

PLYMOUTH CROSSING

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTOR MARILYN ALLEN

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS IN A FAMILY OF FAITH

VOL.13, NO. 3

MARCH 2008

MARILYN'S MEDITATION

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

The Sermon on the Mount begins with these words of blessing. *Blessed are those who mourn... Blessed are the meek.... Blessed are the merciful. And so forth.*

In the readings for the Sundays of this year, we hear very little from the Sermon on the Mount - Lent and Easter arrive too early. So take some time to read these words from Matthew 5.

These blessings are in the present tense. There is good available to us, good deep within us, by God's grace, even when we are poor in spirit, mourning, unable to speak up for ourselves.

Wayne Muller, in his book *Sabbath*, says this:

[Jesus] said *blessed are*. Not "they will one day be blessed," but they are blessed *right now*. The poor are blessed, even in their poverty. Those who mourn are blessed, even in their grief. The meek, the merciful, even those who are persecuted—blessed, blessed, blessed. Not later. Not when their trials are over. Not when they are fixed. Right here, right now. There is a blessing for you here, now in this very moment.¹

Jesus invites us to pause and consider the present moment. This is when God is available to us. This is the only time when we are available to God. During Lent we have the opportunity to set aside other concerns and listen for the voice of God. On my sabbatical I will set aside other responsibilities in order to listen for the voice of God.

We might worry that the Voice may be calling us to repent, to change, to do what we're not sure we want to do. But listen to the word of Jesus on the mountain. "Blessed, blessed, blessed are you!"

As we make our way toward Easter, let us believe that we are blessed. Let us receive the blessing of the One who said, "I am the resurrection and the life." May we accept that new life as a good gift from God.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 2 - Communion

March 9- Fifth Sunday in Lent
"Life Through the Spirit"
Ezekiel 37:1-214
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 16- Palm-Passion Sunday- "Strange Conquest"
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Mark 11:1-10
Philippians 2:5-11

March 20- Maundy Thursday
"Solemn Self-Examination"
(Communion)
Exodus 12:1-4
John 13:1-7, 31b-35

March 23 - Easter Sunday
"What's It All About?"
John 20:1-18
Acts 10:34-43

March 30- Sunday after Easter
"It's Only Just Begun"
Psalm 100
Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-35
John 2 0:19-31

March 7, 11:00am -
"World Day of Prayer"
At First Christian Church

¹ Wayne Muller, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*. (New York: Bantam Books, 1999), p. 43.

Announcements



World Day of Prayer

March 7th, 11:00 am
First Christian Church

There are many ways to share with others around the globe in offering prayer and praise to our one Creator. An ecumenical and international observance is held on the World Day of Prayer, on the first Friday in March. More than 170 countries and regions now participate in this observance. First Christian Church will host our community in this years "World day of Prayer".

WOMEN'S RETREAT April 18-20, 2008

Mark your calendar!!!



Women of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, get ready for a weekend of relaxation and reflection as we plan our annual women's retreat. We will again be traveling to Morning Song Acres in the Columbia River Gorge, April 18-20. Myron and Audrey Benz always take good care of us and we look forward to great treatment again. Bring books to share, crafts to work on, walking shoes or boots if you are so inclined, your swim suit to relax in the hot tub and whatever else will help you refresh your soul. It will be an unstructured weekend; the only planned activities will be a prayer time on Saturday and Communion on Sunday. Myron will preside over Communion for us. He is a retired Lutheran minister and has graciously consented to providing the sacrament. We will also see if the neighbor is still living nearby who did massages for us last year. Be as active or not as you choose. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for the weekend is \$80, a bargain for the wonderful homegrown food and great homemade breads that Audrey makes for us. Join us for a weekend of relaxation, refreshment and rejuvenation.

Day Light Savings Time March 9th



March 23rd

Need Assistance?

Chuck Falconer will be at Plymouth Presbyterian Church on Tuesday and Sundays in Pastor Marilyn's absence. For emergency assistance contract your deacon or head deacon, Ruth Cox.

A Calendar and assignment of responsibilities will be posted in Fellowship hall on the Bulletin Board beside the kitchen.

If you need assistance with the calendar scheduling or information please contact Gina Harrington or Karen Roldan.

Abuse Prevention & Risk Reduction Committee

The Abuse Prevention & Risk Reduction Committee is establishing policies and procedures to prevent and reduce the possibility of abuse within the Church. This will not only add security for potential victims but also for volunteers and those in a leadership position, and keep down the cost of Insurance.

These meetings are open to the congregation. We will keep you posted on the upcoming meetings. For more information contact Darla Knytych.



Church Groups

Priscilla Circle



The tables looked very festive with heart decorated napkins and plates at Priscilla Circle's February 13 meeting. Seventeen women were present and enjoyed Helen's delicious cherries in the snow dessert.

After a short business meeting, Gayle Clemmer shared her Walk in Faith. This sharing time continues to be so inspiring. Regina closed the meeting with devotion from "Chicken Soup for the Soul" about the importance of hugs.

