

The Plymouth Placard



September 2007

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

PLEASE NOTE THE SHIFTING SERVICE TIMES!

September 2

(All-Church Retreat at La Foret)

One service at 9:30

The Rev. John Henry Peck preaching

September 9

JUBILEE SUNDAY!

Psalm 139

Please note: the new schedule experiment begins today!

9:00 first service

10:15 fellowship "hour" for everyone

10:45 second service and simultaneous Sunday School

September 16

Exodus 32.7-14, Psalm 51.1-10, Luke 15.1-10.

September 23

Guest preacher: The Rev. Malcolm Himschoot

Malcolm is interim coordinator of the Open and Affirming of the UCC Coalition of LGBT Concerns

September 30

1 Timothy 6.6-19 and Luke 16.19-31



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HAL'S DESK.....	2
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	3
FELLOWSHIP.....	4-7
COMMITTEE UPDATES.....	8
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.....	9
ADULT EDUCATION	10
YOUTH EDUCATION.....	11
PLYMOUTH PRAYERS.....	12
LIFE&CARE.....	13
NEWS&NOTES.....	14

FROM HAL'S DESK

Mini-Sabbatical: Pilgrimage to Ireland

Many of you know that I've really enjoyed studying the New Testament with Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, two of the more (in) famous members of the Society of Biblical Literature's Jesus Seminar. And you probably know that both Plymouth and I were fortunate enough to receive a clergy renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment for my sabbatical. And a few of you know that the Church Council was kind enough to grant me a two-week "mini-sabbatical" this year, since I'm delaying my "real" sabbatical for a year so that I can enjoy (!) Plymouth construction and renovation. All three of these factors have coalesced into a dream trip that I will take this month.

The Celtic Christianity pilgrimage is organized through The Center for Spiritual Development, directed by Marianne Borg, at the Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon.

Beginning September 9, 2007, I'll be heading to Dublin, where we'll spend a few days exploring the Hills of Tara and Slane, the Cathedral of St. Patrick, the National Museum of Ireland, see Stone Age passage graves at Newgrange and the famous 10th-century high crosses at Monasterboice. I'm really looking forward to seeing the Book of Kells, a richly illustrated gospel manuscript and going to Glendalough, the monastic community started by St. Kevin. Our pilgrimage will continue to the isle of Inish Mór in Galway Bay and then wind through County Clare to the Dingle Peninsula and finally on to Shannon for the flight home.

Pilgrimage is an old idea, and is common to many religious traditions. It isn't travel for the sake of tourism, but travel for the sake of spiritual awakening and is undertaken in some cases as a spiritual discipline (though from the looks of it, this tour will include nary a hard berth). And I wonder if there is interest in reviving the concept of pilgrimage here at Plymouth.

Community is one of the key elements of my sabbatical time: examining the old monastic traditions of Ireland and the UK as well as neo-monastic communities like Iona and Northumbria. I hope to see some elements in what they are doing that might be transplantable here in North

America. (I'm not planning on starting a monastery...)

Last weekend, I did a little techno-dabbling and put up a website to keep track of my sabbatical. I've put up a Google map tracing the pilgrimage route and my grant proposal for the Lilly Endowment for you to read. My intention (technology allowing) is to keep a travelogue on the web, so that if you're interested in seeing some of the photos and reading some of what I'm learning, you can log on and check it out. Part of the Lilly Endowment grant is to bring some of the sabbatical gleanings to you at Plymouth, and the web is one of the ways I'll be doing that. If you want to visit, just point your web browser to www.halsabbatical.org

I end with a spirit of thanksgiving to you all for the gift of time, to the Lilly Endowment for the gift of financial support, to our staff for the gift of coverage in my absence, and to God for the gift of allowing me to be in ministry with you.

Slainté!



EDITOR'S NOTE

Just to let you know, my computer crashed and I lost all documents from the past month. So if I was suppose to run an article in this month's Placard and it isn't in here, that is why, so please forgive!!!

Thanks for all your support and articles!

