

Sunday School Resumes!

Join us for Sunday School at 10:00 am this Sunday, September 13. The Focus Program begins for students in grades 2-7. Thank you to the Sunday School Head Teachers and Focus Leaders for leading our children and youth in faith formation this year. One additional 2nd/3rd grade co-head teacher is needed. Please contact Jennifer Sluke if you are interested in this opportunity: jsluke@plymouthchurchseattle.org.

Crib: Karen Gwilym, Ingrid Riley

Toddler: Carol Mooney

Preschool: Carol Jackson

K/1: Jon Daniel, Ian Cox

2/3: Heather Hanson, TBD

4/5: Barbara Staley, Jane Dunkel

6/7: Robin Mallory, Robert Neer

8: Bruce Lamb, Doug Stultz, Kris Ostrem

YF: Cory Maclay

Focus Leaders: Ann Allen, Heather Hawkins Weinland

Change Grants: A New Thing That Needs Your Thoughts and Hopes!

This fall marks a huge new opportunity for the people of Plymouth to engage with the wider community: the awarding of Plymouth's first **Change Grant**, a three-year, \$100,000 partnership with a social justice organization.

From a strong field of sixteen applicants, the Community Service & Social Action Board is delighted to announce these six potential partners:

Casa Latina, providing training, English lessons, and support for day workers and their families; **Church of Mary Magdalene/Mary's Place**, a day shelter and spiritual community for homeless women and children; **Jubilee Women's Center**, a transitional housing and services provider for formerly homeless women; **NW Detention Center Roundtable**, which helps detainees and their families and advocates for balanced immigration policies; **Recovery Café**, a therapeutic community for people suffering from addiction and mental illness; and **Seattle Youth Garden Works**, giving at-risk Seattle high schoolers job skills through working an urban farm.

Now, we need your input. The applications are available on the Plymouth website and in the Library. Let CSSA know your thoughts at listening sessions between and after services on September 13 and 20. You can also e-mail your input to Jennifer Castle in the office or see the Plymouth website or application binder for names and information of the Board members. The final selection will be announced October 31.

—Community Service and Social Action Board

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Conflict and Reconciliation The Samaritan Center is offering a seminar for churches and clergy on "Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation" to be held at Plymouth on September 25 and 26. \$95.00 per person. Registration deadline is September 17. Go to www.samaritanps.org

Used Car Wanted A friend of Plymouth is seeking to purchase a reliable used car, small to mid-size preferred. She is currently unemployed and is looking to negotiate a "win-win" agreement. Please contact Nancy Parker at 561/373-2474.

Calling All Members! There are senior members in our church who are looking for able drivers to occasionally help them with transportation to enjoy the beautiful parks in our city and state. If you ever wonder who you can help enjoy God's good creation, please let the office know and we can make the connection for you.

We Remember Timmie Squire, who joined Plymouth in 1979, and who died in Oklahoma in August. Timmie was very active on the Plymouth Library Committee, in Women's Fellowship activities and in the Peace Action Group.

Volume 48 Number 2
September 9, 2009

Plymouth Herald

1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

TEL 206.622.4865
plymouthchurchseattle.org

This Sunday at Plymouth September 13, 2009

Regular Program Schedule Resumes

Worship Services at **8:30 a.m.** in the Chapel and **11:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary
"Come go with us!"
The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers

9:15 a.m. Children and Youth Choir,
Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Plymouth Forum, *Joel Connelly*
of *SeattlePI.com*, Hildebrand Hall

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Neighborhood Networks
Coordinators Training, Room 225

10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Chapel

12:00 p.m. Caring for Parents Support
Group, Library

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour,
Hildebrand Hall

12:30 p.m. Peace Action Group, Room 321

Music for September 13

Prelude: *Psalm and Dance*
David Evan Thomas
(Madeline Beery, flute)

Offertory: *I want Jesus to Walk with Me*
Lloyd Larson

Postlude: *Suite* (mvt. 1)
Claude Bolling

Hymns: 198, 607, 573

Plymouth Forum *Joel Connelly*

We are fortunate to have long-time *Seattle PI* columnist and photographer Joel Connelly with us as we kick off the fall forum series.



