



Progressive, Inclusive, Home
firstplymouth
 congregational church



February 2012

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Arts at Plymouth Upcoming Events

Student Art Show - January 20 through February 12

Arts at Plymouth will host this annual juried art show and exhibit featuring works by area high school students. Look for some interesting, edgy work from talented young people. A reception will be held after church on February 12 to award prizes and meet the student artists.



Lenten Exhibit: *Immram – A Testing Journey*

You are invited to join Andrea La Sonde Anastos and Brad and Rita Berglund (well-known friends of the congregation) in an exploration of the Celtic concept of immram through fiber art, photography, and poetry. This exhibit is an opportunity to listen in on – and respond to – a conversation in three voices between friends and colleagues as they probe the experience of spiritual testing using word and image.

In the mythology and story of the Irish people, an immram is a life-changing journey, often linked to a compelling call of destiny to which the explorer responds. Although these journeys may involve literal geographic travel, the profound transformation happens inwardly. By their nature, immrams test our construct of the world and deeply challenge our relationship with the holy nature of life.

Brad is a spiritual director and the founder of Illuminated Journeys, offering travel opportunities and photography as spiritual practices designed to deepen the spiritual life through healing and contemplation. Rita is a psychotherapist, spiritual director and pilgrimage leader who has been experimenting with the art of life and what it means to have deep meaningful transformative experiences. Andrea is a writer and spiritual director who has been exploring the intersection of color, texture and word as one aspect of the journey she – and George – made to Colorado.

An opening reception will be held Friday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity to engage with the pieces and the spiritual process in company with the three artists beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Denver Brass – Saturday, February 25, at 2:30 p.m.

“Tiny Tots Love Music” concerts employ an experiential approach: children participate in physical activity related to the music and directed listening through age appropriate narration, resulting in a powerful musical experience. During the concert, parents are also actively involved in the musical activities, becoming exceptional role models for their children. Hand clappin’, finger snappin’, foot stomp’in’ musical activities make this a fun event for everyone. Especially designed for children under six, these 45-minute concerts enrich brain development and musical awareness in children, teach parents the benefits of including music in their children’s daily lives, and spark a lifelong love of music in young minds and hearts. Tickets: \$8 adults, \$5 children. Information: 303-832-4676.





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

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

In addition to our regular Sunday Worship Service, the Contemplative Worship Service is available for those times you feel called to a smaller, quiet, introspective spiritual community experience. We offer a reading or text followed by 20 to 30 minutes of silent meditation with a lighted candle and the lights dimmed. After meditation those who wish offer insights and we close with a prayer. Join us when you feel called.

February 5 The Rev. Jim Deming Mark 1:40-45, Chancel Choir

On behalf our Stewardship Ministry and the Whole Earth Committee, we welcome into our pulpit this morning the Rev. Jim Deming, Minister for Environmental Justice for the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries. Prior to this position, he worked with individuals, congregations, and church leaders to raise the level of awareness of how faith and justice can transform values related to sustainability, partnering with organizations such as Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, Tennessee Environmental Council, and the National Wildlife Federation. Jim is the author of "From Southern Fried Guilt to Spiritual Responsibility" in *Love God, Heal Earth*. He is an ordained United Church of Christ minister and a presenter with The Climate Project.

February 12 Youth Sunday Youth Choir

Our annual Youth Sunday, planned and led by our middle school and high school youth.

February 19 - Transfiguration Sunday The Rev. George Anastos Mark 9:2-9, Chancel Choir

Today is the last Sunday of Epiphany, and the last Sunday before Lent begins on Wednesday. Traditionally the Church has read the story of Jesus' transfiguration atop the mountain. At first glance it seems an odd selection to read on the Sunday before Lent year after year. Yet there is true wisdom in this choice. Something profound happens on that mountain. Jesus' entire focus shifts. He is no longer going to be an itinerant rabbi going from village to village on the margins of the empire, ministering to people who live on the margins. Now he will travel to Jerusalem and speak to an entirely different audience: he moves to the center, to the power, to the people who define right and wrong, rich and poor, life and death. This Sunday represents a massive shift in focus and energy.

February 22, 7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday A brief fifteen-minute service of Word, prayer, and ashes.

