



Progressive, Inclusive, Home
firstplymouth
 congregational church



May 2011

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What's Inside:

Worship Opportunities	2
Moderator's Corner Church Ends Policies	3
Children's Programs	4
Adult Christian Education/Formation Teacher Appreciation	5
Outreach/Mission: Can Do Sunday Rwanda Project Share the Plate Nominate the Plate LOFT Easter Project	6
Camp Book Sale Handbell Choir Meadowgrass Festival Whole Earth News	7
Men's Fellowship Men's Breakfast Fall Clean Up Day Men's Road Trip Travel Club Thursday PM Circle Valet Parking Project	8
Women's Retreat Sound Techs Needed Healing Touch Cancer Support Groups	9
The Church Together	10
Contact Information	11
The Back Page: Newsletter Deadline Special Thanks Summer Book Study	12
Inserts: May Calendar Youth News	

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver and Loaves & Fishes introduce their 2011 partner family: The Kased-Ruhaifs

In their 18 years of marriage, Ali Kased and Kamila Ruhaif have struggled to find safety and stability in their homes and countries of residence. Having endured more than their share of challenges, they are delighted to have been chosen as the Habitat /Loaves & Fishes family this year and look forward to this new stage in their lives.



Born and raised in Kuwait, Ali and Kamila married young and were soon forced to move to Iraq because of their Iraqi descent. Over the next few years, they had sons Hussein and Abdulrman and tried to create a good life for their young family. Because of the ongoing

political conflict, medical help was limited when one of their sons became so ill that he nearly lost his life. They knew they had to leave and moved to Jordan, where they lived for 9 years as refugees.

In Jordan, their family grew with the addition of daughters Salsabel and Tasneem. The country was safer than Iraq, but refugees did not have the same privileges as permanent residents. Ali struggled to find adequate work and spent many years working "under the table" to support his family in both Jordan and Iraq.

In 2008, Ali and Kamila were able to resettle their family in Denver, where Ali was recently promoted to security officer at the Grand Hyatt. He also volunteers his time to help other refugees obtain proper documentation and green cards. Kamila works at home taking care of their family, and they are both excited to be able to provide a safe and stable home for their four children. They call their partnering with Habitat "a dream come true" and are thankful to their sponsors, Loaves & Fishes, and all of the people helping make this dream become a reality. "As long as there are people like Loaves & Fishes and Habitat, our world will be better."

Support Habitat—A Gift that Keeps on Giving

First Plymouth members have a proud history of reaching out beyond the doors of the church in ways that leverage their gifts and "teach a 'man' to fish" through Rwanda project, Denver Inner City Parish, the Heifer Project, and of course, Habitat for Humanity through the First Plymouth Loaves & Fishes consortium, the May *Share the Plate* partner.

Habitat families are carefully chosen, and their homes are not gifts. They pay for their homes with sweat equity and a mortgage tied to their income. Your

dollars provide the upfront funds to build a home, and as the family repays the mortgage, your dollars come back to Habitat and are leveraged for future homes for deserving families.

First Plymouth's share of this year's Loaves & Fishes funding for the house at 800 S. Patton Court is \$10,000. When the plate comes around on the Sundays in May, please give generously to help the Kased-Ruhaifs earn their new home. They are counting on you!



Worship Opportunities

Sunday Morning at First Plymouth

- 8:45 a.m.** Fellowship and Adult Christian Education/Formation
9:00 a.m. Choir/Musician Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary/Children's Sunday School
 Contemplative Worship in the Chapel
11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Children's Choir, Adult Christian Formation

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

May 1—Rev. Eric Smith Whole Earth Sunday

On May 1 we celebrate our commitment to a Whole Earth and (belatedly) celebrate Earth Day. In worship, we will consider the Christian claim that God created the earth and ask what that belief might mean for our responsibilities toward the earth. The service will include something (a surprise) that has probably never been seen in a First Plymouth service before!

Following the service, join us for a concert by singer, songwriter, and children's musician, Billy Jonas, who is based in Asheville, North Carolina, and plays music with recycled instruments. His music is beloved by children (check it out now, so your kids know the words by May 1!), and the First Plymouth youth know his songs from worship and mission trips. That evening, Billy will return for a music workshop with our youth. We'll learn from him how to use everyday objects as instruments and have a big jam session up in the Loft. Youth, you won't want to miss it.

