



Progressive, Inclusive, Home
firstplymouth
 congregational church



August 2011

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**Can Do Sunday
is August 21!**

Bring in food donations for the Can Do Cart that will be distributed to hungry folks in our community.

**Obstacles Fail to Stop 8th Annual Men's Road Trip
Part I of a Two-Part Series by Craig Eley**

Rainstorms, a landslide and even Dick Cheney's pulse (or lack thereof) weren't enough to stop the inexorable progress of the 8th Annual First Plymouth Men's Road Trip. It started at 7 a.m. Friday, May 27, when Fletcher Brown, Bruce Evans, Dick Anderson, Jack Cattell, Craig Eley, Sam Robinson, Jerry Arca, Mark Westlund, and Roger Diggle assembled in the First Plymouth parking lot. We loaded into Dick Anderson's SUV and Craig Eley's sister's van and headed north on I-25.

Our first stop was Gray's Café, in the small hamlet of Ault, Colorado, where we went in for coffee. But the house specialty, an enormous cinnamon bun, was too tempting to resist – two fed the entire group. This fortified us for what turned out to be a long morning meandering through the Pawnee National Grasslands, which take up about 300 square miles, comprise a large chunk of northeast Colorado, and border both Wyoming and Nebraska. The area is crisscrossed with dirt or gravel county roads every mile, and is a great place to go to get away from it all. There were times when as far as we could see there were no signs of human existence.

We were headed for Pawnee Buttes, two bluffs which stand approximately 300 feet above the surrounding countryside. At the overlook point, rather than being in isolation, we were joined by a van full of college geology students. The weather was threatening rain, and the wind was blowing, so we only spent about 20 minutes at the



buttes. An old-style windmill was pumping water nearby, perhaps for cattle, although we didn't see any. We did see a couple of missile silo installations as we drove out. They were unmarked, but were surrounded by high chainlink fences, with what looked like small concrete structures within.

After a quick fast-food lunch in Sterling, we made our way to just north of Alliance, Nebraska, where Carhenge stands steadfastly in the middle of a field. It was never meant to be a tourist attraction, but was built as a monument to the deceased owner of the field by his friends and relatives. Carhenge aspires to be a replica of Stonehenge, but is constructed entirely of old automobiles – a man-magnet if there ever was one. Dick Anderson nostalgically pointed out a number of cars he used to own, while Roger Diggle compared the structure to the original, with which, as a native of the old country, he was fairly familiar.

After inspecting Carhenge and its adjacent outdoor sculpture gallery, we piled into the gift shop for sodas and souvenirs. Carhenge had been on the itinerary of the first Road Trip in 2004, but at that time there was no gift shop. We asked the young lady behind the counter how long the gift shop had been there, and she replied "I don't know...this is my first day on the job." We assured her that the job would only get better after we left.



(continued on back page)



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, Adult Christian Formation

8:30 through the end of the 10:00 a.m. service: Nursery Care in B09

August 7 – Service of Holy Communion Rev. Judith Clausen I Kings 19:9-18 and Matthew 14:22-33 "Faith Amidst Chaos"

When does your faith give out? Today's scriptures talk about where faith is found and where it's lost. Elijah thinks he's the only one left to fight for God, with a surprising response from God. Peter's faith carries him so far, and no further. Let's talk about how far our faith takes us and what to do when it gives out.

August 14 Youth Mission Trip Sunday

Join us as the youth who went to Venezuela with Global Partners lead us in a worship service based on their trip.

August 21 - Rev. Bob Heim Matthew 20:1-15 – "Grace Envy"

Ah, grace! How we love it! Especially when WE are on the receiving end. But how do we feel when we see others favored with grace? Does it ever offend our sense of fairness? Cause envy? Jesus told a parable about that.

August 28 - Dr. Amy Erickson, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Iliff School of Theology

Dr. Erickson is our guest preacher this morning.

Drop-in Prayer Circle

Sunday mornings beginning August 28
 9:20 a.m.—9:50 a.m. in Room 213
 Facilitated by Peg Thompson

Here is an opportunity to express to the Spirit the concerns of your heart, and to prepare for worship.

We will begin with a little silence and an opening reading or prayer. From there we will continue quietly together in reflection. As you feel moved, you may either offer your prayer aloud or lift it up silently. Pray for yourself, First Plymouth or others, ask for healing and hope, express gratitude for a divine blessing (these are only examples). After each prayer we will say a short phrase to affirm the prayer and the person. The facilitator will close the gathering with a short prayer. Everything said in the circle will be held in confidentiality.

