

## *Ubi Caritas*

This is going to be a participatory moment of ministry. If you are able, please stand. My friend, Jamie Shilling, and I are going to lead us in singing, *Ubi Caritas*. Many of you know this, both the harmony and the melody. Please join us.



*Ubi caritas et amor deus ibi est.*

I didn't know or understand this phrase until I came to Plymouth and I think the first time I heard it, or at least became aware of it was when Kate Willette did a vespers service at N-Sid-Sen, our summer church camp, one summer evening. *Ubi caritas et amor deus ibi est*. It just makes sense to me. Where love and caring are, God is. Kate's point in the Vespers service was what more do we need to know? After which she invited us to sing and dance in the Pavilion at N-Sid-Sen and I began to understand what it is for me. It is relationship. That statement, *ubi caritas et amor deus ibi est*, is all about relationship.

In our "shopping" for churches five years ago, and, yes we did that, I found something at Plymouth. It was relationship. Our first big experience with this was at Snow Camp. We were in a community of people, mostly strangers to us really, and yet we were welcomed with warm, large, and expansive arms. Next came N-Sid-Sen. That was relationship with a capital R for me from the small groups, to hanging out at the beach, to conversations on the porch of Spirit Lodge and, finally, to God.

Oh, yes, remember that Spirit? Prior to Plymouth I'd never had a relationship with God that wasn't adversarial. I could point to the historical facts of why religions were responsible for most of the evil, hate and

violence in the world. I could point to how it engendered hatred and bile in the politics of America. But I never had a positive relationship with God or religion until I came to Plymouth.

You all have been witnesses to me and I have received the power of God through your relationships with me, my husband, Geoff, and my children, Cyrus and Ann. If you would indulge me for a moment, I'll get to my point. If you consider me a friend, would you please stand up? If we've worked together on a committee, board, or project would you please stand up? If we've been at a retreat together, would you please stand up? If we've shared a meal together, would you please stand up? If we greet one another in the hall, would you please stand up? If we've passed the peace, would you please stand up? If we've attended a service together, would you please stand up? Look around you. This is a lot of people. These are the ripples of your work, of our work as a church in one person's life.

Now let's take this idea even further...You have helped to transform me in ways you will never know through your love and care. The pledge of your gift to the church this year can create and carry those ripples and those relationships so much further to the women of Mary's Place, the homes of Plymouth Housing, the folks at Recovery Cafe, to the youth on mission trips, to Iglesia Morava in Nicaragua to church school, to the residents of Plymouth Houses of Healing, to the thousands of ways you create relationship with others. It is through those relationships that you connect yourself and others to God. Pledge generously this year so that we can continue to build these transforming relationships here at Plymouth, in Seattle and in the world.

And remember, *Ubi caritas et amor, deus ibi est*. Where love and caring are, God is.

—Susan Ford, in Worship on October 18

Volume 48 Number 9  
October 28, 2009

Plymouth Herald

1217 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

TEL 206.622.4865  
plymouthchurchseattle.org

## Pastoral Musings



I was asked to write a *Musings* article for the Herald and upon reading this personal testament by Don Mayer, I decided to share it with you. The Plymouth Choir has been working very hard to learn this monumental work. Please come and enjoy one of the great masterworks of the choral literature on

Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. in Hildebrand Hall prior to concert.

—Doug Cleveland, Director of Music

### The Brahms's Requiem: A Personal Note

As part of the School of Theology/Elliot Bay Book "Search for Meaning" Book Festival early next year, I will offer a conversation entitled, "So How Does the Comfort Come?" If Lynnea and I were asked to answer that question with music, the Brahms Requiem is the music we would choose.

Thus we deeply cherish the opportunity to sing the Brahms Requiem with the Plymouth Choir and orchestra, Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 p.m.

No other musical work recapitulates so marvelously our own experience of grief and comfort. I am frequently deeply moved by the second movement's beautiful expression of the promise of comfort, and the counsel to patiently await its coming, while yet repeatedly confronted with the stark reality of the deadness of the dead, the movement culminating in yet another reality: We have God's word that sorrow shall indeed be swept away by unending joy and gladness.

We have been privileged to sing requiems by several composers ranging from Mozart to Rutter. Each has been beautiful in its own way. But the Brahms Requiem is in a class by itself in its loveliness, and affective comfort. Here are comments from the program notes for the recording by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir:

Its message of comfort and hope for the bereaved is centuries away from the medieval visions of pain and terror so dramatically painted in requiems by Berlioz and Verdi. As the late Robert Shaw once wrote, "So sure has been his guidance that when Brahms finally arrives at 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord' it is as though a circle of comfort and confidence were completed. 'They who mourn' and the 'blessed dead' are separated only by 'the twinkling of an eye'—and in a moment are as one in victory."

Those who sing and those who experience the music November 1 will likewise be blessed. —Don Mayer

## Changes to Weekday Parking at Plymouth

After November 1, Plymouth people who participate in church events during the week may see some changes in the parking. Parking arrangements are summarized below.

