

Announcements

for the week of November 27, 2011

See www.plymouth.org for church calendar

TODAY

CHURCH SCHOOL does not meet today. Childcare will be provided for children five years old and under in the Church Nursery—Room 209 in the Education Wing. Older children are invited to worship in the Sanctuary with their families.

Adult Forum, 9 a.m.: Conversation with an Imam: Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf.

Jazz saxophone player Nathan Hanson improvises with James Gertmenian during the sermon at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday meal in **Katy's Café** after worship – Soup and salad bar and breads from Panera and Breadsmith. Costs are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12, free under age 5; maximum family cost of \$20.

Healing Minnesota service, 5 p.m., today. “Rooted in Love,” talk by Rebecca Voelkel, Faith Work Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and musical selections offered by a fabulous male quartet of VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, are parts of this service that inspires love, respect and healing in a time of division about Minnesota’s proposed constitutional amendment on marriage. Except for December, Healing Minnesota services take place every fourth Sunday through October 2012.

Today's greeters and coffee- and tea-pourers are courtesy of Plymouth's Board of Deacons.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your calendars for **Plymouth's Christmas Festival, Dec. 4.** To volunteer, contact Jo Holcomb (612/977-1277; joh@plymouth.org) or Ed Sootsman (ed.sootsman@gmail.com).

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Welcome Christmas, the beloved VocalEssence concert conducted by Philip Brunelle with a chorus of 130 singers plus orchestra will have its annual performances in the Plymouth sanctuary on December 4 and 11, both at 4 p.m. This year's concert features familiar French carols, a lovely Stephen Paulus cantata, and new carols for male chorus and English horn. Not to be missed and tickets go quickly! Tickets at VocalEssence.org or 612-371-5656.

Show in the gallery: paintings by Carl Bretzke and Kristie Bretzke and sculptures by Patty Carmody Smith, presented by the Gallery Committee, Board of Fine Arts.

LEARNING AND INVOLVEMENT

Adult Forum, 9 a.m., next Sunday: How Do We Build a New Human Story of our Future? Ann Manning and Gloria Wallace.

All are welcome to join the ongoing Religious Exploration class **New Testament Greek** (no knowledge of Greek necessary), Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Submit announcements (400 characters or fewer) to the Church Office for the following Sunday **by noon on Tuesday.** Tell us which Sundays you'd like the announcement to run and your name, phone number and e-mail address. Send it to Allison Campbell Jensen, Communication Director (publications@plymouth.org), or drop it off at the Church Office (clearly typed, if possible). Announcements are subject to approval, may be edited and must be Plymouth-related.

Mark your calendar: Poet Robert Bly reads his translations of the works of 2011 Nobel Prize-winning poet Tomas Tranströmer, 7 p.m., Dec. 12.

OUTREACH

Today, Plymouth continues the **annual Food Drive** to provide **holiday dinners for 168 families in Simpson Housing Services.** 168 families! Can we do it? Yes, with help from all the generous, caring people in our congregation. Please bring your donations of cash, check or food to the table in Jones Commons today or Dec. 4.

Attorneys needed: People come to the Dignity Center for support, referrals and legal aid. To help them, the center seeks volunteer attorneys with three or more years of civil legal experience, once a month from 9 to noon on a Wednesday or a Friday. Contact Muria Kruger muriak@yahoo.com. The center, at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, is a partner of Plymouth in serving clients needing support as well as receiving grant funding from the Benevolence Committee.

CARING AND SUPPORT

Blood pressure screenings take place in the library next Sunday, prior to and (note change) one-half hour after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Say “Plymouth Cares” with Flowers – On most Sundays, the Sanctuary flowers are arranged into bouquets after worship. If you know someone who would appreciate a bouquet, go to the Flower Room after the postlude (turn left just after passing through the door on the left at the front of the Sanctuary). First come, first served.

Spirituality and Healing Group, for persons with chronic or persistent illness, meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm. The group is co-led by Faith Community Nurses Vicki Haugen and Mary Baker. If interested, contact Cathie Crooks at the church office for more information, (612-871-7400).

Grief Education and Support – On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., downtown congregations offer support for those who have lost loved ones. Currently being held at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. Next Saturday: Marilyn Benson, *Grief is Better Addressed than Buried.* Contact Nancy Albrecht (612/377-8030) or Tom Anderson (952/927-7453).

Faith Partners in Recovery brings the hope of the joy of recovery from alcohol and other addictions to the attention of the congregation. The group's intention is to educate and provide resources for our community and support for those in recovery and their families. All are welcome at monthly meetings and anyone who's in recovery or has a spouse/partner in recovery is welcome to come to the Higher Power Potluck Fellowship Group. Contact Cathie Crooks, Minister of Member Care at cathiec@plymouth.org.

New online: Memorial Planning Packet developed by Plymouth ministers for those who would like to plan their future memorial service or funeral. This planning will be helpful to family and friends. Download the PDF packet from plymouth.org/caring/referrals.

