



# Circuit Rider

Volume 43, Issue 6, JULY/AUGUST 2012

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*It's summer!*

*No, really, it's summer!*

*Know what that means?*

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**

**Wednesday, July 25, 2012  
6 p.m.—rain or shine**

*Here's the "scoop" on fun  
for the whole family.*



**Play games, get your face painted, walk for a cake,  
bounce around a house and much more!**

**The fun will "bowl" you over!**

**Ice cream, toppings, games, fun—  
all for free! How "cone" you beat that?**

***Don't "fudge" the date:  
Wednesday, July 25–6 p.m.  
See you there!***

## Summer Spirituality

Summer in the Pacific Northwest ...where else would you want to be? Save the trips south for the winter. This is the place you want to be now! Having said that...in August I will be going on vacation with the family to see some of our beautiful national parks in Utah, Arizona and California. In August, I'm going to the desert...in August...sigh.... The reality is that the time or place isn't as important as who we spend the time with. In this case I am very much looking forward to time with the family that only camping in our national parks can provide. It's a beautiful mix of family time and the spiritual wonder of living outdoors in those particularly beautiful places.

My deepest most profound spiritual experiences happen with that mix of place and people. Often we

talk about the beauty of the ocean or the mountains as a spiritual experience. I can understand that, but for me, sharing that place with another person and sharing our wonder and experience of God together in that moment are deeply spiritual moments.

***May we all be open to the movement of the Spirit as we share this special time of year with one another.***

I will begin this summer at Camp Indianola, one of our United Methodist camps, located on the Puget Sound. I first went there twenty-five (25) years ago to be a Leader-in-Training, where I met people I am still friends with today. It is also at Camp Indianola that I received the confirmation that I would be ordained as a pastor.

**Bruce Smith**

Each time I am in that place, I am prayerful, thanking God for the past relationships and moments shared as well as looking forward to what God will bring in that particular place in the future.

I anticipate that each of us will have the opportunity for deep spiritual experiences in our Sunday worship services as well as our summer activities with family and friends. A walk in the neighborhood, time in the garden, or a trip to a special place offers us the opportunity to notice the wonder of God's presence in our lives. May we all be open to the movement of the Spirit as we share this special time of year with one another.



## Church Family News

Our sympathy and prayers go to Carol Snyder and Paula Dillmon on the death of their husband and father, Paul, on June 1.

Our prayers are with George Fanno, as he recovers from surgery, and Emmett Scott, as he prepares for a heart valve procedure this summer.

We celebrated Recognition Sunday on June 10. Congratulations to our graduates and scholarship winners, and many, many thanks to our Sunday School teachers for guiding our children in their journey into Christianity.

We enjoyed Worshipping in Music and Song on June 24, as we sadly bid farewell to our Choir Director, Sarah Brown. Our best wishes go to Sarah and her family as they move to Corvallis.

## Job Opening

**Position:** Choir Director  
**Location:** Mill Plain United Methodist Church  
**15804 SE Mill Plain Blvd.**

Mill Plain United Methodist Church has an opening for the position of Choir Director at the 11 a.m. Sunday worship service. Application forms and the position job description are available from the church office. Applications are due by July 22, 2012. For information, contact Rev. Bruce Smith or Ev Fisher at 360-892-2421, or email [info@millplainumc.org](mailto:info@millplainumc.org)

## **Beacock's New Horizon Jazz Band.**

The date is set! Mark **October 19** on your calendars for the Second Annual Jazz Concert featuring Beacock's New Horizon Jazz Band. Proceeds go to the Rev. Ruth Mathis Scholarship Fund.

## ***And the Winners Are...***

After a difficult selection process, the Rev. Ruth Mathis Scholarship Committee has chosen Amanda and Nicole Dickenson as winners of this year's \$1000 scholarships. Both are 2012 graduates of Evergreen High School and were recognized on June 10 during Recognition Sunday. Amanda will be attending Central Washington University in Ellensburg, majoring in music education, and Nicole will attend Oregon's Marylhurst University, majoring in music therapy. Congratulations to them both for their stellar high school records and wonderful participation here at MPUMC. Attendees of the 9:30 a.m. service know Nicole and Amanda as singers with the Praise Band.



