 2	47
November 9	47
November 16	48

Christian Education

Thank you for your recyclable cans & bottles and Red Apple Receipts. The recyclables cashed in for a total value of \$63.00.

Heifer International earned \$211.00 at the Church Bazaar.

Merry Christmas! *Yvonne Karreman*

Upcoming Activities and Events

Christmas Joy Offering

December 21st

As we experience this Advent Season and move on toward Christmas, let us be excited about the GOOD NEWS of God's love through the birth of Jesus, who was willing to become our Savior. Our next special offering will be the Christmas Joy Offering, which we will accept on December 21st. We must show concern and love to others because love is of God and God is love. Read First John 4. 7-9. The Christmas Joy Offering is split between the Board of Pensions and the ethnic schools and colleges that we support. In the past the Christmas Joy Offering, through the Board of Pensions, helped church workers in hurricane-devastated areas acquire grants. God is already blessing us so, we must give what we are able in order to help others. God's peace to all of you and may the Christmas season bring to you a renewed sense of God's wonderful love and concern for you.

Your Mission Commission
by *Claudia - Mission Chair*

Priscilla Circle

Wednesday November 12 was a dark, wet and very soggy day, but it did not dampen or spirits at Priscilla Circle. Eighteen ladies enjoyed Helen's delicious pumpkin roll and then listening to Marilyn Brinster as she shared how God has watched over her and her family during her lifetime. Our annual Christmas Luncheon will be at **Romig's in Scappoose at 11:30 am on December 10**. If you did not attend Priscilla Circle meeting and would like to join us for lunch, please call Helen (503) 397-4883 or Fran Pickering (503) 397-3509 We'd be very please to have you come. Those wishing to carpool must be at the church by 11:10 am.

After lunch we will drive to Audrey Simmer's for cookie dessert and then fill plates of cookies for our shut-ins.

The meeting in January will be on the 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Jack Ferrise will be the member of Faith. Pastor Marilyn and Donna Mclean are hosting. Fran Pickering will bring the devotions.

Happy Holidays! Fran Pickering

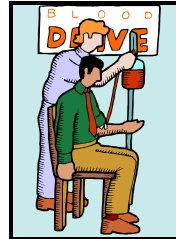
S.N.A.P.P. Our church serves lunch at the St. Helens Senior Center on the 4th Monday of each month. Serving: December 22nd & January 26th at 10:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast

The men of the church meet on the 4th Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Warren Country Inn. There is no agenda--just lively and wide-ranging conversation. Meeting: December 27th & January 24th

Monday Night Study

The Monday Night Study group wrapped up their fall study on November 17th. Class will resume on Monday, January 12th, 2009. Please contact Linda Dunn if you are interested in the next class.



Blood Drive

January 21st

Plymouth Presbyterian Church

1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The blood bank needs your donation.

Please help if you can.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 25, 2009

The session has set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 25, 2009, with lunch, after Sunday morning worship. The congregation will hear reports from commissions and fellowship groups, elect the 2009 Nominating Committee, vote on the pastor's terms of call (salary, etc.), receive the 2009 budget, elect officers of the corporation, and do any other business that needs to be done. All members and friends are encouraged to stay for lunch and the meeting.

Karen Roldan, Clerk of Session



“Criticism, like rain should be gentle enough to nourish a person's growth without destroying their roots.”

-Frank A. Clark



WOMAN OF FAITH

MARILYN BRINSTER

When my parents got married, they had a decision to make. Mom was raised a good Lutheran and Dad was brought up as a good Baptist! They decided they needed to compromise, so they set out to visit as many churches as they could. They finally decided they were Presbyterians. Back then, Dad's job kept us moving every

few years. In each place we lived, we found a Presbyterian Church to attend.

My mother taught Sunday school most of my formative years. She would ask me to help her by making signs, posters or artwork that she needed in her classroom. I always participated in youth group and choir, and on rare occasions did a piano or clarinet solo or sang a duet with another classmate in the church service. My parents called me their "Little Presbyterian!"

Later, in my most difficult time, when my marriage was falling apart, I remember the church members "buoying" me up and expressing full acceptance. I was amazed and thankful for the love in the hearts of our church members.

