

Announcements

for the week of December 11, 2011

See www.plymouth.org for church calendar

TODAY

In Church School

9:50 a.m. **First Service**—Families and children welcome at this 30-minute creative pause for our church family!

10:30 a.m. **3-year-olds, 4/5s and Kindergarten:** Godly Play—The Third Sunday in Advent: The Family

1st-6th grades: The Third Sunday in Advent: Luke 1:26-38

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES FOR 2011.

Next Sunday (December 18), children are invited to worship with their families. Childcare will be provided for children five years old and under in the Church Nursery—Room 209 in the Education Wing.

December 25—No First Service. Church School does not meet; there will be no childcare.

January 1—No First Service. Childcare will be provided for children five years old and under in the Church Nursery—Room 209 in the Education Wing.

Regular classes resume on January 8.

THE LIVING NATIVITY: Today in Guild Hall the members of the 4- and 5-year old Church School class will stage a nativity scene. Accompanied by the voices of our elementary Church School classes, the children will present the tableau immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Encore Adult Forum, 9 a.m., Plymouth members Ann Manning and Gloria Wallace continue discussion on the question: How Do We Build a New Human Story of Our Future? In part 1, we explored the current crises on the planet, the unsustainability of our current Ecology, Economy and Society. We began to look at the spiritual dimensions and in this Sunday's session, we will go deeper into the spiritual consciousness we must all gain in order to move into this new place on the planet with love and compassion rather than fear. Come and join us for a dialogue on how we as individuals and as a community can grow into the New Humanity.

Artists' reception follows the 10:30 service for new show that opens today: Quilts by Kay McCarthy and works in clay by Kristine Hites.

The Caring for Creation group meets from noon to 1 p.m. in the Nancy Baltins Room. Please join us to plan the Green Pledge campaign and other Plymouth activities aimed at conserving energy and protecting the environment.

Volunteers needed to serve at Third Sunday meal, 4:30-6:30 p.m., next Sunday (Dec. 18): Please sign up after the 10:30 service; about 25 people are needed.

Youth wreath sale in Jones Commons: Proceeds help fund the summer Peace Camp and other youth opportunities.

Welcome Christmas, the beloved VocalEssence concert conducted by Philip Brunelle with a chorus of 130 singers plus orchestra will have its final performance in the Plymouth sanctuary today, 4 p.m. This year's concert features familiar

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 (cleanly typed, if possible). Announcements are subject to approval, may be edited and must be Plymouth-related.

French carols, a lovely Stephen Paulus cantata, and new carols for male chorus and English horn. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent: 9:50 First Service; 10:30 Sanctuary Service with *Las Posadas*—journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem; 2 p.m. Service of Remembrance in the Chapel

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve, all in the Sanctuary, James Gertmanian preaches at latter two services: 5:00 p.m. Family Service, with youth and children's choirs; 7:45 p.m., Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, ASL interpreted, solo quintet and organ; 10:45 p.m., Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, with senior choir, organ and handbells

Dec. 25 Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m. Carol Sing with meditations.

Jan. 1 New Year's Day: Trumpet in a festive **New Year** with a Bach cantata at the 10:30 a.m. service; older children especially may enjoy this service, which includes a *brief* meditation.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Celebrate Plymouth Church with docent tours: After the 10:30 a.m. services on December 11 and 18, docents will lead tours of Plymouth Church. Plan to stay and invite your friends to become better acquainted with the history of the church as told through its Sanctuary, Chapel and Guild Hall, its exquisite stained glass and many works of art. Meet the docent near the pulpit after the service.

LEARNING AND INVOLVEMENT

Literary Witnesses: Poet Robert Bly reads his translations of the works of 2011 Nobel Prize-winning poet Tomas Tranströmer, 7 p.m., Dec. 12, at Plymouth.

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

Sunday Supper and Book Discussion January 8: Join us for a delicious Mexican supper catered by Salsa a la Salsa (\$10/person) as we begin our book discussion of *Crossing Over* by Ruben Martinez in Jackman Hall. Whether you've read part or the entire book, or just want to learn more about the experiences of Mexican migrants and immigrants living in our community, we hope you'll join us for a stimulating evening. Bring your appetite and your thoughts and questions. Last year's Sunday Supper Kick-Off was the place to be on the second Sunday of January. R.S.V.P. to Mariana Shulstad (612/377-1288) by Wednesday, January 4. Don't miss it.

OUTREACH

Heading Home Plymouth announces two community events. Project Homeless Connect, on Dec. 12, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center brings together volunteers to serve those experiencing homelessness. For more information: <http://www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org>. **Memorial and March on December 15** for those who have died while homeless begins at 5 p.m. at the Hennepin County Government Center, followed by a silent vigil at Simpson United Methodist Church. For more information visit: <http://simpsonhousing.org/memorial.html>. To be part of a group from Plymouth, please contact Jessica.frehse@ppl-inc.org

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.

Thank you, Plymouth, for helping to feed 168 Simpson families! Together, we raised \$3938 which will fill 168 food bags, provide a Cub gift card and put a smile on the face of 168 families. Plus, you amazed, wowed and inspired us. Thanks to your wonderful generosity, Plymouth members once again surpassed our hopes and our goals.
—*Lydia Connections Committee*

CARING AND SUPPORT

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.

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:** Ted Bowman, *The Gifts of Grief and Hope: Holiday Perspectives*. 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.

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.

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.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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...

NOTE: 2012 Giving Envelopes for the first quarter will be mailed directly to the address in our database. This will occur around Dec. 28. If you do not receive your envelopes by the end of December, please contact Joy Hansen at 612/977-1265 or email joyh@plymouth.org.

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 Saturday, Dec. 31, 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 31. 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!

Ordination notice: Shai Wise will be ordained at Plymouth on Sunday, January 8, at 4 p.m.

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).

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 670 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.



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