February 26 - First Sunday in Lent Service of Holy Communion The Rev. George Anastos Genesis 9:8-17, Chancel Choir

The story of God's promise to Noah, and by extension to all humanity, that God will never again destroy the earth through a flood is a curious one. It invites us to remember that God destroyed the earth, saving just a pair of each species. It invites us to take a second look at God and wonder, "Um, you killed all those people, all those creatures? And you are, after the fact, saying you won't do it again? How comforting?"

Who is this God we worship? IS this the God we worship? What does this story offer us today?

February Lectionary Texts

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Feb. 5 | Isaiah 40:21-31 | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c | 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 | Mark 1:29-39 |
| Feb. 12 | 2 Kings 5:1-14 | Psalm 30 | 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 | Mark 1:40-45 |
| Feb. 19 | 2 Kings 2:1-12 | Psalm 50:1-6 | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 | Mark 9:2-9 |
| Feb. 26 | Genesis 9:8-17 | Psalm 25:1-10 | 1 Peter 3:18-22 | Mark 1:9-15 |

Minister & Moderator's Corner

Moderator's Corner

*When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we will not be ashamed.
To turn, to turn will be our delight
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.*

When we lived in Minnesota, our house sat on three-quarters of an acre. We tended a big garden and a much bigger lawn. Though living there was like paradise for us, we needed many machines to take care of our property. Each one needed maintenance and repair. There was one spring when several of them needed something at the same time. I found myself in the garage, yelling "I hate all of you machines. I wish I didn't even know you!" Originally purchased to simplify our life, they had become obstacles to the deeper spiritual purpose of my life.

This was a turning point for me spiritually. I recognized in a very tangible way the spiritual price of having things, even things we needed. And when we moved and left some of the machines behind, I saw how much more time and money we had to give to the work of those who speak for people on the margins and the most vulnerable among us—including our beloved Earth-home.

This month I have had the good fortune to work with others on the Lenten adult formation program, called "Simple Living, Abundant Life." The idea is that if we simplify our lives in whatever ways we can, we will be blessed with abundance: abundance of time, money, and energy. You can plug into this program in many difference places. I hope you will check it out and discover some ways that you might begin to simplify your life, and find abundance awaiting you.

The Council has been very busy recently with two retreats designed to explore the changes First Plymouth could make to become more of a servant church. We worked with the idea of gradually becoming a "church on the margins." This means that as a church we would come to understand and recognize the cultural values that we swim in every day—consumption, speed, competition, insensitivity to injustice—to name only a few. Then we would gradually move toward functioning more and more from the base of Gospel values—compassion, prayer, justice, healing, serving, and others. First Plymouth began that journey long ago and many of our efforts involve Gospel values already—LOFT, Loaves and Fishes, Share the Plate, Rwanda, and others. Yet there is always room for growth toward becoming a more deeply spiritual Christian community that serves others in a greater variety of ways. We will be sharing our reflections in a later meeting, but I'm hoping to plant some seeds here.

The Council, as you will know by the time you read this, has decided to initiate a capital campaign drive. We have inherited a beautiful church from those who have gone before us. Now it is our turn, as George recently said, to prepare the church for generations to come.

Peg Thompson
moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org



Minister's Meditation

There is a wonderful new hymn that celebrates the Holy Spirit. It's called *She Comes Sailing on the Wind* (others refer to it as *She Flies On*). Although it is still startling to many, using the feminine pronoun when referring to the Holy Spirit is gaining usage and acceptance worldwide.

This is not a minor theological shift. It would be inaccurate to refer to this as "inclusive language." It is far more than that. This is "expansive" language: a way of shaping words and therefore thoughts that invite us to see with new eyes, hear with new ears and understand with new hearts. Praying to God as feminine is a profoundly different experience. Praying to God as feminine reorients how we see the world and others. Praying to God as feminine, and following a God who is feminine, opens paths for us that we did not even know existed. This is not a minor theological shift.

Although there are myriad biblical references to the Holy One as feminine, it is worth considering, and considering very hard, whether it is God who is responsible for this shift and its growing usage and acceptance. She is stirring in our midst and opening our hearts to rebirth.

In our own congregation I am hearing more and more people refer to the Holy Spirit's profound and palpable presence in our midst. You can feel her on Sunday morning as the congregation lifts its communal voice in praise and thanksgiving. You can sense her in church meetings where the laughter runs deep and the trust levels soar high. You can know her in relationships as reconciliation softens hearts and her Love opens souls. This is not a minor shift.

