

PLYMOUTH CROSSING

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTOR MARILYN ALLEN

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS IN A FAMILY OF FAITH

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PASTOR'S MEDITATION

ASeek first the kingdom of God and God=s righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you as well. @ Matt. 6:31

These words are in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. After a long list of what is required of his disciples, Jesus gives words of reassurance. God will take care of what we need, when we seek God=s way first.

First things first. Sometimes that=s not easy to remember. When the stock market is on a roller coaster and prices for everyday necessities are shooting up, with negative political ads polluting our TVs and demeaning emails crowding our inboxes, how can we step back long enough to ask what is most important.

I=ve struggled with that in recent weeks. I think you have too. All of these outside influences impact our life together as Plymouth Church, emotionally, spiritually, financially. Yet we have the promise of Christ - the Lord will provide. Out of the many things I learned while I was on sabbatical, the most important was exactly that. "The Lord will provide. You will have what you need, and it will be enough. @

Now, what we want and what God says is enough isn=t necessarily the same thing. Sometimes changes need to be made in the church, old programs need to be dropped or new projects begin that can stretch us in ways we haven=t anticipated. We will focus this month on the AFuture of the Church, @ as we talk and imagine and pray together.

I don=t have any preconceived ideas of what might emerge, or what direction God will lead us. I do believe this - AThe Lord will provide, @ as we seek first the way of God for us. Let=s surround this process with prayer, as we open our hearts and minds to the Spirit=s direction.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

SUNDAY WORSHIP

World Communion Sunday

Oct. 5: AOur Cornerstone of Faith @

Peacemaking, Communion

Exodus 20:1-20

Psalms 19

Phil. 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Oct. 12: AA Tale of Two Dinners @

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

Phil. 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

Oct 19: ATo Caesar or to God? @

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thess. 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Oct. 26: AThe Greatest

Commandments @

Deut. 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thess. 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46



Session Reports

PEACE KEEPING AND MISSION

A world at peace is still a vision for the future. Christ, the Prince of Peace, urges us on toward that end. God's people must bear faithful and bold witness by stepping out with concrete actions. Here is one example of one concrete action. Last year on World Communion Sunday, five churches who identify themselves as belonging to the Northwest Fellowship of Presbyterian Churches, met together to celebrate their union in Christ. Instead of meeting in their home churches, they all met in a community center. The ministers for the day, the Reverends Milton Mejia and Adelaida Jimenez, were from the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, South America, an ecumenical partner to the Northwest Fellowship group. The ministers bore testimony to the experience of the Colombian church working for a just society amid death threats and other violence. They spoke of the fellowship and commitment of Christian brothers and sisters, here and at home, who pray and walk with them in their struggle for a just peace. That worship experience was a concrete step toward the reign of God's shalom. Your gifts to the **Peacemaking Offering, Sunday October 5th**, are another concrete step toward that shalom.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. We will receive the Peacemaking Offering on October 5, World Communion Sunday.

Peace, God's Peace, Amen

Claudia Eagle

FINANCE

August Report

Income	\$6767.96
Expenses	\$6151.44
Net	\$ 616.52

Thank-you for your generous support of the church's work.

CHRISTIAN ED.

Cans - Please continue to support our youth with cans and Red Apple receipts. Please rinse and empty the cans before bringing them to the church. Monies from this effort go toward supplies and youth related activities.

Please keep the youth of our church and our community in your prayers. The youth today have very busy schedules and many things vie for their attention, please pray for the wisdom and courage to make good and right decisions, and for protection and peace as they go about their lives.

ATTENDANCE

August 24	44
August 31	34
September 7	47
September 14	47



Upcoming Activities and Events

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

On September 10, twenty members of Priscilla Circle enjoyed hearing Russ and Lois McFann present their journeys of faith and a bit about their lives. Corrine Humbird and Lorna Bradley were the hostesses and Val Gauen gave the devotions.

The October Priscilla Circle will be on the 8th with Les Christie as the Woman of Faith, Doris Perry providing the devotions, and Carol Jones and Shirley Eaton as hostesses.

