



Progressive, Inclusive, Home
firstplymouth
 congregational church



October 2011

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**Transforming Whole Earth at First
 Plymouth Begins in October**

Dear First Plymouth Friends,

If you pay even slight attention to the news and the science, much less the politics, about the ever-growing threats to our planet, its coastlines and fisheries, its people, its ecology, and the majesty of Creation, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by a sense of foreboding and futility. If God's covenant with humanity and all other living creatures is "for all future generations" (Genesis 9:8-17), does our faith require that we think and live and witness and act in new ways? If we see Creation as a gift rather than an entitlement, how does that change our thoughts and actions?

At a meeting initiated by the FP Whole Earth Committee, Senior Minister George Anastos and Rev. Peter Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries began a dialogue about widening and deepening our theological sense of care and responsibility for all of creation. Over the summer, the Whole Earth Study Group (WESG) was formed to do some reading, thinking, planning, and praying about how to begin this journey. The WESG's work will continue over many months, perhaps years. Transformation doesn't happen over night, and it doesn't need to cost a lot of money. It's happening at the UCC National level as well. The "Whole Earth" label has been re-purposed and re-focused as "Environmental Ministries," and we've invited the Director, Rev. Jim Deming, to Colorado early next year.

There is much to explore, and we're just getting started. October's adult Christian education offerings after church include a variety of topics (for more information, check out the Adult Education section of this newsletter on page 5), and there are plans in the works for additional CE programming this year. We hope you're as excited as we are!

Faithfully,

Jan McCoy and the Whole Earth Study Group

Pam Schmidt, Mary Kay Kernan, Pete Fogg, Anne Kleinkopf, Doug and Noanie Geistert, Laurie Klisaris, Keith Connor, Galen and Carolyn Weaver, and Eileen Robinson



**Do you have a book that has transformed
 your beliefs about faith and the environment?**

During October, the Library Committee will feature books that explore and define the connections between theology and ecology and the challenges our consumer culture places on our planet, our faith, and all of Creation. Look for these titles in the book display near the Commons Room.

In addition to titles already in the library, members of the Whole Earth Committee and the Whole Earth Study Group are lending books to the FP library that have been important in shaping our beliefs and actions. Among them: *Love God, Heal Earth*, by Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham; *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*, by Bill McKibbin; and *Running the Numbers: An American Self Portrait*, by photographer Chris Jordan. You're invited to share your favorite books too. Please contact Carolyn Weaver at carolyn34@q.com or Carlyne White at crodgersnob@msn.com if you have a book you'd like to display and loan to congregation members this month.



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

October 2 – World Communion Sunday The Rev. George Anastos Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Today's service will focus on the Ten Commandments. Well, actually, on only a couple of them: the second and the fourth ("You shall have no other gods before me" and "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."). ESPECIALLY the fourth. Does keeping Sabbath have any meaning for us today? CAN it have any meaning, or is it a quaint, perhaps even bizarre tradition of antiquity? After all, who could possibly have time to take a day a week to rest, to rejuvenate, to be in relationship with loved ones, and to tend to the Spirit first. Who?

October 9 – Whole Earth Sunday The Rev. Peter Sawtell

Today we welcome to our pulpit a minister who is one of the UCC's leading voices for the protection and care of God's abundant creation. He is invited by our Whole Earth Study Group, led by Jan McCoy. We will be invited to imagine ourselves as a *transformational* church, one that truly takes seriously what it means to live in abundant relationship with God and the environment. This ministry will grow in vibrancy and action and we invite you to come, to be inspired, and, if the Spirit so moves you, to join this work that our children and grandchildren will see and through which they will be blessed.

October 16 – Open and Affirming Sunday The Rev. George Anastos Exodus 33:12-23

One of the most important things about Israel's identity in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) is the *reason* they were called into existence in the first place. In short, they were called to be a blessing to the world so that through them all the nations of the world may bless themselves. ("Is it not in thy going with us that we are distinct?" we read in today's lesson.) This same calling is now ours as well. It is not enough that we come to church for our own personal fulfillment; that is not the Way of Jesus. We are called to witness and to love ALL people, to be a blessing so that others may find blessing, to stand up and proclaim a good news that welcomes all.