Join us as we celebrate God's green earth, and our place on it!

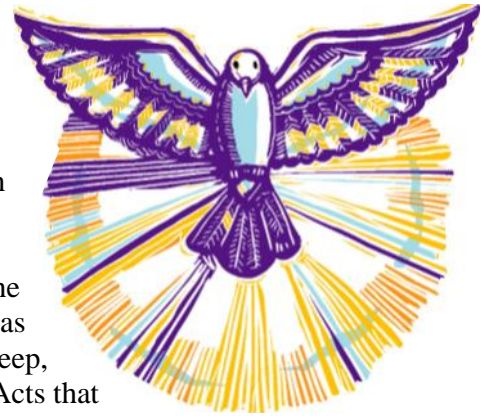
May 8 - Rev. Lynn Vahle Luke 24:13-35

It's the third Sunday of Easter. We have moved on with our lives and shifted our focus from Easter eggs to Mother's Day. But for most of us there are lingering questions about the events of Easter. The couple on the road to Emmaus is not so different from where we are most of the time - they had hoped for more but had to settle for a wild tale told by women. They weren't sure they could believe what was said. It is good to have companions along the way as we struggle with these big questions of life and faith. But sometimes we and they are surprised by the uncontrollable.

Today's worship leader is the Rev. Lynn Vahle, minister member of the Presbytery of Denver, former pastor of First Presbyterian in Brighton, and First Plymouth's minister of pastoral care during George Anastos' sabbatical.

May 15 - Rev. Eric Smith John 10:1-10, Acts 2:42-47

Today we celebrate as our Confirmation class joins the congregation officially, and as we honor and recognize our graduating high school seniors. On that theme, we consider Jesus' words in John as he speaks of himself as the gate for the sheep, and the words in Acts that tell us about the early Church and its activities. On this day when we recognize the future of our church in our Confirmands, we look backward to our past and consider the nature of our community.



May 22 - Rev. Eric Smith John 14:1-14

This Sunday's passage from John has inspired and vexed Christians for centuries. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus says. How are we to understand his words, particularly in a community like ours, where we claim to know "the grace and power of God, known to us *most fully* in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ." Most fully--not exclusively. What do we make of Jesus' words in a community like ours?

May 29 - Rev. Eric Smith John 14:15-21

Advocate. Holy Spirit. Paraclete. The Holy Ghost. We have many words for the third member of the trinity, introduced in today's passage from John. What is the Spirit, where did it come from, and how do we think about its work among us today? How can we think about the Spirit in the 21st century?

Moderator's Corner



One of the items that Council constantly has as part of its work is to articulate the Ends of this beloved community. Ends are visionary statements of where we are seeking to go, our aspirations. Council recently drafted the Ends using information from the Futures Project, Our Next Steps, and the congregation. We are now seeking further wisdom and feedback. We look forward to your comments.

God Bless, Troy Greenwood (moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org)

First Plymouth Ends

To continually become a new kind of spiritual community, our beloved community: grounded in the power and love of God, deeply inspired by those who came before us, eager to serve and eager to care for each other and for all of God's creation.

END 2.1 A loving community that welcomes and cares for all with radical hospitality and enthusiasm, we

- 2.1.1 Love guests and members
- 2.1.2 Affirm and celebrate our differences
- 2.1.3 Invite each other into beloved community
- 2.1.4 Connect and include all generations
- 2.1.5 Deeply care for one another

END 2.2 A servant community that faithfully acts as the willing hands of God, we

- 2.2.1 Seek opportunities, as Jesus did, to help and heal outside of our community
- 2.2.2 Involve all generations in our service
- 2.2.3 Lift up and celebrate this service
- 2.2.4 Listen to and learn from those we serve

END 2.3 A generous community that commits to giving from our personal abundance, talents and resources, we

- 2.3.1 Share our financial resources with our church community and people in need

END 2.4 A whole earth community that faithfully and lovingly cares for God's creation, we

