



PLYMOUTH PARK VIEWS

an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections Section A 072585 Vol 157 No. 18 September 3, 2010

Plymouth Park United Methodist Church

1615 Airport Fwy
Irving, TX 75062
972-255-4185
www.ppumc.org

Sunday Worship Traditional Worship

8:30 am & 11:00 am in
the Sanctuary

Plymouth Park

Praise 9:15 am in
Fellowship Hall

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is observed each Sunday in the 8:30 service and the first Sunday of the month in the 9:15 and 11:00

Upcoming Events

Labor Day - Office Closed
September 6

Directory Pictures
September 7-11

Wednesday Night Dinners Start
September 8. 6:00 pm

Grandparent's Event
September 11

Young at Heart
September 16, 10:30 am

Alzheimer's Support
September 16, 7:00 pm

Lord's Acre
October 16

Paper Deadline:

Please provide information for the September 17 edition to Barbara Hamilton by Noon on September 9. Phone: 972.255.4185 - Email: bhamilton@ppumc.org

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor
Dr. Bill La Barr
Associate Pastor
Rev. Dana Norton
Music Ministry
Jason Chavarria
Youth Ministry
Peg Hartung
Children's Ministry
Cori Cossaboom Bell

Blessing of the Backpacks



PPUMC Students and Teachers joined for a back to school blessing from the clergy and congregation at the P3 and 11:00 Worship on Sunday, Aug 22.

Pet Adoption

DFW Humane Society

Adoptions were available in the Activity Room at PPUMC on August 21st. This little sweetie found a home with Rev.



Norton's family. Another opportunity may be on the horizon for you to add a pet to your family. Watch for future details.



Save the Date! Grandparents' Day

September 11 is Grandparents'

Day and we are going to celebrate it with an event designed to bring two generations together.

Grandparents are invited to attend with their preschool through elementary-aged grandchildren for a fun time of making, doing, playing and being together. The time is 10am-12noon so save the date and time and be ready for some games, crafts, and food fun. For more information please contact Cori Bell at ext. 205 or cori@ppumc.org.



PPUMC Restroom Remodel Update

by Mike Cooley

Your Board of Church Trustees is thrilled to announce the completion of a sorely needed project – the complete remodel of both the girl's and boy's restrooms next to the Youth Hall. The results are outstanding.

In each restroom the floors were taken up and various walls were removed that had stood for many years. Walls were replaced with a much more substantial commercial material to withstand the everyday use from the school. Attractive tile was then installed on the floors and on the walls up to the ceilings, after which it was grouted and moisture sealed. Automatic flush devices were fitted on all of the toilets and urinals. In finishing, the partition dividers were reinstalled and repainted with coordinated epoxy paint.

Wednesday Night Dinner Returns on September 8

Make plans now to attend our Wednesday night dinners. We have delicious food and great fellowship all for only \$5.00 per person. Dinner begins at 5:45-6:30pm. The Sept 8 menu will be Creamy Ham Noodle Casserole, Salad, Hot Bread and Dessert.

You can make reservations by contacting Cori Bell at ext 205 or cori@ppumc.org.

Last Chance For Pictures!!!

All those who have a photo taken for the church picture directory will receive a free 8 x 10 and (more importantly) a free directory. This is the only way to obtain a church directory! If you have not had your picture taken and do not have an appointment, please contact Rev. Dana Norton in the church office at 972-255-4185 or dana@ppumc.org for one of the few remaining appointments. Pictures will be



The end result of the project's completion is that we now have restrooms that are clean, odor-free, have automatic flush mechanisms and are pleasant to walk into.

The Trustees have also been busy in the adult wing. It has now been completely repainted! Reed Wigington and his crew have also finished the remodel of our kitchen.

In addition, as you read this report, the restrooms outside of the church offices should be in their final stages of remodeling.

The Trustees feel that these are projects that were needed to help keep our church as a clean, attractive, and inviting place for our members and guests. We are proud of our accomplishments to date and hope you will take a peek at the new remodels.