October 23 – First Plymouth Church Anniversary (147th)

The Rev. George Anastos Deuteronomy 34:1-12

The faithful women and men who founded our church 147 years ago today had a dream, a vision, that the community that is now First Plymouth Congregationalist Church would thrive in ministry and purpose until such time that there was no need for the church – a day when all children were fed, wars were over, and the peoples of the earth knew harmony. They did not expect that day to come in their lifetimes, although they may have prayed for that. And that day may not come in our lifetime, although WE may pray for that. But still we pursue the mission.

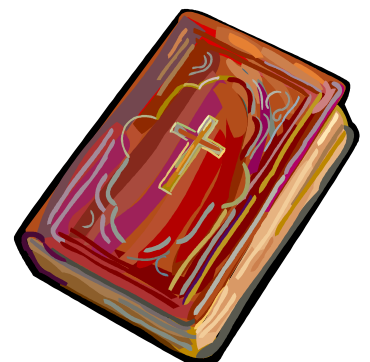
When Moses was close to death God brought him up to a high mountain to show him the Holy Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. But after toiling his entire adult life to see Israel claim its heritage, he died with only a glimpse. And he died at peace, knowing all his effort was worth it. We still pursue the mission.

October 30 – Coat Sunday Bible Sunday

The Rev. George Anastos Joshua 3:7-17

For the past two years we have collected coats and other essential winter outerwear for distribution to those in need in our city. On this Sunday, please bring coats, jackets, sweaters, mufflers, mittens, and gloves that you may no longer need but that are in good repair and still have a usable life ahead of them. During the worship service, we will bring them forward as a visible witness to our continued ministry to our community.

This is also the Sunday on which our third graders receive their Bibles after studying what's in this great book and how and what we can learn from it.



Minister & Moderator's Corner

Moderator's Corner

"We do not grow by knowing all of the answers, but rather by living with the questions." - Max De Pree

In the next few years we will be facing many challenging questions: What should our church be in an age where the 20th century model of church has become nearly obsolete? Can we afford our building? Who do we want to be as a church in a new age? How can we more fully live out the Gospel in our contemporary world?

These are questions that no one now knows the answers to. Few of us can even envision the different kind of church that First Plymouth might become. But God is always leading us, nudging us, inspiring us.

The key to addressing all these questions is *listening*: Listening for God's guidance within and among us, and listening to each other. If we can listen in a spirit of devotion and compassion, I'm confident we will find the path forward.

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.. - Winston Churchill.

The Council has operated for a few years on principles of discernment drawn from a centuries-old Christian tradition. This year we are learning to take these principles farther, to listen at an even deeper level, trusting in the grace and power of God to show us the way. My hope is that everyone in our community of faith will practice truly listening as we grapple with these questions. True listening means not thinking about what you will say next. It means asking questions to learn more about what the other person is thinking and feeling. It means being quiet and present in order to allow another the sacred space to express their thoughts and feelings.

I invite you to pay attention to how you listen for the Spirit. Do you hear it through listening to others? Through prayer? Through reading scripture? Through being in the natural world? Through meditating in silence? Through music? Through worship?

Peg Thompson, Moderator
moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org

Minister's Meditation

Recently I tried to find an address in Denver using one of those spiffy map books that has every little street in the entire metro area. There was just one wee problem: the map book was old and the address was new. According to the map, the address did not exist, and I had no idea how to get where I was going.

In one of the books I read on sabbatical (*Missional Map Making: Skills for Leading in Times of Transition*) author Alan Roxburgh argues that the above story describes the problem institutionalized Christianity is facing in today's world. The landscape has fundamentally changed, the familiar landmarks are gone, the roads have been torn up, and no new ones have been established. And yet churches cling tenaciously to their old tried and true maps, and the churches are going increasingly astray. They are lost with no idea how to find their way through this new land. With remarkably accessible language and images, Roxburgh describes in detail why the old maps of the age called Modernity no longer lead anywhere; following them simply leads to frustration and blame and loss. Churches are now in a figurative wilderness where the old maps only describe places that no longer exist, and new maps do not yet exist.

Thus churches must, individually, find their own way, become their own map makers, explore their own unique terrain and choose a way forward that uses the skills and gifts of its members (it is dangerous to try to climb a mountain or sail the ocean if you do not have the skills).

Beginning October 18, I will be leading a discussion of Roxburgh's book. Copies may be purchased at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble, as well as other bookstores. If you care passionately about First Plymouth and would like to begin the process of exploring what it would mean to create new maps together, I hope you come so that as many of us as possible can learn the art of ecclesiastical cartography.

