

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

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February 2010

Marilyn's Meditation

*"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."
Luke 5:4b*

Jesus gave Simon Peter an opportunity. What would Peter do? Would he continue his life as usual in the fishing business? Or would he become a disciple who could leave what had seemed important to do something even more important with Jesus?

That is the challenge of this season of the church year. February begins in Ordinary Time, with its focus on discipleship, and ends in the middle of Lent, which this year begins on February 17. The seven-week period leading up to Easter has traditionally been a time for new Christians to learn about the basics of the faith and to grow in their relationship with God. One older child will be in a confirmation class during this time. She will be reading the Gospel of Luke, and I encourage you to do the same.

Some people "**give up** something for Lent." If that helps us to focus on Christ, on his persistence in the face of temptation and opposition, and on his presence with us now, the discipline of giving up a habit or a pleasure can strengthen our faith.

Another possibility is to "**take up** something for Lent." You might set aside a certain time each day for prayer with a devotional booklet and the Gospel of Luke. You might volunteer to help at Community Meals, if you don't already, or set aside 5 or 10 cents a meal to donate to the Food Bank. Taking up something can also strengthen our faith.

On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday (February 17), you are invited to a 7 pm evening worship service with prayer, Scripture, quiet music, ashes and communion. On the following six Wednesday evenings, we will have a short worship service, 7:00-7:20 pm, before choir rehearsal.

I pray that you will join other Christians around the world who, like Peter, have the courage and faith to "put out into deep water," and see what God will do in our lives and in our world.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

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PRISCILLA CIRCLE

On January 13th, twenty women gathered in the church fellowship hall for Priscilla Circle. Ruth Cox and Helen Purkerson (in the absence of Fran Pickering) served refreshments and Regina Bloom provided devotion with helpful tips for the aging process. Tillie MakePeace was our Woman of Faith and gave a fascinating glimpse into her faith journey beginning in North Carolina as a small child growing up on a tobacco farm. Tillie's God-given talent for music and her love of singing have played an important role in Tillie's faith heritage.

During December, the group provided twenty five books for selected children, delivered seven cookie plates, and mailed four boxes of cookies.

February 10th at 1 p.m. is the next Priscilla Circle meeting with hostesses Doris Perry and Becky Frazier. Donna McLean will provide a devotion and the program will be given by Steve Randolph from Portland, a board member for Makindu Childrens' Program.

Everyone is welcome--see you there.
Helen Purkerson, co-leader

PPC Study Groups

The Sunday morning adult class continues their studies. They meet in Hutchinson Hall, around the corner from the offices, at 9:20 am. The study is led by Pastor Marilyn and all are welcome

The Monday Night Study meets at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book of Hebrews.



Sign outside
Covenant Moravian
Church, York, PA:
"A church is a gift from
God. Assembly required."



COMMUNITY MEALS

The Community Meals ministry continues to thrive and in January a second night was added. Hot soup and bread are now being served on Thursday evenings. Many volunteers have stepped forward so at this time they are not seeking volunteers. But there are still ways you can help:

- **Money** – to buy supplies and perishable food. Or make a donation to the First Lutheran Church to assist with utilities. Make checks payable to 'Community Meals' and mail to 1st Lutheran Church, 360 Wyeth St., St. Helens, OR
- **Supplies** –Mayonnaise, Cream of Mushroom soup, butter, Heinz ketchup, wide noodles, gallon freezer bags, tall kitchen garbage bags, and Corelle bowls.
- **Pray** - That this ministry will continue to be a blessing to this community.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Fellowship Hall – The Fellowship Hall needs a new coat of paint and the floor also needs to be stripped and waxed. We would like to have this completed by Easter. If you'd like to help with this effort, please contact Buildings and Grounds chair, Jack Ferrise.

A **Landscape Committee** is a short-term planning team to make the front yard of the church more open and welcoming. (See a photo from 1985 posted near the kitchen.) If you're interested in helping, please contact Jack Ferrise with your ideas for now, and your time, muscles and tools for later. It would be wonderful to have some of the work completed by Easter. A time-frame will be developed for other projects.



Iris	Langdon	2	1
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
Tillie	MakePeace	2	21
Georgine	Williamson	2	21
Randall	Dunn	2	24
Yvonne	Schoonover	2	26

DEACONS REPORT

The Deacons met on December 1st. There had been 20 prayer requests in November and 2 requests for assistance. The Deacon's ask that you continue to keep Deacon Les Christie in your prayers. Our next meeting is February 2nd at 4:00 pm. Linda Dunn will have devotions.