Our next meeting is March 12. Jack Ferrise will share his Walk of Faith, Lorna Bradley is in charge of devotions, and Regina and Juanita are the hostesses. The time is 1 - 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. See you there!

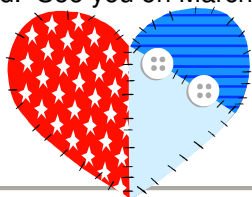
Fran Pickering, Co-Chairman

PRAYER'S & SQUARES

Next meeting will be March 18th at 1:00 P.M. in fellowship hall. We will be tying a quilt that Gayle Clemmer made the top for. It is bright and cheery and will make a very fine quilt to give to someone in distress.

Thanks for the help of all of you "nifty needlers" in making squares for Prayers & Squares. Your help is much appreciated. See you on March 18th with needles in hand.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Sinner, Chair



S.N.A.P.P. Our church serves lunch at the St. Helens Senior Center on the 4th Monday of each month. Serving: March 24th at 10:30 a.m.

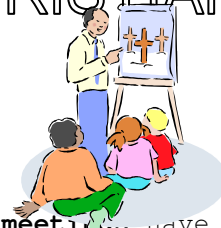
Men's Breakfast

Meets 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 - **March 22**

Deacons

An updated deacons list is attached to the newsletter. If you are unable to reach your deacon please contact Ruth Cox for assistance.

CHRISTIAN ED



Youth group meetings have been changed to Sundays after church 12:00 - 1:30; a light lunch will be provided.

Nikki Update: Nikki is improving daily. She is moving her own wheel chair, Standing up, drinking out of a water bottle, and playing games.

Coming soon...

Church Garage Sale

When you're spring-cleaning, consider donating good usable items to the Church. The proceeds from the garage sale will help send our youth to the Presbyterian Church Youth Camp. These camps are amazing and offer students many opportunities. Contact Yvonne for arrangements.

Volunteers Needed..

Garage sale helpers

Sunday School teachers & teacher assistants
Help with food preparation for youth group meetings

We need your help. It has been brought to our attention through Insurance liability that we need 2 Sunday school teachers in each Sunday School Class. Please check the Sunday School Teacher sign up when you arrive on Sunday. If no one has signed up please consider helping out.

Contact Yvonne Karreman or Jan Stites.

Jan Stites (503)
Rose Galloway (503)
Yvonne Schoonover (503)

Church Groups

Minute for Mission

I was asked the following questions, not too long ago: "Why do we still have missionaries going to all these countries instead of just sending bibles and money? Wouldn't it be much cheaper and less dangerous?" To answer those questions I have to say that we do send bibles and money along with the missionaries. Missionaries do sometimes face danger and they are aware of that possibility. However, bibles do not do much good for people who cannot read. As far as sending money, where and to whom do you send it when you have isolated areas of Africa where people are starving or sick and in danger of dying? Missionaries are the walking symbols of love, concern and action that will know what to do with the money and bibles. They are out there saving lives and souls. It is common knowledge among psychologists that you cannot affect a change in a person's mind or life as long as they are starving and (or) very ill. First you alleviate some of the pain in their lives and then you will more likely be able to reach their souls with the love of God that you have brought to them. This is what our missionaries do every day, all around the world, to fulfill the commission given to us to "Go into all, the world and preach the gospel". During the last part of lent, let us thank God for all the people who are willing to go out to all the world. March 16th will be Palm Sunday, followed by Easter and the 'One Great Hour of Sharing Offering' on March 23rd. Think about the word 'sharing'. What does it say to you? Do you immediately think that someone wants to get into your pocket again? What do you think God wants you to do with what you possess? How much is really yours and how much belongs to God that you should share? God speaks to each person differently. Listen to what God is saying to your soul. God loves you and wants what is best for you. God will not ask for more than you can give. You can share the love of God with others by giving to the 'One Great Hour of Sharing Offering' this Easter.

The Mission Commission
Claudia Eagle
Mission Commission, Chair



FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP January 2008

Income	Month-to-date
Regular Offering	7,214.47
Other Income	0.00
Special Offering	850.00
Uncategorized	0.00
Total Income	8,064.47
Expense	
Ministry	4,882.79
Mission	846.69
Operations	1,201.61
Other expenses	*787.71
Personnel	952.27
Program	437.78
Misc.	0.0
Total Expenses	9,108.85
Net	-1,044.38

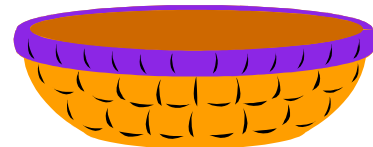
*The \$787.71 item for other expenses was for the new office desktop computer, used primarily by Gina, to replace the old one. This cost was offset by an \$800 contribution under special offerings.

