



*January 29 service*

## **Eric Jolly celebrates Native American spirituality**

**D**r. Eric J. Jolly, President of the Minnesota Science Museum and noted science educator, advocate for racial justice and cross-cultural understanding, and Cherokee storyteller and basket weaver, will join us for the 10:30 service Jan. 29 as our guest speaker.

Highly acclaimed nationally for his thoughtful, engaging presentations, Dr. Jolly is especially known for his use of traditional stories and basket weaving to illustrate scientific concepts and our relationship with nature and with each other. While he is passionate about his love of science, he also considers himself to be a “very spiritual man.” His stories, like most Native American stories, have deep spiritual themes, and his basket weaving, particularly in the quiet outdoors, serves to connect him strongly with his spiritual self.

Dr. Jolly, who holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Oklahoma, was appointed President of the Science Museum in 2004 after having served as senior scientist and vice president at the Education Development Center in Newton, Mass., and in many leadership positions in major national educational and

scientific organizations. He co-founded the Collaboration for Equity project and founded the National Institute for Affirmative Action. Cited as a “lifelong voice against racism and bias,” in 2010 Dr. Jolly received an Ambassador Award given by the St. Paul Foundation’s Facing Race initiative. His antiracism educational curricula have been widely adopted, and he has published many articles and several books on making science and mathematics education accessible to all.



**Dr. Eric Jolly**

In addition to Dr. Jolly’s “sermon,” the Jan. 29 10:30 service on will include other elements of Native American spirituality.

In music, in readings and in the spoken word, we will experience and celebrate this rich cultural tradition.

## **Rybak to speak at Jan. 22 Healing Minnesota service**

**H**ealing Minnesota services resume 5 p.m., Jan. 22, with Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak (pictured) speaking, actor Sally Wingert reading and a quartet of Plymouth choir soloists singing.



[plymouth.org](http://plymouth.org)

Healing Minnesota services, worship services that respond to the so-called marriage amendment, continue 5 p.m., on fourth Sundays through October.

They bring together Plymouth’s three strands of progressive theology, commitment to social justice and understanding of the arts as an avenue to the soul.

## Minister's Message



Chris Bohnhoff

By Jeffrey Sartain

“It was a dark and stormy night....” The infamous phrase by a Victorian author represents to many lovers of English one of the worst opening phrases of any novel in history. It isn't that opening phrase that alone merits the strong critique, but the words following which describe this particular dark and stormy night. The rest of Bulwer-Lytton's opening sentence of Paul Clifford stumbles over misplaced adjectives like a sleepy father staggers wildly through a dimly lit parlor scattered with abandoned new toys early on the morning after Christmas on his way to a cornucopic icebox laden heavy with leftovers he hoped may sate his wolfish hunger.

Too many thoughts and all of them worthy of attention! This describes my experience as the New Year dawns at Plymouth. So many stories all wanting to be told, and all seem worthy of telling. Families of all description find rich community life in Jones Commons on Wednesday evenings: I could easily write an article on this heart-warming ministry. Or, I could also share here the fascinating stories of increasing numbers of new members choosing a spiritual life at Plymouth, often after long journeys. Yet another story to tell in this column might shine a light on some of the behind the scenes work of the Governance Task Force fulfilling a charge to

offer a new and creative way of organizing our collective efforts to be the vibrant, responsive and engaging faith community we believe God is calling us to be (see p. 4). Or, I might instead say more here about the Communications Task Force, working thoughtfully to address such deep questions as how we talk about our church and how we relate to one another. But, wait! I might also tell the exciting story of our education, advocacy and worship programming in response to the so-called Marriage Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution (p. 8), which will become more and more apparent in the months ahead!

There is so much activity, richness and energy at Plymouth. As Bulwer-Lytton might write, the church is like an anthill swarming with herculean efforts, yet warm and joyful, like a community in the city with a mission to heal the world.

And that is what we are! We sum it up with *Progressive Faith Healing the World*.

When words seem inadequate to describe our life together and our best attempts to articulate the miracles that take place all around us fall short, then may God intervene with the language of faith that expresses what we cannot express and says what we don't know how to say. “This is our church; and we are grateful!” Happy New Year!



By Philip Brunelle

## Grace Notes

One of the music traditions at Plymouth Church is the celebration of composer and poet anniversaries in choral and organ compositions. During 2012 a wonderful list of names will be featured:

Leon Boëllmann – Samuel Coleridge-Taylor – Johannes Crüger – Claude Debussy – Jean Françaix – Carlos Guastavino – Andreas Hammerschmidt – Hans Leo Hassler – John Ireland – Myron Roberts – John Stanley – Jan Sweelinck *and among the hymn composers and poets* William Burleigh –

Graham George – Ludvig Lindeman – and Mechthild of Magdeburg.

