



# FLAME

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## One Seminarian's Story

### A Call to Ministry

By Patsy Herbert

**M**y faith journey has been one of change and experience that surprised me by leading to a call to ministry.

I chose the UCC at the age of 14 for confirmation. That choice was very much affected by my mother, a strong woman who had left our church when I was 6.

Our church at that time (1961), arranged a transfer of a newly assigned minister to another church. This transfer was based on rumors and gossip that the man might be gay. My mother felt strongly that behavior like that did not fit with a church that proclaimed love and justice. Thanks, Mom, for such a great start to my own religious discernment. She became a member of Plymouth after moving to Minneapolis in 1976.

I moved to Minneapolis in 1972 to attend the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Plymouth was in the neighborhood and had the word "Congregational" in its name so I began to visit as often as possible. The times were, however, changing, and after some classes in Japan, I practiced Buddhism for a while. A relationship with a Jewish man led to my interest in Judaism, and I learned a lot about the Older Testament. I joined Plymouth in 1989.

My unhealthy relationship with drugs and alcohol began at this same time. When I fell 24 feet from a ladder, I landed with fairly severe injuries. I was alone, but I lay on the ground seeing the sky, and

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*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*

screamed, "Help." Out of nowhere an old friend appeared. He was also a first responder. I was put back together in a local hospital.

I knew, however, that when I had screamed for help, it had not been for the kind I got; it had been for God's comfort. This event, more than any other, led to my call. I got sober. I have been doing volunteer spiritual work with addicts and alcoholics ever since.

I had always been an artist. I was able to express faith and belief in my work. A random postcard from United Theological Seminary placed me where I find myself today: on my way to UCC ordination.

I am so grateful to Plymouth for accepting me into discernment this fall. I look forward to working with my mentors and wish I could attend services this year. I am serving an internship at a small church in St. Paul and so am occupied on Sundays until the end of May. See you in late spring, and many thanks!

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*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.*



**Patsy Herbert is one of three Plymouth members who are current seminarrians.**

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**Mark your calendar, reserve meals, for the Dec. 4 Christmas Festival, page 9.**

**Updates on governance and communications, page 5.**



By Paula Northwood

## Minister's Message

When I am asked what I do for a living and answer that I am a minister, the questioner sometimes goes on a litany of how they used to go to such-and-such a church until they were confirmed and then you know.... Yes, I do know. I have been hearing the same reasons, complaints and excuses for some 30 years now. Granted some of the complaints are valid—people have been hurt deeply by religion. But often the reasons given are: Church just isn't that relevant, I don't believe in this or that, I don't like getting up that early and so forth. I listen patiently and, if the opening arises, I ask, "How do you foster or nourish your spirit now?" It's a baffling question to some. I have found that their spirit is stunted—stopped at the place of disbelief or disengagement.

It reminds me of folks who say they can't draw or play piano when really they draw like a fourth grader or play piano like an eighth grader—or whatever year they quit practicing. It's the same with our spiritual growth; it stops at the point when we stop practicing it. And yes, God does have a part in this equation but to have a healthy and whole life, one must develop not only mind and body but also spirit. To create a healthy spirit requires some sort of practice.

At Plymouth, we have many Spiritual Enrichment programs, Adult Forums and

Religious Exploration and Connection opportunities. When I first started working with the adult program committees of the Deacons six years ago, approximately 300 people participated in the adult education programs throughout the year. Because of committee creativity, hard work and more opportunities, we have doubled the numbers. We feel good about that but in a congregation the size of Plymouth, that's still only 30 to 40 percent of our potential participation. Could it be higher? I think there is potential.

There are many ways that one can nurture spiritual growth; many of you have shared the varieties of ways you work at it. What the committees have realized in this hectic life is that we have to maximize our time with members. Because more of you attend on Sunday mornings than any other time, we plan to offer more opportunities on Sunday. I know this bothers some of you *a lot*. You do not like to choose between excellent programs. We only ask that you have an open mind and heart, knowing that more people can be served with more choices available. Examine your heart and see what would really nurture your spiritual growth and participate in that—it may be a contemplative prayer group, a Bible study or our adult forum. We hope to be starting these new programs in January at 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. Our hope is that we will have your support as we try a different model to meet the spiritual needs of our faith community.



By Philip Brunelle

## Grace Notes

November will be a month of musical delights as we celebrate All Saints' Sunday, Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent.