Hope to see you there! *Helen Purkerson*

DEACONS

The Deacons met on September 16th. We disbursed \$150 from the **Emergency Fund** in August. With the economy the way it is, we are starting to get more requests for assistance. We research each request carefully and only provide assistance when there is a critical, bonafide need. We anticipate the requests to increase as we move into the winter months. Your donations to our Emergency Fund are always greatly appreciated. You may contribute anytime to this fund by simply marking "Deacon Emergency Fund" on an offering envelope.

During the month of October, three of the six Deacons will be out of town for a significant part of the month (Linda Liefeld, Les Christie and Linda Dunn). Please be patient with the remaining Deacon's as they try to address your needs. If you are unable to contact your Deacon, please do not hesitate to contact Jan Stites (503) or the church office.

S.N.A.P.P. Our church serves lunch at the St. Helens Senior Center on the 4th Monday of each month. Serving: October 27th at 10:30 a.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of the church meet 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 –October 25th.**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

"The Sermon on the Mount for the 21st Century" is the focus of the Sunday morning Bible study for adults and teens. What does it mean to be merciful or righteous? How can we love our enemies? Does living in peace mean one thing for individuals and another for communities and nations? (And what's that about lust?) We have too many questions to answer in our 40 minutes together, but we try! We meet at 9:30 am in Hutchinson Hall.

Pastor Marilyn Allen

PRAYERS & SQUARES

Prayers and Squares will meet on Tuesday, October 14th at 1:00 pm. We have a large quilt to tie, so please try to attend. Many hands make light work!

MONDAY NIGHT STUDY

This class continues in their study – "What's So Amazing About Grace". We meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall on Monday's.

JOHN 13:34

A new command I give you: LOVE one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.



Announcements

Annual Church Bazaar

The bazaar is coming - mark your calendars for **November 22nd**. Please think about what you can contribute - providing craft items and/or baked goods for sale or help in the kitchen are some of the ways you can contribute. There will be a sign-up for kitchen donations in early November. Once again we will be making the soups at the church, so cash donations toward those supplies are greatly appreciated. Contact Linda Dunn if you would like to contribute.

Prayer Chain

Would you like to be a part of the church's prayer chain? The Deacon's administer the prayer chain. If you would like to be on the chain and currently are not, please contact your Deacon or the church office. Prayer chain updates are sent out either by telephone or e-mail. **If you have a prayer chain request, please contact Linda Dunn** directly by calling (503) (and leaving a message) or by e-mail. Linda will pass your request along the prayer chain.

ALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Saturday November 8th has been set for all church clean-up to get the buildings and grounds ready for the church bazaar. Lunch will be provided.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Polly	Rice	10/2
Micah	Schoonover	10/5
Becca	Stites	10/6
Steven	Harrington	10/11
Carol	Jones	10/14
Les	Christie	10/19
Robert	Gauen	10/22
Larry	Cole	10/25
Harrison	Simmons	10/26
Joanne	Pence	10/29
Charlotte	Wilburn	10/31



Harvest Potluck

The Fellowship Commission will be hosting a **Harvest Potluck, after church services on Sunday, October 26th**. All are welcome. Fellowships will provide spaghetti, bread and drinks. The congregation is asked to provide either a salad or dessert. Also, we are asking everyone to **bring canned goods for the Columbia County Food Bank**. Come join us for good food and great fellowship.

RE-VISITING OUR VISION

In 2004-2005 our Vision Team, supported by the presbytery, led small groups of the congregation in a guided Re-Visioning process. This was a broad-based look at our congregational identity and all of the things we do as a church. We developed vision and mission statements and a rather comprehensive list of activities that we do or hope to do in support of our spiritual growth and service to the community. A complete list is available on the narthex table.

We were able to try some of those new activities, with varying results. One of the difficulties in implementing our plans was the small number of people available to commit to additional leadership responsibilities. We found that our members are already doing good work in the community, but not as an organized outreach of Plymouth Church.

As we look once more at the purpose of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, we hope we can learn from our past experiences and build on them, while keeping our hearts and minds open to something new. Since we are a small congregation, we probably need to focus our efforts in one or two areas that will strengthen our congregation and our service in the community. Our discussions this month will help us find the direction that God would have us take.

