



Progressive, Inclusive, Home
firstplymouth
 congregational church



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New Partnership with Denver Inner City Parish (DICP) @ College View!

by Heather Greenwood



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A small group of First Plymouth members is organizing a free Community Breakfast one Saturday each month at the new satellite location of Denver Inner City Parish (DICP) in the College View neighborhood. DICP was established in 1960 as a nondenominational nonprofit human service organization, and First Plymouth was one of the founding churches. The Parish offers many programs that focus on improving the quality of life for low-income, primarily Latino/Latina residents of the Denver Metro Area. DICP's motto is, "Because Community makes all the difference we will work to serve and strengthen ours." What a great motto for all of us!

We have been meeting with the Executive Director of DICP and their new staff at the College View location. They have welcomed us with open arms and are very excited about the potential of this partnership. I am excited to be a part of this opportunity because:

- I get to cook and eat great food and meet new people!
- My kids get to experience interacting in an authentic way with people different than they are, which I hope ends up teaching them how we are all the same, yet different.
- It's a challenge to step out of my comfort zone and communicate with people who will often speak a different language than my own.
- Something different to do on a Saturday morning to expand my community beyond the projects in my own backyard, school, or neighborhood.

An Opportunity to Join Us!

*Free Community Breakfast
 Saturday, April 16
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

DICP@College View, 2525 S. Decatur St.

We'll share breakfast, get to know each other, and brainstorm on how we could partner together with members of the community. Contact Crystal Riggins at crystalriggins@comcast.net

- A way to continue nurturing a relationship that First Plymouth established so long ago.
- A chance to go on a journey that might take me somewhere that I least expect.

In this month of Easter, which brings a message of new life and new beginnings, how great is it that we have a chance to be part of the birth of this new Outreach of DICP?

A Message from the Mission Team

The Mission Team has asked the Stewardship Ministry to lead us - the congregation of First Plymouth - to a new level of financial commitment this year to "catch the Spirit" and the momentum we are all sensing in our community. We have set a high goal, striving for an increase of \$100,000 over last year's budget to allow us to keep up with the growing demand and opportunities related to our mission and programs. As elected leaders, we are already meeting in our Ministries and committees to commit our own households to this step forward.

We realize this is a challenge, but we also know from the blossoming energy among us that we can meet it! We have a one-time offer of a \$50,000 matching grant from a very generous anonymous donor to help us make this financial leap in a single year. This grant will match dollar-for-dollar any *new* financial commitments and any *increase* in current financial commitments. Every dollar the rest of us can increase means that much more for the grassroots programs that are proliferating at such an amazing rate.

The Mission Team invites you to join us in responding whole-heartedly and openly to the goal we have set this year for ourselves.



Worship Opportunities

Sunday Morning at First Plymouth

- 8:45 a.m.** Fellowship and Adult Christian Education/Formation
9:00 a.m. Choir/Musician Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary/Children's Sunday School
 Contemplative Worship in the Chapel
11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Children's Choir, Dolce, Adult Christian Formation
8:30 through the end of the 10:00 a.m. service: Nursery Care in B09

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel Contemplative Worship

Sundays, April 3, April 10, and April 17 Worship and Adult Formation Series: Embodying Progressive Christianity

See page 3 for details on this special and exciting integrated approach to our worship and adult Christian formation experience during the Lenten season.

Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday Worship Service

The derivation of the name "Maundy" Thursday is unclear. Some believe that "maundy" is from the Latin *mandatum* (commandment or mandate), when Jesus said to his disciples on that fateful Thursday evening, "A new commandment I give to you, that you should love one another." (*John 13:34*) Others argue that the word is derived from the *maundsor* baskets which the king of England distributed to the poor at this time. *Maundsor* could have come from *maund*, which is etymologically related to "mendicant" (Latin *mendicare*, and French *mendier*, to beg). Whatever the derivation, all agree that it has to do with actually living Jesus's commandments rather than just talking about them.

Tonight we will celebrate in song and story and serve Holy Communion. (Childcare available in the nursery.)

Friday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service

The etymology of "good" in Good Friday is also unclear. Some say it comes from God, just as the good in goodbye. Others are not so sure. All agree however that it refers to the day Jesus died. In our Sanctuary this evening we will have a meditative service of Taizé, read the passion story, and have periods of silence to try to take in the enormity of what happened then, and what is happening now. (Childcare available in the nursery.)

Easter Sunday, April 24

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

Aspect of Progressive Christianity:

"We are Christians who find more grace in the search for understanding than we do in dogmatic certainty, and more value in questioning than in absolutes."

