



Parish Friend

Newsletter of Plainville United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Peter A. Parent

July/August 2010

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Ah, the lazy, hazy days of summer! Certainly we have seen some of those hazy days already, with the humidity at high levels. But what wonderful weather, with the sunshine and breezes, the blooming flowers and developing gardens. I hope your summer is filled with rest and relaxation, times of family and friends, and also times of worship and praise for our God who makes all things wonderful.

In last week's sermon, Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus begins his journey to the cross. Most of the rest of the church year (until the beginning of Advent) is taken up with Scriptures dealing with discipleship. According to *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, a disciple is a learner. The term "increasingly designated an adherent, i. e., one who was committed to the teachings...of a teacher, religious figure, or great thinker who lived in the distant past of was a contemporary of the adherent." (Volume 2, p. 128) As United Methodists, we adhere to a *Book of Discipline*. The word "discipline" derives from the same Greek root as disciple. By our nature, by our commitment, and by our vows and choice we are learners, following Jesus today as much as those original Twelve did nearly two thousand years ago.

What is your discipleship status? Are you growing and learning? What new thing has God shown you in the last week, the last month? Dr. Eric Frykenberg, a retired missionary, used to stand up in my home church's prayer meeting and share something new he had just found in the Scripture. As a young boy I thought, "If he is still finding something new and learning something new, then I have a long way to go!" Our life in Christ is not static, nor does it ever come to completion this side of heaven. John Wesley called it "going on to perfection." While perfection may not be attainable this side of glory, Wesley was convinced that the work of going on, of approaching nearer to that goal was viable for every Christian.

So I invite you to travel with us on Sunday mornings as we explore the ramifications of our claim to discipleship. The early morning hour allows a full day of other activities while also joining together as a community of faith in worship, discipline and learning.

During the summer activities at the church slow down a bit. But just around the corner, in late August, we will be gearing up for school, for Sunday School, our normal fall schedule of suppers, the holiday fair, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. While the cold of winter seems far away in the heat of summer, we all know it will be upon us before we know it. Have a refreshing summer. Do some special activities, and come and worship with us.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Peter

New England Conference, The United Methodist Church

Dear Partners in Ministry,

♦ **HOLY CONFERENCING 2010** I just returned from preaching at the Florida Annual Conference, which was held at the convention center in Lakeland, FL. Linda and I received a very warm welcome (both hospitality and 104 degree heat index). There were debates about conference organization, discussions about our social concerns (immigration, poverty, environment, etc.), lively worship, and deep commitment to follow Jesus where He leads us. Even though "Yankees," we felt very much at home.

I remembered that in the "old days" of the nineteenth century (I don't literally "remember" them...just reading about them) Bishops traveled from conference to conference all over the map (including other continents) preaching and presiding. They were not assigned to one area, as we are now, but were "general superintendents" of the whole Methodist Church. Among other things, our Methodist concept of "holy conferencing" means that we are all a part of something much larger than our own little conference, or region...we are a part of the "holy whole." Our "connexion," as Wesley called it, is connected to Florida, Africa, Russia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and on and on. Thus, at the New England Conference this year, Bishop Gaspar Domingos from Angola will be preaching....he is as much "our" Bishop as I am.

Vermont United Methodists and those who have been a part of the "old" New England Conference will become the "new" New England Conference as we share in Holy Conferencing this year. Pieces of the whole connecting together for the sake of Christ's mission. This all reminds us that we have great diversity, rich gifts, wide inclusiveness in our connexion....all of us seeking to follow Jesus and fully participate in the whole holiness of God's realm on earth, even as it is in heaven.

Pray for the whole church, the whole world as we in New England enter into Holy Conferencing.

♦ **A POCKET PRAYER SHAWL** will be in my pocket as we meet for holy conferencing this year. It was given to me by the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the Oakdale UMC in West Boylston, MA. I had seen and admired larger prayer shawls. I have a 3x6 foot one hanging in my office....beautiful, but my pocket isn't quite big enough to carry it with me. But this knitted 3x3 inch pocket prayer shawl with a cross in the center can be carried with me all the time, with the reminder on it, "Know that God is always with you!" Your congregation might want to consider giving a pocket prayer shawl to visitors at worship, or people who come to your church suppers, or give one to the mail carrier or gas station attendant or waiter in the restaurant....everyone needs a reminder that God is with them.

♦ **THRESHOLD** This is the name of a singing group...sometimes just two or three singers....who visit those who are dying....in the hospital, in hospice, or at home. It's not a performance for a group of people, but individualized for the person who is dying. They gather around the bed, along with family or friends who may be there, and sing a cappella the favorite songs or hymns of the person who is on the "threshold" of crossing over. I heard about this on NPR radio and thought about my own mother in her last months, when we weren't sure she knew anyone or anything....but when we sang, a calm and peace came over her and her spirit seemed to glow. It would be a simple gift you could take, if you sing at all, to someone needing a spiritual lift.

