

NEWS

firstplymouth
congregational church



Progressive
Inclusive
Home



*I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths
Since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing
All things are mine since I am His.
How can I keep from singing?*

It is Eastertide and I am rejoicing! Rejoicing in the sense of new life that permeates this time of year through awakening gardens and warmer weather. I am also rejoicing in a church community that holds Resurrection as a core value. We are a community which trusts that love is stronger than fear, and that life is a greater power than hate. I see new evidence every day of our commitment to new life even, perhaps particularly, in the face of adversity. Our church is abundant with people listening to the prompting of God in their lives and seizing opportunities to live out those promptings.

In reality Church is a Resurrection community all year round, “a living people...journeying...*en route*, on a pilgrimage” to new life. As we journey in community we call others to join us in the pilgrimage of self-discovery and ministry. Individually we discover who we are created to be in the image of God. We learn the gifts and passions God has given us so that we may be God’s ears and eyes and voices, hands and feet in the world. As each of us commits more fully to this pilgrimage, I believe we discover again and again the communal power of resurrection through our mutual ministries. All the new life in our individual lives creates a sum greater than the whole as we work and play together seeking to live out the love of God in the world.

As I write this article I am making final preparations for the Global Partners trip to Venezuela. I find myself humming the hymn quoted above which the choir sang on Easter Sunday. This is the song of my heart these days, because of my individual journey of discipleship AND because of our church community where I serve and pray and play. Your response to the needs of our sister churches in Venezuela is overflowing. Thank you! And your response to our Second Mile campaign in these adverse economic times is indicative of your love of God and your commitment to being pilgrims on the way with Christ. Thank you! Thank you for all you do to further the kingdom/kin-dom of God in your individual lives and through our community!

May the peace of Christ make fresh your heart, a fountain ever springing. All things are ours since we are His! How can we keep from singing?

*Blessings on the way,
Jane Anne*

May 2009

Volume 70, Issue 9

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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

May 3**The Rev. George Anastos****I John 3:16-24**

One of the more colorful characters of Christian history is Augustine of Hippo. His *Confessions* remains one of the great texts exploring the struggle to live a spiritual life. His suggestion to "Love God and do what you will," has become well known. Take the time to think about that—it can have startling consequences for every area of your life. You have to read the book.

In today's scripture lesson John writes, "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." What is the gap between our words and our actions? Do we practice what we preach? These are questions not only for us as individuals, but for us as a community gathered in Christ's name.

May 10**The Rev. George Anastos****I John 4:17-21**

In today's scripture passage we read, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." This passage has always drawn me to its truth, and frightened me with its truth. For I see its Truth, and I see me as I am: at times fearful, and certainly far from the spiritual maturity that this texts proclaims and to which we are invited.

Is it humanly possible to live without fear? Is it humanly possible to love so fully that we have no fear? The scriptures tell us that we are created in the image of God and that God is love. We are created in the image of love; it is our deepest humanity; it is who we are in our *essence*.

What would your life look like if you loved that deeply? What would this church look like, and how would we be different if together we believed and practiced this?

**May 17****The Rev. Jane Anne Ferguson****Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, John 15:9-17*****The Grace of Intention***

I believe that grace, along with love and forgiveness, is God's "law of intention" for us. How creative and abundant our living becomes when we allow ourselves to live God's intention for our lives. Join me as I reflect on God's intention of grace through the lens of my experience on the Global Partners Mission trip to Venezuela. I look forward to sharing the sights and sounds of my trip in a way that strengthens the connection of each First Plymouth member and friend with our brothers and sisters in United Evangelical Pentecostal Churches of Venezuela.

May 24**Ken Ingram****Ephesians 1:15-23*****The Ascension of the Lord***

Today we celebrate the triumph of Jesus's life. The scripture tells us of the hope God sees for us and the riches available to us. This passage looks to the future and urges us to look into our future. Are you still looking into the future?

May 31**The Rev. George Anastos****Acts 2:1-21*****Pentecost***

Pentecost—the birthday of the Church—the day when the disciples went from being a bunch of frightened, cowering ex-fishermen to being confident and loving disciples. This was no small day.