You may come as often as you wish, as the Spirit moves you. However, you may want to consider visiting a few times to become familiar and comfortable with the format. You are invited and welcome!

Sunday Morning Summer Choir

Everybody come and sing!!! Each Sunday in August our musical offering in worship will be the First Plymouth Sunday Morning Summer Choir. Anyone can be a part of this musical offering. All you have to do is show up for a brief rehearsal each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. After a brief rehearsal, we will sing during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

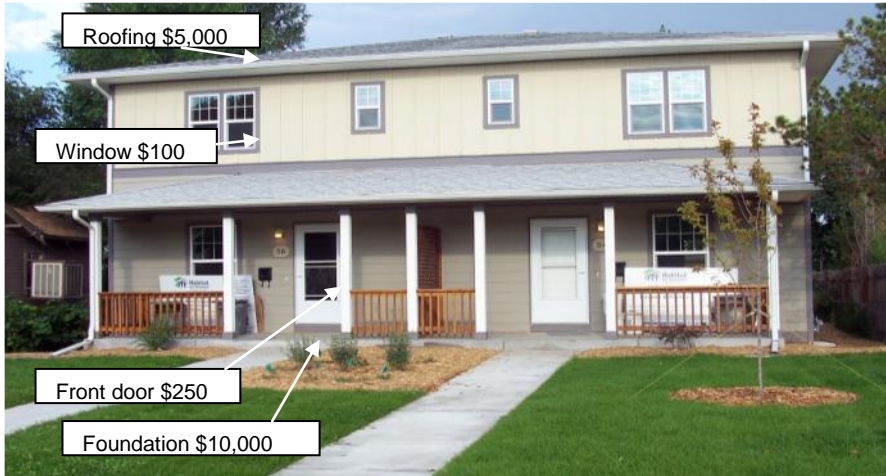
Choir and Orchestra Concert Sept. 11

First Plymouth's Chancel Choir and accompanying orchestra will present the K. Lee Scott "Requiem" on Sunday, September 11, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

August Lectionary Texts

August 7	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 14	Genesis 45:1-15	Psalms 133	Romans 11:12a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 21	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Psalms 124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
August 28	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-18

Outreach, etc.



The Kased-Ruhaif Family's home at 800 S. Patton Ct. in Denver will be a two-story duplex like this.

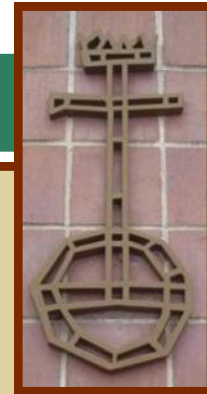
You can buy a 2x4 for Ali and Kamila's Habitat house for less than two bucks!

Of course, it will take a lot of 2x4s – hundreds, in fact. But if a lot of us each give a few dollars to buy one 2x4 or a dozen, the house will be up in no time at all. Every dollar you contribute goes directly to help erect the Loaves & Fishes house for the Kased-Ruhaif family, which is now under construction.

Consider what your gift to the Loaves & Fishes construction fund can buy. Here's the approximate cost of a few items:

One 2x4.....	\$2	One box of nails.....	\$10
One doorknob	\$25	Three gallons of paint	\$50
Kitchen sink	\$75	Four walls	\$500
Kitchen cabinets.....	\$1,000		

...and piece by piece, we've built a house! You can "buy into" this project by making a contribution to Habitat for Humanity through First Plymouth. **Thanks for your help!**



Memorial Garden

The First Plymouth Memorial Garden offers places for the ashes of members and friends to be interred in the church courtyard. Space is available for individuals for \$1,000 and for two sets of cremains for \$1,500. Burial in a common plot, or a memorial plaque for up to two names, costs \$250. You can visit the Memorial Garden in the south end of the courtyard at any time; it is easily identified by its slanting wall of names engraved on brick pavers. If you would like more information, please see Barbara Hosanna in the church office or any member of the Memorial Garden Committee: Betty Arca, Virginia Heddens, Arlene Hutchinson, Marilyn Mattson, Dan Porter, and Bill Worth.

Bird Watching Class To Be Offered

If you have ever wanted to take a course like "Bird Watching 101," you are invited to a one-day class to observe some feathered friends such as eagles, hawks, flycatchers, kingbirds and others and to learn a few basic bird watching techniques. Anyone interested in learning about bird watching is welcome.

