

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

January/February, 2017

"The church at the heart of the community with the community at heart."

From the Pastor

(Note: The following message also appears on the Welcome Page of the North Attleboro First UMC's website)

Why do people go to church?

Lots of people go to church because they feel duty bound to do so.

Others go to church because they like the music, the preaching, or the programs.

But a sense of duty will wane in time, and interest in programs will grow thin.

My dad once told me he went to church because of the people. "To be honest, I don't go to church to hear a sermon," he told me. "I mean, some sermons really move me, but not all of them. But I am always moved by greeting the people."

There is nothing like greeting people in church. Old and young, men and women, regulars and visitors -- all come with concerns and joys, and with hopes and fears, yearnings for peace and love.

You can meet people anywhere. But there is something very special about meeting people in church. If you haven't come to church in awhile, or ever, I invite you to give it a try. Not just for the programs, but mainly for the people.

In the words of a children's church song:

*And when the people gather,
There's singing and there's praying,
There's laughing and there's crying
sometimes, All of it saying:*

*I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!*

See you in church!

The Rev. Jim Blair, pastor



THE CALENDAR SUPPER

January 14th, 2017

This is the world famous supper where all the months of the year are represented at twelve tables with distinct décor and desserts. Chicken Pot

Pie is the entrée. This supper really sells out - get your tickets now!

LASAGNA SUPPER - February 11th

Homemade lasagna with Garlic Bread, Peas, Salad, and Brownies with Vanilla Ice Cream for dessert.

All suppers are on Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.

\$10.00 adults - Children welcome.

Call for tickets - Joan 508-695-5141 or

Rita 508-699-8646.

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The season of Epiphany, which commemorates the spreading of Christ's light, begins after the 12th day of Christmas, on January 6. To mark this, members and friends are invited to Pastor Jim's at the North Attleboro Parsonage for an open

house, 7-9 pm, on Friday, January 6th. Bring a treat to share - Beverages will be provided. We will sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas", play a few games (billiards in the basement!), AND there will be a Yankee Swap (commencing at 7:30pm sharp), so if you want to participate, bring a wrapped, anonymous gift that will help someone spread the Word of God (Hint: Morning Star has 'em) valued at \$10 or less. Sound like fun? Come on over!



**MARCH/APRIL PARISH FRIEND DEADLINE TO
SUBMIT INFO IS:
Monday, February 20th**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mondays, January 16th and February 20th
at 7:15 p.m. in the Pastor's Study.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Tuesdays, January 10th and February 14th
at 7:00 p.m. in the Cate Room.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

To place altar flowers, either memorial or celebratory, please sign the Flower Chart in the Cate Room, or contact Kathy in the church office. The cost of each display is \$15. Please mark your donation "flowers".

CRAFT MEETINGS

Looking for something *FUN* to do this Winter? Come on over and join us in making crafts for the Country Fair! We'll begin on Tuesday, February 7th, at 7pm in the Craft Room (former classroom space beside the Church office). Next meeting after that will be March 7th, 7pm, and usually the first Tuesday of each month. No set skill level needed – we'll show you how – come join the fun!

BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday evening Parsonage studies will meet again on January 15-February 12 for five study sessions on "Covenant Faithfulness." Those in leadership are especially encouraged to be in attendance.

Our Wednesday afternoon (2-3pm) open Bible study called "The Bible Speaks to You" (at Plainville) will reconvene on January 11th with a look at the first book of the New Testament, the Gospel According to Matthew.

On the Sunday evenings in Lent, March 5-April 2, a study based on Adam Hamilton's *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* will be offered. This will be a five session course exploring the Apostle's Creed. Those new to the faith, or those who feel the need to "brush-up" are encouraged to attend. Please let the Pastor know of your interest. Getting a copy of the book is recommended. They are available through the Pastor for \$15 (hardcover). Please save a space in your schedule for this study and reserve your book today.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent begins on *Ash Wednesday, March 1st* with a 7 pm service – location to be announced. As has been our tradition, this will be a joint worship service with members from Plainville, North Attleboro First, Centenary and the John Wesley AME Church in North Attleboro. Save the date in your calendar and invite a friend to join you!

FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY – **THANK YOU!**

Many Thanks to all those who contributed to the work of the Living Bread Food Pantry over the past year. We were blessed to receive an abundance of food for the Christmas holiday which brought joy to all who are in need in our community. With your continued help, we look forward to a New Year of Christian Service to our community!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: The Pantry is always in need of Rice – Brown or White, Rice Mixes such as Pilaf, etc. Instant Potatoes – Mashed, Scalloped, etc. Canned Tuna and Chicken, Canned Fruit in 100% juice, Hearty, low sodium soups such as minestrone, soups with beans or lentils, and chili (red or white). Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam, Canned Ravioli, Beef-a-Roni, Spaghetti with Meatballs. Mac –n-cheese, Pasta/noodle mixes (Pasta-Roni, etc), Hot and Cold Cereals and Coffee.

Personal Hygiene: disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, combs, brushes, feminine products.

Household Products: 2ply toilet tissue, napkins, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish soap.

Monetary Donations: We are grateful for Monetary donations and they are always welcome any time of year. We purchase foods and other necessities when our supplies run low, especially throughout the Winter. Please make checks payable to "The Living Bread Food Pantry" and send to us at the church. Your monetary donations to the Food Pantry are tax deductible.

PARISH NEWS



Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your prayers, prayer letters, visits, cards and best wishes during my recent illness – they were all very much appreciated.

Thanks again!

Les Negus

Dear Friends of the Plainville UM Church,

Thank you for your prayers. I have had a very difficult time recovering from a severe case of shingles. I am told the discomfort may continue for several more months. I would advise everyone to check with your own Doctor regarding a shingles shot. It is a comfort to know that I have been remembered in your prayers.

Thank you,

Pam Rigg

Thank you for the many prayers and caring for George and me during his illness, passing and after. The “going away” coffee and pastries was so nice and appreciated. The gift of the Church plate will be treasured. The information on the back was a surprise. Rosie’s towels were so nice and will be used and displayed. My friends Lois and Anne enjoyed the welcome and conversation. I will miss Pastor Jim’s sermons and the Church family. I pray for you all.

God’s Blessings in Christian Love,

Ruth Knight

Thank you all for your prayers. I appreciate your caring.

Sincerely,

Judy Harlow

Dear United Methodist Church Family,

My Family and I would like to thank you for the thoughtful prayer letter for my recent surgery. I am healing just fine. God bless you all. Wishing you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

The Richard Gale Family

Dear Rev. Blair,

Thank you and the wonderful members for the beautiful prayer letter for our late daughter, Lori Anne. Although we are of different faiths it is truly a blessing we can come together to thank our one God and ask for His divine mercy in this our most difficult time.

Love and blessings,

Phil Antonitis and Family

PLAINVILLE UM CHURCH SATURDAY SUPPER SCHEDULE

2017

January 14th – Calendar Supper featuring Chicken Pot Pie, Stuffing, Potatoes, Green Beans, rolls, various desserts.

February 11th Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Peas, Salad, Brownie and Vanilla Ice Cream

March 11th Corned Beef and Cabbage, Carrots, and Cake for dessert.

April 8th Clam Cakes & Chowder, Cole Slaw, and Sherbert for Dessert.

May 13th Oven Roasted Chicken and Salads (Caesar, Potato, Macaroni), with Peach Melba for Dessert

\$10 Adults – Children Welcome

Suppers begin at 5:30pm

For Tickets call Joan 508-695-5141

or Rita 508-699-8646

**WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
January 18 – 25, 2017**



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday evenings for the weekly Prayer Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Interested in joining the Choir? Come on over to NA First UM Church on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



**A NARRATIVE MEMBERSHIP REPORT
FOR THE PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2016**

Total Members as of October 1, 2015 **194**
Departed members **-2**
Total Members as of October 1, 2016 **192**

As we begin planning for our 125th anniversary in 2017, our church continues to be “the Church at the heart of the Community with the Community at heart”. This phrase was coined by a beloved minister, Rev. John M. Bowmar, who served our church from 1938 to 1943, when he left to join the Army, and then returned to serve our church again from 1946 to 1962.

Although no new members joined our church this year, several young families have begun to worship with us. We were honored to have a family from Ethiopia worship with us recently, while they were here in the United States visiting relatives.

