



*Progressive, Inclusive, Home*  
**firstplymouth**  
 congregational church



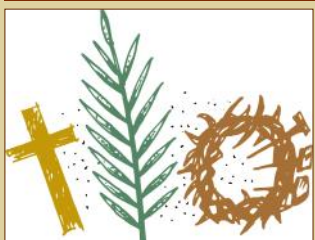
**March 2011**

**Vol. 72, Issue 9**

**What's Inside:**

Worship Opportunities	2
Lenten Worship and Study: Progressive Christianity	3
Children's Programs	4
Adult Programs and Meetings	5
Share the Plate Sabbatical Plans	6
LOFT Can Do Sunday Whole Earth News Stained Glass Windows	7
Men's Breakfast Men's Road Trip Blood Drive Travel Club Library Committee Garden Plots Farmer's Market	8
Community Camp Book Sale Arts at Plymouth FP Foundation Search Committee Kentucky Circle Village	9
The Church Together	10
Contact Information	11
The Back Page: Newsletter Deadline Special Thanks Submitting Articles Rwanda Thank You	12

Inserts:  
 March Calendar  
 Youth News



**Minister's Meditation**  
**Rev. George Anastos, Senior Minister**

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)*

I had the privilege to sit with a wise colleague recently—a woman whom I consider a mentor and guide. She was telling me of a startup church in her city that is growing by leaps and bounds. It has 10,000 members. She wanted to know why they grew so rapidly and why mainline churches still cannot halt their decline. So she investigated this new church.

The worship at this mega-church is well-packaged and very entertaining, complete with pyrotechnics and numerous professional musicians. The message tugs at the heart strings; it is designed to make people feel good. She explored further. Men run the church. Women are "allowed" to teach children and provide hospitality; no woman will ever preach, sit on the Council, or be part of any decision making body. Homosexuals are "welcome" because the church will "love the sinner" but "condemn the sin." To be a full member of this Body of Christ, a person must not only be male, but heterosexual. And not only Christianity in general, but their specific brand of Christianity, is the way to God; everyone else is wrong.

She and I agreed that we are perplexed. Worship with the *goal* of making people feel good cannot be worship that, by definition, preaches the gospel, because Jesus' message always, *always*, asks us to go deeper, to face what is challenging and uncomfortable and to be transformed into the image of God. And transformation, like any birth, is a painful and messy business. This is not to say that worship cannot feel good; it often does. But that is not worship's goal. Moreover, a church in the United Church of Christ must include ALL people as they are created by God in the full life and mission and membership of the church. The FULL life and mission membership. A church led and fed by women and men, gay and straight, black and yellow and white and brown, is part of *our* DNA. A church that listens to all voices and votes together to discern God's will for us is part of our DNA. A church of disciples who intentionally want to be part of God's active work to heal lives, restore creation, and actualize the biblical vision of peace is part of our DNA. And we proclaim, with other progressive Christians, that our path to God is but one path; others have found ways to the sacred also. She and I are perplexed as to why this message of the UCC is not "popular." But we sure are passionate about it.

We agreed we do not have answers. We agreed that we need to explore with you and be open to the Spirit's often radical transformative presence. And we also agreed that a church that preaches the Gospel, includes ALL people, and respects others' faith is part of who we are called to be. And we agreed that we embrace a faith that shall thrive and grow.

During Lent through Easter Sunday we have planned a sermon series on what "progressive Christianity" is all about. This will be combined with Adult Christian Formation programs each week, both before and after church, led by members of the congregation, that help us explore the theme of the day and invite us ALL to lend our voices in full membership in the Body of Christ to learn from each other ways to be a faithful pilgrim people in the Congregational tradition. These are wonderful times to invite people to church to hear about some of the fundamental understandings of who we are as First Plymouth Church.

*(Please see page 3 for more information about this exciting worship and adult Christian formation opportunity.)*



# 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**

### Sunday, March 6 Youth Sunday Rev. Eric Smith

Today is Youth Sunday! Always a highlight of the year's worship calendar, this service is planned and carried out by First Plymouth's middle-school and high-school youth. This service is always full of energy, music, and a few surprises, so you won't want to miss it!

### Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Rev. George Anastos

Each year hundreds of millions of Christians worldwide recognize and observe this first day of Lent. We receive ashes on our foreheads and are reminded that we are dust and that to dust we shall return. It is another way of remembering those things that are truly important and letting other things take their proper place of priority in relation to ultimate values. We are reminded of the ultimate when a loved one dies or a child is born—times when we are overcome with emotion. Ash Wednesday, however, is a more *intentional* act of remembering... considering life, not from the heat of emotion, but from the coolness of reflection, a coolness physically felt in the touch of ashes upon our face.

