



Plymouth Placard



NOVEMBER 2003

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVEMBER

ALL SERVICES ARE AT 8:15 AND 10:45 A.M.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

November 2 – *New Member Sunday*

Mark 12.28–34

Taizé Service

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

*Communion will be celebrated***November 9**

The Rev. Martie McMane preaching

*Martie is Sr. Minister at First Cong'l UCC in Boulder***November 16 – *Consecration Sunday******Jazz service – one service only at 10:45******Celebration brunch and all-church photo to follow!***

Mark 12.38–44

November 23Service of Gratitude and *Totenfest* Sunday*Giving thanks to God for all our blessings and remembering those who have shaped our lives*

Psalm 136

November 27 – Thanksgiving**Pilgrim Service** (Pilgrim & Native American costumes welcome!)

9:30 a.m. (worship before turkey and football!)

November 30

First Sunday of Advent!

Jeremiah 33.14–16

TAIZÉ INFO

WHO: YOU! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
WHEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 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

Centennial Contribution Acknowledgements

The Centennial Committee wishes to acknowledge with its appreciation the following commercial enterprises that voluntarily donated or reduced the price of their services or goods to assist us with our various projects this year: Burnett Video Productions, Elegant Effects Glass Tinting, Craft Trophy Company, Hobby Lobby, Kwik Kopy Printing, Lopiano's Catering, and Pearson Masonry.

* * *

The Centennial Committee sends their gratitude to those that assisted with the Centennial Banquet held last month. Everyone that is a part of the congregation at Plymouth is included because the Centennial Celebration is a celebration of what Plymouth really is; individuals, past, present, and future, giving their time, talents, and resources to make our global community a better place for everyone in it.

* * *

The Centennial Celebration continues with a photograph of the congregation to be held November 16th. The photo will be held outside in front of the church after the service and prior to a lunch to be held that day. Be sure to mark your calendars so that you will be included in the picture.

* * *

A booklet listing many books and articles about Colorado's Germans from Russia has been donated to our church library by Con Woodall. It is turquoise blue and may be checked out from the shelves in the Fireside Room.

* * *

Consecrating Sunday—November 16

Growing and giving for our Second Century Consecrating Sunday is November 16th. We will have one service at 10:45 so we can all celebrate our giving. Following the church service will be a luncheon sponsored by your Stewardship Committee. Please sign up for the luncheon on the bulletin board in the Narthex by Sunday, November 9th.

From Hal's Desk:

Stewardship: Transforming Our World

A few years back, I was doing some work for a client at Sun Microsystems, and they were planning a rather lavish offsite meeting around the theme of change and how we can relate to it. (I suggested the lines from Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season...." They didn't bite.) The theme they came up with was "Mastering Change: Transforming the Future." Some of my clients thought that they needed to be absolutely in control of change at every moment, and while their shareholders might have appreciated their attitude, it's not very realistic.

Change is an integral part of life, as the yellow aspen leaves attest. In whatever situation we find ourselves – at work, in our families, at church – we need to embrace change, chart new courses, and roll with the punches when they come. No, we certainly can't control everything, nor should we wish to; that's not our job. We're called to do our best in becoming the people God intends us to be. Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer," used in 12-step programs the world over, says it succinctly: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the strength to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

While change is constant, it is up to us to determine how we relate to it. Do we accept the things we cannot change and have the strength to change the things we can? Sometimes. When we are at our best, that's the course we follow.

Our Strategic Planning Team will be bringing a set of preliminary recommendations to the Church Council in November, which will suggest some changes for our congregation's consideration. To my mind, they have shown strength in examining some of the things we can change here at Plymouth.

Each of us at Plymouth also has the ability to help foster change through our attitude and openness to new ideas and also through being stewards. We have each been given a share of God's abundance, and it's up to us to use those gifts wisely. *We are recipients of God's generosity not simply for our own benefit, but so that we can help change the world.*

How are **you** using all the gifts that God has put at your disposal to help transform the world in the kingdom of God that Jesus envisioned? Are you using your time and money in ways that make the world a better place for many?

