

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

Bible Study: 9:20 AM, Worship: 10:30 AM

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

VOL 14 - NO. 12

December 2009 & January 2010

Marilyn's Meditation

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18a, 19

Happy New Year! In the church calendar, we are already in the new year, which begins with the first Sunday of Advent – November 29 this year. During 2010 we will hear the story of Jesus mostly through the words of Luke. In addition to the Christmas stories, we learn from Luke the stories of the prodigal son and the Good Samaritan and Zacchaeus. Peter catches a lot of fish before Jesus calls him to follow. The disciples aren't quite as clueless in Luke's version as they are in Mark's, and maybe we'll learn something from them.

Happy New Year! We aren't far from the beginning of a new calendar year. It seems so recently that we celebrated the turn of the century, and now we're almost into 2010. We don't know, of course, what the new year will hold. It's likely there will be some kind of odd weather – snow and ice, too much rain or too little, record heat or record cold. It's likely that the stock market will go both up and down. Old friends may leave and new friends will come. The church will continue to be a place of inspiration and fellowship, as well as a place of occasional frustration and concern. This year, as always, we'll need many hands reaching out in welcome and service, and many generous offerings, and many gifts of imagination and love.

Happy New Year! I pray that this will be a good new year for you. May you have a new experience of God's grace. May you find new ways to share your faith. May we all receive new strength to do the work of Christ together, knowing that we are in God's care – individually and as a congregation.

May God bless you in this new year.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

Journey to Christmas

God's people are always on the move it seems. Join us for our Advent journey toward Christmas.

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 6 | Preparing for the Journey |
| Dec. 13 | The Joy of the Journey |
| Dec. 20 | Journey to Bethlehem |
| Dec. 24 | Carols & Candles
10 pm |
| Dec. 27 | Caroling Our Faith |
| Jan. 3 | Growing in Faith |



Priscilla Circle



Twenty one ladies enjoyed the November 11th, 2009 Priscilla Circle when Carol Jones and Les Christie served a delicious autumn dessert. Christina Quiroz was a guest. Linda Gaskill was our Person of Faith and an inspiration to all of us. Please read Linda's bio in this newsletter. The devotions, given by Audry Sinner, centered on "living through faith with grace" and ended with a prayer "Let Us Be A Simple Soul".

December 9th will be the Priscilla Circle Christmas Luncheon at 11:30--Klondike Restaurant, followed by a cookie-sharing dessert at Audrey's home. Carpool from the church at 11:15. Each member is asked to bring three dozen cookies.

January 13th will be the next Circle meeting. Ruth Cox and Fran Pickering will hostess, devotions will be given by Regina Bloom, and Woman of Faith is Tillie Makepeace.

Helen Purkerson, co-leader

PPC Study Groups

The Monday Night Study will resume meeting on January 11, 2010. At this time, all I can say for sure is that it will be a Bible study. I will make an announcement in church when more information is available.

Linda Dunn

Sunday School will resume on January 10th, continuing with the study of James. Class starts at 9:20 am.

Deacons Report

In the month of October, there was one request for assistance from the Emergency Fund and 16 prayer requests. The next Deacon's meeting will be December 1st at 4 pm. Carol Jones will have devotions. There will not be a Deacon's meeting in January. Please contact your Deacon for prayers and assistance. Our prayers go out to fellow Deacon, Les Christie. Ruth Cox will be filling in for Les during her illness.

Kienan	Rae	12	1
Roy	Barbour	12	9
Pat	Brown	12	9
Steve	Hackett	12	9
Gina	Harrington	12	10
Michele	Rae	12	10
Jill	Simmons	12	10
Bill	Eagle	12	13
Kay	Pieper	12	13
Polly	Holbrook	12	15
Steve	Hooper	12	16
Gil	Pickering	12	23
Josi	Galloway	12	27
Nicki	Sinner	12	30
Kathleen	Dinwiddie	12	31
Quentin	Larsen	1	1
Linda Joy	Prettyman	1	1
Roger	Liefeld	1	5
Richard	Chulufas	1	9
Jonathan	Dickson	1	10
Jack	Ferrise	1	12
Jacob	Sinner	1	20
Sean	Daly	1	22
Jim	Galloway	1	22
Johan	Schoonover	1	23
Marilyn	Brinster	1	25
Helen	Purkerson	1	26
Jan	Hackett	1	27
Audrey	Sinner	1	28



