



# WESTERLY WINDS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH

## December 2010

- Minister...  
Rev. Jeffrey D Jones
- Co-chairs of Deacons...  
Marilyn Gentry  
Nancy Wyner
- Moderator...  
Ray Tompkins
- Treasurer...  
Cliff Fredericks
- Financial Secretary...  
Sandra Stephenson
- Clerk...  
Dianne Potter
- Sunday School Superintendent...  
Phyllis Horton
- Ladies Guild President...  
Mildred Tompkins
- Music Director...  
Samuel Tucker
- Newsletter Editor...  
Carolyn Maybruck



**Jeff's Jottings** To really receive the blessings of Advent we have to face some difficult realities. I know that's not an easy thing to do. We're even busier than usual during this season. It's hard to find time to think, let alone think about unpleasant things. It's even easier than usual to create

all sorts of diversions that allow us to avoid dealing with the things we do not want to deal with. But, if we do that we miss the point of Advent and the great blessing it can be to us.

The point of the incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas, is that we need a savior. We wouldn't need one if everything were just fine with life. We need one because we know pain, struggle, fear, failure, despair and sin. We need a savior because there are times we feel alone, overwhelmed, lost, empty, rejected and violated. Those aren't pleasant things to think about. And yet if we don't recognize the ways in which at least some of these are present in our lives we can never really believe we need a savior. If we do not accept how deeply these impact our lives we can easily maintain the delusion that we can deal with all of them on our own, which of course means that we have no need for a savior.

I certainly don't want this season to be a depressing time for us. There is more to our lives than the difficult things. But I do hope it will be possible to consider the real need for a savior in our lives this season. When we do we will recognize more deeply the need for hope, peace, justice and faith in our lives. These gifts of God will be the focus of our Advent worship this year. They are gifts to us because God recognizes both our and the world's need for them. I hope we will come to recognize the need as well. When we do we are then ready to receive the Christ child. When we do we will experience the wonder and joy of Christmas even more deeply.

*Jeff*

### Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 7:30 on Friday evening, December 24. This is always a meaningful time of worship for our congregation as we listen to the passages of Scripture that anticipate and describe Christ's birth, join in singing traditional carols, and are led through both music and word to reflect on the meaning of Christ for our lives. Plan to join us for this inspiring time of worship. And this year why not ask someone to join you?



### Sunday School

#### **Sunday School time change!**

**Beginning Sunday, January 2, 2011 Sunday School classes will be held at 10:30, the same time period as our church service.**

**The children will meet briefly in the Sanctuary before departing for class.**

**We hope this new schedule is more accommodating for our church school families and a welcome change to all.**



# December 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship Service Fellowship Time	6	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study	8 10:00am Ladies Guild Meeting at Polly Straffin's home	9	10	11 9:00am Church Clean-up
12 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship Service Fellowship Time 3:00 Christmas Caroling	13 7:00pm COM Meeting at the church	14	15	16	17	18 8:30am Men's Breakfast
19 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship Service Fellowship Time	20	21	22	23	24 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship Service Fellowship Time Deacons Meeting	27-31 <b>FBC to be Host Site for the Plymouth Task Force for the Homeless</b>					

## December Birthdays

- 6 – Patrisha Pierce
- 12 – John B. MacKenzie
- 13 – Sarah Aguiar
- 14 – Karen Garuti
- 15 – Andrew MacKenzie
- 17 – Phyllis Horton
- 23 – Jim Leavitt
- 26 – Nancy Wyner
- 27 – Richard Molander
- 28 – Johnathan Days
- 29 – Jeanne Hunter-McCartin
- 31 – Bob Mann

## December Worship Leader

Ray Tompkins

## December Ushers

- 12/05—Michael Maybruck & Nicole Kierstead
- 12/12—Rob & Lorinda Giles
- 12/19—Mike & Phyllis Horton
- 12/24—Christmas Eve—Jeanne Hunter-McCartin & Mildred Tompkins
- 12/26—Church School Children

## Christmas Caroling

On December 12, the First Baptist and the Christ Episcopal Church will be getting together to go Christmas caroling.