This is expansive indeed. It pushes our boundaries outward toward deeper ministry and inward toward a deeper spiritual life. She comes sailing on the wind.

George Anastos
ganastos@firstplymouthchurch.org



Children's Programs

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

In this month of love and valentines, we extend warm hugs to our children and their families, all who we love and cherish and are so thankful for.

Thanks to Heidi and Dave Thomas for teaching our elementary kids in January. This month the children are so lucky to have Renee Liebnow and Laura McKenna who will lead the children in the exploration of the following themes:

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Theme</i> | <i>Worship Emphasis</i> | <i>Bible Verse</i> |
|-------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 2/5 | Sustaining Ministry | To follow Jesus' example in praying and serving others | Mk 1:29-39 |
| 2/12 | No Class | Intergenerational Service—Youth Sunday | |
| 2/19 | Thin Places | To hear an amazing story of Jesus on the mountaintop and explore ways of listening to Jesus | Mk 9:2-9 |
| 2/26 | No Class | Intergenerational Service—Children Communion Sunday | |

Our Communion class is in full swing under the direction of First Plymouth's Communion coordinator, Lisa Ray, who again this year is teaching our children about this important tradition of our church. Thank you, Lisa, for generously sharing your talent and knowledge with our children. On February 26, the class and their families will serve Communion and receive it themselves for the first time.

Our Early Childhood teams have been busy teaching our preschoolers and sharing their many talents. In addition, Erika Henkart is leading our Cherub Choir. In February the children will be learning about:

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Theme</i> | <i>Faith Point</i> | <i>Bible Story</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 2/5 | Mary and Martha | Christians spend time listening and learning about Jesus | Lk 10:38-42 |
| 2/12 | Jesus Blesses the Children | Jesus loves me | Mk 10:13-16 |
| 2/19 | Two by Two | I can share good news of Jesus with others | Mk 6:6b-13 |
| 2/26 | Jesus and Zacchaeus | We can welcome Jesus into our lives | Lk 19:1-10 |

Our nursery manager, Caitlin Boykin, and our wonderful volunteers have been busy welcoming new children to our nursery. It is important that every diaper bag and drink and food container be properly labeled with your child's name. The sign in/out book is on the table outside the nursery on the table, along with masking tape and pens. Please sign your child in completely; including the allergy space. When everything is properly marked and a name tag put on your child's back, please bring your child into the nursery.

A reminder: Please do not bring your child to the nursery or Sunday school if they have a cold with green phlegm or a fever. We want to keep our volunteers and other children as healthy as possible during this season. Thanks!

An Arts and Crafts class is offered every Sunday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the CE Center under the direction of Caitlin Boykin. All children are welcome so if you want to check out a Christian Education offering, bring your child to class!

Vacation Bible School

It's never too early to start thinking about Vacation Bible School, June 18-22 this year. Vacation Bible Sunday will be June 24. Eileen Robinson will be back as Co-Director of VBS which assures us an organized, efficient, and fun event! We had such a fabulous staff last year that we are hoping you will all sign up to do it again. Contact Noanie if you can volunteer

Boundary Training

The next Boundary Training is February 19 at 9:00 a.m. in Plymouth Hall. If you will be working with our children and youth and have not had Boundary Training in the last year, please plan on attending.

Lent Activities

Children's activities during Lent in conjunction with the Lenten series being presented jointly by CE Ministry and the Whole Earth Committee (see page 7 for more information about the program). Thanks to our very own Arapahoe County Librarian, Melissa Depper, our children will read and discuss books dealing with similar themes. Other activities will include recycling and germinating seeds for trees and grasses to plant in the spring. At the end of Lent, each child will receive one of the books we read, thanks to the generosity of the First Plymouth Youth.

Adult Education & Spiritual Formation

The 2012 Haskins Lectures "Questioning Christianity"

The Christian Education Ministry is excited to announce a new lecture and discussion series at First Plymouth! This series both revives an old tradition – the Haskins Lectures – and begins a new tradition – a monthly series of lectures and discussions by noted scholars and religious authorities on challenging, contemporary topics.

These lecture/discussions will introduce you to mind-opening new perspectives on religious issues and will give you the opportunity to ask all of those troubling questions you've always been afraid to ask. Each speaker will lecture twice: once on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and again on Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.. Every presentation will include both a lecture and a discussion period with the audience and refreshments and conversation afterwards. A good will offering will be taken at each event, and child care will be provided.