### Sunday, March 13, Holy Communion Sunday, March 20 Sunday, March 27

#### Special Worship and Adult Formation Series for Lent:

#### Embodying Progressive Christianity

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

### AHMMM Worship (Awe, Holiness, Mystery, Meditation, Music)

Tuesday, March 1

6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

An experiential worship opportunity, rooted in the Taizé tradition, with prayer, contemplative silence, scripture, symbolic imagery, candlelight, and meditative singing. The AHMMM service will go on hiatus for Lent and will resume on Tuesday, May 3, at 6:00 p.m.

### Special Worship Opportunity: Sunday, May 1

On Sunday, May 1, we will celebrate our commitment to a Whole Earth and (belatedly) celebrate Earth Day. There will be more details in next month's newsletter, but for now, hold the date in mind for the following:

- A very "hands-on" sermon by Rev. Eric Smith
- A celebration after the service
- A concert after the service by renowned children's musician Billy Jonas, who plays with recycled instruments and his "audience orchestra"
- A workshop with Billy Jonas at youth group that night, where he will help us make music together out of unexpected things

This will be a day you won't want to miss!



## March Lectionary Texts

March 6	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2 or Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Mathew 17:1-9
March 13	<b>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</b>	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
March 20	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	<b>John 3:1-17</b>
March 27	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	<b>John 4:5-42</b>

# Lenten Worship and Study

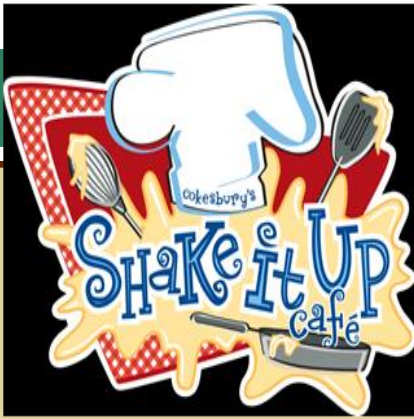


## Worship Opportunities and Adult Formation Classes for Lent: Embodying Progressive Christianity

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

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

	<i>March 13</i>	<i>March 20</i>	<i>March 27</i>
<i>Aspect of Progressive Christianity</i>	“...form ourselves into communities dedicated to equipping one another for the work we feel called to do: striving for peace and justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all God’s creation, and bringing hope to those Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers.”	“...invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable (including but not limited to): believers and agnostics, conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, women and men, those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, those of all races and cultures, those of all classes and abilities, those who hope for a better world, and those who have lost hope.”	“...have found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus.”
<i>Text</i>	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42(worship) Mark 8:27-30 (discussion)
<i>Theme</i>	Healing Creation	God came into the world, not to judge, but to love and redeem; we are reborn in the Spirit in the form of the persons that we are, and the image of God lives in that form	“Who do you say that I am?”
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. George Anastos	Rev. George Anastos	Rev. George Anastos
<i>Music</i>	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir	Bell Choir
<i>Discussion Leaders</i>	Heather and Troy Greenwood (8:45 a.m.)	Randy Nicholas and ONA Committee (8:45 a.m.)	Bob Heim (8:45 a.m.)



## Children's Programs

Noanie O'Brien Geistert, Director  
[fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**March is one of my favorite months  
 as we all take to wearing of the green  
 for St. Patrick's Day!**

### Come to the SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ, Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe!

Registration for 2011 Vacation Bible School, **Shake It Up Café**, begins this month. It is open to everyone so invite your friends and neighbors! Please watch for information in the Sunday evening weekly update and the worship bulletin. VBS is June 20-24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a special Sunday worship service planned and led by VBS students and staff on June 26. There will be childcare offered before VBS from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and afterward from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### WANTED: Chefs with a specialty of serving up the Word of God to children

Things are really starting to cook with Vacation Bible School. We already have our executive chefs, Eileen Robinson and Noanie Geistert. Our Chef Basil (assembly leader) is Carole Westphal and our sous chefs are Jerry and Betty Arca (preschool/kindergarten leaders). Our expeditor (also known as our Bible storyteller) is Berkeley Rich. We have one server (group leader) in Hope Dangremond but we will need at least 6. We have some kitchen assistants (youth leaders) with Madeline and Jacqueline Adams but we will need lots more. We will need a pastry chef (snack leader) and some specialist chefs de partie to organize our Discovery Time (science) and maybe our craft program. Carole Westphal has also agreed to be our recreation chef. The dates are June 20 - 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. so come join the fun we're preparing at the Shake It Up Café, where kids carry out God's recipe!

Our elementary children (grades 1-5) will be completing Unit 4, *Paths of the Spirit*, and beginning Unit 5, *Lenten Conversations*, this month.

Sunday	Scripture	Theme
March 6	Matthew 17:1-9	Mountain Mystery
March 13	Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7	Lenten Conversations about Tough
March 20	John 3:1-17	Lenten Conversation about New Life
March 27	John 4:5-42	Lenten Conversation about Thirsting

Our Early Childhood class is beginning Unit 1, *Blessed is the One*, of their spring curriculum in ROCK SOLID with their excellent team of teachers and youth helpers.