Attendance

October 25	51
November 1	54
November 8	47
November 15	48
November 22	52

Financial Report

September 2009	Income	\$ 7,277.72
	Expenses	\$ 7,260.55
	Net	\$ 17.17
YTD 2009	Income	\$73,716.13
	Expense	\$77,037.80
	Net	\$(3,321.67)

Thanks to all who have turned in their pledge cards, if you haven't please consider doing so. This information helps in the budgeting process. Remember, donations made in December are tax deductions for 2009!

Thank-you for all your support this year.
Mark Dinwiddie, Finance Chairman

Congregational Meeting

The session has set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for **January 31, 2010**, after Sunday morning worship. The congregation will hear reports from commissions and fellowship groups, elect the 2010 Nominating Committee, vote on the pastor's terms of call (salary, etc.), receive the 2010 budget, elect officers of the corporation, and do any other business that may come before the congregation. All members and friends are encouraged to stay for lunch and the meeting.

Elders and others making reports, those reports are due in writing or by email to the church office on Sunday, January 10.

Karen Roldan, Clerk of Session

A Mission Moment

The Mission Commission has been busy this past fall. On November 21, we held our annual Fair Trade Sale and Information Fair. Now, we have entered into the time of Advent, when we prepare ourselves for the Joy of Christmas.

On Sunday, **December 20th** we will be taking our Christmas Joy Offering. This is the last of our four special offerings. The history of the Christmas Joy Offering begins in the 1930's and was called the Advent Offering. It was used for general missions. Over the years this offering changed and developed and in 1949 it became known as the Joy Gift. The Joy Gift was used to supplement inadequate retirement income and to provide medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries and other church workers. A Christmas offering was first taken in 1960 and was referred to as the White Gift. It was used for world relief. In 1964 it became The Christmas Offering for the welfare of children and youth worldwide. In 1988 the two offerings were joined and became The Christmas Joy Offering. In order to remain fair to the idea and the purpose of the two offerings, it was decided that the offering would be divided evenly. Fifty percent would be for retired, full time church workers and the other 50% to the welfare and education of young people worldwide.

Today we continue to divide the offering evenly between retired, full time church workers, and the other half to the ethnic – racial schools and colleges

May you feel the peace of Christ especially close to you during this Season of Joy, and may that feeling continue into the New Year.

The Mission Commission, Claudia Eagle - chair

From the Editor

Deadline for the February Newsletter is:

January 20, 2010

Please submit articles to Linda Dunn

E-mail: red40@opusnet.com

Please contact Linda if you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail or if you would like to stop receiving the newsletter.

December/January



Dear friends and loved ones at Plymouth,

Thank you all so much for your many beautiful cards, food, and thoughtfulness during this very difficult time in my life. I know I can get through this with your help, patience and the love of our Lord.

Love, Val

SHARING GIFTS

Our community shares gifts with families in need through Toy and Joy and Kiwanis food baskets. You are invited to contribute an unwrapped new toy, book or item of clothing for any age. Baby food is also needed. Bring your gift to the church on or before **December 13**. Let's work with others in our community to help make the season brighter.

We are having a 'butter' shower for Community Meals. Butter is a product that is heavily used by Community Meals and is not provided by the Food Bank. On **December 13th** we are asking you to bring butter to the church for Community Meals. They prefer unsalted butter in quarters. Please drop it off in the kitchen. Thank-you!

Bazaar 2009 Report

We give thanks for a successful bazaar. The bazaar and kitchen brought in \$3,584.10 to-date. The Fair Trade Market brought in \$720.10 and the Church World Service brought in \$780. A big thank-you to

all who gave so generously of their time and talents and helped this to be one of our best bazaars.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

A traditional service of carols and candles is a quiet way to end our preparation for Christmas and begin our celebration of the birth of Christ. The service will begin at 10:00 pm, with cookies and conversation at 9:30. You may bring cookies to share.