Many thanks to the First Plymouth Endowment Committee for making this series possible! Mark your calendar for every lecture, and invite your friends!

February 26 and 29

Dr. Pamela Eisenbaum, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies
Iliff School of Theology

"Scribes, Scrolls and Scripts: How the Bible Was Transcribed, Transmitted, and Translated, and the Implication for Today"

March 11 and 14

Dr. Gregory Robbins, Chair, Department of Religious Studies
University of Denver

"Why Are Americans Giving Up on God (Tim Tebow Notwithstanding)?"

April 15 and 18

Dr. Sofia Shafi, Visiting Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies
Iliff School of Theology

"It Happens All the Time in Heaven': Islam's Tradition of Extreme Love"

May 20 and 23

Dr. Edward Antonio, Associate Professor of Christian Theology and
Social Theory, Iliff School of Theology

"The AIDS Crisis in Africa: The Threat to Christianity"



Rev. Dr. Stuart Haskins

Dr. Pamela Eisenbaum



Dr. Gregory Robbins

Dr. Sophia Shafi

Dr. Edward Antonio



Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults

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

Bible Basics and Beyond 9:00 a.m. in Room 212

Bible Basics is reading and studying Marcus Borg's new book, *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words have Lost Their Meaning and Power - and How They Can Be Restored*. The book is available at bookstores and at Amazon.com. All are welcome to participate; just bring an open mind and prepare for lively discussions in this lay-led study.

For more information:

Bill James

BJames5317@aol.com

or Fletcher Brown

brownsinco@q.com

Bible Workbench

8:30 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 them to decipher the meaning of their own experience. For more information, contact Chip Cole at 303-693-0485.

Habitat Happenings

Habitat for Humanity will break ground in May on the 14 home sponsored by the Loaves and Fishes coalition of churches. Because First Plymouth is a leading member of the coalition, members of our congregation can volunteer to help build the house. When work is completed in September, Maria and Antonio Estrada, and their sons Marcos and Emiliano and Gloria Bustamante (Antonio's mother) will have a home of their own. The Estrada Bustamante family lives in the basement of their landlord's home and has to cook everything on a hot plate. They have been preparing to become Habitat homeowners, beginning with the rigorous process of family selection and continuing with classes to explain aspects of home ownership. Habitat homes are not free. Each homeowner pays back a long-term, no-interest mortgage. That money becomes available to build additional Habitat homes. In addition, prospective homeowners must show a need for affordable housing and agree to partner with Habitat through "sweat equity" hours. Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver has built more than 400 homes locally and funded 600 homes internationally.

Working on a Habitat house is one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have – give it a try this year! The volunteer start date is May 9. More information will be coming.

Outreach / Mission

Share the Plate

Each month, First Plymouth's Ministry of Christian Outreach chooses a worthy organization with which to Share the Plate. Eighty percent of loose offerings and those offerings put in Share the Plate pew envelopes are donated to the organization designated for that month, with the remainder going to Outreach to help organizations who make *ad hoc* requests for help. Proceeds from the fifth Sunday Share the Plate in January will go to the Ministers Discretionary Fund.

In February we will be sharing the plate with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. Founded in Denver more than 25 years ago, the Coalition works to prevent homelessness, to advocate for social equity on behalf of the homeless, and to assist homeless families, children and individuals so that they might find stability within a strong, caring community. To those ends, the Coalition integrates many services:

- they provide homes for almost 2,100 individuals and families
- they deliver health care services to more than 13,000 people a year
- they provide support services that include street outreach, rental assistance, employment counseling, child care and benefits acquisition
- they offer child care
- they coordinate a Rural Initiatives Program that unites homeless service providers in fourteen locations in rural Colorado
- they offer education and advocacy programs to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of homelessness.

Altogether, they assist more than 16,000 families and individuals every year. And in all their work, they strive to honor the dignity of all they serve and to bring them hope for a better life. We will be hearing more about the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless during the Moment for Mission in our worship.

Your Outreach Ministry invites hopes all FPer will join us in lending a helping hand to those of our neighbors who need it most. You can also learn more from the Coalition website at www.coloradocoalition.org.