There are many more but this gives you an idea of the wide range of music to be heard in Plymouth's worship services!

January music will begin with a New Year's Day cantata by Johann Sebastian Bach as well as a lovely motet by John Rutter with the appropriate title, “New Year. “

Other composers to be heard during the month include Plymouth member Cary John Franklin, Bob Chilcott, Leo Sowerby, and the world premiere of a Judith Bingham work, *Eden*.

# *Prime Networker:* Heidi Johnson McAllister

**H**eidi Johnson McAllister has an office but don't expect to find her there. As the sole paid staffer of Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, she typically is out and about, helping to build collaborations, working to spark advocacy efforts and networking among congregations, government agencies and the people who need shelter.

She mentions a person benefitting from the Currie Avenue Partnership, which hires case workers to aid those hardest to house. "She has a low I.Q.," Heidi says. "She also has some mental illness and probably never will be able to hold a 40-hour-a-week job but has stability in housing and talked about how important housing has been for her. She has kids and grandkids so to be able to have a space where her grandkids can come and play has been so important for her." Another person might just need a steppingstone, such as training for a new type of job, and will in time move out of poverty and into an apartment or house. "It's helping people gain a life again," Heidi says.

## **Early Passion for Social Justice**

As a teenager growing up on the family farm in Lindstrom, Minn., Heidi began to recognize the importance of public policy on people's lives—and that some benefitted more than others from it. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Heidi went to work for AmeriCorps working with tenants in South Minneapolis who had legal disputes with their landlords.

When the clients could not pay their rent, Heidi says: "It was heart-wrenching. That's really what drove the passion for me to be organizing around this issue, especially around faith communities. Because I come from a faith community that taught me to really work for social justice."

This commitment to feeding the poor and taking care of our neighbors is shared, she says, by the three Abrahamic traditions—Christianity, Islam and Judaism—as well as Unitarianism. She adds that interfaith efforts, even more than interfaith worship or discussions, are very powerful.

## **Working Together is Powerful**

"Working on the same issue together is very powerful because we are working out of our commonality," Heidi says.



At the legislature, DCEH collaborates with such organizations as the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, which "advocates for a huge number of nonprofit organizations across the state that work with people who are homeless.... We work in partnership with them to really lift up, to be the voice of the faith communities to say, 'Ending homelessness is possible. We can solve this.'... When we have housing for people especially on the lower end, our neighborhoods are healthier."

## **DCEH's Growth and Promise**

In three years, DCEH has grown from its 12 founding congregations to 17 congregations, including the Salvation Army, which has members who formerly were homeless. Heidi melds its efforts with Heading Home Hennepin, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, the City of Minneapolis, county offices and other partners.

Heidi says: "We're doing amazing work because the whole community is invested in this."

***Mark your calendar for a 7 p.m., Feb. 23 interfaith discussion about caring for our neighbors.***

## Update on Governance

# Seeking to Balance Individual and Community

To date the Governance Task Force has spent hours in meetings and further hours in thinking about how to create a more transparent, responsive and effective governance structure for Plymouth. We are doing this work at the invitation of the Moderator, who was charged to appoint us to the work by you, the congregation, in the strategic plan you adopted in February 2010. We want to update you on the essence of our work and process.

One particular challenge we face involves a paradox that is at the heart of our community. On one hand we respect and value highly the *individual* faith journeys of all members and embrace the diversity of our congregation; rather than adopting a normative creed, in our covenant we promise instead to “walk together” in all God’s ways. At the same time, we understand the gift of living *in community*, where joys and burdens are shared and where ministry is our common work. These two values are represented in the way we partake of the elements at Communion: eating the bread when all are ready while drinking from the cup as each is served.

In recent decades, Plymouth has tended to emphasize the value of individualism over that of community. We are rightfully proud of our tradition and at the same time we recognize that it has produced a governance structure that is often cumbersome, non-transparent, and inefficient. In undertaking the current review, we hope to arrive at a governance plan that honors both values and that works more smoothly, clearly and openly.

