

The Plymouth Placard



October 2004

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:45 AM

SERMON BY

THE REV. SHARON BENTON

OUR CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CARE
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING TO FOLLOW

TAIZÉ SERVICE AT 6:00 PM
FOLLOWED BY A FELLOWSHIP MEAL

OCTOBER 10

LUKE 17.11-19

“RETURNING THANKS”

OCTOBER 17

LUKE 18.1-18

“NEVER GIVE UP”

OCTOBER 24

LUKE 18.9-14

“TRADING PLACES”

OCTOBER 31

(DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS; FALL BACK!)

LUKE 19.1-10

“WHAT DO YOU SEE?”

OUR SERVICES ARE AT 8:15 AND 10:45 AM,
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



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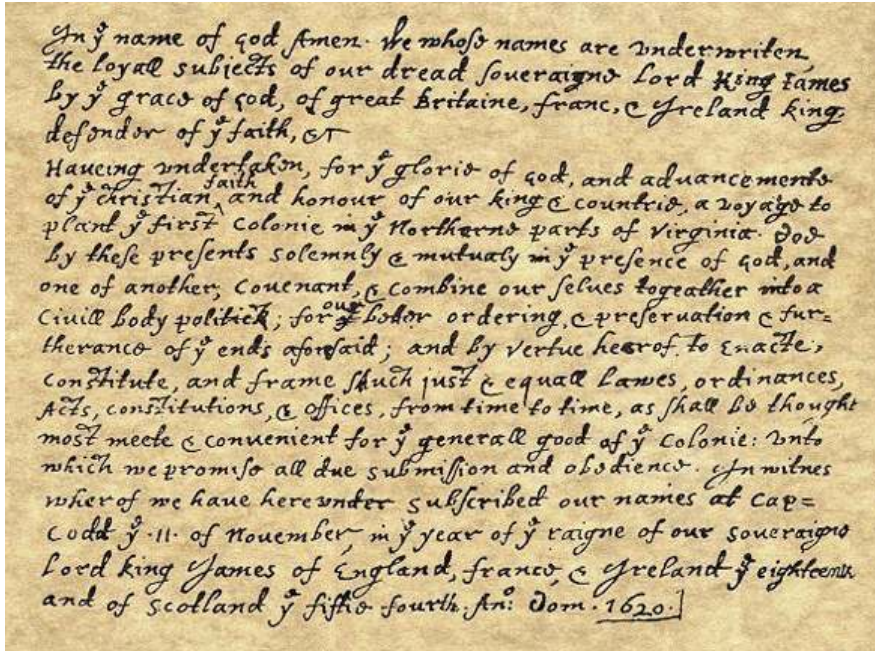
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The Political Season and Christian Faith

Politics has been intertwined with Congregationalism even before the Pilgrims set foot in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. Before they landed, they drafted The Mayflower Compact, a document that set for a way of governance for the European inhabitants of the Plymouth Colony. It was basically a covenant, binding the Pilgrims together and pledging their allegiance to the British crown.

The (male, non-indentured) members of three Congregational churches in the towns of Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield in 1638 drafted The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, which is regarded as the first written constitution anywhere. It's aim was to provide for "an orderly and decent government," and it provided for two annual meetings of the General Assembly and the formation of a General Court.

And while Calvin Coolidge was the last Congregationalist to occupy the White House, the UCC and our Congregationalist predecessors have not shied away from the body politic. (Howard Dean and Bob Graham



Mayflower Compact

of Florida both missed their chance, but look out for Barak Obama next time! They're all UCC, as are Hank Brown, Pat Schroeder, and David Skaggs, formerly of Colorado's congressional delegation.)

In the "good old days" (which were only good for some of us), the Congregational clergy of Connecticut selected the governor at a meeting of the "General Association," an annual clergy gathering that started in 1738 and is still going strong, though without electoral responsibility.

And clergy in the "good old days," of course, expected their members to attend church as part of the

voting process to hear an election-day sermon. Were we to do such a thing today, it would not only endanger our tax-exempt status, it would be *downright wrong*.