Nor will this be a small day for us. First, many of our youth will be confirmed, and those who have not been baptized will be baptized. We will recognize their journey and their decision to join the church. Second, we will receive new members into the church, also baptizing those who have not been baptized. It is a privilege and a blessing for us to welcome fellow disciples into our midst, welcoming their gifts among us, and joining with them (as they join with us) in our work of serving and loving and proclaiming.

Moderator's Corner: Shifting Cultures

Church consultant Anthony Robinson maintains that being a Christian is not so much about “managing” the church as it is about the “ministry” that we, as Christians, have the capacity to do inside of the church. He says that a church must be faithfully and effectively managed but emphasizes the need for a “cycle of transformation,” a cultural shift from “board culture” to “ministry culture.” Robinson suggests that our churches can best adapt to the challenges of our “postmodern” society by first identifying and affirming those in our congregations with special gifts for ministry and then training and equipping them to live out their ministry of serving others, sharing their stories of faith, and allowing them to bring about change and transformation in others. He cites one congregation that went to just three boards and then instituted sixty-three

“ministry teams” to focus on ministries within and beyond the church.

Robinson’s observations mirror many of the changes that we’ve been working on at First Plymouth this past year. I’m grateful for the congregation’s constructive and helpful feedback as we move forward in our own “cycle of transformation” to equip our lay ministries to represent Christ in the world. Robinson finally points out that, “for some, their daily occupations will be the primary arena for ministry; for others, it will be their vocation as parents; others will take part in ministries that call forth their particular gifts.” I offer thanks for all of those in this congregation who live as Christ’s apostles—thrust out as those who are sent!

In Christ, David Nestor

Habitat Happenings

Our 2009 Partner Family: The Fernandez-Digesualdo Family



Anthony Fernandez, Angela Digesualdo and their two children, Anastasia (2) and Anthony (5), have lived in Denver all their lives. Anthony is a supervisor at Mile High Specialty Foods, and Angela is a hair stylist at Supercuts. They are high school sweethearts who have always wanted their children to grow up in a safe neighborhood and have a permanent place to call home, but their current living situation has made that dream a difficult one to achieve.

The Fernandez-Digesualdo family has lived in their current unsafe neighborhood for a year, where, on many occasions, people knock on their door looking for drugs. “Angela and I have gotten used to it,” Anthony said, “but we’d like our children to have better.” In addition to their neighborhood’s drug problem, they live on the bottom floor in a small, two-bedroom apartment with extremely low ceilings and a roof that constantly leaks. The shower head is too low for Anthony, who admits with a chuckle, “It will be nice to take a shower standing up and not have to bend down to get under the shower head.”

Being able to own their own home means everything to the Fernandez-Digesualdo family. Anthony is proud to say that he will be the first of over 170 grandchildren in his family to own a home. They are looking forward to

having a safer place to raise their children, more space, and a backyard for them to play in. Anthony adds, “We are also extremely excited to have our favorite restaurant *Chubby’s* close by!”

Today, Angela and Anthony are well on their way to completing their sweat equity commitment, working at construction sites and the Home Improvement Outlets. “We would like to thank everyone. We really appreciate what our sponsors, Loaves and Fishes, and everyone has done. We are blessed to have been accepted and look forward to having a place to call home.”

First Plymouth teams with **Columbine United Church** and **Heritage United Methodist Church** to provide ten “Loaves and Fishes” workers for the following dates:

Wednesdays-May 13, June 10 & July 8

Thursdays-June 4, July 2 & July 30

Fridays-May 29, June 26 & July 24

Saturdays- June 30 & July 18

Call **Stan Harwood** at **303-770-3387** to reserve a particular time, and join a team if a team leader contacts you. You’ll have a good time and learn some new skills. The bonus will be how “**SWELL**” it will make you feel!



Children's Christian Education

Summer Sunday School Begins May 31

Our recent warm weather reminds us that the seasons are constantly changing and time is moving on. It won't be long until school is out and summer has begun. Summer Sunday School begins June 7th. This summer we will travel around the Mediterranean Ocean with the Apostle Paul as he started churches in several cities in the region.

