

The Plymouth Placard



SEPTEMBER 2003

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN SEPTEMBER

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

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

September 7

Jubilee Sunday!

Mark 7.24-37

Celebrate the beginning of our education and program year!

Fellowship brunch for the whole congregation at 9:30 a.m.

Taizé Service

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

If you've never joined us, try this deepening contemplative service

September 11

Sanctuary open for prayer, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

September 14

Proverbs 1.20-33

“Wisdom Cries Out”

September 21

Mark 9.30-37

“One Such Child”

September 28

Mark 9.38-50

“Who Is with Us?”

Special Reminder:

The Board of Deacons has changed the time of the early service,
so be sure to be on time as we begin worship at **8:15.**

TAIZÉ INFO

WHO: YOU! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH 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

New Church Directory!

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

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

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

Some history of Plymouth Church will be rediscovered on August 31st as the Centennial Committee will open the cornerstone from the original church. The festivities will begin immediately following the 9:30 worship service. The panoramic picture of our congregation, originally scheduled for this day, has been postponed until Sunday, October 5, the day after our Centennial Banquet. Details will follow in later bulletins. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on this historical and exciting occasion.

From Hal's Desk:

Reading, Writing, Ministering

The August 23 issue of *The Christian Century* (the essential news magazine of mainline churches) had a very interesting story on **what clergy read** and **how much they read**. At first glance, this issue may not seem very important to you. But, the plot thickens.

Back in the good old days – before the Internet or PCs ... even before most ministers could type – we spent a lot more time in face-to-face interaction with our parishioners and holed up reading. (There's a reason they call it The Minister's *Study*.) One rule of thumb I heard was that a minister ought to spend roughly 8 hours a week reading – and not just newspapers or fiction or self-help books, but rather professional books that help the minister to continue developing (not that newspapers, etc., don't help). After all, congregations like ours count on having an “educated clergy,” and that necessitates continuing study.

A recent NORC/University of Chicago study of 833 clergy from 80 different traditions found that Episcopalians read the most (at five hours a week) and that Nazarenes read the least (at two hours a week). More than 10 percent of clergy said they read less than one hour per week. This isn't a good trend for clergy or for the congregations they serve.

The other interesting element of the study is that there is a fair amount of crossover in the type of books mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic read. (Serious theologians like Karl Rahner, Henri Nouwen, Walter Brueggeman, and Marcus Borg were among the names mentioned.) Most “conservative” or “evangelical” Protestants tended to read books about the practice of ministry, leadership, and church growth. The number-one book for these readers was *The Prayer of Jabez* by Bruce Wilkinson, a book that extols the “virtue” of self-serving prayer. There were **no women** on the Top 12 author lists for either Catholics or “conservatives,” and only Barbara Brown Taylor made it onto the mainline list.

All of this leads me to the point that Plymouth has not only said that continuing education is important for your ordained ministers, you've made it happen by putting it into practice. Every year, the congregation encourages us to spend two weeks in continuing education, and you even allow some budget for it! I think it's a tremendous gift to your clergy, personally and professionally, but I also think it will bear fruit for the members of this congregation. So, **thank you** for being so generous and for having such foresight!

When you get this copy of the *Placard*, I'll be studying with Marianne and Marcus Borg at Ring Lake Ranch, an ecumenical study center in Dubois, Wyoming. Marianne is an Episcopal priest serving at Trinity Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, and Marcus is one of the best-known New Testament scholars in the country. (You may have read *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* or *The God We Never Knew*, both of which I recommend

highly.) Marcus will be focusing on the historical Jesus and Marianne will center her part of the seminar around the Christ of faith. It should be an amazing class!

So, thank you again for bucking the trend and to helping me continue to expand my theological horizons. I look forward to sharing what I learn with you!

Shalom!

Peace!



P.S. I am looking forward to study leave (with Marianne and Marcus Borg) from August 24-September 5.

The Centennial Banquet Is Rapidly Approaching!!

October 4th is just a few weeks away and so it is time to start purchasing your tickets for the banquet. They will be on sale starting September 7th and will continue until September 21st. The banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center and will include dinner and a program to celebrate the first 100 years of Plymouth Congregational Church.

Also on October 4th to celebrate the Centennial of Plymouth is an open house at the old church. The doors of the old Plymouth Church will be open at 9:00 a.m., with a short celebrating service at 9:30. There will be an anthem dedicated to Plymouth performed by the choir.