In our deliberations, we understand that our governance, as our worship, must reflect this paradox of individuality and community. Currently, and also in the future, authority and responsibility must ultimately reside with the congregation as a community. At the same time, individual members

of our congregation are involved in much wonderful ministry and outreach, to ourselves and others, facilitated by our boards and committees. It seems to us that to have governance structure that is transparent, responsive and effective we need as a community one body that is responsible to all of us, for long-range vision and coordination of our many more individual efforts.

Our governance was initially structured this way by our forebears. The Deacons were charged to make policies on our behalf and to guide the overall mission, vision and direction of the congregation in conversation with all the members. Over time other boards have been developed and the governance has become less clear and effective in some regards. We believe it is time to clarify roles, to return to some earlier intentions as well as to cast our vision to the future. These details are not yet developed.

As we undertake this effort, we are mindful that our work is not about power; it is about service and ministry.

We solicit your ideas and help and encouragement as we look for new ways to keep

Plymouth vibrant and flexible and transparent.

We need your individual thoughts and your collective trust.

### GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

Lani Bennett lanibennett@comcast.net  
David Buran burandavid@gmail.com  
Betsy Cussler betsyncussler@comcast.net  
Claire Kolmodin cakolmodin@msn.com  
Lynn Moline lamoline@aol.com  
Nancy Siska npsiska@gmail.com  
Dobson West dobsonwest@msn.com

***It seems to us that to have governance structure that is transparent, responsive and effective we need as a community one body that is responsible to all of us.***

## One Seminarian's Story

# Karl Jones: Longing to Know at a Deeper Level

When I finished college, my parents advised me: wherever you move, find a church which can serve as your second family. For the last 30 years, Plymouth has been that spiritual home. On arriving in Minneapolis, I initially lived with Anne and Gaius Slosser. The first Sunday at their house they brought me to church as a guest. I was intrigued by the preacher with the Welsh accent (Vivian Jones) and warmed by the music. After a number of years—yes, it took years—I became a member. Eventually, Jim Gertmenian and Virginia Rickeman jointly officiated at my marriage to Rebecca Miller. After Rebecca encountered restorative justice through an adult education session, it became an enduring passion for her. I was privileged to sing in the choir for several years under Philip. This church has been a consistent source of nurture and guidance.

I have grown here in many ways but one stands out. In response to an invitation extended in a sermon, I and a number of other members pledged to volunteer for a year working directly with the homeless through Simpson Housing Services. That experience led me to serve on various Plymouth committees and boards.

*Seminary students considering ordination in the United Church of Christ become Members in Discernment when approaching completion of a Master of Divinity degree. Students enter into discernment at the church where they are members and are appointed two mentors from the congregation. Plymouth's role as a teaching church supports the development of future progressive clergy members.*

In addition to urging me to seek out a church home, early on my parents—both avid readers—instilled in me the conviction that the richest and most enduring book was the Bible. Over the years, I tried to see it as they do but mostly I found it a difficult and confusing book. Shortly after his arrival, Jim and I sat down for breakfast. In the process of discussing both the fascination and challenge of scripture, I

was shocked to realize that Jim shared some of my questions. My longing to know scripture at a deeper level, while allowing for skepticism and critical thinking, eventually led me to United Theological Seminary. The excitement I experienced in my first class—on the origins and early history of the church—has not abated. One class has led to the next. Now many courses and a couple internships later, I find myself about to graduate with a Master of Divinity degree.

Earlier this year Plymouth became home to me in a new sense when the Board of Deacons voted to mentor me in the process of discerning whether some form of ordained ministry might be next for me. Thanks for the many ways you have accompanied and guided me to this point in my journey.



## PARISH REGISTER

### DECEASED

Alice Grant

Boyd Stofer, husband of Cherie Stofer, father of Robert, Katharine and David Stofer

Candi Storm, wife of Jim Storm, mother(-in-law) of Carole and Don Steenson, grandmother of Kieran and Kemper Steenson, mother of Jill Storm

Carolyn White

*We treasure their memory and in faith we entrust our loved ones to God's eternal care.*

### BEREAVED

Helen and Alan Anderson, death of Helen's brother, John Raynolds

Jinny Humphrey, death of brother, John Raynolds

Annette Atkins and Tom Joyce, death of Annette's father Annette and Tom Cummings, death of Annette's mother, Mary Ellen Jette

Logan, Declan and Audrey Cummings, death of grandmother Maria Jette and Lee Blaske, death of Maria's mother, Mary Ellen Jette

### BIRTHS

Eleanor Grace Loe, daughter of Eric and Kate Loe

### BAPTIZED

Caden Ray Piehowski, son of Justin Matthew Piehowski and Susan Lee Piehowski



*At left: Mary Millard, assistant manager of Lydia Apartments, revels in the abundance of holiday food bags for families living in Simpson housing. Photo by Gulark Wright.*

(including many pairs of boxers!) were donated and checks for \$375 were received. The guests at the shelter truly do appreciate these gifts and your generosity makes it possible for the staff to provide the badly needed items.