On the opposite page in the *Flame*, you can read about the visit of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Choir—a wonderful time for us all—and on the Sunday that the Plymouth Choir is away the Youth Choir will lead the worship service—their first Sunday to sing in the service this fall. Under the direction of Mary Laymon, these young people explore a wide range

**On Nov. 6, the Youth Choir will lead the service**

of choral music helping all of us to hear the many ways that God is praised and our lives are challenged.

The Plymouth Choir each month sings a marvelous range of sacred music and November will be no exception with composers including Mozart, Argento, Sirett (from Canada), Dove (from England) and Eccard (from the German Renaissance). Our Children's Choirs will also offer music for Thanksgiving and, of course, some of the beloved hymns for this season will be sung—"For All the Saints," "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" and "They Will Stand in the Gates of the City."

## Choirs Together Again

After a wonderful collaboration last November the choirs of Plymouth Congregational and Fellowship Missionary Baptist will again join together in worship—on November 6 at Fellowship and on November 20 at Plymouth.

The idea for the collaboration occurred when Jim Gertmenian asked Philip Brunelle if there would be a way to invite an African American choir to sing at Plymouth. After thinking about it, Philip felt that the most positive solution would be to join forces and sing at both churches. He called his friend and colleague Sanford Moore (well-known for his group, Moore by Four), who is also music director at Fellowship. They both liked the idea—just a matter of finding Sundays that would work and repertoire that was compatible for both choirs.

As they did last year, the choirs will again join together in singing two anthems and the visiting choir will sing a special number at the other church—so Plymouth will get a chance to hear the Fellowship Missionary Choir in a special number at our November 20 service. Both churches are maintaining their own worship style—which means that the Plymouth Choir will be involved in a longer service at Fellowship where the service is traditionally almost two hours!



*Plymouth's Carolyn Brunelle (left) and Bessie Thomas of Fellowship Missionary Baptist enjoyed singing together in 2010. Photo: Star Tribune Minneapolis-St. Paul 2011.*

(When the folks from Fellowship came to Plymouth last year they were delighted to find themselves worshipping for just 75 minutes!)

We look forward to welcoming our friends from Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church on November 20—and how fitting it is that it will be Thanksgiving Sunday!  
—Philip Brunelle

## Recap: Families Moving Forward

People at Plymouth had their first experience hosting families through the Families Moving Forward program this past September, and a host of volunteers contributed to make it a wonderful success.

Over the course of the week of September 18-25, we hosted three families, utilizing the spiffy spaces on the second floor of the Education wing.

***Plymouth hosted three families experiencing homelessness in September; two of those families have since found a home.***

Families Moving Forward connects families who are currently homeless with a series of congregations who provide housing one week at a time while the organization works with the families to find permanent housing. Guests of the host congregations arrive on a bus in the evening, have dinner, socialize, spend the night in their own guest bedroom, and have a quick bite in the morning before

returning by bus to the Families Moving Forward Day Center.

Volunteers made this work by providing meals, childcare and activities throughout the week. More than 40 volunteers contributed a combined total of more than 300 hours to the effort—and much fun was had by all.

To get your name on the list to have the opportunity to volunteer for our next hosting session (dates to be determined), email [michaelsheeks@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsheeks@gmail.com).

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**Families Moving Forward is a faith-based organization that merged with Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation in 2011. It provides emergency shelter, permanent affordable housing and supportive services to low-income families with children.**

## Annual Giving 2012

### It's Our Home – Progressive Faith Healing the World

*by Sue Specker*

It is not easy to encapsulate what Plymouth means to me, and to express why my husband and I consider it important to give to our church. As with many meaningful aspects of one's life, the reasons for giving to something you love are complex.

I think most of all our giving to the church is an expression of our thankfulness for good fortune and our gratitude for being a part of what we have loved for so long. After all, we were fortunate to have been able to come back to Minneapolis and to this church after a 23-year absence. When we left for California to take new jobs in 1983, we knew that we were leaving behind a life rich with friends and a church that we loved. We took several stabs at finding a "replacement" church in California. What we discovered is that there is no such thing! Our hopes and expectations were never quite fulfilled. And then, when we would visit Minneapolis from time to time during our California tenure, the emotional sense of belonging and our joy at what we heard and saw at Plymouth would overwhelm us during the few church services we were able to attend during that period of our lives. We would realize all too well what we were missing.

