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The Plymouth Placard

Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ
916 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526

The Plymouth Placard



July 2004

WORSHIP FOR JULY

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

SERMON SERIES:

THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH
(CONTINUED FROM JUNE 27 ON KAINONIA:COMMUNITY)

JULY 4

PISTIS: FAITH AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
MATTHEW 6.5-14 & 14.22-33

JULY 11

AGAPE: SELF-SACRIFICIAL LOVE
JOHN 15.12-17 & ROMANS 12.9-21

JULY 18

BASILEIA: GOD'S KINGDOM - OUTREACH, JUSTICE, MISSION
LUKE 9.1-6 & 17.20-21

JULY 25

TEACH US TO PRAY
LUKE 11.1-13



PLEASE NOTE: OUR SINGLE 9:30 A.M. SERVICE WILL BEGIN SUNDAY, JULY 4.

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
916 West Prospect Road • Fort Collins, CO 80526 • 970.482.9212
www.plymouthucc.org • plymouth@plymouthucc.org

"In-Reach" Mission at Plymouth

It seems like just another sunny morning in Fort Collins, as I drive toward Plymouth just before 9:00 a.m. But as I approach the church from the west on Prospect Road, I am surprised to notice a full parking lot. I drive toward the back to park by my office, and somebody has taken "my" parking space, and I'm not used to competition! And then I realize that the group who is meeting here is the **High Tech Network**, a group of women and men who have been laid off at HP, Agilent, and other local technology companies. The bad news is that this is a **large** bunch of talented folks; the good news is that they have formed a vital group that is helping people to do everything from start their own businesses to keeping abreast of industry developments to sharing information about job possibilities. And through it all, their collegiality gives them hope.

You are providing them with a place to meet. **You** are making a difference in the lives of people who have been declared "extraneous" by our economy. **You** are helping to give people hope and a secure future.

* * *

Saturday mornings are usually pretty quiet at Plymouth, but once a month you'll see a lot of teenagers, parents, local merchants, and parole officers here. For almost two years **RESTORE**, the teen restorative justice program of the District Attorney's Office

and Probation Department, has met here at Plymouth.

Restorative justice (as opposed to retributive justice) seeks to bring together the victim and the offender in a situation, to allow the victim to tell his or her story, to provide an occasion for the offender to apologize and then make some form of restitution. Bernadette Felix, the director of **RESTORE**, said that their program for teen shoplifters was part of a recent study that showed a recidivism rate of only three percent. The message is clear: restorative justice works! It helps change the lives and patterns of young people in our community.

* * *

Plymouth can't do everything for our local community, but we certainly help out through our myriad of partnerships in Ft. Collins. By providing community groups a home, we do "in-reach" that helps our community thrive. There are costs associated with providing space to community groups, and last year building-use fees and donations provided \$1,840.

Using our building is one way we can leverage our assets for the benefit of God's people, and for us to act out our mission of "Joining others within broader communities to promote the integrity of creation and a more just, inclusive and peaceful world..

Peace,



Choir BBQ August 1

Bruce and Carrie are hosting a choir BBQ this summer on Sunday, August 1st at 5:00. Please bring something to grill and a side dish. We will provide everything else. We will also have volleyball and croquet set up. All of your family is welcome. Please RSVP at carrieandbruce2001@yahoo.com or at 377-0674. Directions: from the corner of Drake and Shields, go south on Shields. Turn left, or east on Rocky Mountain Way. Turn right on Rocky Mountain Court. Our house, 2906, is the second on the left. Hope to see all of you there!

Attention!
Plymouth will not
be having a yard
sale this year!

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
An open & affirming congregation
Gathered in 1903
www.plymouthucc.org • plymouth@plymouthucc.org • 970.482.9212

The Rev. Hal Chorprenning	Senior Minister	hal@plymouthucc.org
The Rev. Dr. Dick Einerson	Interim Associate Minister	dick@plymouthucc.org
Donna Greene	Youth Education Director	donna@plymouthucc.org
Alice Clark	Adult Education Director/ Parish Assistant	aclark@plymouthucc.org
Karin Marsh	Church Secretary	plymouth@plymouthucc.org
Donna Solverud	Choir Director	tdsolverud@aol.com
Jan Welch, Carrie Hansen	Organists	
Alda Frucci, Porter Industries	Custodians	

On a San Francisco High!



So many of you asked me on Sunday how our visit to San Francisco to hear our daughter Sonia sing, and there was not time to respond to most of you, so I thought I would

give you a report. In a word, it was fabulous! We haven't heard Sonia perform since we were in San Francisco in April 2003. Since that time she has developed from a singer to a real entertainer. She was fabulous.