Jerry Falwell writes, "It is the responsibility of every political conservative, every evangelical Christian, every pro-life Catholic, every traditional Jew...to get serious about re-electing President Bush."¹ And Pat Robertson can say, "I think George Bush is going to win in a walk. I really believe I'm hearing from the Lord it's going to be like a blowout election in 2004. The Lord has just blessed him.... It doesn't make any difference what he does, good or bad."² As Sojourners magazine is reminding us, "God is not a Republican. Or a Democrat."

As your pastor, I would never tell you how to cast your vote. Yet, as your minister I want to tell you that your

vote should reflect **your** faith. I would encourage you (even if you've already made up your mind about the November election) to spend some time in prayer about which leader will help to create a world that looks more like the kingdom of God. **How do the values each candidate espouses line up with the essential ethos of Jesus?** (See the

Sermon on the Plain, Luke

6.20–38.) I would challenge each of us to this exercise of discernment, and to vote our faith, rather than simply voting our self-interest.

Shalom!

¹New York Times, July 16, 2004

²AP/Fox News, January 2, 2004

“A Force More Powerful” Film Series

On October 25, at 7:30 PM, Plymouth Church will kick off an award-winning film series entitled “A Force More Powerful”. The films use archival footage to present stories of non-violent movements around the world. Interviews with witnesses, survivors and unsung heroes who contributed to these century-changing events also are included. Each film lasts approximately 40 minutes and will be followed by discussion. Sponsored by the Justice and Peace Ministry Team, the series is designed to develop our understanding of how nonviolent action can succeed in overturning dictators and in securing democracy and human rights.

- **October 25:** The 1960 Nashville, TN campaign to desegregate the downtown is profiled. It introduces the Rev. James Lawson, Jr. who studied Ghandi’s techniques and later joined forces with Martin Luther King, Jr. to become a principal architect of the African-American struggle.
- **November 1:** This film features the Gdansk shipyard strike (1980) in Poland that won Poles the right to have free trade unions, launched the Solidarity movement and catapulted Lech Walesa to the presidency.
- **November 8:** The 1983 national protest days in the copper mines of Chile demonstrated that public opposition to General Pinochet’s dictatorship was possible and signaled the start of a nonviolent, democratic opposition which eventually removed Pinochet from power.
- **November 15:** Learn the story of the consumer boycott campaign against apartheid in South Africa during the mid-1980’s. Radicalized at age 18 by the laws that kept him from enrolling in school, Jack Mkhuseleli founded the influential Port Elizabeth Youth Congress and became a key leader of strikes, boycotts, and other grassroots efforts that eventually defeated apartheid.

The films are free and open to the public.

Dinners For Seven



Meet new people! Attend Dinners for Seven. These social dinners are a great way for Plymouth's new members to meet some of our not-so-new members in a relaxed and comfortable setting. The dinners will be held on Saturday, October. 16; Friday, October 22; and Saturday, October 23. Please sign-up in the fellowship hall if you would like to attend and/or host one of the dinners. Contact Andrea Kelly at 282-7511 or Sally Gilmore at 224-1444 with questions.

Breakfast for Current and Future Ushers

The Deacons will be hosting breakfast and usher training session at 8 AM on Saturday, October 23rd. This is for all current ushers and **anyone would like to be an usher**. It will be delicious and fun. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the board in the Fellowship hall. Call Bob Crandall at 226-4586 if you have any questions.

Neighbors in Need — It's About Justice!

On Sunday, October 3, we will be receiving the Neighbors-In-Need special mission offering. Your gifts support the United Church of Christ's commitment to justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of your offering goes to the Council for American Indian Ministry and the remainder supports justice and direct service projects, many of which address hunger and poverty.

This year's theme is Another World is Possible. Help work toward making a better world by giving to Neighbors in Need.

Ring in the Holiday Season at the Alternative Giving Fair!

Alternative giving is a wonderful way to honor friends and family during the holidays. By donating to the organizations involved, you'll be giving a meaningful gift and helping people around the world. In this time of world awareness and crisis, alternative giving just makes sense.

Organizations represented include:

- Church World Service
- The Heifer Project Int'l
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Doctors Without Borders
- Moringa Trees for Human-Nutrition
- And many more!

