

# 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

I was at Avamere the other day and got to thinking about floods. And I thought of Noah.

We know that life has periods of storms and floods that can either carry us away to despair, or even ruin, or to something new. We, our families, and now our country, wonder at times if things can ever be put back together again.

The Psalmist tells us "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble." God has a plan to see us through the storms of life. But, and this is a key point, we have to be willing to do our part.

Jesus says that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to make that love known to others. This is God's ultimate plan for us. As we receive anew God's love, we are to give it away. We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. We are to help keep safe the weak and vulnerable. We are to live out love, not just speak about it.

Bible study and prayer are also tools to help build our lives. The words of the Lord's Prayer are a constant reminder of God's care for us and our need to care for others. The life, which we are to build, is to be founded on God and God's love. The building will not always be easy but it is necessary.

In the story of Noah and the flood, the rainbow is God's reminder that God is with us and is helping us. Jesus Christ is God's new rainbow sign to us of God's amazing love and care. The promise is that after the storm, God will place us on a solid, firm place to begin again. It may not be a familiar place but God will be there with us to uphold us and to help us, even if we must begin again. And the dove is the reminder of God's ever-present Spirit, who brings us peace, hope, strength and new life.

When trouble comes, the choice is ours - rely on God and work with God. Or try to go it alone and possibly drown. May we always choose to respond wisely and to work with God.

Thanks be to "God who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble."

*Chuck Falconer*

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

**May 4** - Seventh Sunday of Easter - Communion

"Salty Christians"

*Matthew 5: 13-16*

*John 17: 1-11*

*James 1: 19-27*

**May 11** - Pentecost Sunday

"The Miracle of Pentecost"

*John 7: 37-39*

*Acts 2: 1-12*

*Romans 8: 14-17*

Note - everybody is encouraged to wear red

**May 18** - Trinity Sunday

"The Church: A Living Edifice"

*Acts 7: 55-60*

*1 Peter 2: 2-10*

*John 14: 1-14*

**May 25** - Tillie MakePeace will be preaching.

Pastor Chuck Falconer's last Sunday is May 18th. His last day in the office will be the 20th.



# Events & Reports



**Pentecost Sunday  
May 11th Wear Red!**

## Mission & Peace Making

Greetings from Plymouth Presbyterian Church Missions. The Mission Commission thanks all of you who gave in support of the One Great Hour of Sharing. The money you gave in that Offering will accomplish amazing things. However, as we are certain you understand, church mission work is ongoing. There is always more that needs to be done and the costs for the missionaries and workers to be able to reach out to more people, who desperately need help, is increasing.

Our next important church mission offering will be the Pentecost Offering. This offering is very important because of who it will help both here and around the world. Forty percent of the money we receive, from you, remains with Plymouth Church to be used for children at risk in our own community. Ten percent is sent to help support the Kids 4 Kids Web site ([www.presbykids4kids.org](http://www.presbykids4kids.org)) for older elementary children. The rest of the money is divided between youth programs including scholarships and young adults who volunteer for short-term missions. These young adults, willing to serve, are very important to many specific mission programs and they need to be supported.

Please give prayerful thought to what you can do to help with this important Pentecost Mission Offering.  
*Claudia Eagle for the Mission Commission*

## Women's Retreat

16 women attended the annual Women's Retreat April 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> at Morning Song Acres, hosted by Audrey & Myrin Bentz. The theme of the weekend was Celtic Spirituality connecting us to Pastor Marilyn in Ione, Scotland. Myrin, a retired Lutheran Minister, provided communion and a Sunday morning sermon. Gina Harrington did a spectacular job coordinating and bringing it all together. It was a fantastic weekend spent relaxing, enjoying friendships; hiking, crafts, hot tub, hiking, foot massages, and plenty of delicious home make meals. Mark your calendars for next year, April 24-26!



## GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER? YOU ARE WE HOPE!

GALA EVENING PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 8th  
Starting at 6 pm until about 8pm, let's join together to warmly WELCOME PASTOR MARILYN BACK and say a fond THANK YOU AND GOODBYE TO PASTOR CHUCK AND JAN.

A top quality caterer will prepare and serve a delicious banquet for the entire Plymouth Presbyterian congregation. This was planned as part of the Lily Grant for Pastor's Clergy Renewal Leave so the cost has been fully covered. This is a time for everyone to relax and enjoy some fellowship. No pot luck or clean up, Just come and bring your appetite!