◆The Giving Tree was a success! People at Plymouth donated gifts for 147 people at both Ascension Place and the Benedictine Home. Thank you!

◆Because of you, 60 homeless or impoverished people will receive warm coats this winter. Thanks so much for your caring, your effort to collect the coats.

## Thank You for Your Generosity

◆ Thank you, Plymouth, for helping to feed 168 Simpson families! We admit we were a little nervous when our family goal was raised this year knowing so many people around us were tightening their fiscal belts. Our anxiety increased when we started to roll into the final weekend of the drive; there was quite a gap between *what we had* and *what we needed*. Especially, as we considered that we wanted to feed about 10 more families than last year.

However, in its final weekend, we saw more bags of food delivered and received a great outpouring of monetary gifts as well. Together, we raised \$3,938 which filled 168 food bags, provided a Cub gift card to purchase perishable food items such as chicken, eggs, dairy, etc., and put a smile on the faces 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

◆Thank you! The Simpson Shelter Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed to making Undie Sunday a good event. A total of 200 articles

We are also grateful for the donation of two used laptops to be refurbished and given to Dignity Center clients who are going to school full time.

When churches partner together, the results are a “loaves and fishes” moment.

—Ann Carlson, Director, The Dignity Center of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

## Plymouth, Interactively

*For those considering church membership*

**W**hy Plymouth? Why Me? interactive seminars are for people interested in membership in Plymouth Church. The next seminar will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Jan. 22. In addition to learning more of what Plymouth has to offer, this seminar provides an opportunity to become better acquainted with other prospective members. Individuals who decide to join the church are welcomed at a special reception. New members are received into the community during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Feb. 12.

To register for the Jan. 22 seminar, please contact Emily Venell 612/977-1281 or [emilyv@plymouth.org](mailto:emilyv@plymouth.org). If you have questions regarding membership at Plymouth, you may contact Jeffrey Sartain, Executive Minister. Jeff can be reached in the Church Office at 612/871-7400.

# Nicollet Square, One Year and Thriving

By Betsy Cussler

On Thursday, December 22, the residents and staff of Nicollet Square celebrated their first anniversary. Just one short year ago, a group of volunteers gathered, with a nervous eye on the mounting snow outside, to assemble beds and dressers in residents' apartments and to transport to Nicollet Square all the articles generously donated by Plymouth and Westminster members to help furnish residents' rooms—pillows, sheets, pots and pans, silverware, dishes, towels! We finished before being completely snowed in and, three days later, on Dec. 22, 2010, the first youth moved in.

It has been an incredible year, one in which residents have exceeded most of the original goals set. Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation reports that "83 percent of the 41 young people have obtained employment through the WorkFast program or unsubsidized, market rate employment . . . ; 86 percent of those in unsubsidized

employment have retained their jobs for six months." These statistics represent lives turned around because of stabilized housing and appropriate services.

Volunteers provide a monthly birthday party for residents, in addition to cooking lessons, yoga classes and tutoring. A recently formed Connections Committee is beginning to involve staff, volunteers and residents in ongoing planning for Nicollet Square. To learn more about volunteering, contact Stan Rivkin, Volunteer Coordinator at PCNF [srivkin@plymouthfoundation.org](mailto:srivkin@plymouthfoundation.org).

As the residents and staff at Nicollet Square celebrate their first anniversary, all of us have cause to celebrate also for this successful chapter in the ongoing story of working to change lives by eliminating homelessness in our city.

## Ending Versus Managing Homelessness: Jan. 22 Sabbath

Of any faith, charity and justice are core values. But can charity sometimes stand in the way of furthering justice? But are we helping eliminate the need for the charity in the first place?

"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day, but teach him to fish and he eats for a lifetime." This familiar expression gets at the heart of the conflict between charity and justice. We have a good idea what charity is: charity is helping someone in need. Charity is needed as people are in crisis. Working toward social justice means that we try to help shape society to be fairer to all and provide the basic rights to which we are all entitled. Justice preserves an individual's dignity in ways that charity cannot. Preventing and ending homelessness is cheaper than shelters and services from hospitals, police, and others that are Band-Aid approaches.

In Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis, a 10-year plan to end homelessness called Heading Home Hennepin has been created. ([www.heading-homeminnesota.org/hennepin](http://www.heading-homeminnesota.org/hennepin)). The guiding principles listed by Heading Home Hennepin are:

- ♦All people deserve safe, decent, and affordable housing
- ♦Shelter is not housing
- ♦Providing services without housing does not end homelessness
- ♦Homelessness costs more than housing
- ♦Data is important
- ♦Prevention is the best solution
- ♦Ending homelessness requires a community-wide response
- ♦Ending homelessness is attainable

As citizens of Minnesota and as members of faith communities, we are all mandated to care for the neighbor, including those that are struggling with poverty and homelessness. As people of faith, we must consider this work and speak out in support of these measures to encourage our elected officials to implement and support this work with funding and policy efforts. **Heading Home Plymouth invites you to join us at the 10:30 service on January 22 to kick off this year's campaign.**

# Cultivating Body, Mind and Spirit

January-February 2012 programs

## **Adult Forum, 9-10 a.m., Sunday, in Jackman Room unless noted**

Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m.—**Theater director Lear deBessonnet** shares her journey from fundamentalist to progressive Christianity. 5 p.m.—Launch of **Plymouth READS** includes meal (\$10 ; register in advance; see p. 11) and book discussion of *Crossing Over* by Ruben Martinez in Jackman.

Sunday, Jan. 15: **Commemorating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**; Hawona Sullivan Janzen and Chuck Grose.

Sunday, Jan. 22: **Plymouth READS** continues—Centro Campesino Interim Executive Director Ernesto Velez speaks.

Sunday, Jan. 29: **Plymouth READS** continues—Executive Director of Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota John Keller talks.



Sunday, Feb. 5: Heid Erdrich (at left), director of Wiigwaas Press, speaks about **revitalizing the Ojibwe language**.

Sunday, Feb. 12: Composer and trumpeter Hannibal

Lokumbe introduces his piece ***In the Spirit of Being***, which premieres Feb. 19 in a Witness production. Location: Theater

Sunday, Feb. 19: OutFront Minnesota faith organizer Javen Swanson shares his conviction that **marriage matters** personally, politically and spiritually.

Sunday, Feb. 26: **Progressive theologian Joerg Rieger**, *Empire and Economics: The Difference Religion Makes*.

## **Spiritual Enrichment, some events require registration or fee (\$); some are series**

Saturday Jan. 14 (five meetings): **Drawing for the Truly Terrified**, 9:30 a.m.-noon, \$100 for series, register.

Saturday, Feb. 11: **A Child Shall Lead Them**, workshop conducted by World Without Genocide, followed by a light dinner, and a 7 p.m. show by the Youth Performance Company, 3:30 p.m., \$20, students free, register.

Saturday, Feb. 25: *On Holy Ground*—**Exploring Your Spiritual Experiences through Writing**; Rev. Dr. Lanny Kuester, 9 a.m.-noon, \$25, register.

Sunday, Feb. 26 (continuing through Lent): **Contemplative Prayer**, 9:30 a.m.

## **Religious Exploration, some events require registration or fee (\$); some are series**

Monday, Jan 23 (five sessions): **Having Men for Dinner**, Women's Deadly Banquets. Men are welcome to participate. Facilitators are Tara Bauer and Paula Northwood. 7 p.m. in Room 205.

Sundays, Feb.12, Mar. 11, Apr. 15 and May 13: Have you been wondering **how to discuss the so-called marriage amendment** with friends, neighbors, and family, especially if they do not agree with your opinions and beliefs? The Religious Exploration Committee warmly welcomes everyone to a series addressing theological and religious themes one Sunday per month.

Sunday, Feb. 26 (continuing through Lent): Bible study, *Using Today's Progressive Theologians*—**What Is Good Friday About?** with Paula Northwood and Mary Kay Sauter, 9:30 a.m., Room 205.

Wednesdays, weekly through May 16, with holiday break: **New Testament Greek and Bible Study**; Don Burrows, 5-6 p.m., Room 204.

Wednesdays (except holidays): **Spiritual Yoga**; Ben Lee, 6:45-8:00 p.m., \$10 per session, One Groveland.

Weekly: **PlymouthSpirit blog** ([plymouthspirit.wordpress.com](http://plymouthspirit.wordpress.com)) explores Scripture.