Kid's Club Schedule

Wednesday night Kid's Club activities will begin on September 8. Our activities include:

Dinner – 5:45-6:30 pm
- \$5.00 per person

Choir Practice – 6:30-7:00 pm
Joy Singers (3 years-Kindergarten)
Krista Bailey – Room 110
Sonshine Chorus (1st-2nd grades)
Rebecca Ware – Room 110
RevElation Choir (3rd-5th grades)
Kirsten Woodruff – Room 114

Bible Study – 3rd-5th grades - Club 345 room and Activity Room

On September 8 we will also offer acolyte training for 3rd-5th graders at 7-7:30pm in the Sanctuary. This is a wonderful way to have children participate in our worship so please consider having your child come for training.

For more information contact Cori Bell at ext 205 or cori@ppumc.org

taken on September 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. **APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED!** Walk ins will be accepted ONLY if you arrive at a time when a slot is available.



Changing Seasons

This is the second week for Wesleyan Academe students and my first week back in chapel with them. The scripture lessons chosen by Cori Bell are around Ecclesiastics 3. Remember the old song, “to everything there is a season and a time for purpose under heaven.” I think it was the Birds who sang “Turn, Turn, Turn” and brought this bit of scripture into the mainstream secular culture. It’s a great choice for the beginning of school since it is the beginning of a new season for students and teachers.

The beginning of the school year and all the new church programming may help us to see fall as a new beginning. There are new books, new paper and fresh pencils for school children. We collect new school supplies and celebrate with blessing of the backpacks. Teachers start fresh with a new class of students. And students may also get a fresh start with a new teacher. At church we promote our children and youth to the next level. A new confirmation class starts with grand promise seen in the fresh faces of our 6th grade youth.

We begin new adult classes as well. This year is a first for me. Since I’ve been at Plymouth Park UMC, Bill La Barr has taught all of our Disciple I Bible courses as is the prerogative of the Senior Pastor. However, this year he is teaching a Disciple II course and is sharing the privilege of teaching Disciple I with me. While I love teaching all of the Disciple Bible courses, I’m especially excited this year because Disciple I is unique. It is the prerequisite to the other three Disciple courses. As such, it is the course with the greatest diversity in students. Some have been engaged in bible study for years. For others, this will be their first real taste of the sweet Word of God. As they stick a toe into the water, they will discover that it is thick and sticky. Then those exploring for the first time discover that the water taste like honey. A few of those who are long time students will begin believing they pretty much already know what to expect. They will wade into the pool of honey with confidence. But they God will show up (as God always does) and sweep them away until they discover that it is rather delicious to float along on the sea of honey lapping at the ripples.

There are so many activities and events on the horizon that it is no wonder that we become excited by all the new prospects as the school year begins. Lord’s Acre is coming. So is Fall Festival, a Pie Auction with dinner, Chili Cook-Off, Hanging of the Greens, and numerous Christmas concerts and special music presentations.

A new church directory will be coming out around Christmas. It’s a big project and has become more of a family album for me. It is, after all, the family picture album for our church family as we are at this point in time. If you look back at old directories and see how faces have changed, children have grown, nests have emptied, loved ones have gone to Glory and babies have been born, it begins to feel very much like a family album that shows us at the different seasons in our lives.

Sadly, the homebound among us are typically left out of the family album. These dear ones who may so easily begin to feel (and often are) isolated from the rest of our church family are not included and because they don’t have a picture made, they don’t receive a directory and the opportunity to flip through pages looking for old friends. You see it costs us a little something to include them. Not much, but something. If they take the time and trouble to send us a snap shot, we can include it for a small fee and they will get a directory. However, your Communications Team said “That’s not good enough for these folk who have given so much to our family!” So our own church photographers, Grady Beachum and Rod Woodruff, are visiting our homebound with lights and cameras ready. They will take nice portraits and we will use funds to provide them with the same free 8 x 10 that is given to the rest of the family. They will receive a directory and when you flip to the last page or two of your directory, there they will be. Our homebound will not be lost or forgotten by us. They have been part of the lifeblood of our church. Perhaps you