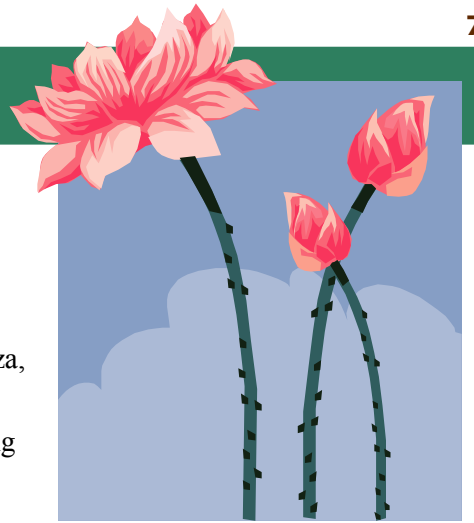


This year's Loaves & Fishes family: Maria and Antonio Estrada and their sons, Marcos and Emiliano

The 2012 Loaves & Fishes home at 28 South Lafayette Court in Denver (well, where it WILL be by the end of summer!)



Lenten Season at First Plymouth



Simple Living, Abundant Life

“Abundant living is a life of greater simplicity, of deeper faith, and of more responsible use of resources.”

Join us this Lenten Season as we journey together, away from a life of affluenza, and toward a life abounding in joy, compassion, and belonging .

Come together as community, in one or all of the ways that we will be offering to move toward simple living and a more abundant life:

Practicing Simplicity

A series of practices, one each week, will help us let go of the ‘stuff’ that rules our lives and open ourselves to deeper and simpler living. We’ll have a suggested practice each week of Lent. Adopt them all, or choose the ones that appeal to you!

Beginning the first week of Lent (February 22): Turn your habits into positive change for the world! It's traditional at Lent to "give something up." This started as a penitential or ascetic practice - we were supposed to identify with the suffering of Christ through depriving ourselves of something. This year, choose something that you spend money on unnecessarily--maybe Starbucks, maybe a soft drink instead of water with a meal, or maybe car washes. Save the money you would have spent on it (\$4 a day for Starbucks times six weeks is \$168!). We'll have a jar where we can all put our money from the thing we've given up. At the end, we'll pool that money to buy saplings from the Arbor Day folks, and we'll plant them in a place to be determined. Our goal is to plant 500 or even 1000 trees! So start thinking now about what you're "giving up" - not to bring yourself suffering, but to make the world a better, greener, brighter place!

Reflections on Simple Living

A series of weekly reflections, written by members of our community, offering personal perspectives on themes of simpler living and suggesting additional practices for a simpler, more abundant life.

Look for the weekly reflections beginning the week of February 22 in “This Week at First Plymouth.” Or have the reflections sent to you weekly by email; sign up at simpleliving@firstplymouthchurch.org.

“Simpler Living, Compassionate Life” Book Study Groups

For those who are seeking a deeper and more challenging engagement, twelve-week study and discussion groups centering on the wonderful collection of essays, “Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: a Christian Perspective.”

“The Sacred Journey: Seeking the Abundant Life.” “Time as Commodity, Time as Sacred.” “Your Money or Your Life: the Place of Money in Modern Life.” “How Much is Enough? Lifestyle, Global Economics and Justice.” We will explore these and other themes during our Lenten book study and discussion group. “*Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*” is a wonderful collection of essays by contemporary writers, including Wendell Berry and Henri Nouwen, that help and challenge us to think differently about the assumptions and practices of our contemporary life.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., February 22 through May 3. If there is interest, we will organize a second group to meet on Sundays after worship. Child care will be provided if needed. If you are interested in a Sunday book group or if you need child care for either time, please send an email to simpleliving@firstplymouthchurch.org

We will have a few copies of “Simpler Living, Compassionate Life” on hand to look over or purchase at Mission Central in February, or you can purchase the book from Amazon.com or from local bookstores. Hope to see you there!

Children and Youth book engagements

Each week, during Sunday school and Youth Group, our young people will read and reflect on a different picture book offering accessible but profound insights into the joys and rewards of simple living.

Our first book will be “The Three Questions,” the lovely and profound picture book by Jon Muth.

**Simple Living, Abundant Life is a joint project of
the Christian Education and Whole Earth ministries.**



*The Reverend James Deming
UCC Minister of Environmental Justice*

Stewardship Sunday February 5 The Reverend Jim Deming

The Stewardship Ministry and the Whole Earth Group are honored to host Reverend Jim Deming as our guest preacher for Stewardship Sunday. Rev. Deming's theme is that stewardship means protecting and supporting the things we say we value. Is there a common ethic and a common language that guides intentional stewardship of the things we value in this world, whether that be our church or Creation?

