



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



## September 2011

Vol. 73, Issue 3

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The 2011 annual meeting of the First Plymouth congregation is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, at 11:30 a.m. in Plymouth Hall. The congregation will have the opportunity to hear reports from key players on the First Plymouth team, review the 2011 fiscal year financial results, and vote on any new ministry and committee members who have agreed to serve since the budget and elections meeting in June. In addition, a revised budget will be presented based on the reduced amount of pledging we are experiencing. Please be sure to attend this important gathering in the life of our congregation.

### Stewardship Results Disappointing: New Budget Required

When the First Plymouth congregation passed the 2012 fiscal year budget (which covers the period from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012) at its June special meeting, we were reasonably optimistic about the financial commitments which could be expected in the coming year. With a \$50,000 match for new and increased pledges and a 7.8% increase in financial commitments over the 2011 fiscal year, the congregation approved a budget amounting to \$890,507. Sadly, those financial commitments have not materialized, and a new budget needs to go before the congregation at the September 25 annual meeting.

Here is the magnitude of the challenge:

- Net pledge revenue in the June 5 budget was assumed to be \$726,479.
- As of August 15, net pledge revenues amount to \$637,721, a shortfall of \$88,758.
- There were 260 pledging units at First Plymouth in 2011 and only 223 in 2012.
- Because we are required by policy to have a balanced budget that contains realistic revenue projections, we must now find nearly \$90,000 in expense reductions for the coming fiscal year.

The Stewardship Ministry is making a final attempt to contact those First Plymouth members who have not yet pledged for the 2012 fiscal year and will provide the Director of Administration with their most realistic estimate of revenues by September 1. Carole will then prepare a new budget proposal for review by the Business Administration Team, the Mission Team, and Council, after which it will come to the congregation.



## Worship & Arts Opportunities

### Sunday Morning at First Plymouth

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

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

### September 4 Service of Holy Communion Rev. Eric Smith and Rev. George Anastos

The Rev. Eric Smith preaches and the Rev. George Anastos returns from sabbatical to preside at Communion as we consider Exodus 12:1-14 as the constitutive remembrance of the Jewish people. What is our constitutive remembrance? What is the basis of our traditions, our memories, our yearly repetitions? As "progressive" Christians, are we in the midst of our progress at risk of leaving behind things that are important from our tradition? Or does all tradition and history deserve to be re-evaluated, and what no longer works left behind?

### September 11 Rev. George Anastos

A special musical worship service following the UCC theme "9/11 Plus 10: Between Memory and Hope." The Chancel Choir and orchestra will present *Requiem*, by K. Lee Scott.

### September 18 September 25 Rev. George Anastos

Watch the Sunday night weekly updates for information about these services.

### Arts and Music

### Arts at Plymouth Crestone Artist Presentations at Opening Reception

Arts at Plymouth is opening its 2011-12 season with an art exhibit that features three guest speakers at the opening night reception in the Narthex and Conversation Area from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9. Guest speakers are Bailey Phelps, Cherokee storyteller, Lorain Fox Davis, who will present Chief Arvol Looking Horse's message from the 2011 Peace and Prayer Day, and Tessa Bielecki, Christian mystic and co-director of The Desert Foundation in Crestone, Colorado, whose message is titled *Reweaving Hope in an Unraveling World*.

The artwork on display in the Narthex from September 9 through October 9 is a traveling exhibit that features the work of ten Crestone artists including JoAnne Kiser and Shahna Lax, who exhibited with us last spring. Please join us the evening of September 9 to meet the artists, listen to the presenters, and enjoy some light refreshments. This promises to be an exciting and thought-provoking experience. Come and see what it's all about!



*Voices of the Silent Moment*  
by Safiya Balekian

### Bells, Bells, Bells

You are invited to become better acquainted with the set of handbells and handchimes that belong to First Plymouth. On Sunday, September 11, following the 10:00 a.m. service, come to Plymouth Hall to see the bells and chimes up close, ring if you like, and hear a report from Gwen Blumenschein, director of the handbell ensembles at FPC, on the Handbell Musicians of American Seminar she attended in July. Her trip to the Seminar was funded by a grant from our Endowment Committee, and she would like to share some of what she learned with the congregation.

### September Lectionary Texts

Sept. 4	<b>Exodus 12:1-14</b>	Psalm 149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 11	Exodus 14:19-31	Psalm 114	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 18	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept. 25	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

## Moderator's Corner



A major objective of the Council this year is to communicate more effectively who we are and what we're doing. One way we will do this is by wearing special white name buttons and providing you with pictures of us all so you will really, really know who we are (see page 12).

Good communication always goes in both directions. Please, if you have concerns or questions about our work on the congregation's behalf, communicate with us by talking or e-mailing. Our names will be in the Sunday worship bulletin each week, and we are in the directory.