SYMPATHY TO

Kate Alexander and family on the death of her grandfather, J. D. Alexander.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jeanne Brown, Shirley Flippin (Rexanne McCauley’s stepmother), Violet Feldhusen (Dennis Riise’s mother), Sara Mellady (Rexanne McCauley’s daughter), Mary Oberlin, Jean Witten (Donna/Paul Dean’s friend)

CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Lynn Beahm; Bill Chrisman; Pat Dulgar; Vera and John Eitson; Bill Evans (Kay Schecht’s brother); Tom Fitzgibbons; Don Flagler; Jean Gowan; Carolyn Gray; Bob and Gloria Gray; Marie Huggett (Marilyn Laningham’s friend); Don Killian; Jerry Labhart; Peggy Mahoney; Carol Maroney (Donna/Paul Dean’s friend); Mae Moulton; Tara Munoz; Jim Naico; Lisa Paubee (Gaylynn Taylor’s daughter); Nancy Rudderow; Sandy Ray; Jim Shilstone; Dick Short; Annette Simpson; Charles Simpson; Bill Storey (Robyn Storey’s father); Zip Taylor; Frances Thompson; Alexis Trevino (Sandi Trevino’s daughter); Joy Wisener; and Leta Gorham and our prayer partner church in South Korea, Sabkyo Methodist Church, and all of our homebound members, Louise Acuff; Shirley Asbury; Lois Mack; Elmyra McNutt; Glen Stevens and Claudia Tullos.

Please pray for the complete prayer list that can be found at www.ppumc.org Note to Congregation

Please notify the church office when your loved ones health issues stabilize and your loved ones are home from hazardous assignments.

	Worship Totals	Sunday School Totals
July 4	281	159
July 11	334	175
July 18	290	190
July 25	274	201
July Avg. Attendance	294	181

July Operating	Year-to-Date Operating
Required\$ 72,579	Required..... \$ 524,037
Received\$ 72,964	Received..... \$ 479,535
Spent.....\$107,248	Spent..... \$ 547,225
Over Budget ..\$ 34,284	Over Budget...\$ 67,690

*Operating Budget amounts are based on historical giving patterns (not proportional throughout the year). E.g., a positive balance in February income may show up as a negative balance in July.

2010 PPUMC Budget	\$ 896,320
Received Year-to-Date	\$ 479,535
2010 Apportionment to PPUMC.....	\$ 92,373
Received Year-to-Date	\$ 55,424

will recognize a Sunday school teacher or music teacher. Maybe it will be someone from your days in youth that will catch your eye. Or it will be the one who smiled at you that Sunday when your youngest hollered so loudly that you thought the church steeple would crash in on you just to stop the noise...but that smile made it ok. Remember them. And when you do, pick up a phone or make a visit.

As I prepared my lessons for chapel with the Wesleyan children, I remembered a book of photos that I borrowed a number of years ago when I was working on a rotation series based on the Jesse Tree. Wish I still had it but I did return it. The book was filled with photographs of new plant life growing out of death and all manner of destruction from termites to forest fires. Sometimes one thing must end to make room for something new. Our programs are for a season and we wouldn’t want to make a permanent commitment to them. When they no longer work, it’s time to try something else. But our commitments to people are long standing. Our homebound continue to pray for you even when that is

all that they are still able to do as they promised when they became members of this church. They continue to support this church with their prayers, gifts, and witness. When you reach out to them, you will find that they will also support it with their presence and service as well...because their very being will be a gift to you in which you might glimpse unexpected new life growing.

There is "a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." The song ends with "I swear it's not too late." Not too late for what? What is your purpose, your calling in this season? This isn't the column that I set out to write today, but maybe the season is right.

Blessings, *Dana*

New Members



Please welcome back to PPUMC Terrie Mogavero and her family, Elaina, and her daughter, Isabella, Katie, Virginia and Alex Mogavero.

Charge Conference Removal

I have been unable to locate the following members during the past 2 years due to incorrect addresses and phone numbers. Please review the list below and contact the church office if you have any updated information.