Alternative Giving Fair
November 21, 2004
Plymouth Fellowship Hall
After Each Service,
until 2:00 PM

My Trip to Venezuela

By Karen Smith

We hadn't been in Maricaibo a full hour when the Bishop of the Venezuelan church cheerfully joined in singing a children's song about an elephant. He was singing with a teen who had not studied Spanish — at least not since 4th grade, where she'd learned this song. Our Venezuelan hosts were like that: very welcoming, warm, and open. It also began a week of singing. Our seven teens and four adults learned several songs in Spanish, and also one in Wayuu, a native language. Wherever we went we were asked to sing, and the *God is Good* song in three languages was the most popular!

Although it seemed people of all ages were attracted to our smiling, enthusiastic youth, perhaps our young people were the most impressed with the Wayuu people we visited in their village. They were warm, smiling, and friendly. Swarms of children surrounded our teens, eager to touch them, which surprised and humbled our teens. Seeing the primitive living conditions of these people made our youth sad. They witnessed firsthand the inequality of our world; some questioned why they should have so much more than others.

Our trip was timed to allow us to take part in a National Youth Meeting at a federal camp in a tropical part of the country (an eight hour drive). Much of the vegetation and topography resembled southern California, but the intermittent rain/sun and the bright colored birds reminded us we were NOT IN THE U.S. Together with the young people from the UEPV Church, we sang, clapped, danced, prayed, and heard rousing sermons. We appreciated the special care our hosts took with our meals. Gradually our teens who had studied Spanish began to use it. For formal presentations they depended on several translators, two of whom were our young ministers. As the young people from both countries spent time together, they recognized shared interests and enjoyed being together. Several even promised to keep in touch via email.

I think you can agree that when one part of the body hurts, nothing feels right. We've heard Jesus say this, but we've also experienced it personally, whether it's a sore toe or a toothache. If I brought back one lesson from Venezuela, it was this: when part of Christ's body is suffering, *anywhere in the world*, we should all be hurting. This message came to me loud and clear, as in the table grace they taught us: "Bless our food, God. Give food to the hungry and a hunger for justice to those who are not!"

I'm grateful for the opportunity to take part in this wonderful trip. Be assured your gifts of toys, clothing, and supplies were welcomed and will be put to good use.

Middle-Third Herd Upcoming Events

Herd Happy Hour - Friday, October 1st. We'll meet at Jackson's All American Sports Grill (925 E. Harmony Road next to Ace Hardware) at 5 PM for discounted drinks and appetizers. If you're the first there, grab a table for 8 and wave people over. This is a regular Herd event held the first Friday of every month at various locations. It's a great way to meet new people at Plymouth.

Herd Fall/Winter Planning - Saturday, October 9th. Todd and Lauren Mingus will host this planning session at their home (1520 Westfield Dr.) at 4 PM. Please bring an appetizer to share, your calendars and any event ideas. Childcare will be available with everyone contributing to the cost. RSVP to Lauren at 472-1489 or lpmingus@earthlink.net by October 7th.

Fall Men's Retreat

Reserve October 29, 30 and 31 for the Fall Men's Retreat at Sunshine Mountain Inn and Cabins near Allenspark. This year's theme will relate to "Mountaintop Experiences". Information Packets and a sign-upsheet are available in the fellowship hall. The cost for this year's retreat will be \$70 which covers two nights lodging and all meals. Financial assistance is available. Allen Norskog will be the registrar. Call him, 226-5178, or John Henry Peck, 224-2408, for more information.

XYZers to Visit the Bingham Hill Cheese Co.

The XYZers will visit the Bingham Hill Cheese Company at 2:00 PM on October 8th. We will view a program on the making of cheese, then have the opportunity to sample the various cheeses available. Also, participants will be able to purchase cheese if they so desire. Since their space is not large, they have a group limit of 15 people. After the visit, we will meet at a location yet to be determined for coffee and/or a mid-afternoon treat. Directions to the Cheese Company: go north on Lemay Avenue to Lincoln (north of Mulberry/Hwy 14), turn east on Lincoln and go to Commerce, left on Commerce, go north to the Bingham Hill Cheese sign. Meet at the church at 1:30 PM if you wish to carpool.

Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, call Jodie or Bob Rankin, 221-2037.

Get-A-Grip

Saturday, October 16 Marietta & Don Zimmerman will host "apple cider making" at 3:00 PM at their home, followed by a Cajun boil at the Colorado Feed & Grain at 5:00 PM. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, October 13 to the Zimmermans @ 221-5474.