Our first formal communication project will be to tell you about the ENDS that we created last year. In our system of governance, the ENDS (don't ask me why the word is capitalized) express our aspirations for ourselves as a church community.

Here is the preamble to the ENDS and the first one, beginning with an overarching statement:

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. We will be...

END 2.1A **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

I hope you'll spend some time with these statements. When you read the statements in this END, what jumps out at you? What stirs something in you?

Where have you seen these in actions at First Plymouth? Where do you think we could bring them to life more fully in our community and in the world? I would love to hear from you.

This year the Council will be learning more about using *discernment* as a process for carrying out First Plymouth's mission in a spiritually grounded way. Discernment originated in 1641 with the Quakers; it's been continually practiced by Quakers and other spiritual seekers ever since. Its essence is listening—listening to and for the Spirit with its leadings and promptings for us and the church; and listening to each other as sources and channels of divine wisdom.

I hope that you as individuals and we as a community will practice listening for the Spirit's guidance and leadings as well. As we make major decisions in the next few years, it will be critical to come to understand where God is leading us. We are God's people and God *is* leading us. How do you make time to listen to God? How do you find the stillness in which God's voice can be heard?

Peg Thompson  
[moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:moderator@firstplymouthchurch.org)

### Carole Makes It Official

Although it has not been a secret, Carole Westphal, First Plymouth's Director of Administration, is officially announcing her retirement, effective no later than February 1, 2012. She has held that position for nearly four years, after coming to the church on a 90-day consulting gig right after Thanksgiving in 2007. Carole plans to become a full-time RV'er for a couple of years, touring around the US and Canada in a Tiger ([tigermotorhomes.com](http://tigermotorhomes.com) if you want to know more).

If you would like to be considered for the Director of Administration position (known with a hint of tongue in cheek as the DOA), or if you know of someone who might be a candidate, please let either Carole or George know. It is full time, with a starting salary range from \$40,000 to \$50,000 depending on knowledge and experience. A list of job duties is available from Carole. Her departure time is flexible, should the right candidate emerge prior to January 1, when a one-month orientation and training overlap period is currently scheduled to begin.

Contact Carole at [cwestphal@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:cwestphal@firstplymouthchurch.org) or George Anastos at [ganastos@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:ganastos@firstplymouthchurch.org), or corral one of them in the hallway on Sunday morning to find out more, identify a potential candidate, or express your own interest in the position.



We were so fortunate this summer to participate in our Summer Sunday school program, Stained Glass Riches, led by Berkeley and Janet Rich as they taught us about our historic stained glass windows that were so lovingly restored and are on display here at First Plymouth. Thanks Berkeley and Janet – you're the BEST!

I am looking forward to forming a family fellowship group geared towards families with children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under, but all will be welcome! The group could start by planning an activity each quarter with maybe a Fall Harvest Fair to start. There will be an introductory meeting to discuss how we would like to organize the group, what kind of activities we want to do, and for you to share your thoughts. I hope to see you all in the CE Center after the worship service on Sunday, September 11. Your children can join us or attend the Arts and Crafts class while we meet.

The CE Center and Resource Room has been organized and cleaned up so everything will be easier to find. We in Children's Ministries LOVE to share but in the last year some of our materials have gone missing. As a result, we have instituted a check out and in system for borrowing our supplies. On the cabinet in the CE Center, you will find a sheet to sign if you need to borrow anything like our pillows, markers, glue guns, or whatever you might need. This will help us keep track of where our supplies and materials are. Thanks!

## Children's Programs

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

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and that Fall officially arrives on September 23! As we gear up for football season and help settle the children back in school after their summer break it's time for us to start our new year of Sunday school with our September 11 kickoff. The Early Childhood children will report directly to Room B26 and the Elementary kids to the CE Center. Parents, remember that you need to sign your child in and out of their Sunday school class every week. No child will be allowed to leave class until their parent has signed them out.

Caitlin Boykin, our nursery manager, will be running an Arts and Crafts class again this year from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The Early Childhood children will again be using Cokesbury's *Rock Solid*, a curriculum that both teachers and children enjoy. Almost all our Early Childhood teachers are returning this year so thanks to you all!!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Children Will Learn...</i>	<i>Bible Verse</i>
9/11	Abraham and Lot Live Peacefully	...God wants us to live peacefully with our families	Genesis 13:1-18
9/18	Isaac Is Born	...God Keeps Promises	Genesis 15:5-6, 21:1-17
9/25	Isaac Marries Rebekah	...when we follow God's call, we are blessed	Genesis 24

The Elementary children will use Wood Lake Publishing's *Seasons of the Spirit*.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Worship Emphasis</i>	<i>Bible Verse</i>
9/11	Land Sunday	To affirm and partner with God's redeeming presence in land both sacred and scarred.	Psalms 139:7-12
9/18	Wilderness/Outback Sunday	To listen in and to the wild, and yearn with hope for the birth of a new creation.	Romans 8:18-27
9/25	River Sunday	To flow in the life-giving river of the Spirit and bear witness to creation renewed.	Revelation 22:1-5

**WE NEED YOU!!** Have you signed up to teach yet? Laurie Klisaris has the honor of being the first person to sign up to teach our elementary kids this year – thanks, Laurie!! Please contact Noanie if you can give a three week commitment to help our children on their spiritual journey.