The inner voice, calling us to return to Minnesota, for all these reasons and more, was finally just too insistent to resist, and we are so thankful that we are here once again, back in this lively social environment, back with the wonderful sermons, the beautiful artwork and great music, and back with Plymouth people who give so generously, care about one another and share their spiritual lives together.

**We are so thankful that we are here once again,...back with Plymouth people who give so generously, care about one another and share their spiritual lives together.**



### **2011 Interfaith Forums: healing 9/11 strife**

Downtown faith communities continue to explore healing at Thursday gatherings this month.

*Except for Nov. 24, arrive at 6:45 p.m. for refreshments; panel begins at 7 p.m.; site tours follow.*

Nov. 3 **The Healing Role of Activism in our Traditions**, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
([www.ewestminster.org](http://www.ewestminster.org); 612/332-3421)

Nov. 10 **The Healing Role of Civil Dialogue in our Traditions**, The Basilica of Saint Mary ([www.mary.org](http://www.mary.org); 612/333-1381)

Nov. 17 **The Healing Role of Compassion in our Traditions**, Central Lutheran Church  
([www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org); 612/870-4416)

Nov. 24 **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**, 10 a.m., Plymouth Church ([www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org); 612/871-7400)

### **Cultivate Body, Mind and Spirit: Adult Forum Programs**

*Invite your friends to attend Adult Forum programs, which meet at 9 a.m., Sundays, in the Jackman Room.*

November 6  
**Transformative Friendships with Amicus, which pairs people with inmates preparing to reenter society;**  
Louise Wolgramm and James Cannon

November 13  
**Kernels of Concern—Health Impacts of our Corn-ucopia;** David Wallinga, M.D., Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

November 20  
**Food Shelf—Changing to Challenge Hunger;**  
Dave Enghusen

November 27  
**Conversation with an Imam;**  
Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf

December 4  
**How Do We Build a New Human Story of Our Future?**  
Ann Manning and Gloria Wallace

## *Update on Governance Committee*

Three questions: ■ What is the best balance between tradition and change? ■ What is governance?  
■ How can we make Plymouth's structure and decision-making process more effective and more transparent?

Plymouth Congregational Church is a vibrant, progressive, socially conscious downtown church characterized by a large, engaged, thoughtful, articulate, generous and passionate membership. The core values of our Congregational heritage are: autonomy of the local church, deep commitment to the Christian tradition and to belonging to the wider faith community, integrity of the individual conscience, and openness to truth wherever it is found and as it is continually revealed. We honor and want to preserve this heritage.

At the same time, our congregation has, particularly during the listening sessions that were part of the Strategic Plan process, raised questions about the ability of our current structure to serve us in a changing society. In response to these questions, the moderator and the church council convened an Ad Hoc Governance Committee.

Governance is simply the way we organize ourselves—our congregation in partnership with clergy and staff—to carry out our mission. For the last several months, the Governance Committee has been studying church governance in general and Plymouth's governance in particular.

Last spring the Governance Committee met with outgoing and incoming board chairs to hear their reactions and ideas. This fall, beginning with Leadership Day, Nov. 5, we will be bringing forward ideas for improving our governance structure. We look forward to the ensuing deliberations and conversations as we develop a more transparent, more effective governance structure for Plymouth Church. We welcome your thoughts.

The Governance Committee: Lani Bennett ([lanibennett@comcast.net](mailto:lanibennett@comcast.net)); Lynn Moline ([lynn@molineassociates.com](mailto:lynn@molineassociates.com)); David Buran ([burandavid@gmail.co](mailto:burandavid@gmail.co)); Nancy Siska ([nsiska@hughes.net](mailto:nsiska@hughes.net)); Betsy Cussler ([betsycussler@comcast.net](mailto:betsycussler@comcast.net)); Dobson West ([dobsonwest@msn.com](mailto:dobsonwest@msn.com)); Claire Kolmodin ([cakolmodin@msn.com](mailto:cakolmodin@msn.com)).

## *Conversations about How We Communicate at Plymouth*

*By Sonia Cairns*

You're in a conversation with a friend or colleague who asks you about Plymouth Church. Everyone seems to have heard something about our church, but have you ever tried to explain to them, in a few minutes or less, what progressive Christianity stands for at Plymouth? Have you tried to capture the essence of Plymouth in a compelling way? Most of us have and later feel we may not have done justice to our beloved church.