Saturday, November 6: Claudia & Robert Karp will host a "chili cook-off" at the church. More details later.

Saturday, December 18: Gail & Daryl Knoblock will host.



Hilltopper Luncheon October 14

Please plan to join us for the Hilltopper luncheon at noon on Thursday, October 14. There will be no program, just a delicious meal by the Kitchen Angels and a chance for some good fellowship. If you can come, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office, 482-9212, by Tuesday, October 5. Please don't let transportation prevent you from coming. If you need a ride, please call the church office so we can arrange one for you. We're looking forward to seeing you.

Living Open and Affirming

As we enter a stage of raging debate over both the legal and religious aspects of same-sex unions, it becomes even more imperative that Plymouth visibly uphold its Open and Affirming pledge. Through both community outreach and support of current GLBT members, we have the opportunity to make it clear that everyone deserves a place in the faith community. Although we may not have control over the legal assault on same-sex marriage, we have the ability to support loving couples when they wish to commit themselves to one another in the eyes of God.

In July of this year, one such couple, Jason Thiel and Chad Peters, were married at Plymouth by Pastor Hal. Jason is thankful to have found a faith community that is accepting of people of all orientations and describes Plymouth as “a bright and warm ray of light in a world that is cold and unforgiving.” This reminds us that love can be found in a number of places, and that excluding an entire group of people for being who they are can never be done in the name of faith or of God. Jason believes that “God’s work was truly accomplished” on his wedding day. By continuing to provide a home for people who are oftentimes turned away, we can live out the promise of God’s love and encourage all people to embrace their faith.

“Just Peace” Pronouncement

The Peace & Justice Ministry Team presents here, continuing from page nine of the September Placard, some portions of the “Just Peace” Pronouncement and Proposal made at the Fifteenth (XV) General Synod of UCC in 1985:

The Fifteenth General Synod affirms friendship as essential to a Just Peace.

1. We affirm the unity of the whole human community and oppose any use of nationalism to divide this covenant of friendship.
2. We reject all labeling of others as enemies and the creation of institutions that perpetuate enemy relations.
3. We affirm diversity among peoples and nations and

the growth and change that can emerge from the interchange of differing value systems, ideologies, religions and political and economic systems.

4. We affirm nonviolent conflict as inevitable and valuable, an expression of diversity and essential to healthy relationships among people and nations.
5. We affirm all nations developing global community and interchange, including:
 - a. freedom of travel,
 - b. free exchange of ideas and open dialogue,
 - c. scientific, cultural, and religious exchanges,
 - d. public education that portrays other nations fairly, breaking down enemy stereotypes and images, and
 - e. knowledge of foreign languages.

Capital Campaign Plans Progress



The Capital Campaign Exploratory Committee is meeting with the Long Range Planning Committee to coordinate plans for the proposed Capital Campaign. We are waiting until Sharon Benton gets settled in before proceeding full speed and God speed. Hopes and dreams remain for furthering Plymouth's vision of purchasing a new organ, refurbishing and expanding our facility, and establishing a Mission Endowment. Watch for continuing Placard bulletins from the committee: Hal Chorpenning, Tom Dille, Steve Freeland, Harry Halac, Sharon Smith, Betty Weber.

A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Please reserve Sunday, November 14 as a special day in the life of Plymouth Church as we celebrate Consecration Sunday.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING: Help Map Out Plymouth's Future with Master Plan Review



The Long-Range Planning Committee has been working diligently on a **Master Plan** for Plymouth this year, gathering data and congregational input about space needs. RB+B (our architects) and the committee are ready to show you a **first draft** to gather more input.

The Committee and architects have used Plymouth's Strategic Plan as the basis for all our work, so that we are aligning space on the basis of programmatic planning approved by the congregation.

The site plan they will show you maps out areas of **building expansion** and the effective use of our property, while leaving our sanctuary "core" intact. We are planning two opportunities for you to see the Master Plan and comment on it. Your input at this point is critical! Both meetings are identical; please make every effort to attend one of the two meetings.

