

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

VOL.13, NO. 4

APRIL 2008

PASTOR'S MEDITATION

"I was called, but the calls were not always what I expected."

I believe that God calls all of us to some sort of ministry. Early in my life, I felt called to ministry within the church. I thought it would be as an agricultural missionary in Africa. So I majored in Agricultural Education at Oregon State. But the missionary doors never opened, at least in the way I expected. I went on to graduate from Seminary and be ordained as a minister in Presbyterian Church. My first call was to the church in Brownsville, Oregon. Now Oregon has one of the lowest church membership and attendance records in the United States, so coming to Oregon as a minister is like being a missionary. And the Brownsville church, and the others which I have served, were all rural. My Oregon State education was not wasted because I could talk with and understand the farmers and their problems. Then, in mid career, I discovered that I had administrative skills and spent the last two decades of my ministry in church administrative staff positions. Since retirement, I have been privileged to serve at a church related college in Alaska, not as a chaplain or faculty, but in the maintenance Department. And it was fun. And now I am serving Plymouth Church once again. I was called, but the calls were not always what I expected. Yet the calls used my talents and abilities to serve God and people.

I believe that God calls all of us to ministry. What has God called you to do where you are? Are you listening? How can you share the good news with those around you, both those who need to hear the good news and those who have heard it but are in need of support or encouragement or some other form of help?

God has called you. How are you answering God's Call?

Pastor Chuck Falconer

SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 6 - "Christian Growth"

(Communion)

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Ephesians 4: 1-16

487 - "When Morning

Guilds The

Skies"

321 - "Holy Spirit,

Truth Divine"

392 - "Take Thou

Our Minds"

April 13 - "Frankly"

Psalm Acts 4: 32-37

Matthew 25:31-46

464 - "Joyful,

Joyful, We Adore

Thee"

335 - "Though I May

Speak"

391 - "Take My

Life" □

April 20 - "The Church: A

Living

Edifice"

Acts 7: 55-60

I Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

482 - "Praise Ye

the Lord, the

Almighty"

426 - "Lord, Speak

to Me, That I

May

Speak"

417 - "Christ is

Made the Sure

Foundation"

April 27 - "Grace Is Not A Blue

Eyed

Blond!"

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 1: 1-18

466 - "O For A

Thousand

Tongues

to Sing"

327 - "O Word of

God

Incarnate"

280 - "Amazing

Grace" □ □ □ □ □ □

Announcements

Who are These Presbyterians?

Pastor Chuck will teach a class on "Who Are These Presbyterians?" which begins with a brief survey of Presbyterian history from biblical times to the present. Next will be a discussion of the characteristics and theological foundations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This will be followed by an overview of Presbyterian polity, the way Presbyterians govern themselves. Finally, the class will consider how Presbyterians should live in light of Presbyterian history, theology, and polity.

The class will be taught at two different times.

Sunday Classes: Beginning **March 30th**, this class will be taught in **seven sessions** from **11:30 to 12:30 pm**. Participants may bring a sack lunch. Lunch options for the remaining classes will be discussed during the first class.

Tuesday evenings Classes: Beginning **April 1st**, this class will be taught in **five sessions** on **April 1, 8, 15 and 29, and May 6**, from **7 pm - 8:30 pm**.

Women's Retreat

It's not too late to sign up for the women's retreat.

April 19 - 20 we will again retreat to **Morningsong Acres**. It is an unstructured weekend of rest, renewal and let's not forget **FOOD!!!**

The cost is \$80 per person and it's well worth the money to be pampered and taken care of by Myrin and Audrey Benz. We are supplied with fresh food from their garden and lots of homemade bread. And if you want to top it off, Audrey is setting up a masseuse to work us over, Cost for masseuse is \$40 for an hour. (Sorry guys, you should schedule a weekend there, Myrin also knows all the great fishing spots in the area!)

Bring shoes or boots if you want to hike, books to read, any craft projects you'd like to work on, a bathing suit for the hot tub and a healthy appetite. Sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall.

The only structured activities will be prayer time on Saturday and Communion on Sunday. Myron is a retired Lutheran minister and will perform the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper for us.

Monday Night Study Group

The Monday Night Study group will continue their study of the book of Acts. The class meets in the **Fellowship Hall at 7 PM** and is open to anyone.

Name Tags

We are getting new nametags here at the church. The old ones don't work on many levels, so we are forging ahead with magnetized ones. They will have the first name a little larger than second name. They are held on with a double, strong magnet (don't store them in your purse, ladies, or your credit cards will become demagnetized). They will actually stick on the holder in the narthex without falling off and taking all tags below with it.

They are \$8.00 apiece. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. You can either pay at the time you sign the sheet or when we get ready to put in the order. See Gina about payment. The deadline is **May 4th**. We will order them the following week.

Think About How We Grow

At our last Session meeting we had a discussion about how we can grow Plymouth Presbyterian Church. Part of the re-visioning process we had a few years ago grappled with this issue, but it's time to start thinking again how we can invite people from the community into our family of faith. If we don't grow, we will stagnate and wither. In the future, we will have meetings to discuss methods of how we can keep our church vital and growing! Start thinking of ways we can attract new members. We love our church and we want to see it flourish.

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP



---"and they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the scriptures to us?" (On the road to Emmaus)

Luke 24: 32

God wants us to walk the road with Christ. God is crying out to us to realize what life is all about and to pay attention to Christ's voice. Read Luke chapter 24. It is a great story. Christ has the power to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and save souls. God has more often than not, worked through people to spread the Word, feed the poor and work for understanding and peace. Christ calls upon us, the church, to help restore healing to the world. Are we too busy in our lives to pray or listen to what Christ is saying to us? He is calling us to live an abundant life in fellowship with Him.