The Church Council asked an Ad Hoc Communications committee to evaluate how we speak to the world – individually and as a church – about Plymouth and our faith as progressive Christians.

The Council also charged us with exploring how we communicate among ourselves.

Members of the Council, our clergy, and this committee believe that our life together at Plymouth is enhanced when we interact with one another in respectful and trusting ways, clearly articulate who we are and what we stand for as a community and make appropriate use of a broad array of communications tools to speak to one another and the larger community.

Our charge is to make recommendations to achieve effective, clear, compassionate communication that enriches, deepens and grows our spiritual community. **We are eager to learn what you think.** To that end, we have emailed a short electronic survey to those of you who already receive e-communications from the church; paper surveys are available in the church office or will be mailed to those who request them.

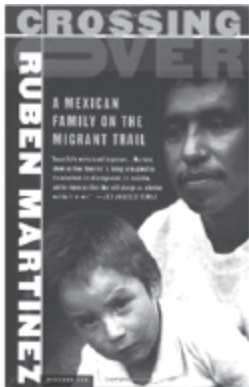
Later this year, we will hold small group discussions—to be announced electronically and in the Sunday Bulletin—to talk about issues and opportunities that are identified by your survey responses.

Please join us through the survey and conversations, so we have the benefit of your thoughts and suggestions. Many thanks for your participation in helping us create a set of recommendations to promote clear, compassionate and effective communications at Plymouth. Please feel free to contact us.

Ad Hoc Communications Committee: Sonia Cairns, [scairns@mosscairns.com](mailto:scairns@mosscairns.com); Vicki Haugen, [vhaugen1@msn.com](mailto:vhaugen1@msn.com); Craig Shulstad; Kristine Mortensen; Gloria Wallace, 763-745-0958; Jon Montgomery; Anne Seltz

## Second Annual Plymouth READS A Global Connections church-wide book study

Global Connections and Adult forum are once again co-sponsoring a church-wide book study. Due to the enthusiastic response to last year's programming surrounding our inaugural Plymouth READS book selection *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, the Global Connections committee has selected a new book this year that further deals with the topic of immigration.



Consider engaging with Ruben Martinez' memoir *Crossing Over*, which tells the story of the Chavez family, starting with a tragic accident involving the U.S. Border Patrol then following the paths taken by surviving family members. The story, told in a journalistic style, is woven through descriptions of Mexican history, culture, and sensibilities and how each has been influenced by border crossings

and by life and work in the United States.

Our book study will be held January 8 at 5 p.m. and will include a delicious dinner of Mexican food. Adult Forum programs on January 22 and 29 will expand on the current issues of Mexican immigrants in the United States. Once again, our partner Birchbark Books will provide books in Guild Hall after the November 20 service. The cost is \$16 plus tax. Checks and credit cards are happily accepted. There will also be a copy of the book available in the Elaine Marsh Library.

The Global Connections Committee acts as a catalyst for increasing awareness and engagement of the Plymouth congregation with peoples, cultures, and issues around the world.

### Thread of the Plymouth Community

Perhaps you've noticed the fall embroidery featuring the first Thanksgiving feast that currently hangs in Guild Hall. If you have ever wondered how these huge works of embroidered art are changed, the Saturday after Thanksgiving is your chance!



The Needlers seek at least five new people willing to lend hands (and some muscle) to the quarterly task of changing the embroideries. It takes about 1 to 1.5 hours each time. Come try it this month! If you are interested or have questions, call Dawn Wanous, 763/544-6029, or Karen Reed, 952/929-7487.

## Eat Street Players Present Lend Me A Tenor

It's September 8, 1934, and Cleveland's premiere opera producer is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The tickets are sold, the stage is set, and the thirty-piece orchestra is ready. But, it's about to become *un disastro gigantesco*, because it's three minutes to curtain, and the leading man—the greatest tenor in the world—has gone missing!

Eat Street Players present *Lend Me A Tenor*, a rollicking farce that will delight our audiences, November 4-13. The show is directed by Will Sturdivant (the Prince in our 2006 production of *Into The Woods*) and features Plymouth member Michael Sheeks as well as former Eat Street performer Steve Ramirez. Tickets and additional information available at [www.eatstreetplayers.org](http://www.eatstreetplayers.org).



