

# *The* Plymouth *Placard*



AUGUST 2003

## **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN AUGUST**

**ALL SERVICES ARE AT 9:30 A.M.  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

**August 3** (Congregational Meeting 10:30)

Ephesians 4:1-16

*Encouraged and Equipped*

*(Taizé Service on hiatus in July & August)*

**August 10** (Congregational Meeting 10:30)

Ephesians 4:25-5: 2

*Love Rules*

**August 17 - Outdoor Service**

Ephesians 5:15-20

*Living Worship, Living Wisdom*

**August 24**

Ephesians 6:10-20

*Get Ready, Get Strong, Go*

**August 31**

James 1:17-27

*The Active Word*

### **Summer Schedule:**

We will have a single Sunday service at **9:30 a.m.** through August 31  
Beginning September 7, services will be held at **8:15\*** and **10:45 a.m.**

*\* please note time change!*

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

### ***New Church Directory!***

***Photographers from Lifetouch Church Directories will be at Plymouth October 7-11 to take YOUR picture! There is no cost and you will get a FREE 8X10 of your family as well as a copy of our new pictorial directory.***

***We want all of our members in the new directory! If you know you will be out of town October 7-11, or you are a family with a college student who will be gone then, please call JoAnne Bennett at 482-1574 right away. She can arrange for your picture to be taken in AUGUST, but please call SOON!***

***We are also looking for a few good co-ordinators to help manage this easy and fun project. Call JoAnne to volunteer.***

**Some history of Plymouth Church will be rediscovered on August 31st as the Centennial Committee will open the cornerstone from the original church. The festivities will begin immediately following the 9:30 worship service and will be concluded with a panoramic photograph of the congregation in front of the church. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on this historical and exciting occasion.**

From Hal's Desk:

## *Opportunities for Ministry Abound!*

It's hard to believe that I've been your senior minister for a full year, and it's been a real privilege! It hasn't always been easy (the first year of a new ministry never is!), but it's been amazing every step of the way.

One of the real privileges of ministry is being able to share important life moments with people: welcoming a child through the sacrament of baptism, sharing the difficult moments families face during serious illness, helping people find a community of faith that enhances their relationship with God, and saying goodbye to loved ones who have died. Ordained ministers get a unique perspective on life, because we are invited into so many intimate moments with the congregations we serve.

Of course, this type of ministry is not limited just to ordained folks: many of you share aspects of the lives of your fellow members already – which is a vital ministry of the church! Under the leadership of Dick Einerson and the Board of Deacons, a new Caring Ministry will emerge this year. It will augment the fantastic work of the Visiting Angel Program to train and pair up lay ministers with persons in the congregation who need a companion to walk with, along a rough patch of their journey. (It could be anything from a divorce to the loss of a loved one to problems with parenting.) This will certainly not replace one-on-one pastoral care from ordained clergy, but it will provide ongoing care for our members. The Caring Ministry program is just one of the ways we'll be exploring to help you, our members, find ways to unwrap your gifts for ministry.

Your Strategic Planning Team is now focusing on three areas where we may need to grow:

***Congregational Life*** – finding new ways for our members to get in touch with their passion for different ministries, fellowship groups, small groups.

***Worship*** – examining both the style of our worship and also the times we worship to ensure that we're including as many people as possible.

***Staffing*** – exploring how we can staff our church to get beyond the plateau in our membership, which historically gets stuck at about 270 people attending worship on a Sunday and meet Plymouth's needs in the coming years.

Overlaying each of these areas, we'll be keeping in mind the ways that our current facilities meet (or fail to meet) the requirements of the congregation. We need your input and involvement in the process, and we heard from many of you during two evening ses-

sions in the spring. We may have more sessions in the fall, but you are always welcome (and encouraged!) to send your suggestions, ideas, and dreams my way.

We have a hundred-year legacy to build upon, and it's up to us to help Plymouth create a congregation not just for ourselves, but for the future, as we enter our second century.

Peace!



*P.S. I'll be on vacation in New England until August 12, and am looking forward to study leave (with Marianne and Marcus Borg) from August 24-September 5.*

## CALLING AND CARING - THINK ABOUT IT!

One of the major tasks given to me as Interim Associate Pastor is to facilitate a calling/caring ministry under the Deacons. There have been several brain-storming sessions with stakeholders. And I am happy to say that we have a plan to present to the next Board of Deacons. This could be a very exciting time for Plymouth!!