The Session



Heart to heart



Members of Faith

*Russ & Lois
McFann*



For fifteen years, Lois and Russ McFann have been enjoying cool summers in Warren, OR and sunny winters in El Monte, CA. This annual migration also facilitates contact with their 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren in California and their one granddaughter and 3 great-grandchildren in Oregon.

Both Russ and Lois grew up in caring, family-centered environments, which were very different in churchly practices. Lois absorbed her faith as she grew up, attending church services regularly with her family. Lois lived with her parents and three sisters in Pasadena, but spent many weekends and school vacations on the dairy farm of her maternal grandparents, who were lay leaders in the Foursquare Church. After the family moved to El Monte, she participated in the services and youth activities of the local Presbyterian church, becoming a member there during her senior year in high school.

Russ and his brother grew up living in an isolated company house surrounded by oil wells (which belonged to the Standard Oil, not the McFann's!) They observed Christmas traditions, but attended church services only for weddings and funerals. Russ received a brief introduction to biblical literature while attending Occidental College, which was founded by Presbyterian ministers. He accepted Jesus Christ and decided to seek church affiliation while recovering from wounds received during the liberation of France. Russ and Lois met after he returned home and visited her church. They have been Presbyterians ever since.

After their marriage, Lois worked hard at the offices of Barker Brothers (then the most respected furniture retailer in Los Angeles) to fund their living expenses, first home purchase and two years more years of college for Russ (with help from Uncle Sam.) Russ was employed by the El Monte Union High School District and taught social sciences at Rosemead and Mountain View High Schools until retirement 44 years later. Since then, he has been on the substitute list, but now limits working to about one day a week when in California. When their three daughters and one son were growing up, Lois had primary responsibility for their care and development. She was a reliable volunteer in PTA, school, church and community. Later, she also took on the job of school crossing guard. As members of this church (Plymouth) and associate members of Village Presbyterian Church (South Arcadia, CA), Lois and Russ consider themselves fortunate to have found TWO such friendly and dedicated communities of faith, guided by such caring, competent, and understandable pastoral leadership.

THANK-YOU!

Many thanks to my church family for their prayers and concerns during my recent hospital visits, thank-you.

Donna McLean



DATE	COMMUNION SET UP		COMMUNION SERVERS	
5-October	Adrienne Schilling		Adrienne Schilling and Harold Scudder	
2-November	Judy Gilbert		Judy Gilbert and Yvonne Karreman	
7-December	Darla & Howard Knytych		Gayle Clemmer & Adrienne Schilling	
*GREETERS/USHERS Arrive at 10:00 am	DATE	SNACKS	FLOWERS	LAY LEADER
Hiram & Micah Schoonover	28-Sept			
	5-Oct	Larsen & McFann	Al & Audrey Sinner	Marilyn Brinster
Mark & Kathleen Dinwiddie	12-Oct	Rose Galloway & Judy Gilbert	Rose Galloway Jessica & Josie	Jessica Galloway
	19-Oct		Bob & Val Gauen	Rose Galloway
Connie & Jassa Gunn	26-Oct	Harvest Potluck	The Dinwiddie's	
	2-Nov	Dinwiddie & Dunn	Carol Jones	Al Sinner
	9-Nov	Linda Liefeld & Helen Purkerson		
Helen Purkerson & Karen Roldan	16-Nov			
	23-Nov	Bazaar Soup & Pie	Kathleen Dinwiddie	
Gina & Sarah Harrington	30-Nov			



Newsletter Deadline: October 22nd

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT:

Kathleen Dinwiddie will be doing the November newsletter. Please send your newsletter items directly to Kathleen at mkdinwiddie@gmail.com, or leave your items in the newsletter box in the church office. The



May the sun
bring you new energy by day.
May the moon
softly restore you by night.
May the rain
wash away your worries.
May the breeze
blow new strength into your being.
May you walk
gently through the world and know
its beauty all the days of your life.

-Apache Blessing

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FIRST CLASS MAIL