Parking for people who come to Plymouth on Sunday morning will be unchanged. You may park in either the Plymouth garage or the IBM garage for no charge. If those garages are full, Plymouth will validate parking in the Hilton Hotel garage.

People who participate in church events during the week-day and who park in the Plymouth garage will also see no change. They may park for \$3 flat fee. The Plymouth garage will now be open on weekday evenings. People who participate in church events on weekday evenings may park in the Plymouth garage for no charge.

**Plymouth will no longer validate parking in the IBM garage. If you park in the IBM garage anytime other than Sunday morning, you will have to pay their full charges.**

**Sunday, November 1, 2009**

*All Saints Day*

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!  
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!**

The Names of Those who have Passed in the Last Year  
will be read in Services

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

**11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

The Reverend Thomas L. Stiers

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday School

**10:00 a.m.** Plymouth Forum, *David Brewster*,  
Hildebrand Hall

**12:15 p.m.** Fellowship Hour, Lounge

**12:30 p.m.** Brahms Requiem Lunch, Hildebrand Hall

**2:00 p.m.** Brahms Requiem, Sanctuary

**Music This Sunday**

**Prelude:** music for cello and organ

**Communion Music:** music for cello and organ

**Offertory:** *How lovely is thy Dwelling Place*

Johannes Brahms

**Postlude:** music for cello and organ

**Hymns:** 299, 554, 295

## Search Committee for Plymouth Senior Minister

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following list of candidates for the Senior Minister Search Committee. We are very thrilled because we feel the candidates bring a broad representation of the demographics and interest of the congregation to the table, and because they have a variety of skills that will be critical for the successful completion of the task ahead. The candidates were unanimous in feeling honored to have been nominated, and appreciative of the importance of their work, and we are grateful for their willingness to say "yes." *Bill Durland (Chair), Marcia Almquist, David Boyd-Fliegel, Carol Burkhardt, Sue Haas, Anne Kiemle and Connie Wentzel*

**Robin Appleford** Robin Appleford joined Plymouth in 1984 and was on the search committee for Tony Robinson. She has taught Sunday School and served on the Worship Board, Pastoral Relations Board, Adult Education Board, and Open and Affirming Committee. She has been part of the Plymouth Adult Choir and Bell Choir and is an usher and communion server. Outside of Plymouth she is an Olympia lobbyist and has many animals on her Vashon farm which Plymouth youth love to visit.

**Kevin Bechtold** Kevin Bechtold has been attending Plymouth Church since his birth. He spent time in each of the Sunday School classrooms, including four years in YF. This experience was formative for him and has since propelled him to a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies at the University of Oregon. He has also just begun his journey towards ordained ministry. He is a student in the Master of Divinity program at Seattle University. He also works part time at Gregg's Cycles in Bellevue.

**Phyllis Daniels** Phyllis Daniels joined Plymouth in 1974. She and her husband, John raised their two sons, Matt and Steve, in the church community. She served as head teacher of the junior high program and the toddler room and she lead Youth Forum for five years. She has been a member of the Pastoral Care Committee, Nominating Committee, Church Council, including a term as Moderator, and currently the Human Resource Committee. In her professional life she has a Master's in Social Work and has worked with clients from geriatric to high risk pregnancy. She obtained a certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Presbyterian Counseling Service (now Samaritan Center) and her Master's in Transforming Spirituality from Seattle University in 2005.

**Courtney Hashimoto** Courtney Hashimoto joined Plymouth in 2007, and soon thereafter, he and Rosemary were married in the church. He has served on the Fellowship and Recreation Board. He has been chair of our annual camp at N-Sid-Sen and helps organize the annual men's retreat. Courtney assists in the grade 6/7 Sunday School class. He is an advocate of small groups at Plymouth and participates in a monthly Covenant Group. Courtney has three children, Bradford (27), Ann (22) and Gavin (14), who is a member of this year's confirmation class. Courtney is a manager with Cascade Bank.

**Bruce Lamb** Bruce Lamb has been a member of Plymouth Church since 1999. He and Connie Lamb were married in

1997 by pastor Tim Devine. Bruce has volunteered at nearly all age levels and has co-taught the 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class for the past five years. He has served on boards and ministry teams including Worship and Community Service and Social Action. A practicing litigation attorney, he volunteers time to immigrant and social justice nonprofits. He has two daughters at the University of Washington.

**Merrily Matthews** Merrily Matthews has been attending Plymouth for three years. She and her husband, Todd joined for their faith development and to provide a Christian community for their two young sons, Graham and Nathan. Merrily was impressed with Plymouth's youth education and emphasis on the relevance of the Bible to everyday living. She attends Bible Study, Plymouth U and participated in several retreats. Last year she helped create the small group program for N-Sid-Sen. Merrily has earned income as an Architectural Lighting Designer, a Licensed Massage Therapist, and a Move Manager/Organizer. She is currently working part time, in order to be at home with her youngest, and to volunteer at both her sons' schools.