These two events are not to be missed as we celebrate the history of our church while we still make strides into the future.

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 Hofer to celebrate the 100th year of Plymouth Church, on our next sale date of September 7th.

Venezuelan Delegation Coming to Plymouth September 15

Bishop Lugo Gamaliel, his wife Elida and teenage daughter Gabriela, several other adults and youth, including a music director, will be with us. If you could host some of the delegation overnight, please call Margaret Stockover, 482-3727.

Your opportunity to be an international friend for one night.

Note from the Personnel Committee:

Personnel is pleased to report that we have completed Hal's evaluation. We received 68 surveys out of around 200 households. The process also included Hal's self-evaluation. The Committee and Hal jointly agreed on goals for next year.

Members of the Personnel Committee:

Jennie Weller, Chair

Marty Marsh

Ed Jakabauskas

Handbell And Chancel Choirs

Handbell Choir rehearsal begins Wednesday, Aug. 27 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 also begin Aug. 27 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

Please Note: Articles for our monthly newsletter, The Placard, are due in the church office the 3rd Monday of each month. Please have your materials in the office by the deadline. (There are exceptions to this occasionally due to holidays.) Information on events for the month of October is due by **Monday September 15th**. Thank you!

LIVING Open and Affirming

Well, school is again a part of our daily lives and the Open and Affirming Committee would like you to think about the following as you visit your child's school, talk to your child about school, go to work in a school, or reflect on those kids around you that are impacted daily by that institution we all know as, SCHOOL. Are white families privileged in schools? Challenge yourself to identify some experiences you have had or watched others have. Racial prejudice is a negative action directed against, privilege is a passive advantage that has been granted to an individual or group. Good teachers recognize and actively address prejudice, but as P. McIntosh points out in her excellent article, *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*, most white people are blind to the privileges accorded to white children and parents in schools.

Whatever topics my children choose to study, they are confident that they will find materials that link people of their race to the accomplishments of those areas.

My children know that they will always see faces like their own liberally represented in the textbooks, posters, films, and other materials in the hallways, classrooms, and media centers of their schools.

When my children talk about celebrations, holidays or family observances in show-and-tell or in other informal exchanges at school, they know that their teachers will have experienced similar events and will be able to reinforce their stories.

The color of my children's skin causes most adults in school offices, classrooms, and hallways to have neutral or positive assumptions about them.

My children are confident that they will never be embarrassed by hearing others suggest that the problems of the school (low levels of achievement, the need for special support services) are caused by the high numbers of children of their race.

I am confident policy decisions that affect my children's school experience will be made by state and local bodies dominated by people who understand our racial history and culture.

The list can go on and on. My family and yours may never have asked for these privileges; principals and teachers didn't purposely create them; and, very probably, neither they nor we have been consciously aware that these privileges exist. But they do and stating that no one person or situation is to blame does not erase the fact that privilege has allowed my family and, perhaps yours, to take for granted things that others must spend time, energy, and resources trying to earn. What are you and I go-

ing to do about
that?

Habitat for Humanity

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

Habitat for Humanity has started to build a new house and will be needing more volunteers. We have therefore scheduled another PLYMOUTH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY! for Saturday, October 18. We will need a lot of "nail driving persons" as well as others to help prepare some lunches. Additional information, a sign-up sheet, and directions to the build site will be posted on the bulletin board as the day approaches. However, please mark your calendars now to reserve that date. For additional information call Wes Boulton, 223-8907.

Ushers Wanted!!

We need a few good men and women to be ushers for Sunday services. If you are willing to serve as an usher, please sign up on the Narthex bulletin board or contact David Smith (204-0210 or poppysmith@comcast.net). A short training session will be held after the 10:45 service September 14th to review duties.

Thank you.

David Smith (poppysmith@comcast.net)

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

Yard Sale—September 6

If you haven't cleaned out your attic, basement, or garage—the time has come to do so!! Our annual yard sale will soon be upon us. The big day is be Saturday, September 6. You may bring your donated items to the church starting Sunday, August 31, after the opening of the cornerstone celebration.

Marcia Hoefer, Mary Freeland, Eva Wallace and the rest of the Get-A-Grip Group would really appreciate your volunteered help the week prior and the day of the sale. This is a wonderful church, and this is for a great cause! Proceeds will go to Our Church's Wider Mission. We thank you in advance for all the donated items that will come in and for all the help setting up and cleaning up that will be needed to make this a big success! Please don't bring anything that we will need to throw away because we no longer have a dumpster. A sign-up sheet if you can volunteer to help is on the narthex bulletin board. Call Marcia Hoefer for further information @ 377-1950.