We need volunteers to teach. Summer Sunday School is a great time for creative and relaxed learning. We will be outside a lot. It would be great if families would volunteer to lead one Sunday during the summer for our group of kids from Kindergarten through Fifth grade. You can volunteer to do just one activity and work together with others to plan the whole morning or you can volunteer to plan the whole morning. The activities we hope to have are not "teaching" activities in the normal sense. We are hoping for lots of games and "action" filled activities in which the children will learn more about Paul and the early churches he helped to start. We also would like to see our youth help with the leadership of Sunday School this Summer.

We also need volunteers for our Preschoolers. The Lambs, Doves, and Fish will be combined for the summer. We need two teachers for that class each Sunday. Again the learning will be creative and relaxed.

Please call or email Karen at 303-762-0616 or fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org with your questions or to volunteer.

Crocodile Dock is Coming June 22-26! Check Out Our VBS Website

First Plymouth Vacation Bible School now has its own website where you can register kids, volunteer as an adult helper, and find all kinds of helpful information:

<http://www.groupvbs.com/webtoebox/myvbs/firstplymouthVBS>

Omaha Youth Choir Concert Hospitality Needed

On Sunday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. the Youth Choir of Sunnyside UCC in Omaha, will give a concert in our sanctuary. It is a great joy to welcome them and to hear their infectious singing. Please mark your calendar!

Also, if you are able to provide hospitality for two youth in your homes for that night only, and have them back at church by 8:00 the next morning, please contact the church right away. Help us welcome them with true First Plymouth hospitality.

Calling All Young Artists!

In May, the Arts at Plymouth Board is sponsoring an Art Fair for the children and youth of First Plymouth. The theme is, "How I See the World." We pass out flyers after Easter with all the information. Artwork for submission can be a painting or a drawing that shows some aspect of the theme. Art must be submitted by May 3.

May Creator's Club Sunday May 10 at 10:10 a.m.

We have an exciting Creator's Club planned for May. We will have a lot of crafts that reduce-reuse-recycle and we need your help gathering supplies.

Here are some of the activities that we have in mind: Bird Feeders, Food Printing, Bean Bags, Sock Puppets, Paper Figure Chains, and Planting.

We need peanut butter (creamy), birdseed, paper grocery bags, dried beans, old socks, felt scraps, buttons, hand sewing needles and more. We also need some helpers to help kids learn to sew around a square piece of cloth. If you can help contact Rev. Karen at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Mother's Day Song

On Mother's Day, May 10, the Children's Choristers and their mothers will sing a special anthem. It is a simple and beautiful song. The children sing one verse about a mother's love, then the mothers sing a verse about a child's love. The final verse tells of God's love for us. There will be a rehearsal on May 3 with the Choristers at 10:10. We hope you will participate in this special opportunity for worship leadership. The more mothers we have the easier it will be. Call or email Rev. Karen if you have questions or for more information.



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

May 3 - Child Soldiers in Latin America

Kurt Shaw, son of Joe and Nancy Jo Shaw, will talk about the situation with child soldiers in Latin America. Kurt has lived and worked in Latin America

May 10 - Global Partners Spring Construction Trip

Jane Anne Ferguson will share her experiences as a mission team member on the 2009 Global Partners Spring Construction Trip in partnership with the United Evangelical Pentecostal Churches of Venezuela (UEPV). She traveled to Ospino, Venezuela, April 19 - 27 to help construct a shelter for battered women and children.

May 17 - To Be Announced

May 24 - No Class

May 31 - Youth Report: International Affairs Seminar

Rebecca Thompson and Kelsey Owens will report on their trip to New York City and Washington, DC, to a seminar focusing on The Church in China: Beyond the Olympics. They joined Iliff intern Ken Ingram and other youth from the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on this trip in March.

(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 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.

(Room 212)

Sunday Morning Talk About Series

May 3-31 - New Series led by Ed Parmee

In 1883, young Emma Lazarus wrote a poem to help raise funds to build a pedestal for a gift from France. The last and most famous words of the poem were:

*Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

Emma referred to Lady Liberty as the "Mother of Exiles." And now, in the 21st Century, we struggle with the immigration problem. Are the homeless, tempest-tost still welcome? Will the golden door be closed and locked? Should Mother put out her lamp and join the ranks of the unemployed? Join us for this series of presentations and discussions about "Lady Liberty, Is She Right or Wrong for the 21st Century? Christian Ethics and the Challenge of Immigration." There is more than one side to the story.

