

The Plymouth Placard



May 2005

WORSHIP FOR MAY

MAY 1

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 17.22–31
“IN WHOM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND
HAVE OUR BEING”

MAY 8

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1.6–14
“CONTINUING IN FAITH”

MAY 15

PENTECOST SUNDAY
(ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK FOLLOWS 2ND SERVICE)
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2.1–21

TAIZÉ CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE AT 6:00 PM
FOLLOWED BY A FELLOWSHIP MEAL

MAY 22

GRADUATE SUNDAY
(LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL UNTIL SEPTEMBER)
GENESIS 1.1–31 & 2.1–4A
“CALLED INTO LIFE”

MAY 29

(CHOIR'S LAST SUNDAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER)
GENESIS 6.9–22 & 7.24 & 8.14–19
MATTHEW 7.21–29
“HEARERS AND DOERS”



OUR SERVICES ARE AT 8:15 AND 10:45 AM,
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
(THE SINGLE 9:30 SERVICE WILL BEGIN ON JULY 5.)

A Sense of History, A Sense of Time

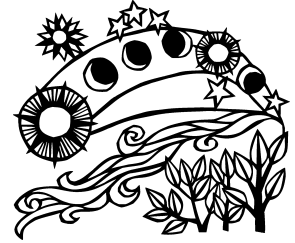
Within the last month, I've received invitations to anniversary celebrations from the two UCC congregations in Connecticut to which I belonged: Second Congregational UCC in Greenwich (where I was confirmed) and First Church UCC in Windsor (where Jean and I were recently members, and where my ancestors 12 generations ago worshipped). Second Congregational is celebrating its 300th anniversary and First Church is rejoicing in its 375th year.

When First Church was founded, there was no "Congregationalism." It was Puritan in its outlook and independent in its theology and polity. In each congregation, there have been milestones. Each congregation voted to become part of the United Church, and each congregation is housed in its third meetinghouse. (The Windsor meetinghouse was built in 1795, and the head of their "capital campaign" committee was Oliver Ellsworth, the second chief justice of the U.S.)

Their history is wonderful, but Plymouth has a rich history, as well. And we have a sense of **dynamism and vitality** that I wish both of those Connecticut congregations had. And I believe that we are seeing milestones in our history as a congregation. Within the past five years, we have reached consensus and voted to become an Open and Affirming Church, and we have reached consensus and voted to become a church that pursues Peace with Justice. And we're discerning how to be good stewards of our land and buildings in serving God and reaching out to people in our community who have never "met" the UCC. This reflects a *new epoch* in Plymouth's history. We have made watershed decisions that will shape who we are and who we will become in the future. They bespeak a sense of being spiritually engaged with the world around us.

At our congregational meeting a week ago, I was impressed by the enthusiasm you showed for the proposed capital campaign. While previously I've

sensed some trepidation and fear in the congregation about expanding, changing, and growing, there was little evidence of that in our meeting. (And I'm reminded of the wise claim that the opposite of faith is fear.)



In church yesterday, I was really moved by John Prucha's mom standing up during prayers of the people and thanking our congregation for providing a spiritual home for her college-aged son on this important stage of his journey. For me, that speaks volumes about who we are as a congregation and who we are becoming as a people of faith: *welcoming, not static*.

Churches do not stay the same. Ever. Not in 300 or 375 years. Not in 102 years. Congregations expand or they contract. They grow or they decline. There is no stasis. Standing still is never an option. And the decisions about where we head are up to you, under the guidance of the Spirit.

Shalom!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Plymouth Dessert Theater

Friday, May 6th, 7 PM

Entertainment...Sweets...YOU! What more could we want?! We need performers, preparers and applauders! Please contact Donna Solverud if you would like to participate (221-2970, solverud38@msn.com). If you can help set up or clean up please sign up in the fellowship hall or call the church office. This is a great opportunity for members and friends to have fun and play to-

Art Show
Call for Submissions

What? An exhibit showcasing the talents of Plymouth's visual artists of all ages

When? June 25th (artist reception) and 26th (viewing)

Where? Fellowship Hall

Who? You!

