

Pastoral Musings *First in Caring*



On Sunday, September 20, we launch the Neighborhood Networks. We will gather by ZIP codes to learn who is in each neighborhood and meet the coordinators.

The purpose of these neighborhood groups is to keep in contact so that in time of need everyone will have someone to call. It is another way to form community within Plymouth. Also, new members can connect with members of the Plymouth community in their neighborhood.

In Sunday's lesson from Mark 9:30-37, Jesus foretells his resurrection, chastises his disciples for arguing about who was the greatest among them, and points to a child as a model for discipleship.

The disciples engage in an argument over who is the greatest. It turns out that to be great is not to impress crowds with displays of healing, or to try to become the teacher's pet of a teacher who refuses to play favorites. As I read and re-read this lesson I believe that Jesus is calling each of us to become a welcoming servant.

How can we become a welcoming servant?

The epistle of James 5:13-16 lists attributes of a caring community. If you suffer, you are encouraged to pray; if you are joyful, you should sing songs of praise; and if you are sick, you are encouraged to call the elders to pray with you.

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

We are called to trust in the wisdom of the teaching of James. James teaches that the prayers of the community are powerful.

Prayers of the elders can help you get through whatever is happening in your life. Prayer activates all the possibilities.

Plymouth is engaged in learning to be a gracious community. Therefore, it is important for us to know one another. One way to do is this through our neighborhoods.

If you are the only one who shows up, don't panic and join your neighborhood church, reach out and get your neighbors to come with you to Plymouth!

Warm regards,

The Reverend Tom Stiers

Celebrate Simple Gifts

I realize there is only one day between August 31 and September 1, but somehow flipping the calendar to September sends my head in a whole new direction — falling leaves, children with backpacks skipping to school, yellow streaks peaking through my pumpkin patch and my son starting fourth grade! It seems just yesterday I walked him to kindergarten. What a glorious time to celebrate these simple gifts from God, simple yet so precious. Plymouth would love to share in the joy these precious yet simple milestones bring to you and your family. One way is through a gift to the flower fund. Each event is listed in the Sunday bulletin. A reunion, a new member of the family, a bountiful garden harvest, whatever it may be for you. Share the joy through the beautiful floral arrangements on the Chancel every Sunday morning. Many thanks to those who have already shared their gifts. Please contact Diane Jacobsen, 206/622-4865 djacobsen@plymouthchurchseattle.org, or Mari Mitchell-Putnam for more information. — *Diane Jacobsen*

Music Notes

Our Director of Music, Douglas Cleveland, has been very busy this summer. He has just returned from giving a concert at the Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore on September 1. He also gave two master classes on hymn playing and repertoire at the Methodist University of Singapore. In July, he traveled to Iceland to perform at the International Music Festival in Reykjavik, which was co-sponsored by the American Embassy and the Halgrimskirke.

The Plymouth Choir will be hosting our sister UCC church east of the mountains, Shalom UCC in Richland, Washington, on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27. The Shalom UCC Choir will join in singing several anthems with the Plymouth Choir for Sunday morning worship and will enjoy fellowship together on Saturday. Our choir will then join the Shalom Choir in Richland the next weekend, on October 3 and 4. The choir from Mary's Place in Seattle will be singing in worship on October 4, as well as the Bell Choir and Children's Choir.

Lingerie Party For Church Of Mary Magdalene

The fourth annual lingerie party benefiting the women of The Church of Mary Magdalene and Mary's Place will be held on Sunday, October 4 after the 11:00 a.m. service in Room 222.

Come hear Marcia McLaughlin, Coordinator of Ministry of Presence, talk about two new programs recently implemented: *Ministry of Presence* for women in the hospital or in jail and *Chance for Change*, a program to help women get out of prostitution. Also, come to the 11:00 a.m. service and hear the Church of Mary Magdalene Choir join with our choirs in song. Molly is providing desserts again.

It should be an inspiring and fun day, so don't miss it. Admission is the usual: two pairs of panties and one bra. Socks are also gratefully accepted. Please RSVP to Barbara Campbell at campbellbk2@msn.com or 206/783-2684 no later than September 28 if you plan to attend, so Molly will know how much dessert to provide.

Sunday, September 20 2009

Services at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

First in Caring
The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers

10:00 a.m. Plymouth Forum, *Plymouth's Path Forward*, Hildebrand Hall

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Neighborhood Networks Kick-Off
(see page 1 for details)

Music This Sunday

Prelude: *Air for Harp and Organ* Grandjany

Te Deum Charpentier (Bell Choir)

Anthem: *Be Thou my Vision* John Rutter

Offertory Solo:
He's got the Whole World in His Hands Spiritual
(Karen Burlingame)

Postlude: *Music for Trumpet and Organ*

Plymouth Forum *The Path Forward*

As Plymouth looks to the future, many exciting possibilities are beginning to take shape. First steps are being taken on the search for our Settled Senior Minister. Come to the 10:00 a.m. Forum, Sunday, September 20, to hear what is happening and help us create Plymouth's future.

We will hear from Sue Maul about the development of Plymouth's profile, the first step in the Pastoral Search. It began recently with the survey we all participated in. We will also hear an update on plans for selection of the Pastoral Search Committee.

Next, Nancy Smith will share early planning for the next 18 months. As the Congregational Council began exploring what is important for Plymouth to focus on, we started with the Vision adopted by the Congregation at Plymouth's Annual meeting in 2003. Also adopted with the Vision were five paths to reach our Vision and Purpose: Participating in Vital Worship, Growing our Christian Faith, Deepening our Sense of Community, Discerning and Sharing our Gifts for Ministry, and Shaping our Governance — to support and further the vision, purpose and pathways.

How do we see each of these paths today as we look to the future? What do we need to emphasize in each area to carry out who we are today and who we want to be in the future? The Council has identified preliminary thoughts on specifics in each area to share with you. We need your help and ideas. Please come to Hildebrand Hall at 10:00 a.m. on September 20 to hear the initial ideas and share your perspectives. Come help refresh Plymouth's Vision. Plymouth's future is in all our hands!

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 are underway. Reserve your place now. —*Vicki Schoettle, Joanne Marshall, Phyllis Daniels, Kris Ostrem*