(Covenant Room)

Kiva—Loans that Change Lives

Want to be **directly involved** in breaking the cycle of poverty that limits so many lives worldwide? Consider Kiva (www.kiva.org), the world's first *person-to-person* micro-lending website that connects individuals (like you!) from around the globe to entrepreneurs in developing third-world countries to make loans as small as \$25.00 that can change lives.

Here's how it works – you loan \$25.00 via Kiva to an entrepreneur that you chose from the website. Kiva facilitates the loan through its connections to banks worldwide that screen the entrepreneurs for viability

and creditworthiness. The bank lends the money and manages repayments. You track your entrepreneur's business progress online and you get repaid in full. It's essentially a 0% loan you make to someone who ordinarily wouldn't qualify for a traditional loan. Your loan (in some cases, combined with other lenders) provides the springboard for a small business person to get the start they need or to add expand existing enterprise. And Kiva's track record for repayment – 97% – sure beats the current stock market.

Make a difference today – person-to-person! For those who want to be connected in a way that

establishes a partnership and allows/ requires recipients to be accountable, Kiva is a great option. First Plymouth Church has created a 'lending team' on the Kiva website that we'd love to have you join.

Kiva also allows you to give on-line gift certificates to others for as little as \$25.00. Remember Kiva for Mother's/Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, or even an end-of-year gift for a special teacher.



Sound System Help Needed

Eric Replinger has been doing a yeoman’s job of managing the church sound system for a number of years, including training, scheduling, and coordinating sound technicians, and we thank him for his dedicated service. He is now ready to move on, although he has agreed to continue as our training and technical consultant. So we now need a recruiting and scheduling coordinator for the church sound system. You do NOT need to have sound system expertise, just a desire to do something for First Plymouth and a penchant for organization and planning. This is a volunteer position.

We also need additional sound technicians – Steve Brand has been our primary Sunday morning tech since Christmas and is ready for a well-deserved break. Once again, you do NOT need specific knowledge or expertise in the field – Eric will provide the training required. You’ll be an important part of the worship service on one or more Sundays each month; the more volunteers we have, the easier it will be to spread the work around. By the way, the sound tech job is a paid position.

If you can help First Plymouth out with either of these roles, please contact Carole Westphal at cwestphal@firstplymouthchurch.org.

English Language Acquisition

The English Language Acquisition Program which we co-sponsor with Temple Sinai needs teachers and tutors to teach English to immigrant families. Classes meet at Temple Sinai Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Joan Gendreau, co-coordinator for First Plymouth at 303-756-0842 or gendreau25@yahoo.com for information.

Immigration Rights Sunday

Immigration Rights Sunday is May 3, a day which First Plymouth Church will mark with a special presentation by Ferdi Mevlani, Executive Director of the Ecumenical Refugee and Immigration Services in Denver. Mr. Mevlani will speak about his experience as an immigrant from Algeria and tell us about the current work of the Ecumenical Refugee and Immigration Services.

Chuck Willis has made this special presentation at First Plymouth Church possible, and he will introduce the speaker. The presentation will be in the Covenant Room at 10:10 am on Sunday, May 3.

Springtime at First Plymouth

As spring arrives and you are purchasing your spring annuals, please consider buying an extra six pack of your favorite variety to donate to FPC and help fill our gardens. We will gladly accept monetary donations (mark “landscape flowers” in the memo line) and any live flowers suitable for Colorado’s climate. We will care for your donations until we are ready to plant in May. Drop them off at the church office any time.

We look forward to the beauty the First Plymouth gardens will bring to us. For questions or donations call Leigh Green at 303-690-6672, Barb Hosanna at 303-762-0616, or Liz Mascitelli at 303-355-7656.

Stewardship @ Work: The 2nd Mile Campaign Update

Our Goal: \$100,000 \$\$\$\$
As of April 2009: \$49,816 ♥♥♥♥-----

New Pledges are in from 14 members. Thank you.

Increased Pledges are in from 56 members. Thank you AGAIN.

Volunteer Commitments have been made by 4 members. Thank you.

If you haven’t already, how will you respond to our 2nd Mile Campaign? Treasure? Time? Talent? REMEMBER – Consecration Sunday for Our 2nd Mile is April 26, 2009.

“I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God’s failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him.”

-William Carey (1761-1834), Baptist missionary to India

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures excludes them.”

