



Parish Friend

Newsletter of Plainville United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Peter A. Parent

August 2010

Can you believe it is almost the end of August? Where has the summer gone? As fall approaches, we look forward to the return to our yearly schedule of Church Suppers, Sunday School, and the Holiday Fair. Notices of those up-coming events will be found in this newsletter

Through the summer we have been following Jesus as he journeys on his final mission to Jerusalem, as Luke relates the story. He knows what lies ahead, and he uses this time to prepare the disciples for the trials to come. We have considered the Good Samaritan, and Mary's choice of listening at Jesus' feet, and on the 1st of August looked at Jesus' parable of the Rich Fool. The comment that Jesus made intrigues me: "So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves *but are not rich toward God.*" Luke never tells us how we become rich toward God. He give the directive, and then leaves it completely open-ended. As much as we strive for the goods of this world, collecting and protecting possessions, we know, that ultimately, we leave it all behind. What will you be remembered for? Will it be the number of possessions, or your deeds towards God and the needs of others?

I recently started a book on Thomas Jefferson. The author, in the introduction, stated that Jefferson wanted just three things mentioned on his tombstone – his designing and establishment of the University of Virginia, his authorship of Virginia's *The Rights Of Man*, and his composition of *The Declaration Of Independence*; nothing about his presidency, or his years abroad as a diplomat. He rightly saw that the verdict of history would be centered on those words that all men are created equal. Although Jefferson, and even we who follow today, never attained to that ideal, it was one that he knew was right.

What will be on your tombstone? Will you be remembered for your kindnesses, your generosity, your richness toward God, or will it be something else entirely? One of the commentators I researched for that sermon had this to say about being rich toward God: "Being rich toward God entails using one's resources for the benefit of one's neighbor in deed, as the Samaritan did. Being rich toward God includes intentionally listening to God's word, as Mary did. Being rich toward God consists of prayerfully trusting that God will provide for the needs of life. Being rich toward God involves selling possessions and giving alms as a means of establishing a lasting treasure in heaven." Might you be storing up treasures in heaven, and might you be rich toward God.

Grace and Peace,

New England Conference, The United Methodist Church

Dear Partners in Ministry,

♦ **THE NEW NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE: WELCOME VERMONT** With July 1st having passed, the new New England Conference is now official. The 114 churches of Vermont and 535 churches of the "old" New England Conference are a part of God's new creation in this important region of the country. As I pointed out at our recent opening session of the new New England Conference, it is really "back to the future." When the first New England Conference was created by the General Conference of 1796, it included Vermont. Across the intervening years there have been nine conferences in whole or part in New England (the New York Conference still has western Connecticut...but they root for the Yankees). So we are gradually regaining our "youthful shape".and fresh vitality.

Last week (the first full week of the new conference) I visited several sites in Vermont. Vermont is one District in our new structure, so I visited Superintendent Brigid Farrell at the District office and parsonage in Williston, just outside of Burlington. My report: beautiful country.but Vermont was hot, hot, hot, too!

Then I headed for Covenant Hills Camp near Montpelier. It is high in the mountains overlooking valleys all around ("awesome" as the kids would say). A lively group of campers was water sliding down plastic on one of the hills. We stopped at a serene outdoor chapel on a small lake where worship happens every morning. The staff was relating wonderfully with all the campers, including the loner who didn't want to water slide. What a great addition to our four other camp and retreat sites in New England. *WHAT A WELCOMED GIFT THIS NEW NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE IS TO US ALL!* (For those from Vermont who may be receiving this "Partners in Ministry" email for the first time...welcome. From time to time...when I have time...often late at night, I just send out some "unpolished" musings from my recent experiences as we all partner in ministry. I also enjoy hearing responses from you...although do not expect a reply from me because sometimes the volume of responses is great. If you want to send me something to which you would like a reply, send it to my office email at bishopsoffice@neumc.org . Thanks for being a partner in this great ministry that Christ has given us together.)

♦ **ANNUAL CONFERENCE: WHAT A TWEET!** Live streaming..twittering..tweeting..texting. John Wesley would be amazed at our new ways of doing Holy Conferencing this year. The world truly was our parish as we saw and talked and listened live to missionaries in Nicaragua and Mozambique. We were told that we are the first Annual Conference to do this.