Excerpts from "Faith in Community Quarterly" (Vol. 2, Issue 1)

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." This famous quote by Margaret Meade perfectly describes the genesis of the Faith Community Volunteer Program in Poudre School District (PSD). The Faith Community Volunteer Program has recruited and oversees ten communities of faith that are matched with eight schools in an 'adopt-a-school' format. The program has been extremely successful and stories of the wonderful rewards for both classrooms and the participating volunteers abound! 'When we created the Faith Community Volunteer Program, we knew we would be placing some wonderful, reliable, sincere volunteers in selected schools,' says Kris Cord, PSD Partnership

Master Plan Review Meetings

WHEN: Sunday, October, 10 at 12:15 PM
(following the 2nd service) OR Sunday, October 17
at 9:30 AM (Adult Ed. Forum)

WHERE: Adult Ed. Forum Room, off the Narthex

WHO: You! We need your input to
determine our course.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

and Volunteer Program coordinator. 'What we didn't anticipate were the many additional ways that the faith communities have helped the children'. Several congregations have not only committed to providing classroom volunteers, but also serve as collection points for coats, school supplies, food and clothing for students in need. Volunteers in the program are highly regarded by the schools for their consistency, reliability and enthusiasm...they truly model caring to our students. Volunteers report they feel recognized and appreciated by students and teachers at their schools. This program is a 'win-win' for PSD and area congregations. We now have examples that the one-on-one assistance provided by these volunteers is helping students reach reading achievement and other goals. Plymouth Church is volunteering with Bennett Elementary School.

Restorative Justice Programs Teach Accountability and Empower Victims of Non-Violent Crime. Restorative Justice seeks to involve both parties (victim and offender) in the discussion of responsibility and consequences. Perrie McMillen, head of Ft. Collins Restorative Justice Youth Conference Program, points out that the benefits to juvenile offenders are great.

"Youth learn about the consequences of their actions by participating in the process. Youth often see shoplifting and other property crime as 'victimless crime'. It is much easier for them to understand the harm they have caused when they are face to face with the person they have harmed. The Restorative Justice model conceives of justice as a community-based matter." Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Estes Park Police Departments all have Restorative Justice programs as a component of their work with juvenile offenders. The Ft. Collins Program meets monthly at Plymouth Church.

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers.

Recently in the Hospital:

† Alan Hobbs

† William Jordan has moved from Centre Rehab to Parkwood Estates.

† Ruth Smith is now a resident of Parkwood Estates.

† Howard Alves, Patty Heyse's father, is now a resident of Good Samaritan.

Our Sympathy is with:

† Debbie and Laurie Clark and family on the death of Debbie's father in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

† Sue and Dennis Sumner and family on the death of Sue's mother in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Congratulations to:

† Barb Fraley who was recently honored as one of the co-founders of the Suicide Resource Center of Larimer County (see article on page nine)

† Eric and Jacquelyn Walz whose son, Carter Michael, was baptized August 29, 2004.

† Andy Ralston who recently obtained a job in Louisville, CO.

Please keep the people of Florida in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

"What a very, very special church family we have here at Plymouth. We live in a society that encourages independence and autonomy, which makes it difficult if the going gets rough to admit that we may need some help. Having Parkinson's disease for 17 years has been a challenge. The medications available have helped make the day-to-day things doable. However, the disease has now progressed to the stage where this is no longer always so.

Last spring we shared some of this with Hal and, soon after, Dick was at our home to let us know that the calling/caring/outreach ministry wanted to help in any way they could. There are not enough words to express our appreciation to you all for your ongoing help with meals and household needs. Your kindness, support and encouragement, along with all the help has been such a blessing in our life at this time and we want to say a big

THANK YOU!"

*With love and appreciation,
Patsy and Jerry Manning*

Some Boundaries for the Coming Transition

By Pastor Dick

Well, the time is coming for me to complete my time as Interim Association Minister. I want to thank you all for your gracious acceptance of me and Carolyn. We have been privileged to be among you. You are a very welcoming people, a very thoughtful people, and a very caring and committed people. We have grown in our time in your church community and we extend our appreciation and thanks to you all!

The richness of the programming at Plymouth both for adults and youth/children is one of the best we have ever encountered. I hope you realize what a treasure exists here. And Hal has been a wonderful colleague with whom to work and walk for what looks like an eighteen months stint here. The whole experience is one both Carolyn and I treasure.