Do you love holding babies or reading to toddlers? If you answered YES, then we need your loving presence in the nursery helping with our youngest members. We are looking for one or more individuals to help the third Sunday of the month, the occasional fifth Sunday of the month, and to substitute when our regular volunteers are sick. If you can help us on a regular basis or an occasional Sunday, please let Noanie know.

Anyone working with our kids must attend Boundary Training once a year. The next Boundary Training is on September 18 in Plymouth Hall. Boundary Training sessions will be held third Sunday of each month, except November and December.

## Adult Education & Spiritual Formation

### Minister's Class Redux

If you missed the minister's class at Community Camp this year, it's back by popular demand! The Rev. Eric Smith led the group in a discussion of early Christianity – its contexts, struggles, crises, controversies, and triumphs. The class was well-attended, and those who were able to come have said that they learned a lot and would like to see it offered to the church as a whole. We'll meet from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on three Wednesdays in September.

- September 14** Jewish and Roman Backgrounds of Early Christianity, and Urban Christianity  
**September 21** Rolls, Scrolls, and Codices: Early Christian Text Production  
**September 28** Christianity Arrives: The Constantinian Shift

If you've ever wanted to know more about where Christianity got started, who decided what's in the Bible, what kind of lives early Christians lived, or how to read a Greek papyrus document, come and find out at this class!

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

As you know, First Plymouth is leading a trip to Italy this November. Whether you're going on the trip or not, 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. We'll proceed chronologically, beginning with typical life in the Roman Empire (exemplified in Pompeii), continuing up through the triumph of the church and its establishment as a ruling body (exemplified in Rome and the Vatican), and into the Byzantine period (St. Mark's in Venice). Along the way we'll learn about the sites the group will visit in November, preview much of the art and architecture we will encounter, and give context to the importance of a great many iconic landmarks.

- 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** The 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.



### China Travelogue and Photos

Our own Chad Robinson has just returned from an extended trip to China. Join him on Sunday September 18, in the Commons Room to see photos from his trip and hear stories of his time in China. The program will begin at 11:15 a.m.

### Healing Touch Group

To start the “new year” of the Healing Touch Group, we will watch a DVD of Sue Hovland explaining what Healing Touch is. We will then practice and review the “*Whole Body Clearing*,” which includes pain, emotional, and the whole energy field. We also will address specific problems. We will meet on Thursday, September 8, in the Columbine Room at 6:30 p.m. We welcome newcomers as well as returning friends. See you in September. Questions?? Call Dianne Hornbrook at 303-757-6996.

### Women's Cancer Support Group

We will meet Monday, September 19, at 10 a.m. in the Commons Room. If you have been diagnosed with cancer or if you are a survivor, you are welcome to join us.



*The Coliseum in Rome*



*An Amphitheater in Pompeii*



### 2011 Alternative Gift Market Is Coming

The First Plymouth Alternative Gift Market (AGM), sponsored by the Outreach Ministry and Whole Earth, returns on a NEW DATE this year. On December 3 and 4 we will once again provide a venue for holiday shoppers to purchase fair trade, ecological gifts that will promote human dignity and social justice for those in need.

The success of this event depends on the generous gifts of time and creative energies given by many individuals and groups at First Plymouth. Planning for the AGM has already begun and there are places for many volunteers to join the fun and excitement. Would you like to sell products from the Women's Bean Project, help our FP children make a mission project, provide food for the vendors, work with the silent auction, help with publicity, share a new idea? Please plan to offer your time and talents to help make our 2011 Alternative Gift Market a success.

Watch the newsletters and Sunday bulletins for 'dessert meetings' and come join the fun! For more information contact Amy Turner or Steve Calhoun at [fpc.agm@gmail.com](mailto:fpc.agm@gmail.com) or sign up for the First Plymouth wiki to keep tabs on what is going on.

## Outreach / Mission

### LOFT: Come Join Us this Fall!

A big focus of LOFT this past spring was establishing a new partnership with DICP at College View and planning a monthly community brunch. Our first brunch was held in April and they have continued throughout the summer each month on the third Saturday. At July's brunch, we had a fun-filled carnival for kids with a cake walk, face painting and lots more. Thank you to all First Plymouth members that have become a part of this wonderful new community that merges a neighborhood in need with our own church family. We have had a faithful group of volunteers each month and see a few new faces each time. We encourage everyone to come out and join us for a Saturday morning – you'll want to keep coming back each month. The brunch is the third Saturday of each month. Come help set up at 9:00 a.m., eat brunch from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and then join in a fun activity from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Everyone welcome! Watch the weekly emails for the theme and donation needs for upcoming brunches.