## Ten Thousand Things Theater performs II Campiello at Plymouth, Nov. 4-6, 11-13

Ten Thousand Things Theater performs at Plymouth Steven Epp's new adaptation of *II Campiello* by Carlo Goldoni. The commedia-inspired play centers on four scrappy, hard-working, hard-playing families whose daily lives on a small square are interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious wealthy stranger during Carnival.

"*II Campiello*, in an extreme and delightful way, takes a look at the impulsiveness and gambling that's part of any decision to couple up and get married," says Artistic Director Michelle Hensley. Plymouth member Peter Vitale is musical director for the play.



Tickets for the public performances of *II Campiello* are \$25 (\$15 for students on Sundays) and are available at [www.tenthousandthings.org](http://www.tenthousandthings.org) or 800-838-3006.

## Cuban Dance continues Nov. 3, 10 & 17

Cuban Salsa Rueda class continues 6:30 p.m., Thursdays, at Plymouth. Rueda is Miami's response to square dancing, an upbeat circle salsa dance with a lot of laughter and little perfection. Join 30+ of us in either the beginning, intermediate or advanced wheel. No partner needed. Free. Continues until Nov. 17.

## Gallery Show Continues Through Dec. 7



Paintings by Carl Bretzke (*Catalina Pier*, at left), Kristie Bretzke (*Survivor*, at right) and sculptures by Patty Carmody Smith are on view in the art gallery through the month of November.



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## Winona LaDuke to speak on “The Green Path,” Monday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.

By James P. Lenfestey

Internationally known Native American activist and author Winona LaDuke speaks on “The Green Path: Land-base Economies and Future Generations,” Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Her talk will address economic choices in food and energy systems. A reception and book signing will follow. The free event is co-sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis in support of Westminster’s Free Trade Gift Fair on Sunday, Nov. 20.

Ms. LaDuke is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, one of the largest reservation-based nonprofit organizations in the country. She is also Executive Director of Honor the Earth, where she works on a national level to raise public support and funding for frontline native environmental groups. She is a leader in the issues of culturally based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy and food systems. She works nationally and internationally to protect indigenous plants and heritage foods from patenting and genetic engineering.

In 2007, Ms. LaDuke was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. In 1997, she was named MS Woman of the Year, along with the singing group “The Indigo Girls,” and also won the Ann Bancroft Award for Women’s Leadership. In 1994, *Time* magazine nominated her as one of America’s 50 most promising leaders under age 40. In 1988, she won the Reebok Human Rights Award, with which she began the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, Ms. LaDuke has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. She is the author of six books, including *Recovering the Sacred*, *All our Relations*, and a novel, *Last Standing Woman*.

She is a former board member of Greenpeace USA and is presently an advisory board member for the Trust for Public Lands Native Lands Program and a board member of the Christensen Fund. An enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Anishinaabeg, she lives and works on the White Earth Reservation, and is the mother of three children.

Ms. LaDuke’s visit is co-sponsored by Plymouth American Indian Initiative of the Global Connections Committee, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church Social Justice Forum.



## Of Gods and Men: Film Club, Nov. 20

Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian is the guest host for *Of Gods and Men* (2010, 122 min., English subtitles). The French docudrama, highly praised by critics and audiences alike, is the deeply moving recounting of a true story about a group of Trappist monks in Algeria. Threatened by terrorists during the 1996 Algerian Civil War, they must decide whether to save their own lives by returning to France or help the villagers by remaining at the monastery.



The film is one that I probably never would have attended—how

interesting is a bunch of monks taking two hours to decide something?—except for its excellent reviews and awards (and my wife’s encouragement). I was captivated by the quiet beauty of the Algerian countryside, the monastery and the village near it. Soon it was obvious that these monks, a sort of Christian version of the Seven Dwarves without Snow White, have dramatically differing and interesting personalities. They also have very close, spiritual relationships with each other and—unexpected because of their cloistered lifestyle—warm and even deep relationships with the villagers. Soon you can’t imagine either the village or the monastery existing in love and service without each other. Then the terrorists come. And they are very dangerous and believable: while there is little obvious violence, the danger simmers close to the surface. The story moves with increasing tension and dispatch toward a realistic, spiritual and worthy end.

*Of Gods and Men* won the Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival and many other awards. This film’s realism, rich characterizations and alternating scenes of disquieting fear and deep peace make it one of the most beautiful—and spiritual—of the past year.