How? Call Saralyn at 484-4368 or e-mail slhanks@aol.com

Church Workday

Saturday, May 21st, 8 AM

The Men's Fellowship group will prepare a pancake breakfast for **all** (male and female) workers. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall. After breakfast, work items will be assigned. The Trustees have about 12 items to accomplish that day.

Donations Needed!

May 6th is Friendship Day for Church Women United and the day that we turn in the Baby clothing for the Layette Program. Look for the collection box in the Fellowship Hall and **please bring donations on Sunday, May 1st**. The list of items most needed follows:

- 2 receiving blankets
- 1 large blanket or quilt
- 2 T-shirts (3 - 6 months size)
- 2 Onesies with snap crotch
- 1 set cloth diapers
- 1 baby towel set
- 1 baby shampoo
- 2 pr. infant socks
- 1 baby lotion
- 1 or 2 sleepers with feet - or gowns with no strings for safety reasons
- Diaper pins (large safety pins)
- Large diaper bag

Moms need lotion, talc, soap, and bubble bath, they especially like the hotel-sized items.

Cash is welcome and will buy the items that the nurses see a special need for.

Through the program, nurses work with families in their homes before and after the baby is born. Most of the families do not have the financial resources needed to prepare for a newborn. Very few are unwed mothers. Many receive Medicare or Medicaid to cover medical expenses.

Dorothy Richardson is on the Board of Directors and can answer your questions. Your contri-

TAIZÉ SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 6:00 PM

**ENJOY A FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.**

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE.

MORE INFO: WWW.TAIZE.FR

XYZ Outdoors in May

The XYZers will meet at the CSU Environmental Learning Center on Friday, May 20th at 10:00 AM. Please meet at the picnic shelter near the parking lot for a brief talk by the ELC personnel, then tour the Center. The trails are not long and are easy walking. After the tour, the group will return to the shelter for a brown bag picnic lunch (please bring your own lunch). Maps and additional information will be on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, as will a signup list. For information, contact Bob or Jodie Rankin at 221-2037.

Hilltopper Luncheon and Program Self Defense for Seniors Thursday, May 12th

Join us for lunch and fellowship at noon followed by a demonstration of *Self-Defense for Seniors*. Carmel Mawle, a member of Plymouth and teacher of Karate, will show techniques that do not require great upper body strength. You may choose to participate or watch, so join us even if you have never come or haven't been in a while. Sign up in the fellowship hall or call the church office to

Want a home visit?

Yes, ministers still make house calls!
Hal and Sharon are happy to stop by
your home to talk or you can visit us at
the church. Just call 482-9212
to set up a time.

Get-a-Grip Potluck

Get-Grip, (GAG) will meet at the Hoefers on Sunday, May 22nd. 603 Atwood Court in the Ridgewood Hills subdivision, south of the Good Samaritan Retirement Center off of Trilby Road. Please come at 5:00 PM. Weather permitting, there will volleyball in park. Dinner will be at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share. A grill will be available and beverages will be supplied. After dinner, Phil will share the adventure of his bicycle trip across the United States, "Flashing Spokes and Cranking Pedals," a PowerPoint presentation. Please **confirm your attendance** by calling 377-1950 or e-mailing pjhoefers@aol.com.

Middle Third Herd Upcoming Events

May 1st - May Day Picnic 1:00 PM at Spring Creek Park. This will be a potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share, your own table setting and drinks, and a blanket to sit on. We're gonna play ball! If you have balls for kickball, soccer or football, please bring them!

May 5th - Herd Happy Hour (Note the date has been changed to Thursday this month due to the All Church Dessert and Talent Show on Friday.) Herd Happy Hour @ County Cork (313 W Drake Rd). Let's meet around 5:00 PM (or whenever you can get there) for discounted drinks and appetizers. Please RSVP to Andrea Kelly at 4kellyfam@comcast.net so I can reserve a large enough table.

May 22nd - Herd Summer Planning Potluck at 1:00 PM. Trent and Sari Bosch will host at their home (10520 No Cty Rd 17). Bring a dish to share, your summer calendars and ideas for summer events. Please RSVP to Sari at sari-bosch@yahoo.com or 568-3290.

