

NEWS

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congregational church



Progressive
Inclusive
Home



In the primer of Life, the first lesson is Love. These words by poet Joan Walsh Anglund capture the message delivered by our youth on Youth Sunday. As I write this article, I am still reflecting on their vibrant service and keenly aware of the cultural “love” hype of Valentine’s Day.

How we long for Love! And we search for its source, each in our own way...through family, romance, community...you name your way. How distant Love seems when our search is disrupted by fear, which is Love’s opposite! Fear divides while *Love joins all things*. In this time of financial fear our youth reminded us that each of us as members of the Body of Christ holds a key within to unlock the power of Life, a key which is Love. In Anglund’s poem we heard them proclaim, *There is no lack. There is only abundance, all lack begins in the mind of fear. All abundance arises from the heart of Love.* And from I Corinthians 13 (paraphrased), *If I have all things, knowledge, power, even faith, and do not have Love, I am nothing.* Love is the key which unlocks the power to be the Body of Christ and to stay united as different parts which need each other, even in the toughest of times. Love is *gentle, yet it is fierce, [it] is soft, yet it is strong, for its force reaches past time, past death.*

Curiously, Valentine’s Day and its “love” hype heralds the coming of Lent in our church calendar. During Lent we are prompted to turn inward for spiritual reflection, and as the Body of Christ we journey with Jesus through the stories of Holy Week. What a wondrous opportunity is Lent! We are given blatant permission to focus on our never-ending search for Love and to focus on that search as it takes us deep within to find God’s Love in our very beings. The stories of Holy Week lead us to those deep places and turn us outward again to confront the world with God’s Love as they reveal to us the passion of Jesus.

What was/is Jesus’ passion? Jesus was/is passionate about turning the tables on our false expectations of seeking abundance and love in the systems of the world instead of in the heart of God. He was/is passionate about overturning those same systems which seek to control and divide us with fear. He was/is passionate about living fully into God’s ways of Love and inviting us to join him on that challenging, joy-filled journey! Jesus was/is passionate about God’s wondrous Love which makes all of life, the good and bad, the ugly and the beautiful, sacred. And he was/is willing to give his life in pursuit of his passion.

Join me this Lent in *the primer of Life* as we learn again from Jesus that *first lesson* called Love!

Jane Anne Ferguson

March 2009

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Get Your Newsletter On Time!

Starting with the April 2009 issue, First Plymouth NEWS will no longer be automatically mailed to subscribers wishing to have a paper copy. Staff reductions and increasing costs are forcing our hand. There will be three free ways to get your newsletter: pick up a paper copy at church, subscribe to its e-mail distribution list, or visit the website and download it.

Delivery of the NEWS by first-class mail will mean that the post office will not delay it because of their own workload, as happened with the January 2009 issue. If you would like to get your NEWS by US mail, a small fee of \$20 per year will make that happen if you (or your family) is a pledging contributor to the church (\$50 per year if you are not). If this creates a financial hardship and you are unable to access the NEWS by any of its other available means, we will mail it to you at no charge. Please contact the church office BY MARCH 15 at 303-762-0616 or info@firstplymouthchurch.org to continue receiving your newsletter by mail and make the appropriate payment arrangements. THANK YOU!

Sunday Morning at First Plymouth

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	First Service and Children's Sunday School
10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Christian Education for Adults, Youth, & Children Children's Choir Rehearsals
11:11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Second Service

All Morning:
Fellowship in
Plymouth Hall and
Nursery Care in B09

Special Lenten Sunday Worship

This year, for the five Sundays in Lent, we explore exactly what happened during Holy Week nearly 2,000 years ago. It is often surprising how deeply this story parallels our own struggles for wholeness, for grace, for meaning, and for spiritual peace.

Some background: On Ash Wednesday 2004, Mel Gibson launched a movie called *The Passion of Christ*. The film violently depicted Jesus's last days on earth, including angry crowds cursing him, spitting on him, and reviling him. It was purported to be an accurate presentation of Holy week events.

Unfortunately the movie was neither biblically nor historically accurate. Moreover, it continued an unfortunate history of Christian misinterpretation of those events, erroneously vilifying "the Jews." As a result of this, New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, deeply disturbed at the anti-Semitic misleading presentation, were motivated to write *The Last Week* to set the record straight and relate what current biblical and historical scholarship tell us of Jesus's last days.

In this book, and during Lent, when we speak of Jesus's "passion", we will use the word in two ways. First, we will use the word to mean what it usually does when it refers to Jesus: his betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. We will also explore Jesus's passion as *those things Jesus was passionate about*.

During this year's Lenten journey, we will use *The Last Week* as the basis for our Sunday worship services. We will see what happened each day of Holy Week (we all know Jesus entered Jerusalem on Sunday, but what happened on the other days?) and explore Jesus's passion and why he was such a threat to Roman rule and to institutional religion. We will look at how this informs, shapes and deepens our own spiritual lives.

We invite you to attend church each Sunday, as each service will be richly informative and, we hope, powerfully worshipful. The liturgies will be a bit different, each crafted to help us understand and feel the import of these events on our spiritual journeys today. Most importantly, we hope to explore what this means for us, as the Church, right now. How do Jesus' last days, how do his passion and his *passion*, inform and guide us an incarnate community in today's world? How do they help shape us, as a spiritual people, into God's image of love?