While my former clients at Sun Microsystems were trying to change one aspect of their market segment, we've got a much higher calling as the church: we are to transform the world. And we need to bring all our resources to bear in the effort. The amazing thing is this: we ourselves are transformed by the process of sharing God's generosity and being stewards of God's abundance.

Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JHL.', written in a cursive style.

October Council Meeting

At the October Council meeting we discussed the issue of how the elected leadership of Plymouth should address concerns raised by members about decisions made by Committees. As you may recall our Interim Minister, Rick Riddock started to moved us in the direction of Council granting some of their authority to committees. Empowering the committees and allowing Plymouth to respond more quickly to new ideas and issues. We have all appreciated Hal's continued encouragement of this direction.

The Council needed to consider how to ensure that the members who strongly disagree with a decision will be heard AND, at the same time support our newly energized committees so they do not get discouraged. We had a lively discussion at Council. We concluded that while we couldn't promise to make everyone happy, we could at least assure every member the right to have their concern heard and considered in open forums.

Anyway, here is what we came up with:

1. Member(s) should take their concern to the committee. It is our hope that the concern will be resolved here. But, if the member(s) is still unhappy....
2. Member(s) could take their concern to the Moderator to have a motion concerning the issue put on the Council agenda. Member(s) would launch the discussion with their motion (published in advance in the agenda as is typical) and then engage with the Council in a lively discussion of the issue. At some point the Council would take an action. But, if the member(s) is still unhappy....
3. Member(s) could take their concern to the Moderator to have the item added to the agenda for the Annual Meeting. The Moderator would work with the member(s) to ensure that adequate information was available before the meeting so that all members had time to give the issue study, etc.

The November Council will be voting on a statement to this effect that will become part of Plymouth's Policy. I think this strengthens Plymouth's representative form of governance. While I like to think that our lay leadership usually 'gets it right', this policy helps members take appropriate action when they believe a great wrong occurred. It also supports Committee's who might feel threatened by this 'second guessing of their work' by structuring open forums for full discussion of all sides of the issue at hand.

Marge Norskog
Moderator

Deacon Note

The Deacons are exploring the possibility of doing internet radio broadcasts of our services for members who are not able to attend in person due to limited mobility, lack of transportation, etc.

To receive these broadcasts you will need to have a computer with an internet connection. We have volunteers who can do the necessary set up on individual computers. Before we decide whether to proceed we need to know how useful this would be to the members of the congregation. If you, or someone you know would benefit from this service please contact Dave Hodge at 663-4327 or djhodge@frii.com.

CROP Walk--2003

Phil Koster and Dottie Mattern, coordinators for Plymouth's participation in CROP WALK, thank all those who participated in this year's CROP "Refugee" WALK. Your sponsorship of the GOODNESS GORILLAS was much appreciated. The final tally of contributions raised by the Plymouth Walkers will not be known for a couple of weeks.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED—IT'S ABOUT JUSTICE!!

Thank you for your generosity. \$2,668.00 was given to Neighbors in Need for 2003.

Walk The Talk About Plymouth!

The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring an outreach effort to let people know about our Christmas services. The information and invitation will be provided on door hangers that we want to spread around Fort Collins. If you would like to "walk the talk", the hangers will be available Nov. 30 (Sunday after Thanksgiving) and could be distributed any time that week. We will mark your area on our map. The final effort will be Saturday, Dec. 6, when we will gather at the church at 10:00 a.m. and take a van-full (and more!) to distribute the hangers. We'll go out to lunch when we are finished. You do not have to knock on doors. Walking is a great stress reliever during holiday time. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can talk to Karen Smith or Karen Nesler if you have questions. Thanks for your support!

Handbell And Chancel Choirs

Handbell Choir rehearsals are Wednesday 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! We will be playing in church at least once a month, if not more!! 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

Sewing Bee to Make Gift Bags for Alternative Giving Fair

Volunteer(s) needed to coordinate one or more sewing bees to make gift bags for the Alternative Giving Fair; proceeds go to Doctors Without Borders. Contact Susan Hyne at 472-8765 or susanhyne@riverrock.org. The mountain of fabric donations is overflowing, so no more fabric is needed, just folks to cut, iron, and sew.

