

In Your Community

Survey Deadline Extended To allow more time for those of you who received the *Pastoral Search Inventory* by mail, the deadline for returned paper surveys (or completing the survey on-line) and the green postcard with your name on it is Sunday, **October, Sunday October 4**. Thank you to everyone for taking the time required to get this important task done for the church.

Your Plymouth Nominating Committee is doing preliminary work in preparation for the search of our next Senior Minister. Once the Nominating Committee receives the direction from the Congregational Council we will be putting together a list of search committee candidates for the Congregation's approval. We will be reviewing the entire membership to develop this list. If you have questions about this process or suggested areas of focus you can speak to any of the Nominating Committee members: Anne Kiemle; David Boyd-Fleigel; Marcia Almquist; Sue Haas; Carol Burkhart; Connie Wentzel and Bill Durland. You may also e-mail billdurland@msn.com.

The Jesus Study Group Lecture Series presents John Dominic Crossan, speaking at University Congregational UCC on his new book, *The "First" Paul*, co-authored with Marcus Borg. The theme for our weekend is "*Paul: An Appealing or Appalling Apostle?*" The Friday evening lecture on October 16 is "*Rome & the World of Paul*" at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, October 17, he will present a series of three lectures from 9 :00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Advance ticket sale price of \$50 for tickets to the Friday/Saturday lecture series until October 7. After this date, tickets will be available at the door for \$60. Contact Tina Michalak, Coordinator, Jesus Study Group Lecture Series, at 206/524-2322, ext. 3447 or orjsg@universityucc.org

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.

We Remember Roy Cope, member of Plymouth since 2002, who died September 15, 2009. Roy's gentle presence will be missed. Our prayers are with his wife, Nancy, and all his family.

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Liz Twiss and her family on the recent death of her mother, Isabel Seimer, in Maine.

We Remember Ellie Stull, who joined Plymouth in 1945, and who died in September, 2009. Our sympathy to her friends and family.

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Stewardship Team cordially invites you to a *Celebration Brunch* Sunday, October 18, 2009

in Hildebrand Hall
following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

This lively event is being planned for the Plymouth family, young and old, and we hope you will join us.

Childcare provided; sign-ups for childcare (with numbers and ages of kids) need to be made with the office by
Sunday, October 11.



we are
witnesses

Volume 48 Number 5
September 30, 2009

Plymouth Herald

PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Plymouth Forum



On October 4 the Adult Education Board is pleased to welcome back the Three Amigos to Hildebrand Hall at 10:00 a.m.

After their collaborative work was featured in the August 26 issue of *Christian Century*, the Interfaith Amigos have found themselves in even greater demand as speakers and workshop leaders nationally. After over a year on Interfaith Talk Radio, they are now taping a community television program called *The Interfaith Amigos*, to be broadcast on the Seattle Community Action Network and available on demand online. They presented at the 2009 Spiritual Directors' International Conference in Houston and the Habitat for Humanity Annual Fundraiser in Seattle. Frequent speakers at churches and civic groups in the Northwest, Pastor Don, Rabbi Ted, and Sheikh Jamal bring a message of deep hope and profound possibilities for healing both person and planet. Their work comprises a dialogue of the head, the heart, and the hands, encouraging greater understanding, compassion, and social action in the world. Their first book, *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi, and a Sheikh*, was published in June, 2009.

Pastor Don Mackenzie, Ph.D., is currently devoting full time to interfaith work with his two interfaith colleagues, Rabbi Ted and Sheikh Jamal. He recently retired as Minister

and Head of Staff at University Congregational United Church of Christ in Seattle. Previously he served congregations in Hanover, New Hampshire and Princeton, New Jersey. His interest in interfaith work began while a student at Macalester College and continued with his living and teaching Sidon, Lebanon in the year prior to the Six-Day War in 1967. His country music band, *Life's Other Side*, recorded the sound track for the documentary film *Family Name* and has sung at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Rabbi Ted Falcon, Ph.D., is a popular teacher of Jewish traditions of meditation and spirituality, who explores the frontier of interfaith spirituality. Ordained in 1968 at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Rabbi Ted served in Los Angeles as a congregational and then a campus rabbi and then earned a doctorate in Professional Psychology in 1975. He pursued a career in spiritually-oriented psychotherapy and, in 1978, founded Makom Ohr Shalom, a synagogue focusing on Jewish spirituality. In 1993, Rabbi Ted and his wife, Ruth Neuwald Falcon, moved to Seattle and founded Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue. His books include *Judaism For Dummies* and *A Journey of Awakening: Kabbalistic Meditations on the Tree of Life*.

Sheikh Jamal Rahman is co-founder and Muslim Sufi Minister at Interfaith Community Church and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. Besides working with his own congregation, he collaborates actively with Rabbi Ted Falcon and Pastor Don Mackenzie. Jamal has a passion for interfaith work and travels often, presenting at retreats and workshops. His books include *The Fragrance of Faith – the Enlightened Heart of Islam* and *Out of Darkness Into Light – Spiritual Guidance in the Quran with Reflections from Jewish and Christian Sources*.