The Group

The Group will meet on Saturday, February 4 at Jan and Lou Spomer's house, 4055 South Oneida Street in Denver at 6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or a bottle of wine to share. We will provide soft drinks. Directions: Go south on Monaco from Hampden to South Oneida Street, about one mile. Turn right onto South Oneida Street, just past the Eastmoor Swim and Tennis Club. Go one block; 4055 South Oneida is the fifth house on the west side of the street. Please call Jan at 303-757-1442 for more information. New folks are particularly welcome.

Fellowship & More

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, February 11 in the Commons Room from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a hearty home-cooked breakfast and good fellowship with FP men. Newcomers are especially welcome!

We will be visited by a former FPer, Rev. Curt Preston. Curt grew up at First Plymouth and is now Pastor of Lakewood UCC. His talk is entitled "Well, Isn't That Special: The Heady and Exasperating Mix That is the UCC."

Curt is the co-editor of a new book, *The Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ*, which he will have available for those who wish to purchase one. Excerpts from two reviews on Amazon.com:

"I loved this book! I learned many new things about the UCC that I wouldn't have thought to ask and best of all the information was often given in a funny, quirky way that wasn't 'preachy' but down to earth and sometimes thought provoking. There's something for everybody - history, drama, illustrations, recipes, fun things to do to keep from sleeping during church, and much more. Definitely NOT your average dry, old book about religion."

"The Revs. Caldwell and Preston explain basic tenets of the UCC, but they don't stop there! They also explain how to get to know your pastor, what to bring to a church potluck (very handy!), how to work for peace and justice."

We expect that Curt will be edifying as well as entertaining, as he shows us that we can laugh at ourselves and our denomination. For more information about Men's Fellowship, contact Fletcher Brown at brownsinco@gmail.com.

The Rwanda Committee - A Heartfelt Thank You

*Not what we give, but what we share,--
For the gift without the giver is bare;
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,--
Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me.*

-James Russell Lowell

Those familiar lines summarize many aspects of FP involvement in the Rwanda project. We recognize that the gifts which continue to support this project are demonstrations of generous and thoughtful sharing by each donor. We believe that the nearly \$27,000 raised in the 2011 campaign was blessed by the good will and love of the individuals who contributed. It is our prayer that the continued success of "our" children in Rwanda will be felt as a blessing by the entire First Plymouth family and the numerous other donors helping this project.



Business Administration Team

The Business Administration Team is looking for additional team members. The BAT's role is to advise and assist the Director of Administration in the following areas: Facility Management, Human Resources, Finance Management, Information Technology, Compliance, Risk Management, and Publications Review. If you are interested in joining this dynamic team, please contact Ken Sawyer at janken@prolynx.com.

In Other News...



CAMP NEWS

Save the Date for 2012

It's never too early to start thinking about the best week of every summer – Community Camp at La Foret!! Camp is July 22-28, 2012, in the amazing beauty of Colorado's Black Forest at the La Foret Conference and Retreat Center just outside of Colorado Springs. This year's theme is "Believing, Being, Becoming: Living Our History." We will learn about our past, discover new things about our present journey, and envision what our future might possibly look like, both as a community of faith and as individuals. Registration will begin in March, and we hope you can join us for an amazing week. Any questions? Please contact Jason Spillman at jspillman@nglsupply.com or Erika Henkart at ehenkart@gmail.com.

FPCC Community Gardens

a member of Denver Urban (organic) Gardens

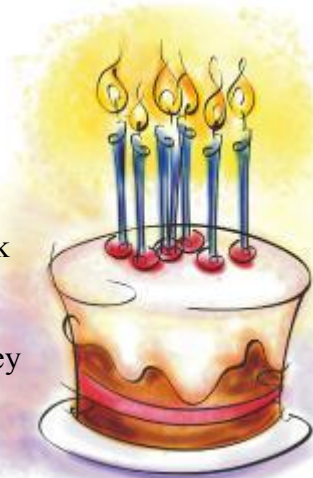
There will be a few garden plots available within our FPCC Community Gardens for the summer 2012 season. People have successfully grown raspberries, full flavored tomatoes, peas, lettuce, swiss chard, squash, herbs, flowers, weeds and more. Our gardens help to support birds, bees, earth worms, bunnies, voles and people.