Text: John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Theme: The Mystery of Resurrection

Preacher: George Anastos

Music: Chancel Choir & Orchestra at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
(orchestra provided thanks to an anonymous donor)

AHMMM Worship (Awe, Holiness, Mystery, Meditation, Music) is On Hiatus During Lent and Resumes Tuesday, May 3

Special Worship Opportunity: Sunday, May 1 - Whole Earth Sunday

On May 1, we celebrate our commitment to a Whole Earth and (belatedly) celebrate Earth Day. In worship, we will consider the Christian claim that God created the earth and ask what that belief might mean for our responsibilities toward the earth. The service will include something that has probably never been seen in a First Plymouth service before!

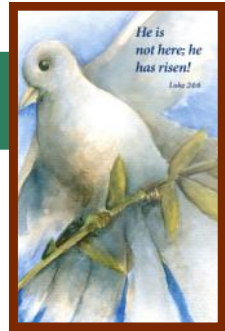
Following the service, join us for a concert by singer, songwriter, and children's musician Billy Jonas. Billy is based in Asheville, North Carolina, and plays music with recycled instruments. His music is beloved by children (check it out now, so your kids know the words by May 1!), and the First Plymouth youth know some of his songs from worship and mission trips. That evening, Billy will return for a music workshop with our youth. We'll learn from him how to use everyday objects as instruments and have a big jam session up in the Loft! Youth, you won't want to miss it. So join us as we celebrate God's green earth, and our place on it!

April Lectionary Texts

April 3	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
April 10	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
April 17	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
April 24	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18

Lenten Worship and Study

Worship Opportunities and Adult Formation Classes for Lent: Embodying Progressive Christianity



For the seven Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday, we will explore the meaning and challenge of Progressive Christianity. Using the definition offered by the Center for Progressive Christianity, we will focus each week on a different aspect of that definition; the lectionary text for the week will help open up an understanding of that week's aspect, and we will explore how we as church are challenged to and are trying to embody that aspect of progressive Christianity. The lectionary text and aspect of progressive Christianity which the class focuses on each week will also be the theme of that week's worship service and the Senior Minister's sermon.

Each aspect of the definition of progressive Christianity is preceded by the phrase: "By calling ourselves progressive, we mean we are Christians who..."

	<i>April 3</i>	<i>April 10</i>	<i>April 17</i>
<i>Aspect of Progressive Christianity</i>	"...understand the sharing of bread and wine in Jesus's name to be a representation of an ancient vision of God's feast for all peoples."	"...know that the way we behave toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe."	"...recognize that being followers of Jesus is costly and entails selfless love, conscientious resistance to evil, and renunciation of privilege."
<i>Text</i>	John 9:1-41	John 11:1-44	Matthew 21:1-11
<i>Theme</i>	"Who sinned? I was blind, but now I see."	"No man is an island."	Palm Sunday
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. George Anastos	Rev. George Anastos	Rev. George Anastos
<i>Music</i>	Dolce Girls' Ensemble	Flute Choir	Youth Choir Children's Choristers
<i>Discussion Leaders</i>	Andrea Anastos	Judith Clausen	Stuart Haskins



Minister's Meditation

On March 6, the Stewardship Ministry threw a party (generously funded by the Endowment Committee) to thank all those who made a financial commitment to the congregation and its mission for this current fiscal year. They simply wanted to say "thank you" for empowering our mission to be the

hands and face of Christ in our community and beyond. The evening was full of Spirit and life. It was an amazing evening full of conversation, laughter, and joy.

I must have spoken with over half of the 120 people in attendance and each made the observation that life at First Plymouth is GOOD – it is good to have a meal like this and to be recognized and appreciated; it is good to feel good about the church and its mission; it is good to know that the path we are on, though sometimes littered with unexpected twists and turns, is truly one that we mapped and are travelling together. Behold, we are seeing all that we are doing together, and together we are proclaiming that it is very good.

This past year has been one of transformation for us.

Through the able and inspired leadership of Jerry Arca and Debbie Harrington, Our Next Steps process brought us to a place of understanding and commitment. Our church Council, led by Troy Greenwood, has continued its process of listening discernment as it leads the congregation by following it. The Mission Team and the Ministries and Committees they represent continue to shape our missional response to the needs of the world and to the call of Jesus so that we may be faithful disciples of God's will that the creation be healed and restored to the divine image. Behold, it is very good.

During my sabbatical my reading will focus on what it means to be a deeply-rooted Christian community, one that intentionally listens to the Word, that listens for the Spirit, that hastens to respond with hands that heal and hearts that love. This is precisely what it means to be "missional": a community that sees itself rooted not in society but in God, pursuing the values articulated in the teachings of Jesus, that seeks its own transformation, and ultimately the world's, into a community of peace, wholeness, and grace; a community where every member, *every* member, participates in the community's effort to be Jesus in the world.

Behold, this is *very* good.



Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your Easter baskets on Easter Sunday for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. It will begin **promptly** at 10:10 a.m. and will probably last no longer than five minutes, so if you are late you will miss it. Jenean O'Brien and Troy Abfalter are coordinating the hunt - thanks! We are looking for donations of Easter candy, tiny toys, and stickers that can fit into plastic eggs. Please put them in the box marked *Easter donations* in the office. If your child has special dietary needs (i.e. gluten free) please tell Noanie (fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org) so we can be sure to have appropriate treats for your child.

Shake It Up Café Vacation Bible School

We are registering children for Shake It Up Café Vacation Bible School to be held June 20-24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Childcare is available before VBS from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. and afterward from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for an additional fee. All children are welcome to attend, so invite your neighbors and grandchildren! Please register at www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/firstplymouthvbs. You can find the link on First Plymouth's website at www.firstplymouthchurch.org.

Boundary Training

The next Boundary Training will be Sunday, April 17, at 11:15 a.m. in Plymouth Hall.



Children's Programs

Noanie O'Brien Geistert, Director
fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org

All of us at Children's Ministries wish you a Happy Easter filled with God's blessings and holiday fun.

Elementary Children (grades 1-5) meet in the CE Center for Sunday school. Annie Nestor and Doug Geistert will be finishing up their teaching rotation, completing the unit *Lenten Conversations*. On April 17, Palm Sunday, and April 24, Easter Sunday, the elementary children will join their parents in intergenerational worship opportunities. The Palm Sunday service is at 10:00 a.m. and Easter worship services are at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

Date	Theme Title	Scripture	We learn...
April 3	Turning Things Around	John 9:1-41	What symbol would we use to describe God's love?
April 10	The Power of Jesus	John 11:1-45	Why is wind a symbol of God.

Classes for the Elementary children will resume on May 1. Teachers Annie Nestor and Renee Liebnow will lead the unit *Winds of Hope*. When you see Annie, be sure to thank her as she taught **three** rotations this school year! Thanks, Annie - you're the best!

Our Early Childhood Class (age 3-kindergarten) meets in Room B26 for Sunday school. They are using the *Rock Solid* curriculum this year.

Date	Title	Faith Point	Scripture
April 3	Praying in the Garden	During Easter we remember that God loves us and always hears our prayers	Psalms 145:18
April 10	Peter Denies Jesus	During Lent we remember that Jesus loves us and is always our friend	Hebrews 13:8
April 17	Hosanna!	On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' life	John 12:13b
April 24	He Lives	On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection: Jesus is alive.	Psalms 118:24

PLEASE NOTE: The Early Childhood class meets at 9:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday. All other Sundays it meets at 10:00 a.m.

Arts and Crafts Class

If your children have not tried our Arts and Crafts class, drop them off in the CE Center from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. while you attend one of our Spiritual Formation classes. It is taught by our Nursery Manager (and art student), Caitlin Boykin.

Adult Christian Education/Formation

Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults

All of our Sunday classes welcome both drop-ins and regular participants. Check them out and see which ones fit you!

Bible Basics and Beyond

Bible Basics will be on hiatus until the fall. Please take this opportunity to sample the other fine Adult Education/Formation offerings on Sunday mornings.

Bible Workbench - 8:45 a.m. in the Columbine Room

Led by lay facilitators, this lectionary-based class asks questions about how the inner meaning of a text might be active in today's world and how it might have personal meaning. The mission of Bible Workbench is to equip people to become interpreters of life and to enable to decipher the meaning of their own experience. For more information, contact Chip Cole at 303-693-0485.

Bringing the Lessons Home:

Further Reflections on the Day's Sermon and Bible Passages

11:15 a.m. in the Conversation Area/Commons Room

This discussion group, led by a different member of the congregation each week, will provide a time to reflect more deeply on the ideas, images, and thoughts sparked by both the sermon and the lectionary readings. We will focus on how these understandings might speak to our everyday lives in the coming week.

Sabbatical Plans – Part II

In last month's newsletter, we reported on our Senior Minister's sabbatical and his goals and objectives. Typically, George has already downloaded to his Kindle twice the number of books PPRC has recommended, and he is eager to acquire a few more. George is excited about reading and more excited to be bringing his study back to the church.

This month we would like to tell you about George's travel plans. He and his wife Andrea have set up four house exchanges for their European travels. The exchanging families will stay in each other's houses and use each other's cars. This eliminates hotel, car rental, and restaurant expenses and is a very affordable way to

travel. Using these four exchange locations as a base, George will be studying, praying and visiting sacred sites within their radius.

George and Andrea will begin by visiting friends in Prague, where they will visit churches, cathedrals, the Jewish cemetery, and other sacred sites. After a brief stay in London, they will do three exchanges in England in Bath, Portsmouth, and Birmingham. They will visit numerous churches and cathedrals, as well as sacred sites

in Wales. Finally they will be doing a house exchange on the west coast of Ireland in the village of Lahinch, northwest of Shannon. An exploration of sites sacred in Celtic Christianity will be on their agenda.