I want you all to know that I personally think you have a great candidate in Sharon Benton. She is the only candidate who called me with questions about the church. I thought her questions very wise and discerning. And at the time I did not know either her age or her pastoral experience. I just knew this was one of the most solid people I had encountered in a very long while. And as we were talking on the phone I said myself "I really like her!" And I am sure you will too. This should be an exciting time for Plymouth. With my own background in chaplaincy I was delighted later to learn that she has both hospital and senior care experience.

Many of you have indicated your affection for me and have had questions and desires that I stay on. This is very normal and it has happened to me before. Therefore I thought it helpful to provide some guidelines for when I am done with my work here.

- Out of respect for the new person, and in keeping with accepted pastoral ethical standards, I will be duty-bound to leave Plymouth and will not even visit for at least six months.
- It is very possible some of us will have encounters in that time. I will always be happy to hear good news about Plymouth. But I would request that you not share any complaints. It is inappropriate

for a former pastor, even interim, to listen to complaints. I would gently encourage you to take any such (and I hope they are few!) to your pastoral staff directly.

- I will not be available to do any weddings or funerals or memorial services. These are for the current staff to provide.

Finally, what of the future for us? At this point God only knows. As you know I have encountered another round with my Meniere's disease. I enjoy doing what I do, so if health permits I may consider something else. If there is nothing that really is exciting, (and even if there is) I will be working on publishing some of my prayers. Many people in many churches have found them meaningful, and if I have to self-publish them I will.

Again, thank you for such a rich context in which to do ministry. Grace, mercy, and peace be with you.

Honoring Barb Fraley

On September 24, Barbara Fraley was honored by the Suicide Resource Center of Larimer County as one of the co-founders of the organization. Fifteen years ago, Barbara and a friend, Gail Bishop, were discussing the high rate of suicide in Colorado and Larimer County and decided to do something about it. They formed an organization to help educate people about suicide and to provide support for families that had suffered loss due to suicide. The program was an instant success and has continued to grow. Barb served on the board of directors for six years.

In addition to her work with the Suicide Resource Center, Barb has actively served at Plymouth, including work on the search committees for Dick and for Sharon Benton. She's a deacon, and co-leads the Calling/Caring Ministry with Dianne Stober.

Congratulations to Barb!

The Food Bank of Larimer County

invites all of its supporters to its 20th anniversary fundraising event titled "A Little Night Music", on Saturday, October 9th, at 7 PM at the Food Bank at 1301 Blue Spruce in Fort Collins. Food, drink, dancing, and a silent auction are the highlights for this special evening. Tickets are \$100 per person (\$50 tax deductible), and should be ordered by September 28th. Call 530-3101 for reservations. Dress is casual. Separate contributions to the Food Bank may be made at any time. Chuck Cairns of Social Concerns Committee has contribution envelopes available for donations.

The Eracism Film and Discussion Series

continues with two more film dates. "In Whose Honor" will be shown on Sunday, October 3rd, and looks at the practice of "honoring" American Indians by making them mascots in sports. "Zoot Suit" will be shown on October 10, and explores the trial of four Chicano men accused of murder in Los Angeles in 1943. Issues of racism in the criminal justice system are highlighted. Both films begin at 6:30 PM at the Main Fort Collins Library, with free admission.

Health Kits for Church World Service Disaster Relief.

Church Women United is sponsoring the Health Kit project for Church World Service. Contents for each kit are: 1-Hand Towel, 1-Washcloth, 1-Comb, 1-Bar of soap(bath size in box), 1-Nail file or 2 Emery boards, 1-Toothbrush in box, 1-Toothpaste (4-6 oz. in box), 6-Band-Aids. Wrap items in towel and place in plastic Hefty or Ziploc bag. Please include \$2 for shipping costs. Pickup the list of items by the plastic container in the Fellowship Hall. Return kits to Plymouth by October 31. Contact Mary Mosier, 484-9356 or Dorothy Richardson, 223-6042 for more information.

TRIAD is organizing a SALT (Seniors and Law Together) group at First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Collins.