March 1**Revs. Anastos and Ferguson****First Grade Communion****Monday of Jesus's Last Week**

The day after Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, he went to the temple and enacted its symbolic destruction. Commonly known as *The Cleansing of the Temple*, this was a radical disruption of the temple's normal proceedings. Our worship this morning will explore what happened from the perspective of one of the chief priests. In addition, our first graders will participate in serving communion and formally take communion for the first time as part of the entire church body. Many thanks to Lisa Ray for her remarkable ministry in preparing them for this most sacred rite.

March 8, 15, and 22**Revs. Anastos and Ferguson****Tuesday of Jesus's Last Week**

Tuesday of Jesus's last week was a full day...a full day of continued confrontation with the authorities. First Jesus is confronted by the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. Next the Pharisees and the Herodians verbally try to entrap him. Finally the Sadducees try to discredit him. All this is done in front of crowds of people to make Jesus look foolish and dangerous. After masterfully turning the tables on his accusers, Jesus confronts and discredits them in front of the people. The authorities do not arrest him because the Jews are so taken with his teaching. In the middle of all this confrontation there is a moment of calm, an eye in the storm, when Jesus and one of the scribes find common ground: The Greatest Commandment is twofold: love of God and love of neighbor.

March 29**Revs. Anastos and Ferguson****Wednesday of Jesus's Last Week**

On Wednesday of Jesus's last week the authorities "were looking for a way to arrest Jesus and kill him." But they could not do it openly because the Jews from all over the known world were present for the festivals, and they were so taken with Jesus's teachings and presence that they were, in essence, his protection. Judas, after seeing a woman pour costly ointment of nard on Jesus's head, betrays Jesus and goes to the authorities. "They were greatly pleased."

Moderator's Corner: Being Church

There's a lot of buzz among our membership following the Annual Meeting... and that's a good thing! We're facing budget challenges and a governance structure that have us looking closely at the way we "do church". Both items are deserving of a little buzz.

I will again quote the governor of Michigan: "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste!" We don't want to lose sight of the learning opportunities we might gain from a budget shortfall. Stewardship responded to the budget gap with a "Second Mile Campaign" proposal, not just to balance the budget but restore partial funding to the programs of the church to our OCWM commitment. You will all be receiving a "Second Mile" letter soon.

There is a grass roots movement among our members to explore creative revenue-generating opportunities for the church. The idea of being a "Missional Church" is rooted in inspirations like these and the collaboration that often accompanies brainstorming like this.

The proposed new governance structure may be our best tool to support these sorts of "bottoms up" proposals and eventually bring them to fruition. I invite you to watch for materials in your e-mail and snail-mail boxes regarding this new "work in progress" structure. Please plan to attend one of the scheduled meetings in March to hear more about what is happening.

We'll call a special congregational meeting in May to consider any bylaws changes that need to be made to support the new structure and get a look at this year's balanced budget. Our work to "be church" and live as worthy disciples is clearly put to the test in these difficult times. Embracing a love and understanding of God and of neighbor will likely be our best comfort on this journey of being church.

Peace, David Nestor

Lenten Visuals

As we begin the season of Lent, we enter one of the oldest seasons of the liturgical calendar. In the ancient church, these six weeks comprised the final, most intense period of study by the catechumens – those preparing to be baptized into the church at dawn on Easter. These sisters and brothers in faith understood their baptism to be a literal death (the death of the life they had been living) and a new birth as a new creation in God. They symbolically recreated the death and resurrection of Jesus in this ritual act of discipleship.

The Visuals Team will work closely with the Worship Team to make visible and manifest the symbols and metaphors of Lent, Easter, and the Great Fifty Days between Easter and Pentecost, including the tension between the status quo and Jesus' vision of a world more focused on God.

During the first six weeks, we use the traditional deep purple of

Lent, not, as some mistakenly believe, because it is the color of penitence, but because it is the color of royalty. Christians understand themselves to be subjects not of any worldly order (monarchy, democracy, meritocracy), but citizens of God's commonwealth, subjects of the Risen and Reigning Christ.

You may also see some of the following symbols and colors: the tree in many forms, plants that thrive in arid conditions (including palms), barren branches, ashes, dark grey and black (the colors of penitence and mourning), thorns or barbed wire, shards of pottery, and emptiness.

We hope that you will find these images rich and evocative, challenging, startling, and unsettling. We hope they will tease at the edges of your heart, mind and soul, inviting you to dive more deeply into the stories of this season than you have ever gone before.

First Plymouth Foundation

Although the current stock-market situation has limited the funds available for distribution, The First Plymouth Foundation was pleased to make the following grants at their regular quarterly meeting:

Care & Share Food Bank: to increase their capacity to address hunger in southern Colorado.

CHARG Resource Center: to improve the quality of life so that mentally ill persons are able to work.

Colorado Bright Beginnings: to help Colorado families support their children's physical, emotional, and intellectual development during their first three years of life.

If you have questions about the First Plymouth Foundation or wish to know how to make a contribution, please contact George Anastos or any board member: John Low, Greg Fox, Glen Pray, Pat Gunckel, Jan Spomer.

Caring Awards

The honorees of this year's Caring Awards are Marilou Taggart, representing First Plymouth, and Todd Clough, representing our wider community.

Rev. Taggart has a long and distinguished career, receiving her Divinity degree in 1955 from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She is best known at First Plymouth for serving on staff from 2001-2007 as parish visitor.

Mr. Clough is the executive director of Denver Inner City Parish, an organization which First Plymouth has long supported.

We will honor these two on April 26, at Cherry Hills Country Club. You will receive an invitation in the mail, and we hope that you can join us.