June 3rd - Herd Happy Hour @ SportsCasters Pub and Grill (165 Boardwalk Dr). Let's meet around 5:00 PM (or whenever you can get there) for discounted drinks and appetizers. Please RSVP to Andrea Kelly - 4kellyfam@comcast.net.

Men's Fellowship Group Events

Bike to Vern's for breakfast. Saturday, June 18th. Meet at church at 8:00 AM.

Annual bike ride to Lake Agnes. Saturday, July 16th. Meet at church to car pool to Cameron Pass.

Men's Fellowship Retreat. Men interested in attending the Men's Fellowship Retreat this fall need to reserve the weekend of October 21-23, 2005. It will be held at Sunshine Mountain Inn near Allenspark. Plans are underway and your participation is always welcome.

New Members Classes

Come explore what it means to be a member of Plymouth UCC. The three meetings will be at 7:00 PM on May 18th, May 25th, and June 1st.

New members will officially join the church during worship on June 5th.

Coed Canoe & Camping Trip June 2 - 5

This year's trip will take us camping just outside Steamboat Springs and canoeing on the Yampa River. Mark your calendar now for June 2 - 5.

The trip is open to men and women of Plymouth and their guests. Children age 12 or over are welcome, but each child must be accompanied by an adult who has paddling experience. The cost is \$120.00 per person (children \$70.00), with a \$50.00 deposit due when you sign up and the balance due by May 8th. Church scholarships are available.

We will depart Ft. Collins on Thursday afternoon and drive to the Yampa River Headquarters campground. On Friday, we will canoe approximately 17 miles to Moffat County's Loudy Simpson Park campsite. On Saturday, we will canoe for 6-7 hours to the Duffy Mountain Campsite. The last leg of the trip will take us to the Maybell Bridge take out and then we will return to Ft. Collins.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Tom

All-Church Retreat Sign-up

It's time! We need to know how many will be attending our very exciting All-Church Retreat at LaForet. A team of planners has been gathered to make this a wonderful time for all ages and abilities – so sign up on the sheet posted in the fellowship hall or call the church office to reserve a space. The more people who attend, the less the cost per person (the *maximum* cost we project is \$60 per adult, \$30 per child ages 4-12, ages 0-4 free). Let's truly make this an *all church* time of fun and faith renewal.

I have an idea for a SMALL GROUP!

Small Group name _____

Description _____

I would be willing to lead this small group ?yes ?maybe with help

My name is _____ Contact info _____

I am available ?days ?evenings ?weekends ?Mon ?Tues ?Wed ?Thurs ?Fri

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MAILBOX IN THE NARTHEX

Living “Open and Affirming”

Plymouth connecting to the UCC

by Bob Kling for the ONA Committee

Two upcoming UCC events offer Plymouth members special opportunities to link with and enjoy our denomination’s openness and affirmation of gay, lesbian bisexual, and transgendered members and their spirituality.

La Forêt, May 20-22: The Rocky Mountain Conference and the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns are sponsoring the 7th Annual LGBT Retreat, “Jesus Called Them Friends,” at our own La Forêt Retreat Center here in Colorado. This faith-filled weekend will help participants connect their experiences with the ministry of Jesus. The retreat is open to everyone including “family and friends”, regardless of religious denomination or spiritual path. Registration cost after April 30th is \$150 and includes food and housing; scholarships are available.

Atlanta, June 27-30: The UCC Coalition’s “National Gathering” this year will be held on the Emory University campus and is entitled “God’s Extravagant Welcome: 20 Years of Open and Affirming.” The gathering will be a time of worship, celebration, training, skills-building and strategizing about the Open and Affirming Movement and how to move toward the next twenty years. Highlights include 25 workshops on themes such as community organizing for the ONA movement, youth empowerment, pastoral care with LGBT folk, anti-racism work and theologies of liberation; UCC president Rev. John Thomas speaking on the future of the denomination; founders of the ONA movement talking about its history; and a presentation on what lies ahead. Cost is \$130 plus housing (on campus, cheap). See: <http://www.uccoalition.org/Programs/NationalGathering.html> .