George, ganastos@firstplymouthchurch.org



October Lectionary Texts

Oct. 2	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Oct. 9	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Oct. 16	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Oct. 23	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46
Oct. 30	Joshua 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12

Children's Programs

SAVE THE DATE:

November 27 at 9:00 a.m. for the Advent Party in Plymouth Hall. Let Noanie know if you can help at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org or by calling 303-762-0616. Thanks.

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

Welcome to Fall! It's a beautiful time of year when we can witness God's magic in the changing of the colors on the trees.

Did your child follow the footprints on our first day of Sunday school, walking through a forest and wandering past a river? (Thanks to Caitlin Boykin and to Doug Geistert for designing and installing our opening day scenery!) We were

talking about the footprints we leave behind on earth and how to take care of our planet. Thanks to Annie Nestor and Cindy Eley for teaching in September. In October the elementary children will be studying the season after Pentecost, including the 10 commandments and Moses, with their teachers Laurie Klisaris and Noelle Cochran.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Worship Emphasis</i>	<i>Bible verse</i>
10/2	God's Loving Wisdom	To affirm the loving wisdom that gives shape to our community as we continue to flourish within creation.	Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,19-20
10/9	Heifer Project Sunday	Eileen Robinson teaches us about the Heifer Project	Psalms 106:19-2
10/16	Willing Relationships	To deepen our experience of God so that our community may live with hope.	Exodus 33:12-23
10/23	God's Story, Our Story	To reflect on our lives and consider how our endings can unfold into God's beginnings.	Deuteronomy 34:1-12
10/30	Bible Sunday	Intergenerational service	

The Early Childhood children, preschool through kindergarten, will be working on *God's Family Grows*.

Date	Theme	Children Will Learn...	Bible Verse
10/2	Jacob & Esau are born	God plans for family members to be different	Genesis 25:19-27
10/9	Esau gives away his birthright	God wants families to be kind to each other	Genesis 25:29-34
10/16	Jacob's Ladder	God is with us wherever we go	Genesis 28:10-22
10/23	Jacob and Rachel	God is with us, guiding us and leading us	Genesis 29:1-14
10/30	Jacob and Esau forgive	God wants family members to forgive each other	Genesis 33:1-17

I have been blessed again with volunteers to teach our younger members for the entire year. I even have substitute teachers! Please thank the following folks for the very important work they are doing: Our nursery team, led by Caitlin Boykin, is Wendy Adams, Katie Haas, Sarah Herbert, and Alexis and Brian Cole. Our Early Childhood team is Nancy Joe Shaw and Pat Gunckel, Jerry and Betty Arca, Ingrid Serio and Marian Camden, and Nancy and Pete Fogg. Our elementary teaching volunteers are Annie Nestor, Cindy Eley, Laurie Klisaris, Noelle Cochran, Rolf and Jane Asphaug, Leigh Green, Ann Lane, Dave and Heidi Thomas, Laura McKenna, Renee Liebnow, Pam Schmidt, Margo Sargent, Heather Greenwood, and Doug Geistert. Thank you all!!

Our family fellowship planning group will have a family picnic on October 2 to make more plans. Nine families were represented and I hope to see even more on October 2. Our picnic will be after the service in the courtyard, weather permitting, or in Plymouth Hall if it doesn't. Bring lunch for your family. Drinks will be provided.

Our Bible class started September 18 and will continue until October 23; the students receive their Bibles during the worship service on October 30. It is again being taught by Beth Baker Owens – thanks, Beth!

Boundary Training will be on October 16 in Plymouth Hall at 9:00 a.m. There will not be a training held in November or December due to the holidays.