Children's Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Plans for Vacation Bible School are coming along nicely. An awesome staff of youth and adults who love kids and love God will provide a warm and welcoming environment where children can learn about themselves and God and the Biblical story of the Israelite slaves leaving Egypt. And of course, they will have fun!



Part of what makes Vacation Bible School fun is the theme. This year our VBS is "Crocodile Dock," and we will spend our week pretending we are in the Bayou. That's where we need your help gathering things that will help create the atmosphere: artificial trees and plants, fishing gear (as you would need in the swamp), battery operated lanterns, and of course, the creatures of the swamp! Fishing nets and waders would be fun and do I dare wish for a boat? The only limit is our imaginations!

Helping with decorating and creating the right environment for VBS is a special ministry in itself. Decorating is something that can be done in the evenings and doesn't take the five-day morning commitment that teaching in VBS calls for.

So Children's Ministries is asking for two kinds of help. First, to borrow things that will help us create a "Bayou" environment for VBS, and second, for people who would like to help create this environment in our building. If you are interested and have questions please contact Karen Guy at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Creator's Club Comes Again on March 15

Creator's Club is for children of all ages during the 10:10 hour. It provides an educational opportunity for our elementary school children on those Sundays when no Sunday School is scheduled for them.

The March 15 Creator's Club theme will center around Spring and Lent. We will have activities in Plymouth Hall like: cooking pretzels, making flowers, planting flowers, and learning about St. Patrick and his relationship with God.

We will also need table leaders for each activity. If you are interested and available please contact Karen Guy at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Sunday School

Early Childhood

Lambs (age 2)

"Love One Another"

Doves (3's/4's) & **Fish** (Pre-K/K)

"Jesus in Jerusalem" (before Holy Week)

We still need a regular teacher for the Fish on the 4th Sunday each month and substitutes for all classes.

Cornerstone Kids (grades 1-5)

March 1 and 15:

Intergenerational Worship Services, no class.

March 8, 22, and 29:

"Events Before and During Holy Week"

March Workshops:

Bible Bytes

Creation Station

Drama

Thanks to Heather Greenwood, Laura McKenna, Annie Nestor, Robin Leander, David Stubbs, and Ken Ingram for leading workshops in February.

FP Youth Participate in International Affairs Seminar (IAS) 2009

Rebecca Thompson and Kelsey Owens will be attending this seminar on *The Church in China: Beyond the Olympics*, along with Iliff intern Ken Ingram and other youth from both the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). From March 21-28, the group will be in New York City and Washington, DC. studying US-China relationships from a Christian perspective.

China has thrust itself into the international limelight by hosting the 2009 Olympics and is clearly becoming an international superpower. Concerns

which this seminar will address include China's attitude toward human rights and freedom of religious expression, the environmental impact of China's rapid industrialization, China's role in achieving world peace and stability, and concerns for the Chinese people in the face of natural disasters, industrialization and urbanization, and ethnic strife.

Kelsey and Rebecca will make Adult Education and youth group presentations on their return to share their insights and adventures with us all. We wish them both a productive and fun learning experience!

Adult Christian Education

Each Sunday there are multiple opportunities for Adult Education at 10:10 a.m.:
Contemporary Issues, Bible Workbench, Bible Basics & Beyond, and the Sunday Morning Talk-About Series.

Contemporary Issues

March 1 : Abomination - Shrimp or Homosexuality

As part of our continuing "Exploring our Boundaries" series, Inclusivity/ONA hosts a round table discussion on the recent *Newsweek* article that has stirred passions about the bible's words regarding homosexuality. Come read, discuss, and explore challenging questions affecting our community and each of us in our expression of our faith and our challenge to "feed my sheep".

March 15: Self-Sufficiency-The Kiva Project

First Plymouth member Melanie Houston will talk about Kiva, a program which lends funds to entrepreneurs in the developing world so that they can lift themselves out of poverty.

March 22: Self-Sufficiency - Two Steps Forward and One Step Back, The Cliff Effect

Learn how the "cliff effect" makes it hard for low-income working women to become self-sufficient.

March 8 & 29: TBA

(Commons Room)

Bible Workbench

Bible Workbench brings the weekly lectionary text alive, asking open-ended questions which get you out of your head and into your heart. It promotes reflection, appreciation of diverse perspectives, and real-world application of the text. The only requirements are an open heart and an open mind—no previous Bible knowledge needed!

(Columbine Room)

Bible Basics and Beyond

"Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles"

You will find this Kerygma series approach to Bible study lively and provocative. Each lesson is self-contained, so you can start any time.

Luke is our guide as we relive the events of the early church. Catch the wind of the same spirit that brings renewed life to today's Christians.

- March 1 Into All the World
- March 8 Antioch and Jerusalem
- March 15 Barnabas and Paul
- March 22 On to Macedonia and Philippi
- March 29 Paul Upsets the Empire

(Room 212)



Can Do Sunday
is March 15!

Sunday Morning Talk About Series

During the first three weeks of March, we offer an in-depth exploration of the long standing conflict between Palestine and Israel with three excellent speakers:

March 1 - Mohamad Jodeh was born in Palestine and immigrated to the United States; he now lives in Denver. He will discuss recent Palestinian history from his extensive first-hand experience.

March 8 - Rabbi Joel Schwartzman, former associate rabbi at Temple Sinai, lived in Israel during his rabbinical training and has led numerous trips to Israel. He will cover the history of the Jewish migration and share his observations of the current Israeli experience.