Plus, nearly 2,000 people tuned in to see Annual Conference as it was "live streamed" on the Internet. Others on site and off site twittered and tweeted and texted messages to each other about the conference as it was happening. While I did not twitter or tweet, I did twist (latest technology) my paper mate pencil so there was lead to write a note or two...but the other action sounded much more interesting.

Whatever our means of communication, the Holy Spirit was clearly communicating to us through prayer, worship, singing, discussions, and wonderful fellowship. Someone said to me the last day of conference, "This has been one of the best conferences I have been to in my fourteen years of attending...what a treat." (or did she say "tweet")

In any case, *THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THE NEW NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.*

In your prayers this week, remember all of our pastors and congregations as they are "partners in ministry" in God's mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" in this new appointment year.

New folks may be showing up at your church this summer and fall...are you ready?

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Peter Weaver

"Gramma's Attic"

Do you have any unwanted dishes, tools, linens, bric-a-brac, small appliances, toys and games, puzzles, lamps, picture frames, etc.? If you do and would like to donate them to "Gramma's Attic" at the Fall Fair, it would be greatly appreciated. If you have anything to donate, please call Brenda "Gramma" Watkinson at 508-695-2424 to arrange for pick-up.

"Bottles and Cans" drive

I hope everyone's summer is going well. I would like to remind everyone of our "bottle and cans" drive.

Summer time is a time for lots of get together's and cookouts Please remember to save your bottles and cans that can be recycled (needs to be refunds only). You can either drop them off at the church or go to the redemption center in Plainville (George St.). All you need to do is let the people at the redemption center know it's for the PUMC and the money goes into an account that we have set up there. Remember every little bit helps!!!

Thank You and I hope you all have a Great summer,

Jean Hayward
Finance committee

Church Fair News

We've set the date:

Friday, November 5, from 2 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We've got some dedicated volunteers.

Now, all we need is you!

We need you to start making those beautiful handmades; to find that favorite cookie recipe; to make jams and jellies; go through your old jewelry; to think of workshop projects. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact Jill Seaberg at 508-699-0591 or Becky Simon at 508-643-1238.

The Living Bread Food Pantry

The Living Bread Food Pantry serves several Plainville families in need and is open every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Currently, we are running very low on food and will not have a large delivery until November. If anyone is interested in donating, we could use nonperishable items such as: cereals, spaghetti sauce, condiments, baking items, rice, boxed potatoes and gravy. Please bring donations to the church, drop off at Stop & Shop, or call 508-643-1238. If anyone has a garden during the summer and would like to donate extra vegetables, please bring to the church on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. just before the Pantry opens. Clients are very appreciative for fresh vegetables.

If you are interested in volunteering a few hours, feel free to join us while we set up bags on Sundays at 10:15 am. You do not have to call, just drop by. We would like to thank St. Martha's Parish, Plainville Athletic League, and the Wrentham VFW for recent donations. If you have any questions about the pantry, please call the church at 508-695-9587.

Becky Simon, Coordinator

Plainville United Methodist Church
Prayer List

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Ethel Allen

Nettie Simpson

Joann Constentino

Joe and Linda Braga

Louise Carvalho

Ruth Keyes

Have you ever wondered what SPPRC stands for? I think it translates as: STAFF, PASTOR, PARISH COMMITTEE. By STAFF is meant: secretary, organist, and custodian. It is an interesting committee on which to serve as any 'beef' which may occur usually lands on our agenda and we try to bring about an agreeable solution--just another one of Methodism's 'methods.'

Since we did not meet in July and will not meet until this letter is likely in the mail, I had to find something to interest you. And now I will take a chance and speak about Christian education which the church is really about after all. One of the great benefits offered at PUMC are the Bible studies and book discussions which our pastor, the Rev. Peter Parent, presents several times each year. It is my understanding there will be studies offered this autumn. Probably we will learn what the topics will be after Peter returns from vacation. If you wish to study a specific subject, please tell our pastor so he can consider presenting that subject.

