

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: 9:15 AM, Worship: 10:30 AM



Marilyn's Meditation

When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

Maybe that was the original GPS – the word of the Lord in the ears of the exiles, trying to find their way home. What if our daily lives were that simple?

*"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

What if our spiritual choices were as obvious as the choice those young men made who heard the call and immediately left their nets and followed Jesus?

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13

Our resource (GPS, if you will) is the Spirit, who will continue to guide us, as we pay attention and make the choices that lead in the way of Jesus. During the January meeting of the session, several people made this point. As a congregation, we need to listen to what God's Spirit is trying to make plain to us. Maybe it's something obvious and tangible. Maybe it's a long-term goal. Maybe it's a leap of faith, farther than we can see.

One person put it this way: "... how [do] we fit the gift of the past (finances and facility) into the growth, gift and mission of our journey of faith into the future."

In the coming months, as a congregation, may we listen for the word that says, "This is the right way; walk in it." In the coming months, may each of us personally find the next steps that will keep us on the journey of faith.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

Newsletter Highlights

Birthdays – Pg. 2

Mission Moment – Pg. 3

Upcoming Events – Pg. 4

Scripture Readings – Pg. 5

Person of Faith – Pg. 5

Sunday Volunteers – Pg. 6

Calendar – Pg. 7



Let us **LOVE** one
another as **GOD**
has loved us

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Fifteen members met in the Fellowship Hall on January 12th, a cold, slushy day, enjoyed delicious ice cream and cake served by Ruth Cox and Doris Perry, and listened to Ron Stites as he shared his Life of Faith. He brought many pictures to share – some with hair, some without! We found his upbeat attitude and quick smile quite contagious

During the business portion of the meeting, Fran Pickering reported that \$1,317 was contributed to the Makindu Children’s Program in Kenya in 2010 and that 24 books were purchased at the St. Helens Bookstore for the underprivileged students in St. Helen’s grade schools in December.

Karen Roldan will be the Person of Faith at our next meeting on February 9th. Yvonne Schoonover will have devotions. Marilyn Allen and Fran Pickering are in charge of refreshments.



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

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

LEADERSHIP FAIR

Get the year off to a good start by attending the Cascades Leadership Fair, Saturday, February 26. Stimulating keynoter Anthony Robinson will inspire with an address called “Congregation Next: A New Thing God is Doing.” That will be followed by a wide variety of helpful workshops for church leaders and members. See the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall or visit www.cascadespresbytery.org for more information. Several people will carpool from Plymouth. This is always a helpful and inspiring event.

Attendance

December 5	52
December 12	63
December 19	54
December 26	41
January 2	35
January 9	50
January 16	44

Fellowship

To all who hosted Fellowship Hour after church in 2010, a great big **THANK YOU** from the Fellowship Commission.

We invite one and all to do it again in 2011. What? You've never done it before? No worries. Partner up with one or two friends at the church and sign up to host a coffee hour. It's really very easy and great way to meet new people. One person arrives around 9:40 to make the coffee (detailed instructions are above the kitchen sink). Next, put out a few simple snacks - cheese, crackers & cookies are always a hit! Visit with old friends and make new ones as they ooh and ahh over your treats. Accept their good wishes and thanks. Wash the coffee cups and wipe off the tables. Go home, knowing you provided the basics for good Christian fellowship.

A MISSION MOMENT

Greetings everyone, we are now a month into our new year. What are we going to do with this new opportunity? Will we just let each day go by as it will, or will we create something surprisingly wonderful, by seeking God's help and working together? What do you think we could accomplish?

The first Sunday of February is what we, in the church, call "**Souper**" **Bowl Sunday**.

Do you remember the story of the first Souper Bowl? Over 19 years ago, in a Presbyterian church back east, an active young people's group became inspired by a simple prayer made by their minister. This was that prayer: " Oh God, while people are enjoying the Super Bowl, later today, help us all to be mindful of the terrible fact, that there are people right here and all over the world, that do not have even a bowl of soup, to eat." Those active young people picked up on this, and asked the minister if they could start a drive to raise money, to feed the hungry in their area. The minister helped them get organized and they decided to call it the "Souper" Bowl of Caring. Before the next Super Bowl came around, they contacted all the other churches in their area and got them involved also. Every year it has spread further across the country and is now an international event. On **February 6th**, we will have the soup pot available for your cash donations as you leave worship service. Your donation will be used to help the hungry in our community.