The group will meet at the church, 531 South College Ave., at 9:30 AM on the third Thursday of the month beginning October 21. The October program will be "Personal Safety". The name TRIAD comes from the organizations in-

involved: the chiefs of police in Larimer County, the Colorado State Patrol, the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, and senior citizens organizations. TRIADs create informational programs that teach seniors how best to protect themselves against mail and telephone fraud. The law enforcement agencies assist in educating seniors on personal safety. Statistics seem to show that the programs are working. All seniors in Larimer County are invited to attend. Program and refreshments are provided at no charge. For more information, contact Therese at First Presbyterian Church, 482-6107.

"Safe Homes for All" Gift Registry at Target.

Beginning, October 16 and running through November 20 your trip to the Ft. Collins Target store can also help the women and children of CrossRoads Safe-house Domestic Violence Shelter. The "Safe Homes for All" Gift Registry, sponsored by the Junior League of Ft. Collins, is a community-wide effort to collect the daily living items needed at the shelter as well as items residents need to re-establish homes once they leave the shelter. The registry list will be available at the Kiosks where you'd find a wedding or baby shower registry — just look for the CrossRoads list. Your donations can be dropped off at the Target Customer Service Desk and will be delivered to the shelter within the week. For more information, please contact Lauren Mingus at 472-1489 or lpmingus@earthlink.net.

Phil Hoefler Already from California to Texas.

Our head trustee, Phil Hoefler, is riding with his brother, Jon Hoefler, from California to Florida. They left California on September 8, crossed Arizona, New Mexico, and they reached Texas on September 20. (And some of us felt really good about just riding our bikes to Plymouth!)

Reminder!

The deadline for the November Placard is **Monday, October 18**. Please e-mail your articles to:

[Karin Marsh\(plymouth@plymouthucc.org\)](mailto:Karin.Marsh@plymouth@plymouthucc.org)
and

[Lauren Mingus \(lpmingus@earthlink.net\)](mailto:Lauren.Mingus@earthlink.net).

NEWS & NOTES

A Very Heartfelt Thank You to Hal, Ben Slocumb and John Nortier

...for moving our new 355 pound fire-proof file to its proper destination. We admire and appreciate your strategic thinking and the physical strength that made it possible!

Caring Conversations Caring Conversations is an AARP program that deals with such end-of-life decisions as medical issues, long-term care concerns, and legal issues. It is an intergenerational workshop that will take place on October 30, from 8 AM — 12:30 PM at the Chilson Senior Center, 700 East 4th Street, Loveland, CO. The workshops and continental breakfast are free, but you must register by October 22 because space accommodations limit the number who can attend. The workshop will provide specific guidance about ways to conduct these difficult but important conversations.

Elder adults, their children, health professionals and all who are involved in caring for a loved one should benefit from this presentation. To register, contact the Chilson Center at 970-962-2783.

The Mission, Catholic Charities

Northern, is in need of personal size toothpaste, razors and deodorant for their homeless clients. Donations may be dropped off at 460 Linden Center Drive between 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Cropwalk Sunday, October 24th. You'll soon see Dotty and Phil Koster in Fellowship Hall asking you to take a pledge packet. Get your friends to sponsor you and then have fun with other members of the church as we travel through the city on a 5K walk. The Cropwalk starts at 1:00 PM Sunday, October 24th from First Presbyterian Church on South College. We Look forward to seeing you at the event.

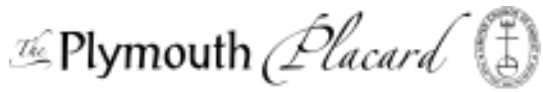
Sock and Mitten Drive for Irish

Elementary. This year's sock and mitten drive will benefit the students at Irish Elementary, many of which live at or below the poverty level. Please help make the winter more comfortable for these kindergarten through sixth-grade students by bringing winter wear items to the Fellowship Hall during October.

Gleaning, October 3. Gleaning is the gathering of produce left behind by the initial reaping, and is for the purpose of avoiding waste. Historically, it was a source of food for widows and those with special needs. Join groups from Ft. Collins on Sunday, October 3 for gleaning of squash, beets and broccoli at Grant Farms. Carpools will leave from 1st United Methodist Church , 1005 Stover, at 12:30 PM. For more info, contact Bill Moseley at 221-0233.

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 Chorpensing	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	



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

Non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Ft. Collins, CO 80521
Permit No. 109

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Who: You!
Everyone is Welcome!

When: Sunday, October 3 at 6:00 PM
(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