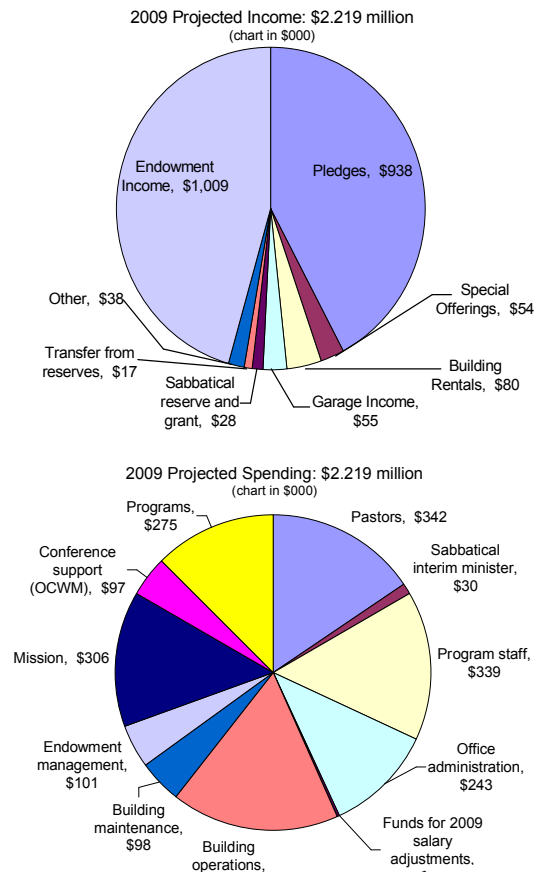


Plymouth's Budget

The current budget calls for income and spending of \$2.22 M in 2009. It provides resources for our vital programs: worship, children and youth programs, and mission. It created a reserve to cover the widely varying costs of maintaining our church building while smoothing the impact on the annual budget, and it re-affirmed our commitment to being a fair employer to our staff. The pie charts below summarize where our revenue comes from and how we spend it.



Your 2010 budget committee (Jock Akin, Jim Bechtold, Wendy Blight, Allan Boyce, Helen Gorsuch, David Guthrie, Edie Lackland, Erin Page, Connie Sandstrom, Tom Stiers, and Ruth Williamson) has been gathering input from boards and staff. We have a long way to go, but here are some of the trends we see:

- o After many years of increase, endowment income will drop slightly in 2010.
- o A new operator for the Plymouth garage is expected to raise income from that source.
- o Overall, we expect income to be flat to 2009.
- o Many building costs (electricity, insurance, etc) will be up.
- o We will incur pastoral search costs in 2010.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to gather input. Our goal is to bring a draft budget to the congregational council at the October 27 meeting, with the plan to refine it through the rest of the year as information solidifies.

— Jim Bechtold, 2010 Budget Chair

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1217 SIXTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA 98101-3199

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank You! On behalf of the women and men who have been traumatized by homelessness, addiction and mental health challenges that Recovery Café serves, we would like to thank the Plymouth Church community for providing the amazing meal, care, enthusiasm and hospitality that you showed at our Open Mic night on Saturday, September 19. Thank you to the Community Service and Social Action Board for providing \$350.00 towards food and beverages, and especially the volunteers — **Marcia and Bob Almquist, Bev DeCook, Stephanie Jones, Carol Mooney, Erin Page, Karen Scott, Ruth Williamson** — you have helped put a face on Christ's love for us all.

Free Tickets? Do you know of an exciting free or inexpensive Seattle event occurring? Do you sometimes have extra tickets to theatrical, musical, or cultural events? Perhaps you know of a pay-what-you-will performance? Plymouth Healing Communities is continually seeking new community events to which we can invite our alumni and residents. The Community Companion with PHC regularly organizes community outings. If you have or become aware of event information, please contact Anne Mathieson at a.m.mathieson@gmail.com. or 206/851-8847.

We Remember Agnes Johnson, member of Plymouth since 1939, who died September 29, 2009. Agnes was a faithful member of our church for seventy years, and she will be missed.