PASTOR'S DECEMBER SCHEDULE

I have been called for jury duty for Columbia County during the month of December. I will be out of the office on Tuesday, December 1, and possibly another few days during the month.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Donors wanted for our church's blood drive on Wednesday, January 20, 1:30-6:30 pm. Call Ruth Cox for appointments or more information.





Plymouth Website Update

Plymouth Church's web-site, www.plychurch.org has been active for about two years now. Gary Dinsmore, aka WikiGary, reports that the site is attracting lots of views. He uses a tool from Google to analyze the traffic to the site. In the last four months we have had 246 visits to plychurch.org. 193 visits are direct traffic, meaning you folks typed in "www.plychurch.org." Another 34 visits were referred by search engines, representing people looking for Plymouth Church either directly or indirectly. Finally six referrals were from pcusa.org, the web-site for Presbyterian Church USA.

From this you can see that our web-site represents a portal to the community for people searching for a church home. Gary is always looking for volunteers who are willing to continue to update and refresh the web-site with new photos and fresh ideas. Go to www.plychurch.org and log in or create a new account and get your feet wet. Gary is always available by e-mail to help you with ideas and formatting problems.

(gary@dinsmore-enterprises.com)

Prayers & Squares

Prayers & Squares will meet on December 15th at the church for cake and coffee. We will not be working on a quilt, but rather celebrating all we have accomplished in 2009. Many thanks to all who help with this mission. Please join us on the 15th at 1:00 pm.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES

Dec. 6: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-18. **Dec. 13:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 1:39-55. **Dec. 20:** Luke 1-2; Matthew 2. **Dec. 24:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-5. **Dec. 27:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14.

Jan. 3: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52. **Jan. 10:** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. **Jan. 17:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11. **Jan. 24:** Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21. **Jan. 31:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



Recipe Corner

Fresh Apple Cake – Charlotte Wilburn
(Served at the October Priscilla Circle)

Combine: 2 cups sugar, 3 cups flour, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp soda, 1 tsp cinnamon and ½ cup of coconut. Stir in 3 cups of chopped apples. Add 1 cup of oil, 2 beaten eggs and 2 tsp vanilla. Mix well and pour into a greased and floured 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 for 30 – 45 minutes.



Sharing Our Faith

LINDA
GASKILL

I cannot remember a time when faith was not an important aspect of my life. My mother's family was Brethren – similar to the Amish in tradition, dress and beliefs; and her father was a pastor. We profited from Mom's upbringing. My parents met soon after WWII. Mom was estranged from her family for a time after her marriage to a career Army officer. Getting to know Dad altered some family biases. There were three girls. Judith, mentally challenged and epileptic, was almost four when she joined the family. I was born a year later; and Shirley arrived 18 months later. Mother had her hands full! Our lives growing up were privileged, protected, sometimes exciting, and always busy. From an early age, life was **very** regimented and work oriented. One never said, "I'm bored!" (Yes, you really can clean a bathroom with a toothbrush!) We were a nomadic clan, moving every 18-24 months. It was exciting to live overseas, to become acquainted with other cultures and languages. Sometimes we were housed in beautiful homes and sometimes the family shared space in a one bedroom flat with us girls sleeping on Army cots – a footlocker at the end of each bunk. Usually we were housed on base.

Dad served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. For one hardship tour, he was affiliated with the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran as military advisor to the Shah's Imperial Army. During the cold war, his battalion was responsible for patrol of the East/West German border. He served with the 7th Cavalry (Gen. Custer's infamous regiment that was reorganized as an Armored Division.) Anytime Dad was gone on assignment, life carried with it an undercurrent of anxiety. Our family was close-knit and faith was a primary focus of our lives, especially when we were apart. Dad's last assignment before retirement was at Fort Lewis. We girls were baptized and joined the Church of Brethren in Lacey, where our parents served as deacon, elder and youth group advisors. At Dad's retirement we moved to Albany, transferring church membership to Whitespires Presbyterian. I completed a BS in Elementary Ed. at OSU.