The date is Friday, August 19, and the time is 6:30 a.m. Meet at the church to car pool/caravan to Barr Lake State Park (there is an admission fee). Bring binoculars (a must), a bird guide, a snack, and water. If you have a spotting scope, feel free to bring it along. Wear comfortable shoes for a two-mile walk and be prepared for variable weather. The class is led by Dick Anderson, master birder, retired college professor and First Plymouth member, and is limited to 12 people. For more information, or to sign up, contact Dick at rholmesanderson@earthlink.net or 303-757-4582.

First Plymouth Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars and plan now to attend the Women's Retreat at La Foret from September 30 through October 11.. The theme is "Transitions: Feminine Souls in Transition," and the retreat will focus on making sense of life's changes.

The Saturday morning guest speaker will be Rev. Michelle Danson, Episcopal priest, spiritual director, retreat leader, commissioned presenter for Contemplative Outreach, and trained labyrinth facilitator. Michelle has a passion for guiding people in spiritual formation from womb to tomb. Saturday afternoon sessions will include Master Nutrition Therapist Karin Dietrich, who believes that the mind-body connection is very important to successfully achieve lasting health and lifestyle changes.

This is an opportunity to get away, relax, have fun, make new friends, and perhaps gain some perspective. We welcome all women to share in this special weekend. Registration form available at firstplymouthchurch.org.



Children's Programs

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

We hope you have had a wonderful summer! As we all gear back up for the school year, enjoy what is left of this season.

We hope you have enjoyed our summer Sunday School program, **Stained Glass Riches**, led by Berkeley and Janet Rich. They have taught us the inspiring history of the stained glass windows displayed by Plymouth Hall, and helped us to learn the Bible stories that they illustrate. The classes will continue through the end of August in Plymouth Hall. The children begin in the Sanctuary with their parents and leave as a group after children's time. Adults, too, are welcome at these classes.



First Plymouth Nursery

We are so lucky that most of our **nursery team** will be returning this year. Our very capable Nursery Manager, Caitlin Boykin, will be assisted by Wendy Adams, Katie Haas, and Brian and Alexis Cole. Thank you all for doing this very special ministry for the youngest members of our church family. Our wonderful volunteer, Debbie Haskins, has decided to rejoin the choir this year, so we will need someone to work the 3rd week of the month. If you can help us out some or all of the weeks, please let Noanie know. Thank you, Debbie, for all the hours and love you gave to our little ones over the years.

Our new **Sunday School** year starts September 11, so we will be recruiting teachers in August. If you are interested in volunteering but haven't heard from Noanie, please contact her at 303-762-0616 or fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org. It would be fabulous if we had all our teachers lined up for the year by the beginning of the school year, as we have been able to do with our Early Childhood teams. Thanks so much to our dedicated, loving, Early Childhood educators: Nancy Joe Shaw, Pat Gunckel, Jerry and Betty Arca, Ingrid Serio, Michelle Killmer and Nancy and Pete Fogg. They will be joined this year by Gini and Bill Blunden. The curriculum we will continue to use for the Early Childhood class is *Rock Solid*, a curriculum we have used the past few years and the teachers and the children really like. For the elementary children (grades 1-5), we will use the lectionary-based curriculum *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Sunday School Teacher Orientation will be after the worship service on Sunday, August 28, at 11:15 a.m. in the CE Center downstairs. It should take only 30 minutes or so as we review our policies and supplies and Sunday morning routines. Boundary Training will be held after the meeting for anyone who will need to be certified for the coming year. If you have signed up to teach in any age groups in the coming year, please make an effort to attend – we will be sharing information you will need to make your teaching rotation easier.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was a huge success thanks to our fabulous staff. Two folks who were omitted from the July newsletter thank you's were Doug Geistert and Tess Thompson. We are already looking forward to next year's Vacation Bible School!

August Birthday Wishes...

...to Our Seniors

8/7 John Low
 8/10 Kat Haskins
 8/10 Betty Rudolph
 8/11 Vivian Gilbert
 8/19 Vi Kriz
 8/20 Stewart Taylor
 8/23 June Cleveland
 8/27 Ruth York
 8/30 Beverly Heyburn
 8/31 Barbara Reynolds

...and to Our Children

8/2 Frances Bronstein
 8/5 Haley Lukowicz
 8/5 Renee Lukowicz
 8/7 Emily Huxtable
 8/8 Tobin Lindstrom
 8/9 Isabella Cole
 8/12 Benjamin Montgomery
 8/16 Jenna Luttkus
 8/28 Collin Huxtable
 8/29 Amos Decker-Smith



Outreach/Mission

Remembering Rwanda By Ruth Neil

It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us. (Jackie Mutcherson)

The Rwanda Committee began its recent planning meeting by opening random little “message cards” from a deck entitled HERO. As we read each message, it was striking to identify how it could be related to our lives as members of First Plymouth, and especially to our ongoing project in Rwanda. Besides the quote cited above, we came across these –

To the world you may be just one person, but to one person (maybe a child in Kenambe Village?) you may be the world. (Josephine Billings)

Think beyond your lifetime if you want to accomplish something truly worthwhile. (Walt Disney) What is better preparation for the future than education?



