

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

March/April, 2017

“The church at the heart of the community with the community at heart.”

From the Pastor

I did the math and determined that some 20,000 times a hymn has been sung by our church since 1892, the year of our founding.

That is the equivalent of 55 days of singing, non-stop, 24/7, in our little Plainville sanctuary.

Methodists are a "singing people", that's for sure! The many hymnals we have used over the years testify to that fact. Our present hymnal, published in 1989, is a masterful collection theologically arranged in such a way that a worshiper could be edified no matter how dull the sermon, just by perusing its pages.

We sang many of our favorite hymns at Christmas, and before long we'll be singing many more of our favorites at Easter. Come to join your voice! Even if you can't sing, come anyway, because it's the church together that carries the tune. Always has and always will.

As Charles Wesley wrote,

*Glory to God, and praise and love
Be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.*

See you in Church!

Pastor Jim

Sunday Flowers



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

PUMC SUPPERS

March 11, 2017

Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper with Potatoes, Carrots, Onions and Soda Bread and Cake for dessert.



April 8th, 2017 Clam Cakes and Chowder with Sherbet for dessert.

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

\$10.00 adults - Children Welcome

Call Joan 508-695-5141 or Rita 508-699-8646 for tickets.

HANDYMAN WANTED

We are seeking a Handyman, to contract on an as-needed basis. Call the Church office if you're interested. This would include odd jobs such as – sanding and refinishing a wooden handrail, attaching a gutter downspout, etc.

Church Meetings for March and April

Craft Meetings for the Fair will be held in the Cate Room at 7:00pm on Tuesdays, March 7th and April 4th.

Trustees meet in the Cate Room at 7:00pm on Tuesdays, March 14th and April 11th.

Church Council meets in the Pastor's Study at 7:15pm on Mondays, March 20th and April 17th.

Deadline to submit news and information for the May/June issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon on Monday, 04/17.

Our 125th Anniversary Celebrations

The celebration of our 125th Anniversary has begun: A brief history of the early beginnings of our church was presented in January by “Mrs. A. W. (Grandma) Burton”, with her lantern. (*Thanks, Bill Clarke!*) As we move forward through the history of the year 1892, we find great ideas were in the works; with the formal organization as a Methodist Episcopal Church taking place on April 24, 1892, with 23 charter members!

The History Committee has begun work to plan a special event every month through October, which will coincide with the 125th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the church building, on October 21-22, 1892! During the year, there will also be displays of some of the historic booklets and pictures of past events.

As we remember our history and the people in our past, let us remember the Burtons, the family who, with the grace of God, planted the seeds for the founding of our church here in Plainville.

The Burtons were instrumental in bringing the Methodist Church to Plainville, and the family has continued to be involved in our church, in subtle, different ways, up to the present. A. Edward Burton, son of A. W. and Mary, was one of the first trustees who were directly involved in buying the land our church now sits on; and A. E. Burton’s son, Wesley Burton (known by many as “Uncle Wesley”) was a dedicated bible scholar and served our church as Sunday School Superintendent, teacher, and in many other ways, as well. Wesley’s wife, Loretta, was a member of the Ladies Aid and the Guild. Their daughter, Phyllis, after attending church in her younger years, married and moved away. Her son, Jon Atkinson, makes the lovely spoon bracelets that he has donated to our church fairs.

More historical biographies next time...

We enjoyed the first “event”, the Hymn Sing, on February 19th; a joyful time of singing favorite hymns, both old and new, in the true Methodist tradition. John Wesley wrote some hymns, but his brother, Charles, wrote thousands; including some of our most beloved and treasured hymns.

The special monthly events are listed here. We are hoping you will plan to join us for one, some, or all as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary year together. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW and BE SURE TO JOIN US!!**

Saturday, March 4th 5:30pm – Join us for Pizza & Game night!– We will have pizza and snacks and several groupings in Bowmar Hall playing games such as Bible Trivia, Bible Bingo, Saran Wrap Ball (unwrap ball wearing oven mitts), Backgammon, Scrabble, Connect 4, and more fun games! We will have a nice prize that you can compete to win. Every time you win a game, you will receive a clothespin. At the end of the night, the person who has the most clothespins wins the prize! Kids are welcome – bring the family or grandkids! No cost to attend - just drop in! C’mon over and join the fun! Hosted by Becca Simon.

Sunday, April 23rd - *during and after service*

Adult Choir Reunion We wish to gather as many current and former Adult Choir members as possible to come together to sing an anthem and stay after church to share memories of music through the years. Hosted by Eileen Newell.

Sunday, May 7th at 2:00pm **An Elegant Victorian Tea Party** in Bowmar Hall. Hosted by Mel Pollock-Ellis.

Sunday, June 11th *during and after service*

Children’s Sunday and Junior Choir Reunion

We are hoping to have as many people as possible who have sung in the Junior Choirs over the years to come and sing together and sing an anthem during the service. If you were a Jr. Choir member, or you have contact info for any of them, please contact Joan Clarke at 508-695-5141 or by email at joanbillc@aol.com . Hosted by Joan Clarke.

Sunday, July 9th 2:00pm

Strawberry Shortcake and Ice Cream Social

We are seeking an organizing chairman for this event. Please contact Grace Simmons if interested.

Saturday, August 12th *Time – tba*

Mystery Ride and Progressive Dinner

Hosted by Rosie Sorrento.

Saturday, September 16th *Time – tba*

Picnic/BBQ at the home of Bill and Joan Clarke.

Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th

Homecoming Week-end This event is in the planning process. We would like to invite our District Superintendent and former Pastors to join us. We’re looking into having some commemorative items available. Some items being suggested are coffee mugs, magnets, note paper. In the past we have had Commemorative Plates (1952), Calendar towels (1965) and ceramic mugs (1992). If you have any commemorative items to lend to us for this event, please see Grace Simmons. With God’s help, everything is possible. **Watch the Parish Friend for more announcements!**

Lenten Bible Study

The Sunday evening Parsonage Bible Study

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) until March 1st. Please save a space in your schedule for this study and reserve your book today.



The Living Bread Food Pantry

The Living Bread Food Pantry would like to gratefully acknowledge the \$2,000.00 donation made to the Pantry during the Christmas season by the NE Amateur Harness Club, Bill Abdelmar, President. We are thankful for the support we receive from our community year 'round.

The Food Pantry will have our annual meeting on Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Falk Room. All volunteers are asked to join us. If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to join us too.

As of April, the Pantry will need a driver to pick up foods from the Greater Boston Food Bank only once per month usually on the 4th Wednesday. We currently pick up in New Bedford but this location may change. If you know of anyone who has a truck with a cover or large van, please let me know. The Greater Boston Food Bank requires two people to pick up food at the docks. Then you bring the food to the church and unload the boxes into our old pantry. We do have a dolly cart to help get the boxes inside.

We could also use volunteers on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. right after service to help put together the bags of food for the pantry clients, cutting up boxes and organizing the food. Other Volunteer opportunities at the Pantry include: Helping with the Post Office Food drive in May, picking up weekly from Walmart and Shaw's, helping on Wednesday mornings when deliveries come in around 8:15 a.m. Please call Becca at 508-643-1238 and I will put you to work.

You can find a list of items to donate on the church website at PlainvilleUMC@verizon.net. You can donate any non-perishable foods by dropping them off at the church when you come to worship on Sundays or on Monday, Wednesday or Fridays from 9am-12noon or by leaving them in the green bin at the Plainville Stop-n-Shop.

Students can receive their community service hours by volunteering on Sunday mornings.

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, March 7th**, at 7pm in the Cate Room. Next meeting after that will be **April 4th**, 7pm, and usually the first Tuesday of each month. No set skill level needed – we'll show you how – come join the fun!



Annual Spring Yard and Bake Sale Saturday, April 29th from 8am – 2pm

Stuck inside this Winter? Looking for something productive to do? "*Think Spring!*" Why not clean out a room or closet and begin putting items aside for the Yard Sale. Please remember to set aside only "*gently used*" items for the sale. If you can help with the Sale, or have something to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Tom Simon at 508-643-1238 to sign up to work during the week, on Sale day, or help out in any way. Please remember that it takes **MANY** hands to make this sale successful! Even if you only have a little time to give – We need **Y-O-U!** **Please Remember...** No large furniture, computers/printers, TV's, or clothing for this sale.



Parish News

*Thank you all for keeping me in your prayers.
You all continue to remain in mine.*

God Bless, Sheila Grant

I want to thank you, Les and Barbara and all of your friends for the prayer letter. How thoughtful and kind of you all to think of me!

Love, Ginger Crosman

Plainville United Methodist Church

16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762

www.plainvilleumc.net plainvilleumc@verizon.net

Phone: 508-695-9587

Community Worship, Sundays at 9 am.

*Rev. James A. Blair, Pastor
Pianist – Peter J. Williams*



Lenten & Easter Worship and Events 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 1st at 7:00pm

Centenary United Methodist Church
39 No. Main St. at the corner of North Main
and Sanford Sts., Attleboro, MA
Attleboro, MA

"Ashes and Drama" The Imposition of
Ashes and a brief Lenten Drama.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 13th 10am-6pm

Centenary United Methodist Church
39 No. Main St. at the corner of North Main
and Sanford Sts., Attleboro, MA

"The Upper Room" Drop in any time
between 10am-6pm, as your schedule
allows. Soup will be available throughout the
day. Worshippers may then proceed to an
"upper room" where they may partake in a
self-guided "last supper" with Communion
elements.

GOOD FRIDAY – April 14th 12noon-3pm

John Wesley AME Zion Church
32 Broad St. No. Attleboro, MA

"The Seven Last Words" by seven preachers
from several area churches. Music to follow
each 15minute sermon on each of the seven
last words of Christ. Come for one or stay for
all - as you wish. *(No meal or refreshments).*

EASTER FLOWERS - Sunday, April 2nd is the
last day to submit your Easter Flowers order
along with the accompanying payment.
Please see the order form enclosed in this
issue of *The Parish Friend* for more
information.

PALM SUNDAY – April 9th - Worship at 9am
with Holy Communion here at Plainville UM
Church led by Pastor Jim Blair. Bring friends
and Family – *you are welcome here!*

**2nd ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday,
April 15th – 10am-12noon** in Telford Park for
children ages 1– 12 years.

This Community-wide, Ecumenical event is
Co-Sponsored by New Beginnings Christian
Fellowship and the Plainville United
Methodist Church. **Volunteers will be
needed the week prior to fill the eggs.**
Please see Pastor Jim if you can help.

EASTER SUNDAY - April 16th

Worship at 9am Here at Plainville UM
Church led by Pastor Jim. Easter flowers will
adorn the altar to the glory of God in loving
celebration of our Risen Savior Today. Bring
friends and Family – *you are welcome here!*