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Pastoral Musings



Sunday, September 20, was a beautiful day in Plymouth's neighborhoods! As I wandered through our building during Fellowship Hour I saw Plymouth members and visitors in every single room of our church, all involved in animated conversation. You spent time introducing yourselves to each other, pointing out your addresses on maps, sharing your favorite thing to do in your neighborhood, and trading phone numbers and e-mail addresses so you can stay connected. It was a glorious sight.

As you got acquainted with your geographical Plymouth neighbors I heard you talking about ways you might gather outside of Plymouth. You talked about future potlucks, park visits, and dinner at the House of Healing to name a few. It was a wonderful kickoff Sunday for Plymouth's Neighborhood Caring Networks.

The Parish Care Board has started this new effort in hopes that as you gather and get to know your geographical neighbors you will begin to think about ways you as a member can care for your fellow members. The hope is that at least twice each year we will have neighborhood gatherings at church, like the one on September 20, because it is convenient to meet on Sunday mornings.

The first step has been taken. The next step is up to all of us. Each neighborhood is unique, so what each neighborhood does from here will be unique. It will be exciting to see what happen! If you weren't able to participate on Sunday, I encourage you to connect with your neighborhood's coordinator and see how you can get involved. The list of the neighborhoods and coordinators will appear in the next *Herald* and are posted on the website under the 'Community' tab.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Parish Care Board in creating our caring networks. I am also most grateful to all of you who came forward and agreed to serve as coordinators for your neighborhoods. With 22 neighborhoods that is a lot of coordinators. Here's to more beautiful days in Plymouth's neighborhoods as we create new ways to care for each other.

Blessings,

Susan Dittig, Parish Nurse

World Communion Sunday, October 4: Helping in a World of Need

On October 4, Plymouth and congregations around the world will celebrate World Communion Sunday. It's an expression of our faith and joy in being a community of Christians that crosses all boundaries.

As part of our worship that day, we'll gather a special offering in support of the work and needs of Christians near and far. Our giving will support **One Great Hour of Sharing** and **local hunger organizations**, which are helping the ever-growing need for basic sustenance right here in our city. Thank you, so much, for your participation in the whole world of Christ.

—Community Service & Social Action Board

Word for the Day

The weekly study of I Corinthians has begun. If you haven't yet joined us, you are invited to do so. "Word for the Day" meets every Wednesday in the Sanctuary from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Romans 5:1-13, John 4:1-14
World Communion Sunday

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

Draw the Circle Wide

The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers, preaching

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Plymouth Forum, *The Three Amigos*,
Hildebrand Hall

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

12:15 p.m. Lingerie Party for Mary's Place, Room 222

12:15 p.m. Covenant Group Leaders Luncheon

Music This Sunday

We Welcome the Church of Mary Magdalene Choir

Prelude: *Deep River* Hart Morris (Bell Choir)

Anthem: Children's Choir

Offertory Anthem: Mary Magdalene Choir

Communion Music: Bell Choir

Postlude: *Toccata* Percy Fletcher

Hymns: 5, 587, 347

Your Plymouth U

Five Wednesdays

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

Sign up at the kiosk on Sundays, stop by the church office during the week, or mail in your registration form.

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

A Faith-Inspired Forum for Health Care Reform

"What would Jesus, the Prophet Mohammed, Moses, and the Buddha Do or Say about Health Care Reform in the United States?" That is what the Faith-Inspired Alliance for Health Care Reform will ask in a forum on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at Seattle's Town Hall. Moderated by KIRO's Dave Ross, panelists include The Three Amigos and other faith leaders in the greater Seattle area. A full list can be found at the website listed below. Also included in the program will be the Total Experience Gospel Choir, with Rafe Pearlman and Ancient Sounds.

The event is from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Although there is no charge for this event, there will be an opportunity during the program to make a free-will offering to help defray costs. Free tickets and further details are at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/81304, or by calling 800/838-3006. Plymouth Church has generously chosen to be a major supporter for this event. —Don Mitchell

Check Out What's In Your Library

What's new in the Plymouth Library this year? The Library is changing its open hours. We will continue to be open on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Most Sundays, we will have our "travelling library" at Hildebrand Hall from noon to 1:00 p.m., with a great selection of new books and old favorites for you to check out. The Library will also be open Tuesdays, from October 6 through the end of June, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This year in the Library, we will be exploring the Bible. Starting in September of 2009, there will be a display of books on the history of the Bible such as Karen Armstrong's *The Bible: A Biography*. Later, we'll be featuring books to help you understand the Bible: commentaries, concordances, atlases, etc. You will get an opportunity to look at many different versions of the Bible. Two of our newest ones are *The Green Bible* and *The People's Bible*. Bible stories have been retold in plays, poetry, choral music, novels, and picture books as well as being portrayed through paintings and sculpture.

Throughout the year, we will feature different stories. Some of the books you will see are *The Dreamer*, a picture book by Cynthia Rylant (the creation story); *Not the End of the World* by the wonderful storyteller, Geraldine McCaughrean (Noah); a contemporary version of the story of Abraham and Ishmael: *Dark Sons* by Nikki Grimes; *Lion's Honey*, a new novel about Samson; and *JB: A Play in Verse* by Archibald MacLeish (Job). Look at the bulletin board in the Library for more reading suggestions and Bible facts and trivia.

—Suzanne Sanderson



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 11:00 a.m. worship services on 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 provided.

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.