*Dave Sotka presents scholarships to Nicole and Amanda Dickenson.*

## ***Scholarship Committee Says, Go Green!***

The Rev. Ruth Mathis Scholarship Committee is asking everyone to help the environment by recycling all of your used inkjet printer cartridges. If you normally discard your used cartridges, please consider placing them in the printer cartridge box in the narthex. Ask your extended family, neighbors, friends and workplace to participate because the proceeds help provide funds for our church scholarships. The Scholarship Committee thanks you and the landfills thank you!

## ***2012 Graduates***

- Amanda Dickenson is graduating from Evergreen High School. She will attend Central Washington University in Ellensburg, majoring in music education. (daughter of Mike and Loni Dickenson)
- Nicole Dickenson is graduating from Evergreen High School. She will attend Marylhurst University in Oregon, majoring in music therapy. (daughter of Mike and Loni Dickenson)
- Stefani Erdahl graduated May 5 from Washington State University, in Pullman, with a degree in psychology. She plans to study abroad with the School for Field Studies in Kenya/Tanzania in the areas of environmental sustainability and wildlife conservation. (daughter of Jodie Bollens)
- Ashley Erdahl graduated from Pacific University's School of Optometry, in Forest Grove, OR, on May 19. She will be practicing as an optometrist in Portland, beginning in July. (Ashley received the first Ruth Mathis Scholarship that was awarded in 2004; daughter of Jodie Bollens.)
- Cody Forgey graduated from Seattle University's Law School on May 12. He will be attending New York University next year in the Masters in Tax Law program. He hopes to return to the Pacific Northwest after he completes his year in New York. (son of Lindsay Forgey, grandson of Pat Forgey)
- Michael Glynn will be graduating June 16 from Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He will be working for Banfield Pet Hospital located in Petsmart near Vancouver Mall. (son-in-law of Jim and Wanda Scott)
- Noelani Paxton is graduating from Evergreen High School as well as Clark County Skills Center as a Registered Dental Assistant. She will attend Clark College to become a Dental Hygienist. (daughter of Chuck and Cheryl Paxton)
- Sean Vrchoticky is graduating from Heritage High School on June 13. He will begin to serve in the United States Marine Corps this fall. (grandson of Bob Paxton)

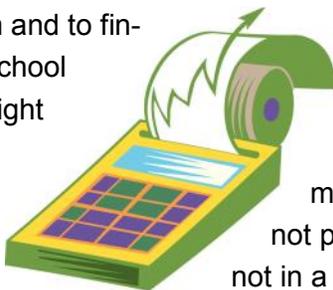


*Barb Kroeker and Amy Meyer present gifts to graduates Noelle Paxton, Nicole and Amanda Dickenson.*

## Financial Update

May was not a particularly good month for the church's finances. The financial reports through the end of May show that we now have taken in only \$49 more than we have spent. While that is sufficient to pay our bills, the Finance Committee estimated that we should have a considerably greater excess at this point in the year to be able to both make it through the summer without a cash flow problem and to finish the year within our budget. The Preschool income and the loose offering are both right on target and spending is nearly \$8000 below budget.

The entire difficulty seems to be that member giving is well below target. It was reported that pledged income is only about \$2000 below our projections which is both understandable and commendable given the state of the economy. But giving from those who did not pledge but who identify themselves by name (as opposed to purely loose offering) is considerably below what we had estimated. This may have been a bad estimate on our part but it was based on what seemed to be reliable figures that really haven't changed much over the past few years. Some of this projected giv-



ing comes from regular attendees who do not pledge but regularly give and some of it from new or infrequent attendees. Both are below our estimates but it is the giving from that latter category, new or infrequent attendees, that seems to have been the most seriously overestimated. While we have gone to some effort to identify why we appear to be short of our projections, the fact of the matter is that the church is operating on the most fiscally sound basis that we can and have reduced expenses down to a point that most of what is left are fixed items. We are not proposing any changes and we certainly are not in a financial crisis, but as we enter the summer months where income is usually down, we wanted to be open and make everyone aware of the situation. If you are behind in your giving, we would appreciate it if you would catch up, and if you are going to be missing church a lot this summer, don't forget that we still have a mission here and the bills need to be paid. In conclusion, any added giving would certainly be appreciated from any of you who are able.