Adult Education & Spiritual Formation

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 - "Invitation to John"

8:45 a.m. in Room 212

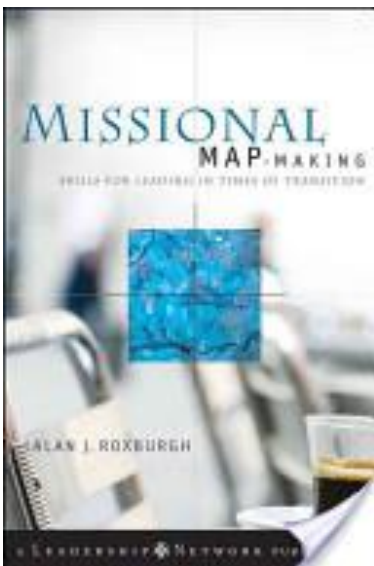
The invitation from Christ is "Come and see, Follow me." Experience the magnificent passages in John including the "I am" statements (I am the truth, the life and the way; I am the living water; and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene; and the raising of Lazarus. During the weekly video segments, travel into the scripture as you hear the Word, experience the grand artwork connected with each story, and interview the scholar. Participants for this Invitation to John do not have to have an in-depth knowledge of the Bible to enjoy and benefit from participation. Reading just two chapters of John a week, they will discover the life altering stories that will invite them to follow Christ as true disciples.

Bible Basics & Beyond includes a full range of people from novices to scholars. Come with a willingness to learn and to join our lively discussions. You can start any time, as each section stands on its own. For more information call Fletcher Brown at 303-619-8486.

Bible Workbench

8:30 a.m. in the Columbine Room

Led by lay facilitators, this lectionary-based class asks questions about how the inner meaning of a text might be active in today's world and how it might have personal meaning. The mission of Bible Workbench is to equip people to become interpreters of life and to enable to decipher the meaning of their own experience. For more information, contact Chip Cole at 303-693-0485.



Minister's Book Study

Beginning Tuesday, October 18, George Anastos will lead a book study exploring how the church can find its way in the 21st century. Using Alan Roxburgh's *Missional Map Making: Skills for Leading in Times of Transition*, we will explore the truly fundamental ways in which our world has changed and why the maps that guided us so faithfully no longer can get us where we want to go. This promises to be a deeply challenging engagement with a profoundly different view of how the church moves forward.

The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and other bookstores. The class will meet in Room 212 at 7:00 p.m..

October Christian Education Hosted by Whole Earth

11:20 a.m. in the Commons Room

October 2 – Whole Earth 2.0

First Plymouth has been a Whole Earth church for nineteen years. Rev. Peter Sawtell, a UCC minister and the Executive Director of Eco-Justice Ministries, will present brief history of Whole Earth at First Plymouth and within the UCC, which is undergoing a change in focus as well.

October 9 – Transformational Churches

What do we mean by "transformational church?" Rev. Peter Sawtell will highlight some examples of churches that are asking the big questions about how our faith can and should inform our individual choices and our journey as a congregation. Are there models and experiences in other churches that can help guide First Plymouth?

October 16 – Finding Guidance in the Bible

Anne Kleinkopf and Jan McCoy lead an exploration of biblical concepts that can frame our journey and become more deeply imbedded in our personal and congregational lives. The National Council of Churches 2005 publication "God's Earth is Sacred" will be a part of the conversation.

October 23 – Transition Communities

Mike Weaver, who grew up in our Church and is the son of Carolyn and Galen Weaver, will speak about the Transition Movement and his participation in a Transition Community in California. The Transition Movement is comprised of volunteer networks working to build resilient, sustainable communities and practices to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and deal with economic disparities and climate change. The discussion will include information about Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), one aspect of the sustainable community focus.

October 30 – Personal Transformation

Randy and Marcy Nicholas tell about their family's commitment to reducing their footprint on the earth. What began as a desire to eliminate a trash collection fee has led to a profound change in the Nicholas family. Marcy and Randy share their journey to become a "zero waste" household, a process that involves challenging your assumptions about what you need, what you buy, and what your general habits are with respect to virtually everything. If our faith is in part about "relationship" with others, with God, and with God's creation, what is our relationship with our consumer culture and the messages, habits, and conveniences that are imbedded in it?



Outreach / Mission

The Foundation's Role in First Plymouth's Outreach

Since its founding in 1982, the First Plymouth Foundation has been a supplement to the church's outreach ministry and has supported projects and ministries directly associated with the Church, including La Foret, Kentucky Circle Village, and the Denver Inner City Parish. Utilizing the earnings on the over \$2.3 million that has been contributed to the Foundation over the years, the board meets quarterly to consider requests from nonprofit groups (no individuals) from throughout the state. At its regular meeting in July, a grant to the Iliff School of Theology was approved to support three students during the coming school year. The board will meet again in early November to consider any new funding requests that come in before late October. If you are aware of groups that might need support for a particular project that will further the outreach mission of First Plymouth, please refer them to the Foundation. This can be done through its website (firstplymouthfoundation.org), which is linked to First Plymouth's website or by contacting one of the board members who include: Ken Hoagland, Pat Gunckel, Jan Spomer, Glen Pray, John Fox and our current moderator, Peg Thompson. Any one interested in more information about the Foundation should ask any of these members about it.