March 15 - Reverend James Ryan is Council Executive of the Colorado Council of Churches. He often participates as the Christian representative on panels discussing the Palestinian-Israeli situation. He will facilitate an open discussion on this issue. You are welcome whether or not you participated in the previous programs.

March 22 and 29, April 5

"Digging into Friedman's Fables: How Deep Do You Want to Go?"

Family therapist and ordained rabbi Edwin H. Friedman is the author of *Friedman's Fables*, "twenty-four stories of animals (including the human animal) that give the reader or listener distance from his or her own real-life encounters. Yet through the distance they provide, (fables) offer fresh perspectives on familiar human foibles." One lesson Friedman teaches is that true communication is less a matter of "syntax, rhetoric, articulation, and diction" than it is circumventing "emotional barriers that prevent people from hearing each other." First Plymouth member Doug Brown will facilitate a discussion of some of these fables and invites you to accompany him in an effort to develop a greater understanding of the many and profound lessons Friedman has to teach us. The book is available on *amazon.com*. Please contact Doug if you plan to accept his invitation at *dbdbsbrb@aol.com* or 303-757-3550.

(Covenant Room)

Theft from Cars in Parking Lot

We are sad to report that a car was broken into during one of the Sunday services and items were stolen. To help prevent this from happening again, we ask that you call the police if you see a break in. Also, PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR! Professional thieves will look for something worth stealing before breaking into a vehicle.

Endowment Committee Approves Piano Purchase

As an extension to the Save Our Steinway project (SOS), the Endowment Committee recently approved the purchase of the “loaner piano” in the Chancel. When the Steinway returns this spring, that piano will move to the floor of the Sanctuary, and the Kawai piano in that location will go to the Odeon. The Odeon piano gets a good workout every week from the various choirs that use the room, and the current piano is no longer up to the task. It will receive a minor tune-up and be moved upstairs for occasional use in the Chapel or Plymouth Hall.

The Endowment Fund receives monies from bequests, the interest and investment earnings from which are used to fund **nonbudget** items in accordance with the giver’s wishes—such as supporting the church’s mission, improvements to the building and furnishings, and Christian Education. Endowment funds have been used for the Plymouth Hall kitchen upgrade, improvements to the parking lot, the stained glass project, and the Futures Project.

Please consider a gift to First Plymouth that will keep giving as part of your estate or financial planning. For more information, please contact Harry Adair, Endowment Committee Chair, or the church office.

What’s Your “Green Thing?”

God’s creation is our responsibility, and many of us are taking steps in our individual lives to be better environmental stewards. If you’ve got a green thing you’d like to share, this is the place to do it!

Watch for more information about changes we can make individually, and in our collective lives at First Plymouth Church.

Islamic/Jewish/Christian Dialogue at FPCC

First Plymouth’s ONA/Inclusivity Committee is reaching more deeply into our community to explore ways to live our faith. Church member Anne Kleinkopf and Senior Minister George Anastos have, at the committee’s request, joined the Board of Directors of the Abrahamic Initiative, the mission of which is to provide a forum for dialogue among Jews, Christians, and Muslims and to foster mutual understanding and appreciation for the faith perspectives of the three different but related traditions.

Beginning March 1, First Plymouth will host four events regarding the urgent need for Jews, Muslims and Christians to have meaningful and frank dialogue with each other. As recent events in Gaza and our nation’s current wars in two Islamic nations show us, we must ask how can we become part of discussions that honor these traditions, that speak frankly of the need for peace, and that help us at FPCC in our discipleship to participate in God’s will of peace on earth, goodwill to all people.

First we will have a three week, in-depth exploration of the long-standing conflict between Palestine and Israel in the Sunday Morning Talk About Series during the CE Hour (see page 5).

Also on Sunday, **March 1, at 4:00 p.m.**, First Plymouth will host a mediated roundtable discussion of Islamic imams, Jewish rabbis, and Christian ministers. Congregations from all three faith traditions are invited to attend.

We are blessed with an opportunity to begin the grassroots dialogue necessary for eventual peace between nations and religions. Reservations are requested for the March 1 roundtable at 303-762-0616 or info@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Men’s Fellowship

Saturday, March 14, is the next **Men’s Fellowship Breakfast**, in the Commons Room from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Enjoy hearty home-cooked food and good fellowship with FP men. Newcomers are especially welcome!

Our speaker will be FP’s Blair Gifford, Associate Director of the Center for Global Health and a visiting professor at Yale. Blair’s remarks, entitled “Which Way Forward?” will include discussion of health systems here and abroad, including examples of new types of health delivery organizations that are working well. Blair will challenge us to consider whether the U.S. can afford not to reform its health care system.

Men’s Road Trip – May 22 – 25

The annual Men’s Road Trip is on Memorial Day weekend, and this year we’ll be heading to Cody, Wyoming, with great food, terrific western museums, and unmatched scenery. We’ll be just an hour from Yellowstone, so we’re certain to stop by Old Faithful.

We’ll need to plan ahead for this trip, so if you are interested in going along with us, contact Craig Eley at craig@eley.net soon.

Thursday Afternoon Circle

Stoking the furnace and locking the front door is not all it takes to put the church to bed every night. On March 12, Don McLean, our Facilities Manager, will bring his talents to tell us the work it takes to keep the church “alive” 24/7.

Join us March 12 at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments and for the program at 1:30. So we know how many to plan for, call Martha Edwards at 303-744-9402. Bring your questions and a friend.



Arts at Plymouth

Visual Arts

March 8 - April 5:
Visual Interpretation of the Spiritual.