Members of the committee have recently sent to Kathy and Rebecca Anastos short videotape segments describing how we’ve accomplished our Rwanda mission. They will share these with a group of churches in New York City while inviting their members to develop similar programs. Such programs will increase the number of children who will have an opportunity to go to school and to find the “extraordinary” potential in their lives!

It is extraordinary how extraordinary the ordinary person is. (George F. Will)

These quotes from a deck of HERO cards suggest that maybe that title can be considered an acronym for “Help Educate Rwandan Orphans.” We’ll be inviting you all to continue being heroes to these children!



MARS (Material Aid Recycling Society)

The 2010-2011 MARS sewing season has ended. The third Thursday morning recycling group made 60 dolls, 80 stuffed animals, 2 clowns, and 15 blankets. Donations were made to the Rocky Mountain Children’s Health Foundation, Family HomeStead (for their Christmas gifting), the First Plymouth Alternative Gift Market, Denver Health Medical Center, and Rusty Caine for donation to a police department. The women working on the projects included Margaret Sensel, Bobbie Drennen, Marion Wright, Barbara Kessler, Dorothy Eckert, and Elaine Hoss.

Thank you to the members of the congregation for fabric remnants, fiber fill stuffing, and blankets. We are busy this summer sewing basic dolls, clothes, and animals for our initial meeting in September. Won’t you consider joining us on September 15 at 9:30 a.m.?

Denver Inner City Parish at College View Community Brunch



Join us for our next community brunch on Saturday, August 20! Together with the folks of the Denver Inner City Parish (DICP), First Plymouth hosts a community brunch every third Saturday at the College View branch of DICP, 2525 South Decatur Street in Southwest Denver. Join us to get together with new and old friends, and enjoy good food. Brunch starts at 10:00 a.m. and activities at 11:00 am. If you’d like to help with set-up, come anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. No need to RSVP – just show up! Questions? Call Crystal Riggins (720-524-2128), Leslie Downey (303-918-1779) or Heather Greenwood (720-554-9298).



We Are The Church Together

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

Around the Parish

- Planning ahead? Pastoral Care has copies of Memorial Service Planning and Five Wishes for anyone to use.
- We will be receiving new members into our congregation on Sunday, September 25. For information please contact Nanette or Terry in Pastoral Care at *pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org*.
- The Front Range Flu Shot Clinic will be here at First Plymouth on Sunday morning, September 18, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. A sign up sheet is in the church office.

Celebrate the **unsung heroes** among our community - the folks who prepare meals, bake bread, write cards, make phone calls, say prayers, drive people to and fro, and are available when someone is in need. We appreciate each of you for your gift of love expressed in any number of ways. There are members of our Church Family who confidentially pray daily and with intent for anyone requesting the support of prayers. If you would like the members of a prayer group to pray for you or a loved one, please contact the Office of Pastoral Care or one of the pastors. Prayer requests can also be made anonymously.

Joys & Concerns

Jean Reed is recuperating from the amputation of her right leg as a result of vasculitis. Jean appreciates cards and calls.

Mark Hopkins was the May recipient of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award for his work with *The Listening Foundation* in Littleton helping infants and children who are deaf and hard of hearing to learn how to listen and speak so they may have the same opportunities as other children. His wife **Amy Moore-Hopkins** and daughter **Zoe** attended the ceremony.

Jerry and Nini Post visited Los Angeles, where they celebrated the arrival of their new grandson Daniel with proud parents, **Doug Post** and **Ellen Cockrill**.

The Reverend Lynn Vahle conducted the interment service of

Tom and Eve O'Leary on July 15 in the First Plymouth Memorial Garden. Tom and Eve were the parents of John O'Leary, who was married to his wife Patricia here at FP in 1972. Patricia is the daughter of FP member **Wanda Shanks**.

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

Ginnie Heddens' grandson, Brian Ballard, is a civilian technologist serving in Iraq. **Betsy Lewis's** nephew, LCPL Alex Kirsch, USMC, is deployed in Afghanistan.