Compassionate Communication Practice Group is designed for people already familiar with the basic concepts and principles of Compassionate Communication/Nonviolent Communication, who are looking to practice in community with others. Attend as many as you wish: 1st and 3rd Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Mondays 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.; \$10. To RSVP if you plan to attend, email

yvette@littlebigthings.org or call 612/208-7216. Contact anneseltz@aol.com for additional information.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Julie Neraas leads Soul Care for People Living Alone, Dec. 3. Soul Care involves living from our essential selves, honoring our true nature, listening for our allurements, resisting the social pressures to conform and giving our soul expression in the world. Those who live alone face their own particular challenges around soul care, and loss of soul. They simply have to be more, in and for themselves. 9:30 a.m.-noon; \$25; registration online at www.plymouth.org/learning/spiritual.php.

Explore spirituality from your laptop or home computer via the blog *PlymouthSpirit*. Visit plymouthspirit.wordpress.com each week to read and reflect on the liturgical reading for worship and the clergy's questions for discussion.

Spiritual Yoga – Bring \$10, a mat or beach towel and come for a relaxing yoga experience on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. in One Groveland, sponsored by the Spiritual Enrichment Committee and led by YWCA yoga instructor Ben Lee.

AND MORE...

Just a reminder that the **Senior High Youth group will begin their annual wreath sale starting Sunday, December 4** following the 10:30 service in Jones Commons. No need to order ahead of time, just stop by the table and pick out a wreath, door charm or garland. Proceeds go to help fund the summer Peace Camp and other youth opportunities.

Marriage Amendment: Plymouth's Gay-Straight Alliance sends e-mail notices of upcoming events opposing the marriage amendment. To sign up for their list, send an email to churchinfo@plymouth.org; subject line: GSA.

If you want to help plan or facilitate our **Jan. 15, 2012 Adult Forum event about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, contact Hawona Janzen (Janze005@umn.edu or 651-644-8556) or Chuck Grose (chuckgrose@msn.com or 952-496-3812).

Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History, documentary about Jamie Nabozny, will be presented at a community education forum to prevent bullying by the Conflict Resolution Center, 7 p.m., Dec. 1, at Southwest High school auditorium 3414 W 47th Street Minneapolis; \$25.

Theological Book Club discusses *God in Public: Four Ways American Christianity and Public Life Relate*, by Mark G. Toulouse, 3 sessions, beginning 7 p.m., Dec. 6; \$10 per session. The book will be read before the session; it treats themes core to United Theological Seminary's educational objectives and mission. Led by Steve Newcom; for more info or to register, go to www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms.

Give Real Change, instead of spare change: It's okay to politely say "No" or "Sorry" to someone asking for money. Instead, Plymouth suggests its members support organizations seeking long-term solutions for homelessness and poverty, such as Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation. If a person panhandling is aggressive, please consult our security or reception desk staff.

Are you getting our Friday e-mail? More than 650 Plymouth households do. Every Friday, the church office sends out a brief e-mail message with upcoming events, worship highlights and more. If you'd like to opt-in, send an empty e-mail to churchinfo@plymouth.org with "Friday" in the Subject line.

Honor an occasion, a special person or the memory of a loved one by sponsoring coffee hour. Cost is \$25. Sponsorship will be noted in the bulletin and with a sign on the serving table. Contact Ann Cole at 763/546-7483.

Wednesday Dinner in the Lenmark Dining Room. Suggested

donation: \$6 adults, \$4 children ages 5-12; free under age 5; maximum family cost of \$20.

YEAR-END GIVING

And the giving is easy: Have you considered the tax benefits of giving appreciated stock to fulfill or increase your 2011—Pledge and Capital Campaign pledge? The process is really simple! You can call Joy Hansen at 612/977-1265 or joyh@plymouth.org. You may also directly contact our broker: Morgan Stanley, Account #364-024614, DTC# 015, Broker: Marcus Waterbury Group, 612/340-6755

Important tax tips: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. To qualify for a 2011 tax deductible stock gift, be sure your stockbroker/advisor has initiated the transfer of shares to Plymouth's account by Dec. 31, 2011.

Year-end contributions: The Accounting Department will gladly receive your year-end contributions through Dec 31. However, the church office will be closed on the 31st (Saturday), so consider bringing your year-end gifts in early. IRS regulations state that gifts must be postmarked or received by the 31st in order to receive 2011 tax credit. Please clearly mark your envelope "2011" for these year-end gifts. We are unable to accept checks that are "pre-dated" and are not received by the church or postmarked by December 31st. If you have any questions, call Karen Hartz at 612/977-1266 or karenh@plymouth.org.

You can give online too! There is another way to give to Plymouth Just go to www.plymouth.org and click on the Giving button at the top of the page. Then click on "Make an Online Contribution." This will take you to a secure server where you can put in your donation amount and bank and/or credit card information. After you submit, you will get a confirmation email and the amount will show up on your bank statement/credit card statement, payable to Plymouth Church. You can give a one-time gift, or set up a profile and designate a recurrent gift. It's that simple. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Hartz or Joy Hansen.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to Plymouth Congregational Church!

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 Follow us on **Twitter** (@PCCmpls) or be followed: send your Twitter handle to churchinfo@plymouth.org.