

# *The* Plymouth Placard



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APRIL 2004

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## TAIZÉ INFO

**WHO:** YOU! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, APRIL 4 AT 6:00 P.M.  
( AND THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

**WHERE:** PLYMOUTH CONG'L UCC

**COST:** FREE-WILL OFFERING FOR SUPPER

**CHILDCARE:** YOU BET!

**MORE INFO:** WWW.TAIZE.FR

### *Celebrating 100 Years – 1903-2003*

#### RECOGNITION/COMMITMENT SERVICE FOR CALLING/CARING TEAM

The “Calling/Caring” ministry of the congregation will have a recognition/commitment service at the second worship service on April 18. Developed under the direction of the Board of Deacons, the calling/caring ministry has a number of components.

- 1) Re-developing parish nursing program/health ministry. Under the direction of Marietta Zimmerman blood pressures are being provided on a regular basis. A consultation group is now available for members/families who have difficulty in the healthcare system.
- 2) The “visiting angel” program has been incorporated and a six session training program has been completed for new visitors.
- 3) There is an Alzheimer team.
- 4) A “contact ministry” has begun, and the deacons (with assistance) will be phoning each member/family twice yearly to see how people are doing in order to make sure we have not overlooked any needs.
- 5) The greeting card ministry and food and transportation needs have all been included in the calling/caring program.

Barb Fraley, Diane Stober, and Pat Sample are Deacon Coordinators. If you are involved in any of these ministries please plan to be present on April 18!

## From Hal's Desk

### Goals & Getting a Life

Parish ministry is one of those professional fields in which a lot of the action takes place behind the scenes. Some people think ministers work 20 minutes a week: the time they're in the pulpit. Clearly, such is not the case. My typical work week this year has required 50-60 hours, including many evenings (in March I was out **18** evenings), and I have gone for up to three weeks without a day off. As you might imagine, my family and I are hitting the stress point.

Were I single, or were my two sons grown, perhaps continuing in this pattern would be feasible. But, I *do* have two young sons and a wife, and I need to be both physically and emotionally present in order to nurture my relationships with them. As I told someone recently, I'm still responsible for changing diapers and cooking dinner! (And when I'm out, all of my share of this falls on Jean's shoulders.)

As one member remarked about my evenings, "The congregation controls the demand, Hal, but you have to control the supply." The Personnel Committee has strongly recommended to me (*that's a polite way to put it!*) that I limit my evening work to 10 nights per month, and that's one of my goals for 2004.

Speaking of which, I felt tremendously affirmed by the feedback I received from the congregation and the Personnel Committee in my annual review. And I wanted to share with you my self-evaluation of my goals for last year and my new goals for 2004.

### Rating Myself on Goals for 2003

1. Find a spiritual director to help provide a deeper sense of connection to God's spirit in my life and work.  
**Accomplished:** I've been working with the Rev. Jane Vennard in Denver.
2. Continue to stress the work of stewardship and evangelism.  
**Accomplished:** I think I've done well with both areas
3. Continue work with Strategic Planning Team.  
**Accomplished:** A great committee completed the plan on time and presented it to the congregation in January.
4. Contribute to a great Centennial Celebration.  
**Accomplished:** I helped arrange both the keynote speaker and guest preacher (the former changing at the 11th hour) and also helped set historical context in sermons and worship.
5. Work toward calling an Associate Minister.

**Getting there:** The Strategic Plan calls for this, and last Sunday, the congregation approved the search committee.

6. Spend more time with my family.

**Room for improvement:** I've been using the "unit" system to try and balance my work schedule (to keep it to an average maximum of 48 hours per week), but I'm still in evening meetings far too often. I need to work on saying "no," even to great things happening at Plymouth.

### Goals for 2004

1. Improve the balance between my work and personal/family life by keeping average work week to 48 hours and average 10 nights out per month.
2. Help Plymouth initiate a capital campaign.
3. Assist Search Committee to call a dynamite associate minister.
4. Keep worship vital.
5. Continue to tell our story (that we are progressive, ONA, community rooted in the UCC tradition) and attract new members.

Plymouth is taking major steps toward becoming a program-size church. We have taken great strides in membership growth. One in five of our members has joined in the last 20 months. Now, we engage the difficult issues of **changing our culture** to act in new ways: to empower lay leadership, to build new ways of being community together, and to take on new attitudes about stewardship. We have begun the work of examining the capital funding needs of our congregation (building renovation, roofs, furnaces, parking lot surfacing, organ replacement, and mission/outreach investment), and we'll all be asked to consider our first major capital campaign in more than 20 years. We're changing our staffing configuration to include a new Associate Minister for Congregational Life & Care.

There is a LOT going on at Plymouth, which is great news! And part of the change you'll see is that I may not be quite so "hands-on" with our panoply of committees, as Plymouth has been accustomed to. I'm going to shift some of my efforts to strategy and worship design. But, that's part of becoming a program-sized church, which is the type of congregation we're called to become.

