



PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

16 East Bacon Street
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April 2009

From The Pastor's Desk

Can you feel the spring in the air? Pat and I recently made a trip to southern New Hampshire and were surprised to see how much snow there still was on the ground. Here in Plainville the crocus have bloomed in front of the church, and I noticed somewhere in the neighborhood, day lilies already popping out of the ground. We will soon be cycling into a new season of growth and flowers.

Many things are happening at the church, as well. First of all, this being Lent, we are gearing up for Holy Week. Palm Sunday is April 5th, and two special services will be held the next week - Maundy Thursday, commemorating the initiation of the Lord's Supper, at 7 PM, at the Plainville UMC, and a Good Friday Service, at 7PM, at First United Methodist Church, N. Attleboro. Come and join us for one of these services as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Our Easter morning service will be at 9AM. The church will be full of lilies and other reminders that we serve a living Savior. Jesus did not stay in the grave. He was seen, not only by the Twelve, but by hundreds of people, after the resurrection. How do we see Jesus today? We see him in the work of those who strive for justice and equality among all people. We see him in the love of parents for child. And we see Jesus in a church that continues to teach and preach the good news that God has entered our world and loves us. John 3:16, while almost a cliché in its overuse, still rings true - God loves the world, and sent his Son, Jesus, to us.

Prior to Easter, the Trustees are planning a clean-up day for the outside of the church. Come with rakes and gloves, ready to spend some time in beautifying our grounds.

We are also beginning to gear up for our annual yard sale. This year it is slated for May 16th. We would be interested in anything other than clothes, large appliances and large furniture. If you have any questions, get in contact with either Jean Hayward or Tom Simon.

A further word on Easter: We have been studying the Gospel of Mark on Sunday evenings. This last week we covered most of Chapter 14, which begins the Passion story of Jesus. He completes the Last Supper in the Upper Room, and goes to Gethsamane to pray. We have all read that story countless times, and have heard it preached through the years. But do we stop to really interact with the words. I find myself, so often, in the same shoes as Peter - I will not deny you, even though all others desert you! And yet, Peter and the Twelve were Jesus closest companions. They should have been ready, and even willing to die with him. But when the moment came, they all fled, and Peter, later denied he even knew Jesus. We sit in our comfortable pews, in our climate controlled gathering places and are very judgmental toward those who walked with Jesus. I really believe, human beings being what and who they are, that we would not have reacted in any other way than those disciples did, so long ago. If our faith becomes costly, would we be willing to pay the price? If God calls our children or grandchildren into sacrificial service would we be supportive or hope and pray that they would come to their senses. I am confident that there were relatives of the disciples who thought that they had plunged off the deep end of the pool and wondered when they would come up for air and reality. However little they understood, however weak their faith was, no matter how quickly their feet ran away, the disciples did not go far. Some watched the crucifixion from afar, and they all congregated in that Upper Room, not knowing what else to do. Thank God they waited. For in three days, on that glorious Sunday morning the tomb was empty, the Lord had risen, and Jesus appeared to them once again.

For me, that is the story of Easter - the disciples' failure, Jesus' resurrection, and the disciples' restoration to work and service in the kingdom of God. No matter where you are now, no matter what has been amiss, this Easter come to that Savior that restored the disciples to fellowship and service in the kingdom of God.

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

FROM THE COMMITTEES:

Country Fair News

Plans for our annual Church Fair are underway. We are meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the church to formulate new ideas. The Fair Date and times have been set. They are:

**Friday, November 6, from 2 to 8 pm, and
Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to 3 pm.**

We will have a “*Supper Counter*” on Friday night, and a “*Luncheon Snack Bar*” on Saturday. People are needed to help organize, plan and come up with additional ideas to help our Church Fair be successful. Please join us! Sincerely,

Jill Seaberg

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

Yes, the Spring Fling and Bake Sale is on!

Saturday, May 16, 2009

8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Merchandise can be dropped off the week before from 6 to 8 pm.
If you need a different time, call Jean Hayward at 508-695-4741.

If you would to volunteer to work, also contact Jean or Tom Simon
at 508-643-1238.

There will be a Volunteer Meeting for the Yard Sale on
Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 pm at the church.

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Fund Raiser at Uno Chicago Grill, in Wrentham, Mass.

Monday, May 18, through Thursday, May 21.

Tickets will be made up soon. Eat in or take out.

Questions, contact Jean Hayward.

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



PLAINVILLE UMC MISSION STATEMENT

Plainville United Methodist Church
is a caring church.
If you need help, please talk with us.

Website: www.plainvilleumc.net