Sunday	Theme	Faith Point: Easter Is a Special Time When..	Scripture
March 6	Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet	...we show our love for Jesus	John 12:1-8
March 13	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath	...we remember that Jesus loves and cares for us.	John 5:1-18
March 20	Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet	...we remember Jesus' example to serve others	John 13: 1-20
March 27	The Last Supper	...we remember Jesus through Holy Communion	Luke 22:7-19

We have reorganized our snack storage and now we need helpers to get our snacks ready on Sunday mornings for the children. If you can help, please go to [www.signupgenius.com/go/childrens](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/childrens) to sign up for a week or two. If you have questions, contact Heather Greenwood at [hgreenwood@comcast.net](mailto:hgreenwood@comcast.net).

### Boundary Training

The next Boundary Training is on Sunday, March 20, at 11:15 a.m. in Plymouth Hall. If you will be working with children or youth in Sunday school, youth group, VBS, or Community camp, it is required that you are Boundary Trained. Contact Noanie at [fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org) if you have any questions or concerns.



# Adult Programs/Meetings



## Sunday Morning Offerings

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

### Bible Workbench

8:45 a.m. in the Columbine Room

This lay-led 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. For information: Chip Cole, 303-693-0485.



### Bible Basics and Beyond

8:45 a.m. in Room 212

Inviting adults into a new adventure of learning, we explore biblical people, events, ideas, and places through reading, reflection, discussion, creative expression, and discovery. We use the *Kerygma Program — Discovering the Bible* as our guide. For more information: Fletcher Brown, 303-814-1420.

### Bringing the Lessons Home:

#### Reflections on the Day's Sermon and Scripture

11:15 a.m. in the Commons Room

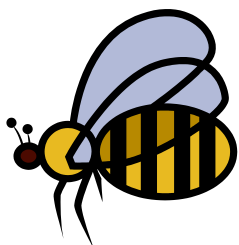
This discussion opportunity is a time to reflect more deeply on the ideas, images, and thoughts sparked by both the sermon and the lectionary readings, focusing on how they might speak to our everyday lives in the coming week.

**Thursday Afternoon Circle** meets on March 10 to hear from Mason Finks of the Arapahoe County District Attorney's Office on the topic of "Safe at Home and Safe on the Street." Refreshments at 1:00 p.m., program at 1:30 p.m. Please call Phyllis Riggsby at 303-693-0187 if you would like to attend.

**The Group** will not meet in March. Consider coming to the Travel Club dinner and presentation on Saturday, March 12, instead!

**Women's Cancer Support Group** will meet Monday, March 21, at 10 a.m. in the Commons Room. Call Marilyn Mattson at 303-753-0027 with questions or for more information.

**Healing Touch** will gather Thursday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Columbine Room. The program will be a *potpourri* evening – we will work on whatever needs to be done. Is there a treatment you would like to review? Do you have an ailment that needs to be worked on? Call Dianne Hornbrook at 303-757-6996 if you have any questions.



## Lenten Study

Join Rev. Eric Smith on the Wednesdays of Lent for a series on asceticism, self-denial, and suffering in the Christian tradition. (Note: this is not a practicum! We won't *do* any suffering, just study it.) Lent is traditionally a time when Christians identify with the suffering and passion of Jesus. Over the centuries, Christians have participated in Christ's suffering through such means as dietary restrictions, martyrdom, monasticism, and our modern practice of "giving up something for Lent." We'll examine the impulses behind these moves and ultimately ask: Of what value is self-denial?

Our weekly schedule will look something like this, with some wiggle room (see entrance sign for room):

- **March 16:** The scriptural roots of suffering: Psalm 22, Job, Isaiah's "suffering servant songs," and the gospel passion narratives
- **March 23:** Martyrdom I: Perpetua and Felicitas
- **March 30:** Martyrdom II: Stories from Eusebius
- **April 6:** Asceticism: Paul and the ethic of self-denial and the desert fathers and mothers
- **April 13:** Monasticism: The Rule of St. Benedict, Hildegard von Bingen, and more
- **April 20:** Contemporary Christianity: "What did you give up for Lent," and other modern practices

Readings for each week will be handed out the prior week; you can also obtain them from Eric in the church office. The exception is the first week; no preparation is necessary for that week. We will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. See you there!

## Whole Earth Serves Biscuits, Honey, and "The Not So Secret Life of Bees" Sunday, March 13, 8:45 a.m. in Plymouth Hall

Every third forkful of food we eat is the result of the pollination of plants by insects, and bees do the heavy lifting in this process. Yet the world's population of bees is threatened by pesticides, diseases, parasites, and the mysterious *colony collapse disorder*. One solution to the problem of disappearing bees is for more people to raise them. This spring First Plymouth will become home to a donated honeybee hive in hopes that the bees will thrive, multiply, and pollinate plants not only on our property but within a five mile radius of the church.

First Plymouth's Eley and Riggins families are backyard beekeepers and will present "The Not So Secret Life of Bees" on Sunday, March 13. Come learn what these remarkable five-eyed insects will be doing with us and for us, and when we can expect a taste of First Plymouth brand honey!