**Register** either by e-mail to the church office ([dougf@plymouth.org](mailto:dougf@plymouth.org)), online at [www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org) (point to "Learning & Involvement" and click on "Spiritual Enrichment") or at the Spiritual Enrichment table in Guild Hall after worship. Scholarships may be available for some programs.

## OLLI: Explore France, close to home or...

This year the University of Minnesota Osher Long Life Learning Institute (OLLI) spotlights France among its course offerings. M. J. McGregor, Ph.D., will lead the workshop *Pilgrimage: Normandy, Mont St. Michel & Chartres Connections*. It meets on Thursdays, 2:15–3:45 p.m., Jan. 12–Feb. 16, 2012, in Jackman. Up to 10 members of Plymouth may participate in this workshop at no charge. For registration or questions, please contact: [olliregb@umn.edu](mailto:olliregb@umn.edu)

Pilgrimage is an ancient practice experienced as an outward journey with inward meaning. This workshop explores concepts of making travel significant and sacred. M. J. also will guide an OLLI pilgrimage to Northern France, May 4–13, 2012, journeying to Normandy, Bayeux, Mont St. Michel and Chartres (in



photo at left).

For workshop registration, call OLLI at 612-624-7847. Optional workshop texts: *The Art of Pilgrimage—The Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred*, Phil Cousineau, \$13.34; *Mont St. Michel and Chartres*, Henry Adams, \$12.75; and *Praying the Chartres Labyrinth*, Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion, \$18.00.

For questions about the pilgrimage, call M. J. at 612-377-4789 or email her at [mjmcgregor@chartrespilgrimage.com](mailto:mjmcgregor@chartrespilgrimage.com). You may register for the workshop or pilgrimage separately.



## Other OLLI Courses this Winter

Up to 10 members of Plymouth may participate in these workshops at no charge. For registration or questions, please contact: [olliregb@umn.edu](mailto:olliregb@umn.edu)

This year's Witness program will feature a new work by Hannibal Lokumbe, *In The Spirit Of Being*. On Jan. 30, 10 a.m., at Plymouth, Vocal-Essence founder and artistic director Philip Brunelle and his special guests jazz pianist Sanford Moore and vocalist Tonia Hughes will present the work. Tickets to the 4 p.m., Feb. 19 concert at the Ordway may be purchased at 651-224-4222 or [www.vocalessence.org](http://www.vocalessence.org). Use the code OSHER to receive a discount.

Film and Spirituality: Movies that wrestle with life's challenges. Participants should plan on viewing films in DVD format: *Dead Poets Society*, *Terms of Endearment*, *Hope and Glory*, *Out of Africa*, *The Kite Runner*, *Atonement*, and *Scent of Woman*. Discussions led by Doug Wallace take place 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15.

Based on her book, *Journeywell: A Guide to Quality Aging*, Trish Herbert will encourage you to give careful thought to the person you want to be during your later years. The 3 Ups of aging—Wake Up, Show Up and Lighten Up—will be discussed and modeled. The class will be highly interactive. Book available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or at the first class for \$20. Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., Jan. 12-Feb. 16.

## A Concert of English Music, Jan. 22

Join Plymouth's soloists (Maria Jette, Jenny French, Lisa Drew, Dan Dressen, James Bohn) and Philip Brunelle for a program of English song—Sunday, Jan. 22 at 3 p.m., in Guild Hall. Judith Bingham (at right), whose music has often been heard at Plymouth Church (including at Christmas Eve), will be featured along with music to celebrate the New Year and the season of Epiphany. The concert is free—invite your friends to join you. It will be a delight and not to be missed!!  
—Philip Brunelle



Patrick Douglas Hamilton

# Calendar ~ January 2012

---

## 1 Sunday

*No Church School*

8:45-11:45 Childcare

10:30 Sanctuary Service—Bach  
Cantata for New Year's Day

---

## 2 Monday

Building closed

---

## 3 Tuesday

9:45 Knit A Bit

10:00 Archives Committee

12:30 Traumatic Brain Injury Support  
Group

6:30 Spirituality and Healing group

---

## 4 Wednesday

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf

1:00 Drop-In

5:00 New Testament Greek

5:15 Katy's Cafe

6:00 Church Council

6:30 Gay-Straight Alliance

6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga

7:00 Family Gathering Time

7:00 Plymouth Choir

---

## 5 Thursday

9:00 Needlers

10:30 Meals on Wheels

12:00 Clergy Members of Plymouth

5:30 Global Connections

Committee

6:15 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

6:30 Drop-In

---

## 6 Friday

---

## 7 Saturday

---

## 8 Sunday

8:30 Board of Stewards

8:45-11:45 Childcare

9:00 Adult Forum

9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal

9:50 First Service

10:00 Blood Pressure Screening

10:30 Sanctuary Service—First  
Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 Church School

11:50 Katy's Cafe

12:00 Caring for Creation

12:00 Youth Committee

12:15 Film Club

4:00 Shai Wise Ordination

5:00 Plymouth READS discussion

---

## 9 Monday

9:00 & 7:00 Needlers

5:30 Building & Grounds Comm.