-C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), English author and scholar

Congregational Meeting June 7 9:50-11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday May 31 has been moved to June 7th. May 31 is Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday, and New Member Sunday. With receptions and family celebrations planned for the confirmands, the Council would like to respect the importance of this day in their lives.

To maximize the number of members who can attend the meeting, it will be held BETWEEN SERVICES in the sanctuary. The 9:00 a.m.. service will be 45 minutes long. The meeting will begin at 9:50 sharp and will end by 11:00 a.m. Please set this important day aside on your calendars!



Arts at Plymouth

Free Concerts at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 1

Rocky Mountain Flute Choir

The Rocky Mountain Flute Choir presents an evening of eclectic flute choir selections, featuring old western, classical, jazz, and contemporary styles.

Saturday, May 2

Denver Gay Men's Chorus

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus builds community through music. The members have joined together to provide educational, cultural, and social enrichment through music and to identify as an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gender people and supporters. The Chorus is a program of the Rocky Mountain Arts Association. Come and hear one of Denver's finest choral treasures.

Saturday, May 16

Columbine Chorale

In 1987, the Columbine Chorale was founded by well know conductor Richard Eichenberger. Now directed by Brian Eichenberger, this group of 60 singers offers its audience choral music experiences of the highest quality.

Visual Arts

May 10 - May 31

Artful Expressions of Youth and Children

Art is a natural form of communication for children and it offers a way for them to express their feelings, thoughts, and memories in a way the words cannot. This exhibition will show the pieces of art created by the children and youth of First Plymouth.

Community Camp: The Magic of the Moment July 19-25

Live some magical moments with your family and your FP community this summer. Please join us for *The Magic of the Moment*, our theme for camp this year. As of April 10, camp is almost full. If you are interested in attending, please contact us and we will update you regarding availability of space. A camp registration form can be picked up in the church office.

This year, we will once again offer "A Taste of La Foret" on the Thursday of camp, July 23. Please join us for a fun-filled day of community camp, including afternoon classes, bottle rocket launching, social hour, dinner and the ever-popular talent show. Additional details will follow in the June Newsletter.

For more information, please contact:

Kari Collins, Camp Dean

karicasey@comcast.net, 303-921-5468

Chip Cole, Camp Co-Dean

rebelhut@comcast.net, 303-693-0485

Travel Club

The last meeting of Travel Club for the '08-'09 season will be Saturday, May 9, in the Commons Room. Stu and Pat Gunckel will present a program of contrasts featuring Morocco and Iceland. The potluck/fellowship starts at 6:00 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m..

If you plan to attend the potluck and your last name begins A-G, bring dessert; H-P, main dish; Q-Z, salad. Please provide your own table service. Coffee, tea, and ice water will be served. Please RSVP to Berwyn or Gail Davies at 303-663-1350 or berwyngail@comcast.net by Thursday, May 7. We look forward to seeing you for Stu and Pat's excellent adventures.

Women's Fellowship Association Honors New Women Members of First Plymouth

Women who have joined First Plymouth Church during the past year will be honored guests at the Association's Spring Salad Luncheon on Friday, May 15, at 12 noon in the Commons Room. All women of the Church are invited to attend. Please bring a salad to serve 6 or 8. A delightful program will be presented by Linda Glenn, who will review some good books for our summer reading. The luncheon will also provide a good opportunity to meet both new and old friends and to learn about the many activities sponsored by the Women's Fellowship Association. Nini Post is chair of this event.

Summer Fun and Fellowship

Once again this year, First Plymouth will play in the church summer softball league. We always have lots of fun, and want you to join us!

We are looking for players (talent not required!) to play on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. Softball teams are co-ed and slow pitch, and we play because it's fun! If you are interested in playing, even occasionally, please let us know.

But the fun doesn't stop with the team—we also need fans! Progress Park, where our games are held, is a lovely place to spend a Sunday afternoon. Bring some snacks, a blanket, and the kids, and come cheer on your team. Watching the games is great for outdoor fellowship!

For information, or to join the team, e-mail Dave Kroll at dkroll9772@aol.com or Laura Eley at lauraeley@gmail.com. Games start the first week of June, and the schedule will be posted weekly in the bulletin for our fans!