Attendance

November 22	52
November 29	51
December 6	42
December 13	49
December 20	65
December 24	40
December 27	30
January 3	53
January 10	58

A MISSION MOMENT

We have entered the year 2010. What should our Mission Program look like this year and for the future? We have reached out to the world at large, through our Special Mission Offerings such as the One Great Hour of Sharing or the Peacemaking Offering. We have raised money locally for the Food Bank. We do this through the "Souper Bowl", which we will do again on **February 7th 2010**, with the help of our young people. We also have the opportunity for weekly giving of canned food and cash donations. Our church has now added the opportunity to support Community Meals.

What else could we do for the general welfare of the church and the world? One thing everyone can do is pray. Pray for the church as a whole and pray for our church locally. We, the people, are the church. Pray for our spiritual, financial and mission development. Pray that we will listen for, and be able to act, on God's direction. We also ask for prayer for Dr. Lewis Zirkle and his team who have gone to Haiti to take care of people who have broken bones. Dr. Zirkle won the Orthopedic Surgeons' Humanitarian Award in 2007 for developing a surgical steel implant that could be used by doctors in third world countries in a timely manner with faster healing and lower infection rates..

We, the church, are the hands and voice of God in the world today. What a wonderful, awesome responsibility it is to spread the news of God's love around the world. God bless all of you.

The Mission Commission

Mystery Dinner

For weeks now folks have been talking about the 1st Annual Deadwood Poker Tournament held at the Deadwood Saloon (aka Plymouth Church) on **March 20th**. This promises to be the biggest poker tournament this side of the Mississippi. Everyone from outlaws to marshals and saloon girls to rodeo queens will make this the place to be. But, be warned, you get this many rowdies together and there is bound to be trouble. There will be outstanding grub with all the fixin's prepared by the Fellowship Commission. More information to come, but mark your calendars now. RSVP is kindly requested by contacting Lib Hooper or Linda Dunn. No knowledge of poker required, just a good appetite and a sense of humor.



Let us Pray

For the family of Vicky Lufkin who mourn her death. Vicky was born in St. Helens. She also attended the Monday Night Study Group, and was Connor Freeman's grandmother.

For the people of Haiti and all who are involved in the disaster relief efforts.

For Les Christie and for the challenges she faces with her recovery.

For Regina Bloom that they might determine the cause of her pain and healing may begin.

World Day of Prayer

This years World Day of Prayer will be Friday, March 5th at Christ Episcopal Church on Division Road.



Plymouth Church donated 41 pounds of butter to Community Meals as a result of our butter shower. Thank-you for your generous contribution to this effort and for supporting this ministry.

Thank-you to Gary and Judy Dinsmore for donating the cost of Hearlight and the fees for our website.

Name Tags - Please contact Gina Harrington or leave a message with the church office if you would like a magnetic name tag.



Ash Wednesday

Lent will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on February 17, at 7:00 pm. Ashes are a traditional sign of repentance and mortality. Life is short, and we aren't perfect. So, Ash Wednesday is a time to consider who we are and our relationship with God. During this service you may receive the sign of ashes on your forehead or hand. We will close with Communion



SUNDAY READINGS

Feb. 7: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

Feb. 14: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43).

Feb. 21: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

Feb. 28: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

S.N.A.P.P. – Plymouth Church will be serving meals for the Senior Center (which is temporarily across from IGA) on the third Wednesday (2/17) and the fourth Monday (2/22). Please be at there by 11:00 am.

Church Directories have been updated and are now available at the church. Please contact Gina Harrington if you would like the Directory in PDF.



Sharing Our Faith

DR. TILLIE
MAKEPEACE

I was born and raised on a tobacco and poultry farm in Westfield, NC. We raised around 20 acres of flue cured tobacco and kept over 10,000 laying hens. I was the third of four children, the first of two girls. Daddy had been born and raised less than two miles away, down on the creek, on the same farm we worked. This land was a part of a Land Grant from the English King in 1760's to my Daddy's Jessup ancestors. Mother was born and raised on 94th and Halsted Streets in Chicago, Ill, to Scot and German immigrants. Mother and Daddy met in Santa Barbara, CA, during WWII, danced together at a USO dance and were married shortly after. Daddy went off to war. Mother went back to Chicago to live with her sister and birth her first baby. Years later I asked Mother if she loved Daddy. Her answer after some thought was, "It was war."