Peace,

John Collier

PLACARD DEADLINE

THE NEXT PLACARD DEADLINE IS **SEPT 17th**. PLEASE RESPECT OUR DEADLINE AND PLEASE KEEP ARTICLES AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE, NO LONGER THAN 300 WORDS. PLEASE SEND ALL ARTICLES TO: shutterbugville@aol.com **AND** plymouth@plymouthucc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUTUMN SPIRITUAL GATHERING

A Community Multi-Faith Celebration
"Exploring Essential Spiritual Principles"

September 6th, 7:30-9:00 pm

Lincoln Center's Canyon West Room, 417 W.
Magnolia, Ft. Collins

Plymouth UCC and the Northern Colorado Multi-faith Coalition again invite you to our Autumn Spiritual Gathering. This free educational and experiential event was begun in 2005 by ToAHS, (Tent of Abraham, Hagar and Sarah), as "God's October Surprise" since Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Ramadan, World Communion Sunday, and the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi all occurred in October. Last year, the celebration was expanded by the Multi-Faith Coalition and included the participation and sacred events of other religions including Religious Science, Vedic Traditions, Buddhism, Sufism, Baha'i, and Native Americans.

This year's event promises to be bigger, better, and more beautiful than ever. The program will feature noted speakers from a sampling of faiths who will share information about and insights into the "Essential Spiritual Principles" of their own traditions. Also included will be music, symbols, and prayers from many spiritual paths. All participants will receive a "Community Multi-Faith Events Handbook" giving brief descriptions of the many participating faith and peace groups, invitations to their services and festivities, and a history of local Interfaith endeavors. More information is available on our website, www.fortnet.org/sojourn.

Since 9/11/01, there has been much concern and inquiry about our various religions and how we might all live together in an ever-shrinking world. The purpose of this event is to educate and enlighten participants about the "Essential Spiritual Principles" in the various paths to the Divine, to explore and celebrate our unity and diversity, and to come together in peace, prayer, service and mutual understanding.

Please join us as we share, learn, pray, sing, dance, and work together for peace, justice, human rights, and the healing of our world.

Rev. Dr. Victoria A. Gardner

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

United Nations International Day of Peace

Fall Equinox, Friday, September 21st, 6:00–8:30 pm
Mennonite Church, 300 E. Oak St (near the
downtown library), 224-4106

Please join Plymouth's Peace with Justice Ministry Team, Prayerworks For Peace, and the Northern Colorado Chapter of the United Nations Association for a potluck supper and Interfaith Prayer and Peace Service September 21st.

All over the world, peace vigils, programs, prayer services, and similar events are being held on this date. The idea for the International Day of Prayer for Peace was proposed in 2004 during a meeting between the World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Peace. Originally established by a UN resolution in 1981 and first observed in 1982, it's a day "devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples." Held on the Fall Equinox, the International Day of Prayer for Peace is one of the initiatives of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence, and on September 21 or the Sunday preceding it, Churches all over the world are asked to pray for peace and work together to nurture lasting peace in the world. For more information, visit www.internationaldayofpeace.org/un.htm For information about the 6:00 potluck, please contact Holly Stern, 493-7030,

hollysternfc@yahoo.com

The interfaith prayer and peace service will be from 7:00–8:30, and all participants are welcome to share readings, poems, stories, articles, prayers, songs, etc. focusing on peace. For information about the service, please contact Dr. Victoria Gardner, 407-1351, DrVickie@att.net.

Tune in to "Interfaith Dialogue" on KRFC, 88.9 FM, Thursday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. to hear a program about the International Day of Prayer For Peace.

FELLOWSHIP

Prayerworks For Peace Interfaith Services

Services Resume September 9th

For world peace and the healing of conditions leading to violence/war.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God." Matthew 5:9

7:15 – 8:30 Sunday evenings

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, East Room

916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins.

(Northeast of the corner of Shields and Prospect)

We also provide prayer, support and resources for peacemakers.

People of all faiths are encouraged to join us for music, readings, discussion, personal sharing, prayer, meditation, support, and the creation of the U.S. Department of Peace.

Rev. Russ Jones, 407-9264

Dr. Victoria Gardner, 407-1351,

DrVickie@att.net.

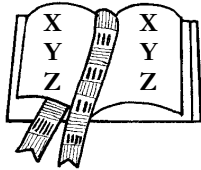
Remember, prayer works!

Adult Goodness Gorillas* Kickoff

Our children have much to teach us, if we only pay attention. In that spirit, a new adult service group is being formed, modeled after Plymouth's kindergarten through 5th grade service club affectionately known as "Goodness Gorillas". The adult version's first project will be gleaning vegetables at Grant's Farm on Sunday, Sept. 23rd from 2-4pm, with the harvest being donated to the Food Bank of Larimer County. All adults are invited, and since this project is well-suited for young people, families are welcome too. Those wanting to carpool should meet at the church at 1:30pm. If you plan to attend, please send a quick email to jgreuel@comcast.net (or call 493-4991) and indicate how many people will be coming. Soon to come: a Plymouth email list for Adult Goodness Gorillas.