Contact Jason Theil or Bob Kling for more info.

Telling the Stories

On Sunday, April 3rd, we were privileged to have as our Forum guests, Don Alspaugh and Marian Parsons from First Congregational Church UCC in Longmont. They were invited by the Capital Campaign Exploratory Committee to share their experiences during their capital campaign last year. Don was co-chairperson of the campaign; Marian was chairperson of leadership gifts. They used Bea Stoner of SpiritMatters as their campaign consultant as are we.

As Don and Marian shared their stories about the spiritual strengthening that occurred during their campaign, we were all moved. Marian said, I had never done anything remotely like this," and Don expressed his "great reluctance to get involved in fund-raising."

So, how did they go from those feelings to having an experience that was not only more financially successful than anticipated but was also so spiritually strengthening that they had tears in their eyes as they talked about it? Some clues were given:

Unity: The whole church united in the cause.

Spiritual Strengthening: Congregates began to reflect on what the church really meant to them.

Relationship Building: Many stories were shared which resulted in seeing and hearing each other in new and more personal ways.

Value of individual contribution: Each person found a way to contribute whether by funds, food, prayer, etc. The gifts of each combined to become greater than the sum of the parts.

We, here at Plymouth, do not know how our capital campaign journey will evolve. However, we do know that if the experience of the church in Longmont is an example, we can anticipate our own spiritual and relationship strengthening.

If not me, who?

Plymouth Financial Snapshot

March (25% of year)

Annual Budget: \$418,508

Income (March)	\$35,688
Income (year-to-date)	\$122,557
Income (% of annual)	29%
Expense (March)	\$41,782
Expense (year-to-date)	\$100,991
Expense (% of annual)	24.1%
Balance (year-to-date)	\$21,566

Please note that expenses vary by month, so we would not expect the income versus expenses to always be in balance. However, it is great to see how well we are doing because of your continued support.

Check It Out!

Need to lead a brief devotional service? Writing a term paper on labor issues? Curious about prison reform? Check out the Peace and Justice Library's Resource Folders. This is an evolving collection of pamphlets, flyers, handouts, articles, etc. from various sources on various topics. Suitable for church classes for children, youth, or adults; worship; youth groups; term papers; individual study, etc. The Peace and Justice Library (located in the Fireside Room) also has issues of various magazines, for which there is a separate list in the library, and books and A.V. materials. All of these can be borrowed; proce-

Hal's Evaluation

It's time for Hal's Evaluation. As Congregation-
alists, please know that your opinion counts. En-
closed you will find an evaluation form. We re-
quest that you thoughtfully consider each ques-
tion and return the completed form to Plymouth
Church by mail using the enclosed envelope, or
by placing it in Jenny Weller's folder located in
the narthex. Please remember that only signed
evaluations will be considered. The evaluations
are due by Sunday, May 15th.

Navajo Mission Alert!

Shiprock, NM

September 15-17.

For the last five years, Plymouth has sent work teams of 10 - 12 people to the Navajo Reservation to repair and build homes. We join a consortium of Northern Colorado churches for this effort. It is a five-day commitment at your expense. Building supplies are furnished and meals will be provided. We usually car pool from Ft. Collins and stay at a motel in Farmington, New Mexico near the work site. Registration forms and skill level sheets are available in an envelope on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board under **Mission Notes**. Please call Tom or Paula Dille at 207-1977 if you register.

Want to know what it's really like to go on the mission? Talk to any of these folks who have been: Polly Knight, Curt Minter, Jane Nicolet, Bob Rankin, Phil Hoefler, Sue & Greg Rutherford, Karen & John Smith, Margaret & Jim Stockover, Will Stutheit, Lorrie Wagner, Tom & Paula Dille.

Camp Deadlines

The deadline for early registration for Summer Camp was April 30th, but there's still time to register! As long as the camps you want have not filled up yet (and they usually haven't at this point with the exception of MADD camp) you can still register.