Thank you from your Finance Committee.

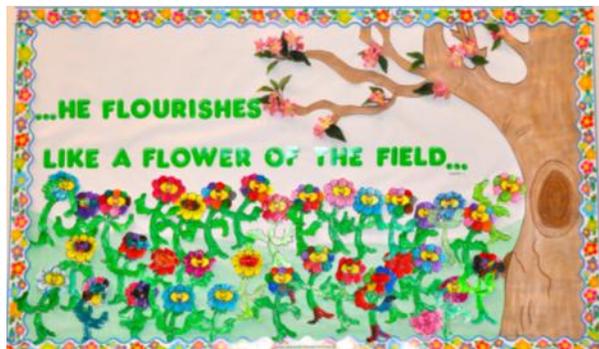
## Preschool



Now that classes have ended for the year, it is pretty quiet around the Preschool, but we finished with a bang at graduation on June 13. The children presented a very rousing patriotic program that had the audience on their feet. It was great fun for everyone!

Looking forward to the future, Mrs. D. has already published the calendar for next year's events, which will begin with a Round-up for Pre-K and four-year-olds on **August 29** and three-year-olds on **August 30**. Teachers will arrive a week earlier, and school officially begins **September 5** after the Labor Day Holiday. There will be a special Back-to-School Night on **September 18**, at 7 p.m.

In the meantime, we are all looking forward to the Mill Plain UMC Ice Cream Social on **July 25**. It will be a great way to connect with school friends again and enjoy America's favorite treat! Hope to see you there.



## ***Moving Forward—Natural Church Development Report from Your Church Health Team***

Mill Plain UMC is currently involved in the Natural Church Development (NCD) process. Many in our congregation came to our Focus Groups in May and shared their concerns, their dreams and their excitement at being part of Mill Plain UMC and the many wonderful programs we have as well as the dedica-

tion of so many volunteers. The Church Health Team (CHT) has met and reviewed the many com-

ments. Over and over we heard people say they want to be more connected. Common themes that arose included:

- **Prayer is an important part of their faith and they appreciate the**



**many corporate opportunities to pray together. They expressed a desire to be able to lift others up in prayer as they experience the joys and challenges in their lives.**

- **They want to know fellow churchgoers more intimately and would like to see more small groups, (study, service, and fellowship) and intergenerational experiences.**

- **They felt small groups offer an opportunity to share their personal stories and to talk about where God is leading us individually and as a church.**

We held an action planning meeting in late June that was open to all who are part of our church family that they might add their voices as we seek God's vision for our church.

We do desire everyone in the church to be involved in this process. One of the most important

ways you can participate is through your prayers. Our prayers and meditation are how we can hear God's direction for how we can specifically apply those lessons to care for others and to spread his word. We can do that individually and through our church gatherings. We ask that you lift up the work of the NCD process here at Mill Plain UMC and the members of the health team as we seek God's vision for our church.

Please call any of the CHT members anytime you have questions about the Natural Church Development process or wish to share your thoughts on God's vision for our church. You may reach them through the church office at 892-2421.

### ***History of Our Church***

The following is from the United Methodist Church website, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org), where there is a wealth of information, everything from the history of the church to the many ways the United Methodist Church is in action throughout the world. Be sure to bookmark this website and visit often to learn more about our denomination.

On April 23, 1968, The United Methodist Church was created when Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, representing The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of The Methodist Church joined hands at the constituting General Conference in Dallas, Texas. With the words, *Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church*, the new denomination was given birth by two churches that had distinguished

histories and influential ministries in various parts of the world.