## Share the Plate

During March, your Outreach Ministry has selected Karis Community with which to Share the Plate. Eighty percent of loose offerings and designated donations in the pew envelopes will go toward assisting this organization. The remaining 20% will be retained by Outreach to help those requesting assistance on an ad hoc basis.

Karis is the Greek word for grace, and it applies to the mission of Karis Community as a residential haven for transitional community living for people recovering from serious and persistent mental illness. One of the goals of Karis Community is to help decrease the social stigma of mental health issues. Other goals of Karis Community are to provide a positive environment for residents' personal growth, self-reliance, and self-improvement, and to help residents live an enjoyable and fulfilling life – at Karis and beyond.

A typical resident lives at Karis for 14 to 16 months and then moves on to independent living. Success in this transition is directly related to the achievement of appropriate independent living skills and the development of a personal support system. While residents are charged fees, these cover only about one-third of the cost of maintaining Karis Community. The remainder of the funds are raised through donations and grants. More information about Karis can be found at [kariscommunity.net](http://kariscommunity.net).

# Outreach/Sabbatical

## Sabbatical Plans

Our Senior Minister will be taking his overdue sabbatical this coming spring and summer. Here is an overview of the plans he is making with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

**Objectives:** George has three primary objectives for his sabbatical leave beginning in May 2011:

- Deepen and expand his theological acumen through a detailed independent study of the writings of Christian theologians such as Schleiermacher, Schillebeeckx, Küng, Merton, and McLaren.
- Revisit the sacred sites in Europe which have been fundamental to his calling as a minister.
- Deepen/expand his prayer life.

**Congregational Impact:** When ministers take sabbaticals, the benefit to the congregation is substantial. With George's plans, the intended result is that the depth of his theology (and thus his sermons) be expanded, but the spiritual presence he brings to his calling will potentially be transformed. He plans to read the great theologians and to concentrate on their ecclesiologies, specifically the relationship of the Church with the world and how that is playing out in contemporary society at a time when civil religion has largely died, evangelical religion is beginning to be rejected by the younger generations, and mainline churches hold enormous hope of a rebirth of profound biblical witness. The impact this could have on church growth is significant.

**Congregational Programming:** George will be offering specific programs to the congregation as a result of the sabbatical. At a minimum you will see:

- A slide show overview (presented after church, and at other regular meetings such as Thursday Afternoon Circle, etc.) of the sacred sites visited and their spiritual impact. Perhaps more than any other single thing, these places of pilgrimage will have the most profound impact on George's ministry and what he brings back spiritually to the congregation.
- A course on prayer with scripture using *Lectio Divina*. George will be using sabbatical time to develop this significant and demanding prayer discipline. To lead classes and potentially prayer groups in *Lectio* is a clear goal of his.
- A book discussion on the best book he read during the time away. George plans to read both theology and contemporary explorations of the rapidly changing role of the Church in contemporary American society. George plans to lead a "best of the best" book discussion on at least one of the books.



George's plans are in the final stages as he and PPRC put on the finishing touches. We will keep you up to speed regarding his summer pilgrimages. We thank the Endowment Committee and First Plymouth Foundation for the funds that will help make this sabbatical possible.

## Outreach/Mission



### LOFT's April Project

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



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

Baskets need to be assembled and labeled for a particular gender (boy/girl/neutral) and age category:

Infant (goal: 30)	Middle School (goal: 30)
Toddler (goal: 35)	Teen (goal: 55)
Grade School (goal: 100)	

The following items are recommended:

- *Hygiene/Necessities: socks, underwear, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo/soap, wipes, washcloth, bottle, sip cup, comb/brush, hair clips/bands, sunscreen, lip balm, bib, formula*
- *School Supplies: #2 pencils, sharpener, glue stick, ruler, 24-pack crayons, erasers, pens, red pencils, markers*
- *Easter/Fun: wrapped candy (nothing loose), coloring books, mini books, mini games/cards, toys, stuffed animals, Easter baskets and grass*

Our goal is to extend this program to the entire Denver Metro area, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs within the next five years. In ten years we plan to go statewide.

To achieve our goal of 250 baskets, we need volunteers!!! For more information or to volunteer, contact Stacy Gaines at 303-495-5873 or [stacy@gainesdg.com](mailto:stacy@gainesdg.com).

### Can Do Sunday is March 20!

Bring your food donations for the Can Do Cart and help feed hungry folks in our community.

### Whole Earth News

Whole Earth Group is planning an event or program each month that connects us to responsible Creation Care. We hope that anyone with a passion or even a passing interest in caring for Creation will join us any time.

January was electronics recycling, February was alkaline battery recycling (70 pounds!) and a gentle nudge to begin using rechargeable batteries. March is a primer on backyard bee-keeping, and April will have a xeriscape or gardening theme. And be sure to mark your calendars for May 1 – our Whole Earth Sunday celebration.

One goal this year is to partner with other ministries and projects already under way in our congregation. We are also experimenting with a few cooperative projects with other churches along the Hampden/Colorado Boulevard corridor. We'll be sharing more about these projects soon.

