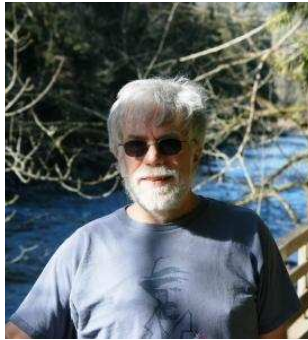


Plymouth Forum



Come join us in Hildebrand Hall at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday as we begin our study of world religions. Our speaker will be Joe Schwab, who has been a member of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church since 1998. He studied basic Buddhism at the church and took advanced courses on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and the founding fathers of that sect.

Over the last ten years he has attended several seminars on various Buddhist topics offered by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Institute for Buddhist Studies. He became a Certified Minister's Assistant on June 19, 2005, and was ordained as a minister in the White Cloud Buddhist Society on March 11, 2007.

His talk will include a discussion of the life of Siddhartha Gautama and a brief history of Buddhism. He will spend some time explaining the Four Noble Truths, the basic teaching of the Buddha. He will also talk about the essential Buddhist concepts of Karma, emptiness, impermanence and interconnectedness. He will conclude with a short explanation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, the form of Buddhism practiced at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church.

.....
Seeking A New Plymouth U Coordinator Interested in putting together dynamic Plymouth U programs? The volunteer position requires equal parts coordination, communication and creativity. Plan on joining Patricia Belyea as co-coordinator for the Spring 2010 session and then you are at the helm of a most exciting Plymouth ministry team. Contact patricia@belyea.com if this position is for you.

Get in Touch with Your Council For your convenience, the names of the Board and Committee Chairs as well as their email addresses have been placed on the Plymouth website (www.plymouthseattle.org).

Attention Covenant Group Leaders Please plan on attending a lunch after church on October 4 to share what has been happening in your groups, share support and resources, and help brainstorm new ways to expand small group ministry at Plymouth. RSVP to Jennifer Castle or David Shinn so that we can plan for food. Thank you.

Fall Benefit Sale Mark your calendar, the next Sharehouse Benefit Sale is Saturday, October 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. at 5706 Second Ave S. This semi-annual sale helps fund our operations. Find furniture, antiques, collectibles, art and other treasures.

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1217 SIXTH AVENUE
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**Look at this picture.
Think about Plymouth.
Stay tuned.**



Volume 48 Number 4
September 23, 2009

Plymouth Herald

1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

TEL 206.622.4865
plymouthchurchseattle.org

PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Your Plymouth U

This fall we share five nights together learning and discussing intriguing subjects. Sign up this Sunday between Sunday morning services and after the last service, just outside the Sanctuary. Or drop by the office to sign up at any time. Invite a friend.

Five Wednesdays

October 14 through November 11
\$40 for the entire five-week session
(including dinner each evening)

The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for The Future of Christianity led by the Reverend Tom Stiers and the Reverend Brenda Stiers

The Torah: Formation of the First Scriptures led by the Reverend David Shinn

The Heart of Christianity: A Book Discussion led by Don Bell

Peace IS Possible: Non-Violent Solutions Sponsored by the Plymouth Peace Action Group

The True Patriot: A Progressive Definition led by Don Mitchell

The Labyrinth: A Sacred Journey led by Sally Wagner and Betty Behmke

The Middle Kingdom: An Introduction to China led by Bob Turner

The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring facilitated by Patricia Belyea

We Need Your Help

The Congregational survey was passed out in church on Sunday, September 6 and 13 and mailed out the week of September 14 to those who were not at those services. For your results to be included, and for our overall results to be accurate, you must complete the survey by **Sunday, September 27**. This survey will contribute to the church's "profile" and will be used as part of the process to search for a new Senior Minister. Let's make sure that this document is a faithful representation of the unique community Plymouth church is right now. Thank you! —*Sue Maul*, on behalf of the Interim Action Group.

Change Grants Make a Difference And so Can You

The Community Service and Social Action Board is busy evaluating the six semi-finalist organizations for the Change Grant, and is seeking congregational input. The organizations are: **Casa Latina; Church of Mary Magdalene/Mary's Place; Jubilee Women's Center; Northwest Detention Center Roundtable; Recovery Cafe; and Seattle Youth Garden Works**. Their proposals are posted on the Plymouth Church website (www.plymouthseattle.org) and in binders at the kiosk. The CSSA Board would like you to review the proposals and pass on your thoughts to them as soon as possible either by e-mailing Jennifer Castle (jcastle@plymouthchurchseattle.org) or contacting one of the Board members directly (Harry Applewhite, Don Castle, Jonathan Eytinge, Mike Ostrem, Erin Page, David Regnier or David Thompson). Take this opportunity to get involved and make a difference. — *CSSA Board*

Pastoral Musings
Reading I Corinthians



The city was Corinth. The date was around 51 BCE. Paul arrived in town and went to the local synagogue to preach what he had come to believe about Jesus. There was an urgency about Paul. He was convinced that God had done something radically new in Jesus' death and resurrection. He was convinced that Jesus' self-sacrificial death heralded in a new era and defined a pattern for living for the new community. The power of the Spirit active in the community was the sign of God's new order breaking in. They were living in "in-between time, in an "already-accomplished-but-not-yet-fulfilled" time. And he had to tell as many people as he could.

He came to Corinth. What a town it was! It was the capital of Achaia, the connecting port between east and west trade routes. It was a center of industry, trade and art. It was a seaport, so it had its share of sexual promiscuity. All kinds of temples and statues to various gods filled the streets. There was a small music hall and another theater that seated 18,000 people. It was a happening place. Paul stopped in.