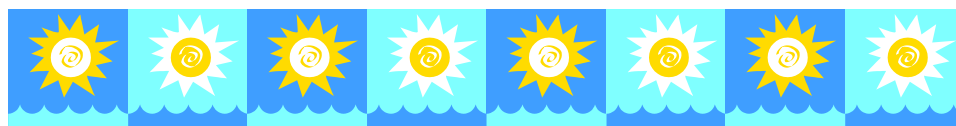
- 2.4.1 Decrease our community's environmental impact
- 2.4.2 Preserve the earth by using less and recycling

END 2.5 A deeply spiritual community that is transformed by its experiences of God's love, we

- 2.5.1 Faithfully listen to the inspiration of the Spirit through prayer, silence, worship, and fellowship
- 2.5.2 Witness God's love in word and deed
- 2.5.3 Follow Jesus' path with intentionality, seeking to become disciples

END 2.6 A courageous community that stands up to speak God's message of peace and justice, we

- 2.6.1 Speak our progressive, inclusive message to the world
- 2.6.2 Work for peace and justice for all people



May Lectionary Texts

May 1	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
May 8	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
May 15	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 22	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 29	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21



Vacation Bible School

Registration is open for this year's Vacation Bible School, the *Shake It Up Café*, from June 20-24. Sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and before and after care are available for an extra fee. The cost of the program is \$37.50 per child (scholarships are available). You may sign up your child at www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/firstplymouthvbs.

We are hoping to bring 15 Denver Inner City Parish children to be part of our VBS community. To raise the scholarship money, we will be compiling and selling a cookbook, in keeping with this year's VBS theme. We will need the congregation's help in collecting recipes for the cookbook. If you have a good recipe, you send it to Heather Greenwood at hgreenwood@comcast.net or drop it off in Noanie's box in the office. The cookbook will be ready in early June and will sell for \$10. Any additional proceeds will be donated to the Denver Inner City Parish's children programming.



Boundary Training

Boundary Training will be offered on May 15 at 11:15 a.m. in Plymouth Hall.

Children's Programs

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

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart"

Elizabeth Andrews

The elementary children (grades 1-5) meet in the CE Center and will begin a unit called *Wings of Hope* with teachers Annie Nestor and Renee Liebnow. On May 1, we will celebrate Earth Day, culminating in a fabulous concert with Billy Jonas after the service.

Date	Theme	Scripture	We learn...
May 1	Earth Sunday	Genesis 1:1-13	...how to care for the earth
May 8	In Our Midst	Luke 24:13-35	...to share stories about recognizing and responding to Jesus
May 15	Day by Day	Psalm 23	...to explore the Psalm 23 as Easter people
May 22	Stone upon Stone	Acts 7:55-60	...about the building up of the Early church

Our Early Childhood class (ages 3 through kindergarten) meets in Room B26 with their team of teachers.

Date	Title	We Believe...	Scripture
May 1	Thomas Believes!	...that Jesus is the Son of God	John 20:19-21, 24-29
May 8	Breakfast on the Beach	...that Jesus is alive	John 21:1-14
May 15	The Great Commission	...that Jesus will be with us always	Matthew 28:1, 8-10, 16-20
May 22	Peter and Aeneas	...that we can spread the good news by what we say and do	Acts 9:32-35

On May 29 we will have an end of the year ice cream party in the courtyard for all our children during Sunday school.

Summer Sunday School Preview

We are excited about this year's Summer Sunday School, again under the enthusiastic leadership of Berkeley Rich. It will be a mixture of First Plymouth history and Bible stories. Under the guidance of Janet Rich (who gave us the idea), we will be exploring each of our newly refurbished stained glass windows telling both the story of the window and what the windows depict in the Bible. Each Sunday morning will include a Bible lesson, a craft project, and snacks. All will be welcome, both young and old, in Plymouth Hall this summer during the worship service.

Teacher Appreciation/Adult Education

Teacher Appreciation Month

May is Teacher Appreciation Month and we will celebrate our Children's Ministries volunteers during the worship service on May 22. Be sure to join us in the Conversation Area for a reception honoring all of our wonderful volunteers following the service.

We have had a wonderful year full of informative explorations of Bible stories and fun experiences!

On behalf of our youngest members we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our loving nursery team headed up by Nursery Manager Caitlin Boykin. We thank Wendy Adams, Katie Haas, Debbie Haskins and Brian and Alexis Cole and our youth helper, Paige Riggins (who was in the nursery almost every Sunday) from the bottom of our hearts! We also thank Jason Spillman and Ruth Neil for filling in when we needed them.