When my daughter Leanna, was looking at colleges, I had no idea how to pay for it. Of course, her first choice school was the most expensive, so she wasn't even going to apply. I convinced her to apply, just to see if she would be accepted, knowing there was no way to pay for such a school. She applied and was accepted! A week later, I received a call from the school, asking where my financial papers were. I explained there was no way we could possibly afford it. The short story is, I got a letter saying that they wanted Leanna, and that the school would pay for her tuition. I was overcome with thanks. God had stepped in to make it happen! Even now, it brings tears to my eyes.

Later, after all my kids were on track, I asked the Lord if there were any good and decent single men out there for me? I believe the Lord answered my prayers by sending Ken to me. I thank the Lord every day for sending such a decent and patient man to me.

Always remember, no matter how damaged we feel, God loves us and is always there for us. All we have to do is what our parents always told us to do...listen!

Marilyn Brinster



Heart to Heart



Thank-you to all who helped with the kitchen effort for the bazaar. We couldn't do it without you and your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

-Linda Dunn

Thanks to all the folks who helped in the church cleanup effort. There were a large number of members who showed up on November 15th to rake, sweep, and cook food, etc. They included Randy and Linda Dunn, Jean Anderson, Steve and Lib Hooper, Yvonne, Hiram, and Micah Schoonover, Harold Scudder, Al sinner, Ron, Jan, John, and Becca Stites, Roger Liefeld, Jessy Gilbert, Rev. Marilyn, and Jack Ferrise. Thanks again for the beautification project.

-Jack Ferrise

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

Nicki Sinner was baptized and received into membership on October 26, 2008. Nicki has attended Plymouth Presbyterian Church with her grandparents Al and Audrey Sinner since she was young. She has been an active youth group participant. After her auto accident last year and during her long hospitalization, she was convinced of God=s protection and care for her. Her growth in faith has been an inspiration to us all. God bless you, Nicki.

Thank you for your donations to the VFW General Fund. Close to \$80.00 was raised for the cause.

-Ruth Cox

Happy Birthday

December Birthdays

Kienan Rae	1
Nicole Dunham	7
Roy Barbour	9
Pat Brown	9
Steve Hackett	9
Karen Rieman	9
Gina Harrington	10
Michele Rae	10
Jill Simmons	10
Bill Eagle	13
Kay Pieper	13
Christopher Jarvis	15
Steve Hooper	16
Gil Pickering	23
Leslie Ramsdell	26
Josi Galloway	27
Nicki Sinner	30
Kathleen Dinwiddie	31

January Birthdays

Quentin Larsen	1
Linda Joy Prettyman	1
Roger Liefeld	5
Richard Chulufas	9
Tasha Sinner	10
Jonathan Dickson	10
Jack Ferrise	12
Collyn Freeman	12
RosemayJarvis	20
Jacob Sinner	20
Sean Daly	22
Jim Galloway	22
Johan Schoonover	23
Marilyn Brinster	25
Cecelia Haack	25
Ron Quick	25
Helen Purkerson	26
Jan Hackett	27
Audrey Sinner	28