6:00 Home Retreat Meeting

6:30 Network of Spiritual

Progressives

---

## 10 Tuesday

9:45 Knit A Bit

4:30 American Indian Initiative

6:30 BeFriends

---

## 11 Wednesday

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf

10:30-12 noon Compassionate

Communications Practice Sessions

1:00 Drop-In

5:00 New Testament Greek

5:15 Katy's Cafe

5:30 Board of Fine Arts

6:00 Cherub Choir

6:00 Board of Children,

Youth, & Families

6:00 Board of Deacons

6:00 Young Voices

6:30 Child Care

6:30 Chorister Choir

6:30 Coventry Ringers

6:30 Genesis Dancers

6:30 Board of Membership

6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga

7:00 Alleluia Dancers

7:00 Family Gathering Time

7:00 Plymouth Choir

7:30 Bells Jubilee

7:30 Youth Choir

---

## 12 Thursday

9:00 Needlers

10:30 Meals on Wheels

5:00 Communications Committee

6:15 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

6:30 Drop-In

---

## 13 Friday

6:00 The Vault Coffee House

7:30 Eat Street Players, *The*

*Fantasticks*

---

## 14 Saturday

12 noon Youth Committee

7:30 Eat Street Players, *The*

*Fantasticks*

---

## 15 Sunday

8:45-11:45 Childcare

9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal

---

9:00 Adult Forum

9:50 First Service

10:30 Sanctuary Service

10:30 Confirmation parent meeting

10:30 Church School

11:50 Katy's Cafe

1:30 Eat Street Players, *The*  
*Fantasticks*

5:00 Third Sunday Meal

---

## 16 Monday

Building closed for

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

---

## 17 Tuesday

9:45 Knit A Bit

12:30 Traumatic Brain Injury Support  
Group

---

## 18 Wednesday

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf

10:30-12 noon Compassionate

Communications Practice Sessions

1:00 Drop-In

4:00 BeFriends

5:00 New Testament Greek

5:00 Trustees Personnel Committee

5:15 Katy's Cafe

6:00 First Service Planning Team

6:00 Cherub Choir

6:00 Young Voices

6:30 Child Care

6:30 Chorister Choir

6:30 Coventry Ringers

6:30 Genesis Dancers

6:30 Religious Exploration Comm.

6:30 Board of Member Care

6:30 Board of Outreach

6:30 Trustees

6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga

7:00 Alleluia Dancers

7:00 Family Gathering Time

7:00 Plymouth Choir

7:30 Bells Jubilee

7:30 Youth Choir

---

## 19 Thursday

9:00 Needlers

10:30 Meals on Wheels

6:30 Keyboard Music Club

6:15 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

6:30 Drop-In

---

## 20 Friday

7:30 Eat Street Players, *The*

*Fantasticks*

---

## 21 Saturday

7:30 Eat Street Players, *The*

*Fantasticks*

---

## Exhibition Opens Jan. 29: Galle and Searle



Starting with an opening reception Jan. 29, works by painter and poet Bart Galle and fiber artist Karen Searle are on exhibit in the Gallery. At left, *Attitude (Indonesian Matriarch)* by Bart Galle

### Plymouth READS – January Programming

Global Connections in partnership with Adult Forum have programming planned in January in conjunction with our Plymouth READS book selection, *Crossing Over*, by Ruben Martinez. We begin 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8, in Jackman Hall for a warm and delicious Mexican supper catered by Salsa a la Salsa (\$10/person). Dinner will be followed up by an old fashioned book discussion of *Crossing Over*. 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. Don't miss it! RSVP to Mariana Shulstad (612-377-1288 or mrshulstad@msn.com) by Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Then on Jan. 22, 9 a.m., we have Ernesto Velez, Interim Executive Director of Centro Campesino speaking firsthand about the Latino migrant and immigrant Minnesota experience. On Jan. 29 John Keller, Executive Director of Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota will speak at the 9 a.m. Adult Forum. His presentation is entitled, Immigration Law and Policy—What works? What's broken? Where do we go from Here? See page 8 and plan to come to all three events in January.