Can Do Sunday is October 16!

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

Our Habitat Home is Almost Ready!

Scores of volunteers have made great progress on the Habitat for Humanity house sponsored by Loaves and Fishes, the church coalition in which we take part. Ali and Kamila's home at 800 South Patton



Court, half of an attractive two-story duplex, is ahead of schedule and nearly complete. Interior walls are finished and painting and other final detail work is under way. Participating churches are still raising funds to meet the financing goal by December 31. If you can help, contact Stan Harwood at 303-770-3387. Every dollar you contribute goes directly to help erect this home for the Kased-Ruhaif family.

We will be dedicating the home, our thirteenth, at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 29. The home is located at the corner of Ohio and Patton Court in Denver. Come and join in our celebration, as Ali and Kamila and their four children prepare to move into their new home.

Share the Plate for October

October is a time of change, heralding the chilly days of Autumn after the warmth of summer. It is a time of "frost on the pumpkin" and the beauty of fall leaves. But what of the homeless and hungry in our midst? October can be a time of increased stress, wondering how to stay warm, where to sleep, and where to find a hot meal. The Denver Rescue Mission, our October Share the Plate recipient, helps alleviate the needs of the less fortunate members of our community by providing shelter, food, and clothing. Share the Plate proceeds as well as coats received during our October 30 coat drive will be given to this important Christian ministry.

Proverbs 19:17: He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord.

We Gave Kids a Great Start!

Thanks to the generosity of so many First Plymouth members, lots of needy students in Denver have been given a great start to a successful school year. Can you believe we delivered to Denver Inner City Parish & College View, Highline Academy and Marrama Elementary: 73 boxes of pencils, 50 boxes of pens, 50 backpacks, 102 boxes of crayons, 49 packages of filler paper, 104 spiral notebooks, 50 pocket folders, 42 packages of glue, and so much more! We are humbled by your compassion. Thank you from organizers Jane Hall, Heather Greenwood, and Crystal Riggins.

Extras

First Plymouth Bees Getting Ready (or not) for Winter

by Craig Eley

The First Plymouth bees have been having a great time this spring and summer frolicking among the plants and flowers of the FP Community Garden. You may have seen them all over the Russian sage, raspberries, and sunflowers. To take a look at the hive, just wander over to the corner of the parking lot near the basketball net.

Fall is a down time for bees, since they exist solely on nectar and pollen collected while plants are in bloom. All the worker bees (about 60,000) are females, with drones (males) making up a thousand or so. Drones exist only to mate with passing queens (not the queen in the hive) and that won't happen again until spring. Drones do no work and cannot even feed themselves, so in the fall the workers escort the drones outside of the hive to fend for themselves (which they cannot) so that they will not be a drain on food stores during the winter.

You will still see bees flying around on fall days where the temperature is above 52 degrees, but they won't have much to do. During the winter, bees do not hibernate, but huddle together in a ball and move through the frames in the hive, eating honey. They shiver their wing muscles to generate heat. Those areas of the hive where the queen has laid eggs (not too many in the winter) must be kept at 91 degrees to keep the brood from dying. So winter is a tough time for bees (especially drones).

In Colorado, we have many winter days where the temperature reaches 52 degrees and the bees will be seen making "cleansing flights" to rid their bodies of waste, which they do not deposit in the hive. Even with temperatures that high or higher, we cannot open the hive to inspect it (as we do every three weeks in the summer) because too much heat will escape through the top of the hive. We can only hope that the bees have enough honey to survive until the trees and flowers bloom again.

Unfortunately, the FP bees were very lax in putting away honey for winter. Across the state, it was not a good year for honey production. But with a plethora of blooms just a few feet away, which lasted well into September, it was expected that the FP bees would be better prepared (Phil Thompson suggested that perhaps the bees thought they were actual FP members, and so are likely to do something mainly on Christmas and Easter).

The Eleys had our two backyard hives die this summer, the first from disease and the second from pesticide exposure. The second hive had put away a nice store of extra honey which had been harvested before the pesticide exposure, so this was placed in the FP hive to supplement the bees' meager supply. They were also fed sugar water starting in September, which it is hoped they stored in their frames for winter use.