**Shalom!**



## **Calling All Budding Writers and Artists!**

### **Sign Up To Contribute to the 2005 Lenten Devotional Booklet**

The Deacons have chosen to provide a Lenten Devotional Booklet for our **2005** observance of Lent. We thought it would be easier to do for all involved if the writing/ drawings for it could be completed during this Lenten period (it would be much harder to get in the same mood during Christmas or Advent for example!).

A sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall. A committee of the Deacons will provide a Scripture for each day. Each volunteer will have the task of reflection on the Scripture and conclude with a brief prayer for the day. The reflections could be meditation, a poem, a story or event, or a piece of art.

Each Deacon will do one, which means that we need twenty-eight volunteers. Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. What we hope for are twenty eight people along with the Deacons who will be willing to share from their own Christian journey. So don't worry about feeling inadequate for the task. Just step boldly to the task and share something meaningful to you.

**Our deadline for completion of all the meditations is Easter Sunday.** Then the editing/production folk can take over. Hopefully this will become an annual tradition. Help us make it a meaningful and successful venture!

## **Trustee's Corner, March 2004**

Trustee activity for the past month has been:

Remove two nearly dead cottonwood trees. The remaining cottonwood along Lake had a major branch pruned as well. In several years, this tree will likely need removal.

New fire exit lights were installed throughout the church. Also, east office lights and hallway fluorescent lights were replaced with higher efficiency T-8 lights.

Fellowship Hall storage room is in process of getting a new face lift.

One of the two furnaces that heats the sanctuary is no longer functioning. Luckily we are entering warm weather seasons. We are delaying repair pending conversations and possible conclusions from the remodeling architect.

New coffee brewing urns were installed in Fellowship Hall which required replacing existing 20 amp/240 volt circuit with a 40 amp/240 volt circuit.

Thanks is given to Tom Nesler, Harry Halac and Jim Taylor for their involvement with the Trustees these last few years. Also, thanks to JoAnne Jensen for volunteering to fill the two year term vacated by Jim Taylor. Jim has some health issues which he needs to attend to and felt necessary to resign from the Trustees.

--The Trustees.

## “Living Open & Affirming” – April 2004

A few months ago Dr. James Dobson at Focus on the Family sent out a Pamphlet on the subject of same-sex marriage. It was sent as a tool to help Christians have good, combative answers against “gay activists” who support equal right for the GLBT community. The pamphlet came in a question/answer format. Here are a couple of excerpts from that mailing:

Q: Surely homosexuals need marriage to feel like full members of society don't they?

A: Need marriage? No. What we are talking about here is self-esteem and it is not the place of the government to bestow self-esteem on any individual or group.

ONA Response: I'm not sure how Dobson links self-esteem to marriage, but I think the topic is really about civil rights!

Q: Isn't banning gay marriage just like banning interracial marriage?

A: Not at all! Being black or white, Hispanic or Asian is not like being homosexual. No academic institution in the world or any U.S. court has ever established that homosexuality is unchangeable, as are race, nationality or gender. But this assertion really implies that opponents to same-sex marriage are bigots and that is not true. They simply believe marriage is between men and women for good reason.

ONA Response: It may seem cliché to say that history repeats itself, but minority groups fighting for equal rights is a recurring theme throughout time. Also, the Webster's dictionary defines bigot as “a person who holds blindly and intolerantly to a particular creed, opinion.”

*We ask each of you to consider daily what makes us “Live Open & Affirming”?*

**OGHS Continues: There is still time to contribute to this offering which aids development and disaster relief in the U.S. and around the world. As of March 31, our One Great Hour of Sharing giving totals \$5,164.00. Many thanks for your generosity!**

### Computer Classes for Seniors Offered

The Foundation on Aging is offering a beginning Computer class for Seniors (60+) at Poudre High School on April 26 and 27. Time is 6-8 p.m. There is no charge, but registration is required. The class is offered by the students in the DECCA program. Registration forms are available at the Fort Collins Senior Center.

## **Dear Friends at Plymouth Congregational UCC,**

*The Housing Team of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council and the Urban Congregations in Partnership thank you for your generous contributions to the Homeless Prevention Initiative of \$150 on Dec. 12, 2003 and \$1,000 on December 31, 2003. We especially appreciate the way your faith community has responded to our neighbors' needs by interviewing applicants, sharing their plight, then providing your people a direct way to participate.*

*We gave an average of \$232 to each of 418 households in 2003. Each family helped is asked to match Interfaith's contribution, drawing on such resources as family and friends.*

*Some of the families we helped in February 2004 included a woman with three children whose husband disappeared. She is now working at a \$6/hour job. Another mother of three who experienced a budget-wrecking jump in January's utilities cost was able to stay in her mobile home. A father of five children was helped to stay in his trailer home after his construction job stopped during bad winter weather and temp jobs failed to close the gap.*

*Again, we thank you on behalf of the entire community for helping us bridge these housing emergencies for our neighbors.*

*Appreciatively, Grace Harris, Chair, Housing Team*

## **Interfaith Homeless Prevention Project**

The Interfaith Homeless Prevention Project is supported by members of many congregations in the Fort Collins community. The Project helps those who experience work, pay cuts and/or job elimination. To qualify for financial assistance, an applicant must have a history of being financially independent in addition to showing evidence of regaining self-sufficiency. To afford a two bedroom apartment in Fort Collins, wage earners must make \$14 an hour. Many employees work for minimum wage of \$5.15; few applicants have benefits.