Theological traditions steeped in the Protestant Reformation and Wesleyanism, similar ecclesiastical structures, and relationships that dated back almost two hundred years facilitated the union. In the Evangelical United Brethren heritage, for example, Philip William Otterbein, the principal founder of the United Brethren in Christ, assisted in the ordination of Francis Asbury to the superintendence of American Methodist work. Jacob Albright, through whose religious experience and leadership the Evangelical Association was begun, was nurtured in a Methodist class meeting following his conversion.

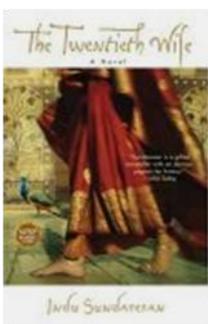
*Look for more history as space permits.*

## Fellowship Groups

GROUP	DATE/TIME/ ROOM	PROGRAM	CONTACT
Prayer Shawl Ministry	No meeting in July or August	Knitting, Crocheting and Fellowship. We will resume meetings in September.	prayershawl@millplainumc.org
Good Timers (50+)	No meeting in July or August	Have a nice summer. We will resume meetings in September.	goodtimers@millplainumc.org
Pinochle ( <i>Potluck</i> ),	No meeting in July or August	Pinochle-Potluck will be taking a vacation for July and August. We will resume in Sept. Enjoy summer!	pinochle@millplainumc.org
* Books, Faith and Fellowship *	Thursdays, July 19, and August 16 9:30 a.m.	July: <i>The Twentieth Wife</i> , by Indu Sundaresan. August: <i>How to Be an American Housewife</i> , by Margaret Dilloway	bookclub@millplainumc.org
Bunco	No meeting in July or August		bunco@millplainumc.org
* See details below			

### Books, Faith and Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to join Book Club for some armchair travel this summer as we journey from India to Japan and on to America. July's book is *The Twentieth Wife*, by Indu Sundaresan. Books, on loan from the library are available to check out from the church office. Please return them by July 19. This

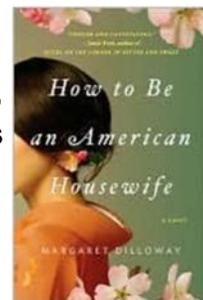


historic epic is a captivating story of one of India's most controversial empresses. Royal women led a restrictive life inside a bejeweled, dazzling birdcage—the world of the Mughal Court's imperial harem. As a young girl Mehrunissa dreams of marrying the emperor. The story ends just as she is ascending to the throne as

empress, dwelling on her years of powerlessness and struggle rather than those of her enormous political influence. (Note: There is a sequel, *The Feast of Roses*, which you may elect to read on your own.) This was not a book most people would choose if it were not highly recommended, but the

author's style and the story line will soon capture you in its web and you find yourself unable to put it down.

The August book is *How to Be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway. Near the end of WWII Shoko's parents encouraged her to marry an American. This caused a rift with her brother who could not forgive her for betraying her country. Half a century later, when illness prevents her return to Japan to reconcile, she sends her daughter. As Sue visits Japan, with all its beauty and contradictions, she discovers another side to her mother and returns to America unexpectedly changed and irrevocably touched. Dilloway narrates from both women's perspectives, sensitively dramatizing the difficulties and struggles Shoko and Sue faced in being Japanese, American and housewives. You may order the book online, or find it at the library. For questions, [bookclub@millplainumc.org](mailto:bookclub@millplainumc.org).



### Fall Rummage Sale

We know it is not yet September and you are not ready to think about fall, especially since we are just starting to have some sunshine; however, we thought we

should put in a plug for the fall rummage sale. As you go about your summer tasks you may run across things that you no longer want or use. If you do, please con-

sider putting them aside for the fall rummage sale which will take place toward the end of September. In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine. *Your Missions Team*

## Backpacks & School Supplies

As part of our partnership with Hearthwood Elementary School, we help supply students in need with backpacks filled with the basic tools needed for the school year. Please watch your newspaper ads for backpacks and school supplies on sale and begin bringing them to the church office during the week and to the narthex on Sundays. We need your donations by **August 19**.

