

# The Plymouth Placard



june 2003

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## **Worship Opportunities in June** all services are at 8:20 and 10:45 a.m. unless otherwise noted

### **June 1**

*The Rev. Jim Taylor preaching*  
*Alesia Bowlby baptism*

### **Taizé Service**

6:00 p.m., followed by a fellowship meal

### **June 8 – Pentecost Sunday**

#### ***New Member Sunday***

***We welcome the Rev. Richard Einerson!***

Acts 2.1–21

“With One Voice”

### **June 15**

#### ***Father’s Day & Rocky Mtn. Conf. Annual Meeting***

*The Rev. Richard Einerson preaching*

Isaiah 6.1–8

### **June 22**

#### ***46th Anniversary of the UCC!***

1 Samuel 17.32–49

“Sticks and Stones”

*Paige Vogt baptism*

### **June 29**

Mark 5.21–43

“Healing Daughters”

*Olivia Moench baptism*

### **Summer Schedule:**

**Single Service (9:30 a.m.) begins July 6**

## Taizé Info

**Who:** YOU! Everyone is welcome!

**When:** Sunday, June 1 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](http://www.taize.fr)

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

#### ***Bike to Worship Weekend***

*Each year the City of Fort Collins SmartTrips office sponsors Bike Month during the month of June. During this month there are a number of events that encourage the use of bicycles for transportation, as well as fun and recreation. Bike to Worship Weekend is one of these events. June 29 has been designated Bike to Worship Sunday this year. In the words of the SmartTrips announcement, “We invite you to challenge your congregation members to bike, rather than drive to services.”*

*Last year Plymouth accepted the challenge. In fact, we were recognized as having the most riders and the most miles ridden for churches in our size. We were awarded a nice plaque recognizing our success.*

*I think we can do this again! The Social Concerns Committee challenges **YOU** and your family to pump up the tires, put on your helmets, and leave 15 minutes early on your trusty Schwinn! Ride to worship on June 29 and help Plymouth claim a repeat championship!*

*Please call me (484-1871) or see me in church, if you have questions.  
Jack McGrew, Chair - Social Concerns Committee*

*From Hal's Desk:*

## Another Watershed

The spring has indeed been a time of vitality here at Plymouth. And we've been doing quite a bit of celebrating to mark occasions and accomplishments. >From confirmation to graduation, from teachers to celebrating our gifts – we've had a lot for which to be thankful. And June looks vital, too, with welcoming an interim associate minister, new members received on Pentecost, three baptisms, and an anniversary of our United Church of Christ!

The Board of Deacons made a decision to try continuing our second service through the month of June in order to accommodate our increasing attendance. We are **very** full when our attendance at one service reaches 265 people – that's eight people in every pew (even up front!). Some church-growth consultants say that when a sanctuary is more than 70 percent full (186 in our sanctuary), it gives the appearance to visitors that there is no room or need for them. Our average Sunday attendance in May was 273 people: more than one service could accommodate!

### ***These are great problems to have!***

The Strategic Planning Team identified two main issues that are keeping Plymouth from operating like a "program-sized" church (i.e., a church with 150-400 in worship on a Sunday). One problem is **physical space**, primarily for youth and adult education, but office and worship space to some degree.

The other obstacle is **inadequate staffing**. According to Alice Mann, sr. consultant at the Alban Institute (and our Team's coach), "Continued growth at an attendance of 250 will probably require the equivalent of at least: two-and-a-half program staff positions, a half-time musician, and two-and-a-half positions for office support and building maintenance."<sup>1</sup> As you know, we're well below that in each category. (*Please read Daryl Knoblock's article about the Team in this issue of the Placard.*)

One step we've taken is to call the Rev. Richard Einerson as interim associate minister. Dick brings a wealth of experience to his new ministry at Plymouth, and he will continue with us until we are able to call a "settled" associate minister. In this 20-hour-per-week position, Dick will work extensively with our homebound members, do visitation, and also help our Board of Deacons to establish a lay caring-ministry program. One caveat I would offer: This is a part-time position, and we need to work within that framework for the time being. (We'll be welcoming Dick on June 8!)

As we embark on these exciting new challenges, I hope you will keep in mind the spirit of discernment: that we must be attentive to the urgings of the Holy Spirit as we move forward into the life of this wonderful church.