We have such a talented, dedicated Early Childhood team of teachers who arrived each Sunday with loving hearts and fun projects for our lucky children. Words cannot express our gratitude to Nancy Joe Shaw and Pat Gunkel, Jerry and Betty Arca, Ingrid Serio and Michelle Killmer, and Nancy and Pete Fogg. They were ably assisted by our talented youth volunteers: Hayley Cochran, Penny Riggins, Madeleine and Jacqueline Adams, Anna, Michael, and Kate Serio, Sami and Mitchell Killmer, Sarah Clough, Emily Depper, and Cierra Oliver.

We kicked off our *Community under Construction* year with the children building rolling carts for our pillows and a cross for our communion table under the expert guidance of Mark Westlund, Sam Robinson, and Doug Geistert. Our elementary grade volunteers signed up for 4-6 week rotations, and Annie Nestor signed up for **three** rotations! Rolf and Jane Asphaug started off our year, and Rolf also taught the "God and Me" program. They were followed by Noelle Cochran, Heather Greenwood, Bob Thomas, Laurie Klisaris, Leigh Green, Pam Erickson, Laura McKenna, Crystal and Steve Riggins, Doug Geistert, and Renee Liebnow. We and the children thank you for your generous gift of your talents.

We also thank Beth Baker Owens for teaching the Bible class, Lisa Ray for teaching the Communion class and Berkeley Rich for teaching last summer's and this summer's Sunday school. Jessica and Gates Roe were Children Choir Parent Leaders. Heather Greenwood organized the Sunday school snacks and Ann Lane, Heather and Jason Spillman, the Community Life Ministry, Laura McKenna, Jane Asphaug, and Heather Greenwood helped with the Advent Party. Troy Abfalter, Jenean O'Brien, and Anne Lindsey organized the Easter Egg hunt, and Craig Eley always takes such great photos of our CE program. Kudos to Eileen Robinson for being this year's VBS Co-Director.

Are you amazed by how many First Plymouth volunteers have stepped up to make our children's programs such a rousing success? It truly takes a village and what a wonderful village of volunteers we have – THANK YOU!!!



Thanks,
Teachers!



Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults

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

Bible Basics and Beyond

Bible Basics and Beyond is on hiatus until the fall. We hope you will sample the other fine Adult Education/Formation offerings on Sunday mornings.

Bible Workbench

8:45 a.m. in the Columbine Room

Led by lay facilitators, this lectionary-based class asks questions about how the inner meaning of a text might be active in today's world and the personal meaning that we might attach to it. For more information, please contact Chip Cole at 303-693-0485.

Breakfast Bites!

9:00 a.m. in the Commons Room

Are you one of those who thinks Adult Ed is "too heavy"... "too time-consuming"... "not relevant to my life"? Then join us for a fresh take on Adult Ed! Each week, over coffee, pastries and fruit, wrapped in congenial conversation with friends, we'll be offering a "quick take" on a new and different way of looking at religion, Christianity, or your own everyday life. Guaranteed to make you say, "Wow, I never thought of it that way before!" A new perspective, a new approach, a fresh conversation – and fresh breakfast – each week. Child care will be provided. Check *This Week at First Plymouth* for specific descriptions of each week's offering.



Can Do Sunday is May 15!

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

Nominate the Plate

In June, we will Share the Plate with an organization nominated by a member of the congregation. A *Nominate the Plate* form may be obtained at Mission Central and must be turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 8, so the Outreach Ministry can consider the nominees at its May 11 meeting. The Ministry gives most favorable consideration to those organizations which reflect the missions and values of First Plymouth and which have a connection with the church through shared goals or member participation.



Outreach/Mission

Share the Plate

For May, your Outreach Ministry has selected Loaves and Fishes, a consortium of churches that have pledged to build a home for Habitat for Humanity, as the Share the Plate recipient. Donations will go to the financial commitment which First Plymouth has made toward financing the land and materials for the house. During May, 80% of loose offerings by our church community as well as those designated donations in the pew envelopes will assist this organization. The remaining 20% will be retained by Outreach to help those requesting assistance on an ad hoc basis.

Share the Plate in March raised \$2,507 for the Karis Community and \$627 for the Outreach Ministry's response to other needs during the year.