In January of this year, Interfaith assisted 55 families – with awards averaging \$224. In March we ran out of money on the 16<sup>th</sup> leaving many on waiting lists for April. Meanwhile late fees and other penalties are assessed.

More dollars are needed in the months ahead to prevent families from becoming homeless. (600 students in Poudre School District live in families who are homeless). Checks made out to Plymouth and designated for Interfaith Homeless Prevention would be very much appreciated. We also need substitutes who could answer our cell phone and make appointments or who could do interviews one Monday a month. Training is provided at Plymouth. For more information—call Lorrie Wagner at 223-2653.

The Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council Housing Committee is now seeking an individual who can coordinate the Homeless Prevention Program. The job description follows:

**Program Director.** The Homelessness Prevention Initiative, a unique collaboration among the faith communities, local non-profits, and the public and private sectors, seeks a full-time Program Manager. Responsibilities include program oversight, fund raising, faith-based outreach, volunteer recruitment and training, and special projects as needed. Minimum qualifications: 3 years experience in coordinating a program, community

outreach, fund raising, public speaking and grant writing. A Bachelors degree in relevant field preferred. Salary range \$30-35,000 with benefits. Must have vehicle and valid Colorado Driver license. Submit cover letter and resume to the United Way, 424 Pine Street, suite 102, Fort Collins, CO 80524 ([www.uwaylc.org](http://www.uwaylc.org)). Information must be received by April 15, 2004 for consideration.

The program has been successful because of the involvement of the faith communities. To ensure that this continues, there will be an oversight committee composed of faith community representatives and funders that will supervise the program. Salary for the new Program Director will come from public and private sources, while office space will be provided by the United Way. If you have questions, please contact one of the following:

*Rev. Woody Carlson, Urban Congregations in Partnership 484-3133*  
*Sister Mary Alice Murphy, St. Joseph's Catholic Chkurch 482-4148*  
*Grace Harris, Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council 282-7214*

## **Affordable Housing --What Can We Do?**

New ideas and approaches designed to bring more affordable housing to the community will be discussed on Monday, April 19, 2004, from 7:00p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Harmony Library in Ft. Collins. The public is encouraged to attend this presentation, organized by the Laimer County League of Women Voters. the panel members will include: Maurice Head, Affordable Housing Planner; Larissa La Brant, Government Liaison for CO Manufactured Housing Associates; John Kefalas, Parish and Community development Coordinator' john Pollak, Director, city of boulder Housing Division.

Together, these experts will offer to the audience some new thoughts about how to meet the challenge of providing reasonable and safe housing for the community.

## **PLYMOUTH TO HOST ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 10-13<sup>th</sup>**

Theme: "God Is Still Speaking"

Plymouth has the honor this year of hosting the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC Annual Meeting. Please mark the dates on your calendar to participate in the Conference Meeting's agenda and to volunteer with our hosting tasks. We can expect approximately 300 meeting delegates, guests and friends from Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado to attend. There will be many roles and volunteer opportunities for Plymouth members and friends to provide assistance. Our first volunteer search is for those willing to provide housing in their homes to meeting attendees. While most attendees will stay at local hotels, some prefer a home environment and/or require private housing due to financial reasons. Would you be able to provide housing? A sign-up list is posted in Fellowship Hall. Look for further volunteer opportunities to be posted throughout April and May. Also, look for Rocky Mountain Conference UCC Annual Meeting information on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

Please contact a member of the RMC Annual Meeting Planning Committee with any questions:

*Betty Clark, Paula Dille, Sally Gilmore, Brian Kelly, Molly Nortier, Doug Robinson, Karen and John Smith, & Jim Taylor.*

## A GREAT COMMENT ABOUT OUR CHURCH!

Alice Clark had a conversation with someone recently. I thought the comment the person made to her was worth sharing. Whoever it was said:

**“Your church gives the word ‘Christian’ a good name!”**

Apparently that person thinks we are doing something right. I know that people can always make criticisms about our church behavior. Years ago I think it was a theologian who said of the church: “The church is like Noah’s Ark; if it weren’t for the storm outside you could not stand the stench inside!” There will always be cynical comments about our churchly behavior. We do not always measure up. But that is not the good news. The good news is sometimes we do. And sometimes someone recognizes it.

