

PLYMOUTH CROSSING

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTOR MARILYN ALLEN

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS IN A FAMILY OF FAITH

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PASTOR'S MEDITATION

Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:17-18

Welcome to a new year! We are already moving through the seasons of the church year fairly quickly, it seems. We just finished Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Lent begins at the end of February. On the seven Sundays between Epiphany and Lent, the Scripture readings focus on the call of God to the prophets and the call of Jesus to disciples.

We overhear the calls - "Samuel! Samuel!" "Follow me." We listen to the various responses. "Here I am." "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" We see what they do. Jonah runs in the opposite direction. The fishermen immediately leave their nets and follow Jesus. And in their stories, we recognize ourselves.

The call of God comes to us - in words of Scripture, as we pray, in the needs of our community, in the changes of life. We are surrounded by opportunities. Do we pay attention and answer the call? Or do we avoid opportunities because we think we can't do much, or we're too busy, or we might have to put something else aside?

As we make our way through this season of the church year, I encourage us all - that includes myself - to look for those opportunities that are really God's call to us. Let us be ready to serve our congregation and our community with energy, wisdom, imagination and love.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Feb. 1 "The Authority of the Word"
Communion

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 8 "The Foundation of Prayer"
Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 15 "From Around the World"
Caroline Kurtz - Guest Speaker

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

Feb. 22 "A New View of Jesus"
2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday
7 p.m. Communion



Session Reports

PEACE KEEPING AND MISSION

Rejoice! We have a new year, a new start and new hope. Do you realize that some form of the word, rejoice, is used at least 220 times in the Bible in some versions? I say at least, because I did a very quick search and I know that I missed some. God wants us to rejoice not only in our salvation but also in our mission work for Christ's church.

We have some new mission plans coming up. **On Sunday, February 15, our church will host Caroline Kurtz who will deliver the sermon. There will be a potluck lunch instead of Fellowship Hour.** (If any of you can find a Northeast African recipe from Ethiopia or Kenya etc. bring it to church and share it.) This is the lady that goes into off road areas, in countries like Ethiopia, on horse back, with no communication to the outside world. She does this in order to meet with people, to set up small prayer and study groups that eventually grow into new churches. Some of these people would not know what Christ has already done for them with out Ms. Kurtz and other people like her telling them. So please come and rejoice with her and the rest of the church. 2009, we believe, will be great year for Plymouth church, full of renewing strength, hope and joyful celebration. So, expand your life by reaching out to someone new, with a loving word or a helping hand. Then offer an invitation to church and the mission potluck. It will enrich your soul. Read and remember Philippians 4: 4-7

Blessings to all,
The Mission Commission
Claudia Eagle-Chair, Kathleen Dinwiddie,
Doris and Kristen Perry and Michele Rae



*A kindness
done is never
lost*

CHRISTIAN ED.

Cans - Please continue to support our youth with cans and Red Apple receipts. Please rinse and empty the cans before bringing them to the church. Monies from this effort go toward supplies and youth related activities.

Please keep the youth of our church and our community in your prayers. The youth today have very busy schedules and many things vie for their attention. Please pray for the wisdom and courage to make good and right decisions, and for protection and peace as they go about their lives.

FELLOWSHIP

Thank-you to all who helped with coffee hour in 2008. This is an important ministry within our church. Please consider hosting coffee hour this year. Hosting requires providing a few snacks, making coffee and cleanup. Need help? Just ask - there are always kitchen helpers around.

Next Fellowship Meeting will be Wed., February 18th, 11:30 AM at the Warren Country Inn. Please contact Lib Hooper (503) ***-**** if you are interested in helping with this commission.

ATTENDANCE

Nov. 23	49
Nov. 30	52
Dec. 7	50
Dec. 14	37 (snow)
Dec. 21	Cancelled due to snow
Dec. 24	27 (snow)
Dec. 28	42
Jan. 4	53
Jan. 11	55
Jan. 18	56



CHURCH NEWS

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Twenty-one ladies were present at Priscilla Circle on January 14th to hear Jack Ferrise share his life of faith. Jack has lived in several different states and has led a rich and interesting life. Donna McLean prepared a marvelous dessert, and to add to the very pleasant occasion, the sun came out after many days of gloom and grey. We were blessed by its bright warm glow.