Rwanda Project Update



April 1 was not just April Fool's Day. At First Plymouth, it was also the day a large box of donated gifts from the children in the Christian Education program was shipped to New York to be taken to the children of Kanombe Village by the Anastos-Wallen family.

Imagine the excitement and fun these impoverished children will have when they see what's in the

box – gifts from the hearts of the children, their parents, and friends of Noanie and Doug Geistert's program. Envision the unfolding of the flaps of the big container and finding balls, jump ropes, books, games, dictionaries, toys, hand-painted wooden cars, sports shirts, flip flops, little stuffed animals, stickers, crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, letters from First Plymouth children, and more.

Along with new photos, the Anastos-Wallens will bring us back an update on how life is with our Rwandan friends. They'll also tell us all about the 2011 School Program, which began in January.

Thank you so much to all who made this project possible. Murakoze!

LOFT's Easter Project a Hopping Success!

LOFT's Easter Basket drive was a huge success! Thanks to the congregation we were able to deliver 280 baskets against our goal of 250. The LOFT team appreciates your support. If you would like a tax donation form please contact Stacy Gaines at 303-495-5873 or stacy@gainesdg.com. Thank you and we hope you had a very Happy Easter this year!



In Other News



Community Book Sale Success!

You came, you saw, you bought! A big thank you to all those who helped make the book sale a success. We earned \$1,282 for Community Camp! We had fun and we hope you did, too! A special thank you to Dan of Danbom & Son 1416 S. Broadway in Denver. Dan, helped sort, set up and put an ad in *Book Finders*. Please visit his shop to say "Thank you, Dan!"

"On the Road" with the Handbell Choir

Twelve faithful ringers (Harry Adair, Roger Diggle, Brian Eley, Alan Long, Sue Armour, Cindy Eley, Faith McMillan, Renee Liebnow, Annie Nestor, Hatsy Strong, Carolyn Weaver, and Carlyne White) meet almost every Thursday evening for handbell choir rehearsal. Five of those ringers called "The Ensemble" (Harry, Roger, Alan, Sue, and Carolyn), and our "Duet Masters" (Harry and Alan), also rehearse on Thursdays. In addition to our regular ringers, nine substitute ringers are on call. Harry, Sue, Alan, and Faith also sing in the Chancel Choir, which rehearses on Thursdays, a very long musical commitment for these First Plymouth members!

The handbell choir rings for Sunday worship four times a year, this year in November, January, March, and May. We have also presented two concerts: in February at the Meridian on South Corona Street in Englewood, and in March at 1375 High Street in Denver – the residence of First Plymouth Church member (and ringer) Hatsy Strong. The concerts last about an hour and a half and feature our "Duet Masters," the "Ensemble," and the full choir. While the bell members reorganize themselves between numbers, the audience is presented with facts about the bells, their history, and some bell trivia.

We are spreading the good news of First Plymouth to the greater community through our music and always hand out our "Arts at Plymouth" brochures to the audience. If you would like more information about bell choir, please contact the bell choir director, Gwen Blumenschein at gblumenschein@firstplymouthchurch.org or 303-233-7487.

Meadowgrass Music Festival at La Foret May 27-29, 2011

The third annual Meadowgrass Music Festival is at La Foret over Memorial Day weekend. This event was founded by La Foret to enrich the community by presenting great music in the beautiful outdoor setting that First Plymouth church members know and love. This year the line-up includes Frazey Ford, John Doe, Hot Buttered Rum, Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Bank, D. B. Reilly, Damien Jurado, and much more. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit meadowgrassmusicfestival.org.



Whole Earth News

Big and BOLD!

Bring flowers and blossoms from your garden on Sunday, May 1, to help celebrate Whole Earth Sunday and the Second Sunday of Easter.

We will create a Living Cross with the spring manifestation of Creation. For those who don't have a garden, or forget, there will be plenty of flowers to bring to the altar as the service begins. Please don't feel you have to purchase flowers for this celebration.

Recycling Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Whole Earth-sponsored electronics and alkaline battery recycling projects. Several other ideas have been suggested to Whole Earth Team members, including paint and chemical recycling and an effort to connect people who have things they no longer need with folks who need them. Watch the bulletin board and upcoming newsletters for more information as we take on these tasks.