If you are interested in having a plot for this summer please contact Rebecca Woehrle at 303-221-8560 or rfoehrle@gmail.com. There is a seasonal fee of \$35 to help defray the cost of water and other garden expenses. I know that Rebecca's plot with the prolific, very delicious raspberries will be available, so if you want that one and are prepared to spend some time picking the juicy gems, let me know that also.

February Birthday Wishes...

...to Our Seniors

2/7 Peter Gabel
2/11 Marvin Buckels
2/12 Jack Ehekircher
2/14 Harris Cohn
2/14 Marian McGee
2/14 Kathryn Yarabeck
2/23 Nancy Schwartz
2/24 Doris Buckels
2/25 Marian Winstanley
2/26 Jean Miles
2/28 Jim Nelson
2/28 Rena Riffel



...and to Our Children

2/7 Sarah Depper
2/13 Andrea Ramirez
2/18 Evan Wood
2/19 Gordon Bartolik
2/22 Kayla Tozer
2/24 Paxton Cole
2/28 Olivia Baptiste



Carole Westphal Retires

It is with a mixture of gratitude and sadness that we acknowledge Carole Westphal's retirement as Director of Administration. Although she announced her plans two years ago, it is still hard to say goodbye (staff-wise) to this remarkable woman, who will remain a member of the First Plymouth community. Carole was honored on Sunday, January 22 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service and at a reception following the service.

When we spoke with Carole about a parting gift, she told us that she is busy divesting herself of "stuff" in order to live a simpler life in her new RV. She has asked that we thank her by making donations in her name to Loaves & Fishes, the Habitat for Humanity consortium of which First Plymouth is a member. Carole has been an enthusiastic Habitat supporter and volunteer for many years and plans to continue her involvement as part of their Care-A-Vanners program for RV owners. Your donations will help purchase the materials needed for the home that *Loaves & Fishes* builds each year in our area. Your donations may be made to First Plymouth and are tax deductible. The church (and Carole) both thank you for your generosity!



Around the Parish: Ministries of Care Opportunities

During the icy days of late winter and spring, please be aware of anyone who may need help across the parking lot. Our custodial staff arrives early on Sunday to shovel, scrape and distribute ice melt on the side walk and walk ways.

Flower Delivery: 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. Please contact Nanette or Terry.

Prayer Teams: Are you seeking a way to serve others? First Plymouth members have a long-standing commitment to pray for one another, and our prayer teams are one vehicle to facilitate that. If you feel moved to pray for others, please contact Nanette and Terry in Pastoral Care.

Planning Ahead? Pastoral Care has copies of *Memorial Service Planning* and *Five Wishes* for anyone to use.

We Are The Church Together

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

Joys & Concerns

The Share the Care handbook talks about the healing journey: "Everyone has the ability to heal, but the form of healing is different for each of us. Some of us heal with our hands, some with our laughter, some with our stories, some with our faith. We heal with the funny get well card, the homemade lasagna, the lighting of a candle. We heal by having the courage to tell the truth. We heal others out of the things we've come to terms with in our own life—our own pain, our own disappointments our own illnesses."

Alyssa McKenna, age 10, daughter of **Laura McKenna**, competed in the State Gymnastics Tournament. Despite injuring her ankle during the meet, she took 1st place in the beam competition!

Tricia Springer's father, Franz A. Springer, died January 4, in Albuquerque. A memorial service was held January 8. Keep Tricia's mother, Frances, Tricia and her sons, **Wyatt** and **Ansel Duesenberg** in your prayers.

Heidi and David Stevenson and **Mark Westlund** and **Debbie Harrington** are super happy grandparents. On December 29, Alice Highley Dale was born to Shawn and Abby Westlund Dale.

Donna Watford is rehabilitating at home following knee replacement. She and **Bob** welcome calls and cards. Please call before visiting.

Tom and Gigi Van Egeren's son-in-law, Chris Brian, was diagnosed with a glioblastoma. He is receiving treatment here in Denver. Please keep Tom and Gigi, Chris, his wife Missy, and their children Robbie (18), Caleigh (14), and Will (9) in your prayers.

Marvin Buckels had knee replacement surgery on December 28. He is at home rehabilitating. Marvin and Doris appreciate cards and calls.