Photo from
SeattlePI.com

Mayor Greg Nickels has conceded and two candidates with opposing philosophies will be on the fall ballot. The contest for County Executive is a race between county insider Dow Constantine and outsider Susan Hutchinson. Tim Eyman's ballot initiative reducing property taxes has qualified and the debate over its effects has begun. R-71, which would repeal Washington's domestic partnership law, may make the November ballot.

As Connelly says in his most recent posting on *SeattlePI.com*, "Lawyering over R-71 is already underway. It promises to get furious." The November election could be one of the most interesting we've had in Seattle and King County in many years.

Joel has been a columnist for the *Seattle PI* and *SeattlePI.com* for 33 years and provides regular analysis of the political scene. He is an outdoor enthusiast and traveler, and has written articles on everything from politics to hiking in the Northwest.

Please join us this Sunday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. in Hildebrand Hall as Joel Connelly gives his analysis of the recent elections and a preview of November's elections.

Pastoral Musings



Please plan to join us on September 13 as we begin the new program year. On September 13 my sermon theme will be "Come go with us!" Sunday School begins. The Chancel Choir returns. It is an excellent time to invite your neighbor to come to worship. Why is it important to get involved? Come to our vital worship services to be spiritually fed for your week. Join one of the three Bible studies that are being held this fall. Attend the Adult Forums to enrich your understanding of our times. Bring your children to be a part of our exciting church school. Encourage your son or daughter to join this year's Confirmation Class. Join the Choir. This fall, God is at work through Plymouth.

Led by the Interim Action Committee, we have begun the process of "praying with our pencils" as we responded to a questionnaire about the beliefs of our congregation. Your answers to this questionnaire will enable us to write the profile for the new senior minister search required by the UCC.

As Plymouth begins its year, I begin my sixth month as Interim Senior Minister. My initial reflections, which were shared with the Council at its June meeting, are found on the Plymouth website. I enthusiastically support our vision: "Plymouth Church is a Christian Community open to the transforming Spirit of God." There is good news that payments of our 2009 stewardship pledges are ahead of expectations.

I view Plymouth not just as a vibrant congregation in the past but we are discerning Plymouth's living, dynamic ministry and mission for today. I find myself still listening to many stories from the living fellowship of Plymouth. I have been listening to a tapestry of poignant stories at Gracious Space gatherings, at the Plymouth Healing Community luncheon, at N-Sid-Sen, at weekly faith journeys, in small groups at Starbucks, around dinner tables and conversations in the lounge after worship. These listenings have given new light to many issues. Many are looking to Plymouth for support in their struggles and their hunger for more spiritual guidance.

Plymouth is challenged to strengthen itself internally and to decide how to interact with a rapidly changing society. The Council is strengthening its leadership role on behalf of the congregation. At its retreat on August 9, the Council worked to discern its mission and primary focus for the coming year.

As the Interim Senior Minister I am giving support to the staff and the internal organizational structure. Meeting with senior staff to complete their evaluations has been a strong learning process for me as I now understand more fully their responsibilities and challenges. I will be reporting my conclusions to Human Resources and the Council by the end of September. We are moving toward sending the *Herald* out electronically to many of our members and friends. I hope we can begin this in September. Bill Morlan resigned as Communication Director. The Council has appointed a Communications Committee. Led by Susan Berry, they are meeting on a regular basis to determine how we move ahead. Both the Budget Committee and the Stewardship Committee are meeting regularly, and I am staff support to them.

My prayer is that every member of Plymouth will join me in prayer for the future of the congregation. Plan to get involved this fall. Respond to our theme: "Come go with us!" Be particularly attentive to the word of God as it comes to us in the months ahead.

Blessings,

The Reverend Tom Stiers

Thank You, Bill

When the church needs new publications and brochures, who do you call?

When the church needs new banners, sandwich boards, and signs, who do you call?

When the church needs new communication policies and guidelines, who do you call?

When the church needs website updates and designs, who do you call?

Not the Ghostbusters — Bill Morlan!