Men's Breakfast Saturday, May 14

Saturday, May 14, is the next First Plymouth Men's Fellowship Breakfast. We meet at First Plymouth on the second Saturday of every month at 7:30 a.m. for a breakfast prepared by two of our members, followed by discussion or a presentation.

Our speaker in May will Gary McKenna, Director of Operations for Habitat for Humanity.

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.

Spring Clean-Up Saturday, May 14

Men's Fellowship will sponsor the "Great Spring Clean-up" on Saturday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m. (immediately after the Men's Breakfast). We will be cleaning up the church grounds so we look good. In order to complete this task by noon, we need a lot of volunteers. Bring your rakes and large trash cans (to haul leaves to our mulching area), although the rakeless are encouraged to come and help as well. Although sponsored by Men's Fellowship, women, youth, and children are also invited to this fun and functional spring tradition. Following the clean-up, a lunch of burgers and brats will be provided.

Men's Road Trip May 27-30

The annual Men's Road Trip will leave for the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, and environs on Memorial Day week-end, May 27 through 30. Stops at Cabella's, Devils Tower, Wall Drug, the Badlands, and even Carhenge are on the schedule as well. As anyone knows who has gone on previous Road Trips, the journey is as much fun as the destinations. Because room reservations need to be finalized as soon as possible, if you are planning to go on the Road trip e-mail Craig Eley at craigceley@gmail.com.

Fellowship and Then Some

Travel Club
Saturday, May 14
Everyone is welcome!

What is the difference between traveling for pleasure and traveling on a mission trip? Many of our First Plymouth members have traveled to Venezuela to build, to teach, to learn, to heal, to worship, and to see this interesting and varied country in cooperation with a Venezuelan Christian denomination. This South American country brings forth images of cheap oil, of ecosystems from oceans through the Amazon basin to the Andes and of Chavez condemning the United States. Eva Heller and Joe Shaw will cover the history, the culture, and the current political situation as well as their travels. Come and see the capital city Caracas, an indigenous people reservation, and village life. But mostly you will learn how it feels to travel on a mission trip.



The Travel Club starts at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner and 7:00 p.m. for the program. For those who wish to come to the potluck dinner, please bring your own table settings and if your last name starts with A-G, please bring a dessert, H-P a main dish and Q-Z a salad.

Please RSVP to Nancy Joe Shaw at 303-979-5927 or nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net.

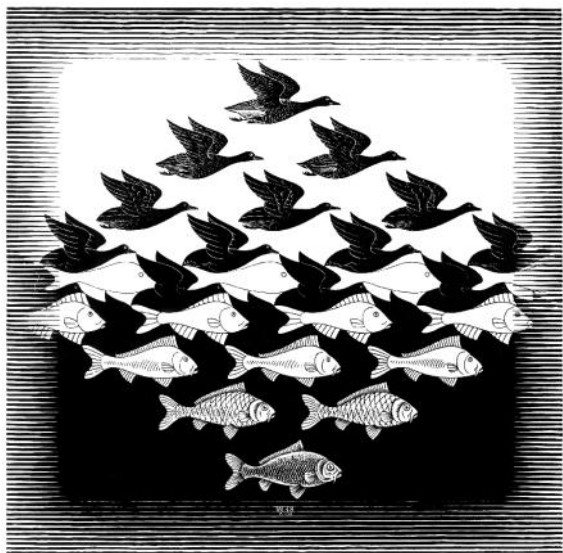
Thursday Afternoon Circle Salad Luncheon

Thursday Afternoon Circle meets on May 12 in the Commons Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring a salad to share and your own table service (be sure to note the new time). Dessert will be furnished, and Debra Starin will provide some musical melodies for us. Call Phyllis Rigsby at 303-693-0187 if you would like to attend.

Valet Parking

Calling all secret valets! Do you want to be the valet of your dreams?? Did you know we have seniors (and others) who need help parking their cars when they get to church so they don't have to walk so far? A perfect match! The only requirements are that you are age 25 to 65, have a valid Colorado drivers license and current insurance, and the desire to love your neighbor. Contact Judith Clausen, Community Life Chair, at 720-328-8501 or revclaus@comcast.net. We'll provide a sign up sheet and instructions as soon as we have enough volunteers.