### *Upcoming LOFT Projects:*

#### **September 24**

Joint Project with Whole Earth: Annual South Platte River Sweep

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Join us for a morning of clean up, ending with lunch!

#### **October 8**

Gleaning with FoodWorks Colorado

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This was one of last year's greatest projects! Come join us to harvest leftover food from local fields to help fight hunger.

#### **November 22**

Thanksgiving Meal with DICP College View

Evening meal – time yet to be determined

Last year was the first year we organized a free Thanksgiving meal at First Plymouth. It was a great success and this year we're moving it to the College View neighborhood, just 10 minutes away as part of our new partnership with this working poor community.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Heather Greenwood at [hgreenwood@comcast.net](mailto:hgreenwood@comcast.net) or 720-308-2360. We are always looking for new people to initiate family-friendly projects that will help us live out our faith beyond the walls of First Plymouth.

# Outreach / Mission

## Community Life Corner Meeting Jesus on the Journey Luke 24:13-35

I've always loved the story of the disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaeus. It reminds me that I never know when I'm going to encounter Jesus. The setting is just after the resurrection. These are ordinary disciples walking from Jerusalem where all the events of the crucifixion had occurred, to Emmaeus, maybe where they lived. While they were walking they talked about all the things that had happened in Jerusalem just a few days before, the way we would discuss a surprising occurrence in our own lives with a friend as we sat and had coffee.

The singular detail that makes this a story about hospitality and discernment is that the disciples were joined by a stranger who didn't seem to know about what had just happened. So they began to tell him. Apparently it was a long story because it took them the distance to Emmaeus to tell it. They had just finished when they arrived at the place

where they were staying. Jesus started off down the road, but they invited him to spend the evening and night with them because it was so late. Jesus came in with them, sat down at the table, took some bread, broke it, blessed it and gave it to them.

Does that sound familiar? It's what we do when we serve communion. We take bread, break it, bless it, and give it. But for these disciples, it was Jesus

who took break, broke bread, blessed it, and gave it. Just an ordinary meal, shared with companions on the journey. And that's when they discerned that their traveling companion was the resurrected Jesus. He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus is made known to us, not just at communion, which is what that meal is all about, ritualized as it is, but also when we break bread together, here, at home, at Panera's or anywhere else we may be with our friends. If you look at welcoming the stranger this way, you'll realize that Jesus is made known to us when we break bread with the strangers who enter our doors at First Plymouth. It may seem a bit pedestrian after the lofty experience the two Emmaeus travelers had to suggest that when you invite a stranger to have coffee with you, or invite them to share a meal with you, that's when Jesus is very likely to show up – when you break bread together.

Judith Clausen, Chair  
Ministry of Community Life (Fellowship & Parish Life)



## Rwanda Just So You Know

The Rwanda Committee will announce some definite plans for this fall's fund-raising campaign by the time of the next newsletter. This much we know already:

- We're about to receive 17 large new photographs taken by Jon Wallen during a recent visit to Kenombe Village
- We'll soon have a new videotape telling the story of our involvement in the project to date
- Kathy Anastos and Jon Wallen and their daughter Rebecca plan to visit us again this year.

We look forward to continuing our work with this worthwhile project!

## Can Do Sunday Is Every Sunday in September!

Metro CareRing is the Share the Plate recipient for September, so we'll have the Can Do cart available every Sunday all month long for your donations. We hope that you will be generous with both the offering plate and your food contributions in this time of particular need for so many families.





## New Members and Habitat Brunch

**Sunday, September 25  
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Come to the church early on Sunday, September 25, and let Men's Fellowship cook brunch for you. This will also be an opportunity to meet our new members. Proceeds will be donated to Loaves and Fishes/Habitat for Humanity to help fund First Plymouth's participation in house #13 (see article to the right for a progress report—it's coming along nicely).



## Speaking of New Members

We will receive new members into our congregation on Sunday, September 25. For more information, please contact Nanette or Terry in Pastoral Care.

# Outreach / Mission

## Habitat Happenings It's Beginning to Look Like a House!

Work is well under way on the Habitat for Humanity house sponsored by Loaves and Fishes, the church coalition in which we take part. It's exciting to see the changes on what was a bare lot just a few weeks ago! The roof of Ali and Kamila's home at 800 South Patton Court is on, the house is closed in, and things will really move now as we start to finish the interior – we are getting way ahead of schedule!

The schedule for Team 2, which is First Plymouth's team, is:

Thursday, September 1  
Saturday, September 10  
Friday, September 16  
Thursday, September 22  
Saturday, October 1

If you can spend a day as a volunteer, call Bruce Thumm at 303-905-2225. If you can help us cover the construction costs, contact Arlene Hutchinson at 303-756-4367 or Stan Harwood at 303-770-3387. Thanks for all you've done and continue to do!