To be successful in this venture, however, will take commitment from many people. I would like to present a challenge for you to consider how you might fit in and contribute to our caring and outreach ministry. We will not be asking people for an involvement that stresses their family and personal lives out of shape. But we will have a lot of niches to fill. Please be prayerful about this venture and the possibility that you might have a place in it.

As I said, it will be exciting. We are hoping to present a core training period of about six weeks this autumn - perhaps beginning early October. We will keep you posted on developments. Thanks for your reading this and your attention.

- Dick Einerson

## ORGAN DIFFICULTIES

Although we, Carrie Hansen and Jan Welch, are continuing to use the organ, the time is fast approaching when all instrumental music for church services will most likely need to be played on the piano, due to problems we are having with the organ. For many years now our organ has had intermittent technical difficulties that were manageable, but now new problems are arising which are more complicated to manage and hide.

There are three major problems that we are faced with each week. The first one is that many stops, or sounds, cut in and out intermittently, making it sound like Morse Code. If a note is held down, it will sound, then become silent, and then sound again. The second and newest problem is that there is a particular note that sticks periodically even after it has been played, meaning that when it is no longer being held down, it still makes a sound. This creates very interesting music! The third and most noticeable problem is that the stops only work on a few keys. For example, if a flute stop is pressed and a scale is played, only half of the notes will make a sound- the rest are silent. Thus playing softly on the organ is now problematic because every note has a different combination of sounds, which can be distracting on preludes and offertories. This is why the majority of service music is now being played on piano. When playing hymns and postludes, all of the stops need to be pressed just to get enough volume out of the organ, which sometimes masks this issue. These three problems have appeared in recent months, but have been known to be a problem to other organists in past years.

There are also other problems that have been around for many years. Some of the lights that light up to show if a stop is pressed do not work. It is very nerve racking because we don't know how the organ will sound until we start playing! The crescendo pedal, which helps us get louder and softer does not work. There is also a crackling sound that seems to come and go from the speakers. Another problem is that static electricity sometimes turns the organ off at inopportune moments, like Christmas Eve (which happened last year!), weddings, and beginnings of hymns. We never know when this will happen, and when it does, it takes several minutes to reboot the organ. Recently when Jan turned the organ on and selected a pre-set registration, the organ played a loud impressive chord by itself! This would be especially disruptive during a funeral or wedding.

We have not had much luck in getting the organ fixed. The technology of the circuit boards in the organ is obsolete, and the Alhborn company who made the organ is no longer repairing its organs or providing customer service. We have had two independent organ repairmen come to look at the organ, one from Denver and one from Nebraska, and both said that they could not fix it. Joe McConathy, who was the organist here when this organ was bought, has looked at it and is seeing about replacing some of the chips inside, but is not sure if it will fix the many problems. Jan and Carrie are still able to use the organ sparingly, but if you hear some odd sounds coming from the organ on Sunday mornings, now you know why! The music committee is currently discussing what our next step should be.

## Youth Education Committee Summer Event . . August 3

### Family Day at Watson Lake

A family day camp at Watson Lake is planned for August 3 after church service. We'll meet at the picnic shelters on the northeast side of the lake at 11:30 a.m. A sign-up sheet and maps are posted at the church. We'll share a potluck lunch – bring something to grill and a dish to share. Fire, table service, and some drinks provided.

Activities planned are: getting wet, eating, playing in the water, fishing, getting wet to cool off, a tour of the fish hatchery, and . . getting more wet.

So, you could bring more clothes, fishing gear, rafts, and life jackets, sunscreen and repellent and . . . even more dry clothes. You can stay as long as you want or until all your clothes are wet. Clothes are not optional!

Last year Donna cooked Cajun Boil with – guess what kind of lake food? Maybe she'll do that again! Sign-up sheet and maps are in the Narthex. Call Claudia at 226-0745, or Marietta at 221-5474 for more information.

### Attention All Singers!!

**The Chancel Choir will be starting soon . . . and we want you to be a part of it!**

**We only have one criteria . . . that you enjoy singing!**

**If you do, please come try us out! We will be having our annual retreat on**

**Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**We practice every Wednesday night from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. starting August 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**We'd love to see you there!!! If you would like more information,  
please contact Donna Solverud at 221-2970.**

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Donations of fabric (cotton scraps at least 1/8 yard in size) accepted for making holiday gift bags for sale at our Alternative Giving Fair in November. Proceeds go to *Doctors Without Borders*. Call Susan Hyne at 472-8765 or email [susanhyne@riverrock.org](mailto:susanhyne@riverrock.org) if you have fabric to donate and/or would like to take part in a sewing bee to make the bags.