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 as "Congregational." We are hoping to get "United Church of Christ" in the hospital file book, but as of now it is not there. Your staff regularly checks that book and if you are in the hospital, and you have not notified us or been registered as a Congregationalist, 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 a surgery and will be discharged very quickly, let us know ahead of time to schedule a pre-surgical pastoral visit. Thank you!

Notes from the Plymouth Peace Group

We had a meeting of the peace group on Sunday, October 12, with Betty Weber, Hugh Sanborn, and Jane Ellen Combelic. Primarily we talked about becoming a **Just Peace** church.

Apparently a group co-led by Linda Mahan spent a year investigating this same issue in 1986. They studied the book *A Just Peace Church*, published by the UCC in 1985, and hosted several events at the church. But no formal attempt was made to become a "Just Peace" church. We'd like to start the process again. As Marge Norskog recommended in a recent conversation, we could make an announcement at the annual meeting in January 2004, and put the measure up for a vote at the 2005 meeting. We would spend all of 2004 investigating, discussing, and deciding what it means to be a Just Peace church and whether Plymouth wants to be one.

Betty Weber made the comment that we already are one by our actions, but this would make it official. It would give us a framework for activities promoting peace and justice. And if someone felt passionate about an issue or activity, or if a crisis arose like September 11, members of Plymouth

would be supported by their faith community in their actions for peace and justice. Anyhow, that's one idea. The UCC provides a wealth of resources about the Just Peace movement. They sent us a huge packet, including *The Peace Book: 108 simple ways to create a more peaceful world* by Louise Diamond and a *Worship Resource for Justice & Peace*. For more information go to <http://www.ucc.org/justice/just.htm>.

What you can do

The first step is to brainstorm how we need to approach this and see who wants to do what. There are several ways that you can participate:

- Come to the next meeting of the peace group: Sunday, November 9, after the second service, probably in the north room.
- Come to a lunch meeting, on Thursday, November 13, at the Olive Garden in south Fort Collins, at noon. *Please RSVP to Jane Ellen so we know how many people to expect.*
- Get on the Plymouth peace group mailing list, and send your ideas/comments/questions/insights by e-mail to jec@riverrock.org.

The Plymouth peace group is a project of the Social Concerns Committee. For information contact Jane Ellen Combelic, 970-407-0153, jec@riverrock.org.

A "Just Peace Church" understands that peacemaking and justice advocacy are intertwined. Without justice, there will be no lasting peace. In describing the UCC's Just Peace Movement in 1971, the Rev. Robert V. Moss said, "We now need to put as much effort into defining a just peace as we have done in the past in defining a just war." Therefore, Just Peace congregations are committed to confronting all manifestations of racial, economic, and social injustice.

--Rev. J. Bennett Guess, former minister for communication and mission education with the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries

Please Note: Due to the Holiday Schedule the deadline for the December thru Jan. 10th Placard is Monday, November 24th. Deadline for information for January 11 through 31st is Monday, December 22; Deadline for February Placard will be Tuesday, January 20th.

Please mark your calendars!

Church Women United

Do you want to practice your Christian Faith by working and worshipping together with women of different denominations? Church Women United, a National Organization, needs a new representative from Plymouth. Monthly meetings from October through May include the collection of dona-

tions for health kits and items for layettes. For more information call Lorrie Wagner at 223-2653.

Tresa Waggoner Concerts in November

Tresa Waggoner, the fine soprano who has sung for us for many years will be giving two concerts in November. One will be Sun., Nov. 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Arvada Presbyterian Church, 5592 Independence St., Arvada. The other will be Sun., Nov. 30 at 2:00 p.m. at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park.

Hilltoppers

Please plan to join us for a delicious lunch at noon

Thursday, November 13

Following the meal, Margaret Stockover will speak about the experiences she and others of Plymouth had on their mission trip to the Navajo reservation at Shiprock, New Mexico this past Sept.

Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office, 482-9212, so the *kitchen angels* will know how much food to prepare.

See you then!