We are Witnesses

Katie Stultz

Volume 48 Number 7
October 14, 2009



Acts, Chapter 1 Verse 8:
"But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is "We are Witnesses." This idea holds a lifetime's worth of meaning for me. I have been coming to Plymouth with my family for two decades now and as of this July it has been 20 years since I was held on these stairs and baptized by this community. A community that has supported and nurtured me into the person I am today. Plymouth has affected every walk of my life. From childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood, this community has raised me.

One of the most influential parts of my life here at Plymouth has been my time in the Youth Forum (YF as we YF'ers call it) and my experience on YF mission trips. I was able to participate in four different mission trips during my time in YF and they remain as single-handedly four of the most life-changing, and profound experiences of my entire life.

I have been a witness to the love of God in places all over the world because of every person at Plymouth, and I would like to take this time to say thank you. Your support has influenced my life immeasurably. The Mission Trip experiences have provided me with an understanding of what it means to be a Christian in a global world and to serve one another. I owe these experiences to all of you, and to our Youth Minister, Cory, who has taught me more than any other teacher in my

life. Her time and love has helped me build the foundation for my faith that I will carry with me for the rest of my life, and I know that I am not the only person who can say that.

I have been a witness to the love of God in the deserts of Mexico, the neighborhoods of Nicaragua, the farms of Arkansas, the broken homes of hurricane-hit Florida, the rocky beach of Lake Cour d'Alene, Idaho, inside the red and crème walls of Room 322, and in this very Sanctuary that we are sitting in today. I feel as though I have truly been a witness to the love of God in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

I would like to invite you to think about how you have been a witness to the love of God here at Plymouth.

Was it in the conversation you had at coffee hour last Sunday? In the small group discussions at N-Sid-Sen? In the laughs and cries of all the kids when you volunteered in Sunday School? Or in the anthem on Sunday morning?

(continued on page 3)

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

Bring Your Pledge Card with you
to the Brunch!



we are
w i t n e s s e s

1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

TEL 206.622.4865
plymouthchurchseattle.org

Plymouth Herald

Pastoral Musings



Dear Friends:

A church needs a clear sense of mission in the local community to be successful in stewardship. Many say that "money follows mission". This is another way of saying the stronger the congregation's mission, worship, leadership, visitation, and small groups the stronger the stewardship.

Plymouth is working hard to strengthen its sense of ministry and mission. The Council is providing leadership. The Council is building a clear vision for next year.

2010 will be a time when the vital ministry and mission of Plymouth will touch you and your loved ones.

On November 8 we will have the opportunity to elect the search committee to seek a new settle senior minister. It is a time of hope for the future of Plymouth.

As the Council plans toward 2010 it appointed a strong stewardship team lead by Michael Pierson, Marcia Regnier, and Stan Orr. After discussion and prayer the stewardship team choose the theme of Acts 1:8 "We are witnesses" for our reflection and prayer. Katie Stultz has written beautifully about this theme as it has inspired her life.

The stewardship focus will be a one week emphasis beginning October 18 and going through October 25. You are invited to prayerfully consider your pledge and return it to Plymouth during that week.

They have invited me to preach a stewardship sermon on October 18. My sermon will be entitled "A Spirit of Generosity".

As you think about your giving to Plymouth I invite you to see this as a time when

- you can grow a life of mission and giving
- you can practice a genuine spirit of generosity
- you can listen for God's calling in your life
- you can live forward to the best within you
- you can relax, have fun, enjoy life, and live in Christ
- you can be a part of the hope team for Plymouth

Blessings,

The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers

Offering to Help

World Communion Sunday was a busy one, hosting the children and youth choir, the choir from the Church of Mary Magdalene and a special offering. This offering, sponsored by the Community Service and Social Action Board (CSSA), responds to needs around the world and close to home. Fifty percent will go toward efforts to alleviate local hunger. The remaining 50% will go toward "One Great Hour of Sharing," a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ, currently supporting the victims of the South Pacific Tsunami.

In years past, a letter and a World Wide Offering envelope were mailed to members and friends of Plymouth Church, UCC. Additional envelopes were also inserted in the pews. CSSA hosts special offerings four times a year. We found in the past that the number of pew envelopes used far surpassed the mailed envelopes. With that in mind, the decision was made to save valuable resources by limiting publicity of the special offering to the *Herald* and a reminder e-mail to the congregation. The offering envelopes will remain in the pews through the end of the month to receive gifts to this worthy cause.