Letters of Thanks from Members of our First Plymouth Family

To all my wonderful friends at First Plymouth,

I've survived my rotator cuff surgery. I've loved all the cards you have been sending. Keep them coming!

My love to all of you,
 Fran Axley

Dearest First Plymouth Family,

I would like to thank you all for the cards, the well-wishes, the care, and the concern I received from you. I hadn't mentioned the possibility of neck surgery to very many people, so many of you were concerned that this was an emergency of some kind. This was *not* the case, but once the word got out, I was deluged with loving wishes and cards and **prayers**. It is true...one can actually *feel* the power of prayers at work! I came through surgery and recovery time in record speed, and I'm now back to annoying anyone and everyone with my re-discovered well-being!

You, my Community of Faith, were with me in smiles and support and well-wishes and love. I am so very grateful for you all.

In Love and Light,
 Heidi Thomas

Contact Information



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www.librarything.com/catalog/FirstPlymouth



The Back Page

The Newsletter Deadline for the September Issue is **Wednesday, August 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 submissions are subject to editing.

Special Thanks

Newsletter Assemblers: Ellyn Domnik, Ginny Galloway, Karleen Gagnon, Corrine Lude, Glen Pray, Jerre Wilson, and Claire Yetter.

Church Office Volunteers: Mary Kay Kernan, Nancy Cole, Kari Collins, Betsy Lewis, Marilyn Mattson, and Myra Kolditz.

Sunday Office Volunteers: Elaine Hoss, Jackie Geist, Phyllis Rigsby, and Ginny Galloway.

Sanctuary Straighteners: Fred Fowler and Marion and Jim Woodward.

Flower Arrangers: Heidi Stevenson, Ann Lane, Peggy O'Brien, Lynn Replinger, and Lu Schroeder.

DVD Maker: Alan Long

Music Librarians: Heidi Thomas and Alan Long

Church Archivist and Historian: Don Zeller

Data Base Clerks: Marilyn Mattson and Suzanne Moser

Assistant Treasurers: Don Zeller, Debbie Harrington, Wayne Langley

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. We don't always know who you are, but there are not sufficient words to tell you how much are you appreciated!

Men's Road Trip Continued...

It was a long drive from Alliance to Hot Springs, South Dakota, where we visited Dale's Fine Dining for dinner. We got there late, so our table talk did not alienate too many regular customers. The food was, as billed, fine, and we had a good time recounting the events of the day. After dinner, it took us about an hour to get to Custer, South Dakota, where we bunked down in the Chief Motel, which was to be our base of operations for the next three days. It was a clean, pleasant place, well-situated for getting to various Black Hills attractions. The Chief gave us free passes to Custer National Park, and coupons for a \$2 breakfast.

On Saturday morning we all took advantage of the \$2 breakfast, which was very adequate, and then drove about a half-hour to Mt. Rushmore. Like Pawnee Grasslands and Carhenge, admission was free. Reminiscent of downtown Denver, however, parking at Mt. Rushmore nicked us for \$11 per vehicle.

It was a clear, sunny day – perfect for viewing the four presidential visages carved into the mountain. Some of us took the tour around the grounds, which culminated in the building which was the studio for Mt. Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln. It was the unofficial first of day summer, so there were a lot of visitors at this national memorial.

After Mt. Rushmore, half of us drove to the Crazy Horse Memorial, 17 miles away. The effort to carve a likeness of the Oglala Lakota warrior into a mountain has been going on for 63 years, with no end in sight. The non-profit that runs the place uses the admission charges to fund construction, which appears to be progressing at a snail's pace. We enjoyed viewing the sculpting done thus far, which, when and if it is finished, will result in a figure many times larger than the Mt. Rushmore faces. Our tour there ended with a stop at the visitor's center and a lunch of buffalo stew.

The other half of the group elected to see the scenery of Custer State Park. We drove through an area called Needles, which contains many tall, slender rock spires along a winding road. We lunched at the Ponderosa Restaurant, which displayed a sign declaring "We Card Everyone." True to their sign, when Fletcher Brown ordered a beer, he was asked for his ID, so he handed the waitress his Medicare card.

The two groups met up in Hill City in late afternoon. A few weeks after our visit to this town, three tourists were hit with bullets during the daily wild west shootout held on Main Street. The sheriff is still trying to determine who used real ammunition instead of blanks. We didn't stick around for the shootout, but met Casey Funk, neighbor of Craig Eley, and he led us along the back roads of the Black Hills to his family's cabin. Casey and his wife, Sharon, treated us to an enjoyable dinner amidst a beautiful mountain setting.

(To be continued in the September newsletter)