The Middle-Third Herd Coming Events:

Please contact Andrea Kelly to get on the e-mail list at 4kellyfam@comcast.net or 282-7511. Watch for details in Sunday bulletins and future Placards.

Here's what we have planned for November:

- **Sunday, November 2nd** - We'll be carrying out our first service project as a group this month. We'll be organizing the November Taizé service. If you can help with set-up or clean-up please call Andrea Kelly at 282-7511 or 4kellyfam@comcast.net
- **Saturday, November 8th** - Doug and Mary Robinson will host a Card Party at their home, 6124 Hamilton Ct. on Saturday Nov 8 at 7:00 pm. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and desserts!! Please RSVP to Doug or Mary at 282-7176 or damsrob@aol.com and let us know if you can bring your favorite dessert or a spare card table and chairs. This is an adult-only event. Please arrange your own child care.
- **Saturday, November 15th** - We'll be going to see *The Mission* (part of the film series at Plymouth) 7:30pm. Discussion to follow Sunday, November 16th at 9:30am in the forum room. This is an adult only event. Please arrange your own child care.
- **Saturday, November 29th** – Cranberry Pops: A Cultural Celebration at the Lincoln Center. Time TB A. Details to come. Is there anyone who would like to organize this event? If so, please contact Andrea Kelly at the above phone and email. Thanks.

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's will gather in fellowship hall Saturday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. for a chili supper, followed by an entertaining program. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Questions? Call Geri or Wil Stutheit, 226-6645.

Senior High Youth Group Has Several Fun Activities Planned ...

- **November 2 – 5-7p.m. at church. We will order pizza and paint our room. Please bring \$3 for pizza.**
- **November 16: Progressive Dinner. Meet at the church at 4:45 p.m. We'll travel together to homes.**
- **December: Stay tuned for dates. We'll start planning Youth Sunday this month.**

Please put these dates on your calendars and remember that your friends are welcome to attend with you. If you have any questions, please contact Megan or Zach at 282-0059.

Thank You's Received ...

“Dear Rev. Hal and members of Plymouth,
I was very much impressed with the Centennial Celebration of your church. Thank you for having me as your guest, also thank you to the committee and friends for the special things which you did for me while I was among you. Having looked down the long vista of the past, you will now mold the present and continue with more challenges to build God's Kingdom.
Ruth Grasmick”

“Dear family that donated wrought iron picnic chairs and table to garage sale, Thank you so much for parting with the table and chairs. We brought it home, sanded the top, finished it, and fixed the chairs. We are using it in our back room. Because the set is so nice, we are eating most of our meals back there.
Thank you, Ellen”

“Madge Graham's family and friends at Parkwood want to thank all of those who contributed money or items for the Memorial Fund. The sale was very successful and the money was used to buy a beautiful fountain which is set up in the front entryway. There will be a plaque saying it is in honor of Madge, and it will remind us of 'her ever flowing love and cheer to all who enter'. Come by and see it – and know that she really appreciated and cherished the love and nurturing she received at Plymouth Church.”

“Before” and “After”!!

Do you like to look at “Before” and “After” pictures in magazines like *This Old House* or *Glamour*? If so, I think you’d enjoy being part of a team that makes a huge improvement in a house on the Navajo Reservation.

This tenth year of the Navajo Project (our third year) saw six Plymouth folks working on one crumbling house and standing back after three days, satisfied with the finished result. We’d put new stucco on cracked walls with chicken wire exposed, and painted the walls. We’d undercoated badly weathered wood, then put on a second shiny coat, which looked pretty good! We’d pulled off some makeshift roof repairs and installed metal roof edging, and we’d covered a missing window and installed window trims all around. None of this was especially difficult, but rewarding nonetheless.

The owner of the house, a Navajo grandmother, could now move into the house without having the winter winds blow through!

Several other churches sent workers, and many houses were improved. On Friday, lots of workers converged on one house not yet finished. People were painting nearly elbow to elbow. A Navajo man arrived in his pickup to see if *someone had died*. He said when that many vehicles stood around a house, that’s usually what it meant!