Grace and peace,



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<sup>1</sup> Alice Mann, *Raising the Roof*, p. 126.

## Welcome Our New Interim Associate Minister!

Join us on June 8, as we welcome the Rev. Richard Einerson as our new Interim Associate Minister! Dick's ministry will focus on pastoral care, a field where he has much experience, both in parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy. Dick and his wife Carolyn moved to Greeley last year and are members at First Congregational UCC.

Plymouth's Church Council unanimously approved extending an offer to Dick, following on the unanimous decision of our Interim Associate Search Committee. Special thanks to the committee!



## We Exceeded Our Goal!

Thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of Plymouth, we exceed our goal of raising an additional \$5,000 for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). The \$5,805 that you gave as a special offering will be added to the \$5,000 that our Church Council put forward as a "challenge grant" from our operating budget. We will be sending \$ 10,805 to the Rocky Mountain Conference and national setting of the UCC as additional giving toward OCWM.

Our action also serves as a challenge to every other congregation in the conference. Hal sent a letter to the pastor of each congregation in the conference asking them to take a similar step to help resolve the budget crisis of our covenant partners in the conference and national setting of the church. Thanks to the Mission Committee for their leadership and support during this campaign, and to the Church Council for grappling with this difficult situation to find a creative, affirmative solution!

## 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 Hoefler to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Plymouth Church, on our next sale date of **June 1st**.

## Thank You!!

A heartfelt thank you to those who gave dollars and/or items for the recent layette project of Church Women United. We are aware of the hardships of many of our citizens; your response to this need is gratifying...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

--Lorrie Wagner

### Senior High Youth Group Events For June - July

- **Sunday, June 1: Meet at 12:15 p.m. at Megan and Zach's house for a barbecue. We will BBQ and have a little celebration for our seniors and finish up at 2:30.**
- **Sunday, June 8: 12-2pm Meet at the church and we will go to City Park for some Ultimate Frisbee, then head out for lunch. Please bring \$ for lunch.**
- **Sunday, July 6: Mission Trip meeting after church. (approximately 10:30 a.m.) If you are going on the Mission Trip, you must be at this meeting. We will discuss what you should bring, what you should not bring, and what out plans are for departure and arrival.**
- **July 13-18: Mission Trip !!**
- **Week of July 20: MADD Camp!! Your forms need to be turned in to the Conference Office ASAP. Camp fills up fast.**

### Welcoming Smiles?

Would you like to help welcome new faces to Plymouth? All you need is a smile! The Evangelism Committee has started a welcome table in the narthex each Sunday morning and could use more volunteers. We need help from 8am to 11am, but could arrange for 2 volunteers to share the time if necessary. Please call Karen Nesler at 223-8491 or email [tpnes5@mac.com](mailto:tpnes5@mac.com) if you can help.

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### Particular Mission In Venezuela Canceled

Previously it was announced that Curt Minter would be going to Venezuela as part of a small delegation involved in Education in Ministry with our Global Partner, the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela. Now it is learned that two of the three persons from The Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC, that had been committed to go are unable to do so. As a matter of policy, no representative will go alone.

Items that have been given, or may be given, to be taken to Venezuela will be conveyed to others from the Rocky Mountain Conference who will be going there on a Construction Trip from August 3-18.

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## Habitat For Humanity Update

Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity: Construction on a new home is slated to begin in June. Stay tuned for another Plymouth Work Day. In addition, Habitat Fort Collins is planning construction on a second home—one built entirely by women. If you would like to be involved in the planning for 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>.

New Fellowship Group Forming at Plymouth!

Too old for Sr. High Fellowship? Not mature enough for Get-A-Grip? Many of you have expressed a need for a fellowship group for younger adults (age not defined). Well...we're kicking one off and would love for you to join us! You are invited to attend an organization brunch on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Brian & Andrea Kelly, 4443 Stoney Creek Dr. Children welcome! For more information and to RSVP, please call Brian & Andrea at 282-7511.

Get-A-Grip Picnic & Show in the Rockies, Saturday, June 21.