We will look forward to seeing the bees again in the spring - but it wouldn't hurt to say a little prayer for them now and then.



The Coliseum in Rome

Highlights of Italy: People and Places in Italy and Christian History

Whether or not you're going on the First Plymouth trip to Italy in November, you're invited to a three-week series, led by trip leader Rev. Eric Smith, on the historical significance of many of the sites we will be visiting in Italy.

October 12

Roman Life: Pompeian and Roman Ruins

October 19

The Church in Struggle to the Church Triumphant: The Roman Catacombs, the First Churches, and the Vatican

October 26

Byzantine and Medieval Church Art, Buildings, and Culture

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about the history of Christianity in Italy – whether you're traveling with the group or not! The group will meet Wednesdays October 12, 19, and 26, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Commons Room.



An Amphitheater in Pompeii

(We think we got the geography right this month!)



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, October 8, at 7:30 a.m. is the next Men's Fellowship Breakfast. Our speaker will be Elinor T. Christiansen, M.D., who will discuss a single payer health care system. Dr. Christiansen is a founder of Health Care for All Colorado, and has traveled the world learning about universal health care systems in other developed countries. She has practiced in rural Colorado where she was exposed to the problems of the medically underserved.

A breakfast will be prepared by two of our members, and we always have great talk around the table. All FP men, especially newcomers, are invited. No RSVP is needed. For further information, contact Fletcher Brown at brownsinco@gmail.com.

Men's Retreat October 14 - 16

Eric Smith, FP's Director of Youth and Young Adults, will be the discussion leader during the Men's Fellowship Retreat, Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16. His topic is "Jesus in Film." How does your Jesus-movie sausage get made? What kinds of decisions go into making a movie about Jesus, and how do those decisions affect the way you view the film, experience it theologically, and understand Jesus? We'll view two or three classic films about Jesus, and try to understand the agendas behind the camera.

The retreat will take place at the Messiah Mountain Retreat Center in Indian Hills, which is only 30 minutes from First Plymouth. We will begin with dinner on Friday, October 14, and will conclude by noon on Sunday, October 16. You may attend for the entire weekend or come only for the day session on Saturday, including dinner. To reserve your place, contact Fletcher Brown at brownsinco@gmail.com.

Fellowship

Thursday Afternoon Circle

Thursday Afternoon Circle meets on October 13 at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments, followed by a program and meeting. Bring a picture of yourself as a baby or young child, and be prepared to relate a story about your youth. We may have a contest to see if we can match the pictures to the adults. Please call Phyllis Rigsby at 303-693-0187 if you would like to attend.

Former First Plymouth Pastor Retires

Rev. Steve Davis, who served as associate pastor at First Plymouth from 1981 to 1986, is retiring from active church ministry on November 6. After leaving FP, Steve served a church in upstate New York and most recently served a long-term pastorate at Shepherd of the Hills UCC in Phoenix, Arizona. Those of you who know Steve know his gifts of humor, compassion, listening, preaching, storytelling, as well as his sense of mission. Cards or good wishes should be sent to: Rev. Steve Davis, Shepherd of the Hills UCC, 5524 East Lafayette Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona 85018.



A group of intrepid First Plymouth bird watchers under the capable eye of Dick Anderson.

Healing Touch

The Healing Touch Group will meet on Thursday, October 20. Come learn about your body's subtle energy systems as known for thousands of years by Chinese medicine and ayurvedic medicine. We will discuss your body's major energy centers, called the chakras. Everyone will practice a simple technique to strengthen them. We will meet in the Columbine Room at 6:30 p.m. We welcome newcomers and friends. Questions? Call Dianne Hornbrook at 303-757-6996.

In Other News...

Tales from the Archives

First Plymouth Congregational Church was formed on October 23, 1864, as the First Congregational Church of Denver by 12 hardy pioneers—8 women and 4 men. Since October 23 falls on Sunday this year, Don Zeller, the church archivist/historian, thought this would be a good opportunity to display some of the interesting artifacts stashed away in the archives, including some very large items that probably haven't been seen in many years. Look for the display in the Covenant Room before and after church on Sunday, October 23. The three large, historic Bibles that will be included in the display will also be held over for display on Bible Sunday (October 30), the day on which the third graders will receive their first Bibles.