Those of us who worked on the project felt we were meeting real needs while getting to know and understand another culture. We had an opportunity to demonstrate personal stewardship of our time, muscle, mind, and love. Our only pay was the appreciation of those we helped and the warm feeling of working together to accomplish worthwhile goals.

At the closing *pow-wow*, in addition to native food and dancing, sand painting plaques were distributed as awards. Plymouth’s will be on display near the Mission bulletin board, where you can also see *Before* and *After* pictures!

--Karen Smith

Congratulations to the Goodness Gorillas!!

470 Pounds of Produce was Gleaned by the Goodness Gorillas on Sept. 28th at Don & Marietta Zimmerman’s and Taken to the Larimer County Food Bank to be distributed to charitable organizations and to individuals in need.

Turkeys!!

Every year Albertson’s, Safeway, King Soopers, others? Allow card holders to purchase one turkey for either \$4 (small) or \$5 (large), usually prior to Thanksgiving and again prior to Christmas. Watch the ads. Purchase at all stores and deliver to the Larimer County Food Bank in Fort Collins or the House of Neighborly Service in Loveland. For a minimum of \$12, you can furnish a turkey to three families!

**THE RAINBOW CHORUS FALL CONCERT “WE ARE EVERYWHERE” –
MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD . . .**

Will be presented November 15th, at 3:00 p.m. - \$10; and at 7:30 p.m. - \$12, at the Canyon West Room at the Lincoln Center. The evening concert includes admission to the dance immediately following the program. Special guest performance *by The Mojo Brass Band*. Tickets available at the Lincoln Center Box Office or by calling 970-495-3434.

Poinsettias

Although we have not yet celebrated Thanksgiving, Gulley Greenhouse has notified us that our Christmas Poinsettia order is due by Monday, November 24th. Poinsettias will be placed on the chancel area for Sunday, December 21st and remain for our Christmas Eve services. You may then take yours home with you after the service you attend. Each plant costs \$7.70 in your choice of red or white. You may order yours by using the form below and dropping it in the collection plate, or mailing it to the church. Please make your check payable to Plymouth Church. We need to receive all orders by **Monday, November 24th** in order to place our collective order with Gulley’s. Thank you!

NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

(OR)

IN HONOR OF _____

ENCLOSED \$ _____ **COLOR** _____

SIGNED _____

Our Film Series: What Are Our Next Movies?

Showing of *The Mission*: Saturday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.;

discussion: Sun. Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m.

Discussion Leaders: Rev. Hal Chorpensing; Ron Hall, Dir. of the Tribal Technical Assistance Programs at CSU and Roe Bubar, Asst. Prof. at the School of Social Work and the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity at CSU.

A word about *The Mission* from Faith and Film: Theological Themes at the Cinema: "Featuring Academy Award-winning cinematography, *The Mission* highlights the injustices committed against the Guarani Indians by the colonial powers of Portugal and Spain. The complex role of the church amid these injustices parallels many of the dynamics of the church in Latin America. *The Mission* intends to offer the situation of the Guarani and the priests who sided with them as a historical lesson relevant to the struggle for liberation from oppressive powers on the same continent today. What makes *The Mission* fascinating as a film about the church is that it affords us a glimpse of so many different 'faces' of the church."

Showing of *Pleasantville*: Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.;

discussion: Sun., Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.

Discussion Leaders: Our Senior High Youth

Aware that youth often see and process things that adults miss, we knew our film series would be enriched if our senior high youth would be willing to provide the leadership for at least one of our films. We are delighted that they have agreed to do so. Please come to see *Pleasantville*, a film that raises issues significant to them and that impact all of us. Come also the next morning for their facilitation of the discussion of the film.

A description of the film from the videotape box:

"When '90's teenagers David and Jennifer are zapped into the perfect suburbia of the black and white '50's sitcom, *Pleasantville*, what results is a visionary adventure that Siskell and Ebert give 2 thumbs up. *Pleasantville*'s perfect people include a mild-mannered soda jerk, a socially repressed mom and a father who always knows best. But when '90's pop culture clashes with the '50's family values, chaos ensues, turning the town of *Pleasantville* upside down, and black and white into color."