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## **RECYCLE\*RECYCLE\*RECYCLE**

The Trustees and Service Fellowship have been working to reduce waste.

- The UGLY trashdumpster is no longer in the parking lot.
- We have a trash bin behind the kitchen
- We have 2 recycling bins behind the kitchen:
  - 1) Office paper
  - 2) Glass, plastic, aluminum, & tin cans
- Located under the kitchen counter
  - 1) paperboard
  - 2) cardboard
- A compost is west of the kitchen/covered bucket in kitchen for collecting kitchen waste.

Please refer to containers/bins for directions/preparation and ONLY DEPOSIT ACCEPTABLE ITEMS. Help our church to drastically reduce waste going to the landfill. Please call Gail Knoblock with any questions.

### **Centennial Celebration**

Our fundraiser, the sales of the porcelain medallions and marble plaques, continues throughout this centennial year for Plymouth. They will be on sale the first Sunday of every month after each worship service. They can also be purchased at other times by contacting Carol Halac at 223-9288. The proceeds received from the sales will be used to defray the cost of the banquet. So look for these great items, featuring a drawing of the church done by Phil Hoefer to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Plymouth Church, on our next sale date of August 3rd.

### **Homecoming Parade/Centennial Celebration**

The Evangelism Committee is looking for someone with access to a flatbed trailer that could be used in the community homecoming parade on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We want to celebrate our Centennial in many ways! Please contact Karen Nesler at 223-8491!

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity: Construction on a new home—one built entirely by women—has begun. If you would like to be involved in Women Build, contact Jann Fox, 267-9247, or [J-JFox@msn.com](mailto:J-JFox@msn.com). To sign up as a Habitat volunteer, call 530-0068, or sign up online at <http://www.habitatstore.org/voluntr.htm>.

## **Plymouth Does It Again!!**

It took the SmartTrips office several weeks, but it is now official: Plymouth Church once again had the highest participation rate on Bike to Worship Sunday, June 29. As you may recall (especially if you rode that day!), it was a cool, rainy morning, so our achievement is even more noteworthy. According to Amy Martin, SmartTrips Bike to Worship organizer, over 15 churches participated, and Plymouth “far surpassed” all competition. We had a total of 33 participants who rode a total of 113 miles. Wayne Carpenter had the longest ride (8 miles), and there were several 6- and 7-mile riders. John and Linda Mahan had the shortest ride--.25 miles!

Ms. Martin presented the church with a beautiful framed Colorado Bike Month poster and a gift certificate to the Foothills Mall for \$50. The poster will be on display in the narthex for the next few weeks. The Social Concerns Committee will be discussing how best to use the \$50 gift certificate.

Keep your bike well-oiled—we’re going for the three-peat next year!

Jack McGrew, Bike to Worship chairperson

## **Men's Fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship is sponsoring the annual family bike-hike to Lake Agnes on Saturday, August 9th, 2003. This is an easy 5-mile ride along the Michigan Ditch at the top of Cameron Pass, followed by a half-mile hike to the lake. The views are spectacular and the route is suitable for children of all ages! We will car-pool from the Church at 8:00am. Bring your bike, helmet, a sack lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, camera, rain gear, bug spray, and \$2.00 for the State Forest fee. We should return by 5:00pm.

Call Wayne Shepperd 223-8229 for more information.

Articles for our monthly newsletter, The Placard, are due in the church office the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. It is published and mailed out the last Wednesday of the month. Please have your materials in the office by the deadline or they may not be published until the following month. Information on events for the month of September is due in the church office by **Monday August 18th**. Thank you!

## **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 almost 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.

### **XYZ is Going to the Mountains in August!**

Plan to retreat to the Stockovers' cabins in Rocky Mountain National Park from Friday, August 15 at 5:00 p.m. through brunch on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a special time of fellowship and renewal. We talk, walk, sing, swing, and eat. Please come when you can, and stay as long as you can. There are two sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. One is for meals; the other is for beds. The only cost is for food and the gas to get there. The beauty of this wonderful place—priceless. Call Margaret Stockover at 482-3727 if you have questions.

### **The Middle-Third Herd**

We took the name to the polls and the new young adult fellowship group will now be called **The Middle-Third Herd!** We've had some fun events this summer already and there's more to come. Please join us!