Sunday, October 18, 2009

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

A Spirit of Generosity
The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Plymouth Forum, Hildebrand Hall

12:15 p.m. Stewardship Brunch, Hildebrand Hall

Music This Sunday

Prelude: *Adagio, Allegro* G. F. Handel

Introit: *Lift Thine Eyes* Felix Mendelsholn

Psalm 91: Linda Cable Shute
(Psalm Settings) Augsburg p. 31

Offertory: *Surely He has Bourne our Griefs*
(Messiah) G. F. Handel

Postlude: *Trumpet Tune in D* David Johnson

Hymns: 3, 222, 55

We are Witnesses

(continued from page 1)

It is all around us in everything we do. This community holds us together with the love of God. And during our times of transition we must remember what Plymouth means to us.

For me Plymouth is not just the church I go to, it is my family and my community.

Plymouth is sitting in church on Sunday and letting the voices of the choir wash over me.

Plymouth is playing Legos and hearing children's laughter as they chase each other around for no reason at all except to run.

Plymouth is listening to voices sing me to sleep on cabin porches at N-Sid-Sen.

Plymouth is sharing stories at coffee hour while little feet run in between our legs. Plymouth is check-in on Sunday morning with friends.

Plymouth is YF.

Plymouth is sitting around with other young adults just to share each other's company on a Saturday night.

Plymouth is standing up for what we believe is right.

Plymouth is helping those who have been forgotten.

Plymouth is the love of God, and we are all witnesses.

—Katie Stultz

Welcome!

We are blessed to welcome our newest Plymouth staff member, Edwin Beatty, to the church office. He comes to us with an array of talents. Previously on staff at First United Methodist Church, and currently assisting University Friends meeting, the words "Board," "agendas," "special offerings" and "church management software" are not new to Edwin's vocabulary. He will be in the office Monday through Friday and the occasional Sunday morning. Welcome, Edwin!

Calling All Bakers!

The Parish Care Board sends **WE CARE** packages annually to our youth who are away at college. These packages include your delicious home-baked cookies for all the students, along with a few additional items for the freshmen. The packages let our students know we love and care about them and that we are thinking of them and wish them well, even while they are away. Please consider baking a batch of your favorite cookies and bring them to Room 225 at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 25. If you can stay, we would love to have your help packing the boxes at that time. We look forward to sharing your offerings of cookies with our students and hope you will be part of this ministry of care. Questions? Call Bev DeCook, 206/527-5913, or the church office, 206/622-4865

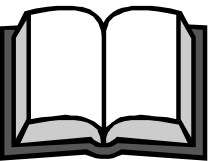
Plymouth Forum— Looking Back, Looking Forward— Celebrating Plymouth's 140th Anniversary

Join us this Sunday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m. in Hildebrand Hall for a panel discussion to hear stories from Plymouth's past and hopes for Plymouth's future. Our memories and our stories reveal God's presence in our life. Plymouth members of various ages and experiences will share stories and memories of all the ways Plymouth has been part of their lives over the years.

Come listen to Elise Hale-Case, Mark Sandstrom, Betty Eberharter, Jim Bechtold, Miriam Breidenstein and panel moderator, Bob Almquist.

Sign The Book of Life

Each year Plymouth members write down names of people who have passed from this world in *The Book of Life*. All the names recorded in *The Book of Life* will be listed in the Order of Worship on November 1. The names of those who passed away during the last year will be lifted up to God in spoken prayers that Sunday. You can find *The Book of Life* at the kiosk in the Lounge.



Scripture Reading in Worship: How Can We Make the Word Come Alive?

Join Kael Sherrard and others after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, October 25 to explore this issue. Both experienced readers and those new to the task are welcome to participate. Here's what one person had to say about Kael's last session:

"Kael's passion for, and knowledge of, Scripture reading was really a pleasure to experience. It's one of those things that I thought I knew, but he opened it up in a new way. I found it thoughtful and energizing—even as someone who has been reading Scripture in worship for years!"

Don't miss this opportunity to invigorate yourself, learn something new and have fun. If you haven't read in the worship service before, it's a great way to explore whether this is something you might like to do. We'll have snacks, and it only lasts an hour, so you'll have time to get your car out of the garage. Please sign up at the church office, or call 206/622-4865.

—Ruth Williamson and Jane Dunkel for the Worship, Arts and Music Board