

January 2012

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**PPC's New Members**

**Snow Camp**

**Food Safety Class**

**Mom's Dinner**



## **Pastor's Message : A New Year's Resolution for All of Us!**

Herb Miller, a prominent voice in church consulting, in an issue of "Parish Paper" writes of what brings "Unchurched" people to worship. The definition of "Unchurched" can vary, but it generally means someone who is not involved in a congregation.

He found: 75% of Unchurched adults "begin their search" when someone invites them to a worship service; 15% search the yellow pages or the internet to find a worship service to attend; 10% search by worshipping at a church building they had noticed while driving past on a weekday.

Unchurched people tend to start their search because they find themselves in a stressful time of life; however, a few say "it was just time to find a church."

Miller lifts up two factors he sees as influencing such a search.

The first is having had a religious foundation prior to one's college years (85% of people who become involved in a church have had church experience in their youth). This shows the importance of a congregation's children and youth ministry. It needs to be a high priority for any church.

The second is that adults often make a decision on current needs and social relationships.

What are their needs?

Religious education for their children "This includes moral and character education alongside learning about the Bible and church teachings."

Personal support and reassurance. A place "where adults can speak openly and honestly without fear of rejection."

Social contacts and a sense of community. This is especially true for those areas where immediate family is not close.

Inspiration and spiritual guidance. "Adults want worship to be uplifting, empowering, and encouraging, especially the music, which sets the emotional tone for all the other elements."

In this New Year (2012), let us be more intentional in extending Christ's hospitality to one and all. If there is someone you know who would benefit from becoming acquainted with or re-connected with PPC, extend a warm invitation to them and let them know there is a place where they will be welcomed.

**Plymouth Presbyterian Church**

*Building Faith Making friends Serving People*

Worship: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Education for All 10:45 a.m.

3755 Dunkirk Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55446

## Membership Commission — Sally Ackerman and Judy Maul

### Meet PPC's Newest Members

**Keith and Eileen Phifer** — The Phifers live in Plymouth where Eileen works at Summerwood. She met Ewen and some of our GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group members when they came to serve the residents. She and Keith decided to visit PPC and it wasn't long before they said they were ready to join!

Keith grew up in Minneapolis, is an Eagle Scout and graduated from the U of M. He is retired now, but was a teacher in the Minnetonka school system, worked for Prudential and Target Financial. He has published a book and volunteers in an AA program. Eileen is from Wisconsin and was a special education teacher and later worked in social services. She babysat their first grandchild until he started school and then found her job at Summerwood where she is the Activities Director.

They both love Duluth and the North Shore where Keith has acquired quite a rock collection. They also have travelled the United States, National Parks and Europe.

**Cheryl Jalonen** — Cheryl came to Minnesota from Massachusetts, visited PPC, found us friendly and immediately indicated she was ready to join. She works as a sales rep for a wholesale sporting goods company. Cheryl's loves mountain hiking, usually in the Rockies. Highest peak attained: Longs Peak in Colorado at 14,255 ft. She also enjoys walleye fishing and hunting Elk, White Tail and Coyote, which led her to competitive pistol shooting and has worked with youth groups on firearm safety and shooting. Observing wild life also gives her great enjoyment.

Cheryl joined the Building and Grounds Committee and was out there with other committee members sealing concrete this fall. Her family consists of two brothers, one sister-in-law and nieces, nephews and a grandnephew living in Massachusetts, Arizona and White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

**Aaron and Debbi Dando** — Yes, the name is familiar! Aaron is the son of John and Penny Dando. Aaron and wife Debbi became members of PPC on December 18, 2011, joining Aaron's parents and brother, Sam, and his family Kate, Noella and Tanner.

Aaron works as a maintenance engineer at a food products company and Debbi works for the Physicians Neck and Back Clinic in Roseville. They both love camping. Their favorite place is the Big Horn Mountains. Aaron is a fisherman and Debbi's hobbies are running and hiking. Their dream vacation for the future is a trip to Alaska. I'm sure they are hoping to fish and hike when they get there.

**Erik and Pam Koehler, Sydney and Nicole** — Erik, Pam and their girls began attending PPC this last fall and quickly fell into a pattern, becoming members on December 18. Pam helped with the children's Christmas Program and the girls are involved in youth activities.

Pam grew up in Minnetonka and Erik was born in Indiana but has lived in several states. His family moved to Minnesota where he and Pam met in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. They were married in 1990. Erik attended Boston College and Pam worked until the children came. Now she has the privilege of being a homemaker and volunteers at the girl's schools. Erik and Pam both enjoy reading, are involved in their children's activities and like to spend time together as a family.

Sydney is 13, in middle school and plays soccer and volley ball. She enjoys the friends she has made at PPC's Youth Group and their activities.

Nicole is 9 years old and is on a swim team at Life Time Fitness. She is also taking karate, where she has earned a red belt with a brown stripe and is working towards a black belt.

## Fellowship and Connection Commission – Gordon Doshier and Nancy Tang

### Progressive Dinner Event!

**What:** Progressive Dinner — split up into small groups, have appetizer and main course in homes, then everyone back to PPC for dessert.

**Date:** Saturday, January 21

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

If possible, volunteer your home for either appetizers or main course and invite a friend or two to join you. Questions? Please call Tim Huenemann.



## Around PPC

\*The church office will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 and varied hours December 27-30. If you need to get into the church building, please call ahead to make sure someone is available to let you in. If you have an emergency during that time, please call Ewen's cell phone (763-568-3837).