*Note: "Adult Goodness Gorillas" is a temporary name we will use until someone comes up with a better one. We can brainstorm new names over the broccoli and cauliflower.

XYZ



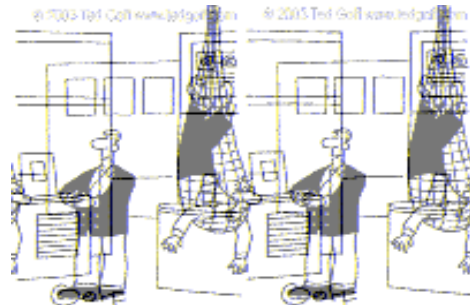
Xyz is having a potluck dinner at Warren Shores on Saturday September 8th at 5:30. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert and meat if you want to grill. Any questions please contact Judy & Wolf Filusch at 377-2464

5 POINTS TO PONDER

- (1) Always respect other people's boundaries, whatever they are.
- (2) Don't put on a "church face" on Sunday. Be who you are.
- (3) God loves you even when you don't feel joy.
- (4) A hug is not to be taken lightly. It can mean a great deal.
- (5) Special friends are sent by God, sometimes in unusual ways.

PLYMOUTH MEN'S RETREAT

October 26-28, Sunshine Mountain Inn, Allenspark, CO. Theme: "Remembering and Being Remembered". Reserve the dates for a good time, good food, and good discussion. Estimated cost: \$80 per person. Signup will begin at the end of September.



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FELLOWSHIP

ATTENTION, COLLEGE STUDENTS!



Do you know about the *Geller Center for Spiritual Development* at CSU? It is a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive place to explore your spiritual journey. Plymouth has been a long-time supporter of this ecumenical ministry, and we often co-sponsor activities for the CSU community. Regular gatherings include:

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:45 pm FREE dinner with discussion.

Topics are very diverse, depending on what students are wanting to talk about. Discussions planned so far this semester include stuff like: loneliness, "absolutes", spirituality and sexuality, "my faith and organic farming" with the founder of Grants' Farms, drum circle, inter-faith dialog, "Did Jesus mean to start a new religion?" and more! Come join us for some loving and genuine community with people who make no claim to have the answers, but are willing to share their own thoughts, feelings, and experiences along the way.

MEDITATION AT NOON Tuesdays from 12:10 to 12:50 pm contemplative prayer & guided meditations Danforth Chapel in The Oval Meditation is at the heart of spiritual growth in almost all traditions, yet many of us don't make the time to explore it. Here is an opportunity—whether you are experienced or feel like a “novice” - to nurture your path. Rev. Peggy Christiansen has been exploring, leading and teaching from a variety of practices for 20 years.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN STUDENT

NETWORK Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 pm dessert, discussion, and discipleship

This student group is based on the 8 points of what it means to be progressive, according to the Center for Progressive Christianity, www.tpc.org. The group seeks to have an ecumenical voice for progressive Christians on campus, supporting each other in living the tough questions and in living a life where actions are consistent with beliefs, knowing that “the way we behave toward one another and toward others is the fullest expression of what we believe...” (point 5)

We have a variety of other programs, as well as offering personal spiritual mentoring with our Director, Rev. Peggy Christiansen. Give us a call at 970-482-8487 or email ucm@lamar.colostate.edu or just drop in at 629 S Howes Street (half a block north of "The Oval"). Hope to see you soon!

New Orleans Katrina Mission Trip

Fund - Raiser

Saturday September 22, 2007

Spaghetti Supper

4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

First Christian Church

2000 North Lincoln Av., Loveland

Free will offering

Women's Friendship Group One-Day Retreat

Saturday October 6th - 9:30 - 4:00

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church,

Estes Park

Rick Riddoch, our former interim minister, will lead us in preparation for a day apart in contemplative meditation. Our time in this beautiful setting will include Labyrinth, centering prayer, contemplative readings, a short hike, special music interpretation, and a concluding Taize service.

Registration limited to 35 women in order to give each an unhurried experience. Make checks for \$20 (includes lunch and transportation, whether riding or driving,) to Plymouth UCC and memo it Retreat. Place in envelope on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Registration is Sept. 2nd - 30th.