Chuck and I were married at Albany Presbyterian in 1970. We have faced many adversities that strengthened our relationship and our faith; and we have been abundantly blessed. We have two children, Simon and Caitlin; and three grandchildren: Roman, Drake and Alexa who lives with us. Chuck, a civil engineer, is a man of integrity and faith – but you will rarely see him in church! I coordinate the county's child abuse team and serve as victim advocate for the District Attorney's office when requested. How do I describe my life? BLESSED... with great family and faithful friends. Blessed with strength to face obstacles and overcome adversity. Blessed with a peaceful spirit and the assurance that I am never alone. Blessed through a strong personal bond with God... the kind of relationship that promotes confidence, blind faith, and an unwavering desire to share talents and offer compassion in thanksgiving for the many gifts I have received.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

December 6	Communion Set-up: Lorna Bradley Communion Servers: Ron Stites, Judy Gilbert & Yvonne Schoonover Greeters/Ushers: Marilyn Brinster & Polly Rice Lay Leader: Flowers: Donna McLean Snacks:
December 13	Greeters/Ushers: Marilyn Brinster & Polly Rice Lay Leader: Flowers: Helen Purkerson, Music & Worship Snacks:
December 20	Greeters/Ushers: Bill Eagle & Linda Dunn Lay Leader: Fran Pickering Flowers: Music & Worship Snacks: Randy & Linda Dunn
December 27	Greeters/Ushers: Bill Eagle & Linda Dunn Lay Leader: Flowers: Music & Worship Snacks:
January 3	Communion Set-up: Mark & Kathleen Dinwiddie Communion Servers: Gayle Clemmer, Adrienne Schilling & Audrey Sinner Greeters/Ushers: Roger & Linda Liefeld Lay Leader: Flowers: Carol Jones Snacks:
January 10	Greeters/Ushers: Roger & Linda Liefeld Lay Leader: Linda Dunn Flowers: Snacks:
January 17	Greeters/Ushers: The Rae Family Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:
January 24	Greeters/Ushers: The Rae Family Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:
January 31	Greeters/Ushers: Doris & Kristen Perry Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:

Attention: Greeters/Ushers – Please be at the church by 10:00 AM. And, please provide name tags for visitors and ‘Welcome Packets’ for first-time visitors.

Welcome Committee

December & January: Fran Pickering, Mark Dinwiddie, Les Christie, Becky Frazier and Michelle Rae



December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pastor jury duty Deacons – 4 pm Music & Worship – 7 pm	2	3	4 Fellowship Hall in use, 5-9 pm	5
6 Communion Pageant Rehearsal, 12 pm Avamere Caroling 1:30 pm	7	8	9 Priscilla Circle Lunch – 11:30 am	10 Fellowship Hall in use, 5-9 pm	11	12
13 Pageant Rehearsal, 12 pm Chorale Concert – 3 pm	14	15 Prayers & Squares - 1 pm	16 S.N.A.P.P. 11:15 am	17	18	19
20 Christmas Pageant – Journey to Bethlehem	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve – 10 pm	25 Merry Christmas – Office Closed	26 Men’s Breakfast 8:00 am
27 Caroling our Faith	28 S.N.A.P.P. 11:15 am	29	30	31		



January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year!	2
3 Communion Avamere 2 pm	4	5 No Deacons or Music & Worship	6	7	8	9
10 Annual Reports Due	11 Bible Study 7 pm	12 CME 6:15 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 Bible Study 7 pm	19 Prayers & Squares 1 pm Session 6:30 pm	20 Fellowship 11:30 S.N.A.P.P. 11:15 Blood Drive 1:30 – 6:30 pm	21	22	23 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
24 Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch 11:45 am	25 S.N.A.P.P. 11:15 am Bible Study 7 pm	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Join us as we Journey to Christmas

Dec. 20 – Journey to Bethlehem pageant

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 10 pm

Dec. 27 – Caroling Christmas

May the Spirit of Christmas reside in your heart always and may God
bless you in 2010

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FIRST CLASS MAIL