\*There will be no Christian Education classes on Christmas Day, December 25 or New Year's Day, January 1.

\*The Congregation and Corporation of Plymouth Presbyterian Church will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22 following the worship service for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and acting on by-law changes.

\*The 2012 Per Capita has been set at \$31.63 per confirmed member. Per Capita is the administrative cost of maintaining the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is shared equally on a per member basis. Church members can help meet PPC's expense by enclosing a check (with Per Capita on the memo line) for \$31.63/member (in your household). Per Capita envelopes are located in the front of your offering box. Thanks you!

\*Update: Up to this point, Ewen Holmes has raised \$565 in pledges for participating in the clergy sleep-out benefitting IOCP.



## It's Time to: Learn Safe Food Preparation Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

***Cook Safely for a Crowd***, a Minnesota Department of Health training course for volunteer cooks in faith-based & community organizations, is coming to PPC!

This 3 hour workshop includes a video, handbook and discussion. Please sign up on the Deacons' Board ***especially*** if you prepare food for: Youth Group, Men's Breakfast, Fundraisers or events that utilizes PPC's kitchen. *Space is limited. Completion of this course will keep PPC up to date with MDH Requirements.*

*Led by Sue Payne, Servsafe and State of MN Foodservice Certified*

**363 Sandwich Making** Plan to join the Mission Commission after worship on Sunday, January 22 as we make sandwiches for 363 Days Organization. Everything will be set up and ready to go!. Your help is much

**AED Awareness Class** The Deacons would like to invite all people in the congregation that are interested in learning more about the recently purchased AED (electronic defibrillator) to attend an awareness class on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m. You do not need medical training to effectively use an AED. Please plan to join us to learn more about this miraculous device!

### Calling all moms to the January Mom's Dinner!

All PPC moms are invited to join us for the January Mom's Dinner on Sunday, January 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Sawatdee's in Maple Grove. Please contact Siri Braun if you are planning to attend.

**GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Bible Study Group** has chosen a study of Jesus' parables to begin Wednesday, January 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Each lesson is complete, so come to one or all nine of them. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

### Thank You!!!

A big thank goes to the following youth and adults that worked at IOCP on November 29: Amy Leaf, Carla Bahls, Allison Nahr, Nick Sassan, JoJo Kipp, Steve and Kyle Haskamp, Lauren Hayward, Ken, Penny, Carter and Hunter Blankenship, Dan Durdin, Loni Gradick, Mike and Sandy Hawley, Ewen and Holly Holmes, Bob and Jane Klein, Bruce, Wendy and Emily Koenen, Karl and Sharon Larson, Kyle and Stacy Larson, Chris and Kim Low, Kathy Manlapas, Chan Slettehaugh, Matthew Hammelman, Joanne Mann, Jo and Phil Ringgenberg, Chuck Slocum, Mari Thompson and Dorothy Vigness

### January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anna Belle Barnes  
Carter Blankenship  
Ken Blankenship  
Aaron Breidenbach  
Myf Carranza  
Margaret Dixon  
Shari Durdin  
Tristan Ess  
Kathy Fox  
Anna Freeman  
Rachel Hagen  
Mike Hawley  
Nate Hayward

Jim Kovach  
Melinda Kovach  
Jim Latimer  
Amy Leaf  
Jake McMahan  
Kevin Nivison  
Gordon Page  
Melonie Robran  
Joey Romine  
Doyle Ruble  
Jeff Stevens  
Caden Wolsfeld

Tim and Maggie Bailey  
Randy and Debbie Petersen

## Christian Formation — Cindy Chapman and Lori Haskamp

### Middle School Teacher STILL NEEDED

Please consider giving an hour once or twice a month to lead our amazing middle school youth in their Sunday morning class. Right now, we have just one teacher shouldering the entire responsibility and she needs some help! Please contact Allison Nahr if you can help out.

### Children's Choir Helper STILL NEEDED

We are looking for someone to help Rick Brynsvold with Children's Choir on Sunday mornings. You would be responsible for assisting him on Sunday mornings and leading the rehearsals on occasions that he is unable to be at church.



### It's time for Snow Camp!

January 27—29, 2012

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest

\$75 per person

Pack up your hat, mittens and boots and head up to Clearwater Forest for Snow Camp! We'll enjoy Minnesota as God created it in the winter. Senior high and middle school students of PPC and their friends are invited to join us for this weekend of fun and faith!

Turn in your registration form (you should have received an e-mail in December with a link) to Allison with a \$75 deposit **BY JANUARY 11!!!** Checks should be made out to PPC with "Snow Camp" on the memo line (confidential scholarships available upon request). If you don't already have a PPC Permission/Medical form on file for this year, please make sure you print it out as well.

If there are any parents are interested in driving/chaperoning for this event, please contact Allison Nahr.

**PPC Book Club** has two dates to add to the calendar for January. The annual joint meeting with Valley Community Presbyterian Churches' Book Club is on Thursday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m. at VCPC. The Newberry and the Caldecott award winners are the books for discussion. The other date is PPC's regular monthly meeting on January 23, at 7:00 p.m, in the Fireside Room. The January book discussion is *Major Pettigrew*.....Any interested readers are welcome to one or both of the meetings. A complete list of books chosen to discuss in 2012 is on the bulletin board on the credenza in the narthex.