We will be going to three different nursing homes in town to sing carols and bring some Christmas cheer to others.

After singing we will go back to FBC for refreshments and fellowship.

All are invited to join in young and old, so please come and meet at the church at 3:00pm and help bring a small amount of the Advent season to others.

## First Baptist Care Team

If you are aware of anyone in the congregation who is undergoing difficulty, loss, illness, or is home-bound in anyway, please feel free to contact any of the team members:

- Paulie Straffin: (508)-746-4752
- Maddie Brenner : (508)-866-9862
- Lillian Potter: (508)-746-2944
- Mary Twieraga: (508)-746-6065
- Bob and Barb Kjellman: (508)-746-2146



## Task Force for the Homeless

Our church will once again house the homeless men of Plymouth as a host church for the Plymouth Task Force for the Homeless. This season we as a congregation agreed to open our doors for two weeks as an "emergency shelter" for the program.

**Our first week will be Sunday, December 26 through Sunday, January 2, 2011. Mark your calendars so you can help.**

As in the past, we ask for volunteers to be overnight chaperones, to cook, or to serve a meal to the homeless men of Plymouth on those 7 days; this is an opportunity for us as a church to open our doors to those who desperately need help.

For those that cannot help fill these roles, please consider donating breakfast bars, or fresh fruit or a gallon of milk for the men; or volunteer to come to the church during a day that week to clean and prepare the kitchen and Judson Hall; donors could donate money to the Plymouth Task Force for the Homeless; and everyone should pray for a mild winter.

Day	Date	Chaperone 1	Chaperone 2	Chefs	Open/Close Church?
Sunday	26-Dec-2010				Ray Tompkins and Linda Tassinari open for delivery
Sunday	26-Dec-2010	Linda Tassinari			open Ray Tompkins
Monday	27-Dec-2010	Sandra Stephenson		Jeff and Judy Jones (meal TBD)	close Sandra Stephenson / open Helen Evans
Tuesday	28-Dec-2010	Helen Evans	Tedd Gwilliam	Helen Evans and Robin MacFarlane (meal TBD)	close / open
Wednesday	29-Dec-2010	Michael Maybruck	Brian Potter	Linda Tassinari and Carolyn Maybruck (Baked Ham Dinner)	close/ open
Thursday	30-Dec-2010		Tedd Gwilliam	Linda Fredericks (meal TBD)	open / close
Friday	31-Dec-2010				open / close
Saturday	1-Jan-2011	Ray Tompkins	Linda Tassinari	Kent Roberts & Joanne Axon- Shepherd's Pie Dinner, Whoopie Pies	close Ray Tompkins
Sunday	2-Jan-2011				Ray Tompkins and Linda Tassinari open for pick-up

## December Worship

During the first three Sundays of December our Advent worship will prepare us for the coming of the Christ who is already present in our lives, but hopefully will be present in a new and deeper way if we prepare ourselves. Each week we'll focus on a different dimension of Christ's presence in our lives. The choir is preparing some very special music to enhance our worship experience during this season.

The themes, scripture, sermon and anthem for each Sunday of Advent are:

December 5: Being/Becoming a People of Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

Meditation: A Peace More Than Peace

Anthem: "Light of Peace" by Joel Raney

December 12: Being/Becoming a People of Justice

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11; Luke 1:47-55

Meditation: Justice for the Lowly

Anthem: "Emmanuel" by Michael W. Smith

December 19: Being/Becoming a People of Faith

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Meditation: Faith in Action

Anthem: "Come Though Long Expected Jesus" arr. By David G. Shreiner

We will continue our celebration of Christmas on Sunday, December 26 with Sandy Stephenson sharing with us in the sermon.



## Shop Fair Trade This Christmas

As you begin your holiday shopping be sure to visit the many organizations and shops that practice selling fair traded items. These are goods from around the world that are sold at a fair market price. In most cases purchasing a fair traded item creates a sustainable income for people in third world countries whose livelihood depends on being compensated a fair wage for their labor. In doing so we can help the world economy maintain fair wages for labor and also reduce slave and child labor.