*Putting in the windows on August 11*



*Roger Diggle on the roof,  
working on the windows  
(in the photo to the left as well)*



*Jack Cattell  
on a high ladder*



*Carole Westphal  
(on a short ladder!)*

# Fellowship

## Travel Club Saturday, September 10

Have you ever passed a recreational vehicle on the road and thought, "Wonder what it would be like to explore the country like that?" Our own Neil and Jill Bachman followed their dreams and did just that. Now is your chance not only to learn about living in an RV but also to visit many western parks via pictures. The Bachmans will share with us their trips to Yellowstone, Yosemite, Death Valley, and other wonderful and scenic places, as well as how their marriage survived living for months in 200 square feet.

Travel Club will meet Saturday, September 10, in the Commons Room. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. Barbecue, a Bachman RV staple, will be provided. For those who wish to come to the potluck dinner, please bring your own table settings and if your last name starts A-G, please bring a dessert H-P a side dish, and Q-Z a salad. Please RSVP to Nancy Joe Shaw at 303-979-5927 or [nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjoeshaw@comcast.net).

## Community Camp

Many thanks to Tricia Springer for putting together such a wonderful community camp in July. Every camper there did indeed "grow in our garden" and a wonderful time was had by all. There were 115 campers there for the duration and many folks who came down for a night, a meal, or for the talent show. We had a great time with traditional camp activities such as the square dance and bottle rocket launches, and tried some new activities such as Minute To Win It night, Movies Under the Stars, and a drum circle that made the very forest ring. We had a large number of first time campers and we hope they plan on coming back next year!

Please make sure and mark your calendars for Community Camp 2012; the dates are July 22 through July 28. For members of First Plymouth who have not experienced community camp, it is a wonderful experience and has a way of bringing folks together. Lifelong friends and memories are made, and we hope you can be there next summer.

Humbly Yours in Christ,  
Dean Jason Spillman and Co-Dean Erika Henkart



## Fellowship of the Grape Returns September 24

On Saturday, September 24, beginning at 6:00 p.m., you're invited (if you're over 21) to the third Fellowship of the Grape, a gathering of First Plymouth members and friends over wine, appetizers and music. Our third event will be a fall theme. Guests will bring a bottle of their favorite wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverage plus appetizers to share. Child care will be provided, but please RSVP to Noanie Geistert at [fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org) so we'll know how many children to plan for.

The first two Fellowship of the Grape gatherings in February and May were great! Help make our third event even better—we've planned it just for you!





## Fellowship

### First Plymouth Women's Fellowship Bridge Marathon

We congratulate our friends and winners for 2010-2011: Nancy Dean and Shirley Stotko in first place, and Mary McDaniel and Hatsy Strong in second place. We also thank the other five couples who played this year. It was fun!

After much consideration and conversation, we have decided to disband our Women's Fellowship Bridge Marathon. It is down to five very loyal couples.

Back in the 80's, our congregation was 1300-plus members. The first year that I was Women's Fellowship president, I felt there was a need to start a group where women could come together in one another's homes and get better acquainted. Many other women's organizations in the metro area were doing bridge marathons with great success. Voilà! In the fall of 1983, we started with 32 women in two flights who played once a month in one another's homes. We grew to nearly 60 players and culminated the year each May with a luncheon and big bridge party at church so all could meet one another again. Lots of fun! Lots of good food!



Each gal pledged \$10 a year to First Plymouth's Women's Fellowship. Over the last 28 years we have given nearly \$10,000 that was used for kitchen supplies, new blinds, curtains, carpeting, and miscellaneous needs around the church.

Many friendships and close friends were made during these years. Barbara Lahey, who passed away this spring, for years did our scheduling of games and hostesses – a BIG JOB – and how she LOVED to play bridge. We all miss her.

Due to illness, deaths, moving, and the fact in our younger gal members there are not as many bridge players, regrettably the time has come for the Marathon to come to a close. We are down to 5 couples. Knowing that good friends have been made, lots of good food shared, and lots of good and not so good bridge has been played. It was fun! Thanks to everyone!



### Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, September 10, at 7:30 a.m. is the next Men's Fellowship Breakfast (we had to cancel a couple this past summer due to lack of cooks). Our speaker will be Polly Reetz, a member of Audubon Society of Greater Denver and its legislative liaison. She will discuss the proposed increases in the level of Chatfield Reservoir, which will flood most of the riparian areas of the reservoir, as well as many of the recreational areas.

Breakfast will be prepared by two members, and we always have great talk around the table. All FP men, are invited. No RSVP is needed. For more information, contact Fletcher Brown at [brownsinco@gmail.com](mailto:brownsinco@gmail.com).

