



The Grapevine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower."

John 15:1

Calendar for December 1-15

Sunday, December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship - Communion

10:45 a.m. Adult Education - Anne Fisher



Tuesday, December 6

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

Wednesday, December 7

9:30 a.m. GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group to Martin Luther Exhibit at Minneapolis Institute of Art

6:00 p.m. Youth - Bell Ringing at Lund's

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 10

9:30 a.m. Baker's Group

12:00 p.m. Grapevine Deadline

Sunday, December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent



9:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Education

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:45 a.m. Adult Ed - Anne Fisher (see article)

11:00 a.m. Gal's Gathering

3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, December 13

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 a.m. GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal



December 20-22 and 27-30

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closed December 23, 26 and January 2

Plymouth Presbyterian Church
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763-559-2946 www.plymouthpc.org

From: Rev. Anne Fisher, Transitional Pastor

Good Stewardship. Last year building and grounds tackled the lighting in the church. By replacing the bulbs in the sanctuary, and the rest of the building with more efficient LED ones, they have reduced our electric bills for the church. The average usage for our square footage is 23.614kWh while ours was 10.267. X-cel Energy gave us a Good rating (with a little smiley face attached.) Also from January through July we have consistently used less electricity than in 2015.

The church leadership takes the Stewardship of your gifts to God seriously and tries to make the most of it. For 2017 Building and Grounds would love to replace the parking lot lighting making them more efficient. The initial investment would be significant but the return in our stewardship of our resources and those of our world would have long lasting effects.

Each of us needs to be mindful of how we can use the money and resources entrusted to us. As a church, we seek to use your gifts and offerings wisely and effectively as well as using God's creation, respectfully. It is what good stewards do.

The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Matthew 25:20-21 NIV

Blessings,
Anne

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Merry Christmas New Members! We will be receiving new members during worship on December 18. If you are interested in uniting in membership with our church, please see Rev. Fisher.

Mission Ministry - Joanne Mann

Thank You Thanks to everyone for participating in the **Reverse Offering**. We took 322 lbs. of food to IOCP. What a great contribution! Thanks also to the **volunteers at IOCP** on Wednesday, November 29. We had a 18 people and a great time serving our community. Thanks to Joanne Mann for coordinating.

Mission Contributions for 2016:

Home Free - A check for \$204.40 from the 2016 Pentecost offering was sent to Home Free in support of their service to battered women in providing immediate safety and the opportunity to explore alternatives to living with a violent partner. Emergency housing, advocacy and support services are available at the shelter for up to 30 women and their children.

Scalpel at the Cross - A check for \$250 was sent in support of their ministry of medical and surgical care to the Peruvian people and the missionaries who serve them. Chad Robran, PPC member, is our direct connection to this ministry as he is an employee who travels to Peru in support of this mission. Their medical services have made a difference in the lives of those who otherwise would have suffered.

363 Days (a.k.a. Minneapolis Recreation Development) - \$1,000 was disbursed from the special donation Mission received this year for the purchase of bus tokens. During our 363 sandwich-making event this fall, Allan Law stated their greatest need is bus tokens as it allows those in need to ride the bus for job interviews, doctor appointments or just to have a safe and warm place to be on a cold day. Purchasing the bus tokens in bulk results in a lower price per token which stretches the dollars they receive.

PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry) - \$419.92 was disbursed to this Minneapolis social service agency that helps local families in the northern suburbs during times of financial hardship with food, clothing, transportation & financial assistance. They also operate a thrift store selling donated items at low prices.

~ continued in next column

Presbyterian Mission – From the 2016-2017 Giving Catalog, the donation of \$500 will provide: 2 units of water filters that will screen out lead and contaminants; 2 units of kitchen kits consisting of cooking pots, utensils, bowls, cups and spoons to families who have lost everything in a disaster; 2 units of Emergency Life Packs containing a tarpaulin, 2 blankets, 2 jerry cans for water, high-protein biscuits and soap; 2 units of linens and blankets for warmth and safety.

Pledges Please!

We are proud to announce that we have received 76 pledges to date. Totaling \$269,700. We have surpassed 2016's figures by \$600. IF you have yet to make a 2017 Financial Commitment, it is not too late. Please fill out a Pledge card and put it in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary's mailbox. **Thank you for your commitment to Plymouth Presbyterian and to God's mission and ministry.**



From: Matt Spoden

Children and Youth Ministries Intern

 **Bell Ringing on Wednesday, December 7** The Youth will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at the Lund's near the church from 6:00-8:00 p.m. If you are in 6-12th grade, we would enjoy having you for some or all of that time. Feel free to contact Matt at mspoden@plymouthpc.org if you have any questions.



Sleep Out Thanks to everyone for supporting the PPC Youth and the IOCP Sleep Out. So far we have raised \$460. We will be receiving donations until the end of the year.

The GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group is going to the Martin Luther Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art this Wednesday, December 7. They have a few tickets left if anyone would like to join them. They are leaving PPC at 11:30 a.m. Please see Georgia Motes if you are interested.

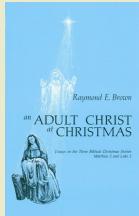


JOIN US AS WE PREPARE and CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!

Let's Decorate the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas! Order forms will be in the bulletins. **Deadline to order:** Sunday, December 4



Lighting of the Advent Wreath Please join us each Sunday during Advent (November 27, December 4, 11, 18) and on Christmas Eve as we light the Advent candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. The white candle is the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve.



December 4, 11, 18: Rev Anne Fisher will lead an Advent Series 'An Adult Christ at Christmas'. Adult Education is appropriate for middle school students and up. They are held after worship in the Fire Side Room.



PPC Youth will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 7 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Lund's on Vicksburg Ln near the church. Stop by and cheer them on, bring them a hot chocolate and of course donate to a great cause.



Christmas Eve Services – Saturday, December 24

Family Service - 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service - 9:00 p.m. (Choir sings)



Halleluiah! Christ is Born! - Sunday, December 25 Come as you are and join us for worship on Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate the birth of Christ.



'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' Matthew 2:6

Fifty percent of the Joy Offering is designated to the devoted and caring church leaders who have spent their lives serving Christ. Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church they have served so well. The other fifty percent supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders in racially, ethnic Presbyterian colleges. These colleges were founded to educate underrepresented groups so leadership in the church would better reflect the diversity of God's people. The Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 18. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to these ministries.