And finally your SPPRC makes a request of each person reading this letter: Namely, we ask you to pray for our congregation to grow in numbers. Anything you can do to fill our sanctuary every Sunday will bring you the blessing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Submitted by Barbara Flück, chairman
SPPRC*

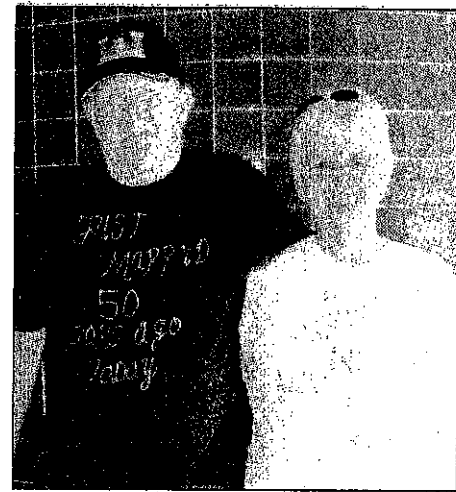
Taylors celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

James H. and Judith A. (Dupee) Taylor of Seekonk celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 15. The couple was married on that date in 1960 by Justice of the Peace Charles Thompson on Newman Avenue in Seekonk. They renewed their vows on their 25th anniversary at the United Methodist Church in Plainville.

The couple's daughter and son-in-law Jill and Gary Lewis surprised them with a 12-day vacation to Arizona, to visit them and meet their 3-year-old great-granddaughter, Caitlyn, for the first time. Many family members knew about the trip, but kept it a secret during the planning stages.

While on the trip, the Taylors saw two of Judith's brothers in Arizona, and then traveled to California by car to spend time with Judith's other brother and his family. In California, the couple visited Disneyland, a longtime wish of Judith's, and stayed at the Lawrence Welk Resort, a favorite spot. On the ride back to Arizona, the couple stopped at the Gen. George Patton Memorial Museum, which was very interesting to James.

James and Judith were the guests of honor at a party hosted by one of Judith's brother's family that was attended by three of their six grandchildren, and Judith's sister and brother-in-law, who live



James and Judith Taylor

in South Bend, Ind. During the party, the couple's niece presented them with a CD of photos chronicling their years together.

The couple's son, Scott Taylor, kept the home fires burning while they were away on their trip.

James, a Seekonk native, is a graduate of Tolman High School. He was a toolmaker and has been retired for about 9 years. Judith, who is an Attleboro native, attended Oxnard High School in California. She worked at Texas Instruments.

Plainville United Methodist Church

Saturday Supper Schedule

2010

September 11 - Pasta and Meatballs

October 9 - Oven Roasted Chicken

November 13 – Stuffed Chicken Breast

December 11 – Meatloaf

January 8, 2011 – Calendar Supper – Chicken Pot Pie

February 12 – Lasagna

March 12 – Variety Buffet – various dishes (corn

beef and cabbage, chicken, broccoli, and rice,

American Chop Suey, and Pork Chop Casserole

April 9 – Shepherd's Pie

May 14 – Oven Roasted Chicken and Salads

\$9.00 Adults / \$3.50 Children

Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m.

For Tickets call 508-699-8646 or

508-695-5141

Thank you
all for the
prayers sent by
you to my mother
Elizabeth Daley during
her illness. Brenda Halloran
and you all are a very
special group of people and
for you thank you so very much
for your kindness thought me
troubled times. Mom is
now well. Thank you all
again. I love you all
Mary Spauldy
Daughter
of

Perhaps you sent a lovely card
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of
Elizabeth R. "Sis" Daly

Plainville United Methodist Church

I can't thank you enough for all your prayers over the past several months for my husband, Travis Branch, as he battled and passed of cancer. It meant so much to us to receive a Prayer Letter in the mail each week. It's always nice to know that people care and are praying for you. I know Travis appreciated it as much as I did.
God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Carrie Branch, Zachary, LA

we just want
to thank you
all for your support
& good wishes &
prayers during
Peter's recovery.

Rev. Peter, Pat &
Aaron

Dear Members

Thank you so
much for the lovely Prayer
booklet for my late husband
Frank. The whole family
were so touched &

comforted by it

My thanks, again

Angela (Clayton)

my dear Friends

I thank you very much
for taking time to sign
the Prayer letters. I surely
appreciate seeing your names
on my prayer letters knowing
that you are praying for me

God bless you
& the Looper

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**PLAINVILLE UMC
MISSION STATEMENT**

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

Website: www.plainville umc.net