Some of the basic supplies needed are:

- Large backpacks
- #2 Ticonderoga pencils with erasers
- Glue sticks
- Fiskar scissors (blunt and pointed ends)
- 12-24 count colored pencils
- 12-24 count Crayola crayons
- Classic color Crayon markers
- 1-12 inch ruler standard/metric
- Supply box
- Elmer's washable school glue
- Pink pearl erasers
- Ream of white computer paper
- Folders with 2 pockets
- Spiral notebooks, wide ruled
- Wide ruled notebook paper



Please see the school house poster in the narthex and pick up a bright green supply list. Money donations are also appreciated made out to MPUMC and marked for *Hearthwood School Supplies*. Thank you for ALL of your support of the Hearthwood students.

**Remember to bring your donations to church by August 19, 2012.**

## Summer Choir Notes



Our wonderful Chancel Choir takes a well-deserved break over the summer months. This is an opportunity for people in the congregation to share their musical gifts. There is a sign-up sheet

in the choir room for anyone who would like to perform special music during the summer. It could be solos, duets, quartets, musical instruments or whatever musical talent you would like to share.

## On Another Note...continued...

**Thank you very much** to everyone who donated to help us purchase a new keyboard for the Plain Truth Praise Band! By the time you read these words, the keyboard will have been purchased! What an amazing congregation we have! In two short months we pitched in to raise \$3500. Stay *tuned* to hear more of our Praise Band's beautiful music on the new keyboard.

**We bid a fond farewell to our Choir Director, Sarah Brown (Eli, Ori and Morgan, too) at the Worship in Music and Song Service.**



## Vancouver District UMC Softball League (of Champions) Schedule 2012

### July 8 – Kick-Off Week!

2:00 pm – Salmon Creek vs. Vancouver First  
3:30 pm – Ridgefield vs. Orchards 1  
5:00 pm – District Team vs. Orchards 2  
6:30 pm – Mill Plain vs. Heights

### July 15

2:00 pm – Ridgefield vs. Vancouver First  
3:30 pm – Orchards 2 vs. Mill Plain  
5:00 pm – District Team vs. Orchards 1  
6:30 pm – Heights vs. Salmon Creek

### July 22

2:00 pm – Mill Plain vs. Ridgefield  
3:30 pm – Orchards 1 vs. Heights  
5:00 pm – Salmon Creek vs. Orchards 2  
6:30 pm – Vancouver First vs. District Team

### July 29

2:00 pm – Heights vs. Orchards 2  
3:30 pm – Vancouver First vs. Orchards 1  
5:00 pm – Mill Plain vs. Salmon Creek  
6:30 pm – Ridgefield vs. District Team

### August 5

2:00 pm – Salmon Creek vs. Orchards 1  
3:30 pm – Heights vs. Vancouver First  
5:00 pm – Orchards 2 vs. Ridgefield  
6:30 pm – District Team vs. Mill Plain

### August 12

Runner-Up Game (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Place Teams) 3:00 p.m.  
Championship Game & All-  
League Potluck 5:00 p.m.



## Summer Youth Schedule for July and August

Please Note—there will not be youth group meetings each Sunday in the summer. We will have events and weekly youth **hang out** nights. Youth group will begin meeting regularly again in September.

**June 30:** Brandon Moreno Eagle Scout Ceremony at **5 p.m.** at MPUMC. Come to support Brandon as he receives this high honor.

**July 16—20:** Children's Day Camp **9 a.m.—3 p.m.** Please contact Amy Meyer if you are interested in volunteering for this awesome program lead by Twinlow Camp Staff. This will be an amazing volunteer opportunity.

**July 22—July 27:** Senior High Camp at Ocean Park If you are in 9<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> grade, register for camp and hang out with Jeff, who will be a cabin leader for the week! See Jeff for details.

**July 28—August 3:** Youth Mission Trip to Glide

**August 15:** Wild Waves (*Watch for details.*)

**August 17:** Summer Wii Night, **6—8 p.m.** Come have snacks and play Wii.

**August 25:** Youth Group Kick-Off **11—3:** Join us for the first annual Messy Olympics! We will be inviting other area churches to join us for a fun, messy and hilarious new event to *induct* our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders! Lunch provided.