Respectfully, Anna Bullard Membership Secretary

Members to be removed in the year 2010:

Steve Bade	David Haman	Perri Slape
Bonnie Brownell	Lincoln Hunt	Carson Wright
Farresa Jones	Chad Marshall Ray	Brad & Kathy York

Members to be removed in the year 2011:

Bonnie Faires	Stephen & Constance Okafor
Rhonda Huffstetler	John R. Parker (last known address Lubbock)
David & Tamara Kaufman	Megan Wilson
John & Monica Ndirangy	

Thank You (condensed)

Donation made by Namaste and Galileans Class

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your donation for a washer and a dryer at Ojo Amarillo UMC to the Four Corners Native American Ministry. We pray that you have been blessed by sharing in Christian ministry with the Navajo people.

God has blessed us with generous, compassion and Christ-filled donors from around the country. And from the hot high desert of the Navajo Indian Reservation, we offer this blessing based upon Hosea 2:11: God says, I will woo you and lead you into the wilderness and speak to you heart. Blessed be God for ever!

Dr. Rodney Aist, Director
Four Corners Native American Ministry

Thank You

Donation made by the children at Vacation Bible School

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of our Chairman, Ted Turner, and our Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$267.57. The gift has been distributed entirely to the United Nations Foundation's Nothing But Nets campaign.

It is possible to prevent and control malaria through simple and effective tools including long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets. Since 2001, the UN Foundation's malaria efforts have helped increase the distribution of these lifesaving bed nets in African countries during country-wide measles vaccination campaigns. Your support will help expand

Sign Language Classes Begin

Beginning Sign Language classes will cover elementary concepts and vocabulary (starts with alphabet, numbers, and basic signs) utilizing the curriculum developed by the *Sign Exact English* Center. This course is for beginner adults and youth and runs for one year in 6 week increments. Course Leaders: Rev. Dana Norton and Ann McGuffey.

Intermediate Sign Language classes will cover intermediate concepts and vocabulary and be taught by a professional interpreter. This course is for adults and youth who have completed the Beginning Sign Language Class or have a previous foundation in sign language and runs for one year in 6 week increments. Course Leader: Bethany Richeson.

Children may attend both classes with parents at no charge as long as they are not disruptive. The S.E.E. dictionary is required for both courses at a cost of \$25. If you already own the book, a \$10 donation is requested for each 6 week increment.

distribution to additional African countries where measles campaigns are being conducted.

With best wishes,
Timothy E. Wirth
United Nations Foundation

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Music Notes

By Jason Chavarría

This past Sunday, the PPUMC Music Ministry had the honor of recognizing those who had given 25 years or more of dedicated service to the choir. In and of itself, this is tremendously impressive. But what really blows me away is that out of the 12 members who had reached this milestone, four of them were recognize for having given FIFTY years of dedicated service to the music ministry. Incredible, isn't it? I think this is pretty amazing.

If there is one trait these 12 dedicated souls share, it's just that—dedication. Though we have choir members who come in and out as their schedule allows, for the most part, the 25- and 50- year veterans are the ones on whose attendance I can count upon for practically every Wednesday night rehearsal and every Sunday morning worship service. They are the truly dependable ones, and sacrifice almost whatever else comes up in their lives to be a dedicated and regular part of the music ministry.

I have to admit, this level of dedication, impressive as it is, confounds me somewhat. What on earth compels a large group of people to give up an entire evening at home to come and sing at choir rehearsal on Wednesday nights? Would I do the same if given the opportunity and this was not my profession? I'm not completely sure.

This line of thinking gave me reason to reflect on a conversation I've had recently with a very dear friend of mine who is also a music director. He is at a church which was once a small country church, but due to an explosion of growth in the area, the church has also experienced growth. The church has attracted many new families, which is wonderful. Many of these families, however, have either never attended church, or at least have not attended church in a very long time. This has resulted in a very difficult task for my friend—to create a culture of dedication from scratch. Not an easy thing—in fact, it's proving to be quite difficult. The culture these days keeps us incredibly busy, and makes it easy to fill our lives with countless activities, appointments, and other obligations. What becomes our priority is whatever happens to be the most urgent at the moment, regardless of its actual importance. We begin neglecting things like caring for ourselves. Eating healthy, making time for exercise, or getting enough sleep are things we sacrifice for the sake of 'trying to get it all done.' In a community steeped in this culture, with no other paradigm to fall back on, my friend runs head-first into the notion that church is something you do when you have the time, or worse yet, church is somewhere you go when you don't have anything more important (or better) to do.