Payment will confirm registration.

Questions call Paula Dille at:

207-1977

FELLOWSHIP

Hey, Who are those People, AND Just What are they Doing?!?

So, it has probably happened to you, it has to everyone, you are in the shower humming a Michael Jackson song when suddenly a crazy thought pops into your head. “Who are those people on <you favorite committee here> and just what are they doing?” But you are too afraid to ask because you think you might be sent to detention or have to write on the board 50 times “I will not ask questions in church.” Worse, you’re terrified of the idea that once you find out that you will feel compelled to serve on a committee, and the perspiration of your joy might affect global warming. Well, unchain your chains. Tear down the walls. Release the hounds of glory. The Nominating Committee is going to bring the good news directly to you, at no cost, and without persecution in front of the entire congregation.

Posters, posters, step right up and read all about it! On Jubilee Sunday in September, all of the church committees will be sporting new posters that highlight “who they are” and “what do they do.” Church members will have the opportunity circulate through the Fellowship Hall and see first-hand just what is going on. Better, after reading the exciting news, members will have the opportunity to speak with committee representatives hosting the committee tables to find out more.

So, you can’t make it over to see the posters because you’ll be at the monster truck rally. Well, no worries! In addition to the making the posters, the committees are preparing “information sheets” that tell more about their roles and duties, and the amount of time it takes to serve. Members can get these sheets and find out the details, even in complete anonymity. Hopefully, these sheets can clarify the commitments and show what fun it is to participate.

Why is this happening? This year Nominating Committee is trying a new tack to solicit participation. We want people to know what being on a committee really involves, and what fun it can be to participate.

By getting the word out, we hope people will learn “who those people are” and “what they are doing” – and better, how rewarding it can be to get involved.

Homelessness Prevention Initiative at Plymouth



What do members who are volunteers making appointments or doing interviews at Plymouth do when the macadam in the parking lot disintegrates and obstacles appear? We protect potential recipients of rental assistance and suspend interviews in the month of July. When a new surface appears in the parking lot, we get back to our work and again respond to our neighbors in need.

Perhaps you have seen the articles in the Coloradoan recently that make us more aware of a significant rise in the number of families living in poverty in Larimer County. Bob Moore, Executive Editor of the Fort Collins Coloradoan, in speaking at the State of the Community recently, shared that the number of children ages 5-17 living in poverty in Fort Collins increased 108 percent between 2000 and 2005. He added that two-thirds of children living in poverty in the County are in single-mother homes and that the United Way and the Northern Colorado Economic Development Corp. are partnering to find the causes of poverty increases.

Plymouth is one of four churches providing volunteers in order to determine eligibility for rental assistance from the Homelessness Prevention Initiative. The Initiative is primarily a faith based supported program that keeps many families in their homes despite a temporary loss of income. Now in our fifth year, our dedicated volunteers APPRECIATE your support and urge you to continue to consider donating to the Initiative this fall. We are, also, grateful for the dollars we receive when you purchase the King Soopers coupons. This allows us to help applicants with other expenses such as utilities, gasoline and parts for car repairs.

Want to know more? Call Lorrie Wagner, Plymouth Coordinator, at 223-2653.

UCC ACTION ON THE IRAQ WAR



On June 22 the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ wrote a "Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War." It was endorsed by all the UCC Conference Ministers and by the presidents of the seminaries of the UCC. Now you have an opportunity to "endorse" it too--or at least the main sense of it.

Now the UCC has a petition to end the Iraq War in a movement to "join protest to prayer." The goal is to have over 100,000 signatures by World Communion Day, October 7. The petition will be delivered the following week to Congressional leaders and members of the Administration.

You can see the full text of the letter and the petition, and sign if you wish, at:
http://ga3.org/campaign/Iraq_petition

Plymouth's Peace With Justice Ministry Team will have paper copies of the petition and the letter at coffee hours later in September. We hope that many of you will want to sign the petition!

Margaret Smith, for the Peace With Justice Ministry Team.

We can never obtain peace in the world if we neglect the inner world and don't make peace with ourselves. World peace must develop out of inner peace. Without inner peace it is impossible to achieve world peace, external peace. Weapons themselves do not act. They have not come out of the blue. Man has made them. But even given those weapons, those terrible weapons, they cannot act by themselves. As long as they are left alone in storage they cannot do any harm. A human being must use them. Someone must push the button. Satan, the evil powers, cannot push that button. Human beings must do it.