Front Range Community College students and faculty will exhibit art work with their interpretation of "Spiritual."

Musical Performances

Lenten Organ Series:

First Plymouth will host a series of premier organists from greater Denver in concert each Tuesday evening during Lent. Join us for Lenten Supper in Plymouth Hall at 6:00 p.m. and the free concert at 7:00 p.m.

- March 3** Tamara Schmeige, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fort Collins
- March 10** Ken Mervine, organist for the Colorado Symphony and Barbara Mervine, vocalist, narrator, performer.
- March 17** Dan Romero, Holy Ghost Catholic, Denver
- March 24** Gwen Blumenschein, FPCC
- March 31** Frank Perko III, FPCC
- April 7** Dr. Martha Sandford-Heyns, First Presbyterian, Boulder

Denver Brass and Organ

Sunday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

The Denver Brass and organist Frank Perko III join forces for an event featuring the pipes of First Plymouth in glorious combination with brilliant brass.

Rocky Mountain Flute Choir

Friday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

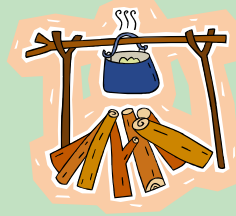
The Rocky Mountain Flute Choir's first annual members recital—soloists and small ensembles.

Map Chest Needed

The Visuals Group is looking for a map chest with many long slim drawers to house and preserve our hand-made paraments. If you have this kind of holder and are willing to donate it to the church, please contact Betty Stevenson at 303-773-0873.

Second Annual Game Night

Anyone up for a game of Trivial Pursuit, Pictionary or Candyland? Fellowship and Parish Life hosts the 2nd Annual game night Saturday, April 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.—all ages welcome! Bring your favorite board game and a dessert to share. We'll supply the popcorn and hot chocolate. Fun for the whole family!



La Foret Fundraiser Brunch

Join us for a delicious brunch on Sunday, March 1 following the 9:00 and 11:11 services. The 2nd Annual Accessory Sale will take place during the brunch. Proceeds will benefit Community Camp at La Foret.

Women's Fellowship Association News

With special "thanks" to all First Plymouth members who made, packed, and delivered cookies, the Women's Fellowship Association is pleased to report a successful Christmas Cookie project. Over 50 cans of homemade cookies were delivered to First Plymouth members with special needs in December. Marcia Nelson was chair of this project in cooperation with Pastoral Care Coordinators Terry Crews and Nanette Harland.

The Christmas Luncheon honoring First Plymouth senior members on December 5th was a rousing success. The delicious meal contributed and prepared by First Plymouth member Monica Langley was served to over 125 guests, and the special musical program was a joyous addition to the holiday season. Myra Kolditz was chair of this event and members of Serendipity women's group assisted in serving the luncheon. Table decorations were contributed by Deanna Wilscam.

Upcoming Meeting:

The Women's Fellowship Association has scheduled a special meeting on Friday, February 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Covenant Room. The agenda includes plans for the new member luncheon in May, a review of the budget, and approval of the philanthropies to be supported in 2009-2010. All First Plymouth women are invited to attend and contribute their suggestions to the planning.

Missional Church and Governance Congregational Updates

Learn more about the continuation of the Futures Project, our missional church focus, and our proposed new governance structures. Save these dates:

March 22 Lunch & Learn after the second service

March 25 Evening presentation and discussion

May 3 Lunch & Learn after the second service

And hold **Sunday, May 31** for a congregational meeting after the second service. Plan to be there!

Stewardship@Work

Where TIME & TALENTS Are Needed Now

Wish List for Arts at First Plymouth

Time: a couple of hours setting up and serving at receptions for Arts events. Contact Nancy Joe Shaw (NancyJoeShaw@comcast.net or 303-979-5927) to provide hospitality for our Arts events.

Wish List for Children's Ministries

Time: 1 hour as Creator's Club Table Leaders

Creator's Club is Sunday March 15 at 10:10 a.m. It is an hour of intergenerational togetherness trying different creative activities around a theme. There are five to seven different activities, each needing at least one Table Leader.

Responsibilities: Read through table instructions and background that will be sent via e-mail. Ask Karen if you have questions. Be present at your table at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday March 15. Supervise and encourage children to clean up their projects and table. E-mail Karen at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Time: 1+ hr as Sunday School Shepherds –

Assist from 8:45-10:00 a.m. and/or from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. with various tasks for Children's Sunday School, including setting out snacks, assisting with Cornerstone Kids Workshops, helping with attendance and follow-up with newcomers, and hospitality.

Responsibilities: Sunday mornings only. A Sunday School Shepherd is called to a ministry of hospitality and helping teachers so that teachers can successfully share their ministries. E-mail Karen at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org.

First Plymouth needs and sincerely appreciates ALL your gifts: TREASURE, TIME, and TALENTS.

Economic Meltdown Melted You Down?

Or does some other event in your life feel like an earthquake? Then consider joining a group that meets every Thursday morning at 8:15 at First Plymouth that could help or at least provide some support as you cope with a transition in your life. It's called **Life Transitions**. The group focuses on coping skills, sharing possible leads for work, job-hunting strategies, personal accomplishments, and whatever else might be helpful and supportive to those who show up each week. There's no membership roster, just an open invitation to share with others who are facing similar issues. Come join this group for some fun and support! If you want more information, contact either Howie Brand at howardbrand@alumni.northwestern.edu or Ken Hoagland ken@commcapcorp.net.