I feel very fortunate to have walked into quite a different situation when I became Music Director here more than five years ago. There was clearly a culture of commitment already in place by a vast majority of music-ministry participants, as evidenced by their longevity and commitment. Though I have been an instrument in sustaining this culture, I certainly did not start it. I find myself very curious about how this culture developed. Wouldn't it be interesting to talk to our long-time choir members and ask them where they first learned their commitment? I'd ask: When did you first decide to make church and ministry a priority for you? Why has that commitment sustained you so long? What would you say to others who want to be committed, but find that other activities and obligations crowd out even their best intentions? At what point did we as a church stop instilling the principle that commitment to ministry was non-negotiable? Wasn't there a time when we believed everything was second behind God? Exactly when did we lose that message? Or have we?

While I'd like to find some answers to these questions, I have a feeling that what I'll find are some very simple answers. At some point, these folks decided to make their commitment to ministry a priority. For the choir members, perhaps it was a deep connection to the music,

coupled with a deep desire to communicate in a meaningful way the texts and music which have sustained their faith for decades. Maybe it was the realization of a life so richly blessed that only a deep, dedicated commitment to the service of His church seemed the only possible way to give thanks and gratitude for these blessings. Regardless of the reason, the outcome is the same—an arrival at the principal that we must put God first in our lives, and make service to ministry a priority.

I believe that creating a meaningful, purposeful existence begins with careful, intentional thought as to what one's priorities are, and the willingness to say "no" to those things which do not hold much long-term value. Without doing so, our lives begin to run us rather than the other way around, and even the things we know to be important slowly become sacrificed and overrun with less-important things. We have to decide what's important, and sacrifice for those things. Foundational to my personal belief is the idea that developing and nurturing one's faith, both privately and communally within a church family, is the life-activity with the most value. It is your faith that will sustain you and your family through sickness, grief, death, and loss. Soccer, cheerleading, and video games will not. Sound silly to compare the two, doesn't it? But I think we have to take a hard and honest look at who we want to be and the life we want to build, and prioritize accordingly, difficult as that may be.

I pray as we kick-off a new school year, filled with countless activities and opportunities, that a spirit of discernment falls upon you, so that you may live a life dedicated to the principles of faith and commitment to the work of Christ, bringing you a faith that will sustain you always, and bring a part of the heavenly Kingdom here on earth.

Have you remembered your church in your will?

For more information or to speak confidentially, contact Dr. Bill La Barr, Sr. Pastor at 972-255-4185.

Sowing the Seeds for Lord's Acre

Lord's Acre will be ready for harvesting on Saturday, October 16. We are planting a new crop and plowing in some new directions. We still need donations of items, services, and small crafts to be sold in the Market Place but we are adding a new component called "Sign and Go Socials". We are looking for people willing to host themed parties that couples or individuals can sign up to attend. These can be anything from a swim party to a fancy sit down party to a progressive dinner. They can also be for children or youth. You are only limited by your own imagination.

For more information or to volunteer contact Cori Bell at x205 or cori@ppumc or Rev. Dana Norton at x202 or dana@ppumc.org. *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2Corinthians 9:6*

There's Still Time To Participate in the Women's Bible Study

This fall, the women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays beginning September 8th to December 8th from 10:30-12:30 in room 109. We will study **Experiencing God** by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby and Claude King. While many people ask God to bless their plans, Experiencing God helps lead believers into a deeper love relationship, teaching them to pray to and hear from God, and to join with God in accomplishing what He purposes to do.

Please join us for this powerful, life-changing study. Contact Amanda Nicholls at 214-492-0432 or Amanda@2amps.com to reserve your workbook for \$15. Childcare will be provided.