When I was installed as pastor in the Sayles Memorial Church in Lincoln, Rhode Island, I asked one of the pastors whom I regarded highly for some feedback on my paper. He said rather astutely: “I think you’re hung up on the perfection of Jesus, and you’re disappointed that his bride isn’t a virgin!” Well, I’ve often pondered that issue. Doing so ironically has made me lower my expectations in one sense; but it has also heightened my sense of fulfillment and enjoyment of people. Sure we fail sometimes. Sure we disappoint others at time. But we also succeed very often!

We are all very important in this mix called Plymouth Congregational Church. We need one another. We need to worship together. We need to support one another and to serve our world together. We need to do these things because someone may be watching, and Christianity is more often caught than taught, as important as teaching is. As that person with whom Alice spoke said:

**“Your church gives the word ‘Christian’ a good name.”**

- Dick Einerson

## **Maternity Assistance Program**

Layette items for the maternity Assistance Program supported by Church Women United are needed for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please put your donations in the container in the Fellowship Hall.

Receiving blankets	Crib blanket or quilt	Baby Shampoo
Onesies with snap crotch	Baby towels	T-shirts (3-6 months)
Infant socks	Baby lotion	Diaper pins (large safety pins)
Sleepers with feet strings)	Large diaper bags	Gowns (no bottom)
Cloth diapers (to be given to mothers who will launder them)		

**For Moms:** Small size lotion, shampoo, conditioner, bubble bath or soap. The sizes as obtained from motels or hotels are ideal. Please keep these items separate from the baby items. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Richardson @ 223-69042, or Mary Mosier @ 484-9356.

## Facilities Master Plan

The Long-Range Planning Committee is delighted to announce that RB & B has been selected to develop a Facilities Master Plan for Plymouth. This process will result in the creation of a Phase I Facilities Proposal. The committee is working with RB&B architects David Kress and George Brelig. We will start by giving RB&B a chance to talk with six small groups to get an understanding of Plymouth Facility requirements. These six groups will focus on:

- Education and Youth Programs
- Music and Sanctuary
- Facilities
- Administration
- Fellowship
- Other

These groups will likely meet after Easter. Next, several forums will be held so that the congregation can hear the direction and provide comment at this very early stage.

The Long-Range Planning Committee wishes again to acknowledge their appreciation to the Strategic Planning Committee. . . their hard work is coming into reality.

--Long-Range Planning Committee

## Plymouth's Web Site

In the next few months I'll be adding to Plymouth's Photo Gallery on the Web site. If you have any photos of recent events that you'd like on the Web site please get them together for me. Put them in an envelope with your name on it and place them in my folder in The Narthex. I'll return them to you when I'm finished. We'd love your feedback on the Web site as well. If you have any ideas or things you'd like to see, please let us know. It's always a work in progress.

Thanks - Andrea Kelly \* [4kellyfam@comcast.net](mailto:4kellyfam@comcast.net) \* 282-7511

## Mother's Day with a Mission

Once again you are offered the opportunity to support the Palestinian children in an outstanding East Jerusalem school by purchasing a **Mother's Day** remembrance for this cause.

**April 25 - May 2 - May 9** the Mission Committee will be offering this alternative gift after both services. [Look for our table.](#)

Plymouth's Sunday School program has already raised \$450 to help with Fahkrey's & Nada's tuition at the Rawdat El-Zuhr School. We have been supporting these 7 year olds for 2 years through UCC Global Ministries Child Sponsorship. **\$300 a child is needed;** we would like to add 2 more children to this effort. Therefore, our goal is \$750 this year.

**Honor a mother, daughter, niece, or friend by helping a child!**

## *Peace & Justice Ministry Update*

Thank you to all who helped with or attended the Interfaith Service for Peace! It was a beautiful and powerful evening that brought together over 200 people of different faiths. While listening to music, praying in silence, or lighting candles, we renewed and strengthened our deep commitment to peace. As Roshan Fair said, "Peace is not only possible, it is inevitable."

### Lenten suppers

The P&J Ministry team and the new Congregational Life committee invite you to participate in a Lenten supper the week before Palm Sunday (April 1-4). This will be an occasion for you to enjoy fellowship with other members of the congregation and to learn more about Just Peace. If you're still interested in attending, contact Linda Mahan at 482-2259.

### A Just Peace Church book study

Starting Sunday, April 18 and running for six weeks, the P&J Ministry team will lead a discussion of the book *A Just Peace Church*. Books will be available in the fellowship hall; cost is \$13. However, Alice Clark purchased five copies for the church library. Feel free to check one out of the Fireside Room, and return it when you're done.

### Peace and justice resolutions for the caucuses

We encourage everyone to attend the party caucuses on April 13. For information go to <http://www.larimer.org/elections/caucus.htm>. The Rocky Mountain Conference Peace and Justice Task Force is circulating some resolutions that people can take to the caucuses. We will make these available to you on the Plymouth website and in church. Please take a resolution with you to your party caucus! Susan Rogers will host a nonpartisan caucus preparation evening on Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. Call 224-4356 for information.