### Thursday Afternoon Circle

The Thursday Afternoon Circle will meet on September 8 in the Commons Room. The program will be impersonator Phyllis Woodward speaking as Helen Bonfils. All women of First Plymouth are invited. Refreshments will be at 1:00 p.m. and the program at 1:30 p.m. Please call Phyllis Rigsby at 303-693-0187 if you would like to attend.

# Fellowship

## Obstacles Fail to Stop 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Road Trip (Part II of a Two-Part Series)

by Craig Eley



*(In Part I, the men traveled from Colorado to South Dakota, stopping at Pawnee Buttes and Carhenge along the way. After visiting Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and Custer State Park, the group rendezvoused with a friend of Craig Eley's for dinner in a beautiful mountain setting.)*

Sunday morning greeted us with pouring rain, so we took shelter in a cave. We drove a half-hour west of Custer to Jewel Cave National Monument, arriving at 9:00 a.m., but it was such a popular attraction on that soggy day that we could only buy tickets for the 2 p.m. tour. We decided to use the intervening time to visit Cabela's, a sporting goods and hunting store in Rapid City. We enjoyed perusing the delights of this large establishment (it features an aquarium of American game fish) and had lunch there before returning to Jewel Cave.

Jewel Cave, with 150 miles of passages discovered thus far, is the second longest cave in the world. An elevator delivered us deep into the earth for our ranger-led tour, which only traverses a half mile loop of the cave. While the dimensions of the cave are impressive, the formations that can be seen on the tour will strike one who has been in other caves (such as Carlsbad or Glenwood Caverns) as ordinary. The 1200-acre park above the cave offers hiking and bird-watching, but due to the weather we did not explore those options.

After the spelunking, we went back to our rooms for rest or reading. Some, however, explored the burg of Custer and found a casino. They went in, only to learn that the casino was no longer in business. The bar, however, remained, and as luck would have it they had arrived during happy hour. So they felt that the neighborly thing to do was to contribute a little to the Custer economy on that drizzly afternoon.

We all got together for dinner that night at the Dakota Cowboy restaurant in Custer. As the conversation roamed from one topic to another, Mark Westlund remarked that former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney had no pulse. We weren't sure whether this bald assertion was politically or physiologically based, and Mark wasn't much help in clearing it up. An animated discussion ensued, and the argument did not end until Sam Robinson pulled out his smart phone, surfed the web, and found a *Popular Science* article which explained that the veep has an implanted ventricular assist device which spins blood through his heart in a continuous flow, thus eliminating the thump-thump action which causes the human pulse. Finally, peace prevailed at the table, at least for a brief time.

The weather was iffy on Monday morning – cold, windy and threatening rain again. We took a chance that conditions would be better in Wyoming and decided to visit Devil's Tower. We made a fuel stop in Sundance, Wyoming, and were greeted with heavy fog and the news that the route to Devil's Tower had been blocked by a landslide. We had to take a long detour, but we finally arrived at the Tower, which looked like a Pawnee Butte on steroids. The weather was beautiful once again, and we hiked around the base of the Tower, which is a plug of cooled volcanic magma from which the surrounding sandstone was eroded away.



A young park ranger named Elizabeth Anderson was anxious to tell us a story about the monument, so we assembled before her on log benches. She enthusiastically related how, in 1941, a daredevil parachuted onto the top of the Tower and was stranded there for 6 days. The story caught the nation's eye, and it was front page news for a week. Thousands came to the Monument to witness the rescue operations, and it put Devil's Tower on the map. The parachutist was rescued without injury and the publicity was great for Devil's Tower. We questioned Elizabeth a bit,

and learned that she had graduated from college the week before and that this was her second day on the job. We assured her, as we did the clerk at Carhenge, that it would only get better.

The drive back to Denver was long. We stopped for a late lunch at Remy's Diner in Upton, Wyoming, a very pleasant family restaurant where Roger Diggle attempted, earnestly but ultimately unsuccessfully, to explain the game of cricket. Once we arrived at I-25, the Wyoming wind started buffeting us. Signs on the highway warned of winds up to 65 miles per hour and prohibited high profile, light vehicles from driving the highway. Those in the van agreed that while it had a fairly high profile, the number of men in it probably prevented it from qualifying as "light." The punishing wind abated once we got to Ft. Collins, and we arrived at the First Plymouth parking lot about 9:30 p.m., a little tired, but looking forward to Road Trip number nine!