♦ **THE LIGHT OF PEACE** At Grace UMC, Bangor, ME, where I preached recently, they started the worship service by lighting the Peace Candle. Like the lighting of the Advent wreath during Advent, this was a centering act of worship, which all ages of people could lead year around. It also claimed that sanctuary as a safe place of peace (some churches like to fight, you know) and reminded us all of the need for peace beyond those walls where the Prince of Peace calls us to live as peacemakers in our family, workplace, school, community....world!

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Peter Weaver

Plainville United Methodist Church

Saturday Supper Schedule

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

Lectionary Readings for Sundays

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Jul. 4	2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30	Galatians 6:1-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Jul. 11	Amos 7:7-17	Psalm 82	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
Jul. 18	Amos 8:1-12	Psalm 52	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
Jul. 25	Hosea 1:2-10	Psalm 85	Colossians 2:6-19	Luke 11:1-13
Aug. 1	Hosea 11:1-11	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
Aug. 8	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
Aug. 15	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2	Luke 12:49-56
Aug. 22	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
Aug. 29	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalm 81:1, 10- 16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

June
2010

Hi Everyone.

I received another "Prayer Letter" and I was so pleased to know that so many wonderful friends are praying for me.

God has blessed me with a caring loving supportive family as well as many friends up North and many more from Trinity United Methodist Church here.

I still have a painful back but God gives me the strength to stand it. I can still drive my old car around Gainesville but not on any highways.

My granddaughter, Lynn, her husband, John, and their 3 children Joshua, 16, Abigail, 14, and Ellie, 10, will be moving to Chicago, Illinois (probably spelled it wrong) in July for 4 years. John wants to go for a Phd. in Christian history as he wants

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to be a Professor in a Theological College to teach Christian history. He has been a Lawyer working with his Dad and he hasn't been happy.

We are all so very proud of him. He is very smart and we all know that God will be with all the Simons Family every step of the way.

We will all miss them terribly as we won't be seeing them. The children used to come for "sleep overs" quite often and the whole family come either Saturday or Sunday most every week end as Delea, Fl. is only an hours drive from Gainesville, Fl.

At least, we'll have Mark my oldest grandson, his wife Tricia, and their two little ones, Alex, 5, and Emma, 9 months. They live in Gainesville

Nancy, and I went to see Alex graduate from pre-school on Wed-

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wednesday, May 26th. Most of them were 4 yrs. old but Alex's birthday is in Feb. He will start kindergarten in August but when Feb. 16, 2011 comes, he will be 6.

They sang 4 songs and did all kinds of different actions with each song. They were all so adorable.

When the two teachers gave each child their graduation certificate they would hold up a large picture of themselves say, their name, and shake hands with each teacher.

Then we were served sandwiches, baked potato chips, 2 cookies and punch.

Baby Emma has 2 teeth, walks a few steps + then sits down.

Thanks again for all the prayers.

Love and God bless,
Ettel Cooper

The Book: A modern Parable of the Sower
By: Margit Gratzl

There is a new book, praised by many
for its good writing and information value.
Therefore, many people march
to the bookstore.

Some look at the title,
leaf through the book
and put it back on the shelf.

Some buy the book, start reading it with
great enthusiasm, but get tired of it
after a while and never finish it.

Others read the book from cover to cover,
but due to all the other information they
are bombarded with on a daily basis,
forget about the book
and the value of its content.

However, some buy the book, read it with
great care and commit what they read to
their memory, integrate it with their other
knowledge and make use of what they
have learned for many years to come.

The End

Greetings from the Staff/Pastor/Parish Committee,

At our June meeting we discussed the recent Children's Sunday. All were pleased with the event. The pastor expressed thanks to both Becky and Jill Seaberg for their capable help in planning the children's part in the service. It is hoped that the membership of the Sunday School will increase substantially by June of next year. The visitation program was discussed, as were possible town wide mailings to attract new and past friends to worship with us. We welcome suggestions from any one for ideas of how to accomplish new growth.

The chairman reported that the pulpit will be filled on the pastor's vacation Sundays. The speakers' names will be reported in the Sun Chronicle and the Free Press for the appropriate Sundays. A progress report was given on preparation of the flyer which will be ready for the church fair. The Sunday bulletin's format is being gradually improved. Mention was made that the next project may be the newsletter. If anyone feels able to act as editor of the newsletter, Jill Seaberg or Barbara Flück will be glad to hear from you.

It was voted to omit our July meeting. Therefore, the next meeting will be held on the fourth Monday of August, August 23. Pastor Peter gave a very encouraging report of his healing from his accident. Although he has a way to go, we rejoiced with him at his wonderful progress. As always our meeting began and closed with prayer given by the pastor.

Sincerely, Barbara Flück

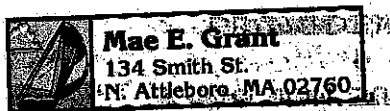
6-28-10

Dear members and Friends
of P.M.C.

Thank you for the Prayer
Letters you have sent us.
Seeing the familiar names
was so nice, especially.
I remember when I wrote
and sent out Prayer Letters
years ago.

God Bless you all.

Mae & Malcolm
Grant



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