All are welcome! RSVP and get directions by signing up in the narthex or to Dave and JoAnne Bennett at 482-1574, [benntenn@att.net](mailto:benntenn@att.net) by Friday, June 20. Bring your own beverage, place setting, chair, jacket, National Park Pass if you have one, and money to pay for food, which will be provided. The picnic starts at 4:30 p.m. at Hollowell Park in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Choice City Singers show will follow at the YMCA of the Rockies.

... Get-A-Grip is a social group that was formerly started as "Parents of Adolescents." They are no longer limited to being parents of adolescents, but their children are generally pre-teens, teens, or young adults. Anyone is welcome to join the group. It meets once a month usually at a member's home to eat, have fun, and get better acquainted with others in the church.

### **The Hilltoppers Will Hear From A Particularly Genuine Hilltopper June 12, 1 p.m. Please Join Us!**

The final Hilltoppers' gathering for this year will take place Thursday, June 12, at 1 p.m. in the **north room**. Joining us at that time will be Christine McCoy, an intrepid young woman who climbs not only hills, but mountains. She has hiked in the Himalayas of Nepal and has climbed 27 of the 54 "fourteeners" in Colorado. She will share stories of some of her many adventures. Refreshments will follow. Our thanks go to Ruth Smith for recruiting Christine for our program. Christine is a friend of Ruth's and of Ruth's granddaughter.

**Please sign up in the narthex.**

## 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.

- The XYZ'ers next event will be a conducted tour of the unique **Washing Machine Museum** about four miles west of Eaton on route WCR 31. The date is **Saturday, June 14**. The group will meet at the church at **8:45 a.m.** to pool rides, with the tour beginning at 9:30. Following the tour at the Eaton Grove, the XYZ'ers will have an early lunch at the "Eat N Place" in Eaton, ordering individually from the menu, but seated as a group. The *Washing Machine Museum* is one of a kind with some 500 old, unusual, and somewhat new machines. A sign-up sheet will be found on the narthex bulletin board. Questions? Contact Bea and Carl Mohr at 229-1557.

### Save The Date ... Youth Education Committee Summer Event

The Youth Education Committee is planning two summer events for all church instead of Vacation Bible School. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex.

- August 3: --After church—Picnic and Fishing at Watson Lake – We'll start with a potluck lunch. You can catch fish or crawdads, and we might include a tour of the fish hatchery.

**We are continuing with two worship services each Sunday morning through June 29<sup>th</sup>: 8:20 and 10:45a.m.**

The Next Placard Deadline is Monday June 16th . All information on events for the month of July is due in the church office by the above date. Thank you!

## LIVING Open and Affirming

### Some Key Points to Ponder about Poverty:

- **Poverty is relative:** If everyone around you has similar circumstances, the notion of poverty and wealth is vague. Poverty or wealth only exists in relationship to known quantities or expectations.
- **Generational poverty and situational poverty are different:** Generational poverty is defined as being in poverty for two generations or longer. Situational poverty is a shorter time and is caused by circumstance (i.e. death, illness, divorce, etc.)
- **An individual brings with him/her the hidden rules of the class in which he/she was raised:** Even though the income of the individual may rise significantly, many of the patterns of thought, social interaction, cognitive strategies, etc., remain with the individual.
- **Schools and businesses operate from middle-class norms and use the hidden rules of the middle-class:** These norms and rules are not directly taught in schools or businesses. They are, instead, a type of invisible power structure to which one is born.
- **To move from poverty to middle class or middle class to wealth, an individual must give up relationships for achievement (at least for some period of time).**
- **Regardless of race or ethnicity, poor children are much more likely than non-poor children to suffer developmental delay and damage, to drop out of high school, and to give birth during the teen years.**
- **The US's child poverty rate is substantially higher – often two to three times higher – than that of most other major Western industrialized nations.**

Found in *A framework for understanding poverty* by Ruby Payne

## Visiting/Caring

Along with visiting and telephoning by Plymouth's "Visiting Angels," comes also the need for everyone to furnish names of those persons who would benefit from receiving cards, calls and other expressions of caring and encouragement. If you know of someone who you feel would appreciate such contacts, please call Barb Lehner at 225-1950 or Ruth Jakubauskas at 223-7428. We don't want to overlook anyone.

### Time To Make Plans! . . .

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Colorado Mission Work Trip  
To Our Navajo Friends at Shiprock, N.M. is on the calendar.  
Consider putting it on YOUR calendar as Plymouth looks forward to  
our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of participation.  
And . . . we have made a difference!  
Last year we were 25% of the crew.