Habitat Happenings

The 2009 Loaves and Fishes Home Goes Here:



54 Hazel Court (west of Federal & north of Alameda)

This year's **Loaves and Fishes/Habitat for Humanity** home is a half-duplex scheduled to start in May. Please help us with financial and volunteer effort as you are able. *Stan Harwood and Bruce Thumm, Coordinators*

Travel Club

The Travel Club will meet Saturday, March 14 for potluck/fellowship at 6:00 p.m. and a program at 7:00. Joe Shaw, president of the Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council, was asked to be a part of a delegation of the World Affairs Council of America to South Korea. He will share his experiences. If your last name starts A-G, bring salad; H-M, dessert; N-Z, main dish. Please provide your own table service. Coffee, tea, and ice water will be provided. To help us plan for set-up, please contact Berwyn or Gail Davies to make a reservation at berwyngail@comcast.net or 303-663-1350 by Thursday, March 12. Be sure to attend Joe's presentation and hear about his unique opportunity to observe South Korea's country and culture.

Auction Supports Sara Brown Fund

After the Rwanda project was fully funded this year, the Outreach Ministry sought a local agency to receive aid from proceeds of the silent auction last November. The Sara Brown Memorial Fund Foundation of the Denver Welfare Department was selected. This non-profit organization, independent of the City and County of Denver, helps Denver's most vulnerable population by providing services to people in need when government assistance is not enough. The children and adults they help come in times of desperation. Many have not had heat for weeks, cannot afford to buy eyeglasses, or get simple dental care. Caseworkers can provide additional help for persons in these difficult situations. The Outreach Ministry has allocated to this worthwhile foundation the \$997 that the silent auction raised during the Alternative Gift Market last November.

A Magical La Foret Moment (or Two)

At a meeting of La Foret deans this past Sunday, I was reminded of the night we were all singing around the campfire down by the yurts. A huge downpour sent us scurrying into the Ben Smith Center for cover. It really rained! But the amazing thing that this act of nature created, as we all found small places to stand around, was that conversation that would never have happened started spontaneously. Everyone had more fun, learned more about each other, and I suspect, were thankful that the rain had come and we had some shelter.

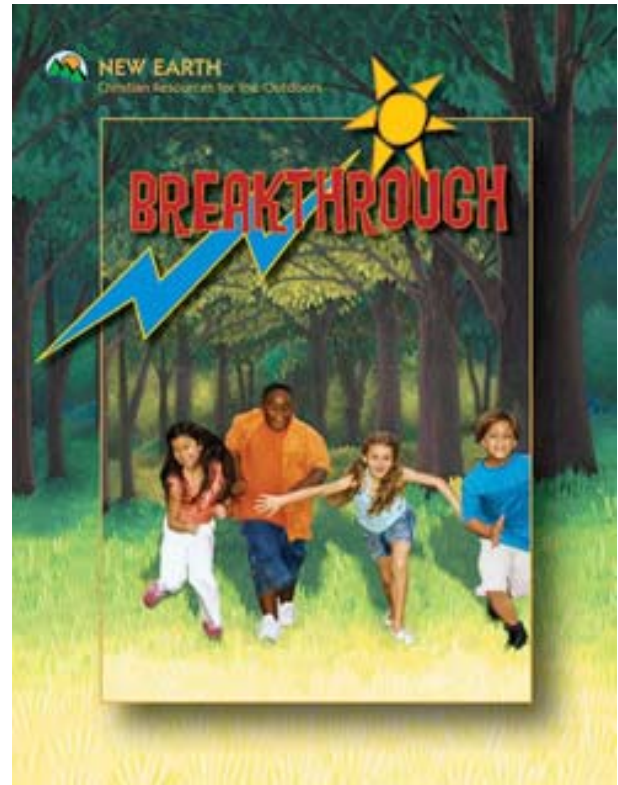
A similar event happened one year on an early morning out in the meadow. Many campers know that I have been leading a morning meditation in the meadow before breakfast for a number of years. The typical attendance goes from 6 or 8 Monday morning, down to 1 or 2 by Friday. Must be the eventual loss of sleep. But this particular morning was not one to bring out very many people because there was the thickest fog out in the meadow that I have ever seen in all my years at La Foret. I decided to feel my way out into the fog, just on the chance that someone was there to do the usual silent sitting that we had been doing all week. As I approached the spot where we liked to meet in the taller grass, I saw Corbin Davis waiting with his blanket and pillow. We hugged and then smiled at the thought of going through with this crazy ritual. But there was no deciding if we were or weren't going to do it. We simply put our cushions down on the ground and enjoyed the serenity of what nature had put out for us. Even if we had kept our eyes open, we would not have seen anything, but instead, with our eyes fully closed, we saw each other surrounded by the sky.

La Foret serves up a lot of beautiful nature. I hope you will come.

- Chip Cole



Gathering of past Deans still involved with camp



2009 La Foret Summer Camps

Breakthrough! That's the theme for the 2009 Rocky Mountain Conference summer camps at La Foret. Online registration opened January 15, and the "early bird" deadline is April 30. Visit rmcucc.org for more information and to register your children and youth.

This year's camps:

June 28-30

Grandparent & Me

(grandparents and children 5-11 years old)

July 5-11

Pioneer (children entering grades 2-4)

Explorer (children entering grades 4-6)

Voyager Music (children entering grades 6-8)

Contemplative Life (adults)

July 12-18

Voyager (children entering grades 7 and 8 only)

Explorer Music (children entering grades 4-6)

July 26-August 1

MADD (Music, Art, Dance, Drama)

(youth entering grades 9-12)

The Healing Touch

Healing Touch will focus on boosting the immune system to fight colds or flu. Bring your favorite "tried and true" ideas to keep healthy. We will also practice energy treatments to boost the immune system. We meet on Thursday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Call Dianne Hornbrook at 303-757-6996.