Dear members and friends of Plymouth church let us be ever mindful of those that need our help, here in our area and across the globe. It is what Christ asks of us.

Believe it; God is with us in 2011!

80th Birthday Celebration

The family of Donna McLean invites you to celebrate her 80th birthday on Saturday, February 19th, 2-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Plymouth Church. Your presence will be welcomed as a gift.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday mornings, 9:15 am**, we'll look at Matthew's version of the story of Jesus. This very familiar Gospel includes the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of the kingdom of heaven, the Great Commission (Go into all the world and preach the gospel) and many other essential teachings of Jesus, built around the framework of the Gospel of Mark. I believe we can find new insights into the world of Matthew, and then apply them to our own lives. *Pastor Marilyn*

PRAYER CHAIN

Ruth Cox is to be contacted for all prayer chain requests. Ruth will then forward the information on to the person doing the e-mail prayer chain. The prayer chain schedule is: **Weekdays**: call Ruth, Home: 503-397-5814 or Cell: 503-396-2150. Requests received **after 3 pm** will be on the Internet the next day. **Saturdays** – the telephone prayer chain will be activated by Ruth to the extent possible based on availability of Deacons. **Sundays** – prayer requests will be shared during church service. *Ruth Cox, Head Deacon*

WHAT'S NEXT?

The session of Plymouth Presbyterian Church has begun a discussion of plans for the future. Some are of a practical nature – what kind of maintenance and repair will our buildings need soon (hint: major), and how will we pay for that? Others questions and plans will focus on church growth and mission.

The elders would like to hear your suggestions and insights for our future together. The **February 15** session meeting will be open for comments from **7:00 to 7:30** for your input.

Marilyn Allen, Moderator





Plymouth Church has many exciting events coming up – please mark your calendars so you do not miss out on any of them.

February 6th – Souper Bowl Sunday

February 13th – Volunteer Appreciation Sunday – The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a light lunch – including ice cream sundaes – while we recognize all those who do so much for our church

February 13th – Once again, we will be having a “**butter Shower**” for Community Meals. Please bring quarters of butter to church.

March 19th – St Patrick’s Day Dinner – Break out the green as we celebrate St. Patrick with a dinner at the church – 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be provided by Fellowship with a free-will offering to cover expenses. There will be music, games and lots of fun.

April 18th, 7pm – On Maundy Thursday there will be a traditional Seder Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. We will have the elements that represent the exodus from Egypt, including Maror and chazeret, Karpas, Z’roa, Beitzah and Matzot. There will also be a re-telling of the story of the Passover story. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall in February. A goodwill offering will be accepted to cover the cost of the food.

Women’s Retreat, April 29 – May 1. It will again be at Morning Star Acres on the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge. More details in upcoming newsletters.

THANK-YOU

A warm “Thank you” to all who participated in my Christmas gift, which will go toward my summer vacation. You are most generous. Thanks too for your many Christmas cards and words of appreciation. May God bless us as we worship and work together this year.

Marilyn Allen

Boxing Day Wrap Up

We would like to thank all who helped make our first Boxing Day a success. We collected enough items to fill 29 totes as well as enough sample sized items to fill 45 zip lock bags that were sent to the youth shelter ministries in Portland/Vancouver. Tillie shared briefly at church on Sunday how this touched one girl as she selected a packet of personal products with a special soap shaped like a “water fairy”. Making a difference in the lives of others is what is at the heart of Boxing Day.

About half of the families that requested boxes wanted them delivered and we want to thank those that took the time to find the addresses and get the containers delivered. “Thank You”s were accepted in person and a few thank you notes have been received at the church.