Whole Earth group includes Pam Schmidt, Craig Eley, Mary Toornman, Ken and Diane Hoagland, Ginnie Heddens, Jane Hall, Kari Collins, Ben and Jan McCoy, Jane Hall, Chip Cole, Paul and Pam Erickson, Nancy Lindsey, Debbie Harrington, Carolyn and Galen Weaver, and Doug and Noanie Geistert. We invite you to join us at our next meeting on March 6, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in Room 210-212.

### Discover Our Historic Stained Glass Windows



First Plymouth was located at 14th and Lafayette downtown for over 50 years before moving to our present location in 1958, and long-time members may remember the beautiful stained glass in the sanctuary at the old stone church. Those windows are now in our church once again.

They were severely damaged in a fire in 1987 and stored in the basement of what is now a Unitarian church. The forgotten windows were found during the summer of 2003 when Janet Rich and Pat VanderMiller

were researching the "Celebrate First Plymouth" 140-year history exhibit (now hanging in the Covenant Room).

Twelve theme windows have been restored and will be rotated in the back-lit cabinets at the end of our main hall in a sequence that reflects our Christian church year.

Easter windows will go on display this month with the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 9. The **wheat** and the **grapes** both represent the Passover Feast. Wheat is the "bread of life" and a symbol of holy communion. The grapes are the "fruit of the vine" and remind us of Christ's last supper with his disciples. The Bible remains in the center as the open symbol of our continuing Christian search for inspiration, guidance and learning.



### Men's Fellowship Breakfast Saturday, March 12, 7:30 a.m.

Men's Fellowship meets at First Plymouth on the second Saturday of every month at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and a discussion or presentation.

Our March speaker is Skip Starr of Prison Fellowship, who will tell us how First Plymouth can become a Bridge Church, providing a church home and guidance to a recently paroled inmate. As Paul exhorted early Christians not to forget the imprisoned, so it is perhaps time for First Plymouth to explore whether it is called not only to remember prisoners, but to minister to them.

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

### Men's Road Trip: May 27-30

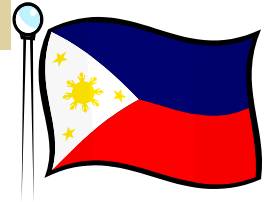
The annual Men's Road Trip leaves for the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30. Stops at Cabella's, Devils Tower, Wall Drug, the Badlands and even Carhenge are on the schedule. As any previous Road-Tripper knows, the journey is as much fun as the destinations. Save the date on your calendars now, and e-mail Craig Eley at [craigceley@gmail.com](mailto:craigceley@gmail.com) as soon as you can so enough rooms can be reserved.

### Blood Drive March 14

Save a life! Your Outreach Ministry is once again cooperating with Temple Sinai in its Blood Drive, Monday, March 14, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. What greater outreach can there be than offering the gift of life? Contact Dan Keller at [dan.keller@am.sony.com](mailto:dan.keller@am.sony.com) or at 303-762-6100 for more information or to make an appointment to donate blood.

## Fellowship and Then Some

### Travel Club



*Trivia Question 1:* Where will you find...

...a museum of McDonald's Happy Meal toys?

...a resort with toilet bowl fountains?

...chocolate hills?

...the world's smallest primate?

...white sand beaches with world class diving?

...a country of 7,107 islands (at low tide) with English as an official

language, a president named Noy Noy, and a national craze called videoke?

*Answer:* It's the fascinating Philippines!

*Trivia Question 2:* Where can you go to see the pictures and learn more about this fascinating Philippines?

*Answer:* To the **Travel Club of First Plymouth on Saturday, March 12**, to hear Laura Eley, Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines, and her parents who visited her there during the Christmas season (which extends from September through December). They will share their stories and photos.

The Travel Club starts at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner and 7:00 p.m. for the program. For those coming to the dinner, please bring your own table settings and if your last name starts with A-G, bring a salad, H-M a dessert and N-Z a main dish. Please RSVP to Nancy Joe Shaw at 303-979-5927 or [nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net).

### From the Library Committee

Because the **First Plymouth Library Committee** no longer receives funds from the church operating budget, we are soliciting book donations in the following categories: Religion, Spirituality, Philosophy, History, Biography, Fiction, Parenting, Aging. Space limitations require that we evaluate all donations, and we may pass some books on to the public library. We are always happy to accept monetary donations – possibly as memorial gifts.

### The Garden Plots in our West Parking Lot

Winter is with us, but spring is not far off! If you are interested in cultivating one of the 11 garden plots in our west parking lot, contact Rebecca Woehrle at [rfoehrle@gmail.com](mailto:rfoehrle@gmail.com) or 303-221-8560. These gardens are affiliated with D.U.G. - Denver Urban Gardens.



**How It Works:** People who gardened last year get the first opportunity to return. Second, others from First Plymouth will have the opportunity to take a vacant garden. Third, applicants through D.U.G. will be assigned a plot based on application date. We charge \$25 a season, which pays garden expenses, with any left over going to the church.