## Annual Church Golf Outing

The annual church golf outing has been scheduled for **Saturday, July 21** at the Fairway Village course starting at **9 a.m.** We will enjoy coffee and donuts before we start and lunch together after everyone has completed their 9-hole play. We will also award some prizes sufficient for bragging rights! There will be a small fee to cover the coffee, donuts and lunch and everyone will be responsible for their own green fees.

**GOLF  
DAY**

8

This event is for everyone whether you are an accomplished golfer or are not sure which end of the club to hold! A sign-up sheet will be on the church bulletin board and if you are going to play you must sign up by **Sunday, July 15.**



# JULY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>2</b> PLANT.....9:30	<b>3</b>	<b>4 OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>9</b> PLANT.....9:30 Finance Com.....6:30 Missions Team..6:30	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Church Council . 6:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Roettger/Brand Wedding
<b>15</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>16</b> Day Camp ..... 9—3 PLANT.....9:30	<b>17</b> Day Camp .....9—3	<b>18</b> Day Camp....9—3 Trustees.....7:00 SPR.....7:00	<b>19</b> Day Camp ..... 9—3 Book Club .....9:30	<b>20</b> Day Camp .....9—12	<b>21</b> Golf.....9:00 (Off-site)
<b>22</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>23</b> PLANT.....9:30	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Share House..... 8:30 <b>ICE CREAM SOCIAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Youth Mission Trip	<b>28</b> Men's Breakfast at IHOP.....7:30
<b>29</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11 Youth Mission Trip	<b>30</b> PLANT.....9:30 Youth Mission Trip	<b>31</b> Youth Mission Trip		<i>Don't forget the Ice Cream Social! July 25, at 6 p.m.</i>		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Watch the Church Chat for August events now in the planning stage.</i>			<b>1</b> Youth Mission Trip Fellowship Team..6:00	<b>2</b> Youth Mission Trip	<b>3</b> Youth Mission Trip	<b>4</b> UMCOR Trip
<b>5</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11 UMCOR Trip	<b>6</b> PLANT ..... 9:30 Finance Com. .... 6:30 UMCOR Trip	<b>7</b> UMCOR Trip	<b>8</b> Church Council . 6:00 UMCOR Trip	<b>9</b> UMCOR Trip Preschool Board . 9:30	<b>10</b> UMCOR Trip	<b>11</b> UMCOR Trip
<b>12</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>13</b> PLANT ..... 9:30	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> CIRCUIT RIDER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> Book Club.....9:30	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>20</b> PLANT ..... 9:30	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Share House..... 8:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Men's Breakfast at IHOP.....7:30
<b>26</b> Worship .... 9:30 & 11	<b>27</b> PLANT ..... 9:30	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



**MILL PLAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

15804 SE Mill Plain Boulevard  
Vancouver, Washington 98684  
(360) 892-2421  
Preschool (360) 896-2696  
[www.millplainumc.org](http://www.millplainumc.org)

**Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #111  
Vancouver, WA 98661**

**Return Service  
Requested**

**CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST!**

Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.

Childcare available during both worship times

Office Hours: 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

*Our church staff....*



- Pastor .....**Rev. Bruce Smith**
- Lay Minister..... **Ev Fisher**
- Youth Director.....**Jeff Prescott**
- Choir Director..... **Sarah Brown**
- 9:30 a.m. Music Director ..... **Alisa Williams**
- 11 a.m. Accompanist ..... **Thomas Rheingans**
- Preschool Director..... **Linda DeMorgan**
- Child Care Coordinator ..... **Diane Cammer**
- Child Care Assistant.....**Ruth Ann Lucke**
- Custodian .....**Bob Connery**

*mission statement*

**We are a community of faith seeking to become deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**We strengthen our faith through sharing Christ, worship, Bible study, prayer, service and Christian fellowship.**

The deadline for submissions to the September edition of the Circuit Rider is **Wednesday, August 15.**

E-mail to: [newsletter@millplainumc.org](mailto:newsletter@millplainumc.org), or submit articles and photos to the church office.



**[www.millplainumc.org](http://www.millplainumc.org)**