Help is needed to answer a question. One of the pulpit Bibles is inscribed, "In Constant Memory of Rev. Franklin J. Estabrook." If you know who Rev. Estabrook was and his connection to First Plymouth, please contact Don Zeller at 303-783-9609 or ddzell@comcast.net. Thanks



Fun and Games at Church

First Plymouth now has two new Corn Hole games for groups to use and they made their first trip to Community camp this year. The games were made by Paul Coates of DaVinci Remodeling and donated to First Plymouth by Doug and Noanie Geistert. Let Noanie know if you want to use them and she will get them to you: fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org.

DICP/FP Brunch—Join Us!

Have you visited Denver Inner City Parish's College View campus for breakfast yet? If not, come join us the third Saturday of the month for fun and fellowship and great grub! Brunch starts at 10:00 a.m. at 2525 South Decatur Street in southwest Denver.

October Birthday Wishes...

...to Our Seniors

- 10/1 Katherine Lampe
- 10/5 May Hunt
- 107 Ann Christensen
- 10/11 Jean Thorpe
- 10/18 Verne Plath
- 10/18 Margaret Sensel
- 10/31 Frederick Plocher



...and to Our Children

- 10/1 Kendall Ruhnnow
- 10/2 Eli Decker-Smith
- 10/16 Mandaryn Leander
- 10/22 Grayson Gaines
- 10/23 Jayne Fraser
- 10/23 Anna Learned
- 10/23 Abigail Riggins
- 10/26 Jonathan Asphaug
- 10/31 Cameron Ide



Order a Wreath and Support Our Youth

Summer is winding down, Fall is around the corner and can you believe that it's already time to order Christmas wreaths? This is becoming an annual tradition here at First Plymouth in support of our youth programs. Wreaths and other fresh greens are a great way to get into the spirit of preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth. During the month of October we will be taking orders, which we will submit to the supplier by the first week in November. Delivery will be in Plymouth Hall on December 4. If you would like to send a wreath or greens to a family member or friend we have delivery forms for just that purpose. We would appreciate payment at the time of ordering. This is a great way to support our youth, and each purchase is greatly appreciated.



Around the Parish

Ministries of Care Opportunities:

Flower Delivery - As a visible and tangible expression of care for our beloved community First Plymouth has delivered flowers to homebound and hospitalized members for years. The Pastoral Care Office is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the weekly delivery of flowers. Please contact Nanette or Terry: pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Prayer Teams - Are you seeking a way to serve others? First Plymouth members have a long-standing commitment to pray for one another. Our prayer teams are one vehicle to facilitate praying for one another. If you feel moved to pray for others please contact Nanette and Terry in Pastoral Care; 303-761-0616, pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org

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

LIFE LINE Screening will be held at First Plymouth on Tuesday, November 1. Pre-registration is required – call 800-324-1851.

Something to think about: Gary McIntosh asks in *Beyond the First Visit*, “Did you know that the Bible was the first printed piece of advertisement? Consider the familiar John 3:16: ‘For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.’ All the elements of advertising are found in this verse. The product—Jesus Christ; the price—he’s free; the promise—eternal life; and it’s guaranteed!”

We Are The Church Together

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

Joys & Concerns

Hazel Mae Decker-Smith was born August 18. Her arrival was celebrated by mom, Jessa Decker-Smith, First Plymouth Communications Director, dad Eric Smith, First Plymouth's Youth and Young Adults Director, and big brothers Eli and Amos.

Donald Schwartz, long time friend of First Plymouth, died August 19. Please keep his daughter, Lisa Franklin, and brother and sister-in-law **Ralph** and **Nancy Schwartz** in your prayers. Rev. Lynn Vahle conducted the memorial service which was held September 2 at First Plymouth.

Congratulations to **Elise Mascitelli** and Danny Sells. They were married on September 3, in Beaver Creek, Colorado. The couple will live in Denver and honeymoon in January in Tahiti. Elise is the daughter of **Liz** and **Chris Mascitelli** and the niece of **Barbara Hosanna**.

John and **Alice Weeda** are happy to announce that granddaughter, Johanna Dean, arrived Saturday, August 27. Their daughter Rachel and her husband, Jeff Almond, are excited to have Johanna join sisters, Naomi, 4, and Ruby, 2. All are at home in Denver.