If you are planning to request a scholarship, you must contact Donna Greene by May 9th. E-mail her at donna@plymouthucc.org and tell her the camper's name and camp attending or leave her a voicemail message at 482-9212 and provide the same information. Plymouth pays \$50 and the conference does a matching amount, for a total discount of \$100. If you owe a balance the conference office will notify you, but it's not easy for them to send refunds. Don't miss out on this

Youth Mission Trip

We have an opening for one more youth (age 12-18) and one adult chaperone!!

Here is *another* teaser for those of you heading out with us in June (and for those who look forward to hearing about it when we return)!

All groups will be participating in *Program Activities* with other youth groups from around the country. These PAs include: *Service* (helping to run the ranch in different work groups), *Gender and Family Focus* (how do gender issues impact Heifer's work?), *Cottage Industries* (learn how to process farm products as Heifer teaches people around the world), *Caring for the Earth* (activities to take home like composting, energy production and conservation, recycling), *People, Land and Livestock* (begins with a look at life on our Guatemala Farm, the concept of sustainability and much more). This is an amazing opportunity for all of us! Contact Sharon for information (482-9212, sharon@plymouthucc.org).

Honoring Our Graduates



On Sunday, May 22nd, we would like to honor all of our graduates with a special time of recognition and blessing during worship and a cake reception following the second service. So that we may fully appreciate all of your hard work these past years, we ask that on May 22nd, you bring a small (approx. 11 x 14-in.) poster display that includes your graduation photo and announcement, some earlier photos if you have them, and a bio that includes your interests, activities, accomplishments, and future plans. You can take them home at the end of the reception. Please wear your graduation cap and gown to the worship service and reception. We look forward to sharing this exciting time with you and to offering you our love and support with hugs and prayers, a special time in worship, and of course cake! **Please note: May 22nd is Graduation Sunday, the last day of Sunday School, and our last**

Mission Trip Fundraising

Thanks to our wildly talented youth and dedicated parents, we are preparing for our trip to Heifer Ranch International. Here are some ways you can help us get there:

- 1) Look for our fundraising table in the Fellowship Hall – we're selling **baked goods** and Old Chicago's **Pizza coupons** for \$11, but YOU get \$22-worth of pizza!
- 2) Sign up for the **Self Defense Clinic** (ages 12 and up) on May 1st, 4-6:00 PM. Read more about this great opportunity on the bulletin board.
- 3) Bring your car to church on May 15th and drive it home clean – it's the annual **Car Wash!** We'll be cleaning your cars from 9:00 AM to Noon. Please help support us in our effort to get to Arkansas (and back again); we'll share our experiences with you when we return!

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers.

Recently in the Hospital:

† Sarah Lollar
† Molly Nortier
† Laura Martin
† George Worcester
† George Smith
† Allen Hobbs

Our Sympathy is With:

† Molly Nortier on the death of her Aunt Helen on April 10th.
† Keith Schultz on the death of his Aunt Margaret.
† Patty Heyse on the death of her Aunt Alice.

Congratulations to:

† Carrie and Bruce Hansen on the birth of their baby boy, Walter Barnabus, on April 8th.
† Jamie Kepros on her new job.
† Lew and Linda Garton on the birth of a new grandson March 17th.
† Chet and Patt Moore on the birth of their new grandson.
† Wayne and Colleen Shepperd on their new granddaughter, Maren Elizabeth born April 22nd to Marnie and Paul Clay.

We share in the Joy of:

† Jakubauskas', Mohr's and Minter's who are all safely home after a near collision of their plane during take off.
† Margaret Stockover's safe return from Afghanistan.
† Vickie Bohlmann not being injured although her car was totaled.
† Rhonda and Con Woodall whose son Aaron is returning home from his tour in the Persian Gulf.

Thank You!

"Thank you for the wonderful gifts - the cross and a visit to Creator Mundi are perfect. But more, thank you for the deep-felt welcome and support as your Associate Minister. I am truly blessed to have been called to such an amazing congregation. "

In Love,
Sharon

"Thank you from the students, faculty and staff of Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries to Plymouth Congregational! Your gift of \$500 in 2004, made through CUE, is helping to prepare leaders for the United Church of Christ at our UCC seminaries. Together we are Equipping God's people for Ministry!"