Bob Gauen will be the Person of Faith at our **February 11th** meeting, which will be from 1-3 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Audrey Sinner and Shirley Chulufas will be co-hostess. Corrine Humbird will have devotions.

Hope to see you there! *Fran Pickering*

DEACONS

The Deacons met on January 6th. There had been one disbursement from the Emergency Fund. There were 8 prayer chain requests for November and 8 for December.

The Deacons are working to complete Emergency Contact information for members of the congregation. We thank the congregation for their assistance with this effort.

S.N.A.P.P. Our church serves lunch at the St. Helens Senior Center on the 4th Monday of each month. **Serving: February 23rd 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. **Next meeting –February 28th.**

LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins this year on February 25. It is customary to begin the season with a solemn service of repentance and recommitment, as we seek to follow Christ more closely during the seven weeks leading to Easter. The Ash Wednesday service, 7:00-7:25 pm, will include prayer, Scripture, receiving of ashes, and the Lord=s Supper.

We will continue to have a quiet Wednesday evening service at 7:00 pm throughout Lent.

MISSION POTLUCK

Sunday, February 15th there will be a potluck lunch following worship services. Drinks will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring food/dessert items and their own table setting. Caroline Kurtz, missionary in Africa will be joining us. Consider inviting a friend to church & lunch as we learn about the fascinating life and work of Ms. Kurtz.

Book Corner

Read a good book lately? Share your experience with others by writing a brief review for Plymouth Crossing.

I've been reading a book called *Pray All Ways: a book for daily worship using all your senses*, by Edward Hays. Some of the chapter titles are: Praying with the eyes; The prayer of tears; Praying through the nose; How to pray with our feet; Hurrying – a hindrance to the holy; Feasting as prayer; The prayer of napping.

That last one caught my attention, but as the author points out, Jesus napped on a boat in the middle of a storm. Jesus “was well aware that not he, but the Father was in control of the universe. That state of awareness is prayer.” (p. 200)

Hays offers a wide perspective on the Apostle Paul's recommendation to pray without ceasing, as he shows us how to “pray all ways.”

Pastor Marilyn Allen



How good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity!
Psalm 133:1

THANK-YOU

Thanks to all of you who contributed to my generous Christmas gift. It will go toward a trip in July to Glacier National Park. I appreciate the gift and good wishes, and for all you do in our church and community. May God bless us as we worship and work together this year.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Iris	Langdon	2	1
Tillie	MakePeace	2	2
Regina	Bloom	2	5
Hiram	Schoonover	2	8
Jassa	Gunn	2	9
Ron	Stites	2	9
May	Cook	2	11
Judy	Gilbert	2	11
Donna	McLean	2	16
Marilyn	Allen	2	17
Jean	Anderson	2	19
Georgine	Williamson	2	21
Randall	Dunn	2	24
Yvonne	Schoonover	2	26



Bob's Blueberry Buckle

2 c. flour
 ¾ c. sugar
 2 ½ t. baking powder
 ¾ t. salt
 ¼ c. butter or shortening
 ¾ c. milk
 1 egg
 2 c. fresh or thawed - well drained blueberries

Blend all ingredients, except blueberries, beating vigorously for ½ minute. Carefully stir the berries into the batter. Spread batter into a greased round layer pan or a 9x9 or 8x8 square pan. Cover with topping: ½ c. sugar, 1/3 c. flour, ½ t. cinnamon and ¼ c. soft butter – mix well and sprinkle over batter. Bake at 375 for 45-50 minutes.

RE-VISITING OUR VISION

Our Vision: We are a fellowship of Christians, seeking to grow spiritually and to become the family of faith Christ wants us to be. We welcome diverse views, value independent thinking, and are called to serve each other, our communities, and God=s world.

Last fall many of our members participated in group discussions or answered questions in writing, as we worked on our next steps. A committee of Adrienne Schilling, Lib Hooper and Jack Ferrise facilitated this process.