He was welcomed by many in the synagogue. Priscilla and Aquila were in Corinth because the emperor had banished Jews from Rome. They came on board with the good news. So did Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, and Titius Justus, a Gentile who had been drawn to Judaism but had not converted. But there were some Jews who opposed Paul. So he turned to the Gentiles in Corinth.

Paul spent one and a half years in town, establishing a new Christian community. It was a very diverse group of folks. Some were quite wealthy and some were slaves. Some were Jews but most came from the non-Jewish world and culture. Some came to the faith through Paul's work, but others came through the work of other preachers.

As you can imagine, all kinds of questions and issues arose for that early community. It was a divided community because members pledged their allegiance to different church leaders. There were some who claimed special status because they were more "spiritual" than others, denying the value of the physical world. Others claimed special wisdom that set them above the rest. Questions arose about how to be faithful Christians in that very lively, Gentile culture.

And they didn't seem very good at being gracious to each other. Those who arrived early at the agape meal ate and drank it all before the poorer folks got off work. Some claimed that eating meat offered to the gods was okay; others were offended by it. There were arguments about which spiritual gifts were better than others. Do any of these themes sound familiar?

Well, Paul writes letters to this church to encourage them to live out the pattern of life Christ set forward. Time and again he calls for unity, for the sharing of gifts not for puffing the self up but for building up the community. In one of the most familiar passages of Scripture he lifts up love as the highest gift, the one to take precedence over all others.

Isn't it amazing how words written so long ago to people in such a very different time and place could sound so relevant? Are you intrigued to hear more? Are you willing to engage with Scripture and let it teach us how to be church today? Well then, join "Word for the Day," the Wednesday noon Bible study. The pastors are taking turns leading each week as we listen together to I Corinthians. See you there!

The Reverend Kristine Anderson Ostrem

Sunday, September 27 2009

**Services at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**
Courage for Community
The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers, preaching

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Plymouth Forum, *The Life of Siddhartha
Gautama*, Hildebrand Hall

12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour, Hildebrand Hall

Music This Sunday
We Welcome Shalom UCC Choir from Richland, WA

Prelude: Halden and David Toy, organists

Anthem: *Sicut Cervus* Reg Unterseher

Offertory: *Ubi Caritas* Maurice Durufle
(Shalom UCC/Plymouth)

Postlude: Halden and David Toy, organists

Hymns: 300, 410, 43

Creating a Safe Learning Environment

Now that we have begun the Sunday School year, it's time to say again how we strive to create a safe environment for our children and youth here at Plymouth. Quite a few years ago, the Children and Youth Board instituted a policy by which any adult working in our Sunday School must complete a Washington State Patrol Check and a Plymouth Disclosure Form. These are repeated every five years.

At our Fall Teaching Team Workshop, we also review the plans for emergency evacuation. Each classroom is equipped with emergency kits in case we must remain in the building. First aid kits are also included in each classroom. We also institute the "buddy system" when children travel through the building on Sunday morning. Plymouth is a public building and many folks come in and out during the course of a Sunday morning. It is important that our children walk at least in pairs.

We know we have been entrusted with the care of your children, and we take it seriously. If you have any questions, please call or send an e-mail to Kris Ostrem. We do also know that in a community as large as this one, there are likely to be those among us who struggle either from abuse, or as persons who find they abuse others. Please know that the pastoral staff is here to meet with you if you find yourself in either situation, with the understanding that it is our responsibility to protect the vulnerable in any situation, and walk the path to healing with all.

**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.

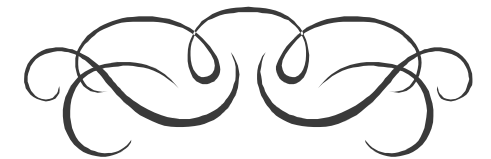
It should be an inspiring and fun day, so don't miss it. Admission is the usual: two pairs of panties and one bra. Socks are also gratefully accepted. Please RSVP to Barbara Campbell at campbellbk2@msn.com or 206/783-2684 no later than September 28 if you plan to attend, so Molly will know how much dessert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

Read Scripture on Sunday

Would you like to read Scripture in worship? Here's a wonderful opportunity for old and new readers alike. Gather after the 11 am worship services on **Sunday September 27 and Sunday October 25 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.** Kael Sherrard will be available to practice with and coach participants. What a treat! Come for one session or both. All are welcome. Sign up at the church office. Snacks will be provided.

Word for the Day
Study I Corinthians on Wednesdays

The weekly study of I Corinthians began on September 16, with an overview of the book led by Plymouth clergy. Join the group on September 23 to discuss the archaeology of the ancient city of Corinth. "Word for the Day" meets every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there. Please call the church office to sign up (206/622-4865).



Free Workshops for Churches

Budgets That Inspire Generosity and Policies that Protect

All Pilgrims Christian Church invites you to join us on Saturday, October 24 for two important free workshop seminars led by the Reverend Jake Pomeroy of the UCC Cornerstone Fund. The morning session is "Budgets That Inspire Generosity," and the afternoon Session is "Policies That Protect." This free half-day event includes lunch and will provide valuable tools for developing the financial and legal health of our churches. Registration Deadline: October 5. You are invited to register by e-mail at inspiring-budgets@live.com with the following information:

- ◆ Your name, as well as names of anyone attending with you
- ◆ Your church
- ◆ An e-mail address and a phone number
- ◆ Which sessions (morning, afternoon or both) you plan to attend
- ◆ Dietary restrictions, if any

Note: If e-mail is not available, please call All Pilgrims Christian Church at 206/322-0487 to register.