They will be leaving in the week following Easter Sunday and will return the first of September. Prayers for safe travel and great studying will be greatly appreciated. (And don't miss the send-off on April 3—see box!)

George expresses his deep thanks to the Pastor Parish Relations Committee for their support and their help in planning, and his gratitude to First Plymouth Foundation and to FP's Endowment Committee for making this sabbatical financially possible.



Lenten Study Cancelled

The Monday morning Lenten study series has been cancelled because of lack of participation. We hope that you will take the opportunity to partake of the special Sunday morning series focused on the key characteristics of progressive Christianity. See page 3 for more details.



Sabbatical Send-Off

Mark your calendars for a fun and casual sabbatical send-off for George and Andrea. Troy and Heather Greenwood are hosting the send-off at their home on Sunday, April 3, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Greenwood's address is 3197 East Otero Circle, Centennial, 80122. Beverages will be provided, just bring an appetizer to share. Everyone welcome! If you are unable to attend, there is a card to sign in the church office.

Bon Voyage





LOFT's April Project

The number of homeless families with children is one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. For April, LOFT will celebrate Easter by partnering with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver Rescue Mission, and the Denver Inner City Parish to provide Easter Baskets for needy children.

Congregation members are invited to create their own baskets or join the LOFT team to assemble them on Sunday, April 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Plymouth Hall. Please bring baskets or their contents to church any Sunday prior to April 10 and leave them at Mission Central.

Baskets need to be assembled and labeled for a particular gender (boy/girl/neutral) and age category: infant, toddler, grade school, middle school, teen. Please see the March newsletter and check your weekly updates for more information, or contact Stacy Gaines at 303-495-5873 or stacy@gainesdg.com.

Can Do Sunday is April 17, Palm Sunday!

Bring in food donations for the Can Do Cart that will be distributed to hungry folks in our community. Our February donations totaled 1,076 pounds—let's double that in April!

Outreach/Mission

Habitat Happenings

We sometimes take the privilege of home ownership for granted. The economy, safety, and security of owning a family home are second nature for most of us. When we started out, many of us were helped by our families, and maybe we have kept the tradition going by helping out our children and grandchildren. But for many of the families that *Loaves and Fishes* and *Habitat for Humanity* reach, this is an impossible dream.

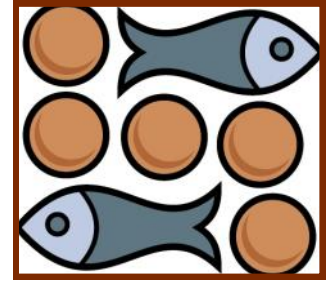
Since its inception in 1998, *Loaves and Fishes*, with help from First Plymouth and many of your friends, has helped make this dream a reality for more than forty families. We have built twelve homes in Denver, ten homes in Latin America, and helped with the construction of more than twenty homes on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina relief.

On May 19, we kick-off our 2011 building season with a breakfast at Littleton United Methodist Church and celebrate the July 14 start of our 13th house at 800 S. Patton Court in Denver. Our partner family is Ali Kased and Kamila Rahail and their four children. How can you make this dream a possibility for someone who otherwise could not be a home-owner? Let us count the ways

1. Join your friends and fellow First Plymouth members by contributing to Habitat for Humanity with a one-time gift or an easy, ongoing monthly pledge.
2. Sign up to help build the 2011 house starting in July.

Sign up to take lunch to a First Plymouth volunteer work crew.

Our church enables giving to Habitat both physically and financially. For more information, contact Stan Harwood, Bruce Thumm, or Arlene Hutchinson would be glad to tell you more about the organization and give you a pledge card.



Support Your First Plymouth Learning Center at their Spring Fundraiser - A Brunch and Silent Auction!

Wednesday, April 13, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m., Commons Room

Snack, drink, BID! - at the First Plymouth Learning Center Brunch and Silent Auction! Each classroom will put together a fabulous basket of goodies around a theme. Come bid on the "Night Downtown" basket for a luxurious night at the Hotel Teatro and all sorts of other downtown fun. Go for the "Date Night" basket to win dinners, movie tickets, bottles of wine and more. Other baskets will offer spa items, outdoorsy gear, concert tickets, etc. There's something for everyone - and free food and drink!

The Learning Center is an outreach of First Plymouth, providing a Parent's Day Out program for one and two year olds, and a Preschool program for three, four, and five year olds. Come and support this important part of our church!



Outreach/Mission

Share the Plate for April

For April, your Outreach Ministry has selected Denver Inner City Parish (DICP) with which to Share the Plate. Eighty percent of loose offerings by our church community as well as those designated donations in the pew envelopes will go toward assisting this organization. The remaining 20% will be retained by Outreach to help those requesting assistance on an ad hoc basis.

