

The Grapevine

February 2015

Office Hours

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

In this Issue:

Valentine Cookie
Baking

Ash Wednesday
Lenten Services/Meals

Youth Mission Trip
Update

Parent's Night Out



From the Pastor

Dear Friends:

In a recent article Christina Century, John Buchanan, reminded me of a prolific and profound Presbyterian writer, Frederick Buechner. He spoke of his book, *Secrets of the Dark*, where Buechner wrote: *"Jesus made his church out of human beings with more or less the same mixture in them of cowardice and guts, intelligence and stupidity, of selfishness and generosity, of openness of heart and sheer cussedness as you would be apt to find in any one of us. The reason he made his church out of human beings is that human beings were all there was to make it out of. In fact, as far as I know, human beings are all there is to make it out of still. It's a point worth remembering."*

Later in that chapter, Buechner wonders aloud if the best thing that could happen to the church is have a great tidal wave wash it away. *"Then all we would have left would be each other and Christ, which was all there was in the first place."*

That is a reminder to me of what the church is about – people in relationship. Sometimes we forget that and get lost in the physical pieces of it or let the liturgy become what is more important or allow our personal wishes to supersede what we were created to be. Sometimes I think we lose our way in the church because we unintentionally play a game with a winner (us) and a loser (them).

The reality is we're broken – just like everyone else. We're no better and no worse than those seating to our left, our right, in front, or behind. All of us are just trying to be as faithful to our Lord as we can be, even in the moments of our hiccups. And though we will stumble, fall, curse, scream, and more; in the midst of it all, we are loved – God still loves us!

Maybe the easiest way for us to see ourselves is as "a work in progress." We're trying to be the best we can in life and give our best to our Lord's church. The two go hand-in-hand. What we need to do is work on life and work in the church. If we would commit to giving one hour a month to the church beyond what we normally do, I think it would make us better disciples of our Lord and make PPC a stronger church.

Think about it! Ask what needs to be done in the church! Use your talents and gifts in a way that makes the mission and ministry of PPC truly glorify and honor God! You might be surprised at how much fun it can be and how much can be accomplished!

Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday - The season of Lent in 2015 starts on Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday. As is our tradition, we will be holding an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. The service will include the imposition of ashes, symbolizing both purification (Hebrews 9:13) and penitence (Matthew 11:21).



Lenten Services - On the Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday (2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, and 3/25), we will be holding our Midweek Lenten Services in the Fireside Room at 6:45 p.m. This half hour service is a time of reflection, remembrance, recognition, and prayer, as we walk together through the weeks leading up to our Lord's crucifixion.

Lenten Meals - Throughout Lent, the Fellowship/Connection & Membership Team will be making available a light meal starting at 6:00 p.m. This will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through the last Midweek Lenten Service (March 25). Meals will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. so we can eat and clean-up before the worship service at 6:45 p.m. A small donation to cover the cost of preparing the meal would be deeply appreciated.



The time has come to offer the opportunity for you to dedicate copies of the new hymnal in honor or memory of persons important to you. The cost will be \$20 per book. All monies raised will go toward purchase of the hymnals and shipping.

We ask that a form be filled out for each dedication and returned with your payment. Forms can be found in the narthex, in the church office or by contacting the Worship and Music Ministry Team at:

worship@plymouthpc.org



Safety First! Please follow these guidelines regarding WPS preschool children and the church driveway



The WPS preschool has been operating at PPC for nearly 5 months now. The safety of the children is of great importance to both WPS & PPC. There are several policies in place to insure we have a safe environment. One policy in particular addresses the traffic at the church around the times of student drop off (6:30 – 9:30 a.m.) and pickup (3:15 – 6:15 p.m.), Monday – Friday when school is in session. Parents and staff are directed to park in the lot and walk their students to/from the main entrance during these times.

We ask that PPC members also follow this policy. Following this policy will greatly reduce the chance of an accident. If you need to drop off items at the church door, please plan around the drop off/pick up times whenever possible. If you are assisting handicapped or elderly to the doors during those times, please exercise extreme caution.



Congratulations to Brett and Cori Anderson on the birth of a baby boy, James, born on Tuesday, January 20 in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Congratulations also to first time grandparents Craig and Dawn and aunts, Deanna and Heather.