Sonia had an engagement in the "Plush Room" in the York Hotel which is the only listening room in San Francisco. When we looked around we found a framed one page piece from USA TODAY written by a music critic on his "ten favorite listening rooms in the US. The Plush Room was his choice for San Francisco. Sonia was a part of a presentation called "New Faces" of San Francisco, and she was one among three who performed nightly. She performed from Tuesday through Sunday. She got by far the most applause each time we heard her (Thursday through Sunday). She sang "I'll Remember Parish," and "Man From Manhattan" from her first CD, "Chestnut Street" and "In Marin" on her second CD, "To Better Days" which will be on her third CD, and a few

others. If any of you are interested in her activities you can keep up with her on her website: www.sonyholland.com. Thanks for reading the musings of a proud father! In addition we celebrated our 49th wedding anniversary on June 4 with lunch at a water-side restaurant in Sausalito, the afternoon at Muir Woods among the giant redwoods – more awesome each time we see them, and dinner at the Waterfront Restaurant near the Ferry Building. I went to Pacific School of Religion (1957-61) in Berkeley so every time we go back to the Bay area it is special. We took Sonia and Jerry up to PSR for the first time and showed them where older sister Stephanie spent her first six months of life. Can you tell we had a good time? Thanks for the vacation!!

Reminder!

The deadline for the August Placard is **Monday, July 19.**

Please e-mail your articles to:

Karin Marsh

(plymouth@plymouthucc.org)

and

Lauren Mingus

(lpmingus@earthlink.net).

Annual Bike Hike to Lake Agnes

Saturday, July 10, will be the annual "bike hike" to Lake Agnes. Ride your bike along the beautiful Michigan Ditch trail starting at Cameron Pass west of Fort Collins. Wayne Shepperd will be your guide and naturalist. We will meet at the church at 8 AM, arrange vehicle pooling, and then head up the Poudre to Cameron Pass. Everyone needs to bring a safety helmet, sack lunch, clothing for weather changes, and \$3 per person to cover State Park entrance fees. A sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Michigan Ditch road is easy riding. Trail to Lake Agnes is about a half mile and moderately steep. Any questions, contact Wayne Shepperd, 223-8229.

High School Camping Trip Scheduled

All High School students grades 9-12 are invited to join new youth group leaders Elizabeth and Peter Linder on their first outing of the summer. Friday, July 9th we will head to Cresset Community Farm (outside of Loveland) to work the land, followed by a campout on the Big Thompson River. Saturday we will deliver donated produce from the farm to a homeless shelter. This should be educational, enjoyable, and a good bonding experience for the group. If this sounds like something you would be interested in please contact Peter and Elizabeth Linder at 493-3415 for detailed information.

A sampling of the community groups that call Plymouth home:

Aspen Club (PVHS Senior Services)
Brownies
Foothills Gateway
(developmentally disabled adults)
Foundation on Aging
Friendship Force
Girl Scouts
Head Start
High Tech Network
(unemployed workers' networking)
Lambda Community Center

(GLBT community)
Neighbor-to-Neighbor
(first-time homebuyer class)
PFLAG
(Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
RESTORE
(restorative justice program of district attorney's and probation offices)
United Nations Association
Women for Peace & Justice

FELLOWSHIP

The Middle-Third Herd Summer Schedule

Thurs, July 15th

Thursday Night Market Live Music Concert Series - The Downtown Business Association presents free concerts from 6-8pm. The market area with farmers' produce, crafters and street performers opens at 5pm. The live music will be **Rodney James & the Blue Flames!** This is a "family friendly" event. Any ideas on where to meet? Let me know.

Thurs, July 22

CSU Summer Cafe Theatre presents **Little Shop of Horrors** at 8pm. Please reserve your tickets in advance with Carrie Hansen at carrieandbruce2001@yahoo.com or 377-0674 by June 27th. Tickets are \$15. This is an "adult only" event, please arrange your own child care for the evening. For more information on the show go to www.colostate.edu/Depts/Music/theatre/theatre.html

Fri, August 6

Herd Happy Hour at SportsCasters Bar and Grill (165 E. Boardwalk Drive) We'll meet at 5pm for discounted drinks and appetizers. Please RSVP to Andrea Kelly at 4kellyfam@comcast.net or 282-7511 so we can reserve a big enough table.

Sun, August 15

Pool Party and Potluck

Time and place TBA

Get A Grip

Get-A-Grip will have a potluck and "Rap with the Rev" on Saturday, July 10, 6:00 p.m. at Dave Tenney and JoAnne Bennett's home. All are welcome. This is your chance to corner Rev. Hal and ask your burning theological questions! RSVP by Thursday, July 8 to benntenn@att.net or 482-1574.