## Church Council 2011-2012



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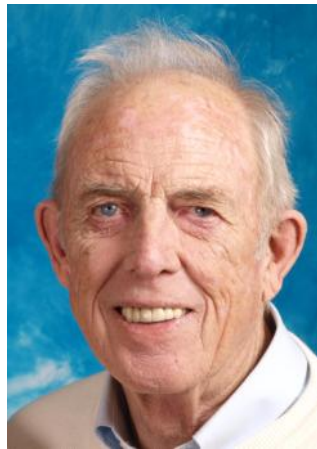
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The First Plymouth Church Council is the general policy-making body of the church. It is representative of and accountable to the church membership, and is responsible for:

- executive and organizational performance
- the fiscal stability of the church, its budget, and the effective management of church resources
- the integrity of church operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- the long-term viability and strategic direction of the church
- deliberate and regular communication with church membership and staff

## In Other News...

### Tales from the Archives

New material has recently arrived in the church archives and among the treasures were the answers to questions raised in 2008 concerning the First Plymouth Steinway piano. We knew in 2008 that the piano rolled off the factory floor at Steinway on November 28, 1924. We also knew from Steinway records that the piano was sold on January 9, 1925, to Mrs. Charlotte Mason in Brooklyn, New York. It is a matter of church record that the piano was donated to First Plymouth in 1999 on the death of David Carpenter, a former member of First Plymouth. What we didn't know was the connection between Mrs. Mason and David Carpenter and how the piano got to Denver. New material to the archives connected the dots.



Mrs. Mason sold the piano in 1938 to Eleanor Drake for \$400. Miss Drake later married David Carpenter and in the 1970's they moved to Denver and became members of First Plymouth. Eleanor died in 1989 and David remarried and returned to New Jersey where he later passed away. In the papers containing this new information is a copy of the original 1925 Steinway sales ticket showing that the piano originally sold for \$1,800. To purchase a similar Steinway today would cost around \$70,000.

**A special archives event next month:** Save Sunday, October 23, the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Plymouth Congregational Church – Archivist Don Zeller is preparing a display of some of the interesting artifacts from the church archives. They will be in the Covenant Room before and after the 10:00 a.m. worship service that day. Don't miss this chance to see some of our history for yourself!

### Whole Earth News

**Faith in Action:** Saturday, September 24

Everyone is invited to join LOFT and Whole Earth as we **Live Our Faith Together** for the South Platte River Sweep from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Bring a pair of work gloves and a water bottle and participate in this hands-on work event, which is a part of National Public Lands Day and the Ocean Conservancy's Inter Coastal Clean Up. Check in is at Habitat Park, 610 South Jason Street in Denver. For more information contact Paul Erickson at [paulerickson@live.com](mailto:paulerickson@live.com) or call 303-254-7485.

**October Christian Education Series:** 8:45 a.m. in the Commons Room

Whole Earth will host a 5-week series during the CE hour. Week 1 is a conversation about Whole Earth 2.0 led by Rev. Peter Sawtell from Eco-Justice Ministries. See upcoming newsletters, bulletins and weekly updates for more information on additional offerings during the month.

**Whole Earth Study Group:** Several members of the Whole Earth Group, along with others from the congregation, began meeting this summer to explore how to bring the theological values of creation care and eco-justice in to our worship and congregational life in deeper and more meaningful ways. The work of the Study Group will be ongoing, and we'll be meeting with Rev. George Anastos this fall. Contact Jan McCoy at [mccoy@ecentral.com](mailto:mccoy@ecentral.com) if you're interested or have questions.



### September Birthday Wishes...

#### ...to Our Seniors

- 9/3 Alice Ellis
- 9/3 Merry Low
- 9/3 Oren Moore
- 9/8 Jane Nielsen
- 9/12 David Choate
- 9/12 Dorothy Rupel
- 9/13 Judith Scharf
- 9/15 Bruce Evans
- 9/16 Warren White
- 9/17 Malcolm Stevenson
- 9/25 Jean Smock
- 9/27 Vesta Giltner
- 9/30 Peggy LaTourrette

#### ...and to Our Children

- 9/2 Elizabeth Earley
- 9/2 Ian Spillman
- 9/5 Kate Serio
- 9/7 Alexis Ruhnnow
- 9/11 Lex Graham
- 9/12 Inga Erickson
- 9/12 Zachary Asphaug
- 9/13 Mia Baud
- 9/15 Zachary Robinson
- 9/22 Cameron Calhoun
- 9/24 Madeline Harding
- 9/24 Peter Hovland



# We Are The Church Together

## Around the Parish

**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.

**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.

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

## Something to Think About

- **Guest:** a person who is given hospitality.
- **Visitor:** a person who goes to a place for the purpose of inspecting or examining.

As Gary McIntosh writes in his book *Beyond the First Visit*, there is a difference between a visitor and a guest. "Visitors are often unwanted; guests are expected. Visitors just show up; guests are invited. Visitors are expected to leave; guests are expected to stay. Visitors come one time; guests return again."

As members of the body of Christ, we want everyone who walks through our doors to feel like our guests, to experience our love and to become a part of this community. Each of us can make a difference to those who walk through our doors by the simple act of thinking about each person as our guest: Something to Think About.

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

## Joys & Concerns

**Colin Hill** completed another surgery on August 11 to repair his neck, which was broken in a hockey game last year.

**Anita Mast's** 16 year old niece Rachel Latham, who has been living with cystic fibrosis, received a double lung transplant July 31 and is doing well. The family also asks for your prayers for the family of the 13-year-old boy who donated his lungs.

