

Announcements

for the week of February 5, 2012

See www.plymouth.org for church calendar

TODAY

TODAY IN CHURCH SCHOOL

9:50 a.m. First Service—especially for young families. Families and children welcome!

10:30 a.m. 3-year-olds, 4/5s and Kindergarten: Godly Play—Once Upon a Parable: The Good Samaritan.

1st-6th grades: Faith Practice—Who Is My Neighbor? The Good Samaritan.

Adult Forum: Award-winning Ojibwe teacher and poet Heid E. Erdrich will discuss the importance of preserving and revitalizing native languages. Co-sponsored by Plymouth American Indian Initiative; 9 a.m., Jackman.

Blood-pressure screenings will be offered in the library before and after the Sanctuary service.

Youth movie event, after the service in the Youth Room: Free pizza, fun and a movie (to be determined). Continues till about 2 p.m.

Katy's Cafe serves a Sunday soup and salad bar meal today, starting at 11:50 a.m.; adults \$6, children 5-12 \$4, under 5 free; maximum family cost of \$20.

Minnesota's new Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen will read her poems at noon in the Chapel, sponsored by Literary Witnesses. Ms. Sutphen holds a doctorate in Renaissance and British Drama and is a professor of Creative Writing and British Literature at Gustavus Adolphus College. Her award-winning poetry collections will be for sale at the event by Birchbark Books.

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

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Singers of all ages and experience levels are invited to join the Chapel Choir. This group sings once a month at First Service, with one rehearsal at 9 a.m. prior to the service. Please join us on Feb. 12.

Artists' exhibition continues in the Gallery: Paintings by Bart Galle and mixed-media works by Karen Searle are on view through March 16.

WITNESS: the celebration each February of African-American music will be presented by VocalEssence, 4 p.m., Sunday, February 19, at the Ordway Center. This year's program features Hannibal Lokumbe's *In the Spirit of Being* with Philip Brunelle and the VocalEssence Chorus, soloist Tonia Hughes and a jazz quartet including pianist Sanford Moore. The concert will also include music from Kenya, Cameroon and South Africa with Sowah Mensah and the percussion ensemble from Macalester College. Don't miss this thrilling afternoon! Call 612-371-5642 to order your tickets.

Community sing to benefit Minnesotans United for All Families. Saturday Feb. 18, 7 p.m. Minnesota Community SINGS presents a fun evening of group singing—all voices

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.

welcome, songsheets provided. Singing will be led by Bret Hesla, Mary Preus, and Dan Chouinard, three of the Twin Cities' favorite songleaders. Proceeds go towards the effort to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment which would ban marriage for same-sex couples in Minnesota. Together we'll sing songs about love, pop songs, folk songs, parodies, golden oldies and more. At Calvary Lutheran Church, 3901 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis. Tickets at the door: \$15/adults, \$5/kids. For more info, please email mnsings@gmail.com or visit mnsings.com

LEARNING AND INVOLVEMENT

New Testament Greek (no knowledge of Greek necessary) continues Wednesdays, 5 p.m., through May 16.

Having Men for Dinner continues Mondays through Feb. 20, 7 p.m., in Room 205. Join this unique Bible study of women who kill through serving food and drink, or by providing hospitality and comfort. We will scrutinize the metaphors present in these biblical tales from a feminist perspective by using the book *Having Men to Dinner* by Nicole Duran. Deception, seduction and revenge are major themes. For women and men; led by Tara Bauer and Paula Northwood.

Lenten Meditation contributions: The Spiritual Enrichment committee seeks contributions for a Lenten booklet and also available via email starting Feb. 22. Pieces should be brief (150 words or fewer) and, if a quotation is used, please write a sentence or two in response to help guide readers' meditations. Please note that poems cannot generally be used in their entirety, for copyright reasons. Please email to Fran Neir, feneir@msn.com, by Feb. 8.

Adult Forum next week: Hannibal Lokumbe (*Dear Mrs. Parks*) offers an engaging presentation about his new piece, *In The Spirit of Being*, dedicated to Thich Nhat Hanh, and premiering by VocalEssence at the annual WITNESS concert on February 19. (See "Music and the Arts" for concert details.)