Birthdays

Abiye Agbeh
Stephanie Allen
Tim Bailey
Caleb Braun
Edie Carr
Noella Dando
Wayne Edgar
Tristan Ess
David Gradick
Don Hamm
Ernie Johnson
Linda Klett
Karl Larson
Chris Loew
Liz Miller
Charlie Nivison
Dick Odle
Donna Page
Dane Petersen
Dana Richard
Phil Ringgenberg
Kenny Romine
Merle Schmidt
Laurie Simenson
Chan Slettehaugh
Allison Tang
Jennifer Tang
Nancy Tang

ANNIVERSARIES

Mark and Melody
Baker
Bruce and Karen
Banister
Doyle and Pat
Ruble



Upcoming events for 2015:

February 18 ~ Ash Wednesday

February 20 - 22 ~ Chrysalis – Women's Retreat at Clearwater

February 25 ~ Lenten Suppers begin

"Striking a Balance"

Clearwater Chrysalis

2015 Winter Women's Retreat

Friday, February 20 – Sunday, February 22

Speaker: Rev. Melanie Hammond Clark

Take time for yourself, and join us as we take time apart to receive, to rest and to renew our understanding of ourselves, our lives and our God. Through presentations, small groups, listening and sharing, we will examine the different claims on our lives, especially as they relate to God's claim on us. Finding balance in our busy lives is not simple matter, but it is an important matter...for us and for those we love.

One weekend retreat won't do it all, we know...but it is a beginning! Come and receive welcome and a little nourishment for your soul.

[Click here](#) for more information and for the link to register today! Information can also be found on the Clearwater site at: <http://www.clearwaterforest.org>



Book Club Selection for February 23

"The Snow Child" by Eowyn Ivey



Valentine's Day Baking

Join the PPC Bakers on Saturday, February 14 for cookie decorating and baking. If you have questions, please contact Kriss Peek or e-mail:

fellowship@plymouthpc.org

More information: If you would like more information about any of the on going groups or upcoming events, please contact the coordinators or e-mail fellowship@plymouthpc.org. If you are viewing the online version of the Grapevine you can click on one of the many links to contact a coordinator or to view more information online.

REMINDER: Plymouth Presbyterian Church strives to be a nut free facility. Please avoid bring food items with nuts of any kind into the building.



Ongoing groups:

GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group -

Women's Bible study -

Meets 1st, 2nd, & 4th Wednesday
9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

On the 3rd Wednesday meet at
Presbyterian Homes Summer-
Wood in Plymouth.

Contact: [Jan Leaf](#)

Men's Group -

Men's Bible study -

Contact: [Gordon Doshier](#)

Serenity Seekers -

Al Anon support group

Every Thursday
6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
Fireside Room

Prayer Chain -

3rd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
PPC Fireside Room.

Contact: Penny Blankenship

PrayerChain@plymouthpc.org

Book Club -

4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
PPC Fireside Room.

Contact: Dorothy Vigness

PPC Gals -

2nd Sunday following worship
and education (approximately
11:00 a.m.)

Location posted in the Narthex.

Contact: Debi Shatto,

Fellowship@plymouthpc.org
or the church office.

Baker's Group -

2nd Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
PPC Kitchen

Contact: Kriss Peek

Photo Display for PPC's 25th Anniversary

A photo display of 25 years of PPC memories is being created on the wall in the narthex. It would be wonderful if everyone would help with this creation by sharing pictures of memorable church events. The theme of February's display is the early church, meeting at the school and groundbreaking for our church. In March, the confirmation class pictures will be added to the display. There are only photos of a few classes at church, so make sure you share any confirmation class pictures you have so every class can be represented.



The photos will be scanned and returned to you. Label each photo with the name and date of the event plus the names of people in the picture. Drop the pictures off in the 25th Anniversary box at church or give the pictures to Pat Johnson or Melody Baker. Don't forget to include your name so the pictures can be returned to you after scanning. (A list of monthly themes is posted on the wall in the narthex.)