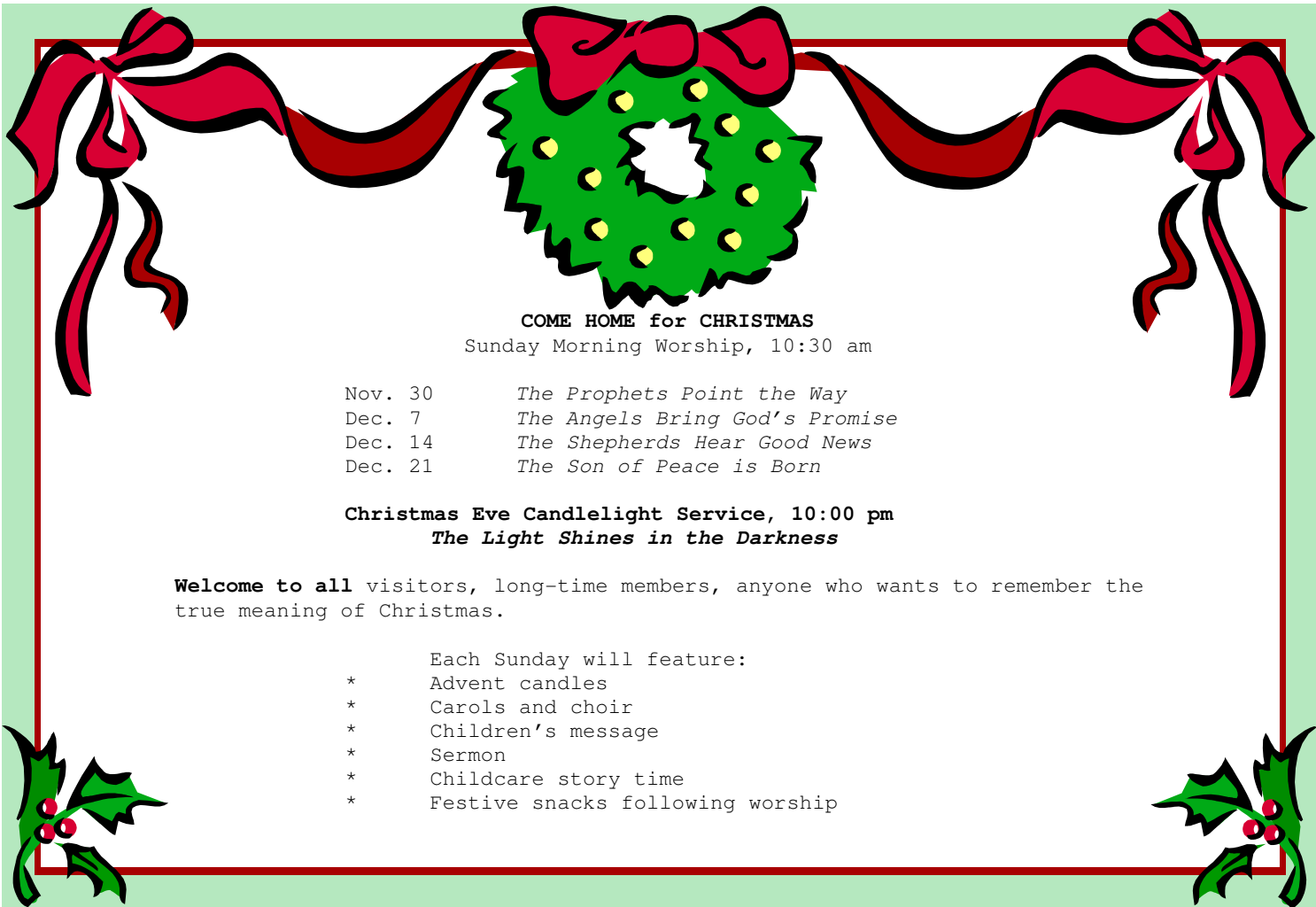
DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
December 7	Darla & Howard Knytych		Gayle Clemmer & Adrienne Schilling	
January 4	Kathleen & Mark Dinwiddie		Randy & Linda Dunn	
February 1	Helen Purkerson		Bill & ^ Claudia Eagle	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 10:00 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Marilyn Brinster Polly Rice	Dec 7	Val Gauen & Fran Pickering		Mark Dinwiddie
	Dec 14	Mark & Kathleen Dinwiddie		Kathleen Dinwiddie
Steve Hooper Bill Eagle	Dec 21			
	Dec 28			
The Clemmer Family	Dec 24			
Linda & Roger Liefeld	Jan 4			
	Jan 11			
The Rae Family	Jan 18			
	Jan 25			

December/January Editor
Kathleen Dinwiddie
503-397-2278
mkdinwiddie@gmail.com

Deadline for February Newsletter: January 21st
The Editor will be Linda Dunn email:
red@opusnet.com

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy

“Father, bless the person reading this in whatever it is that you know they need.”



COME HOME for CHRISTMAS

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 am

Nov. 30	<i>The Prophets Point the Way</i>
Dec. 7	<i>The Angels Bring God's Promise</i>
Dec. 14	<i>The Shepherds Hear Good News</i>
Dec. 21	<i>The Son of Peace is Born</i>

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10:00 pm
The Light Shines in the Darkness

Welcome to all visitors, long-time members, anyone who wants to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Each Sunday will feature:

- * Advent candles
- * Carols and choir
- * Children's message
- * Sermon
- * Childcare story time
- * Festive snacks following worship

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FIRST CLASS MAIL