First Plymouth was one of the churches that founded DICP 50 years ago. Since then, we have maintained a close relationship with this remarkable organization. Among its many endeavors, DICP runs a school (grades 7-12), a food bank, a homeless assistance program, parenting classes, a parolee reintegration program, a summer day camp, a senior citizens program, after school activities, and holds ecumenical worship services as well as a Vacation Bible School.

Within the past few months, DICP has assumed responsibility for operating a community center which had been closed by the City of Denver due to budget restrictions. This challenge is just the most recent example of the "can do" attitude which has made DICP an important and enduring force for positive change in our community. For more information about DICP, see its website at dicp.org

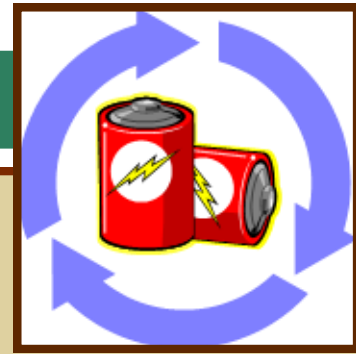
Nominate the Plate

In June, we will Share the Plate with an organization nominated by a member of the congregation. A Nominate the Plate form may be obtained at Mission Central, and must be turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 8, so that the Outreach Ministry can consider the nominees at its May 11 meeting. The Ministry gives most favorable consideration to those organizations which reflect the missions and values of First Plymouth, and which have a connection with the church through shared goals or member participation.

FPCC Capital Asset Needs Assessment

Homeowners routinely repair, remodel and replace features of their home, and the church does as well. With the many demands on funds at First Plymouth, though, those repairs and replacements often get moved to the bottom of the priority list. That is why there is specific language in FPCC's Governance Policy to protect our 60,000 square foot building, its furnishings, and its six acres of grounds, saying that we shall not "fail to follow a long-term maintenance and capital replacement plan for the church building, grounds, furniture, and equipment." Because an updated plan does not exist, Council directed a task force to fill this important gap. Its members are Keith Conner, Ken Sawyer, Harry Adair, Chip Cole, Carole Westphal, with Marilyn Miller as chair.

The first stage of this committee's work is to assess the physical repair and replacement needs of the church building and its grounds. The second stage is to add to that list remodeling projects that would improve the functionality of the space to help First Plymouth fulfill its mission. Look for an announcement this spring about a public session to explain the process, review the proposed criteria for prioritization, and receive congregational input about the church's physical plant. The focus for this first effort is on identifying problems and needs. Identifying the right solutions will be the work of a follow-up committee and certainly include congregational input.



Whole Earth News

Battery Collection Results

Thanks to all who participated in Whole Earth's battery recycling project in February. We collected over 170 pounds of alkaline batteries and learned some interesting information too:

- Alkaline batteries are no longer considered "hazardous waste," but they still contain heavy metals that can contaminate our soil and water when they are dumped in landfills.
- Recycling the many different types of single-use batteries is a complex issue since there are so many different types, each of which is recycled in a different way.
- It is expensive to recycle single use batteries. Many recycling centers do not accept them and those that do, charge \$1 - \$4/pound. Most are sent out of state for processing.
- The most economical way to recycle batteries is to purchase a cardboard electronics recycling box at Office Depot for \$5. You fill it with any type of electronics, return it to the store, and they do the sorting, shipping, and recycling. We filled 3 boxes!

Given the complexities of battery recycling, Whole Earth will not take it on as a continuing project. You can help reduce the toxic effects of battery disposal by using rechargeable batteries when possible and by purchasing a recycling box from Office Depot. Thank you for joining our efforts to take care of our environment.

Celebrate Whole Earth Sunday May 1 with Flowers from Your Garden

Help build the "Living Cross" on Sunday, May 1, by bringing flowers and greens from your garden. It's one way we can honor our faith connection to the whole of creation. Rev. Eric Smith will be preaching. Watch for more information throughout the month!





The Bees Have Arrived!

Well, almost. The Eleys and Riggins families will be installing the bees into their new home at First Plymouth right after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 24. Come celebrate Earth Day by watching as 15,000 bees and their new queen are put into hive boxes at the southwest corner of the parking lot. If all goes well, they will thrive there for years, pollinating our plants and the First Plymouth Gardens and producing delicious honey.

Fellowship and Then Some



men's
FELLOWSHIP

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 9 is the next First Plymouth Men's Fellowship Breakfast. We meet at First Plymouth on the second Saturday of every month at 7:30 a.m. for a breakfast prepared by two of our members and a discussion or presentation.