Colin Hill has made yet another great recovery from neck surgery. He is back on campus at DU, and busy with another school year.

Mackenzie Hill has moved to Gold Bar, Washington. Her address is on the bulletin board.

Lee Probasco and her husband, **Roger Diggle**, traveled to Cornwall Manor, Pennsylvania to celebrate the life of her stepmother, Lorna Probasco, who died August 27. The service was held on September 10.

Judith Clausen had surgery on her right shoulder on September 12. Judith welcomes cards and visitors.

A memorial service for **Faye Carey** was held in the Sanctuary September 24. Rev. George Anastos conducted the service with Rev. Dr. Stuart Haskins participating.

Laura Bauman continues rigorous treatment for the tumor on her brain. To more effectively coordinate the various and sometimes rapidly changing types of assistance **Laura**, **Steve, Miles** and **Schuyler Wilson** need, all of the assistance calendars are now combined in one place. If you can help with rides, meals, household assistance, or any of the tasks listed please join the LSMS community at <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/645669/>.

To protect the privacy of you and the Bauman Wilson family only members of the community will be able to see the calendar, the needs and who is participating. If you want to help and cannot sign-up through the internet, call the Pastoral Care Office (303-762-0616) and we can sign you up on the calendar. Please continue to follow Laura's journey through her Caring Bridge site: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/laurabauman>

There are members of our First Plymouth family serving in conflict overseas: **Ginnie Heddens'** grandson, Brian Ballard, a civilian technologist is serving in Iraq. **Betsy Lewis'** nephew, LCpl Alex Kirsch, USMC is deployed to Afghanistan.

Celebrate the **unsung heroes** in 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 so many 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, contact the Office of Pastoral Care or one of the pastors. Requests can also be made anonymously.

Contact Information



COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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Travel Club
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Yacht & Donut
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Phone numbers are 303 area code unless otherwise noted.



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

First Plymouth Staff 303-762-0616

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Senior Minister

Frank Perko III
Director of Music

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Robert Basquez, **Custodian**

First Plymouth Learning Center
Karrie Gleason, **Director**
303-762-9355, *director@fplc.org*

Unless otherwise noted, e-mail us using first initial and last name
@firstplymouthchurch.org



The Back Page

The Newsletter Deadline for the November Issue is
Monday, October 10!

Send your articles and information to:
news@firstplymouthchurch.org
 (Or put them in the newsletter box in the church office.)
 Late submissions may not be included,
 and all submissions are subject to editing.

Special Thanks to:

Newsletter Assemblers: Ellyn Domnik, Ginny Galloway, Karleen Gagnon, Corrine Lude, Glen Pray, Phyllis Rigsby, Frank Taylor, Marion Taylor, Jerre Wilson and Claire Yetter

Church Office Volunteers: Myra Kolditz, Nancy Cole, Dalyce Due, Betsy Lewis and Carolyn Weaver

Sunday Office Volunteers: Myra Kolditz, Karleen Gagnon, and Margaret Sense

Sanctuary Straighteners: Fred Fowler, Marion and Jim Woodward

Flower Arrangers: Heidi Stevenson and Andrea Anastos

DVD Maker: Alan Long

Music Librarians: Heidi Thomas and Alan Long

Archivist and Historian: Don Zeller

Database Clerks: Marilyn Mattson and Suzanne Moser

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

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. We don't always know who you are or when you are carrying out your various duties, but you are very much appreciated and offer our special thanks to you all.

Reminder: Keep Your Valuables Secure

When you are in church and need a safe place to store your purse or other valuables, please remember that there are lockers available for that purpose in the coat closet behind Mission Central. Choose an empty locker, place your valuables inside, close and lock it, and take the key with you. The keys are on lanyards to make it easy for you to keep track of them. These lockers were made possible by an anonymous donation after a series of purse thefts on church premises. Be sure to use them so that you are not a future victim.



So Tell Me Again: How Do I Get Stuff in the Newsletter, the Sunday Worship Bulletin, and the Sunday Night Update?

If you want to make sure that your information gets to the right place, here's where to send it:

Newsletter: *news@firstplymouthchurch.org*

Deadline: 10th of the previous month

Sunday Worship Bulletin: *bulletin@firstplymouthchurch.org*

Deadline: Noon of the previous Tuesday

Sunday Night Update: *news@firstplymouthchurch.org*

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. the previous Thursday