2015 Youth Mission Trip



The countdown for the 2015 Youth Mission Trip to Steubenville, Ohio has begun! In just 20 weeks our team of Youth and Adult volunteers will be off for another week of mission work! The Youth are super excited to get the show on the road but will have some work to do before they go! Look for more information to come on our "MARCH TO MISSION" fundraising campaign and consider helping us help others! If you would like more information about our mission trip please contact us at: christianinformation@plymouthpc.org



Youth Group - Jon Warren

February is a packed month for PPC Youth. We will be preparing our hearts for the season of Lent, fundraising for the Mission Trip along with our traditional winter activities, club and cooking.



Calendar of Events:

January 28 - Club in our new Youth Room

February 4 - Sledding at French Park. Come join us as we have fun in the snow!

February 11 - Back in the kitchen. Thanks to Loni Graddick, we are cooking full meals now and eating together. It's a great time for fellowship and relationship building.

February 18 - **No Youth Group** - Ash Wednesday.

February 25 - Club in the new Youth Room

February 27-28 - **30 HOUR FAMIME** Calvin Presbyterian will be participating with us. Come join us as we raise awareness for world hunger.

The 2015 Per Capita is \$32.77 per Member Per Capita is the amount each church pays to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly for each active member of its congregation. Consider per-capita as a form of mission giving to the larger work of the PC(USA). It is broken down as follows - \$7.07 General Assembly; \$5.20 for Synod; \$20.50 for Presbytery = \$32.77 total per member.



Friday, February 13....Parents' Night Out!



Want a romantic night out with your sweetheart on Valentine's Day? Boy Scout Troop 3538 is hosting a Parent's Night Out on Friday, February 13 from 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. While you're out for the evening, your children will be enjoying movies, crafts, snacks and games!

NEW PRICING this year - \$10.00 for first child; \$5.00 for each child of the same family.

Sign up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dadaa2fa5f49-parents2>

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb 1 9:30 Worship - Communion 9:45 Education 6p Boy Scouts	2 12:15p Staff Meeting	3	4 9 GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Gro. 6:30p Youth Group 7:30p Sanctuary Choir	5 6p Al-Anon 7:15p Recovery Team	6	7 9:30 Slavic Discovery Center
8 9:30 Worship 9:45 Education 10:45 Adult Forum - LaDonna Hoy 11 Gail's Gathering 6p Boy Scouts	9 12:15p Staff Meeting 7p Session Meeting	10 7p Mission Ministry	11 9 GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Gro. 6p Deacons Meeting 6:30p Youth Group 7:30p Sanctuary Choir	12 6p Al-Anon	13 6p Parent's Night Out-BS Trp. #3538	14 9:30 Slavic Discovery Center 9:30 Baker's Group
15 9:30 Worship 9:45 Education 12p Grapevine Deadline 6p Boy Scouts	16 President's Day - Office Closed 7p Worship Ministry	17	18 Ash Wednesday 11 GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Gro. 5:30p Christian Formation Meeting 6p Lenten Meal 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Prayer Chain Mtg. 7p Building and Grounds 7p Ash Wednesday Service 7:30p Sanctuary Choir	19 6p Al-Anon	20	21 9:30 Slavic Discovery Center
22 9:30 Worship 9:45 Education 10:45 Adult Forum-"Bible Survey" 6p Boy Scouts	23 12:15p Staff Meeting 6p Cub Scouts 7p Book Club	24	25 9 GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Gro. 6p Lenten Meal 6:30p Youth Group 6:45p Lenten Service 7:30p Sanctuary Choir	26 6p Al-Anon	27	28 9:30 Slavic Discovery Center

Blood Drive at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church

St. Barnabas Lutheran Church is holding a Blood Drive on Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. There is a free pancake breakfast for all participants. The address is 15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth 55446.

If you have questions, please call their church office at 763-553-1239.

Claiming the Sky

Voices of Phenomenal Women

A VocalPoint concert supporting The Advocates for Human Rights

2015 Concerts

Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8 at 4 p.m.

Central Presbyterian Church

500 Cedar Street, Downtown St. Paul

*With special guests Zenon Dance Company,
Mezzo Soprano Nicole Warner,*

Chimgee Haltarhuu of Circus Juventas

and the poetry of Maya Angelou read by Nothando Zulu