Report of Interfaith Council Representative Phil Koster

Interfaith Council hosted a presentation at its October 16th meeting on Organ and Tissue Dona-

tion issues in anticipation of faith communities observance of National Donor Sabbath, November 14 –16. The Parish Nurses and Social Concerns Committee will call your attention to this very critical and important life decision with information.

Gleaning activities on September 28th by 45 people from 4 congregations resulted in 9,600 lbs of produce for the Food Bank. A second gleaning day was conducted on October 12th. The results of this day of gleaning were not available.

Interfaith Council approved an additional \$100 expenditure to support the Wednesday noon Picnic in the Park Program for the homeless. The Severe Weather Hospitality Center will open November 3rd at The Mennonite Fellowship, 300 E. Oak St. Volunteers to staff and provide meals are being requested from Interfaith Council member faith communities. Call Bob Kingswood at 207-0347. (Other information about needs and supplies has been published in the weekly church bulletin).

The Housing Team recommended and the Executive Board approved a distribution of \$8,860 for Rental Assistance for the month of November. The 2003-2004 fund drive is underway. You can pick up an envelope in the church narthex for individual gifts.

November meetings of Interfaith Council will be at Christ United Methodist Church on November 6 and 20 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The presentation on November 20th will be made by Partners of Larimer County regarding the mentoring youth program and The Kids-At-Heart program for foster and adopted kids sponsored by Heart of The Rockies Christian (Disciples) Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Northern Colorado Aids Project (NCAP) is having an Evening of Sweet Indulgence on November 8. It is NCAP's most elegant affair; it will be a night of live music, fine desserts and a silent auction unrivaled in the area for its choice of local artists, as well as products and services from Ft. Collins' finest businesses. Tickets are available at The Northern Colorado AIDs Project, 400 Remington, suite 100, by phone, 970-484-4469. The tickets are Individual \$25.00, Reserved table for six \$150.00, for a couple \$45.00.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 1200 S. Taft Hill Road. NOVEMBER 8, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. This year, give friends and relatives gifts that make the world a better place. International & local organizations helping people and the environment: Heifer International, Olive Wood Crafts from Bethlehem, Operation Bookshelf, Habitat for Humanity, Equal Exchange Coffee, Lutheran Family Services and more. Alternative gifts and donations are tax deductible

Church World Service, a church-related relief and development agency in your area, is searching for a new staff person to enable us to continue the tradition of excellence established by the Rocky Mt. CWS region staff through community sponsored CROP WALKS and the CWS TOOLS OF HOPE 7 BLANKET Program. If interested contact Karen M. deLopez, at 1-800-297-1516.

SAVE THE DATES FEBRUARY 27 AND 28, 2004 FOR THE ALL CONFER-

**ENCE EVENT: SPIRIT ALIVE!...TO HELP DEEPEN THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BOULDER**

JANE VENNARD, KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

FEATURING WORKSHOPS SUCH AS, WALKING THE LABYRINTH, CENTERING PRAYER, HEALING PRAYER, PRAYING THE PSALMS, DANCING WITH THE SPIRIT, WORSHIPPING IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ, NURTURING THE SPIRIT IN TEENS, JOURNALING FOR THE JOURNEY, FINDING THE SPIRIT IN SERVICE, CREATING ART AS MEDITATION, AND MORE . . .

TALKING ABOUT KIDS . . .

Is an evening lecture series designed for both parents and child care providers to assist them in meeting the challenges of raising and caring for children. The Mothers' Center of Fort Collins and The Learning House Foundation for Early Childhood Development founded the series and coordinate events with sponsorship from The Bohemian Foundation, The Fort Fund, and Alpha Graphics.

Thursday evening, November 6, the Talking About Kids presentation will be at Plymouth Church in the North Room, beginning at 7:00 p.m. "Hands on Science with Children" is the series event presented by Ernie Batson, M. and Mary Batson, M.Ed. from The Learning House Foundation for Early Childhood Development.

For more information, contact the founders of Talking About Kids!--The Learning House: 266-0844; The Mothers' Center: www.fortnet.org/mothers.