Youth Choir Anyone?



If you or any member of your family will be in 6th through 12th grade next year, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The Youth Choir's End-Of-The-Year Party is Sunday, May 3, and we'd like anyone interested in Youth Choir to come join in the fun!

We'll have our party during our normal Choir Practice time from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m., followed by the usual Youth Group Dinner together in Plymouth Hall and the regular Youth Group meeting, which ends at 8:30 pm.

This year's Choir Members will be excited to welcome anyone who wants to join, so come get acquainted! We'll have music going, and we'll sing a bit too, plus a couple of little surprises for both current Choir members and interested new-comers!

Would you like more information? E-mail the Youth Choir Director, Heidi Thomas at heidsmusic@gmail.com.

FP Men's Summer Maintenance Project

Church budget constraints mean that we'll have to start doing a lot of our own lawn and yard work this summer. Fletcher Brown is coordinating a cadre of volunteers to make sure that our church grounds are neat and tended.

We'll need a couple of guys each Wednesday and Thursday morning: Wednesday is the clean-up and "get ready to mow" day, and Thursday is to help clean up after the weekly mowing. If you can help regularly, that would be fantastic, but put your name on the list as an occasional or substitute helper if that's what is possible for you. The church will provide all of the equipment you'll need.

Like all of the volunteer projects we have coming up, your participation is vital, and we'll be counting on you each week. Thanks for considering this opportunity as part of your summer commitment to First Plymouth! Contact Fletcher at brownsinco@q.com or 303-818-1420.



Last Chance! Men's Road Trip

The annual Men's Road Trip is on Memorial Day weekend (May 22-25), and this year we'll be heading to Cody, Wyoming, where we'll find 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 still have room for a couple more men, but you will have to act fast. If you are interested in going along, contact Craig Eley at craig@eley.net as soon as possible.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

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

Our speaker on May 9 will be FP's Blair Gifford, the Associate Director of the Center for Global Health and a visiting professor at Yale University. Blair's remarks, entitled "Which Way Forward?" will include a 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 Health Support Group

Men who have any type of illness or health issue are invited to meet for support and insight on May 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Columbine Room. Please call Bob Backus for details, 303-781-1860.

The Healing Touch

On Thursday, May 7, 2009, the **Healing Touch** group will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbine Room. We will use healing work to help relieve *allergies*. Any questions please call Dianne Hornbrook, 303-757-6996.

Women's Cancer Support Group

The Women's Cancer Support Group meets the third Tuesday of the month (May 19) in the Columbine Room from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. If you have been diagnosed with cancer or are a survivor, come join us. Bring your lunch. We will provide dessert and coffee.

The Needlework Group

The knitting group invites anyone interested in needlework to come to the needlework group that meets the third Thursday of the month (May 21) at 2:00 pm in the Commons Room.

Next In Our Abrahamic Initiative Compassionate Listening Series:

"Journeying Together to Israel: A Joint Muslim-Jewish Women's Trip to Israel." Carema Cook and Barbara Shindell will share their experiences and reflections on their joint trip to Israel, with conversation and slides. Barbara and Carema will select several highly charged experiences from their trip including visiting the separation barrier, Hebron, and the Holocaust Memorial. Join us for this transformative event, May 17, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Plymouth Hall. RSVP to 303-762-0616.

My Green Thing is: NO BOTTLED WATER

Among the changes and choices my family has made over the last decade to reduce our "footprint," one of the easiest has been giving up bottled water.

The reasons to buy bottled water were pretty evident: convenience; water is healthier than soda; bottled water is relatively cheap; plastic bottles can be recycled.

When we began really paying attention to the three-word slogan: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; and started looking intentionally at all our choices and purchases, we decided bottled water was a real loser. Some statistics:

- *In 2005 28 billion bottles of water were sold.*
- *85% of plastic containers end up in landfills or litter*
- *17 million barrels of oil were used for US bottled water production*

Bottled water is essential in parts of the world where local water sources are contaminated, but in the US we generally have great and safe tap water. It's estimated that the *average family spends \$400 per year on bottled water*. Not ours! Not anymore!

Jan, Ben and Michael McCoy

What's your green thing? Share it with the congregation. Send your green thing ideas by the 1st of the month to mygreenthing@firstplymouthchurch.org and we'll put them in an upcoming newsletter.