The goals that emerged are:

- Energize the membership
- Create atmosphere for growth and financial viability
- Outreach as a church family to meet community need
- Be faithful stewards of God's gifts

Many of your suggestions have been passed on to the appropriate committees. The session as a whole will seriously consider and gather information on ways to fund a strong youth ministry, to build on what has already been accomplished.

Three areas stood out as possible next steps:

- Food Ministry
- Work parties for elderly, shut-ins or other in need of assistance.
- Hosting Community events

The congregation ranked these three at the congregational meeting on January 25. The results are:

1. Work parties
2. Food Ministry
3. Hosting Community events

You will hear more about how we will put our decision into action. We have listened to one another and, we hope, to the Spirit=s guidance. Now we will need to act. Everyone=s help and prayerful support is important!

Pastor Marilyn Allen

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



Member of Faith

Jack Ferrise

I was born in St. Paul, Minn. and raised on a small dairy farm 45 miles east near Baldwin, Wisconsin until I was eight years old. My father got a better job offer in California, so the family moved to Turlock, a small town in the San Joaquin Valley. I eventually acquired two younger brothers and a sister. My sister died at the age of 19 from leukemia. I grew up in Turlock. Married my high school sweetheart, Mary Jo and we had two children Lawrence and Dawn. Both are living in Alaska where I spent twenty six years working as a biologist for the Corps of Engineers.

For most of my life I went to the Roman Catholic Church, the church that my father had attended all of his life. He was a second generation Italian/American. My mother was brought up in the Protestant tradition, but converted to Catholicism when she married my father. The Catholic Church underwent a considerable change during my attending years. It mellowed and became more accepting of other faiths. There was a time between my twenties and forties that I attended church off and on, but felt drawn back to attend more frequently in my fifties.

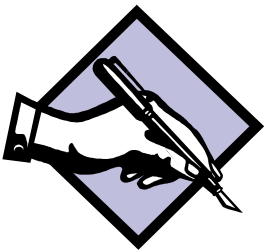
My father helped establish my faith in God more than the Catholic Church. When I was four or five I remember him telling me "God is everywhere". From those simple words, my spirituality was born. I grew up perceiving that the essence of God was in all things, which tied in very nicely with my later profession of a biologist. (Respect for nature and all living things, even people, who can be difficult at times.)

My grandfather also had a big impact on my life. He taught me the love of the outdoors. He would take me fishing and taught me how to shoot a rifle and shotgun. Although he rarely attended a church, he didn't care for organized religion, I noticed that he had a Bible on the end table next to his easy chair and I would see him reading it frequently.

My wife Mary Jo died of cancer in January of 2005. God helped me mightily after Mary Jo's death.

After several months of mourning, I realized that being single was not that great. As I was mulling over what I should do to better my situation, a pamphlet came in the mail from Great Expectation, a dating service. I inquired. I joined. I met my wonderful wife Tillie and we got married in Plymouth Presbyterian Church, by Rev. Marilyn, on March 2006. Since she owned a house and I was renting, we decided it was best, smart advantageous, etc. to stay in Saint Helens. Of course we shopped around before deciding on a church, but we were drawn to the inclusiveness of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, as well as the friendly people that can be found inside. We are living happily for ever, with God's blessings. And if you want "the rest of the story", ask Tillie why she is worth more than me!

DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
1-February			Bill & Claudia Eagle	
25-February (Ash Wednesday)	Marilyn Brinster		Harold Scudder	
1-March	Shirley Chulufas & Carol Jones		Karen Roldan & Audrey Sinner	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 10:00 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Doris & Kristen Perry	1-Feb	The Sinner's	Randy Dunn	Linda Dunn
	8-Feb		Randy Dunn	
Juanita Shearer & Jean Anderson	15-Feb	Mission Potluck		
	22-Feb	The Rae Family		Tillie MakePeace
Ruth Cox & Connor Freeman	1-Mar			
	8-Mar			
	15-Mar			
Linda Gaskill & Gina Harrington	22-Mar			
	29-Mar			
Larry & Regina Bloom	5-Apr			



Newsletter Deadline: February 18

Linda Dunn – Editor
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*The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
Numbers 6:24-25*



HOPE

Is the thing
with feathers
that perches
in the soul.
And sings the tune
without the words,
and never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson

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