Join us at 12:15 p.m. in Jackman Hall for this engaging story shown in widescreen wall display. Lunch will be available beforehand. Afterward, Jim Gertmenian will lead a discussion of the film.

—Richard Jewell

## Celebrating Jim Thompson

By Mary Welfling

As Jim Thompson celebrates his 90 birthday this month, we celebrate that 64 of those years have been shared with Plymouth. Jim joined Plymouth October 5, 1947 and was married by Howard Conn to Lois Woodworth (his “Kansas Sunflower”) on September 4, 1948.

After serving as Plymouth’s Librarian from 1965-1970, Lois devoted her volunteer time and efforts to creating the church Archives. During these years Jim not only pursued his professional life in mathematics but also quietly supported Lois’s volunteer efforts at Plymouth. Following her death in 1997, Jim has worked faithfully with the Archives Committee to ensure that Lois’s vision and the foundation she established live on.



Jim is a walking history book of Plymouth. He continues to save materials, respond to individual and media requests, and research and publish topics on Plymouth’s past.

We are blessed to have his knowledge, wisdom and wit as well as his willingness to share fascinating and often humorous anecdotes from our past.

### Welcome Our New Ministry Assistant

Please welcome Josephine Amudala to our Plymouth Church staff as our Ministry Assistant for Administration.



Josephine will support the Senior Minister, Executive Minister and Director of Operations, as well as perform general administrative duties. Josephine began her work with us on Oct. 17, 2011.

Christmas Festival  
***Sharing the Season***

***Plymouth celebrates its traditional  
Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 4, from 11:45 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m.  
Carols in the Chapel, craft making and wreath sales by youth are highlights.  
A wonderful holiday meal will be available 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.***

**PLAN TO PITCH IN AND HELP**

*Helping to spread table linens,  
hanging the halls with bright decorations,  
fetching a drink or dessert for a friend,  
easing the anguish of a little guy who just  
spilled his milk,  
flashing a special welcoming smile to an  
unfamiliar face,  
extending a listening ear or a word of  
encouragement — these are the little things  
that restore our souls.*

These are the hallmarks of Sharing the Season. Won't you join us?

We need your help

- with setting up the morning before
- with serving the dinner
- with supervising a craft table and
- with clean up after.

Many find these activities to be the highlight of the fun! Look for sign-up sheets at the Christmas Festival ticket table before or after the 10:30 services on November Sundays or contact the church office.

If you can help out in any way, we need to know on or before November 27. Any questions regarding the Christmas Festival can be directed to Jo Holcomb (612/977-1277; joh@plymouth.org) or Ed Sootsman (ed.sootsman@gmail.com).



**PLAN TO PARTICIPATE**

Meal reservations must be purchased in advance. For the first time this year, these reservations will be available online on the church website, www.plymouth.org, through Sunday, Nov. 26. They also can be arranged in person in Jones Commons each Sunday in November before and after 10:30 a.m. worship.

Ticket prices remain \$10 for adults, while children 6-12 will be \$6 and those 5 and under will be served without charge. The popular maximum charge of \$30 per family continues. Make your reservations early, since seating will be limited!

***New this year:*** *In order to extend the reach of our experience together, please plan to share a non-perishable Food Shelf donation on the day of the Festival.*

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***Simpson Holiday Food Baskets***

Simpson Housing Services needs our help to provide holiday meals for 162 families. With your generous contributions, we make this happen through a partnership of Plymouth's Lydia Connections Working Group and Lydia Apartments Residents.

You can help by

- a) bringing non-perishable holiday meal ingredients to Jones Commons Nov. 20 and 27, and Dec. 4;
- b) writing a check to help purchase food and gift cards (make out checks to Plymouth Church with "Simpson Food Drive" on memo line); and
- c) assembling the food bags at Lydia Apartments.

For more information, call Marlene Kuxhausen, 763/561-0782 or Renee Macomber, 952/933-2146.