Date: September 16-21  
2 driving days, 3 work days,  
1 special Pow-Wow to celebrate a decade of effort with our Navajo friends.

Golf Date Fund-Raiser in Loveland: August 16<sup>th</sup>

Call Paula Dille for more information at 207-1977

## 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 Barb Lehner at 225-1950.

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

As I am winding down my first year as youth education director, many of you have asked me if I am going to be able to take some time off this summer. I believe the answer to that question depends on how many of you can volunteer to help out this summer. My position is part-time for approximately 20 hours per week. However, the actual demands of the position during the school year require that I work about 35-40 hours each week. I have arranged with Hal and the members of the personnel committee to try to reduce my hours during the summer months to balance this out. There is much work to do this summer in order to be ready for next year.

**September K-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school** - We will be learning about the Bible and will have 3 workshops – an archaeological dig site, a scriptorium and a Bible games workshop. We need adults with experience or interest in archaeology, theology, history, science and calligraphy. We need carpenters to construct wooden wall-mounted Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy style game boards; a seamstress to sew 12 simple monk robes with hoods; people to set up a sectioned dig-site on the playground with stakes and string and to collect 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 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.

**New Nursery/Preschool room** – the north half of the Plymouth Children’s Center will be remodeled this summer to create a permanent (at least for next year) space to house the church nursery and the preschool Sunday school class. We will need at least 2 more cribs and I need assistance from people who have taught or worked with this age group to help design the space for optimum functionality and safety – and of course “curb appeal” for the children.

**Junior High Youth** – Some of you are being asked by God to work with this wonderful group of young people. Now is the time to identify yourselves. Are you the new person to help with Sunday school or youth group, or maybe both?

**Resource Library** – I would like to create a resource library in my office for volunteers to use. I need someone to help organize the resources and create a check-out system

**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.

**Supplies** – I would like those of you who have very organized storage spaces in your homes to call me. I really need your help to organize, inventory, and re-stock our program supplies.

I know summers are busy for everyone. I only ask that you find one thing you can help with and give me a call, Donna Greene at 482-9212 or email me at [donna@plymouthucc.org](mailto:donna@plymouthucc.org). Thanks!!!!

## What Exactly Is This Homeless Prevention Program I've Been Hearing About?

Recently someone remarked that he'd heard Plymouth is involved with a Homeless Prevention Program, but he hadn't heard exactly what it is or how it works. He asked, "Is it a secret?" No, it definitely is not a secret.

Some who are homeless are chronically so. But as more lay-offs occur, more and more people who have been financially solvent all their lives are on the verge of becoming homeless. Sister Mary Alice Murphy of St. Joseph's Catholic Church noticed this. She realized, too, that in many cases if these people could get help with just one month's rent, they could avoid homelessness. The rental help for one month could buy them the time they so badly needed--time until an unemployment check came, or until an injury healed, or until they could pull together other resources. So Sr. Mary Alice helped bring into being Fort Collins' Interfaith Homeless Prevention Program. Through donations from churches and individuals the fund has now grown to between \$75,000 and \$100,000 per year. All of it goes to the people described above.

Where does Plymouth come in? Last winter Sr. Mary Alice asked: Would Plymouth be willing to be a site for the program? The Social Concerns Committee, the Church Council and these individuals: Lorrie Wagner, Linda Garton, Gail Woods, John Nortier, Curt and Ruth Minter, Barb Lehner, Donna Cling, Kay Lindgren, Karen Nesler, Verlee and Wes Boulton said yes. We became a site in March.

What does it mean to be a site? Some of those listed above interview the people seeking assistance, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. one Monday of the month. They work in teams of two. Others take a turn with the cell phone. That is, they take Plymouth's cell phone with them--to their homes or as they do errands--and take the calls from those seeking help from 9 a.m. till noon and from 1-4:30 p.m. on one or two days of the week. Those answering the phone schedule interviews for those who are seeking help. There may be 6-8 calls on some days. Other days there may be no calls at all.

These are tough times for many people. We've served people who have been injured on their jobs and are anxious to return to work. We served a family with an infant who just had heart surgery. The parents had used their rent money for her medicine. They brought their tiny "miracle" baby with them to the interview. We couldn't tell you the number of times people have begun their interviews with, "This isn't like me. I've never had to ask for help before."