### Farmer's Market Report

The **Farmer's Market** took in \$181.23 from the many vegetables and flowers donated by First Plymouth members from the surplus in their gardens in 2010. The Whole Earth Committee would like to thank all those who participated on both sides of the transactions. Proceeds will go support local food banks such as Metro CareRing.

# Fellowship and Then Some

## Community Camp Book Sale

**Preview Sale: Saturday March 26 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Admission \$5.00**  
**Saturday, March 26, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Admission FREE**  
**Sunday, March 27, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Admission FREE**



Clear your shelves, dust off books you no longer need, and bring them to church! Welcoming: Classics, Mystery, Popular/Best Sellers, Suspense/Horror, Romance, Religious, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Biographies, Cookbooks, Textbooks, Current Issues/Politics, Self Improvement, Business, Children's, and Teens.

**Please bring books starting March 13 in bags, labeled by categories. Thanks!**  
 (Volunteers needed – contact Sue Lee at [enochsue@comcast.net](mailto:enochsue@comcast.net))

## Arts at Plymouth

**Shower of Stoles - March 2011**  
 A traveling exhibit of clerical stoles that hang in honor of GLBT clergy. A project of a non-profit organization called Welcoming Resources, the stoles and their Open and Affirming message have been displayed throughout the United States.

**Lenten Organ Tuesday Evening Series: A First Plymouth Tradition**  
 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper, 7:00 p.m. Organ Concert

<b>March 15</b>	Gwen Blumenschein	<b>April 5</b>	Dr. Martha Sandford-Heyns
<b>March 22</b>	Dr. Joyce Shupe-Kull	<b>April 12</b>	Larry Scalfari
<b>March 29</b>	Frank Perko III	<b>April 19</b>	Benjamin Ehrlich

**The Rocky Mountain Flute Choir Spring Concert**  
 Saturday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.

## From the First Plymouth Foundation!

What is the First Plymouth Foundation? Many members of our community are not aware that First Plymouth has had a foundation since the 1980's, serving the greater community with grants to organizations and programs providing services to people in need.

At our January meeting, we made four grants totaling \$11,000 to First Plymouth to support the senior minister sabbatical program, to Colorado Bright Beginnings for their work with families with young children, and to CHARG Resource Center supporting the mentally disabled and to the Southern Colorado Food Bank, which has seen a huge increase in demand. At our October meeting we provided funds for the Denver Inner City Parish to buy a used van.



We are also very grateful to Ken Hoagland, the new president of the Foundation effective March 1. Ken is a long time member of the church and will provide strong leadership to the Foundation in the years ahead.

As always we are glad to receive grant requests for worthy causes that support the broader mission of First Plymouth Church – please visit [firstplymouthfoundation.org](http://firstplymouthfoundation.org) or contact Ken at [ken@commcapcorp.com](mailto:ken@commcapcorp.com) or any of our directors – Pat Gunkel, Glen Pray, Walter Berger, John Fox, or Jan Spomer.

*(Photo from Denver Inner City Parish)*



## Search Committee Update

After interviewing four candidates for the position of Director of Progressive Christian Evangelism, the Search Committee does not have a viable candidate, and we have decided not to hire now.

The Committee will give their thoughts to the Council and to Mission Team and will explore other possibilities, seeking input from the congregation on ways forward in our church growth efforts. This is a way to be creative and thoughtful together.

## Navigating Care as You Age

Are members of your family experiencing difficulties with healthcare or home care? Looking for answers and alternatives for your future needs and concerns? The Board of Directors of Senior Homes of Colorado Foundation, Inc. and Kentucky Circle Village presents "Navigating Healthcare and Home Care: Getting the Care You Need as You Get Older," with Linda Redwine.

Join us Saturday, March 5, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Kentucky Circle Village, 4901 East Kentucky Circle, Denver. Dessert and coffee will be served. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at Mission Central or the church office. Proceeds benefit the Henry G. Smith Fund, which provides financial assistance to residents of Kentucky Circle Village.



## We Are The Church Together

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

### Joys & Concerns

Congratulations to **Jeffrey and Amy Stevens** on the birth of their son, Sandoval Wentworth Stevens, on January 13.

Congratulations to the **Armour Family**. Anderson Robert Armour was born February 2. Anders' parents **Adam** and Allison, big sister Emmy, and grandmother **Sue Armour** are thrilled with their new addition.

From **Marion Taylor**: What a JOY! It was a surprise and so heartwarming to receive 200 messages and cards for my 85th birthday on 1-11-11. To all of you wonderful First Plymouth people, thank you ever so much.