Thursday Afternoon Circle

May 14 is the last meeting of the Thursday Afternoon Circle. Janet Spomer will tell us how the Sunday Alter Flowers are planned and arranged. Installation of officers for 2009-2010 is also planned.

Come at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments and bring a friend. The meeting will begin at 1:30. Call Martha Edwards to RSVP at 303-744-9402.

We Are the Church Together

Pastoral Care Office and the Hospitality Team

The Office of Pastoral Care supports members and organizations within our First Plymouth Community, including the Hospitality Team, whose vision is to extend an “extravagant welcome” to those who visit and attend First Plymouth on Sunday. We appreciate all of our member volunteers: Arlene Hutchinson, Marilyn Mattson, Doug and Denise Brown, Jim and Marion Woodward, Monroe and Dottie Deane, Doug and Nancy Lindsey, Denice Murphy, Eva Pasiewicz, Ralph and Nancy Schwartz, Doug and Noanie Geistert, Boyd and Pat Barker, Jerry and Alice Freeman, Vesta Giltner, John and Marilyn Ehrhardt, Anita Mast, Ron Gardner, Jane Hall, Melba Bouquet, Marian Winstanley, Marian Camden, Troy and Heather Greenwood, Rob and Barb Fraser, Lynn and Dan Rooney, Joe Trujillo, Rita Alexander, Glen Pray, Karleen Gagnon, Anne Lane, Mark Westlund, and Fran Axley.

Blessings, Terry and Nanette

Healing and Comfort

Bob Watford had lumbar back surgery on April 6 at Swedish Hospital. He will rehab at home. Cards and calls are welcome.

Carolyn Wuthrich died on April 13 after a series of illnesses. A memorial service was held at First Plymouth on April 23.

Mildred Roth, long-time First Plymouth member, died unexpectedly on April 6. Services were held at the church on April 25.

Lucia Blackinton, who was with her family in California to celebrate her 91st birthday on April 9, died the next day. Services were held in California, and a reception to celebrate her life is planned at First Plymouth on Sunday, May 17, after the second worship service.

Ginnie Heddens' grandson, Brian Ballard, is serving in Iraq, as a civilian technologist, disarming IEDs.

Steve Johnsen is back in Denver after caring for his mother, who fell and broke her neck in Chicago. Steve recently joined First Plymouth and is the worship pastor of the Denver Inner City Parish.

Ardy Craig Cowperthwaite continues her recovery at home after knee replacement surgery. She is working with an in-home therapist to regain full use of her knee. Cards and calls are welcome.

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

Parish Joys

John and Sheila Boehlke, and their daughter Jessica, son-in-law Richard, and three-year-old grandson Andrew Yasenchak, welcomed Claire Amelia on March 22. She arrived early but weighed a healthy 4 lbs, 11 oz.

Former FP member **Walter Lofstrom**, was commissioned and installed as Minister of Parkview Congregational Church on March 22. His special ministry is Director of Song-CAMP, an after-school program sponsored by the church in cooperation with Aurora Public Schools. Jane Anne Ferguson and Leigh Green participated.

Scott Fraser, age 11, and his Arapahoe Warriors Ice Hockey Team are Squirt B Level State Champs. He attends Bear Canyon Elementary.

Barb Fraser has been accepted in the Counseling Psychology program at DU. Upon completion of the two-year program Barb will be a certified school guidance counselor.

Stacy Gaines provided 25 Easter baskets to children at Denver Inner City Parish. Stacy, who lives in Castle Rock, filled the baskets with goodies, school supplies, and toiletries.

Julia Jean Henkart made her debut into the world a bit early on April 11. Her proud parents are **Erika and Andrew Henkart**, and her grandparents are **Kristi and Dale Zimmerman**.

Blair Gifford has been named a 2009 Fulbright New Century Scholar, a program for 20 international and 10 US scholars who research and discuss a key current issue. Their topic is *the university as an innovation driver and knowledge center*. Blair's research into community infrastructure development in Haiti exemplifies what the NCS theme is all about.

Steve and Anne Cordts welcome a daughter, Charlee Marie Cordts, on March 30 in Ogden, Utah. Proud grandparents are **Chris and Linda Cordts** and great grandparents are **Bob and Jan Cordts**.