Mother was born a Free Methodist in Chicago. She was well educated, being the first woman class president of her city-college. She played concert quality piano. She graduated as a Registered Nurse and went to California to help tend returning troops. Mother's faith rested soundly on the discipline and comfort of ritual and service. Daddy was born a Primitive Baptist to a large, hard working county family in the hills of NC. He knew his Great-Grandfather who fought in the Civil War. He leaned to play fiddle by ear and made extra money playing for dances and gospel sings. Daddy's faith rested soundly on the earth he tended and the music he felt in his heart.

I was born into the tiny house Daddy had built just after the war. We had a huge fireplace with a wide raised hearth. We had a huge back porch with a screen door that went "bang" when it closed behind a running child. We had over 300 acres of land in which to roam. We worked. We went to school. And we went to church. That was the life of county folks in Westfield. Music was a theme. Music and the woods became my connection to God.

I came to know the Lord in the wonderful, ole fashioned manner of being convicted, led and saved by someone on whose heart God had laid the call to come to me. Frank Tilley, my sorta God-parent, came to my house on night of the fall revival. He was nervous. To be so spiritually intimate with someone, a young woman was awkward. Grandma had already taught me about the Gracious God who created the smell, touch and beauty of the woods and the earth on whose soil we tended our lives. I was scared to be singled out for this ritual, and yet, I was glad to profess I knew God and I would be glad to get to know the Jesus I had sung about since I was six. I stood in church the next night and professed my new faith in front of "God and everybody". My Daddy told me he loved me. The only time he ever gave me those words. With Grandma and Mother Earth as my respite, with Frank and June Tilley as my mentors, and music as my connection to God, I began to listen and follow where God would lead me. Now I listen with more dedication and desperation, asking God for direction and instructions specific to the challenges I choose to face. I know the voice of the Spirit with more clarity and trust. I struggle daily with setting aside selfish, fearful individuality. And I rejoice daily to be allowed moments when I am used as the message of the Spirit. Sometimes I sing the Blues. Sometimes I see the Joys. Always I sing.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

February 7	Communion Set-up: Helen Purkerson Communion Servers: Bill & Claudia Eagle, Jack Ferrise Greeters/Ushers: Doris & Kristen Perry Lay Leader: Randy Dunn Flowers: Mark & Kathleen Dinwiddie Snacks: Dinwiddie & Dunn
February 14	Greeters/Ushers: Juanita Shearer and Jean Anderson Lay Leader: Mark Dinwiddie Flowers: Snacks: Lib Hooper and Judy Gilbert
February 21	Greeters/Ushers: Juanita Shearer and Jean Anderson Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:
February 28	Greeters/Ushers: Ruth Cox and Genny Vincent Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:
March 7	Communion Set-up: Shirley Chulufas and Carol Jones Communion Servers: Randy & Linda Dunn, Lorna Bradley Greeters/Ushers: Ruth Cox and Genny Vincent Lay Leader: Flowers: Donna McLean 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

March: Linda Dunn, Adrienne Schilling, Ron Stites, Josie Galloway and Helen Purkerson



Deadline for the March Newsletter is:

February 17th

Please submit articles to Kathleen Dinwiddie

E-mail: mkdinwiddie@gmail.com

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

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Adult Study – 7 pm	2 Deacons – 4 pm Music & Worship – 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Communion Avamere, 2 pm	8 Adult Study – 7 pm	9 Fellowship Hall in use 8-4 CME – 2 pm	10 Priscilla Circle 1-3 pm	11	12	13
14  Happy Valentines Day	15 Adult Study – 7 pm	16 Prayers & Squares - 1 pm Session – 6:30 pm	17 SNAPP – 11:00 Newsletter Deadline Ash Wed. Service 7 – 7:30 pm	18	19	20
21	22 SNAPP – 11:00 Adult Study – 7 pm Pastor Vacation	23 Pastor Vacation	24 Lent Worship 7 – 7:20 pm Pastor Vacation	25 Pastor Vacation	26 Pastor Vacation	27 Men’s Breakfast – 8 am, Warren Country Inn Pastor Vacation
28 Pastor Vacation						



MAY THE
GRACE
OF THE LORD
BE UPON
YOU

“I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am

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