Here are a few websites where you can buy gifts that are fair trade

- <http://shop.equalexchange.com/>, located in West Bridgewater, MA (our neighbor) and sells fair traded coffee, tea, and chocolate.

- <http://www.weavearealpeace.org/links.html>, a website which lists many organizations who support and sell work of artists around the world. Some of the groups listed are, [A Greater Gift](#), [Mayan Hands](#), and [Ten Thousand Villages](#) just to name three. You can link to any of these to shop online.

[http://www1.macys.com/campaign/social?campaign\\_id=100&channel\\_id=1](http://www1.macys.com/campaign/social?campaign_id=100&channel_id=1) This is a beautiful website. Macy's has partnered with the women of Rwanda to sell their beautiful baskets. After the genocide the women of Rwanda returned to their native art in order to have a sustainable income. They also wanted to do something that would focus on peace after the terrible years of war. As a result Willa Shalit, Gene Shalit's daughter, formed Paths to Peace and marketed their beautiful baskets to Macy's with proceeds going back to the weavers. You can read all about this at the above website.

As a people of Hope, Peace, Justice, and Faith, we can have an impact locally and globally by supporting the work of the hands of the makers represented by these organizations. This Christmas give the gift of Fair Trade.



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2010

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First Baptist Church of  
Plymouth

**Christmas Eve Service**



**Traditional Christmas Eve Service  
of Lessons and Carols**

**7:30pm Friday, December 24**

**Plan to join us for this inspiring  
time of worship!**

**Brown Bag Bible Study**

The December Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on the first Tuesday, December 7. With the Christmas holiday coming during the third week of the month, we'll take that week off. We meet in Judson Hall at noon. All you need is a lunch and a Bible. We'll take care the rest. This study always provides for an interesting discussion as we explore the text for the upcoming Sunday and share about the life and faith issues it raises for us. Those who attend say it really adds to the meaning of the sermon.

Study passages for December 7 is Luke 1:47-55.

Why not join us and bring a friend!



**Monthly Financial Snapshot for November**

Date	Actual	Expected	Difference
11/07	\$1361.00	\$1225.00	136.00
11/14	\$1127.00	\$1225.00	(98.00)
11/21	\$ 702.00	\$1225.00	(523.00)
11/28	\$ 597.00	\$1225.00	(628.00)
Total difference			(1113.00)

Total Loose offering \$146.00

Total Sunday School \$36.00

**Thank You from the Ladies Guild**

The Ladies Guild would like to thank all who helped with our Christmas Craft fair on November 6. We earned almost \$600. This money is given to the church as a monthly pledge. We also give ten percent to the General Fund as a thank you to the congregation who helped us so much. At Christmas time we give to the Salvation Army and to the Children's Holiday Fund thru the Old Colony newspaper.

**Missions**

Your mission advocate is pleased to announce that you gave \$185 to the World Mission Offering. This is slightly less than in other years, but in view of the recession it is a tribute to this congregation. You are a loving and giving people

**Men's Breakfast**

Next scheduled date for the Men's Breakfast is Saturday, December 18 at 8:30 am.

Come join us in Judson Hall to reflect on God's presence in our lives and perhaps a brief scripture lesson and discussion.

**Our Sanctuary During Advent**



Our sanctuary has a new look this Advent season. The purple panels that we have used in past years to symbolize the four Sundays and themes of the season are no longer there. (Remember, we ripped them up to develop our Lenten art installation last spring!) During Advent this year they are being replaced with panels of blue, which has become an increasingly popular color to use in churches during Advent, in order to differentiate it from Lent.

As panels are added each week in graduated lengths they will be hung in a circular pattern, symbolizing the coming of Christ to the world. Stenciled on each panel are the theme words for each Sunday: hope, peace, justice and faith. These words were selected by the Advent Worship Team and come from the scripture passages that are included in the lectionary selections for this season.

On Sundays during Advent we will distribute cut outs of a descending dove, a symbol of the Incarnation. During worship each week worshippers will have an opportunity to write signs of that Sunday's theme on the doves. These will be collected and then added to the art installation for our Christmas Eve service. You won't want to miss seeing this unique art work during Advent and when it is completed for Christmas Eve and the remaining Sundays of the Christmas season!