**Doug and Denise Brown's** son **Steve** is featured in *Fly Fisherman* magazine. Steve, who grew up here at First Plymouth, is a fly fishing guide who divides his time between Telluride and Honduras. He guided former President and First Lady Jimmy and Roslyn Carter, and Carter wrote the article for *Fly Fisherman*. More information on Newsworthies Bulletin Board, or at <http://denverpr.blogspot.com/2011/01/outdoors-fishing-with-president.html>

**Dora Bauserman**, a 49-year member of First Plymouth died January 26 after an extended illness.

**Carol Kirkpatrick**, 47-year member of First Plymouth, died February 3. Her memorial service was held February 8, followed by a reception co-hosted by First Plymouth Women's Fellowship and the sisters of Pi Beta Phi. **Ray** will continue to live at the Johnson Center, 303-779-5000.

Amy Erickson had back surgery February 8. Please keep Amy, husband Dave Thorpe, and son Gus in your prayers.

**Dr. Irby Cregger**, member of First Plymouth for 41 years, died in Denver on January 14. He was 76.

**Masako Takayoshi**, a member of First Plymouth since 1958, died on December 3 in Denver. She was 98.

**Phyllis Stare's** older brother, DeWitt Kelley, died on January 23 at the age of 93 in Palo Alto, California.

**Braxton Griffith** is at Brighton Gardens and enjoys cards and visitors. Address: Brighton Gardens, 2500 S. Roslyn St., Room #167, Denver 80231.

**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/](http://www.my.calendars.net/baumanhelp/).

**Harris and Loretta Cohn** are together in the Reminiscence Unit at Brighton Gardens. Visitors and cards are most welcome. Please check in at reception. Their address is: 2500 S. Roslyn St., Denver 80231.

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

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

Members of our First Plymouth family confidentially pray daily and with intent for anyone requesting the support of prayers. If you would like prayers for you or a loved one, please contact Pastoral Care or George.

### March Birthday Wishes...

#### ...to Our Seniors

3/2	Dottie Deane	3/24	Harold Gutjahr
3/18	Phyllis Stare	3/24	Peg Purves
3/16	Laird Campbell	3/26	Willa Brunkhorst
3/17	Norm Kautsky	3/26	Bob Cordts
3/17	Patricia Rudd	3/27	Glynn Tucker
3/19	Ilene Gutjahr	3/27	Dorothy Von Drehle
3/19	Margaret Sloss		



#### ...and to Our Children

3/11	Thomas Orr
3/12	Ben Robinson
3/13	Frances Earley
3/16	Gabby Day
3/16	Dylan Rowe
3/17	Caroline Hyyppa
3/29	Abrum Wilson

# Contact Information

## COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

**Moderator** Troy Greenwood  
720-554-9298  
[moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Vice Moderator** Peg Thompson  
[pegthompson@frii.com](mailto:pegthompson@frii.com) 703-3901

**Treasurer** Steve Haskins  
[steve@denvercpafirm.com](mailto:steve@denvercpafirm.com) 843-9590

**Church Clerk** Carlyne White  
[crogersn06@msn.com](mailto:crogersn06@msn.com) 751-3307

**Business Admin Team** Ken Sawyer  
[janken@prolynx.com](mailto:janken@prolynx.com) 320-3893

**Memorials** Linda Glenn  
[hwg2447@aol.com](mailto:hwg2447@aol.com) 758-2110

**Memorial Garden** Arlene Hutchinson  
[araybutch@msn.com](mailto:araybutch@msn.com) 756-4367

**Nominating** Sam Robinson  
[samrob@zebsco.com](mailto:samrob@zebsco.com) 692-1083

**Inclusivity/ONA** Randy Nicholas  
[trn1cholas@comcast.net](mailto:trn1cholas@comcast.net) 995-0654

**PPRC** Ken Hoagland  
[ken@commcapcorp.net](mailto:ken@commcapcorp.net) 733-6101

**Whole Earth** Jan McCoy  
[mccoy@ecentral.com](mailto:mccoy@ecentral.com) 393-6524

**Endowment** Harry Adair  
[harryadair@comcast.net](mailto:harryadair@comcast.net) 797-6207

**Arts at Plymouth** Nancy Cole  
[nancycole10@comcast.net](mailto:nancycole10@comcast.net) 693-0485

## MINISTRIES

### Christian Education

Chair: Ingrid Serio  
[ingridserio@comcast.net](mailto:ingridserio@comcast.net) 759-9342

### Outreach

Chair: Craig Eley  
[craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net) 758-9499

### Fellowship & Parish Life

Chair: Judith Clausen  
[revclaus@comcast.net](mailto:revclaus@comcast.net) 720-328-8501

### Stewardship

Co-Chair: Kit Cowperthwaite  
[kitriest@aol.com](mailto:kitriest@aol.com) 347-0045

Co-Chair: Denise Brown  
[denise@dmbrownllc.com](mailto:denise@dmbrownllc.com) 757-3550

### Worship & Arts

Chair: Vicki Krieger  
[jeffvicki@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvicki@gmail.com) 519-0410