The Mothers' Center of Fort Collins is a non-profit outreach organization committed to raising the statue of women as mothers. Their mission is to provide education and support services to mothers and their families to enhance self-esteem and personal growth, ban isolation, build community connections and encourage quality parenting.

PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

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

Recently in the Hospital:

- Rev. Dick Einerson
- Ruth Minter
- JoAnne Jensen
- Pat Sample
- Blake Williams
- Cory Hill

Our Sympathy is with:

- *Carolyn and Dick Einerson, on the death of Carolyn's mother, the Rev. Laura Smothers, whose memorial service was at Plymouth on Oct. 18.*
- *Betty Weber on the death of her mother, Pearl Bell, September 23 in Berthoud, CO. Pearl was 90 years old.*

Congratulations to:

- Karen Smith, on her election as Moderator of the Northeast Association, UCC.
- Karin and Tom Marsh who's daughter Shawna Hawes was selected to be on the practice squad for *the Colorado Chill* national women's basketball team.

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

WWW.PLYMOUTHUCC.ORG
970.482-9212

The Rev.	<i>Senior Minister</i>	<i>hal@plymouthucc.org</i>
The Rev. Dick Einerson	<i>Interim Assoc. Minister</i>	<i>dick@plymouthucc.org</i>
Alice Clark	<i>Parish Assistant</i>	<i>aclark@plymouthucc.org</i>
Donna Greene	<i>Youth Education Director</i>	<i>donna@plymouthucc.org</i>
Donna Solverud	<i>Choir Director</i>	<i>tdsolverud@aol.com</i>
Carrie Hansen & Jan Welch	<i>Organists</i>	
Karin Marsh	<i>Church Secretary</i>	<i>plymouth@plymouthucc.org</i>
Alda Frucci & Tom Marsh	<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.

Forum on Compassionate Listening

On October 19, the Plymouth Forum will be presented by Barb Lehner, who will report on her recent trip to Israel with the Compassionate Listening Project.

Here are some of the highlights mentioned by Leah Greene, leader of the delegation, in an email describing the trip before their departure:

- A pilgrimage to listen to Father Emil Shufani, the Palestinian man from Nazereth who recently led a group of 250 Israeli Jews and Palestinians to Auschwitz (this morning I learned that he received the UNESCO Peace Prize!)
- A visit with Hanan Ashrawi in Ramallah
- Listening to residents of a Kibbutz and neighboring Arab village who have maintained unusually close relations since the 1930s – and whose ties were strengthened after a terror attack at the Kibbutz last year
- Attending the opening day of a Rebuilding Palestinian Homes camp with Israeli peace leaders and the parents of Rachel Corrie
- An overnight in Dheishe Refugee Camp with an evening screening of “Promises” and listening sessions with the children in the documentary

The Compassionate Listening Project, formerly Mid-East Citizen Diplomacy, was founded in 1990 and has led numerous delegations to Israel and Palestine. It is a U.S. based non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals to heal polarization and build bridges between people, communities and nations in conflict.

Compassionate Listening is based on the work of Gene Knudsen Hoffman, international peacemaker and founder of the US/USSR Reconciliation program, who writes, "Some time ago I recognized that terrorists were people who had grievances, who thought their grievances would never be heard, and certainly never addressed. Later I saw that all parties to every conflict were wounded, and at the heart of every act of violence is an unhealed wound." In her role as a counselor, Gene recognized that non-judgmental listening was a great healing process in itself, and this is what Barb and her fellow citizen diplomats went to the Middle East to do.

For information about the Plymouth peace group, contact Jane Ellen Combelic, 407-0153, jec@riverrock.org.

Women's Friendship Group . . .

Get-A-Grip

. . . 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.

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.

**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.

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

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The ONA Committee of Plymouth Church has adopted a mission statement that has been presented to, and approved by, the Church Council. The statement is this:

“The responsibility of the committee shall be to ensure that Plymouth’s open and affirming statement exists as a living document through the celebration and advocacy of inclusion within the life of the church and its community. Working cooperatively to connect with the mission of other committees within the church, ONA will offer educational and outreach opportunities to affirm the dignity and worth of every individual while advocating for a safe, loving community of faith.”