Fri, September 3

Herd Happy Hour and Gallery

Walk. We'll meet at the Crown Pub (134 S. College) for drinks and appetizers/dinner at 5pm then we'll take the Gallery Walk in Old Town to see some local art. Please RSVP to Andrea Kelly at 4kellyfam@comcast.net or 282-7511

Sat., September 18

Adult Evening Hike to Arthur's Rock.

The 1.7 mile hiking trail winds through forested mountainsides and open meadows to the summit of Arthur's Rock. Along the trail, hikers can experience many different types of plants and wildlife. At the summit, you'll see a breathtaking view of Horsetooth Reservoir and the Front Range. We'll meet at 4pm. We'll stop along the hike for a wine and cheese picnic. Please RSVP to Andrea Kelly at 4kellyfam@comcast.net or 282-7511.

PLYMOUTH PRAYERS

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers.

Recently in the Hospital:

†Lydia Fisher Braxton had a 2nd surgery. He is John and Karen Smith's grandson and is doing well.

†Lanning Johnson, former minister at First Congregational in Loveland, diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Our Sympathy is with:

† The family of Rachael Becker, long time member of Plymouth. Hal officiated at a memorial service on June 8.

Congratulations to:

† The Committee and the people of Plymouth for a successful annual conference.
† Jane Ellen Combelic who was recognized at the annual conference banquet for her work with peace and justice. Jane Ellen also left June 23rd for a 3-month stay in France.

† Emily Bundy on the birth of Simon Bundy Esparza on June 19. Proud grandparents are Don and Sherry Bundy.

† Hal Chorpenning on celebrating the 5th anniversary of his ordination

†Dick Einerson who celebrated his one-year anniversary as Interim Associate Minister.

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.

If you are hospitalized . . .

There is some confusion about the government regulations (HIPAA) regarding confidentiality and privacy issues, and different hospitals seem to be developing different policies regarding release of information to clergy and churches. To be on the safe side, your pastoral staff is asking for your help should you be hospitalized. Here are some suggestions.

1. Please give us a call prior to going to the hospital.. Dick Einerson: 227-5123; Office: 482-9212.

2. Please check with your admitting clerk/nurse to make sure you are listed either as "Congregational" or "United Church of Christ."

Youth Ushers Welcome!

Are there any children who would like to see what it is like to be an usher? If so, the Deacon's would love your help! Just have your parent contact Bob Crandall at 226-4586, or e-mail bbcrandall@earthlink.net. He will schedule you and your parent to help together at a future service. Older kids are also encouraged to contact Bob as well.

Calling/Caring Consultaion Meetings

Beginning Sunday, August 15, 10:45 a.m. (after our 9:30 worship service) we will have the beginning of our monthly consultations for the calling/caring visitors (including former visiting angels). These consultations will consist of two parts:

1. Reporting/sharing of each one's work;
2. A short teaching session relating to visitation.

Visit Plymouth on the web!
www.plymouthucc.org

Plymouth's Search for an Associate Minister

The search continues for our associate minister. The committee has received a number of good profiles and are thoroughly reviewing and ranking the candidates. At this point in time, we are optimistic about our search. Many quality candidates have expressed interest in serving our church community.



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interpretation of scripture;

6. Encourage congregations of the Rocky Mountain Conference to engage in study and dialog regarding religious and civil marriage rights, using resources such as the UCC study packet "God is Still Speaking about Marriage."

It is our hope that all UCC churches will provide leadership on this important issue, helping our society end present legal inequities and discrimination by moving toward acceptance of marriage equality. It is our view that this is the only consistent way to affirm God's impartiality and love for all persons.

Balancing Sharing Concerns and Confidentiality

By Richard Einerson

In 1996 Congress passed the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) which received its final modifications in 2002 and became effective April 14, 2003. The intent of the HIPAA has been to protect the confidentiality rights of patients and to assure that the patient understands his/her rights regarding the release of information when in a health-care institution. The reason for this article is Hal received a Washington Post article from around May 30/31 which told of a musician suffering from bipolar disease which was disclosed in a church newsletter (without his permission) and which led him subsequently to sue his church. His suit was unsuccessful.

The church has always had the important task of developing caring and concern for its members. Because of the increasing sensitivity for the protection of people's confidentiality this has sometimes become a balancing act. In my experience most problems which have occurred have been around mental health issues where family are particularly sensitive. The other issue is HIV, where hospitals instead of making known that diagnosis simply treat all people as infected when it comes to any kind of needle stick and require glove/eye protection.