Do you think you'd like to help us with this project? We know there will be times this summer when some of those presently involved will need to be away. But rent continues to come due for these families; their need doesn't lessen with the change in our sched-

ules. We're committed to an arrangement that is flexible and doesn't tax anyone's time and energy too much. If you think you could lend a hand, please speak with one of those mentioned above or with Alice Clark (482-9212). Thanks for considering joining us in this endeavor. We've found that it's good for those who receive the money and good for us, too.

**job opportunity**

**Student Program Director Wanted**

(To begin in Fall 2003)

for progressive and inclusive campus ministry that is Christian, yet honors diversity of thought. Ideal candidate is friendly, a good listener, interested in spiritual growth and in making a positive difference in the world. Be available to plan discussions and implement programs that offer support, friendship, challenge, service, and growth opportunities for students, faculty, and staff at CSU. Some house and yard duties.

**10-12 hours a week  
in exchange for free housing and utilities**  
(worth approx. \$400/ mo.)

Please call 482-8487 for more information  
or come by to pick up an application

The Geller Center for  
United Campus Ministry  
629 S. Howes St

Supported by: United Methodist, UCC/Congregational, Presbyterian USA, Friends/Quakers,  
American Baptist, Disciples/Christian, and Mennonite Congregations;  
and a variety of spiritual, peace and justice – oriented individuals.

## Strategic Planning Committee – Midyear Update

Last year, the Church Council chartered the Strategic Planning Committee to propose strategic enrichments to our church programs that would energize the mission of the church and encourage church growth beyond its current "plateau". This work was divided into three phases, two of which have now completed:

Phase 1 – Mission and value statement proposals were derived from existing church documents. Potential change factors were itemized from The Hartford profile that was conducted in 2000.

Phase 2 - Open meetings were held with a large number of church leaders on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> to refine the mission and value statements and expand the list of potential change factors to energize our mission.

Phase 3 - Develop a proposal in time for 2004 budget development. Elements of this proposal that are currently being investigated include:

1. Committee structure and focus:
  - Consider adding responsibility for coordination of fellowship groups and caring ministry
  - Consider reducing the total number of committees
2. Budget development & prioritization process
3. Lay leadership model:
  - Review term length, leadership responsibilities, and empowerment of lay leaders
4. Facility improvement to better accommodate church growth:
  - Consider the possibility of a capital fund drive
5. Staff growth and restructuring:
  - Focus on ways to improve the staff's effectiveness
6. More optimal seat availability during our worship services
7. Stewardship process:
  - Investigate a more formal planned giving program and policy refinements for memorial gifts

We strongly appreciate the support we received from church members during Phase 2 and look forward to our report to Council this fall.

Daryl Knoblock, Chair

## Important Summer Calendar Updates

Please note that the **all-church camp out that was planned for June 21<sup>st</sup> is being cancelled** due to difficulty finding volunteers to organize the event and to a schedule conflict with the Get-A-Grip group's outing to Estes Park that same day. Please feel free to join Get-A-Grip instead or to check with Brian and Andrea Kelly for any summer activities that might be planned by the new young adult fellowship group that met on May 31<sup>st</sup> for the first time.

Please **do mark your calendars for August 3<sup>rd</sup>** for our annual summer all-church BBQ at Watson Lake following the service. Watch for details in the July newsletter. Call Claudia Karp or Marietta Zimmerman if you would like to help organize the event.

**Attention all junior high youth and their families:** Come help Plymouth host a regional youth BBQ and fun day at City Park on **June 7<sup>th</sup>**. We have invited the Greeley, Longmont and Windsor UCC junior high youth to join us for lunch and wild and crazy summer fun and games. Plymouth will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and paper products. Everyone brings their own drinks and a side appetizer, salad, or dessert. Meet at City Park from 11 – 4ish in whatever shelter we can claim for the afternoon. Call Donna Greene for questions 482-9212.

Interfaith Council Report.