Member Milestones:

NAME	JOINED	MEMBER FOR
Phyllis Peck	1943	73 years
Richard Woodward	1943	73 years
Mildred (Franklin) Dickinsen	1947	69 years
Rachel Hurkett	1948	68 years
Barbara Fulton-Parmenter	1956	60 years
Marcia (Grant) Pariseau	1956	60 years
Joan (McQuade) Clarke	1961	55 years
Bill Clarke	1961	55 years
Grace (Fawcett) Simmons	1961	55 years
Barbara Lamb	1966	50 years

Baptism: **Marcus Similien**, young son of Ricot and Marie Similien, and brother of Lauren (5), was baptized by Rev. James Blair on Sunday, May 22, 2016.

Celebrations: **Kylie Blakely** was married here on March 12, 2016. Kylie attended PUMC as a child. Kylie’s great-grandmother, Christine Lovely, and grandmother, Sally (Lovely) Roberts, and Kylie’s parents, Roy and Jennifer (Roberts) Blakely and their families have been involved with our church over the years.

Chelsea Lombardo, daughter of Ted and Janet (Clarke) Lombardo and granddaughter of Bill and Joan Clarke, was married on June 11, 2016, in Narragansett R.I. A beloved former minister of PUMC, Rev. David Hill, performed the marriage ceremony. Chelsea’s family has a long legacy of being continuously connected to PUMC for over 122 years! Her great-grandmother Florence (Pherson) Hutchinson joined our church in 1894 (2 years after it was organized)! Her great-grandmother, Gladys (Hutchinson) McQuade, joined our church in 1923. Chelsea’s treasured grandmother, Joan (McQuade) Clarke joined in 1961 and Chelsea’s mom, Janet (Clarke) Lombardo joined in 1980. Wonderful, joyful connections. And this family has a further joy! Our very devoted Lay Leaders,

Joan and Bill Clarke, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on September 7, 2016. An Open House was held in Bowmar Hall on Sunday, September 18th, attended by many of their family and friends. We thank God for Bill and Joan and all that they do. With such a rich family heritage, their legacy continues.

In Memoriam

Members: It has recently been learned that **Marjorie (Larsen) MacDonald** passed away April 9, 2013. She leaves her husband, Ross MacDonald.

John Ed Grant died in Florida on March 13, 2016. John was the brother of members Natalie (Grant) Rammel, Marcia (Grant) Pariseau and Richard Grant.

Friends: **Donald F. Stone**, on November 18, 2015, dear father of our former music director, Dan Stone.

Nancy Hill, on January 4, 2016. She was the beloved wife of our former minister Rev. David Hill, who served PUMC for 12 years from 1985 to 1997, when they retired to Attleboro MA.

Nancy Sharpe, on January 8, 2016. Nancy was the dear and beloved Mom of our faithful, devoted and dependable member, Don Sharpe and his wife Ginger.

George Knight, on April 8 2016. He leaves his wife Ruth, who has faithfully attended PUMC. Ruth and George were regulars at our church suppers.

Claire Brown, on September 8, 2016. Claire was Don Seaberg’s aunt, and great aunt of Becky (Seaberg) Green, and Abby and Sarah Seaberg. She was sister of Don’s cherished Mom, Mimi, who passed away in 2015.

We were also saddened to learn of the passing this year of several faithful attendees of our church suppers.

We continue to pray for the following members and friends: *Barbara Flück, Natalie Rammel, Virginia Welton, Ethel Cooper, Rachel Hurkett, Lenny Kerr, Dan Topping, Sheila Grant and Betty Burkewicz.*

This membership report is more than just numbers. Embedded in the numbers are the stories of members and friends who have been, and **continue to be**, a vibrant part of Plainville United Methodist Church.

Respectfully submitted,
 Grace Simmons, Membership Chair

Plainville United Methodist Church
 16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762
 Website: www.plainvilleumc.net
 Email Address: plainvilleumc@verizon.net
 Church office Phone: 508-695-9587

The Rev. James Blair, Pastor
Community Worship held Sunday mornings at 9am.

Church Office Hours
 Monday and Wednesday 9am – 12noon
 and Friday 9am – 1pm
Peter J. Williams - Pianist