



PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

16 East Bacon Street
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February 2009

From The Pastor's Desk

It was a busy Advent Season and things were hectic through Epiphany as well. Now things seem to have calmed down a little bit, just in time for Lent to begin. Lent is a special time of year for me for several reasons. First, the days are getting longer and warmer (at least the daylight lasts longer). Between the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, and the end, Easter, our seasons change. We travel from winter to spring. In much the same way we make that same journey, spiritually. We begin Lent with the ashes of last years palms, when everything is seemingly dead in our world. It is cold, and snow covers the ground. Then as Easter approaches, day by day, the weather begins to change, the warmth begins to penetrate, and the earth is suddenly renewed and reborn. Lent is a time of sorrow, and a time of preparation. We sorrow for our sins, and we prepare for the miracle of the resurrection. A professor I had in Bible College told how the church he grew up in went through Lent: With each succeeding week the church got darker and grimmer. Lights were dimmed, flowers were missing, and colors were non-existent. The darkness became most oppressive on Good Friday. Then, on Easter Sunday morning, the lights were ablaze, the church was filled with flowers and colors, and the Lord has arisen triumphant from the grave. The contrast between Good Friday, and Easter never failed to make a tremendous impression.

There will be several special opportunities to worship and prepare during Lent. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25th, there will be a service of imposition of ashes at the First United Methodist Church, N. Attleboro, 7 PM. The Maundy Thursday service (April 9th), again at 7 PM, will be at Plainville UMC. Finally, Good Friday will be at First UMC, N. Attleboro, at 7 PM, April 10th. I hope all of you can attend at least one of these services, if not all of them.

Our Sunday School has grown! This year we experienced a real boost in our attendance, and it is good to see so many children crowd around me for the Children's Moment each Sunday. Our Choir Director, Dan Stone, is also trying to get a Children's Choir organized. They practiced through Advent and took part in our Christmas Cantata. I know Dan would like to have the children sing on a regular basis. For this to happen we need the help of parents to encourage the children to be as regular in their attendance at Sunday School as possible, as Dan practices with the children after church on Sundays.

Our church suppers are going well. They have been well attended, and the volunteers and workers have prepared great meals. Check with the church office for dates and menus for future suppers.

The food pantry continues to be well supported. St. Martha's regularly contributes food items, and other individuals and organizations help out as well. Putnam Investments, of Franklin, recently gave a check of \$ 1,661.00 for the pantry. If you know of anyone in need, let them know that there is food available at the church on Wednesday evenings, 6:30—7 PM. The only requirement is that they be Plainville residents and can bring proof of residency.

We are planning, again to have a spring yard sale. Check the church web site, weekly bulletins and the newspapers for further details.

As we enter Lent, prepare your heart for the power of the resurrection. Jesus is alive! He is risen indeed!

Website: www.PlainvilleUMC.net
E-mail: PlainvilleUMC@verizon.net

FROM THE COMMITTEES:

Country Fair News

Fair Planning Meetings

Fair Committee Meetings will be held monthly in the Cate Room the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be this coming Tuesday, February 3. We will be discussing changing the times of the Fair. We need ideas on how to make the fair more profitable, silent auction ideas, and the best ways to advertise. If you have any ideas, please join us, all are welcome. (Not just the ladies)

Joan Clarke

Jewelry Table

Many thanks to all who donated their jewelry to the Church Fair. Because of your generosity, the jewelry table was more successful than ever! Thank you very, very much. If anyone would like to donate jewelry for this year's Fair, I would be happy to pick up items at any time. Call me at 508-699-8538. Thank you.

Marilyn Benker

LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Current Needs

The Food Pantry frequently uses brown paper bags which are given out by grocery stores. The next time you shop, please ask for paper bags and bring them to the Pantry. You can put them in the bin at the back of the church or lay them on the table near the Pantry. If you are interested in donating some food, we are very low on potatoes (boxed or canned) and gravy. We are also in need of rice and condiments such as mayonnaise, ketchup, etc.

Other News

The Living Bread Food Pantry is currently serving 25 to 30 families weekly. Recently, we have received a very generous monetary donation from Plainville Stop & Shop. More people also seem to be donating by putting food into our bin at Stop & Shop. Recently we have had a lot of teens volunteer to help organize the pantry, make up bags of food, and put donations away. They have been a great help and they earn community service hours for their schools. Our next large delivery will not be until May, when the Post Office does "Stamp Out Hunger," so in March and April, we will probably need food. We also need people to shop for foods which we run out of during this time. If you are interested, let me know and I can reimburse you out of funds.