May Birthday Wishes...

...To Our Seniors:

5/1	Peg Hayward
5/1	Lois York
5/2	Ginnie Heddens
5/3	Ellie Isbill
5/4	Art Bryant
5/6	Louis Jones
5/8	Gale Erlewine
5/8	Muff Mackey
5/10	Martha Milne
5/12	Dotti Herbertson
5/23	Bobbie Drennen
5/27	Arlene Hutchinson
5/27	Laurie Lauridsen
5/30	Glenn Cofer
5/30	Ralph Schwartz

...To Our Children 12 and Under:

5/2	Jessie Levesque-Elling
5/4	Callum Sweetland
5/9	Penny Riggins
5/9	Paige Montgomery
5/14	Schuyler Wilson
5/14	Noah McKenna
5/15	Nathan Schultz
5/19	Jackson Cole
5/24	Cheyenne Weaver
5/27	Samantha Killmer
5/28	Duncan Lynch
5/28	Elias Weaver
5/31	Brennan Pickett-Williams

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

COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

Moderator David Nestor
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Vice Moderator Nancy Fogg
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Church Clerk Dave Kroll
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Business Admin Keith Conner
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MINISTRIES

Christian Education
Chair: Phil Thompson
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Outreach
Chair: Jane Hall
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Vice Chair: Doug Lindsey
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Fellowship & Parish Life
Co-Chairs: Noanie & Doug Geistert
ndgeis@msn.com 220-7550

Stewardship
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rfeuerstein@duffordbrown.com 741-0932

Co-Chair: Ann Lane
ann_lane@msn.com 338-8150

Worship & Arts
Chair: Kristi Zimmerman
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Vice-Chair: Doug Brown
dbdbsbrb@aol.com 757-3550

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Arts at Plymouth
Chair: Nancy Joe Shaw
nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net 979-5927

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Bridge Marathon Barbara Lahey
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Colony Club Chuck Willis
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Families With Younger Children
Kim Wooldridge 691-0716

MARS
Bobbie Drennen 321-4933
Corinne Lude 758-7125

Men's Fellowship Fletcher Brown
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Serendipity TBD

The Group Barbara Lahey
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Thursday Afternoon Circle
Barbara Kessler 750-3334

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Women's Fellowship Association
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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
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Don McLean
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Ralph Basquez, **Custodian**
Robert Basquez, **Custodian**

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Unless otherwise noted, e-mail us
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Thanks to Our Volunteers ...We Couldn't Do It Without You!

To Anne Beninghof, Glenn Jacobs, Martha Edwards, Karleen Gagnon, Myra Kolditz, Barbara Lahey, Corinne Lude, Dan Porter, Judy Crossland and Morgan, Jane Hall, Bobbie Reynolds, Frank and Marion Taylor, and Claire Yetter. for **assembling the April Newsletter.**

To **flower arrangers** The Visuals Committee, Rebecca Woehrle, and Ann Lane. who created the beautiful arrangements for the April worship services.

To the **April weekday church office volunteers:** Cindy Eley, Jane Hall, Myra Kolditz, Sandy Erickson, Dalyce Due, Kari Collins, Betsy Lewis, Carolyn Weaver, Janeen Stubbs, Nancy Cole, and Linda Glenn.

A special thank you to our **Sunday Morning Office Volunteers:** Elaine Hoss, Sophie Griffith, Dottie Herbertson, and Phyllis Rigsby. This has been a most faithful and dedicated group!

Next Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, May 10
for the issue covering
June 1-30, 2009

THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE!

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

fpcnews@yahoo.com

Late submissions may not make it into the newsletter!



New Lockers to Keep Your Valuables Safe

After the latest break-in in the church parking lot, an anonymous donor volunteered to fund a set of security lockers for purses and other valuables. You'll find them in the north coat room on the main floor, near the conversation area outside the Commons Room. Each locker is numbered (there are 15 of them), and a correspondingly numbered key on a First Plymouth lanyard is inserted in the lock of those which are available. Place your valuables inside, close and lock the door, and hang the key around your neck so you'll be sure to have it with you when it's time to retrieve your things.



Many thanks to the generous church member who made this increased safety and security available to First Plymouth. We hope that you find it a valuable addition to our facilities.