### Sign up to take action

It's easy and painless and effective! Sign up on the UCC's website to receive email alerts on national and state issues and voice your concern about important matters of justice and peace. Then with just a couple clicks you can send letters to federal and state officials, corporate executives, opinion makers, and media outlets. Go to [www.ucctakeaction.org](http://www.ucctakeaction.org) and sign up today.

### Future meetings

We'll be meeting twice a month so that we can incorporate some prayer and theological study into our time together. Please join us. For information contact Jane Ellen Combelic at 407-0153 or [jec@riverrock.org](mailto:jec@riverrock.org).

- Friday, April 9, 11:45 at church, in the Fireside Room (bring a lunch)
- Sunday, April 25, after the second service, in the Fireside Room

God of justice and peace, teach us how to live and act as your people. Show us how to do justice, seek peace, and build community as you require. May we be guided by your Holy Spirit, inspired by teachings of the prophets, and led by the example of Jesus. Amen.

--Written by The Reverend Vilma Machín-Vásquez for the Human Rights, Justice for Women, and Transformation Ministry Team, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ

Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Dr. Helen Caldicott will speak at Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave. (just east of Taft Hill Road on the south side of Drake) on Saturday, April 10th from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Dr. Helen Caldicott is a former Harvard University professor of pediatrics who left medicine during the 1980s to campaign against nuclear weapons. She is the co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, founder of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament (WAND), and president of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute. We are requesting a \$10.00 donation, but no one will be turned away. All proceeds will be used for the completion of the documentary "Conviction: US v Gilbert, Hudson and Platte." This film follows the actions and reactions in the case of three Dominican Sisters who were arrested and convicted in Colorado for their protest of the Minuteman III missile in October 2002. <[www.convictionthefilm.org](http://www.convictionthefilm.org)>

Dr. Caldicott's latest book will be available, which she will be signing. Please bring a simple brunch potluck dish (finger food) to share at this extraordinary event. Sponsored by The Center for Justice, Peace, and Environment; Strength Through Peace; the Rocky Mountain Bullhorn; and the Social Concerns Steering Committee of the Foothills Unitarian Church. For more information, call Cheryl Distaso 484-8039 or email <[distaso@fri.com](mailto:distaso@fri.com)>

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Radio Reading Service of the Rockies is a non-profit that broadcasts newspapers and other publications to our neighbors who are visually impaired. The service is expanding to include daily broadcasts of the Fort Collins Coloradoan and the Loveland Reporter-Herald. All of the news is read by volunteers. If you would be interested in exploring being a volunteer reader (from the comfort of your own living room), please contact Kat Kindgren, [rrsr@rrsr.org](mailto:rrsr@rrsr.org) or (303) 786-7777.

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### Free and Low Cost Health Screenings

The Fort Collins Lions 9HealthFair will be held April 23 & 24 from 7:00 am to Noon at Christ Center Community Church(formally First Christian Church) at the corner of Drake and Lemay. For blood work, do not eat for 12 hours before having blood drawn. Please drink water; continue to take prescribed medications as directed; diabetics should not fast! Blood Chemistry Analysis \$30 (CBC is an additional \$15), PSA test \$25, Colo-Rectal Screening kit \$5, Tetanus Immunization \$20, Pneumonia Immunization \$25. For additional information, call 1-800-332-3078 or visit the website at [www.9HealthFair.org](http://www.9HealthFair.org). Please bring your used unneeded eyeglasses for the Lions Sight Programs.

**WANTED:** Coordinator to take over Holiday Gift Bag Project for Alternative Giving Fair.

Holiday gift bags have been offered at the Alternative Giving Fair each year with proceeds going to *Doctors Without Borders*. A Coordinator is needed to take over the project, as Susan Hyne is moving to Tucson in the next few months. Fabric donated for the project has been sorted and boxed. Many gift bags are ready to be sewn. Lessons and coaching will gladly be provided. If you can help with this project, please contact Susan at 472-8765 or [susanhyne@riverrock.org](mailto:susanhyne@riverrock.org)).

## AFGHAN WOMEN'S SELF SUFFICIENCY PROJECT

So many times in the last couple of years I have heard people say, "If only I knew what I could do to help!" Well, that statement is now answered. I am going to Afghanistan for two weeks beginning on April 15, and you can help.

*Afghanistan has many, many widows as a result of years of war. In their culture, these widows seldom remarry, which means many, if not most of them live in abject poverty. Yet they are women just like us. They are intelligent, skillful, loving, good people, just as we like to think we are. They want to be independent and to take care of their children. They need our help. I firmly believe that helping these women to become self-sufficient is a big step toward stability in Afghanistan. And stability in Afghanistan is a step toward world peace.*

So I'm going to Afghanistan with a group of about 12 people, mainly women who have come out of Afghanistan and now live in America. Some of these women will work to set up a midwife program. Others are focused on home gardening to provide food for families. My job is to set up a sewing center and begin teaching women to make quality goods for sale in Afghanistan and in the U.S. All of us are working with and through "Afghanistan Relief Organization", an all volunteer group that has sent relief missions for the last several years

ARO has a building in Kabul, a house donated by an Afghan man who no longer lives there. It has a sewing room with a few tables and chairs and two old black sewing machines. I've purchased three new Pfaff sewing machines, and I want to take with me as many sewing supplies as possible. Can you please donate needles and thread, 100% cotton embroidery floss, pins, tape measures, seam rippers, scissors and any of the little things we keep in our sewing baskets and take completely for granted? I'm also collecting toothbrushes.

