



Parish Friend

Newsletter of Plainville United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Peter A. Parent

June 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

For me, this is a month of "lasts." We have already had the last Communion I will officiate at in Plainville; this month is filled with last meetings with committees and Councils. Last things are not always easy, and they are not here. I have been with you for six years. While the growth in church attendance never came up to what I hoped, we have gained some new members, and I have watched several of our young people go through Confirmation, earn Eagle Scout badges, graduate from high School, and two this year graduate from college. I am not sure how many funerals and weddings I have performed in six years, but there have been quite a few. Sunday morning services, special services, a tent-meeting series, Children's Moments, and singing in the choir and Pat and I singing duets have all been part of the ministry here.

Now I leave you to take my ministry to a new place. The last week of June we will be moving to Canaan, NH, about fifteen miles east of Lebanon, NH. I will serve two churches, the Enfield UMC, and the Canaan UMC. They call themselves the Mascoma Valley United Methodist Parish.

As our Methodist system works, my last Sunday will be June 26th, and your new pastor, Rev. Jim Blair will begin his ministry on July 3rd.

A couple of verses from Paul's first letter to the Corinthian believers is very applicable to our Methodist way of moving pastors: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose..." (1 Corinthians 3:6-8a)..

So now, perhaps, the watering begins. May the work be fruitful, and the growth we have all prayed for, yearned for, and worked for be abundantly rewarded. When I came to Plainville, in July of 2005, I began to pray for the one who would follow me. I knew someone, someday, would continue the work here. Now, as I leave, I will continue to pray for you and for Rev. Jim that God's richest blessings will flow like a mountain stream, and that the Spirit might empower you and give you grace. May the Plainville United Methodist Church continue to be a lighthouse for God in this town.

Grace and Peace, (for the last time)

Rev. Peter



Yard Sale Update

On Saturday May 7th, we had another successful *Spring Fling Yard Sale*. We were able to bring in over \$1,600 in this six-hour event!

Many thanks to everyone who donated items and to those church members who dedicated time to preparing for and working at the sale!

Tom Simon and Jean Hayward

Yard Sale Coordinators

THE REV. JIM BLAIR

After graduating High School in 1972, Jim moved from Chicago to Deland, Florida, where he lived with his paternal grandparents while he studied English and Theater at Stetson University. He went on to study acting and design at Southern Illinois University, and from there he acted and stage managed in several professional theaters. In 1983, God called him to "pound a different kind of board," and he started his Divinity School studies. He graduated Harvard Divinity School in 1986 and in the same year was ordained to the Christian ministry and began work as a pastor to two rural churches in eastern North Carolina. After three years, Jim and his young family moved to Washington, DC where he served the Universalist National Memorial Church from 1989-1993. His wife, the Rev. Rebecca Homans Blair is an Episcopal priest currently serving a church in New Bedford. They are parents of three, Matthew (age 22), Eleanor (16), and Eric (11).

Jim loves his family and his work, and most of all he completely and totally loves the Lord Jesus Christ. He enjoys the company of believers, especially those who call themselves "United Methodist." Jim came into the United Methodist Church in 2002 when Bishop Susan Hassinger received him at Annual Conference of that year, and he became a clergy member in full connection at the New England Annual Conference of 2010. Jim's favorite hymn is "Standing on the Promises" and his "life text" is from 1 Thessalonians 5:19-18:

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!

Wednesday Evening: Living Bread Food Pantry,
6:30-7:00 p.m.

Hi Everyone. Recently the food pantry at the Plainville United Methodist Church received a delivery of collected food from the post office. We were truly thankful for the food we received however it totaled about 1/4 of the normal delivery amount from the 'Stamp out Hunger' campaign drive. This amount will not sustain the food pantry for very long. We, the members of the Church, are pleading our plight in the hope of finding some additional groups or people here in Plainville that will have a food drive.

The next Church Supper will be on Saturday, September 10.

PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is hosting a bridal shower for Michele Lee Sutton, fiancée of Aaron Parent, for the Plainville United Methodist Church and the First United Methodist Church of North Attleboro.

DATE: Sunday, June 19, 2011

TIME: 4:30 pm Sandwiches and dessert will be served.

PLACE: Cate Room, Plainville United Methodist Church

This will be a **GREENBACK SHOWER** since Michele and Aaron are at Camp Aldersgate for the summer, with no place to store gifts.

If you could give your monetary gifts to us prior to Friday, June 17th, we will be able to present a lovely money tree to Michele. We can then bring cards with our best wishes to Michele on Sunday, the 19th.

Please contact:	Joan Hutson	508-695-9469
	Eleanor Warner	508-695-1371
	Brenda Watkinson	508-695-2424
	Joan Clarke	508-695-5141
	Grace Simmons	508-699-7168

Hope you will be able to come and "shower" Michele with our best wishes.