**Ardy Craig Cowperthwaite** and her husband **Kit**, are happy to announce that Ardy has retired from the travel business. Ardy worked in the travel industry for 40 years and owned and managed her own firm for the last 20 years. Ardy and Kit look forward to traveling after they enjoy the summer and fall in Colorado.

**Phyllis (Phyll) Porter**, who had been a member of our First Plymouth family since 1949, died peacefully on July 30. The family requests that anyone who knew Phyll send a letter with some memory about her to her husband **Dan** so that it can be compiled into a book to be used at her memorial service, which is yet to be scheduled. Please keep Dan and their children: JoAnne Kiser, Will Porter, Marian Samuelson, Evelyn Hirschberger, and Amy Plummer in your prayers.

The Reverend Dr. Clyde H. Miller, Jr. died July 16. Clyde served as the UCC Rocky Mountain Conference Minister from 1980 through the early 1990's. A service celebrating his life and ministry was held on August 5. Those wishing to send cards and notes to the Miller family can do so to: Eva Miller, Claire, Joy and their families, at 175 South Jasmine Street, Denver, CO 80224.

The **Hill Family**, Colin, Mackenzie, and **Tam**, celebrated the life of Ron Hill, Colin and Mackenzie's father, on August 6. Ron was killed in an ATV accident on July 16.

**Laura Bauman** is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor. You can

follow Laura's journey on her Caring Bridge page at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/laurabauman>. If you are able to help with meals for her family, please sign up at [www.my.calendars.net/baumanhelp/](http://www.my.calendars.net/baumanhelp/).

**Anita White** and her family are asking for prayers for her 13-year-old granddaughter, Lauren Wilson, who is recovering at the Eating Recovery Center for Adolescents in Denver.

**Lewis** and **Rose Moyer** celebrate 59 years of marriage on September 29. They are grateful for all the years, for their three children, David, Susan, and Deborah, and for four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Faye Carey**, a 64-year-member of our First Plymouth family, died on August 9 in Louisville, where she had moved to be near her daughter Cindy. Faye was active in our choir for more than 40 years and in several community singing groups. Her memorial service will be Saturday, September 24, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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** 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 prayer. 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. Prayer requests can be made anonymously.

# Contact Information



## COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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**Fellowship & Parish Life**  
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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](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/Firstplymouth)**

## First Plymouth Staff 303-762-0616

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

Frank Perko III  
**Director of Music**

Gwen Blumenschein  
**Associate Director of Music**

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

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**Parish Visitor**

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Sue Armour  
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**Communications Coordinator**

Don McLean  
**Facilities Manager**  
Ralph Basquez, **Custodian**  
Robert Basquez, **Custodian**

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

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



## The Back Page

The Newsletter Deadline for the October Issue is  
**Saturday, September 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 and Marion Taylor, Jerre Wilson, and Claire Yetter.

**Church Office Volunteers:** Betsy Lewis, Kari Collins, Dalyce Due, Myra Kolditz, Ethel Benish, Marilyn Mattson, Jane Hall, Shirley Brozowski, Nancy Cole, and Carolyn Weaver.

**Sunday Office Volunteers:** Phyllis Rigsby, Anne Singh, Bobbie Drennen, and Kathy Whitney

**Sanctuary Straighteners:** Fred Fowler, and Marion and Jim Woodward

**Flower Arrangers:** Jan Spomer, Heidi Stevenson, Ann Lane, and Lynn Replinger

**DVD Maker:** Alan Long

**Music Librarians:** Heidi Thomas and Alan Long

**Archivist and Historian:** Don Zeller

**Data Base 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.

### A Note of Appreciation

Dear Members of the First Plymouth Family,

On August 14 of last year we received the news that Laura had cancer. In the year since then we have been so blessed by the caring, love and prayers of the members of First Plymouth. We cannot imagine what it would have been like with out the meals, rides, and help with so many mundane and special tasks that so many of you have helped us with this year. It has been a year of ups and downs and through it all we have felt the love of your prayers and encouragement.

Thank you and God bless you all,  
 Laura Bauman and Steve, Miles, and Schuyler Wilson

### Flu Shot Clinic

The Front Range Flu Shot will provide immunizations at First Plymouth on Sunday, Sept. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Bride's Room. Cost is \$26 for a flu shot and \$32 for the FluMist Nasal Spray. Some insurance plans are accepted. To reserve your spot, contact Pastoral Care at [pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org) or call the church office at 303-762-0616.



### Gwen Blumenschein Announces Resignation

Gwen Blumenschein, who has served First Plymouth so faithfully as Associate Director of Music since 2007, has announced her resignation, effective September 15. Gwen will be taking her considerable skills to another church as their music director, and we will miss her as part of the First Plymouth team. We wish Gwen all the best in her new endeavor!