We Are the Church Together

From Nanette and Terry

As we usher in spring, the Pastoral Care office is buzzing with activity. Terry and Nanette are putting together the next new members class; new members will be received into the church on May 31, Pentecost Sunday. We update the *Joys and Concerns* and the Sunday bulletin weekly. The news that you pass along to us is our first notification of parish joys and concerns. Thank you for continuing to keep us in the loop of life in the parish. Our office is staffed Monday – Thursday, please call, stop by, or e-mail us with your news and notes.

Blessings, Terry and Nanette

Healing and Comfort

Marion Bullis died peacefully on Tuesday, December 30, in Burbank, CA. A memorial service was held at First Plymouth on January 24 in the Sanctuary.

Long time Denver resident **Mig Brickey** died on January 9 at age 90. She and her late husband, Howard, were beloved friends of our congregation. A memorial service will be held at First Plymouth on Sunday, May 10, which was Howard and **Mig's** wedding anniversary.

Former First Plymouth member **Hazel Cleaver** died on January 12 at age 99 in Wichita, Kansas. Hazel joined First Plymouth in 1954 and held a number of positions in the church. Our thanks to Polly Bloomer, another former FP member, who connected us to Hazel's family.

Ginnie Hedden's grandson, Brian Ballard, is serving as a civilian technologist in Iraq to locate and disarm IED's.

Gale Erlewine is recovering remarkably well after having reverse shoulder replacement surgery on his right arm on February 9.

Chris Collins, son of **Ryan and Kari Collins**, reported for Army boot camp at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on February 17.

BJ Bouzari had surgery for brain cancer January 14. BJ, Louise, and their daughter Meri are friends of First Plymouth.

We have several members continuing in various stages of treatment for cancer, or who are dealing with other chronic illnesses, including **Sharon Tebow, Jo Cattell**, and **Elaine Oppenheim**. All are at home and receiving visitors. Please call first.

Parish Joys

Kendall Ruhnow received her karate black belt on January 9 after training hard for 3 years!

Jane Anne Ferguson's mother, Bettie's knee replacement on January 19 was successful. Jane Anne stayed with her mother during the surgery and recovery.

Jim and Teena Brenkendorff's son-in-law, Staff Sgt. James Blythe, has been reassigned from Iraq to Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Washington.

Betsy Lewis, member since 1969, was honored as volunteer of the month for February from Volunteers of America. She is recognized for her work with Seniors, Inc, an organization promoting independence for the elderly in Colorado. Betsy also is a regular volunteer in the office at FP.

Gary Bryant, former interim pastor of First Plymouth, reports that his most recent PET scan was negative. He and **Linda** are grateful for the care and concern from First Plymouth members. His address and a note are on the Newsorthies bulletin board.

Brennan Pickett-Williams, eight-month-old son of Amy and Ben was baptized on February 15.

Claudia Merthan, long time member of First Plymouth now living in South Dakota, went to Las Vegas to see her granddaughter, Amy, compete in the Miss America pageant—she placed in the top 15. Claudia's letter and her address are on the Newsorthies bulletin board.

Women's Cancer Support Group

The Women's Cancer Support Group welcomes all women who have cancer or are cancer survivors. We meet the third Tuesday of the month (March 17) from 12:00-2:00 pm in the Columbine Room. Bring lunch; coffee and dessert will be provided. Call Marilyn Mattson at 303-753-0027 for more information.

March Birthday Wishes...

...To Our Seniors:

3/2	Dottie Deane
3/7	Bill Nix
3/8	Phyllis Stare
3/15	Cecily McKittrick
3/16	Laird Campbell
3/17	Norman Kautsky
3/19	Ilene Gutjahr
3/19	Margaret Sloss
3/22	Mildred Roth
3/24	Peg Purves
3/26	Willa Brunkhorst
3/26	Bob Cordts
3/27	Bobbye Tucker
3/27	Dorothy Von Drehle

...To Our Children 12 and Under:

3/3	Daniel Stubbs
3/6	Julian Mitchell
3/9	Em Depper
3/11	Tom Orr
3/12	Reece Cochran
3/12	Ben Robinson
3/13	Frances Earley
3/14	Grace Dunkleberger
3/16	Gabby Day
3/17	John Galloway
3/17	Caroline Hyypa
3/27	Cooper Dyce
3/29	Abrum Wilson
3/30	Ewan Sweetland
3/31	Henry Dunkleberger

Who Are You Going to Call? Contacts for Church Council, Committees, Ministries, and Fellowship Groups

COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

Moderator <i>dcnestor@lsi-s.com</i>	David Nestor 238-2405	Stewardship Co-Chair: Randy Feuerstein <i>rfeuerstein@duffordbrown.com</i>	741-0932
Vice Moderator <i>nancyfogg@comcast.net</i>	Nancy Fogg 777-6642	Co-Chair: Ann Lane <i>ann_lane@msn.com</i>	338-8150
Treasurer <i>steve@denverpafirm.com</i>	Steve Haskins 843-9590	Worship & Arts Chair: Kristi Zimmerman <i>kzimmerman2@hotmail.com</i>	771-9587
Church Clerk <i>dkroll9772@aol.com</i>	Dave Kroll 252-8648	Vice-Chair: Doug Brown <i>dbdbsbrb@aol.com</i>	757-3550
Business Admin <i>keith.conner@comcast.net</i>	Keith Conner 781-0589	Chancel Choir President: John Falconetti <i>jfalconetti@usa.net</i>	894-0725
Joint Budget <i>nancyfogg@comcast.net</i>	Nancy Fogg 777-6642	Arts at Plymouth Chair: Nancy Joe Shaw <i>nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net</i>	979-5927
Memorials <i>ajfreeman30@comcast.com</i>	Alice Freeman 720-981-8787	FELLOWSHIP GROUPS	
Memorial Garden <i>araybutch@msn.com</i>	Arlene Hutchinson 756-4367	Bridge Marathon <i>bblabey@msn.com</i>	Barbara Lahey 758-3218
Nominating <i>troy.greenwood@comcast.net</i>	Troy Greenwood 720-554-9298	Colony Club <i>chuckwillis@comcast.net</i>	Chuck Willis 758-0834
Inclusivity/ONA <i>trn1cholas@comcast.net</i>	Randy Nicholas 791-2414	Families With Younger Children Kim Wooldridge	691-0716
Personnel <i>lanemfg@earthlink.net</i>	Leigh Green 690-6672	MARS Bobbie Drennen Corinne Lude	321-4933 758-7125
PPRC <i>ken@commcapcorp.net</i>	Ken Hoagland 733-6101	Men's Fellowship <i>brownsinco@q.com</i>	Fletcher Brown 814-1420
Whole Earth <i>arubnon@comcast.net</i>	Aaron & Adrienne Ruhnaw 720-937-1065	Serendipity	TBD
Endowment <i>harryadair@comcast.net</i>	Harry Adair 797-6207	The Group <i>bblabey@msn.com</i>	Barbara Lahey 758-3218
MINISTRIES		Thursday Afternoon Circle Barbara Kessler	750-3334
Christian Education Chair: Debbie Haskins <i>shaskins@solucian.com</i>	843-9590	Women's Fellowship Association Marcia Nelson <i>mrnjgn@comcast.net</i>	794-4524
Vice Chair: Phil Thompson <i>philandelizabeth@msn.com</i>	730-7835	Yacht & Donut <i>nlkautsky@earthlink.net</i>	Norm Kautsky 794-3348
Outreach Chair: Jane Hall <i>jane3hall@comcast.net</i>	771-6527	Phone numbers are 303 area code unless otherwise noted.	
Vice Chair: Doug Lindsey <i>dblindsey@dblindseyco.com</i>	721-1940		
Fellowship & Parish Life Co-Chairs: Noanie & Doug Geistert <i>ndgeis@msn.com</i>	220-7550		

First Plymouth Staff 303-762-0616

Rev. George C. Anastos Senior Minister	
Rev. Jane Anne Ferguson Associate Minister	
Frank Perko III Director of Music	
Gwen Blumenschein Assistant Director of Music	
Heidi Thomas Youth Choir Director	
Rev. Eric Smith Youth and Young Adults Director	
Karen Guy Director of Children's Ministries <i>fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org</i>	
Ken Ingram Christian Education Intern <i>kingram@stu.iliff.edu</i>	
Terry Crews Nanette Harland Pastoral Care Coordinators <i>pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org</i>	
Cathy Benn Parish Visitor	
Carole Westphal Director of Administration	
Barbara Hosanna Office Coordinator	
Dulci Stewart Human Resources/Accounting	
Jessa Decker-Smith Communications Coordinator	
Don McLean Facilities Manager	
Ralph Basquez, Custodian Robert Basquez, Custodian	
First Plymouth Learning Center Karrie Gleason Director 303-762-9355 <i>director@fpplc.org</i>	
Unless otherwise noted, e-mail us using first initial and last name @firstplymouthchurch.org	

Thanks to Our Volunteers ...We Couldn't Do It Without You!

To Anne Beninghof, Ellyn Domnik, Martha Edwards, Ginny Galloway, Karleen Gagnon, Barbara Lahey, Corinne Lude, Dan Porter, Judy Crossland, Glen Pray, and Claire Yetter for **assembling the February Newsletter.**

To **flower arrangers** Rebecca Woehrle, Lu Schroeder, Jan Spomer, and Heidi Stevenson who created the beautiful arrangements for the February worship services.

To the **February weekday church office volunteers:** Kari Collins, Betsy Lewis, Ethel Benish, Linda Glenn, Carolyn Weaver, Myra Kolditz, Dalcyce Due, Cindy Eley, Jane Hall, and Nancy Cole.

To Fred Fowler and Jim and Marion Woodward for **straightening up the Sanctuary** during the month of February.

A special thank you to our **Sunday Morning Office Volunteers:** Bobbie Drennen, Karleen Gagnon, Ginny Galloway, Dottie Herbertson, Elaine Hoss, Barbara Kessler, Myra Kolditz, Phyllis Rigsby, and Sophie Griffith. This has been a most faithful and dedicated group!

Next Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, March 10
for the issue covering
March 1 - 31, 2009

THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE!

The NEWSLETTER box is
located in the Church Office,
or e-mail your articles to:

fpccnews@yahoo.com

**Late submissions may not
make it into the newsletter!**



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3501 South Colorado Boulevard
Englewood Colorado 80113
Phone: 303-762-0616
Fax: 303-789-2783
Web site: www.firstplymouthchurch.org