Faith response to Iraq crisis

Plymouth is continuing to collect school kits for Church World Service to distribute to children in Iraq. Bring your donation to church and put it in the collection box in the narthex. Contact Donna Greene or JoAnne Jensen.

Peace group meeting

The peace group will meet after the second worship service on Sunday, September 14. We will talk about becoming a Just Peace church, the weekly peace vigil, and other activities. Please bring your ideas and prayers for peace. For information contact Jane Ellen Combelic, 407-0153, jec@river-rock.org.

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

Hilltoppers

We will be looking for you on Thursday, September 11, 2003.

Luncheon provided by our "Kitchen Angels" 12 noon-1pm.

Donation, \$3.00.

**Following the luncheon, we will discuss ideas, suggestions, plans, etc.,
for future programs.**

Dick Einerson, our Interim Associate Pastor, will be with us.

Please come.

We really want you with us!

The Middle-Third Herd

Our new younger adult fellowship group is growing! We want you on our e-mail list. If you aren't getting our e-mails already, please contact Andrea Kelly at 4kellyfam@comcast.net or 282-7511. We're ready to plan for Fall and welcome you to join us!

Saturday, September 13 will be our next planning breakfast for Fall/Winter events until the end of the year. Hal and Jean will host a potluck breakfast at their home at 9:30am. Bring a list of ideas and any event calendars you can get your hands on. Childcare will be provided this time and we'll all pitch in \$ for the sitter. Please let us know if you can come and if you require childcare.

Saturday, September 27 will be an Adults Only Guided Sunset Hike in Lory State Park. We'll meet at the Lory State Park Visitors Center at 4pm. A light dinner will be planned so please RSVP to Andrea Kelly at 282-7511. Please arrange your own childcare for this event.

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

One of the more enjoyable tasks a loving congregation does is that of visiting people. In that it doesn't involve particular expertise and is pleasurable, it is scarcely a task at all. Yet it is an important aspect of our life together here at Plymouth. Do you have an extra half-hour per month that you could give to visiting someone who is not as able to get out and around as s/he once did? Sometimes even just a phone call now and then can make

a very positive difference in another's life. If you might enjoy connecting with someone here at Plymouth who would appreciate it, please call Dick Einerson at 227-5123 or Barb Lehner at 225-1950.

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 September meeting of the XYZ group will be to join with the Venezuelan delegation on Monday, September 15th for an evening of fellowship. Watch the bulletins for further details.

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.

Thank you--Thank you--Thank you, To All Of You That Volunteered This Summer!

With your help, we were able to remodel two large rooms formerly occupied by the Plymouth Children's Center. Because of your volunteer spirit, Plymouth now has a designated preschool Sunday school room which can double as a nursery during worship services. We also now have a large adult education room. You sorted through preschool inventory and organized supplies for use in our other programs, and donated many items we will not need. You gave new life to walls, cabinets and shelves with fresh coats of paint. You washed and repaired cabinet doors, toys and dress up clothes. You constructed new bookcases and a new wall between the Fireside room and the new adult education room. We wanted to include all of your names in this newsletter, but realized that was probably not feasible when your numbers passed 50. You know who you are, and we as staff most certainly know who you are. **We deeply appreciate every hour you have given towards this effort.**

Thank you from our hearts!

Donna Greene and Alice Clark

News from the Plymouth Peace Group

Compassionate Listening in Israel and Palestine

In September and October, Barb Lehner will be traveling to Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank with the Compassionate Listening Project.

Compassionate Listening was developed by Gene Knudsen Hoffman, international peacemaker and founder of the US/USSR Reconciliation program (Fellowship of Reconciliation). Gene 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. In 1990, peace activist Leah Greene founded the Compassionate Listening Project (formerly called Mid-East Citizen Diplomacy): "We believe that peace comes through the hard work of meeting one's enemy - the human being behind the stereotype, and acknowledging one another's suffering. Compassionate Listening as a tool for reconciliation is based on a simple yet profound formula for the resolution of conflict: adversaries giving the gift of listening. To help reconcile conflicting parties, we must have the ability to understand the suffering of both sides."

Barb will be sharing her experiences with us during a forum later in the fall. In the meantime, send

along your prayers for a safe and healing journey.

Senior High Youth Group Events ...

Hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready to get back into the swing of things. We have several fun activities planned:

- **September 21:** We will meet at the church at 9:15 a.m. We are holding the Adult Forum for Sunday School. Our topic will be the Mission trip we went on in July. We will discuss what we did, what we learned, and answer questions. Whether you went on the Mission Trip or not, please attend.
- **September 28:** We will meet after church at 12:00ish. From church we will get a quick bite to eat and head to City Park for some *Ultimate Frisbee*. Please bring money for your lunch.

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.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF JR. HIGH STUDENTS - EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S CHURCH-SPONSORED HEALTH AND SEXUALITY PROGRAM

A meeting will be held for all interested parties after the second service on September 14th (room location TBA). Marsha Scott will be available to present some of the topics that will be a part of the Jr. High program this year. This is your opportunity to review the content and ask the questions that make you feel anxious about the way that the question might be answered. Please come with your concerns, support, and enthusiasm. Please see the article in the YOUTH newsletter titled "Dating, Donuts and Discussion" for more details. Contact Marsha at 225-1912 or 498-6742 for any questions - any time.

727, 132 and 13! Those are great numbers!

This summer there were 727 campers at La Foret and 132 staff for the 13 camps run by The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Just think about how many experiences these people had during their stay at La Foret. All because La Foret is there! We want to continue to maintain and to expand the facilities at La Foret so these people, from children to adults, will return to this special place in the Black Forest, Colorado Springs, CO.

A Memorable Evening of Stories, Music and an Award Presentation will happen on Friday, October 25th. This is our Second Annual La Foret Dinner and Silent Auction. This lively and delicious evening will be at The Terrace Gardens, Englewood (Centennial), CO, starting at 6:30 p.m. Personal invitations will be sent on Monday, August 25. If you do not receive one by the end of the week, please call Alan Johnson. The deadline for the RSVP is September 19 so the food can be ordered. (There will be a vegetarian entree available.)

If you are not able to attend the dinner, we invite you to participate in two other ways. First, consider giving an item for the silent auction. We already have one week in a fabulous home in Ouray, CO, Beloved Biscotti, a painting by a professional artist, a framed photo by a professional photographer, jewelry made by a Santa Fe artist, A Gourmet Meal for Eight, pottery, delightful stuffed animals, and more. Please call Alan if you have a special item to donate, or someone you know who might.

Second, you can send a contribution towards the proceeds from the Dinner. Your name would be listed on the program, if you so desire. Send the check to La Foret Conference, Box 88229, Colorado Springs, CO 80908, noting the "La Foret Dinner" on your check.

Thank you for your generosity as we continue to offer La Foret as an important of our outdoor ministry.

Alan Johnson 720-304-6918 or rajohnson8@aol.com

PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

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

Recently in the Hospital:

- Paula Dille
- Marti Stahmer
- Les Fraley
- Juanita Feit
- Sylvia Pacer
- Larry Becker

Our Sympathy is with:

- Arline and Jim Heaton, on the death of her father, Howard Pollach.
- Rick Riddoch, on the death of his father, C. Keith Riddoch, August 16.

Congratulations to:

- Sarah Lollar with whom we joyfully celebrate the conclusion of her chemo treatments.
- Sarah Clark and Joel Nelson on their wedding Sept. 6. Sarah is Alice and David Clark's daughter.
- Sam Garton and Norlene Worrell on their wedding Sept. 20 in Linda and Lew Garton's backyard.

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>	<u>hal@plymouthucc.org</u>
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.

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

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

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.

General Information Concerning NoCoNet

NoCoNet is a Northern Colorado forum for under-employed professionals wanting to find jobs and advance their careers. NoCoNet is an active, supportive, and participatory volunteer group with a purpose to share job leads, sharpen re-employment search methods, build resume and interviewing skills, and network with others. NoCoNet will meet every Monday morning beginning June 30th in the new Faith Evangelical Free Church facility at 3920 South Shields. NoCoNet meetings serve Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor, Wellington, LaPorte, Greeley and surrounding areas.

NoCoNet grew out of the need identified by the Fort Collins HighTechNetwork to better serve the job seeking professional. In addition to partnering with the High Tech Network, NoCoNet also partners with the very successful LongNet organization in Longmont. NoCoNet is designed to meet the needs of the job seeker by bringing professionals together to discuss

Non-profit organization

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

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Ft. Collins, CO 80521
Permit No. 109

Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.H.C.', written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

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.”