The Dalai Lama

GOD'S GOLD

There is a girl, a girl that lives on my street. She is close to poverty. But she always smiles. She is very thin and some say she does not make enough money to eat. But when you see her she is smiling. I walked by her house the other night, I saw her arms raised and tears in the light. Oh my, I thought, she must be so sad, not owning a car or anything nice. The next morning I saw her. I wondered if I should ask her if she was OK. With sympathy in my heart I obeyed. As I walked up to her she greeted me with a hi. Poor thing, what burdens does she hide? We got to talking and into the thoughts of seeing her cry, I found the strength to ask why. I was very happy, was her cheerful reply. Shock brushed across my face. She must have saw it because she then said, alas, even though people say I am poor, that I do not make enough money to get by, tears come to my eyes. In my heart He has planted the seed of love and compassion. People see I have not much, but I say I have more than enough. I have gold. Real gold, not the jewelry you wear on your neck, but God's gold. God's gold is LOVE, PATIENCE, FORGIVENESS, AND MERCY. No material object or money can make a person truly rich, but that seed of gold God plants in us blooms and grows making us the richest in all the world. When she had finished I noticed tears in my eyes, for I knew she was right. When it got late there, I also raised my arms and cried in the light.

STACI TARGONSKY

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. -- **Proverbs 3:5-6**

CHURCH SIGN:

"Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."

COMMITTEE UPDATES

HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM *Immunizations*



If you have school aged children, you have probably heard that there are some new required immunizations this year.

- *Varicella-2 doses to ward off chickenpox
- *DTaP-up to 5 doses to prevent diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis(whooping cough)
- *Hepatitis B-3 doses required for preschool and all grades
- *Haemophilus influenzae Type B-up to 3 doses
- *Measles, mumps and rubella-1 dose for preschoolers, 2 for K-12
- *Polio-up to 3 doses for preschoolers, up to 4 for K-12
- *Prevnar/PCV7 for pneumococcal disease-now required for children up to 23 months in childcare. Number of doses depends on when the vaccine was initially administered.
- *Tdap for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis-all 12 year olds and required for 6th and 10th graders this year. Other grades will be incorporated in subsequent years.

*Source:Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Also recommended for college age students, or before, is Meningococcal meningitis vaccine. Bacterial meningitis is a potentially fatal illness for which students in dorms are at higher risk than the general population

A new vaccine, Gardasil, is being recommended for girls age 9-26. It will protect against some strains (four strains) of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)which is the most common cause of cervical cancer. The immunization will also protect against some genital warts and some precancerous changes of the cervix, vagina and vulva. 3 doses are required. Most insurances are paying for it. HPV is very common in sexually active teens and young adults. We will be sponsoring an Adult Forum this Fall on this vaccine and controversies surrounding it. You will want to attend!

Another new vaccine is now available for shingles. If you have ever had chickenpox, you could get shingles, but it is most common after age 50. The vaccine decreases the chances of getting shingles by one half and decreases the chances of painful complications by two thirds. If you have been vaccinated and get shingles it will be less severe. Some insurance companies will only pay for the vaccine after age 60. Ask your doctor about it.

Older adults should get a yearly flu vaccine and a pneumonia vaccine every 10 years. Also make sure your tetanus shot is up to date.

Marietta Zimmerman
Parish Nurse

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



The Social Concerns Committee sincerely thanks all who donated to our School Supplies Drive for Bennett IB World School. Marty Marsh and Mary Shultz bought supplies, Janet Fritz, Jill Kreutzer, Marty, and Mary made up packets, and Jill and her husband delivered packets to the school. Enough money was raised to provide five packets for each grade.

The Committee will hold it annual Sock and Mitten drive for Irish School students the month of September. Look for the containers somewhere! probably in the Fellowship Hall. Most needed items are small and medium coats, boots, mittens, small and medium boys and girls underwear. Used boots in good condition can be used. Donated clothing is placed on tables at Irish school on a night when parents are present and parents can choose what items are needed for their children. Parents are asked to take only what is needed. Under wear is placed in the nurses office to be dispensed by the school nurse as needed.

From Standing Women for Peace:

September 13 is Unity World Day of Prayer

We are peacemakers, one in love of God. With hearts united , we establish harmony and Peace in our lives and in the World.

September 21 - 24 hours of global ceasefire and non violence. One minute of silence at noon.

CHRISTIAN ED

In the spirit of “back to school” essays written ‘round the world, I’ve composed my own back to school essay of sorts...