Eunice Koehler, a former member of First Plymouth died December 1, in Quincy, IL. She was 92 years old and had a long career as a Navy nurse. Her many friends in Thursday Afternoon Circle remember Eunice with fondness. Polly Bloomer, who now lives in Smith Center, Kansas, called with the news. Contact information for Eunice's family and Polly are on the Newsworthies Bulletin Board.

Milton Schachterle, member of First Plymouth for 63, years died December 13. He was 93 years old and was a survivor of the December 7, 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor as a radioman on the USS Phoenix. Milt and his late wife, Iris, were married at First-Plymouth Congregational Church on Lafayette Street in 1948. Milt will be interred next to his wife in the spring. A memorial service was held at First Plymouth on January 6. Please remember Milt's son, David, and his wife, Carolyn in your prayers.

The **Spillman Family** is once again a part of the Magic Moments theatre production. **Heather**, Madison, and Ian will be performing—Ian will star in a solo—while Jason will be supporting everyone. Magic Moments produces original musical theatre that includes amateurs, special needs, and professional performers of all ages. Dates for the performance are March 22-25.

Martin Luther translated "Blessed are those who mourn" to mean "Blessed are those who are the sorrow-bearers." As Christians, we not only have our own sorrows and burdens to bear, but also those of others. In practice, this means that we take other people's tragedies and difficulties to our own hearts in intercessory prayer and in helpful service. In adopting this ministry, we ourselves will also be comforted.

—Charles

There are members of our First Plymouth Congregational Church Family who confidentially pray daily and with intent for anyone requesting the support of prayers. If you would like prayers for you or a loved one, contact the Office of Pastoral Care or one of the pastors. Prayer requests can be made anonymously.

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Browse the First Plymouth Library Catalog online at
www.librarything.com/catalog/Firstplymouth



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The Back Page

The Newsletter Deadline for the March Issue is

Friday, February 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 to:

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

Church Office Volunteers: Myra Kolditz, Linda Glenn, Nancy Cole, Kari Collins, Betsy Lewis, Carolyn Weaver, Marilyn Mattson, and Dalcyce Due.

Sunday Office Volunteers: Dottie Herbertson, Ginny Galloway, and Elaine Hoss.

Sanctuary Straighteners: Fred Fowler and Marion Woodward.

Flower Arrangers: Jan Spomer and Heidi Stevenson.

Data Base Clerks: Marilyn Mattson and Suzanne Moser

Archivist and Historian: Don Zeller

DVD Maker: Alan Long

Music Librarians: Heidi Thomas and Alan Long

Assistant Treasurers: Don Zeller, Debbie Harrington, Wayne Langley, and Betty Stevenson

And to all of the other volunteers who help to carry out First Plymouth's mission in so many ways. We often don't know who you are or even that you have undertaken the task, but we very much appreciate your continued dedication and commitment – thank you, thank you, thank you!

Tales from the Archives

Helpful(?) hints from early cookbooks published by the ladies of First and Plymouth Churches:

- Camphor put in drawers or trunks will keep away mice.
- To brighten carpets wet the broom in water in which a little ammonia has been thrown.
- A bag of hot sand or salt relieves neuralgia.
- Little red ants cannot travel over wool or rag carpet; they may be caught also in sponges into which sugar has been sprinkled, then the sponge dipped in hot water.
- Hold a hot shovel over furniture to remove white spots.
(First Congregational Church, c. 1892-93)
- To wash carafe, decanter or bottle, use raw egg shells and soap suds, also vinegar and salt.
- Hang white clothes in strong sunlight; colored clothes in shade.
- To kill germs in handkerchiefs soak them in strong salt and water before boiling.
- A raw potato will remove rust from steel.
- To remove grass stains from children's clothes, rub molasses into the stains before washing.
- Afternoon tea, served with lemon, poured through a strainer holding a few cloves, is dainty and delicious.
(Plymouth Cook Book, c. 1895)
- Hard sauce on mince pie makes a delicious dessert.
- Apple jelly added to apple pie in the late winter, will restore much of the apple flavor.
- Keep a hatpin in your kitchen drawer for testing cakes, meats, vegetables, etc.
- In measuring flour, fill the cup with a tablespoon; this lessens the tendency to have too much flour.
(Women's Society of the First Congregational Church, 1926)



These 100+ year old hints have not been tested by *modern* homemakers, and are intended more as humor, so use with caution.