There is a box in the fellowship hall marked, "Supplies for Afghanistan". Please help by filling it with the above items, and any other sewing accessories you feel will help. If you want to know more about Afghan Relief Organization, their website is [www.afghanrelief.com](http://www.afghanrelief.com).

Above all, pray for the success of this project.

Margaret Stockover

## **“Thank you” and “Good-Bye” to Megan and Zach Campain**

Saying goodbye is very difficult, especially when you have to say it to two people who have been so devoted and have done such an outstanding job. At the end of May, Megan and Zach will be resigning from their volunteer position of the past four years as the senior high youth group leaders. Rather than speak about them, I chose to share their words as written in a letter to the parents of the youth in the senior high group.

**“First of all, we would like to thank the youth and parents for sharing the past four years with us. The time we have spent together has contributed greatly to our faith journeys, and the memories and relationships we have created through youth group are ones that will always be cherished. At this point in our lives, Zach and I are in need of transition. After much serious thought, we have decided to step down from the leadership of the senior high youth group. This decision has not come easily because we love being part of the group and feel so close to each individual in senior high youth. Of course, we will still be very present at Plymouth, taking on different roles as members of such a phenomenal faith community. In addition, we want to maintain a continued connection with the youth we have come to love. We feel blessed to have worked with you for the past four years.”**

To Megan and Zach we would like to offer our very heartfelt appreciation and thanks for all you have done to build a vibrant and stable group for our senior high youth. As your church family, we fully support your need for continued growth and transition. To the members of this faith community, we now ask you to be in prayer as we begin to search, not for a replacement, but for the next person or persons that God would have step up to continue to journey alongside our wonderful, dynamic & talented youth.

## **Handbell And Chancel Choirs**

Handbell Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room. If you're between the ages of 12 and 112 and have a little bit of musical knowledge...please come and try us out!

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. If you would like more information on either choir, please feel free to call me @ 221-2970. We'd love to see you there! –Donna Solverud

## **CDs of Hal's Radio Interview about Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ***

On March 5, Kari Alexander of Fort Collins' grass-roots radio station KRFC, 88.9 fm, interviewed Hal regarding his thoughts about Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of Christ*. If you would like to borrow a CD of the interview, you may do so by signing one out from the bottom right book shelf in Alice's office.

## **Church Women United - Friendship Day, May 7**

Would you enjoy getting together a few times a year with other Christian women committed to working “for a just, caring and peaceful society,” using “...creatively the resources God has entrusted to us...our intelligence, time, energy and money”? Friendship Day of the ecumenical group Church Women United will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 7 at Timnath Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to come to learn more about the group, for tasty food, good fellowship and spiritual nurture.

## Thank You!!

- Several people have recently improved our media and technology functionality at Plymouth through generous gifts. We wish to express our enthusiastic thanks to Glenn Colon-Bonet for his gifts of a TV and VCR, to Margaret Stockover for her gift of a VCR, and to John Henry Peck for his gift of a Fax machine. And thanks to Steve Freeland for making the Fax machine operational
- Many thanks to Kari Alexander for interviewing Hal about Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ* during her radio segment on KRFC radio March 5, and for giving us 8 CDs of the interview which are now available for borrowing at Plymouth.

### Just Amazing: *JustFaith*

Do you believe in social justice but sometimes lack energy for action? Jack Jezreel, national speaker and founder of *JustFaith* (sponsored by Catholic Charities) is known for his ability to spark listeners to move from a state of "I should..." to specific, concrete action. His presentations explain the biblical roots for social action and describe the *JustFaith* program. He will be in Fort Collins to give two free workshops: Mon. May 3 and Tues. May 4, both from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., at Heart of the Rockies Church, 6501 Brittany St. Questions? Please call Alice Clark, 482-9212. To register, please call 686-0162.

*Dear Plymouth Congregational Church,*

*Thank you once again for sharing another exciting step with me as I continue on my journey in ministry. The cross from El Salvador is beautiful and will be a wonderful reminder of my Plymouth church family! You have given me so much over the years, in particular a place to explore and grow in my faith during high school and in general the support and encouragement to go into ministry. Thank you for your prayers and generous spirits. May God's blessings be with you.*

*In gratitude,  
Erin Gilmore*

### A Small Change in the First Service Children's Sermon

In years past, many families attended the first service because doing so enabled them to attend worship and also have the rest of the day for other activities. Recently there have been fewer children at the first service, and we learned lately from some of the children that it is easier to come forward for a children's sermon if several children do so; some are not comfortable being the only child or one of few to come forward. We want both our services to be comfortable for all. To that end, for the next few months—until school is out—we will be presenting a children's sermon at both services but will not ask the children to come forward for it at the first service. They will still hear a message designed especially for them, but will do so seated in the pews with their families. Children will still come forward at the second service. As spring approaches and the weather grows more appealing, we invite all those with busy weekends to join us for worship at 8:15 and enjoy more free hours in the rest of the day. -- Alice Clark

