

The Parish Friend

From The Pastor's Desk

It is a bright, cool, October morning as I write this letter. The summer's activities are behind us, and we are gearing up for Advent and winter. Pat and I just came back from a few days at our camp in Maine. Up there the leaves are at peak and the color is brilliant. What a wonderful God we have who paints the world so beautifully for us. With the coming of fall we begin to think of our regular activities at church.

Sunday School began on September 13th with ten children present. It is good to see an increase in our children, and we have room for more. Sunday School ages run from pre-school to sixth grade. Charge Conference, our church's annual meeting was held on October 4th with our District Superintendent, Rev. Ron Wilson, presiding. The ministry for the last year was reviewed, and plans and hopes for the coming year were shared. One major component which was raised was the plans for a new "Welcoming, Hospitality, and Visitation Committee." We hope to make contact with all our members and friends, and with new-comers to our community. We believe we have much to offer and want to let folks know we are here.

Several big events are close at hand. Our Fall Fair is quickly approaching. We are trying some new hours this year. The event will be November 6th and 7th. On Friday the hours are 2-8 PM and on Saturday, from 8 AM – 2 PM. You should find further details in this newsletter. Also coming up in November is our annual pledge drive and Consecration Sunday. The church is supported by gifts of its members and friends. Most of us choose to make an annual pledge which is given in weekly installments through the year. Again, there will be further details on this special time in the newsletter. Then, at the end of November through Christmas is the time of Advent. Christmas Sunday is December 21st and on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th, we will have our annual Carol sing and Candlelight Service at 11 PM. If you would like to go to an earlier service, our sister church in N. Attleboro will have the same service at 7 PM on Christmas Eve.

Our church is open to everyone. We hope to see you at our regular services, or any of the special events which are going to take place in the coming weeks. Our regular Sunday services are at 9 AM, with Sunday School being held during the church hour. Come aside for an hour and refresh your soul.

Years ago there was a popular song with the line, "What the world needs now is love..." I've been thinking of that in relation to the church in the past few weeks. What does the church need? What is the great desire of Christ for his church? In a rather simple way I see the needs of the church in a dual perspective. On the one hand there is what we are given, and on the other there is what the Lord expects of us.

What have we been given? In two short words, grace and mercy. Someone has made an acrostic of the word grace – Grace is God's

Riches

At

Christ's

Expense.

That's not a bad definition. It places grace where it belongs – in God's capable hands, not in ours. Grace is something that is given and received, not earned or deserved. Mercy is God reaching out, through Christ, to undeserving sinners. When we are honest with ourselves we will readily echo Paul's declaration, "There is no one who is righteous, not even one..." (Rom. 3:10 NRSV). So, as undeserving sinners we have no claim on God, but because of love (John 3:16) he has one on us. That love found its fulfillment in the grace and mercy that came through Jesus sacrifice on the cross of Calvary.

Now comes the thought, what does the Lord desire from us? I find the answer in the initial call Jesus gave to his generation – “Follow Me!” This last week I preached on the man in Mark who had many possessions and could not give them up to follow Jesus. In Matthew he is called young and in Luke, a ruler. We have put the stories together and call the man, the rich, young ruler. In the end, he turns away from Jesus, sorrowful, because he cannot give up his possessions and follow the Lord. There are a couple of elements in following Jesus. First there is belief. Do you believe Jesus? Do you believe *in* Jesus? Belief goes beyond mere mental assent; it requires an action. For Peter and the other disciples the action was following Jesus. I think many folks, maybe a lot of folks believe in Jesus, but they are unwilling, as the rich, young ruler, to give up what they have, who they are, their dreams, to follow Jesus. There can be no effective reception of grace and mercy without the corresponding discipline of faith and following.

Although some folks try to separate the Old and New Testaments into two completely separate entities, I find that they complement each other faithfully. The classic rendition from the Old Testament of the requirements of God are the same as we find in the New Testament –

“What does the Lord require of you
but do do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”
(Micah 6:8)

As Old and New parallel each other, so, too, does grace and mercy, and belief and following Jesus. I pray for you, that you have found that grace and mercy, freely given, and are actively following Jesus, believing his word and trusting in him daily.