### HOUSING JUSTICE SUMMIT

June 2, 2003 at Regis University – Student Center in Denver at 3333 Regis Blvd.(50<sup>th</sup> & Lowell). Housing Justice will organize, mobilize and equip local and statewide action groups that will:

- Arouse concern and compassion for the 20% of Coloradoans who struggle to meet housing needs. Of the 14,000 homeless persons in Colorado on any given day, 60% are families with children.
- Educate about the opportunities to solve the affordable housing crisis in Colorado.
- Empower people of faith to share the benefits of housing for all.
- Generate a call to action within the faith community to implement solutions to this crisis.

Registration fee: \$25. Keynote Speakers: Sister Lillian Murphy and Bill Faith.

For registration information: 303 282-8343 or [www.housingjustice.org](http://www.housingjustice.org)

**Thank you from Plymouth Children's Center**

As we prepare to close our program it is with full and grateful hearts that we wish to reflect on all that we have accomplished and extend our gratitude to Plymouth Congregational Church for facilitating our role as a mission of the church for twenty-four years.

Plymouth Children's Center was founded in November of 1979. We are so thankful that this church was able to embrace the vision of a small community preschool/child care center created to provide enriching experiences and a sense of belonging for young children and their families. These children and families represented all faiths, many cultures, and diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. The preschool has served children and families from around the world including: Tibet, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq Australia, Africa, South Africa, China, Venezuela, Mexico, Columbia and Chili. We have had teaching volunteers from England, Denmark, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Gabon, West Africa spend extended periods of time with us to learn and share ideas and cultures with one another. Over the years we have also supervised student teachers and interns from local and regional colleges and universities.

For the first decade or more of our existence we were many times the only choice in the community for families of children with special needs. We have welcomed children with Down's syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, as well as speech, language, social and emotional issues. In fact, twenty years ago no other preschool or childcare center in the Fort Collins community integrated children with special needs into their programs.

For the past seven years we have worked with an adult special needs volunteer with autism who has had the desire to work with young children. While other early childhood programs might not have been open to her presence we have seen her as a positive addition to our program. Her participation has been beneficial not only to herself, but also to the children at our center. It has been rewarding to observe and support her growth and confidence in her volunteer capacity and her personal relationships with the children and teachers.

While church membership flourishes and changes are necessary to accommodate space and congregation needs we are extremely appreciative of the space and time we have had at Plymouth. As a mission of the church we are proud and honored to have been able to contribute to the church facility by building and maintaining the playground, raising nearly half of the funds for the van, and maintaining and upgrading the preschool rooms. We hope that our efforts continue to benefit the church in the years to come.

We would like to thank the church representatives that have supported and valued this mission for many years. Thank you for your faith in our abilities, our integrity, and our choices in making the vision of Plymouth Children's Center possible.

We believe that every person is the keeper of a dream. Thank you for your partnership in allowing us as well as many children and their families to keep this dream alive for twenty-four years.

Kathy Kenney and Cindy Sakala

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## People in the Parish

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

### *Recently in the Hospital:*

Ben Stober  
Jerry Stahmer  
Nick McCullough  
Bobbie Brooks

### *Our Sympathy is with:*

- Lynne Soraci, on the death of her father, Don Logan, on May 10.

### *Congratulations to:*

- Our confirmation/affirmation class  
Confirmed members: Dillon Hancock, Sarah Blessing, Joel Hafnor  
Affirmed friends: Anne Byrne, Nick Leavitt, Arin Baun, Hayley Sampson, Allie Keller
- Sarah Edmonds and John Beres on their upcoming wedding in Vermont!
- Brandy Holtan and Nate Simpson on their upcoming wedding in Montana!
- All our graduates – we're proud of your accomplishments!

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>	<i>hal@plymouthucc.org</i>
<b>Alice Clark</b>	<i>Parish Assistant</i>	<i>aclark@plymouthucc.org</i>
<b>Donna Greene</b>	<i>Youth Education Director</i>	<i>donna@plymouthucc.org</i>
<b>Donna Solverud</b>	<i>Choir Director</i>	<i>tdsolverud@aol.com</i>
<b>Carrie Hansen &amp; Jan Welch</b>	<i>Organists</i>	
<b>Karin Marsh</b>	<i>Church Secretary</i>	<i>plymouth@plymouthucc.org</i>
<b>Kevin Nielsen</b>	<i>Grounds Maintenance</i>	
<b>Alda Frucci &amp; Tom Marsh</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

282-7511

Non-profit organization

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

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