TOP TEN REASONS I’M EXCITED ABOUT THIS EDUCATION YEAR:

10. New spaces. Every education program, children, youth and adult, will have new and newly decorated spaces in which to learn, grow, and commune with God and one another. Just seeing what the jr. and sr. high will do to their new rooms will be enormous fun.

9. Showers. Sorry, this one is completely selfish, but the new showers will mean I can take a break mid-day (or on long days with evening meetings) for some exercise and begin to reverse the bountiful effects of the commute and all your amazing dishes at potlucks.

8. Parents Nights Out. While I am turning the main leadership and coordination over to our new youth group and Sunday school leaders, I wouldn’t miss hanging out with all our crazy kids—and seeing the looks of gratitude and relief on their parents’ faces at drop off time—for the world.

7. Consistent Plumbing. At some point this year, I will no longer arrive at work uncertain as to whether the plumbing, electricity, or internet will be working. I will also know, with some confidence, that no one will begin pounding on my ceiling from above or my floor from below (*that* was quite startling). It will, instead, be up to all of you to ensure ongoing challenges and adventures to keep ministry interesting.

6. Because I love the committees with which I work. Youth Ed never ceases to amaze and thrill me with its willingness to be active and involved in the happenings of Plymouth’s youth education programs, and there is just plain never a dull moment in Adult Ed.

5. Because it’s no longer my first year (and because a few of you can now correctly pronounce my entire last name). I won’t be able to make as many “new kid” excuses, but I must admit it’s great to actually know what’s going on,

what’s coming up, and who everyone is. Well, for the most part...

4. We have amazing kids. Having attended mission trips this summer with both junior and senior high, and having worked with these age groups in the past, I can say that Plymouth ought to be proud of its youth. Our youth are bright, open, thoughtful, respectful, and just plain fun!

3. We have a great adult education lineup. Come to Jubilee Sunday to see the entire fall lineup (and the spring will be no less exciting). We’ve got studies and fora for spiritual enrichment, marriage enrichment, parenting, social awareness, and community awareness. We’ve also got talented folks leading these opportunities.

2. We’re growing and thriving. I know the new schedule requires flexibility and might very well need adjustment, but the reason behind the need for change is cause for celebration indeed. We’re growing and we want to make room for everyone! In August last year, we consistently had about 2-3 children in our nursery on Sunday mornings. This year’s August count: 10-11 each Sunday.

1. All of you. Hopefully you’ve heard me say this before, but this community is a fantastic, special, warm, delightful group. I look forward to getting to know you all better throughout the year so feel free to give me a call and suggest coffee or lunch.

☺ Rev. Julie

Please remember
Plymouth Church in your will and estate
planning.

Strength is the capacity to break a chocolate bar into four pieces with your bare hands--and then just eat one of the pieces.

- Judith Viors

ADULT EDUCATION

I'm sure you all know about the experimental changes to our worship and education schedule this fall. We'll be monitoring class and worship attendance carefully to discern how this new schedule is functioning in the life of our community. We'd also like to be as flexible as possible within this experimental schedule so I welcome any comments or suggestions of minor shifts or changes once you've had a change to "test drive" the schedule.



In light of our ongoing construction challenges, we have decided to offer only one book study (plus a forum) this fall. We do not know for sure when we will have sufficient meeting space for two studies so we planned for possible delays. Thanks for your patience and understanding in this (knowing it contributes greatly to our peace and sanity).

Without further adieu, our first month of Adult Education offerings!

SEPTEMBER FORUM SCHEDULE

Sept. 16

"Sharing Our Umbrella: One Couple's Trans Experience"

Please join the ONA Committee at the first forum of the fall. Our guest speakers will be Sheila Mink and Katherine Palmer. You will have the chance to learn about Sheila's transgender life experience and her partner Katherine's bi-gender life experience. At this forum, you will begin to understand some different terms like trans, bi-gender, drag queen, transvestite, etc. Sheila is very knowledgeable about legislation, she and Katherine are strong advocates for trans folks, and they have a wealth of stories about things that have happened to people who identify as trans. And they'll leave plenty of time for your thoughtful questions as well.

Katherine is the President of the Albuquerque PFLAG Chapter, and the PFLAG New Mexico State Director, and previously was the PFLAG TNET Transgender Co-coordinator for the 15 state West Central Sector & the Four Corners Region. When she lived in Fort Collins, she was the interim director of the Lambda Center.