In the coming weeks we will continue to pray for the missionaries and the people they serve in many countries around the world. Starting again, with India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There will be information on the Mission Table in the church.

God is always available to us. If we turn to God, we have nothing to fear.

Claudia Eagle

Mission Commission Chair

Hello all you youth and young people!

I miss you. As youth director and a person who really cares I have a few questions that does not require coming to youth group or even church, but they are important.

Who is God to you? What does God want from you?

Is God an alien?

What does God want to give you?

What has God already given you?

These answers lie within your heart. The Holy Spirit can whisper them to you, but it's an open heart that will hear.

If you want to find a way to hear the answers, try this...

Pray & read

Pray & be still

Pray & find a beautiful bit of nature and truly look

Pray & look at the largeness & the smallness of creation Pray & think on love, friendship, and the wonders of life

and ...Pray (To be continued ...)

God Bless you always,

Yvonne Karreman

PS: ET phone home. God is straining to hear you

We are developing procedures to make our Christian Ed program a very safe place for children.

In complying with our insurance company's regulations for child care providers there will be finger printing & a background check for all persons participating in any leadership role for children 18 and under.

The Columbia County Sheriffs office has offered us a price of \$100 for unlimited finger printing or \$10 per person. Please let me know if you want to be a part of the group. Anyone who would like to donate to the cause please see Fran.

We are also checking with the Oregon State Police for a group rate on background checks. The standard rate is \$33.00 per person. Again any donations gladly accepted. We will keep you updated with information as it comes in.

Christian Ed appreciates all your support in donations of recyclable cans & bottles, Red Apple receipts, and cash. It keeps us going.

The PPC Garage Sales is coming soon. Please remember to check your home for usable items to contribute. The proceeds are slated for Summer Camp tuition. Three young people attended last year, but maybe this year even more would like to enjoy camp. Brochures are on the table behind the Mission table or contact me if you have questions.

May God Bless you each and everyone.

Love,
Yvonne Karreman



Church Groups

Priscilla Circle

Fourteen women enjoyed the festive St. Patrick's Day décor and delicious refreshments served by Juanita Shearer and Regina Bloom (although Regina was ill and Larry helped in her stead) at the March Priscilla Circle meeting.

Fran Pickering read a very touching letter from one of the ATM orphans that we help to support.

A report on World Day of Prayer was given by Helen Purkerson. First Christian Church was the host church this year with over seventy people in attendance at the ecumenical service. Many churches participated, and together shared a nice luncheon following the service. Next year, WDP will be held at St. Fredric's Catholic Church. Thanks to all involved with the planning, the service, and attending.

The women were also encouraged to attend the Women's Retreat at Morningsong Acres April 18, 19, 20.

Following the refreshments and short business meeting, the group shared a time of Joys and Concerns emphasizing personal "miraculous" experiences. Lorna Bradley closed the program with inspirational devotions from Jan Karon's book, PATCHES OF GOD LIGHTS.

The **April Priscilla Circle meets on April 9th from 1-3 p.m.** with hostesses: Lorna, Corrine Humbird, and Ruth Cox. The devotions will be given by Audrey Sinner and hopefully; our Person of Faith will be Clayton Earl.

Helen Purkerson, Co-Chair

PRAYER'S & SQUARES

April 15th, 1-2PM, Fellowship Hall.

S.N.A.P.P. Our church serves lunch at the St. Helens Senior Center on the 4th Monday of each month. Serving: April 28th at 10:30 a.m.

DEACON'S REPORT

The Deacons met on Tuesday, March 11th. There were 14 prayer requests in February and one request for assistance for utilities. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 1st**.



FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Income	Month-to-date
Regular Offering	\$5,949.55
Other Income	\$248.36
Special Offering	\$343.45
Uncategorized	0.00
Total Income	\$6,541.36

Expense	
Ministry	\$4,983.60
Mission	\$417.33
Operations	\$874.98
Other expenses	\$365.00
Personnel	\$1,367.22
Program	\$266.92
Misc.	0.0
Total Expenses	\$8,276.69

Net \$(1,733.69)

C/D's		
Custodial Fund	4.50%	\$17,553.35
Mission Development	5.25%	\$32,048.86

Lilly Grant \$26,460.00

Remaining Balance as of **2/31/08** \$17,814.19

Most one-time large expenditures for equipment, reservations, tickets, etc, have gone out and what comes in now should be expenses Pastor Marilyn accrues as she travels.

Blessings to all,

Howard Knytych, Finance Chairperson

DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
April 6	Linda & Randy Dunn		Bob & Val Gauen	
May 4	Jan & Ron Stites		Helen Purkerson & Lorna Bradley	
June 1	Gina Harrington		Judy Gilbert & Yvonne Karreman	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 9:30 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Larry & Regina Bloom	30-Mar			
	6-Apr			Kathleen Dinwiddie
Fran Pickering & Carol Jones	13-Apr	Dunn & Dinwiddie		Gina Harrington
	20-Apr			Jack Ferrise
Randy & Linda Dunn	27-Apr			Adrienne Schilling
	4-May			
Jim, Jessica & Josie Galloway	18-May			
	1-June			

Adrienne Schilling



From the Editor

Kathleen Dinwiddie
503-
mkdinwiddie@gmail.com

Newsletter Deadline
April 16th

Please note the new email
address for the editor.

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



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

April 7 - 23 England & Scotland
May 1 - 23 New Mexico
June 1 Welcome back



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FIRST CLASS MAIL