Fellowship and Then Some



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Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars and plan now to attend the September 30 -October 2, 2011, Women's Retreat at La Foret, sponsored by First Plymouth Congregational Church. Highlighting the theme of "Transitions: Feminine Souls in Transition," the retreat will focus on making sense of life's changes.

The Saturday morning guest speaker will be Rev. Michelle Danson, originally from the UK, who now lives in Niwot,

Colorado. Rev. Danson is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director, retreat leader, commissioned presenter for Contemplative Outreach, and a trained labyrinth facilitator with Veriditas. She is also the cofounder of The Contemplative Beehive of Boulder Valley and co-coordinator for Contemplative Outreach of Boulder County. She has a passion for guiding people in spiritual formation from womb to tomb.

Saturday afternoon sessions will include Master Nutrition Therapist Karin Dietrich. Karin, a past attendee of the Women's Retreat, believes that the mind-body connection is very important to successfully achieve lasting health and lifestyle changes.

This is an opportunity for women to get away from their responsibilities, relax and have fun, make new friends, and perhaps gain some perspective. Individuals may choose to participate in some or all of the planned activities. The program begins Friday evening and ends Sunday morning. We welcome all women to share in this special weekend.

The registration form is available at <http://www.firstplymouthchurch.org/campsretreats.html>

Sound Techs Needed for Sunday Services



We need two or three sound technicians on Sunday mornings, starting immediately. The job entails setting up the microphones and video recording equipment for the 10:00 a.m. service, turning the mikes on and off as needed during the service, and cleaning up and putting everything away when the service is over. You do not need any previous skills or experience to do this job. The time commitment is 9:00 a.m. to

11:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and it is a paying gig! If you would be willing to help out on one or more Sundays each month, please contact our sound coordinator, Sue Armour, at sarmour@firstplymouthchurch.org.



Healing Touch

Healing Touch Group will gather Thursday, May 12 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? For questions or for information, call Dianne Hornbrook at 303-757-6996.

Evening Women's Cancer Support Group

Evening Women's Cancer Support Group meets the first Tuesday of the month at Dalcyce Due's home. Contact her at 303-798-3901.

Women's Cancer Group

Women's Cancer Group will meet Monday, May 16, at 10 a.m. in the Commons Room. If you have been diagnosed or are a survivor we welcome you. Contact Marilyn Mattson at 303-753-0027.



May Birthday Wishes...

...To Our Seniors

- 5/1 Peg Hayward
- 5/1 Louis York
- 5/2 Ginnie Heddens
- 5/3 Eleanor Isbill
- 5/6 Louis Jones
- 5/8 Gale Erlewine
- 5/8 Muff Mackey
- 5/12 Dotti Herbertson
- 5/16 Berwyn Davies
- 5/19 Hatsy Strong
- 5/23 Bobbie Drennen
- 5/26 Arlene Hutchinson
- 5/27 Laurie Lauridsen
- 5/30 Glenn Cofer
- 5/30 Pat Plath
- 5/30 Ralph Schwartz

...and to Our Children

- 5/9 Paige Montgomery
- 5/9 Penny Riggins
- 5/14 Noah McKenna
- 5/14 Schuyler Wilson
- 5/19 Jackson Cole
- 5/27 Samantha Killmer
- 5/28 Duncan Lynch
- 5/31 Brennan Pickett-Williams



We Are The Church Together

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

Joys & Concerns

Reverend George Anastos' father, Telemachus George Anastos, died suddenly on March 18 at the age of 91. The **Reverend Andrea Anastos** officiated the memorial service held on March 25 at First Congregational Church in Yarmouth, Maine.

Flossie Weber celebrated her 103rd birthday April 1. Congratulations Flossie!

Sidney Jackson's son-in-law, Dr. William J. Mills, III, died March 15 at the age of 53 after a ski accident. A memorial service was held on March 20. Bill and his wife **Carey (Jackson) Mills**, and children Isabel, Jackson, and Isaiah were on a family ski trip in Alaska. Carey grew up here at First Plymouth; she and her family live in Anchorage, Alaska.

Shirley Brozowski is happy to share the news that her grandson, Derek Brozowski, completed Officers' Candidate School at the Marine Base in Quantico, Virginia. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on March 18. Shirley enjoyed attending the ceremony with family and friends.