### Seeking bridge players

Interested in playing bridge, the world's most fascinating card game? The One More Chair Fellowship Group is organizing a bridge group to meet once or twice a month. Everyone is invited to participate. Contact Craig Shulstad (shulstad@gmail.com or 612/377-1288) for more information or if you have questions.

---

#### 22 Sunday—Sabbath for the Homeless

- 8:45-11:45 Childcare
- 9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
- 9:00 Adult Forum
- 9:50 First Service
- 10:30 Sanctuary Service
- 10:30 Confirmation
- 10:30 Church School
- 10:30 First Service discussion
- 11:50 Katy's Cafe
- 12:30 Event for those considering membership
- 1:30 Eat Street Players, *The Fantasticks*
- 3:00 Program of English music with Plymouth soloists
- 5:00 Healing Minnesota service

---

#### 23 Monday

- 9:00 & 7:00 Needlers

---

#### 24 Tuesday

- 9:45 Knit A Bit

---

#### 25 Wednesday

- 9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
- 10:30-12 noon Compassionate Communications Practice Sessions
- 1:00 Drop-In
- 5:00 New Testament Greek
- 5:15 Katy's Cafe
- 5:30 Spiritual Enrichment Committee
- 6:00 Cherub Choir
- 6:00 Young Voices
- 6:30 Child Care
- 6:30 Chorister Choir
- 6:30 Coventry Ringers
- 6:30 Genesis Dancers
- 6:30 Cuba Connect
- 6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
- 7:00 Alleluia Dancers
- 7:00 Family Gathering Time
- 7:00 Plymouth Choir
- 7:30 Bells Jubilee
- 7:30 Youth Choir

---

#### 26 Thursday

- 9:00 Needlers
- 10:30 Meals on Wheels
- 6:15 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance
- 6:30 Drop-In

---

#### 27 Friday

---

#### 28 Saturday

---

#### 29 Sunday

- No Church School*
- 8:45-11:45 Childcare
- 9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
- 9:00 Adult Forum
- 9:50 First Service
- 10:30 Sanctuary Service
- 11:50 Artists' Reception
- 11:50 Katy's Cafe

---

#### 30 Monday

- 9:00 & 7:00 Needlers

---

#### 31 Tuesday

- 9:45 Knit A Bit



**PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH** [www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org)  
1900 NICOLLET AVENUE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-3789

*Address Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 93038



*From left: Jim Gertmenian, playing Bellomy; Liz Behnke, playing Luisa; Jordan Oxborough, playing Matt; Marty Swaden, playing Hucklebee*

## ***The Fantasticks: Jan. 13-22***

**E**at Street Players has once again nudged our dramatic leader, Jim Gertmenian, onto the boards for our production of the popular Tony Award–winning musical *The Fantasticks*. The show also features Plymouth staff member Doug Freeman and is led by the artistic team of Michael Sheeks and Jo Holcomb. What does this all mean? It means that this is a show that every member of Plymouth will want to see!

Performances are Jan. 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 (Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 and Sundays at 1:00). Group rates are available for Plymouth Fellowship groups (contact [eatstreetplayers@gmail.com](mailto:eatstreetplayers@gmail.com)) and tickets may be reserved at our box office online at [www.eatstreetplayers.org](http://www.eatstreetplayers.org). We expect sales to be brisk, so make your group and individual reservations early!

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

### **9:50 FIRST SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL**

All are welcome for this 30-minute creative pause for our church family, especially children. Service ends at 10:20. (No First Service on Jan. 1.)

### **10:30 SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY**

#### *Preaching:*

Jan. 1 James Gertmenian  
Jan. 8 James Gertmenian  
Jan. 15 Tara Bauer  
Jan. 22 James Gertmenian  
Jan. 29 Eric Jolly (see p. 1)

### **HEALING MINNESOTA SERVICE**

Jan. 22, 5 p.m., R. T. Rybak speaking (see p. 1)

## **the flame**

Vol. XLIII, No. 1 January 2012

Editor: Allison Campbell Jensen

*Director of Communication*

612/871-7400; E-mail: [publications@plymouth.org](mailto:publications@plymouth.org)

*Published monthly for members and friends of Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

Tel.: 612/871-7400; fax 612/871-0014.

Submit items for publication no later than 1/16 for February, 2/13 for March, 3/12 for April. We reserve the right to edit or delay the publication of any article.