PLEASE SIGN UP SOON AND CHOOSE YOUR ENTREE and DESSERT:

We need to plan for portions and table space. Call Gina at the church by May 11th.

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## Way to Grow

We want our church family to increase. We want to find ways to help our church grow and stay vital. In the near future, we will have brainstorming sessions to come up with some strategies to "grow our church". Stay tuned for more on this important issue.

CME Committee

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## Christian Ed is having a Garage Sale on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at PPC

Proceeds will earn scholarships for summer camp.  
Thank you for all donations.

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## Risk Management Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 20 at 7 pm.

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## Who are these Presbyterians?

The Sunday Class on "Who are these Presbyterians" will continue through May 18<sup>th</sup>; however there will be no class on May 11<sup>th</sup>

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## The Lending Library

Pastor Falconer has placed books from his class on the lending library pew in the Fellowship Hall. Please return them by Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Church Groups

## Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle met on April 9th with nineteen present to enjoy the fellowship of each other and the wonderful spring desserts served by Lorna Bradley, Corrine Humbird, and Ruth Cox.

Clayton Earl was the "Person of Faith" and gave a very interesting and inspiring critique of his life. Clayton's granddaughter, Rose Galloway, assisted Clayton with his presentation and Carol Jones accompanied Clayton from and back to Avamere.

Audrey Sinner closed the meeting with devotions written by quilter Diane Hilton entitled "Break-Up".

The next Priscilla Circle will meet on May 14th 1-3pm with hostesses Juanita Shearer and Regina Bloom. The devotions will be given by Becky Frazier and the Woman of Faith will be Donna McLean.

Helen Purkerson, co-chair

## PRAYER'S & SQUARES

Next Meeting - May 13 at 1:00.

## Deacons

Next Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup> - 3:30pm at PPC

The Deacons met on Tuesday, April 1st. There were 9 prayer requests in March. If you are not on the church's prayer chain, but would like to be, please tell your Deacon or call Ruth Cox (503) Monthly the Deacons get request for emergency funds. Each request is thoroughly researched and if a bona fide emergency, the Deacons provide assistance from the Deacon's Emergency Fund. The numbers of request were down this winter. Therefore, the Deacons decided to donate \$50 to our local food bank (H.E.L.P.) and \$50 to the Columbia River PUD GLOW program, a program that helps those in need with their utilities. As always, the Deacons thank all those who donate to the Emergency Fund.

Linda Dunn

## Men's Breakfast

Meets 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 -May 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Fellowship

Next meeting May 21, 2008 at 11:30 am at Warren Country Inn.

**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: May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

COMMUNITION, MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISIM  
May 6<sup>th</sup> -6:15 at PPC Fellowship Hall

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Income	MARCH 2008	Budget
Regular Offering	7847.75	6433.00
Other Income	324.50	393.00
Special Offering	752.25	451.50
Uncategorized		
Total Income	8924.50	7277.50
<b>Expense</b>		
Ministry	1708.34	5056.00
Mission	854.48	796.50
Operations	1495.32	1073.25
Other expenses	*6100.00	334.00
Personnel	875.51	980.00
Program	168.82	309.08
Misc.		
Total Expenses	14093.15	8548.83
<b>Net</b>	-5,168.65	-1271-33
<b>C/D's</b>		
<b>Custodial Fund</b>	Rate 4.5%	11,672.35
<b>Mission Development</b>	Rate 5.25%	32,329.90

\*Expenses included \$6,000 transferred from Custodial Fund (\$4,000 for new lights and \$2,000 to meet expenses).

Blessings to all,  
Howard Knytych, Finance Chairperson



# Family of Faith Member Clayton Earl

PERSON OF FAITH, CLAYTON EARL-----  
Priscilla Circle program, April 9th

North Dakota was the state in which Clayton Earl was born on August 2, 1918. He has been a life-long Presbyterian, first attending church as a babe in his parents' arms. In elementary school, Clayton and his siblings walked to and from school, five miles each way, often in VERY cold North Dakota winters.

Clayton left the family home to attend college in Minot, ND. He said that his faith helped guide him through his college years. After graduating with a degree in Education, Clayton's first teaching assignment was in a one-room school with sixteen students in six grades (think of all the lesson plans!). He met his future wife, Dorothy, while teaching and the couple was married for 63 1/2 wonderful years (Clayton's words). From this union the couple was blessed with three boys and two girls, and now includes grandchildren, great grandchildren, and three great, great grandchildren.