Sheila is the Vice President of the Albuquerque PFLAG Chapter and was previously the PFLAG TNET

Transgender Co-coordinator with Katherine. In Colorado, she was the Board Chairperson and Secretary of the Gender Identity Center in Lakewood, Colorado.

Sept. 23

Pulse of the River: Colorado Writers Speak Out for the Endangered Cache la Poudre

Diane Fromme

Diane, along with other editors of this new book, will be discussing this book along with other relevant local issues.

Sept. 30

"A Desert Experience: The Senior High Mission Trip"

Don't miss this forum in which our senior high youth will be sharing their experiences working with Humane Borders, an organization working to eliminate needless migrant deaths by providing water stations in the desert. We'll have pictures, reflections, and our insights into this relevant issue.

SEPTEMBER BOOK STUDY

Organic Prayer: Cultivating Your Relationship with God by Nancy Roth led by Judy Filusch and Jean Preslan
"Organic Prayer offers an environmentally-aware metaphor for the contemplation of God and our attempts to live in harmony with God's creation. Roth uses the experience of caring for the soil and gardening to create meditations that help us to cultivate, enrich, and understand more deeply our relationship with God, our neighbors, and ourselves." (excerpt from back cover)

A Few Words

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

YOUTH EDUCATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Trailblazers

Our first workshop rotation covers David. We'll be learning about David's selection and anointing as future king of Israel, his friendship with Jonathan, and his celebration and worship bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the city of Jerusalem. We'll be singing, dancing and making slime and oil at various points in this 3 week rotation.

Goodness Gorillas Fall 2007

The Goodness Gorillas are a service group for children in the K-5th grades. We meet once a month to conduct a project that is oriented toward giving back to the community. It is a fun way for kids to learn about service and to do activities with other kids in the church. Last year we visited retirements centers to deliver heat packs and play bingo, we raked leaves at homes of some the church's senior members, we cleaned trash from Spring Creek, and we participated in Julie Mavity Maddalena's Ordination Installation service. We will be holding an organizing meeting toward the end of September. Please watch for announcements and/or contact Ben Slocumb for details (225-6446, ben.slocumb@comcast.net). The GG have a Plymouth email list-server so that parents can subscribe and receive email updates on upcoming events. Please sign up if you are interested (send email to Ben for information).

JUNIOR HIGH

YEY!! A new year for youth group is starting very soon!

KICK-OFF! Sunday Sept 16th

Be at the church for the opening of the New Sunday School Rooms!

Your Youth Group Leaders, Wendy Thompson & Vicki Bohlmann will be there along with your Sunday school teachers (some you've had, some new) to help Celebrate and give you more information about activities for the fall! Come at the 10:45 Sunday school hour dressed to move and paint and plan to stay afterwards until you've made the space your own. We'll have pizza!!!

ALSO, mark your Calendars for the Junior High Retreat at LaForet, which is quickly approaching. **It is Sept 28-30th.** If you haven't gotten a sign up sheet for the retreat and want one, let us know or you can talk with Karin or Julie at the church. They will also be available during Sunday school registration on Jubilee Sunday (the 9th). We have a NEW church van to take this year, so that will be FUN! So please join us!

If you have not received anything by email &/or snail mail regarding Jr High Youth Group & are interested in Youth Group, please let us know so we can get you CONNECTED!!

Vicki & Wendy 970-691-6988 thompsonandbohlmann@comcast.net

SENIOR HIGH

We are sad to have said good-bye to our amazing Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders from last year, but we are excited to have found some awesome new team of folks for the year. Take my word for it, this year's going to ROCK!!!

Be here at 10:45am on Sept. 16 for our kick-off event of moving into your new Sunday school space. This is your chance to paint, decorate, do whatever you want (within reason) to make it your own. It will also be your chance to meet the new team of folks who are excited to be working with you this year in Sunday school (it's later now so no excuses!) and youth group. You'll also be able to offer your input on what the year will look like in terms of youth group, mission trip (oh yeah), the sleep out, etc.

Don't miss it!!!!!!

If you want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.
Mother Teresa

PLYMOUTH PRAYERS

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers.

Recent Surgeries and Hospitalizations

Vicki Chavez
Bea Mohr
John Geter
George Theodore
Phil Koster

Our Sympathy is with:

Patty Heyse and family on the death of her father and Plymouth member, **Howard Alves**.

Wayne Carpenter and family on the death of his brother on Aug. 16.