As of the end of 2007, we have over \$49,000 in savings, broken down as follows, as of 12/31/07:
Custodial Fund - \$17,485.59 earning @ 4.5%
One-Year Mission Development Certificate - \$31,636.46, earning @5.25%

I do not have the figures for January yet, but will report both January and February in the next newsletter.

Blessings to all,
Howard Knytych

Our Per Capita Membership fee is \$21.41 per member. If you would like to contribute to your membership fee, place this amount in the collection basket and note the purpose on the envelope or check.





Woman of Faith

Gayle Clemmer

Gayle was born in Santa Maria, CA right before the beginning of the depression and spent her early years in the Medford, OR area. Her earliest remembrances of religious activities were the Christmas pageant programs in grade school. She said that they went from being a middle class family to a "depression family" and did some moving about wherever work could be found.

In the sixth grade, Gayle's family moved to Arizona and she found relatives including her grandmother, aunts and uncles. Gayle lived part of her early life with her grandmother who she says, "planted the seed" of whom Gayle would someday become. An amazing legacy. Her grandmother had a very practical faith.

Gayle was working in northern California when she met her husband to be whom she later married and from this union were born six wonderful children: Debbie, Becky, Adrienne, Walter, Gretchen, and Rachel.

While living in California, Gayle began attending a small church where she felt very comfortable, and soon was singing in their choir. This was a major turning point in Gayle's church life.

After moving to the Scappoose area, Gayle eventually began attending Plymouth Church, thanks to an invitation from Geneva Mayo Burwell, and has been a vital link in the church family since that time.

Gayle was widowed in 1979.

We are grateful for Gayle, her strong practical presence, her love of the church family, and the tremendous amount of work she has given to the church. When we think of Gayle, we think of the banners, the weekly coffee hours, the bazaar, and on and on and on. Thank you Gayle, and may God bless you.



HEART TO HEART



Notes from members & friends.....

Thank you to:

- The Sabbatical Planning team and their assistants: Darla & Howard Knytych, Judy Gilbert, Yvonne Karreman-Schoonover, Ron & Jan Stites, Bill & Claudia Eagle, Fran Pickering, Lorna Bradley, & Tillie MakePeace.
- The Fellowship Commission for a great lunch on February 17, and to Lorna for the delicious birthday cake.
- All who gave me birthday cards

Thank you for all your Prayers as I begin this sabbatical journey.

God be with us all and bring us together again.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

Recipe:

JELLO DE LUXE LEMON CHEESECAKE

Graham cracker crust:

3/4 C. graham crackers crumbs

1 Tablespoon sugar

2 Tablespoons melted butter or margarine

Mix the above 3 ingredients together and sprinkle on sides and press in bottom of a greased 9" spring form pan. Set aside.

Cook and stir contents of large box of Jello Pudding & Pie filling with 3/4 C. sugar and 1-1/3 C milk to full boil, (curdling will disappear). Cover pudding surface. Set aside. Beat 1-1/2 pounds (3 - 8 oz. packages) of cream cheese. Beat in 3 eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and cooked pudding. Pour into prepared spring form pan. Bake at 425 degrees for 30 minutes. Turn off oven and open door, (ajar). Leave cake in oven for 30 minutes more. Finally - remove cake from oven and cool on rack until completely cold. Serves 10 - 12.

(I used a heavy duty mixer to beat the cream cheese and the ingredients that were put into the cream cheese - beat on high) from box of Jello Deluxe Lemon Pudding Mix from the kitchen of Audrey Sinner

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

March 5 - 26 California
 April 7 - 23 England & Scotland
 May 1 - 23 New Mexico
 June 1 Welcome back



Don't forget to check the Sign Up Sheets



Birthdays

Connie Quick	4
Madison Kramer	4
Merle Pence	7
Nancy Federici	8
Tim Gale	8
Alexa Gaskill	12
Russ McFann	12
Jean Musick	15
Bernadine Hall	16
Adrienne Schilling	23

DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
March 2	Shirley Chalufas & Carol Jones		Karen Roldan & Audrey Simmer	
March 20 – Maundy Thursday	Adrienne Schilling		Gayle Clemmer & Adrienne Schilling	
April 6	Linda & Randy Dunn		Bob & Val Gauen	
May 4	Jan & Ron Stites		Helen Purkerson & Lorna Bradley	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 9:30 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Helen Purkerson & Anna Davis	2-Mar		Shirley Chaulufas	Val Gauen
	9-Mar		Val Gauen	Randy Dunn
Linda Gaskill	16-Mar		Carol Jones	Mark Dinwiddie
	23-Mar	Deviled Eggs	Worship Committee	
Larry & Regina Bloom	30-Mar		Al & Audrey Sinner	
	6-Apr			Kathleen Dinwiddie
Fran Pickering & Carol Jones	13-Apr			
	20-Apr			
Randy & Linda Dunn	27-Apr			
	4-May			

Kathleen Dinwiddie
503-
mkdinwiddie@gmail.com
Newsletter Deadline
March 19th

Please note the new email address for the editor.



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