After moving to Oregon, Clayton worked for 34 years for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a teacher, elementary principal, and later, as a superintendent of the public schools at Warm Springs. Dorothy Earl taught in the Head Start program. Clayton and family continued to attend church wherever they lived.

Clayton and Dorothy moved to St. Helens about fifteen years ago to be closer to their family. His interest in sports has continued into later years as Clayton was still jogging in his early 80's and follows the Trailblazers, Mariners, among other sports teams.

Of the three brothers and one sister, Clayton said he was the tallest at 6'4" and the shortest brother was 6'.

Clayton's advice from his many years of experiencing life is that a Christian foundation is very important and then being able to turn to the Lord.

We have been blessed at Plymouth Church to have Clayton and his family with us. Thanks, Clayton, for your faithful commitment to the Lord. You are, indeed, an inspiration to all of us.



# HEART TO HEART



NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY -- April 17, 2008

*Psalm 121:3* "He will not let your foot slip." (At least not if you are careful to step over the boggy spots on the moor.)

Greetings from Iona, Scotland, though I hope to be safely back in Oregon by the time you read this.

The weather has been cool, windy, and unexpectedly sunny since this group of pilgrims arrived by ferry on the island on Saturday, April 12. The long pilgrimage hike to various sacred places on Tuesday has been the highlight for me, except for the occasional slip in the mud, once above boot-top (see the above reference to bogs.)

Among the 40 or 50 participants and staff are people from across the UK (England, Scotland, Ireland), from Canada and Australia, Holland and Germany, and several from the United States. We pray every day for peace, for an end to violence, for wholeness and reconciliation. Somehow it seems more possible when you are praying with people from around the world.

So let us all pray and work for God's true peace among us, within us, and around the world.

Shalom,  
*Pastor Marilyn Allen*

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#### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

May 1 - 23                      New Mexico  
June 1                              Welcome back

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### Thank you Chuck!

A big thanks to Rev. Chuck Falconer for filling in as our Pastor while Marilyn was on sabbatical. It's been an action packed time from the Fire Marshall's follow-up inspection the first day, to a memorial service for Don Coin Walrod, many pastoral calls and a class on Presbyterianism. He has gone above and beyond his contractual duties helping church members individual needs during these past few months. We've been fortunate to have his experience. For many members, it was a return of a Pastor who's been here during trying times in the history of Plymouth Church, and for others it's been a time to get to know Chuck for the first time.

Thanks again for this time with us, Chuck, and please come back and visit from time to time.

### Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday to Betty Grady!!!

Your church family wishes you the best on your birthday and beyond!

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#### May Birthday's

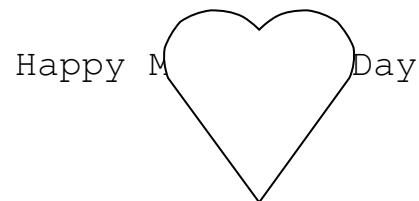
Wayne Haack	3
Ruth Cox	6
Betty Grady	6
Jennifer Daly	7
Shirley Chulufas	9
Karen Roldan	11
Doris Perry	16
Rick Kemp	19
Alex Kramer	23
Shirley Eaton	24
Linda Gaskill	28

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### Sunday School Teachers Needed

Sign up in fellowship hall

DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
4-May	Jan & Ron Stites		Helen Purkerson & Lorna Bradley	
1-June	Gina Harrington		Judy Gilbert, Yvonne Karreman	
6-July	Lorna Bradley		Gina Harrington, Connie Gunn	
3-August	Yvonne Karreman		Howard & Darla Knytych	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 9:30 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Randy & Linda Dunn	27-April			
	4-MAY		Randy & Linda Dunn	Linda Dunn
The Galloways, Jim, Jessie, & Josie	11-MAY	Men Serving Breakfast	Randy & Linda Dunn	Judy Gilbert
	18-MAY	Dunn & Dinwiddie	Shirley Eaton	Fran Pickering
Lorna Bradley & Corrine Humbird	25-MAY		Marilyn Brinster	Gina Harrington
	1-JUNE			
Richard & Shirley Chalufas	8-JUNE			
	15-JUNE			
Jan & Ron Stites	22-JUNE			
	29-JUNE			



QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

The average human heart beats  
100,000 times a day. Make

the most of it!

Kathleen Dinwiddie  
503-  
mkdinwiddie@gmail.com  
Newsletter Deadline May  
21<sup>st</sup> this will cover the  
months of JUNE & JULY.  
Please note the new  
email address for the  
editor.

Person reading this in whatever it is that you  
know they need."



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