Mary Ehrhardt, mother of **John Ehrhardt**, died February 23 in Arizona. She was 101 years old.

Metro Denver Association UCC has received word of the safety of Rev. David Murchie, whose Ordained Ministerial Standing is held in our Association. Since 1985, David and his wife Joyce have served as teaching missionaries in Japan, and in recent years have taught at Tohoku-Gakuin University in Sendai, Japan. The epicenter of the earthquake was 80 miles due east of Sendai in the Pacific Ocean. The tsunami did not reach their home. They are safe in their home, wearing their coats and using candles

(no electricity). This word comes via their adult daughter, Maureen Murchie, forwarded through their church, Rockland Community UCC in Golden, Colorado. Thanks be to God!

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/.

Harris and Loretta Cohn are together in the Reminiscence Unit at Brighton Gardens. Visitors and cards are most welcome. There is no need to call ahead, but please check in at reception first. Their address is 2500 S. Roslyn Street, Denver 80231.

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

Celebrate the **unsung heroes** among our community. These are the folks 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 expressed in any number of ways.

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

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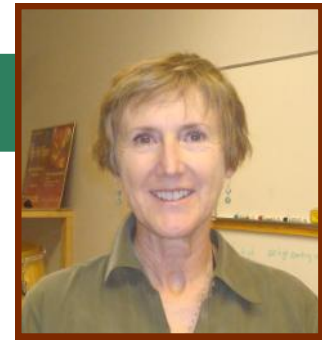
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Browse the First Plymouth Library catalog online at
www.librarything.com/catalog/Firstplymouth



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The Back Page

**The Newsletter Deadline for the June Issue is
Tuesday, May 10!**

Send your articles and information to:

news@firstplymouthchurch.org

(Or put them in the newsletter box in the church office.)

**Late submissions may not be included,
and all submissions are subject to editing.**

Special Thanks to:

Newsletter Assemblers: Ginny Galloway, Karleen Gagnon, Glen Pray, Phyllis Rigsby and Claire Yetter

Church Office Volunteers: Betsy Lewis, Carolyn Weaver, Myra Kolditz, Nancy Cole, Kari Collins and Marilyn Mattson

Sunday Office Volunteers: Phyllis Rigsby, Elaine Hoss, Carlyne White and Gigi Van Egeren

Sanctuary Straighteners: Fred Fowler, Jim and Marion Woodward

Flower Arrangers: Ann Lane, Peggy O'Brien and Lucille Erlewine

DVD Maker: Alan Long

Archivist: Don Zeller

Data Base Clerks: Marilyn Mattson and Suzanne Moser

Music Librarians: Heidi Thomas and Alan Long

And all the other volunteers who labor so faithfully and often anonymously to help provide the infrastructure that allows First Plymouth to carry out its mission.

While the Cat's Away

George leaves to begin his sabbatical just after our Easter celebrations and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) would like to take advantage of this occasion to suggest that while the cat's away, the mice will read and discuss!

That's right, PPRC is sponsoring an opportunity to get a taste of the study work that George is doing while away on sabbatical. One of the authors George will be reading is Brian McLaren, an acclaimed leader of the Emergent Church movement in the US. McLaren talks about a "powerful convergence" taking place in the world that's drawing together progressive evangelicals, post liberal mainliners, and progressive Catholics into a "truly spiritual life and an authentic community of faith."

One of Mr. McLaren's books, *A New Kind of Christian*, will be the subject of this summer's Soulful Sundown series lead by Rev. Eric Smith. The group will discuss a chapter of the book each week starting June 22 and will meet at the church every following Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. through August 10. This will be a stimulating and engaging way to stay connected, in spirit, with the work George will be doing abroad.

The book can be purchased on line from the website that Jerry and Betty Arca's daughter Deborah is associated with at *patheos.com*, or at any other online source or local bookstore. We'd invite all who are interested in this event to plan on joining us for discussion in June whether you've read the book or not. The experience will be a nice way to share the sabbatical journey with George and Andrea while they're away.

We'll also be tracking George's and Andrea's travels around and through Europe on a map in the Narthex so stay tuned for the postings: Where in the World are G&A?

Good Tidings, David Nestor
Chair - PPRC