CUE -- Chicago - United - Eden
Seminaries of the United Church of Christ

"Thank You for the part you played in making our Cabaret performance so successful. The Cabaret format meant that the programs were utilized and read throughout the evening, so your ad received the attention it deserved. By placing your ad in our concert programs, you... take part in a much-needed celebration of diversity through the universal language of music. [...] With Heartfelt Thanks, from all the singers, Board of Director, staff and volunteers,"

Lynn Alldrin
Executive Director

"We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your recent gift of \$289 to Doctors Without Borders/ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). Your generous support allows us to provide direct medical care to vulnerable populations, and to speak out about the conditions that are endangering their health and well-being. Each and every day our volunteers use their skills and commitment to bring medical care to those who desperately need it. Support from people like you is essential to our ability to operate independently and allow MSF to respond at a moment's notice to the most urgent emergencies around the world. Thank you again for your generosity.

Nicolas de Torrente
Executive Director
Doctors Without Borders USA Inc.

A letter from Jane Ellen Combelic (Part 1 of 2)

Montaillac, 8 April 2005

Dear friends and family,

I'm finally home from my great adventure in Southeast Asia, and it already seems like a dream. From my springtime hillside in France, it's hard to believe that less than two months ago I was standing in front of Angkor Wat in Cambodia...

The temples of Angkor (there are dozens of temples, many still buried in the jungle) are truly wonders of the ancient world, ruins of what must have been a magnificent and refined civilization. At its height in the 13th century AD, the fortified city of Angkor Thom may have supported a population of one million people in the surrounding region – while the city of London housed about 50,000 inhabitants.

My favorite moment: As usual, it involves my afternoon siesta. On my one full day at Angkor, after lunch I found myself at Ta Prohm. This is the “jungle temple,” which has been left as it was found, with enormous roots wrapped around heaps of stones, with giant trees growing out of the walls and towering above the ancient doors. My *tuc-tuc* driver is waiting for me at the entrance to this temple compound (a *tuc-tuc* is a centaur-like contraption, a motorcycle with the back of a golf cart); he brought me from the town of Siem Reap where I'm staying and is driving me all day around Angkor. In the sweltering heat I'm getting sleepy and I look for a secluded place to lie down. Most of the other tourists appear to have gone back to town, there's hardly no one here. Finally I find a waist-high ledge in the shade under a high wall, not far from a wide dirt path bordering the jungle. Dozing on the blissfully cold stone I am serenaded by the trills and whistles of the jungle birds. Suddenly I hear approaching a beautiful clear voice singing a Buddhist chant. It is probably (I don't open my eyes) a young monk riding a bicycle on the path. Just as suddenly the voice stops. I assume he has seen me. He pedals silently by. I smile, wondering at his astonishment, feeling blessed in this divine

place outside of time.

The next day I flew to Hué and rejoined the delegation. Hué is far removed from the cold grayness of Hanoi, from the apocalyptic bustle of Saigon. The old imperial capital is a happy marriage of faded French colonialism and ancient Vietnamese grandeur. With its stately trees and gardens and parks, its wide boulevards and wrought-iron gates, this could be a sleepy French provincial city, except for the buildings painted aqua, peach, lime green, lemon yellow.

And the tombs. Everywhere we go beyond the city center we see acres and acres of tombs, big concrete monuments, some of them elaborate and brightly decorated, planted haphazardly in fields and on hillsides. They testify to the importance of ancestor worship in this region of Vietnam. (One day we visited some spectacular royal tombs in Hué. The two Plum Village monks who translated for us – bless them – what the guides were saying, inexplicably pronounced the word “tomb” as “tum” and by the end of the day all the English speakers were talking about the royal tums we had seen. With much giggling, of

Kudos for Youth Sunday!

Congratulations to everyone who had a part in helping make Youth Sunday a meaningful worship experience. Youth: Anna Robinson, Angela Mawle, Anya Gedrath-Smith, Josh Greene, Phillip Flynn, Sarah Blessing and Sarah Hodge. Thank you for the guidance of the Senior High Youth Leaders, Peter and Elizabeth Linder. Thank you also to all the adults who helped make it happen, especially all parents, David and Donna Greene, Renee Roberts, and everyone who attended

Is It Time to Re-Do Your Disclosure Form?