The Holocaust: Spiritual and Cultural Resistance & A Child Shall Lead Them by Youth Performance Company: Saturday, Feb. 11, 3:00 p.m. workshop in Jackman, followed by light supper, and 7 p.m. performance in the theater. Most people today know little about the details of Terezin concentration camp, its role during the Holocaust, and the powerful connection between young Petr Ginz, imprisoned at Terezin and later executed at Auschwitz, and Petr's legacy of spiritual resistance that survived the war. This workshop conducted by World Without Genocide will tell this story and provide a broader context for educators and audience members. \$20; students free; six CEUs for teachers; register online: www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/RegisterFeb11 or register at the Spiritual Enrichment table in Guild Hall after services today.

Feb. 12 Film Club: *Fish out of Water* (2009, 60 min.), hosted and chosen by Rev. Paula Northwood. Award-winning filmmaker Ky Dickens explores seven Biblical passages misused to condemn homosexuality. This informative, entertaining documentary mixes animation, interviews with experts and historical perspectives. Paula leads the discussion afterward. All are welcome. Baltins Room, 12:15 p.m.

Rooted in the Common Good, Feb. 23: Plymouth Church hosts clergy from four religious traditions who explore their shared value of loving one's neighbor and how this value translates into working for the common good. Speakers include Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Temple Israel; Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, First Unitarian Society; Imam Makram El-Amin, Masjid An-Nur; Father John Bauer, Basilica of Saint Mary; and Pastor Rick Nelson, Central Lutheran Church. Sponsored by Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Howard Conn Theater.

Spiritual Writing, Feb. 25, 9 a.m.-noon: Most of us experience times and episodes in our lives when something extraordinary breaks into our normal routines. For a moment at least we sense we are on sacred ground so rich that we see our lives in a larger perspective than we ever thought possible. How can we capture the meaning inherent in these experiences? We often feel that we lack a language to describe them or we feel too embarrassed or confused to talk or write about them because they are so deeply personal. This workshop explores what it might be like to write about the experiences in our lives that are deeply moving and meaningful to us. Offered for writers at all levels by Rev. Dr. Lanny Kuester; cost \$25. Please register in advance at the table in Guild Hall or online (www.plymouth.org/learning/spiritual.php).

OUTREACH

Feb. 9 Empty Bowl benefits Nicollet Square, which provides supportive housing for young adults: Buy a bowl full of soup (\$20 suggested donation) and keep the artist-made bowl at this benefit for Nicollet Square, 4-8 p.m., Feb. 9, at Nicollet Square, 37th and Nicollet in Minneapolis. Contact Sarah, sarah@kingfield.org, 612/823-5980 or 612/791-7081, to donate or for more information.

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

Compassionate Communication Practice Group has a new schedule. Designed for people already familiar with the basic concepts and principles of Compassionate Communication/Nonviolent Communication, the group is for those who are looking to practice in community with others. Attend as many as you wish. Sessions meet 10:30 a.m.-12 noon Wednesdays through April. \$10. To R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend, email yvette@littlebigthings.org or call 612/208-7216. Contact anneseltz@aol.com for additional information.

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 Westminster Presbyterian Church. Next meeting, Saturday, Feb. 11: Michael Summerfield, *Working Through the Pain of Grief and Loss*. 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.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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.

Shambhala Meditation Center tour: The Minneapolis Area Interfaith Initiative is sponsoring a tour of Shambhala Meditation Center, including the beautiful shrine room, on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m. It will include an introduction to Buddhism and the meaning of Shambhala. The Center is located at 2931 Grand St. N.E., Minneapolis (a few blocks east of the Mississippi River). Please R.S.V.P. to maiimpls@gmail.com (not required). Directions and additional details can also be requested. Minneapolis Area Interfaith Initiative unites individuals and faith communities in the Minneapolis area in learning about other religious traditions, increasing interfaith understanding and building personal relationships across faiths.

AND MORE...

Interfaith Seder: Temple Israel offers Plymouth Church members an opportunity to take part in an educational sharing of the Seder tradition on March 18. Seating is limited; register by Feb. 24 by contacting Timm Douma in the church office, timmd@plymouth.org or 612/977-1262.

Violin wanted! Eduardo Gonzales writes from Plymouth's partner church in Cuba that one of the young people has outgrown his small-scale violin. If anyone would like to donate a standard-size violin—"it does not need to be a new one," Eduardo writes—to budding musician Adrian, please contact Tara Bauer, tarab@plymouth.org or 612/977-1264. Plymouth's Cuba Connect group, which is traveling there Feb. 18-27, would bring the violin to Adrian.

Ordination, Feb. 11: John Edgerton John, formerly a pastoral resident at Plymouth Church, will be ordained here at the church at 1 p.m., Feb. 11. All are invited to celebrate.

So-called 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.

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.

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.



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