- **Saturday, August 16** we'll meet at Walrus at 4:00pm for ice cream then go Putt-Putt golfing at Fort Fun. Please let me know if you'd like to carpool. If we have a group of 10 or more, we'll get a group rate for Putt-Putt. For more info and to RSVP, please call Andrea Kelly at 282-7511. [4kellyfam@comcast.net](mailto:4kellyfam@comcast.net).
- **Saturday, September 13** will be our next planning breakfast for Fall/Winter events until the end of the year. Hal and Jean will host a potluck breakfast at their home at 9:30am. Bring a list of ideas and any event calendars you can get your hands on. Childcare will be provided this time and we'll all pitch in \$ for the sitter. Please let us know if you require childcare.
- We're working on some details for a **guided evening hike** in September at Lory State park, Date TBA. Check the bulletin for additional information.

- If you would like to be added to this group's e-mail list please contact Andrea Kelly 282-7511 ([4kellyfam@comcast.net](mailto:4kellyfam@comcast.net)). You'll get reminders about upcoming events and sometimes we'll do an **impromptu happy hour**. You wouldn't want to miss that!

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**“Gifts of the Heart” school kits** are what we will be putting together for Church World Service in September. The **Trailblazer Sunday school is teaming up with the Social Concerns committee** to work on projects that will benefit children in Iraq. Next time you are out shopping, or when you purchase back-to-school supplies, please try to remember to pick up a few extra supplies for the kits we will be assembling at Plymouth. The supplies needed are blunt scissors, rulers (in. and cm.), pencil sharpeners, pencil, erasers, 24 crayon boxes, colored construction paper packs, 8.5 x 11 notebooks. We will have a donation box at church so we can begin collecting this summer. Contact Donna Greene or Jo Anne Jensen for further information.

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## **Announcement of Proposed Constitutional Changes**

The Council has approved two additional changes to our Constitution that we would like to take to the congregation. These were presented briefly at the congregational meeting on June 15.

The first is a proposal to strike the requirement that the minutes of the council be distributed to members in printed form. This effectively prevents the council from saving money on postage and using email to those members who have access to email. (This year all council members have access.)

The second is a proposal to move Service Fellowship from a council committee and place their responsibilities, budget and team under the Deacons. Over the recent past, the Deacons have extended their charter to be more inclusive of all aspects of worship and congregational care. Service Fellowship has evolved to responsibility for coffee hour and receptions for funerals and weddings. Gail Knoblock and Claudia Karp conceived of this proposal and the Deacons have readily agreed. Questions can be directed to any Deacon, Dennis Sumner, Gail Knoblock or Claudia Karp.

The congregational meetings to review these changes will be held on August 3 and August 10 after the service.

Marge Norskog  
Council Moderator

## **Opportunities to “pass along your faith” to children and youth at Plymouth**

**September K-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school** - We will be learning how the Bible came to be and some facts about the books within it. We will have 3 workshops – an archaeological dig site, a scriptorium and a Bible games workshop. **We still need** help to set up a sectioned dig-site on the playground with stakes and string and we need donations of dig tools – old toothbrushes, paintbrushes, screen, small picks/chisels, etc., as well as pieces of broken pottery, china, and other artifacts that can be buried. **We still need** calligraphy pens and ink wells and samples of illuminated manuscripts; samples of clay tablets, papyrus, old scrolls (or photos of these) and different versions of the Bible for a museum display.

**Junior High Youth** – Some of you are being asked by God to share your gifts with this wonderful group of young people. Are you the new person to help with Sunday school or youth group, or maybe both?

**Children’s Library** – need help to organize a book donation program next year to create a Children’s Library for use by the Sunday school teachers and church members.

To volunteer contact Donna Greene at 482-9212 or email me at [donna@plymouthucc.org](mailto:donna@plymouthucc.org).

**Tapes of Hal’s July 14 interview on KCOL radio regarding same-sex marriage may be signed out in Alice’s office.**

### **Do You Have An Extra Half-Hour Once A Month?**

One of the more enjoyable tasks a loving congregation does is that of visiting people. In that it doesn’t involve particular expertise and is pleasurable, it is scarcely a task at all. Yet it is an important aspect of our life together here at Plymouth. Do you have an extra half-hour per month that you could give to visiting someone who is not as able to get out and around as s/he once did? Sometimes even just a phone call now and then can make a very positive difference in another’s life. If you might enjoy connecting with someone here at Plymouth who would appreciate it, please call Dick Einerson at 227-5123 or Barb Lehner at 225-1950.