### Plymouth Senior High Youth

**Fri., April 2—Sun., April 4: LaForet Spring Retreat. Registrations due in church office by Monday, March 15. Bring \$\$ for food to and from camp.**

**Sun. April 18—12-2pm—Ultimate Frisbee time!! Meet at church and we'll head to a park. Bring \$\$ so we can grab a bite to eat.**

**Sat., May 1—12-2pm—Hiking Horsetooth! Meet at church and bring a sack lunch.**

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Fellowship Canoeing & Camping Trip

- **What** – A three night 4 day canoeing and camping trip on one of the best places in Colorado for wilderness canoeing on relatively flat water – the Yampa River Legacy River System. From its headwaters in the Flattops Wilderness Area to its confluence with the Green River near the Utah border the Yampa River is recognized as one of the most unchanged river systems remaining in the West.
- **Why** – A chance to become better acquainted with members of our church family and their friends learn how team efforts in wilderness travel can create esprit de corps (“Life Together”) and enjoy Christian fellowship while in a relaxed and fun natural environment.
- **When** – June 17 – June 20, 2004. Two options for travel to put-in site at Hayden – leave at noon or depart early evening for those who need to work all day. Return will be afternoon of Sunday so all can be home in evening.
- **Who** – Women, men, children (12 years and older if accompanied by an adult), and friends of Plymouth who want to experience canoeing in a group as well as non – river runners who just want to camp with those traveling in canoes.
- **How** – On April 25, May 2, May 9 or May 16 go to table in Fellowship Hall with blow-up pictures of last years trip and sign up and make a \$50 deposit per person. Deadline for registration is Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

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### **The Middle-Third Herd March Events**

Do you want to be a part of an active and fun fellowship group at Plymouth? Please join us! If you'd like to be added to our e-mail list please contact Andrea Kelly at [4kellyfam@comcast.net](mailto:4kellyfam@comcast.net). We'll send you reminders of upcoming events.

**\*\*Friday, April 2nd** - Herd Happy Hour at Coopersmith's Pub & Brewing (Old Town Square)--5pm.

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### **HILLTOPPERS TO MEET APRIL 15 AT NOON FOR LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!**

John Henry Peck will speak on: "Five Stages of the Soul." If you are interested in a positive outlook on spirituality as we age, this program is for you! He has been very engaged in this topic for some time. So plan now to come, to eat, to be stimulated, and to fellowship! This happens to be the *third* Thursday due to the busyness of Holy Week.

Call the church office for a reservation or sign up on the Hilltoppers signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### **EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST!**

XYZ is a fun-loving Plymouth Fellowship made up of people aged 50+. We get together on the second Saturday (usually) of each month for some type of activity. Everyone is welcome – couples, singles, men, women – the only requirements are that you like to get better acquainted with people and that you enjoy having a good time. Sometimes we have educational programs and sometimes we just plan something that sounds like fun. We always have good food! Some of us come to almost all activities, and some to just a few. If you're 50+, we would love to have you join us.

- Join us April 10 at 8:00 p.m. for a night of Open Stage Theatre-Lincoln Center, *Communicating Doors* by Alan Ayckbourn. An intricate comic thriller, *Communicating Doors* is a frantic carnival of time travel suspense and humor. Tickets are \$14 pp. Please make checks out to Wil Stutheit. Deadline for sign up is March 31.

*Women's Friendship Group*

**The DaVinci Code and its Revealing of Mary Magdalene:  
Embracing the Feminine Aspect of God**

On Monday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m., we will have the opportunity to visit with Mary Magdalena, a spiritual counselor, writer, and former art teacher who lives in Lyons. Mary has been touched deeply by her encounters with the Divine Feminine, having traveled four times to southern France in pursuit of a deeper knowing of Mary Magdalene.

She writes, "Mary Magdalene has been coming into our awareness more fully with the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Divine Feminine is returning to our conscious awareness through books, meditations, movies and mystical experiences. Why now? What effect is this having on our daily lives, our institutions and our world perspective? Most importantly, how is it affecting you? Through our discussion and meditation you will have the opportunity to reawaken more fully the divine feminine within you."