**Robert Neer** Robert Neer and his wife ,Amy joined Plymouth in 2001. Both their sons, Sam and Leo, were baptized at Plymouth and are blessed by the continuing nurturing and guidance of our Sunday School. Since becoming a member, Robert has served on the Adult Education Board, the Parish Care Board, as a Companion, and currently as a teacher in the 6/7 grade Sunday School class. Robert's professional experience involves leading teams in developing and managing technology-driven consumer products. He spent 8 years with the Walt Disney Internet Group, and currently works in product development and design with T-Mobile. He is humbled to be asked to serve Plymouth during this time of discernment.

**Marcia Regnier** Marcia Regnier joined Plymouth in 1987 with her husband, David, soon after they moved to Seattle from the Chicago area with their two sons, Michael and Edward. She has taught in Sunday School, and has served as chair of the Worship Board and the Nominating Committee. Marcia has also served a term as Moderator (and ex-officio member of the last search committee) and currently sings in the choir. In years past, Marcia has worked as a teacher, legal secretary and paralegal.

**Connie Sandstrom** Connie Sandstrom, an upstate New York native, lives in Ballard with her husband Mark and their children Ursula (19; at Bates College, ME), Catherine (17) and Peter (14). She is a graduate of Cornell University and a practicing architect. Connie has taught in the Sunday School and the Focus program, worked as Sunday School Coordinator and served on the AP&F Board, Property Maintenance Committee and Library Committee. Connie is currently on the Council, Budget Committee and serving as treasurer. In her spare time, she loves to cook, backpack, bike, hike and search for new eggplant recipes.

## Plymouth Forum

*Why the 2009 Election is Critical  
in Setting a New Direction for Seattle*



David Brewster is editor/publisher of Crosscut.com, a two-year-old nonprofit news site for Seattle and the Northwest. Among his earlier ventures are starting *Seattle Weekly*, which he edited for 21 years; launching and running Town Hall Seattle, a performance and civic space one block up the hill from Plymouth; and creating *The Best Places*, a Northwest guidebook that became the mainstay of Sasquatch Books, a leading regional book publisher. David and his wife Joyce moved to Seattle in 1965, and both started out here as English professors. They have raised two daughters in the Madrona home, both of whom are now teachers. In addition to Crosscut, David works on park projects in Seattle, particularly the revitalization of Freeway Park, and is working on a book about Seattle since the 1962 Fair. Join us this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Hildebrand Hall.

### Congregational Meeting Called to Elect the Pastoral Search Committee

Under Article 10.8.1 of the bylaws, a Church Meeting has been called for November 8, 2009. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service. The business of the meeting will be the election of a Senior Minister Search Committee. Elsewhere in this *Herald* is the slate of nine candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee along with their bios. Up to three additional members of the committee may be elected through nominations from the floor. Anyone nominated from the floor must have agreed to serve if elected.

### Join the Sunday School Ministry in a New Way

- Sunday School Substitute Ministry Coordinator
- Stewardship Coordinator
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade Co-Head Teacher
- Crib Room Classroom Assistants

Contact Jennifer Sluke at [jsluke@plymouthchurchseattle.org](mailto:jsluke@plymouthchurchseattle.org) if you are interested in hearing more about these open ministry opportunities.

### Walk the Labyrinth on November 4

The Plymouth labyrinth will be open for walking on Wednesday, November 4, from 5:00-6:15 p.m. The Plymouth U Molly meal will be served in Room 221 that evening. Although the labyrinth walk will be part of the labyrinth class at Plymouth U, all are welcome to walk it before dinner. Do come and experience the gifts of the labyrinth.

### Thanksgiving Dinner: Plan to Attend

**Sunday, November 22**, as we gather to celebrate the commitment of our fifty-year members with a traditional, Molly-prepared, Thanksgiving dinner. Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, dinner is served family-style in Hildebrand Hall. **SEATING IS LIMITED/TICKETS GO FAST!** Mark your calendars now. Tickets will be on sale at the Kiosk in the Lounge Sunday, November 1 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and again from noon-12:45 p.m. Ticket prices: adults \$9:00; children 12 and under \$4.50; maximum per family cost \$27.00. Childcare provided for children under six years to those who **reserve by November 15**. Free parking until 2:00 p.m.

---

**The Seattle Housing Levy** is a major funding source for Plymouth Housing Group (PHG), and is up for renewal on election day in November. Please support our friends at PHG by voting yes on Proposition 1 to renew the Housing Levy. See the kiosk or [www.yesforhomes.org](http://www.yesforhomes.org) for more information.

**Wreath Sale** You will be able to order evergreen wreaths of all sizes and table centerpieces for the Christmas season through Plymouth again this year. Orders will be taken Sundays November 8 and 15, or through the church office in mid-November. More details to follow.