

# The Parish Friend

*A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church*

**January/February, 2012**

*“The church at the heart of the community with the community at heart.”*

## From the Pastor

I am grateful for all the Christmas blessings made from this community to my family and me. I am blessed to have been appointed to Plainville and I pray that in the coming year I will be able to find more opportunities to serve and to be truly helpful in this community.

One of the signs of a vital congregation is that its members are able to live out of a spirit of generosity. This spirit is clearly evident at PUMC! I'm hoping that we can continue to find ways to “infect” the world around us with this same spirit of generosity, which is at the heart of the good news of Jesus Christ.

One way is to continue to support our Living Bread Food Pantry. There is always a need for donations of food, but also for volunteers to help keep the pantry functioning well.

--Pastor Jim

**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds: Strengthening Families”** is the title of a new sermon series beginning Sunday,

January 8 and continuing for five Sundays. Rev.

Blair will be taking up the theological virtues of faith, hope, love, joy, and grace, suggesting practical ways to weave them into our family and congregational life.



Invite a friend to this important series!



**Come to the annual  
Calendar Supper  
Saturday, January 14**  
(Chicken Pot Pie)

**\$9.00 adults/\$3.50 children**

**Make your reservations now!**

Call 508-699-8646 or 508-695-5141

## You<sup>th</sup> News

There is still a supply of really nice “Creation 2012” calendars. If you don't have one yet, it's not too late! A \$3 donation (to cover the cost to the North Attleboro UMY fund) will do it!

## *A Ping Pong Tournament*

**Sunday afternoon, January 14, 2 p.m.**

The Pats will have already played their playoff game, so we won't be missing them! Come for some family fun! Register your interest with Pastor Jim so that he can organize the event. Other games (including “Caroms”) will be happening while the tournament is going on, and there will be a trip to Cumbies for refreshments.



## **Join the Choir!**

There is always the need for another voice! The choir rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. (following Evening Prayer). Interested? Talk to Dan Stone or Pastor Jim. Or just come!

*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*  
(Psalm 95:1)

## Warm-up the Church

The Church Council has approved, on recommendation of the Trustees, a 22K capital campaign drive to procure a new, energy efficient, oil burner for the church. An effort is underway currently to reach out to the community for help with this, as the church is a community meeting place. When making a donation specific to this campaign, please earmark your check "Warm Up the Church" so that the funds can be held in escrow until sufficient funds have been received. Our objective is to have the new furnace installed in time for the 2012-2013 heating season.

## Parsonage

Thanks to the generosity of many (both in terms of finances and good, old fashioned "sweat equity") we are continuing to get the parsonage property into good maintenance. This effort began in earnest when Rev. Blair and his family arrived last July and will continue into the new year. Improvements have been made to the interior and a number of threatening trees have been removed, which makes the property much more "user friendly" and attractive. Pastor Jim is a willing partner in this and wants everyone to know that by year's end, 3 Beverly Drive will be "really lookin' good!" Come by sometime and check it out!

## God does answer . . .

As anyone who has attended our worship services knows, Plainville UMC is centered around prayer. The prayer letters continue to go out and give support and solace to many. **Join in the Wednesday evening prayer service (7 p.m.) to lend support to this vital ministry of prayer.**

## Worship for January and February

### January 8

*Your Family's Practice of Faith*  
Psalm 27; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-13

### January 15

*The Hope Your Children and Grandchildren Really Need*  
Psalm 33; Hebrews 6:13-20a

### January 22

*God Loves Families, Too!*  
Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### January 29

*Joyful Families Are Active Families*  
Psalm 98; Isaiah 55:9-13

### February 5

*Strong Families Through God's Grace*  
Psalm 133; Acts 4:32-35

### February 12

*Scouting and Youth Sunday*  
Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17

### February 19

*Transfigured!*  
Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

### February 22

*Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.*  
"Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."  
(Joel 2:13)

### February 26

*First Sunday in Lent*

## The Bible Still Speaks to You!

Find out how by joining the Bible Study Group, led by Rev. David Hill, which meets every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Cate Room.