Our speaker in April will be Ann Allott, an immigration lawyer who has spoken and written extensively on immigration law. She will give us a brief rundown on immigration issues and answer questions. Many people babble about what they think the immigration law is, but this will be your opportunity to hear from someone who actually knows.

All FP men, especially newcomers, are invited to attend. There are no dues, no committees, no membership and no RSVP needed. For more information contact Fletcher Brown at brownsinco@q.com.

Men's Road Trip: May 27-30

The annual Men's Road Trip will leave for the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, and environs on Memorial Day weekend, May 27 through 30. Stops at Cabella's, Devils Tower, Wall Drug, the Badlands, and even Carhenge are on the schedule. As anyone knows who has gone on previous Road Trips, the journey is as much fun as the destinations. Save the date on your calendars now, and e-mail Craig Eley at craigeley@gmail.com as soon as you can so enough rooms can be reserved.

Notes from the Archive: Historic Bible Found

A Bible used in the early days of First Congregational Church has been found in a cupboard here at First Plymouth. Copyright 1863 by Oxford University Press in England, it was, according to its cover imprint,

*Presented to First Congregational Church
Denver*

*by Ward N. Boylston
Princeton, Mass.*

1866

It measures 14 x 20 inches and weighs about 10 pounds. Probably because the congregation moved around a lot in the early days (they did not have a permanent home until 1871), it is in poor condition; Church Archivist Don Zeller will investigate having it restored. Another pulpit Bible from 1885 was also found; it was used at Plymouth Congregational Church during the time of the Rev. Frank T. Bayley.



Thursday Afternoon Circle meets on April 14 in the Commons Room. Marilyn Mattson will speak on "The Story of Tea." Refreshments at 1:00 p.m., program at 1:30 p.m. Please call Phyllis Riggsby at 303-693-0187 if you would like to attend.

The Group will meet for an open house at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, at the home of Dean and Sally Lund, 5300 E. Mansfield Avenue in Denver. No reservation necessary; bring the usual hearty hors d'oeuvres, wine, dessert, or favorite dish. Directions: Take Dahlia from Hampden or Quincy to Mansfield. East on Mansfield to the fifth house on the right. Their phone is 303-758-1581.

Merci! Murakoze! Thank You!

The Rwanda Outreach Project Committee extends grateful thanks to the First Plymouth Endowment Committee for their generous grant toward continued sponsorship of impoverished children in Rwanda. Because of this gift and those of members and friends of the church, the students of Solidarité Association in Kenombe Village will be able to attend school in uniform, with books, supplies, and fees provided. They have a chance to see beyond the world of poverty and to set goals for themselves and their families for a healthy, successful future.

In Other News

Endowment Committee Update

The First Plymouth Endowment Fund was chartered at the 1999 Annual Meeting, and gifts were received almost immediately, allowing the first active grant making to occur in 2001. Today the Endowment Fund has assets of nearly \$1,700,000, (General Endowment Fund: \$878,000; Brand Family Improvement Fund: \$794,000; and the Esther Hurst CE Fund: \$25,000).

The Endowment emphasizes internal programs and activities that relate to mission and ministry within the church, including some specific provisions for major improvements. These are programs that are not normally supported by the annual operating budget.

Since July 1, 2010, the Committee has approved the following grants.

- \$3,300 for a revitalized confirmation program (Hurst Fund)
- \$2,000 expenses for Eric Smith to present an academic paper at Oxford, England. (General Fund)
- \$800 for the fall 2010 youth group *SpiritLife Retreat* (Hurst Fund)
- \$1,000 to support the LOFT Thanksgiving meal project (General Fund)
- \$1,300 to support the 2010-2011 confirmation program (Hurst Fund)
- \$4,000 for the stained glass window restoration project (General Fund)
- \$2,200 to help support the Rwanda Project (General Fund)
- \$10,000 for new computer server needs in the church office (Brand Fund)
- \$2,350 for two upcoming concerts for children and youth (General Fund)
- \$2,880 for Stewardship Ministry 2011 program expenses (General Fund)
- \$3,500 in support of George Anastos's 2011 sabbatical (Hurst Fund)
- \$12,700 for the 2011 High School Youth Mission trip to Venezuela (General Fund)
- \$2,050 for Gwen Blumenschein to attend the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in July 2011 (Hurst Fund)

We urge you to consider making a planned gift to First Plymouth. This is an important financial planning decision and one that should be carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully considered. If you are so inclined, there are various ways you can make a gift to the fund: Bequests in a will, Gifts of cash, Gifts of appreciated securities, Life insurance gifts.

For further information about the church's endowment funds, please contact any of the Endowment Committee members: Harry Adair, chair, Marvin Buckels, George Haskins, Erika Henkart, Rhonda Hertel, Marilyn Miller and Elizabeth Thompson.



First Sunday Breakfast!