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

**Bridge Marathon** Barbara Lahey  
[bblabey@msn.com](mailto:bblabey@msn.com) 758-3218

**LOFT** Heather Greenwood  
[hgreenwood@comcast.net](mailto:hgreenwood@comcast.net) 720-308-2360

**MARS** Margaret Sensel  
[bermarsens@msn.com](mailto:bermarsens@msn.com) 771-1469

**Men's Fellowship** Fletcher Brown  
[brownsinco@q.com](mailto:brownsinco@q.com) 814-1420

**The Group** Barbara Lahey  
[bblabey@msn.com](mailto:bblabey@msn.com) 758-3218

### Thursday Afternoon Circle

Phyllis Rigsby  
[phyllis-r@msn.com](mailto:phyllis-r@msn.com) 693-0187

**Travel Club** Nancy Joe and Joe Shaw  
[nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net) 979-5927

### Women's Fellowship Association

Marcia Nelson  
[mrnjgn@comcast.net](mailto:mrnjgn@comcast.net) 794-4524

**Yacht & Donut** Norm Kautsky  
[nlkautsky@earthlink.net](mailto:nlkautsky@earthlink.net) 794-3348

Phone numbers are 303 area code unless otherwise noted.



Browse the First Plymouth Library catalog online at [www.librarything.com/catalog/Firstplymouth](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/Firstplymouth)



**First Plymouth Staff**  
**303-762-0616**

Rev. George C. Anastos  
**Senior Minister**

Frank Perko III  
**Director of Music**

Gwen Blumenschein  
**Associate Director of Music**

Rev. Eric Smith  
**Youth and Young Adults Director**

Noanie Geistert  
**Director of Children's Ministries**  
[fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org)

Caitlin Boykin  
**Nursery Manager**

Terry Crews & Nanette Harland  
**Pastoral Care Coordinators**  
[pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org)

Cathy Benn  
**Parish Visitor**

Carole Westphal  
**Director of Administration**

Barbara Hosanna  
**Office Coordinator**

Sue Armour  
**Office Assistant**

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, [director@fplc.org](mailto:director@fplc.org)

Unless otherwise noted, e-mail us using first initial and last name  
[@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:@firstplymouthchurch.org)



## The Back Page

### The Newsletter Deadline for the April Issue is Thursday, March 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 Our February Volunteers

#### *Newsletter Assembly:*

Karleen Gagnon, Barbara Lahey, Corrine Lude, Glen Pray, Frank and Marion Taylor, Jerre Wilson, and Claire Yetter.

#### *Church Office Volunteers:*

Betsy Lewis, Kari Collins, Nancy Cole, Myra Kolditz, Carolyn Weaver, and Linda Glenn.

#### *Sunday Office Volunteers:*

Phyllis Rigsby, Elaine Hoss, Myra Kolditz, and Ginnie Galloway

#### *Sanctuary Straightening:*

Fred Fowler and Jim and Marion Woodward

*Flower Arranging:* Ann Lane, Peggy O'Brien, Lucille Erlewine, and Lynn Replinger

#### *Church Data Base Updates:*

Marilyn Mattson and Suzanne Moser

*DVD Reproduction:* Alan Long

#### *Music Library:*

Heidi Thomas and Alan Long

And the dozens of other First Plymouth members, families, and friends who pitch in and help out whenever there is a task that needs to be done – we truly could not do it without **all** of you!

### Thank You from Your Rwanda Project Committee

Our 5th year of sponsorship was successful in raising \$27,000 to support approximately 180 school children in Rwanda. For \$150 at the primary level and \$220 at secondary, students receive school fees, supplies, books, uniforms, and for the very poorest children, breakfast, which has made a great difference in their school experience.

The entire process could not succeed without the assistance of the stellar First Plymouth staff. Carole Westphal, Barbara Hosanna, and Sue Armour made our collection and disbursement of funds efficient and accurate. Sue provided up-to-date figures weekly (and sometimes daily) with her unfailing good humor, and Terry Crews and Nanette Harland were always willing to help as needed. We are also thankful for the faithful service of our custodial staff – Don McLean, Ralph Basquez, and Robert Basquez.

In addition, this year's campaign was helped immeasurably by the weekend visit of Dr. Kathy Anastos, her husband Jon Wallen, and their daughter Rebecca Anastos-Wallen. Their updates report and slide show clearly indicated that our sponsorships are making a difference.

Last but certainly not least, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of you, the sponsors – members and friends of First Plymouth – who continue to have faith that your support will make a difference in a child's life. Our grateful thanks to all who contributed to this Rwanda-First Plymouth partnership.

#### *The Rwanda Project Committee:*

*Teena Brenkendorff, Doug Lindsey, Steve Calhoun, Ruth Neil, Linda Glenn, Margo Sargent, Jane Hall*



### Getting Information into the...

Newsletter (monthly)	<i>news@firstplymouthchurch.org</i>	10th of each month
Weekly Update (Sunday night)	<i>news@firstplymouthchurch.org</i>	5:00 p.m. Thursday
Sunday Bulletin (worship)	<i>bulletin@firstplymouthchurch.org</i>	Noon Tuesday