The actual process of packing the containers was fun as well as a bit chaotic. We especially thank the kitchen crew that fed us a wonderful soup lunch. The feedback from everyone was so positive that we have decided this will be an annual event. Storage has been made available so we can collect household cleaning and personal hygiene items throughout the year. So, watch for good sales and begin collecting. The shelves under the window in the fellowship hall have been cleared off. A list of acceptable items will be posted there shortly. You can leave your donations there. This is a very tangible way for us to help in our community and your gifts are truly God’s work in our community. Thank-you!

The Boxing Day Committee



Sharing Our Faith

RON STITES

Welcome to a little piece of my life. I was born in 1950 in the little town of Tualatin, Oregon. Our house was filled with my mother, father, brother, and sister. My mother's family is still quite large in the Tualatin-Sherwood area. My family attended the Tualatin Methodist Church, which my mother grew up in, and her mother led the women's group and cleaned the church.

The church was a second home and family. As I got older, I was disappointed to learn that not everyone in the church was my family. Church youth group, school, and family kept us busy and usually out of trouble. All of us sang in the choir and got our love of music from that small group. My father died when I was eighteen, and shortly after that we start attending the Tigard Christian Church where my mother still goes when she can. Again, I sang in the choir and was on an outreach committee. This growing church sponsored a missionary family and brought the reality of mission work to the local church. In the early seventies, I moved to Portland and attended 1st Congregational UCC. Guess what? I sang in choir and over the years served on about every committee in the church. It was here that I met and married Jan, welcomed her two boys, and brought two daughters in our lives.

We moved to St. Helens, and after a couple of years of commuting to church, Jan and I joined Plymouth. To us it was like coming home; a small church in the country, a choir, and a congregation that loves and supports all in Christ's love. As anyone who comes to our church feels, we have a warmth and acceptance that really shows how a church family should be.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 6: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Cor 2:1-12; Matt. 5:13-20.

Feb. 13: Deut. 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37, 7:1-5.

Feb. 20: Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Cor. 3:10-22, 16-23; Matt. 5:38-48.

Feb. 27: Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131; 1 Cor. 4:1-5; Matt. 6:24-34.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

February 6	Communion Set-up: Linda Gaskill Communion Servers: Bill & Claudia Eagle and Jack Ferrise Greeters/Ushers: Dixee Partee and Polly Holbrook Lay Leader: Fran Pickering Flowers: Snacks:
February 13	Greeters/Ushers: Lorna Bradley & Corrine Humbird Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks: Fellowship – Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
February 20	Greeters/Ushers: Lorna Bradley & Corrine Humbird Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:
February 27	Greeters/Ushers: Juanita Shearer & Jean Anderson Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:
March 6	Communion Set-up: Audrey & Al Sinner Communion Servers: Linda Gaskill, Ida Mae Larson and Yvonne Schoonover Greeters/Ushers: Juanita Shearer & Jean Anderson Lay Leader: Flowers: Snacks:

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

Welcome Committee

February: Fran Pickering, Mark Dinwiddie, Becky Frazier, Michele Rae, Steve Hooper



Deadline for the March 2011 Newsletter is:

February 16th

Please submit articles to Kathleen Dinwiddie

E-mail: mkdinwiddie@g.mail

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 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Deacon's – 11:15 Music & Worship – 7 pm	2 Pastor's Retreat Day	3	4	5
6 “Souper” Bowl Offering	7 Monday Night Class – 7 pm	8 CME – 2pm	9 Priscilla Circle – 1 pm	10	11	12
13 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Butter Shower Membership Class, 12 – 1:30 pm Avamere – 2 pm	14 Monday Night Class – 7 pm	15 Session – 6 pm. Open Session – 7 pm	16 Newsletter Deadline SNAPP – 11:15 am Fellowship – 11:30 am Prayers & Square – 1pm	17	18	19 Donna McLean's Birthday – 2 pm, Fellowship Hall
20 Membership Class 12 – 1:30 pm	21 Monday Night Class – 7 pm	22	23	24	25	26 Men's Breakfast Leadership Fair, Vancouver
27	28 SNAPP – 11:15 Monday Night Class – 7 pm	30				



...HOW WIDE AND LONG
AND HIGH AND DEEP
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2615 SYKES ROAD
ST. HELENS, OR 97051

FIRST CLASS MAIL