On the first Sunday of most months from September through May, a church ministry or fellowship group will be cooking a hot breakfast for the First Plymouth congregation. Some months the event will be a fundraiser for a specific cause, and other months will simply ask for a donation to defray the cost of the meal. Every month will be a great time to skip the cooking and cleanup at home!

Men's Fellowship will be cooking the breakfast on Sunday, April 3. Bring the whole family for a hearty breakfast – the serving time from 8:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. will allow you to eat with the community and still attend the adult education offerings and the 10:00 a.m. worship services and Sunday school. Men's Fellowship is requesting donations of \$4 for quiche, pancakes, and sausage, \$3 for pancakes and sausage. Kids eat for \$2. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity (see page 6).

Healing Touch

Healing Touch Group will gather Thursday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Columbine Room. The program will be a *potpourri* evening – we will work on whatever needs to be done. Is there a treatment you would like to review? Do you have an ailment that needs to be worked on? For more information, please call Dianne Hornbrook at 303-757-6996.

Getting Information into the...

...Newsletter: news@firstplymouthchurch.org

(by the 10th of each month for the next month's issue)

...Sunday Weekly Update: news@firstplymouthchurch.org

by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday for the following Sunday's update)

...Sunday Worship Bulletin:

bulletin@firstplymouthchurch.org

by noon on Tuesday for the following Sunday's order of worship)



April Birthday Wishes...

...To Our Seniors

- 4/1 Flossie Weber
- 4/7 Bill Worth
- 4/8 Rowe Rudolph Jr.
- 4/9 Melba Bouquet
- 4/9 Elaine Lenicheck
- 4/14 Martha Williamson
- 4/15 Dot Dulaney
- 4/20 Elynn Domnik
- 4/21 Marcia Nelson
- 4/22 Gladys Connelly
- 4/22 Jean Reed
- 4/23 Thelma Gabel
- 4/23 Roy Stewart
- 4/24 Dan Porter
- 4/25 Donna Evans
- 4/27 Betty Reid
- 4/27 Jim Rogers

...and to Our Children

- 4/7 Myla Lanning
- 4/7 Cole Paterson
- 4/11 Julia Henkart
- 4/12 Madeline Hyypa
- 4/21 Marie Howard
- 4/28 Danielle Giefer



We Are The Church Together

Terry Crews & Nanette Harland, Pastoral Care Coordinators
pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org • 303-762-0616 x225

Joys & Concerns

Kyle and Hope Forgey celebrated the baptism of their son, Cameron David, on March 20. Grandparents Dave and Diane Hansen and Herb and Christine Forgey and godparents Bruce and Tessa Young traveled from the east coast to attend.

Fredric (Bud) Schroeder, a 50-year member of First Plymouth, died suddenly on February 28. A memorial service was held on March 6; the Reverend George Anastos presided. Please keep his wife, **Lu**, their sons Steven, Andrew, Ronald, and David and their families in your prayers.

Ginny Galloway is celebrating the birth of her first great-grandchild, Mark Bowe, on February 17 in San Antonio, Texas. Mark is the son of Robert and Sarah Bowe, and the grandson of Bob and Ann Galloway.

Paxton Cole was born February 24, 2011. He and mom **Alexis** are happy to be home with dad **Brian**, brother Jack, and sister Isabella. Aunt **Julie Cole**, uncle Luis Ramirez and cousins Stefanie and Andrea are joined in their celebration of Paxton's arrival by grandparents **Chip and Nancy Cole** and **Doug and Linda Andreen**.

Jessica Tozer, daughter of **Jeff Villanueva**, and her husband Steve Tozer, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Kyla, born February 22 in Fort Collins. Everyone is healthy and happy and grandfather Jeff is delighted.

Stanton Christopher Cordts was born February 15 to Stephen and Anne Cordts. Stanton, Mom, Dad and sister Charlee are doing well. This spring the family will return from Utah and join grandparents **Chris and Linda Cordts** and great-grandparents **Bob and Jan Cordts** for Stanton's baptism.

Jean Smock has returned home after rehabilitation following a bout with pneumonia. She and **Stan** are thankful for your cards, calls and visits.

Long time member **Braxton Griffith** died February 22, at the age of 96. A memorial service was held February 28, conducted by Reverend George Anastos, and followed by a buffet luncheon hosted by Braxton's daughter and her husband, Jim and Debbie Pratico.

Hooray for **Sue Lee**! She has recently been awarded a KIDS-FIRST Endorsement from the Coalition for Quality Children's Media for her DVD *I Believe in Me*. For more, see the Newsworthies Bulletin Board or visit <http://www.kidsfirst.org/>.

Laura Bauman is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor. You can follow Laura's journey at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/laurabauman>. To help with meals for her family, please sign up at my.calendars.net/baumanhelp/.