To help ensure that Plymouth is a safe place, all volunteers who work directly with children, visit with adults one-on-one or work in other sensitive capacities must fill out a Disclosure Form every

(Continued on page 12)

“Getting to Know You(th)”

Before I ever arrived at Plymouth I heard tales about past Youth Sundays: “Those kids do a great job!” “I always learn something new!” “We should hear from them more often!” I now know from experience that it’s all true.

Why do we enjoy Youth Sunday so much?

We love seeing young people in worship, from the Moment with Children to a whole Sunday led by them. We want our youth to be a part of the church and find meaning in what we find meaningful. We cherish the moments when we can see them growing well, with independence and intellect and a deep spiritual core. We want them to know the Divine in their own lives. And we feel we’re doing something right when our teenagers can create a service that inspires us to worship God with such enthusiasm.

I have heard many of you express how this year’s Youth Sunday was powerful as always. It is infinitely *more* powerful when you know the participants personally. Because certain aspects of Youth Fellowship fall under the description of Associate Minister for Congregational Life and Care, I have had opportunities to spend a little time with Anna, Angela, Anya, Josh, Phillip, Sarah and Sarah (the youth who created and led the service on April 10th), as well as with Aaron, Alison, Elle, Kate and Will (Jr. High youth who helped at Fellowship Time). I not only have fun with these young people, but I have come to respect what they have to teach me.

As an essential part of the body of Christ, I believe that we as a congregation are called to get to know our youth – and one another – by name, by personality, by passion: who are they and what do they love? Can you name which one of our youth is a soccer enthusiast? Who has a knack for robotics? Did any achieve a full scholarship to college? Who are the dancers or movie-makers or world-travelers? They have something to offer us and the world; they’ve already proven it by sharing an amazing service of worship and wisdom.

I would challenge all of us to try to get to know someone better this Sunday and every Sunday – a youth, a child, a Middle Third Herd-er, a Get a Grip-er, an Xtra Years of Zest-er and a Hilltopper. Every person we meet adds something special to our journeys in this church and everywhere...you might just find a life-long friend.

Joyfully,
Sharon

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

An open & affirming
congregation.
Gathered in 1903.
www.plymouthucc.org
plymouth@plymouthucc.org
970.482.9212

Church Staff

The Rev. Hal Chorpenning
Senior Minister
hal@plymouthucc.org

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Organists

Alda Frucci, Porter Industries
Custodians

Plymouth Congregational
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916 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Ft. Collins, CO 80521
Permit No. 109



NEWS & NOTES

(Continued from page 10)

12 months. If you are such a volunteer and have not filled out a form in the last 12 months, please do so by Sunday, May 1st. Forms are available on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary, and from Alice Clark's desk. Please return your completed form to Hal or Alice. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed To Attend Conference Annual Meeting

Several volunteers are needed to represent Plymouth at the Rocky Mountain UCC Conference Annual Meeting to be held Friday, June 10th through Sunday, June 12th in Grand Junction. Plymouth even help pays for registration fees and expenses. Now is your chance to get involved in the wider church at the conference level. And my how beautiful the western slope can be in June!!

If interested, please contact our pastors, Hal or Sharon, or moderator, Doug Robinson.

Kitchen Refrigerator!

Resolved: That since the Men's Fellowship meets monthly in the Church Fellowship hall and uses the kitchen for the preparation of the group's breakfast, and being that the Men's Group is not represented on Council, Bruce Preston as Trustee's Representative on Council, moved that: The Men's Fellowship assume the responsibility of "Refrigerator Police". Once a month, the Men's Fellowship will verify that everything in the kitchen refrigerator is marked as to Name and Date, as well as verify that date codes of expiration have not been exceeded, per the instructions on the refrigerator. **Offending items will be "trashed" or taken to a charitable organization for their consumption or disposal.** Passed unanimously by Council, April 12, 2005.