Thank you notes were received from the following recipients of Plainville UMC prayer letters:

Ethel Cooper, Thelma Priest, Bette Young, Mrs. Sui M. Chin, Tammy Finch, Barbara Spalding, Lucille Skinner, Crystal and Rick Martineau, George Chagnon, the family of Pearl Harris, Karen Conrad

COUNTRY FAIR

Friday, Nov. 6th, from 2 to 8 pm

Saturday, Nov. 7th, from 9 to 3.

Please join us for our annual Church Fair. New changes this year include a **Clam Cake and Chowder** snack bar on Friday with other food items available. We've extended the hours on Friday night for those who work. Many items for our Silent Auction have been donated by local businesses. Invite a friend to join you at the snack bar then browse the fair for that special gift.

Come browse the Collectables, the donated Jewelry, the delicious pies and baked goods, the candy, the Country Store, the Books, the Handmade items, Dave's attic and the Silent Auction items. Saturday there will also be a snack bar so bring a friend and make a day of it!

Donations are now being accepted for Dave's Attic, Jewelry, Books, Handmade items and crafts, and items for the Silent Auction including gift baskets. For the Fair we will need baked goods including breads, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, fudge, pies, candy, sugar-free baked goods, and any dessert type item.

Please volunteer to set-up on Sunday, Nov. 1st after church, clean up after the fair, help in the kitchen, and other tasks at the fair. We need everyone to help. If you have any questions, call Becky Simon at 508-643-1238 or Jill Seaberg at 508-699-0591.

See you there!!

Sincerely, *Jill Seaberg*

LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Living Bread Food Pantry continues to hand out bags of food every Wednesday night at 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. We are currently serving approximately 25 families a week. At this time of year supplies start to run low and we are looking forward to the next large delivery from the Cub and Boy Scouts. Their yearly program, "Scouting for Food" starts on Saturday, November 7. The Scouts will put a plastic bag on most of the doors of Plainville. Please remember to fill it up with nonperishable

canned and boxed foods. The Scouts will pick up your bag early in the morning the next week, Saturday, November 14. They deliver the bags to the Pantry, help us separate the food, and put it into the Pantry. "Scouting for Food" is a great program and helps the Pantry a lot. Some of the items needed are potatoes, spaghetti sauces, coffee, and boxed rice. We cannot accept outdated foods, so please check expiration dates. If the Scouts do not leave a plastic bag on your door and you would like to donate, feel free to call the church office at 508-695-9587 or deliver to the church during Sunday service.

On Sundays after church at 10:30 a.m., volunteers have been working in the Pantry setting up bags, organizing food, and other necessary jobs that need to be done. If you know of any young people who need community service hours for their school and would like to help out, please call Becky Simon at 508-643-1238 or call the church.

Becky Simon

Coordinator, Living Bread Food Pantry

CONSECRATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

It is that time of the year again...

Consecration Sunday. This is the process we use to know if we can meet our budget for the year 2010. So please watch for your pledge card to arrive in the mail, mark the date on your calendar, and plan to join us in church Sunday (November 15, 2009). Thanks. We look forward to seeing you.

Jean Hayward

Chair of Finance Committee

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EILEEN NEWELL at 508/695-3132

COUNTRY FAIR

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 6TH
2PM-8PM**

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7TH
9AM-3PM**

**COME AND SHOP AT OUR FAIR FRIDAY
NIGHT AND ENJOY DOWN HOME
CLAMCAKES AND CHOWDER!**

**BROWSE THROUGH OUR REDESIGNED
SHOPPES FOR YOUR HOLIDAY
PLEASURE!**

**OTHER ADDED FEATURES INCLUDE:
SILENT AUCTION-CANDY-FRESH BAKED PIES-
HOMEMADE GIFTS-CRAFTS-JEWELRY-
COLLECTIBLES-COUNTRY STORE!**

**PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16 EAST BACON STREET
PLAINVILLE, MA 02762**

WEBSITE: www.PlainvilleUMC.net.

**Plainville United Methodist Church
Saturday Supper**

November 14 – Stuffed Chicken Breast

\$9.00 Adults /

\$3.50 Children under 10

Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m.

For Tickets call 508-699-8646 or

508-695-5141

**Plainville United Methodist Church
Saturday Supper Schedule**

December 12 – Ham and Beans

January 9, 2010 – Calendar supper / Chicken Pot Pie

February 13 – Lasagna

March 13 – Meatloaf

April 10 – Shepherd's Pie

May 8 – 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