Harris and Loretta Cohn are together in the Reminiscence Unit at Brighton Gardens. Visitors and cards are welcome. There is no need to call ahead, but please check in at reception first. Their address is: 2500 S. Roslyn St., Denver 80231.

Ginnie Heddens' grandson, Brian Ballard, is a civilian technologist in Iraq.

Celebrate the **unsung heroes** in our community who prepare meals, bake bread, write cards, make phone calls, say prayers, drive people to and fro, and just are available when someone is in need. We appreciate each of you for your gift of love.

If you would like prayers for you or a loved one from one of our First Plymouth prayer groups, please contact the Office of Pastoral Care or one of the pastors; requests may be made anonymously.

Ministry of Care Opportunity

As a visible and tangible expression of care for our beloved community First Plymouth has delivered flowers to homebound and hospitalized members for years. The Pastoral Care Office is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the weekly delivery of flowers. Contact Nanette or Terry: pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org or 303-762-0616.

Contact Information



First Plymouth Staff 303-762-0616

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Senior Minister

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Barbara Hosanna
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Sue Armour
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Don McLean
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Ralph Basquez, Custodian
Robert Basquez, Custodian

First Plymouth Learning Center
Karrie Gleason, Director
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Unless otherwise noted, e-mail us
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COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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Travel Club Nancy Joe and Joe Shaw
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Women's Fellowship Association
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Yacht & Donut Norm Kautsky
nlkautsky@earthlink.net 794-3348

Phone numbers are 303 area code
unless otherwise noted.

Browse the First Plymouth



Christ is Risen!

Library catalog online at
www.librarything.com/catalog/FirstPlymouth



The Back Page

The Newsletter Deadline for the May Issue is
Sunday, April 10!

Send your articles and information to:

news@firstplymouthchurch.org

(or put them in the newsletter box in the church office)

Late submissions may not be included and all are subject to editing.

Special Thanks to Our March Volunteers

Newsletter Assemblers:
Ginny Galloway, Corrine
Lude, Frank and Marion
Taylor, Jerre Wilson, and
Claire Yetter

Church Office Volunteers:
Myra Kolditz, Betsy Lewis,
Dalyce Due, Nancy Cole,
Marilyn Mattson, and
Carolyn Weaver.

Sunday Office Volunteers:
Karleen Gagnon, Dottie
Herbertson, Margaret
Sensel, and Bobbie Drennen

Sanctuary Straighteners:
Fred Fowler and Jim and
Marion Woodward.

Flower Arrangers: Lu
Schroeder, Jan Spomer,
Heidi Stevenson, and
Andrea Anastos.

DVD Maker: Alan Long

Music Librarians: Alan
Long and Heidi Thomas

Data Base Clerks: Marilyn
Mattson and Suzanne Moser

And all the other volunteers
who labor so faithfully and
often anonymously to help
provide the infrastructure
that allows First Plymouth
to carry out its mission.

Arts at Plymouth Presents...

Lenten Organ Tuesday Evening Series

6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper and 7:00 p.m. Concert on the Pipes of First Plymouth

April 5 Dr. Martha Sandford-Heyns

April 12 Larry Scalfari

April 19 Benjamin Ehrlich

First Plymouth Chancel Choir and Calvary Baptist Choir Concert Friday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

6500 E Girard Avenue, Denver

Saturday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

First Plymouth Congregational Church

3501 S Colorado Boulevard, Englewood

The combined choirs of First Plymouth Congregational Church and Calvary Baptist Church, with orchestra, present an offering of music to inspire and heighten our Lenten and Easter spiritual experiences. The choirs will present two magnificent works: *Requiem*, by K. Lee Scott, and the soulful setting of *The Gospel Mass*, by Robert Ray.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus

Saturday, April 30, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus builds community through music and provides as it sings educational, cultural, and social enrichment for their audiences and themselves. As an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and supporters, they actively make a positive contribution to the entire community. The Chorus is a program of the Rocky Mountain Arts Association.

“Reconnection”: Joanne Kiser and Shahna Lax

April Art Exhibit in the Narthex

Joanne Kiser (daughter of First Plymouth member Dan Porter) uses water media to create “through color, light, and shape a landscape that takes form from both the mind and more importantly, the heart.” She extends an open invitation to viewers to step into the scene and create their own encouraging connection. Shahna Lax creates copperwork illuminations that combine etched symbolic, geometric, and calligraphic language with intricate cutwork inspired by the arts of Moorish Spain. Each piece summons the poetic voice of the silent moment that emerges in ancient, mystical, self-reflective form

There will be an opportunity to meet Joanne and Shahna on Sunday, April 3, in the Conversation Area after the worship service. The artists' work will be available for purchase; 30% of the sales price helps support Arts at Plymouth.