*Mary Magdalena has a bachelor's degree in Art Education. While teaching elementary and high school art, she found that her main focus with students was to assist them in recognizing and drawing out that which was already within them. After further education at Boulder Graduate School in transpersonal psychology and years of studying with a spiritual teacher, Mary has developed Inner Focusing, an easy, relaxing and direct process for transformational work that she uses with her clients. She is a mother to three grown children, an artist, writer, gardener and finds great pleasure being in nature.*

This event will take place in the fellowship hall at church. For more information, contact Jane Ellen Combelic at 407-0153.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**May Placard Articles are due in the church office by  
Monday, April 19th. Please mark your calendars!  
E-mail address: [Plymouth@plymouthucc.org](mailto:Plymouth@plymouthucc.org).**

**Plymouth Prayer Tree**

The Plymouth Prayer Tree has 22 active members. The congregation's "Joys and Concerns", expressed during the Sunday morning prayer time, are forwarded to these members each week. If you have additional prayer requests, please contact Betty Clark at 229-9944 or e-mail her at [bettyclarkfc@juno.com](mailto:bettyclarkfc@juno.com).

**IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED:** Your church staff has two requests.

- 1) Please notify the church at 482-9212, or Pastor Dick at 227-5123. If it is not during church hours, call Pastor Dick's number.
- 2) When you go to the hospital, please make sure to register either as **Congregational or United Church of Christ**. That way you will get into the hospital clergy book and your pastors can find you. Unless you have notified us of your hospitalization or you are in the clergy book, we have no way of finding you. We want to be faithful in providing pastoral care. Also, if you are going to the hospital for surgery, let us know ahead of time to schedule a pre-surgical pastoral visit. Thank you!

### **Such A Deal!!**

Tired of lifting those heavy rectangular tables, but would really like one in your basement for crafts, dirty jobs, etc.? Then the trustees have a deal for you! Donate \$70(rectangle) or \$100 (round) to buy a new table for the Church and you can take home 1(with \$70 donation) or two (with \$100) of the old rectangular tables to KEEP. We'll even provide transportation of the old table to it's new home! Choice of old table will be on "first to donate" basis. Don't want an old table? No problem. You can still donate \$\$ for a new one. We won't turn anyone down!!! Make your check out to Plymouth church and earmark it "tables". Any questions, call Gail Knoblock @ 484-8418 or e-mail: knoblock@frii.com. I will let you know when the old tables will be ready to take as we will have to wait until the new ones are purchased.

## PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

*Please keep the following members and friends of Plymouth in your prayers.*

### *Recently in the Hospital:*

- *Bea Mohr*
- *Bob Baun*
- *Jim Taylor*
- *Angelique Hunt*
- *Emily Bundy*
- *John Rael*
- *Virgil Richardson*
- *Ray McCulloch and Ruth Smith - both in Centre Rehab.*
- *Michael Leite, recovering from lung transplant*

### *Our Sympathy is with:*

- *The family of Marie Helburg. Dick officiated at a memorial service on March 8.*
- *Kay and Bill Lindgren who daughter, Lisa Hawkes' husband died very suddenly in London where they live. Kay flew to London to be with Lisa.*
- *Cheryl and Don Schlagel and family on the death of Cheryl's father, Al Jungmeyer.*
- *Loretta Schneider whose mother died recently.*
- *JoAnne Jensen whose stepfather passed away in February.*

### *Congratulations to:*

- *Amy Norskog and Samantha Crandall were recognized by the Eyeopeners Kiwanis Club for their roles as youth leaders in our faith community.*
- *Tyler Yadon became an Eagle Scout on March 28<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Sarah Blessing will be attending a youth mission trip to Venezuela this summer with our Global Partners, the Union Evangelical Pentecostal Venezuelan church.*

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
 GATHERED IN 1903

WWW.PLYMOUTHUCC.ORG  
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<b>The Rev. Hal Chorpenning</b>	<i>Senior Minister</i>	<a href="mailto:hal@plymouthucc.org">hal@plymouthucc.org</a>
<b>The Rev. Dick Einerson</b>	<i>Interim Assoc. Minister</i>	<a href="mailto:dick@plymouthucc.org">dick@plymouthucc.org</a>
<b>Alice Clark</b>	<i>Parish Assistant</i>	<a href="mailto:aclark@plymouthucc.org">aclark@plymouthucc.org</a>
<b>Donna Greene</b>	<i>Youth Education Director</i>	<a href="mailto:donna@plymouthucc.org">donna@plymouthucc.org</a>
<b>Donna Solverud</b>	<i>Choir Director</i>	<a href="mailto:tdsolverud@aol.com">tdsolverud@aol.com</a>
<b>Carrie Hansen &amp; Jan Welch</b>	<i>Organists</i>	
<b>Karin Marsh</b>	<i>Church Secretary</i>	<a href="mailto:plymouth@plymouthucc.org">plymouth@plymouthucc.org</a>
<b>Alda Frucci, Tom Marsh, David Rushneck</b> <i>Custodians</i>		

## Plymouth Website

<http://www.plymouthucc.org>

Plymouth's updated website is ready for viewing. It's loaded with Plymouth info and even a calendar of events. The site is a work in progress and we appreciate your feedback. Please contact Brian or Andrea Kelly with comments, suggestions, new ideas, etc.

[webmaster@plymouthucc.org](mailto:webmaster@plymouthucc.org) 282-7511.

*Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ*  
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