JoAnne Jensen on the death of her brother, **Arlin**.

Congratulations to:

Jamie Kepros, recipient of 2007 Elizabeth Skinner Scholarship Award, presented to a seminarian by the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Heather Crandall, Peace Corps assignment to Paraguay. She will be leaving September 25.

My Mother Taught Me

1. My mother taught me **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. My mother taught me **RELIGION**.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. My mother taught me about **TIME TRAVEL**.

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. My mother taught me **LOGIC**.

"Because I said so, that's why."

5. My mother taught me **MORE LOGIC**.

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. My mother taught me **IRONY**.

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS**.

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

9. My mother taught me about

CONTORTIONISM.

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

10. My mother taught me about **STAMINA**.

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

There was a church that had problems with outsiders parking in its parking lots, so they put up a sign: CHURCH CAR PARK - FOR MEMBERS ONLY Trespassers will be baptized!

An ad for one Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

As down in the sunless retreats of the ocean
Sweet flowers are springing no mortal can see,
So deep in my soul the still prayer of devotion,
Unheard by the world, rises silent to Thee.
As still to the star of its worship, though clouded,
The needle points faithfully o'er the dim sea,
So dark when I roam in this wintry world
shrouded,
The hope of my spirit turns trembling to Thee. --
Thomas Moore

Scheduling Life

I look forward to receiving my new *UCC Desk Calendar and Plan Book* immensely. This annual event usually happens in late July or early August, and I then have the challenge of deciding when, precisely, to transfer my upcoming appointments, special Sunday services and various programs from one lovingly used book to its fresh-paged successor.

In this world of palm pilots and computer-schedulers, many people don't use calendars anymore; but I'm devoted. If you've glanced into any of mine over the years, you will have noted an excess of vibrant colors: regular meetings in purple, personal plans in red, pastoral visits in orange. Each entry reveals insights into my multi-colored world and into my hopes to prepare for every day and keep it all orderly.

What a laugh!

Sometimes before the ink even dries I must reach for the whiteout or draw untidy lines through an entry. As much as we try to prepare and plan and schedule and organize, somehow things still step out of line. The unexpected pops up, the unplanned interferes and the prepared-for falls through. Not only with our day-timers (or construction projections!), but with life in general. There are some things for which we cannot prepare, and life just refuses to remain orderly.

This is a time of year when many of us are beginning new routines and trying to plan for each next day, week or month. Plymouth staff recently talked through our Sundays clear into Advent! But as we move through the season, we know that things will come up, life will interfere – and I'll again have to mar the page with whiteout.

I pray that as we move through this new season together, with all its changes and possibilities, we may find some freedom in keeping the whiteout handy – even if it does seem a bit messier.

In the midst of the mess,



P.S. No fair using a pencil!

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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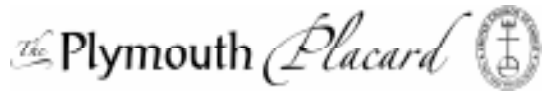
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NEWS & NOTES

JAMIE'S SEMINARIAN UPDATE



I have completed the first year of the Master of Divinity degree at Iliff. Many of you have been unflinching with your encouragement and support of my journey. Thank You. Thank you for checking in to see how school is going. Thank you for being a great congregation to practice preaching with. Thank you for being a part of a congregation in a denomination that will *allow* me to follow this call.

My first year at Iliff was jam packed with learning. There were the requisite books and classes, of course, but I also got to dive right into some of the practical pieces of ministry which was the highlight of my year. I was fortunate to complete my beginning field education at St. Francis Center in Denver. As a day shelter for the homeless, St. Francis Center provides a multitude of services for hundreds of people each day. I also had the opportunity to take a course in Clinical Pastoral Ministry that combined class time with

time spent in the hospital making “cold call” visits with patients. I did my visiting at St. Anthony’s North in Westminster. Working with the folks at the shelter and the hospital brought me closer to the heart of God than I have ever been.

I am sure this academic year will also bring with it much learning and growth. I will continue to take classes and will also be fulfilling the advanced field education component of my degree working as part-time Assistant Pastor at Community UCC in Boulder. I am excited by the opportunity to work and learn at Community UCC, but saddened that I will not be worshipping with you at Plymouth during the academic year. I will miss you and carry your Spirit with me on this next step of the journey. Blessings, Jamie

If the creator had a purpose in equipping us with a neck, she surely meant us to stick it out.

- Arthur Koestler