Becky Simon Food Pantry Coordinator

FROM OUR PRAYER LETTERS:

From Ken and Hope Bryant

To all of our friends - Thanks to all of you for the prayer letters you have been sending to us. They mean so much to both of us. Lots of love to all of you.

From Ann Cummings

Sincere thanks to the parishioners for including me in your Parish Prayer Line. All prayers are gratefully accepted, as I find it most difficult pray for myself.

Even though I reside in Florida, Plainville is not foreign to me. Years ago, we had a dear Aunt, who was a Dominican nun. Every year, Aunt Bette would go down to Plainville, where the Dominicans had a small farm, etc. My kids loved going there to see the horses. So you see, I am familiar with your town, which I'm sure has expanded through the years.

My friend, Maureen Langs, told me I might be hearing from your prayer group, and for this I thank her.

As I said earlier, all prayers are most appreciated. Thanks again.

From Daryl Carter (Son-in-law) of Margaret Hamilton

On behalf of the entire Hamilton family, I would like to thank your congregation (especially our good friend, Barbara Flück) for your prayers and Christian thoughts regarding Margaret Hamilton. We are content in the knowledge that Margaret's Christian faith helped make her life complete and fulfilling.

From Nancy Sharpe

I would like to thank all the parishioners who prayed for my recovery. I do believe in the power of prayer. There must have been many voices as God gave me a second chance at life, which I am most grateful. It is very comforting to know that a congregation would become concerned and pray for a stranger. I have been truly blessed. I still have a few issues but plan to be back on track by spring. A Church can always use a small donation, and I would like you to put it towards your Outreach Program. Many thanks to all the parishioners.

From Priscilla and Barry Simmons

Thank you for uniting in prayer for us as we grieve the loss of our daughter. It is comforting to know that so many people care.

From Ethel Cooper

November 4, 2008

Hi to all my dear friends. I just came home from voting. I went at 10:00 A.M. and was back home at 10:30 A.M. I was in a great parking place close to Florida Fire Rescue station and didn't have to stand in line, so I didn't have to suffer with back pain. Now I have to get busy making out checks to pay my monthly bills. Love and Prayers to all and God Bless.

December 4, 2008

To all my dear Friends. Thank you again for another Prayer letter. They help to remind me of so many of my friends I have a Plainville UMC, and I have so many happy moments I've share with so many of you, and I treasure those memories. May you all have a Merry

Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year. I am going to have an operation on my back on January 2, 2009. Please say prayers for me. Loads of love, and God Bless All.


January 6, 2009

Happy New Year to all my dear friends. Well, I had the back operation on January 2 and everything went well. I was operated on at 8:30 A.M. and was back home at 3:30 P.M. My daughter, Nancy, was with me all the time except for time I was in surgery. When I finally woke up in Recovery Room, there sat my sweet daughter in a chair close to my bed. She had been reading a book. She gave me a big smile and then said, "Oh, Mom, it's all over, thank God!"

I'm very sore and tender where they put the two needles in my back, and when I got home I went to bed as I was still unsteady on my feet and had pain but it's getting better with each passing day. I want to thank everyone for their prayers. God has given me so many new friends I met since going to Trinity United Methodist Church. They were all praying for me also, so that's why everything went well because prayers are powerful from so many friends praying for me.

I had a wonderful Christmas with my family. My youngest grandson from New York was here for two weeks. He just went back home to New York today. I've had so many phone calls and cards for speedy recovery. All my family that live here in Florida were here late afternoons after work and through the evenings, and I received wonderful care.

May all of you have a Blessed Happy New Year. With love always.

<p>PLAINVILLE STAFF and LEADERSHIP Minister The People Pastor Rev. Peter A. Parent Minister of Music..... Dan Stone Office Admin Philip L. Sanborn Sexton Dan Araujo Lay Leaders..... Joan and Bill Clarke</p>	<p> PLAINVILLE UMC MISSION STATEMENT Plainville United Methodist Church is a caring church. If you need help, please talk with us. Website: www.plainvilleumc.net</p>
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