Bill, in his short three years with us, has taken us to new heights in our communication and technical endeavors. Thank you so much for walking with us in your time here. Thank you for your energy that sparked us. Thank you for your creativity that excited us. Thank you for your keen perspective that challenged us. Thank you for your faith and love in our Lord that inspired us. Thank you for your service and passion. Thank you, Bill, and blessings on your and Jan's next big adventure. See you again soon.



Update on Neighborhood Networks

Save the date: September 20 is the first scheduled gathering for the Neighborhood Networks. After the second service on this date, we will gather with our neighbors to learn who is in each neighborhood, meet the coordinators and each other, and learn more about this important project. We'll share light snacks while each group decides how they'd like their particular neighborhood to function. Remember the purpose of the neighborhood networks is to keep in contact so that in an emergency everyone will have someone to call and get assistance as needed. It is also intended to be a quick and easy way for new members to get connected with other members of Plymouth who live nearby. Everyone is urged to attend this first gathering with their neighbors. We hope you can join us! If you have questions, please contact Barbara Campbell at campbellbk2@msn.com or Susan Dittig at sdittig@plymouthchurchseattle.org.

Wednesdays at Plymouth this Fall

Although the Wednesday Jazz Service ended on August 26, Susan Pascal will continue her musical leadership with us this fall. Come enjoy the contribution of her special music to our worship on October 11.

Beginning on September 16, the Plymouth clergy will lead "Word for the Day," a study of I Corinthians, every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. in the Lounge. We hope to see you there. Please call the church office to sign up (206/622-4865).



This I Trust Women's Retreat October 9-11 at Pilgrim Firs

It is that time of year to start thinking about the annual fall **Women's Retreat**. We will be going out to Pilgrim Firs from October 9-11, 2009, for the one time in the year that we gather as women to feed our souls and be in a space reserved for us. Our theme this year is **'This I Trust.'** We will be exploring the role of trust in our lives and in our community. As always, there will be time for connection, quiet and reflection. We do hope you can join us this year. Contact any of us if you have questions. Sign-ups begin September 13.
—Vicki Schoettle, Joanne Marshall, Phyllis Daniels, Kris Ostrem.

Council News

Refreshing Plymouth's Vision: At the Council's recent retreat, and again at our August Council meeting, we began exploring what is important for Plymouth to focus on during the rest of 2009 and 2010. We began with the Vision adopted by the Congregation at Plymouth's Annual meeting in 2003. It is:

- ♦ **Vision:** Plymouth Church is a Christian Community open to the transforming Spirit of God.
- ♦ **Purpose:** Growing people of faith who take part in God's work in the world.
- ♦ **Paths to reach the Vision and Purpose:**
 - o Participating in Vital Worship
 - o Growing our Christian Faith
 - o Deepening our Sense of Community
 - o Discerning and Sharing our Gifts for Ministry
 - o Shaping our Governance — to support and further the vision, purpose and pathways
 - o Mission

We invite you to join us in this exploration at the Sunday Forum, 10 a.m. on September 20. We will share some of our preliminary ideas in each area and welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

Pastoral Search: When the Congregation voted to delay selection of the Search Committee last December, there was significant support for not waiting too long to start the search process. Since then significant interim work has been done, guided by our Interim Pastor, the Reverend Tom Stiers. And, first steps in the search have been taken through the survey we are all participating in this month and work is underway on the creation of a profile of Plymouth. Now, the Council believes it is time to work toward election of the search committee in early November. The Council plans to initiate this process at its September meeting. The Nominating Committee which has the responsibility for recommending a slate to the Congregation welcomes any recommendations you have. Contact Bill Durland, Nominating Committee Chair or send recommendations to info@plymouthchurchseattle.org. More details on dates next month!

Communication Committee: The Council has appointed Susan Berry, convener, Deb Easter, Diane Kenny, Elizabeth Maher, and Roger McRae as members of this committee. They are very hard at work already, meeting weekly.

Share Your Thoughts: A Council member will continue to be available to visit with you after services each Sunday this fall. We enjoy hearing from you. Please share your thoughts, concerns, questions and suggestions with us. —Nancy Smith, Church Moderator