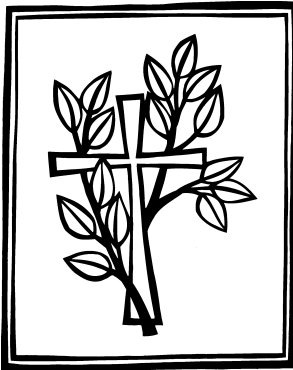
This issue also affects prayer chains/prayer trees. On the one hand the Washington Post's comments say: "Clergy and laypeople who make public prayer requests or post announcements about members' health are not in violation of the law, even if they have not obtained consent to publicize their illness." (by Bill Broadway) On the other hand, the Presbyterian Church (USA) says "...this can be a very tricky issue at times, especially around corporate prayers, prayer chains, etc. For example, if you include someone in prayer, by name, make sure that it is the wish of the patient." The best policy for us as a congregation to have is as follows: always gain the person's or friends' permission when offering his/her name for prayer. I am convinced that we can enrich the outreach of the church and put our caring arms around people when they need our support while also being careful to respect their right to privacy. HIPAA is not a threat to our current practice of eliciting "prayers of the people."

From what I have read HIPAA in no way constricts the religious communities from being able to care for their people who are in the hospital or who have life-threatening illness. There does seem to have been an over-reach in some communities with rigid restrictions put in place in some hospitals. But HIPAA was written primarily for those directly involved in health care. Poudre Valley Hospital has properly taken steps to have clergy/church visitors register when entering the hospital to visit a parishioner.

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OHGS 2004 . . .Thanks for the Generosity!

This is a late acknowledgement for which I apologize, but I felt we needed some appreciation for the congregation's generosity to the One Great Hour of Sharing. As you recall, I challenged the church to a goal of \$6,000. At last count, reached \$5500. That may look like we missed our goal, but the same weekend we began the OGHS we also completely underwrote the remainder of Sarah Blessings trip to Venezuela which totaled \$1100. So combined, we contributed approximately \$6600. And for those who like numbers, the \$5500 was an increase of 37.5% over 2003. I think that merits one tremendous "THANK YOU!" It will mean much to those areas of our world which are hit by disaster, war, and hunger.



(Continued from page 5)

And with disclosure to its patients of its practice to provide a religious census, a hospital can provide to clergy/churches as they have in the past the following information:

- Patient name
- Location in the hospital
- General condition (one word description)
- Religious affiliation.

If a person does not wish to be on his/her denomination's list the person can opt out. There is not the necessity to "opt in," that is, no authorization is needed to be included in a denomination's list. Poudre Valley Hospital appropriately provides the religious communities three of the above items, excluding only the "general condition." A wise pastor who used to visit in the hospital where I was Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services used to approach nursing staff prior to visits and say: "Is there anything I should know before I visit this person?"

Hopefully this article will help us all in being respectful of and sensitive toward people's right to privacy on the one hand, and developing the care and compassion of the wider church on the other.

NAVAJO NEWS!

There is No Mission Trip this year! Rev. John Shaw, our leader, is on sabbatical and wants to organize work in a different location on the reservation. Plan to go next year--2005.

Save the date! Golf Tourney - September 11, 2004. To promote funding for next year's mission trip, the golf tourney in Loveland will occur.

SUCCESS!

At the Rocky Mountain Conference (UCC) annual meeting held at Plymouth June 11-13, a Resolution entitled "Support for Marriage Equality" was passed by an overwhelming vote. Our ONA Committee, church staff and many members of the congregation have expressed delight with its success. The ONA Committee members invite your support and participation in promoting the stance and action called for in the Resolution:

1. Declare our support within our church for marriage rights for same sex couples on an equal basis with those now afforded heterosexual couples;
2. Commit to working for civil marriage rights for same sex couples within the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, and throughout the US;
3. Oppose the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment and all other extant and potential legislation that codifies discrimination in marriage;
4. Call upon the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC, to communicate our support for civil marriage rights for same sex couples to executive and legislative leaders in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah; and communicate our support to federal officials.
5. Encourage clergy to take appropriate action in the light of this resolution and in accordance with their conscientious

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Capital Campaign Exploration Begins!

As described in Plymouth's Strategic Plan, presented to the congregation in January, we have some major capital funding needs as a congregation that need to be addressed. Potential areas for funding include building renovation and possible expansion, organ replacement, and mission/outreach.

Planning for Plymouth's major fund-raising campaign slated to begin next year is in its early stages, as our Capital Campaign Exploratory Committee is currently interviewing prospective contract consultant firms for guidance/direction in this undertaking. The selection process should be completed next month. Stay tuned for continuing developments.

The next step for the committee will be working with the congregation to help determine areas that need funding at Plymouth. Members of the committee are Hal Chorpenning, Tom Dille, Steve Freeland, Harry Halac, Sharon Smith, and Betty Weber.