## **Attention Navajo Missioners and "Wanna-Be's"**

**Deadline for Applications – August 15**  
**(See details on trip in July Placard or on Mission Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall)**

**Date: September 16-21, 2003**

**Cost: About \$90 for Board. Lodging and Transportation are on your own**

**Lodging: You may sleep at the Hogback Chapter House on your own pad (there are showers); camp on the grounds, or stay in a Farmington motel.**

**(We have stayed at the Super 8 on Cortez**

**Phone: 505-564-8100**

**Rates: 1 King – 1 adult - \$52.88**

**2 adults - \$56.88**

**2 Queen beds - \$60.88**

**10% Senior discount**

**\*Please send your check for \$90 payable to Plymouth Church to 916 W. Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, CO 80526, annotated "Navajo"**

**Please consider; you won't be disappointed.**

### **Our Conference Connection – LIVE!**

**On September 15 Plymouth will host a Regional reception for our Global partnership with people from the Venezuelan Pentacostal Church. This is a rare "up close and personal" experience. We will need host homes for overnite.**

**Watch for your opportunity to be an international friend for one night on behalf of the UCC Church—at—large.**

## PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

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

### *Recently in the Hospital:*

- Al [Pete Bullard's friend]
- Pat Sample
- Howard Pollach, Arline Heaton's father

### *Our Sympathy is with:*

- Mary Sue Rowan, on the death of her father
- Golda Jaspers, and her family, on the death of John Jaspers
- Lynn Booren and his family, on the death of his wife, Virginia.
- Skip Tubbesing and his family, on the death of his brother, Carl.

### *Congratulations to:*

- Mari Strombom Johnson and Brett Johnson on the birth of their son Maxwell Patrick, born June 29, 2003!

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

WWW.PLYMOUTHUCC.ORG  
970.482-9212

<b>The Rev.</b>	<i>Senior Minister</i>	<a href="mailto:hal@plymouthucc.org"><i>hal@plymouthucc.org</i></a>
<b>The Rev. Dick Einerson</b>	<i>Interim Assoc. Minister</i>	<a href="mailto:dick@plymouthucc.org"><i>dick@plymouthucc.org</i></a>
<b>Alice Clark</b>	<i>Parish Assistant</i>	<a href="mailto:aclark@plymouthucc.org"><i>aclark@plymouthucc.org</i></a>
<b>Donna Greene</b>	<i>Youth Education Director</i>	<a href="mailto:donna@plymouthucc.org"><i>donna@plymouthucc.org</i></a>
<b>Donna Solverud</b>	<i>Choir Director</i>	<a href="mailto:tdsolverud@aol.com"><i>tdsolverud@aol.com</i></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"><i>plymouth@plymouthucc.org</i></a>
<b>Alda Frucci &amp; Tom Marsh</b>	<i>Custodians</i>	

## Plymouth Website

[\*\*http://www.plymouthucc.org\*\*](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.

## **The Bible, 101: An Adult Class to Begin This Fall**

**Do you sometimes wish you had just a very basic grasp of the Bible?**

When you hear Hal preach on a text, do you sometimes wish you could mentally tuck that text chronologically into the spot where it fits in the Bible as a whole? Do you wish you could remember to whom Joseph of the coat of many colors is related? And why the story about him is important? We could read the Bible straight through from cover to cover. But even if we had the discipline to do so, most of us would want a little help in understanding how the various parts fit together. The study, *Kerygma: The Bible in Depth* offers just such help. One description of it reads: "A comprehensive exploration of the Bible whole and its meanings for life today. Each theme traces related stories and events through both Testaments. An exciting course of study for adults ready to reflect deeply on the Scriptures, faith and life."

The Adult Ed. Committee is planning to offer that study this fall. It will meet in two-hour sessions on a weekday evening for 34 sessions. The class will be facilitated by a team of 2-4 people-some clerics and some lay. The work-study guide will cost around \$30. All who take part will be expected to put in preparation time in order to fully contribute to and participate in the weekly sessions.

If you participated in the *Kerygma Bible study Discovering the Bible* led by Cathy Walters, we'd like to clarify that this new study is a different one. We hope that some of you from the previous studies will join this one as well.

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The *Kerygma* series was developed by an ecumenical group, including UCC members, and seems likely to satisfy the wide range of theological perspectives represented in our church. The Adult Ed. Committee desires your input.

1. Would you like to participate in such a 34-week Bible study?     Yes     No
2. Which week night would best fit your schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

Please call Alice Clark with the above information or leave your completed form in the box by the door in her office. Thank you!

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**GREAT NEWS!****PLYMOUTH WILL BE HOSTING THE 2004 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE (UCC)**

Our church council voted unanimously to accept the honor of hosting the next Annual Meeting next June. We'll need **lots** of volunteer help as we provide a welcome for delegates and clergy from the 81 churches of the conference. It's a great way to welcome our fellow UCC members from Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.