***Watch the Sunday Bulletin Announcements  
and This Week At Plymouth e-newsletter for  
other opportunities to share  
this holiday season.***

# Calendar ~ November 2011

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## 1 Tuesday

9:45 Knit A Bit  
10:00 Archives Committee  
12:30 Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group  
6:30 Spirituality & Healing  
7:00 Man Salon (offsite)

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## 2 Wednesday

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
1:00 Drop-In  
4:30 Gallery Committee  
5:00 New Testament Greek  
5:30 Katy's Cafe  
6:00 Church Council  
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 Gay-Straight Alliance  
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

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## 3 Thursday

8:00 Lifeline Screening  
9:00 Needlers  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
12:00 Clergy Members of Plymouth  
5:30 Global Connections  
6:30 Cuban Salsa Dancing  
6:30 Drop-In

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## 4 Friday

7:30 *Lend Me a Tenor*

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## 5 Saturday

8:30 Leadership Day  
9:30 Listening to Your Inner Spirit: The Intuitive Advantage  
4:00 Early Pledge Reception (offsite)  
7:30 *Lend Me a Tenor*

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## 6 Sunday—Sabbath to End Homelessness

*Daylight Savings Time Ends*  
8:45-11:45 Childcare  
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal

9:00 Adult Forum  
9:50 **First Service**  
10:00 Blood Pressure Screening  
10:30 **Sanctuary Service**  
11:50 Katy's Cafe  
12:00 Youth Committee  
1:00 *Lend Me a Tenor*

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## 7 Monday

9:00 & 7:00 Needlers  
6:00 Compassionate Communication practice session  
6:30 Network of Spiritual Progressives  
7:00 Winona LaDuke  
7:00 Big Words of Faith  
7:00 Great Books group

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## 8 Tuesday

9:45 Knit A Bit  
6:30 Wider Church Relations Committee  
6:30 BeFrienders  
7:00 Man Salon (offsite)

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## 9 Wednesday

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
1:00 Drop-In  
5:00 New Testament Greek  
5:15 Fine Arts Board  
5:30 Katy's Cafe  
6:00 Cherub Choir  
6:00 Young Voices  
6:00 Board of Deacons  
6:00 Board of Children, Youth & Families  
6:30 Board of Membership  
6:30 Child Care  
6:30 Chorister Choir  
6:30 Coventry Ringers  
6:30 Genesis Dancers  
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

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## 10 Thursday

9:00 Needlers  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
5:00 Communications Committee  
6:30 Cuban Salsa Dancing  
6:30 Drop-In

## 11 Friday

6:00 Senior High Lock-In  
6:00 The Vault Coffee House  
7:30 *Lend Me a Tenor*

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## 12 Saturday

9:30 It's Not as Simple as It Seems: Workshop on Music and Ethics  
10:00 Fall Visitors Program  
7:30 *Lend Me a Tenor*

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## 13 Sunday

8:30 Board of Stewards  
8:45-11:45 Childcare  
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal  
9:00 Adult Forum  
9:30 New Member and Host Reception  
9:50 **First Service**  
10:30 **Sanctuary Service—Pledge Sunday**  
10:30 Confirmation Parent meeting  
11:50 New Member Coffee Hour  
11:50 Katy's Cafe  
12:00 Youth Committee  
12:00 Caring for Creation  
1:00 *Lend Me a Tenor*  
3:00 Community Sing

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## 14 Monday

9:00 & 7:00 Needlers  
2:30 Compassionate Communication practice session  
5:30 Building and Grounds  
6:00 Home Retreat Meeting  
6:30 Network of Spiritual Progressives

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## 15 Tuesday

9:45 Knit A Bit  
12:30 Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

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## 16 Wednesday

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
1:00 Drop-In  
4:00 BeFrienders  
5:00 New Testament Greek  
5:00 Trustees Personnel Committee  
5:30 Katy's Cafe  
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 Committee  
6:30 Board of Outreach  
6:30 Board of Member Care

# Bulletin Board

**Wherever you are, whatever you do, be in love. –Rumi**

Rumi scholar Fatemeh Keshavarz speaks about Rumi’s poetry, Sufism and her own experiences 6 & 7 p.m., Nov. 11, and 2 p.m., Nov. 13 at the Wisdom Ways Center in St. Paul. \$20/event or \$35/both events; register: [www.wisdomwayscenter.org](http://www.wisdomwayscenter.org) or call 651-696-2788.

**The Giving Tree at Plymouth**

This month, look for the Giving Tree in Jones Commons every Sunday. Through this effort, people at Plymouth provide holiday gifts for residents at the Benedictine Health Center in South Minneapolis or clients at Ascension Place/St. Anne’s Place in North Minneapolis, who are women with children working toward returning to independent living. Choose a gift request from the tree, shop for the item (suggested \$50 per person), wrap and deliver the gift to Plymouth by Dec. 4. Questions? Contact coordinator Shannon Kearns, 612/977-1288.

**Listening to Your Inner Spirit: the Intuitive Advantage, Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

What would your life be like if your decisions came more easily and effortlessly? They can, if you trust your intuition and listen to your inner Spirit. This workshop will inspire you to trust the still small voice we all can call on for guidance. Often called intuition, it is that “gut feeling” that guides us by helping us make the best choices and find the smooth path. Kathryn Harwig will give an inspiring talk of how life can become freer and easier with the use of simple intuitive techniques. You will be taught how to quiet your mind so that you can more easily tap this source of wisdom. We all are born with the ability to listen to our inner Spirit. Come and learn how you can obtain the intuitive advantage. Cost is \$25 per person. Sponsored by the Spiritual Enrichment Committee. Please pre-register. Meets in the Fireside Room.

- 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

**17 Thursday**

- 9:00 Needlers
- 10:30 Meals on Wheels
- 6:30 Drop-In
- 6:30 Cuban Salsa Dancing

**18 Friday**

**19 Saturday**

**20 Sunday**

- 8:45-11:45 Childcare
- 9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
- 9:00 Adult Forum
- 9:50 First Service
- 10:30 Sanctuary Service – Stewardship Dedication & Fellowship Missionary Baptist choir joins Plymouth choir
- 10:30 Senior High Parent meeting
- 11:50 Katy’s Cafe
- 12:15 Plymouth film club
- 5:00 Third Sunday Meal
- 6:45 Vespers

**21 Monday**

- 9:00 & 7:00 Needlers
- 6:00 Compassionate Communication practice session

**22 Tuesday**

- 9:45 Knit A Bit

**23 Wednesday**

- 9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
- 1:00 Drop-In Thanksgiving Service
- 4:00 BeFrienders
- 5:00 New Testament Greek
- 5:30 Spiritual Enrichment Committee
- 6:30 Cuba Connect
- 6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
- 7:00 Plymouth Choir

**24 Thursday – Thanksgiving Day**

- 10:00 Thanksgiving Interfaith worship service

Office closed



**25 Friday**

Building closed for holiday

**26 Saturday**

**27 Sunday**

- 8:45-11:45 Childcare
- 9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
- 9:00 Adult Forum
- 9:50 First Service
- 10:30 Sanctuary Service—Advent Communion
- 11:50 Katy’s Café
- 5:00 Healing Minnesota service

**28 Monday**

- 9:00 & 7:00 Needlers

**29 Tuesday**

- 9:45 Knit A Bit

**30 Wednesday**

- 9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
- 1:00 Drop-In
- 5:00 New Testament Greek
- 5:30 Katy’s Cafe
- 6:00 Cherub Choir
- 6:00 Young Voices
- 6:30 Child Care
- 6:30 Chorister Choir
- 6:30 Coventry Ringers
- 6:30 Genesis Dancers
- 6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
- 7:00 Alleluia Dancers
- 7:00 Family Gathering Time
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## PARISH REGISTER

### DECEASED

Bruce Smith

Alton Tekse

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

### BEREAVED

Peg Birk, death of mother, Sally C. Birk

### MARRIED

Alarica Hassett and Joshua Nowlan

### BAPTIZED

Madden Joy Doran, daughter of Meredith Joy Benson and Paul Gardner Doran

Elsie Lucille West, daughter of Allison Korell West and Peter William West

## *Healing Minnesota Service, 5 p.m., Nov. 27*

Everyone is invited to services of song, silence, speakers and spiritual reflection that inspire love, respect and healing in a time of division about the proposed constitutional amendment on marriage rights.

***Invite your friends!  
Except for a break in December,  
Healing Minnesota services  
continue, 5 p.m., on the fourth  
Sunday of the month through  
October 2012.***

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### 9:50 FIRST SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL

All are welcome, especially children. Service ends at 10:20.

### 10:30 SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

#### Preaching:

Nov. 6 James Gertmenian  
Nov. 13 James Gertmenian  
Nov. 20 James Gertmenian  
Nov. 27 James Gertmenian

#### 10 A.M. THANKSGIVING DAY

Interfaith service; guest preacher



## THE FLAME

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