

The Herald

First-Plymouth Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Issue #12 • June 16, 2010 - June 29, 2010



Worship with us in June

June 19 & 20

Jim Keck preaching. Plymouth Brass at 9:00AM & 10:30AM services. First-Plymouth Choir at 10:30AM service.

June 26 & 27

Barb Smisek preaching. Summit String Quartet at 9:00AM & 10:30AM services. First-Plymouth Choir at 10:30AM service.

June 20 & 27

11:59@First-Plymouth-Jim Keck teaching: Dreams, Meditation, Physical Training & Intellectual Study as Prayer.

Join us for worship Saturday at 5:30PM, Sunday at 9:00, 10:30 and 11:59AM. Child care is available at the 9:00 and 10:30AM services.



Mission Dinner Celebrating the People and Places of God

The Spirit was moving, voices were lifted in praise, and joy was shared in Mayflower Hall on Sunday, May 23rd during the first Mission Dinner: Celebrating the People and Places of God sponsored by the Mission Board. Over 150 guests were served delicious Congolese dishes prepared by our own Congolese members and volunteer helpers.

Barb Smisek shared a vision for mission involvement at First-Plymouth followed by brief presentations about mission work in Ghana, Honduras and the upcoming trip to Cedar Rapids. Attendees also watched a video of our Congolese refugees introducing themselves. (see video at www.firstplymouth.org, click on 'Meet our F-P Congolese members'). "I'm amazed how the church takes care of its members," Godfrey Lebesse said in the video. "Life is so good." Many of those having dinner had an opportunity to talk with the refugees.

Barb Smisek said, "This dinner has been a lifelong dream for me. When we began planning six weeks ago, we hoped to sell 80 tickets. Nearly double the number of people responded and if we had a larger facility, even more would have come." The planning committee of Kathleen Maynard, Sue Sampson, Judy Greenwald, Elizabeth Hertzler and Karen Clarke was delighted with the response.

In addition to the dinner, raffle prizes were awarded and many of those present turned in commitment cards expressing their interest in further support of the mission efforts of the church. "We couldn't have asked for more at a first event like this," Said Kathleen Maynard, "The involvement of our Congolese members, their willingness to cook, sing, add drumming and prayer to our evening was a gift to the community."

Bosa Kanza, the first of seven refugees to come to First-Plymouth, says that the church has become a second family for him and the other Congolese immigrants. He ushers and helps with child care. "They support me," Kanza said. "I have made so many friends. It was a dream for me to come to America, and everyone has been a blessing to me - we want to thank our church for their help."

First-Plymouth has provided help with housing, jobs, clothing, food and furniture for the refugees. If you wish to help, contact Barb at barbara@firstplymouth.org. Money has been especially tight, so the Congolese are trying to earn extra money by starting a business called SoClean Cleaning Service. For more information call 516-4850.



Young First-Plymouth Members Involved with the UCC

As long as she can remember, Ella Wiles has been attending family camps at Kamp Kaleo. Her experiences there are what led her to be a Resource Team Member. This is Ella's second summer working at Kamp Kaleo where she sets up the camps and then assists with the day-to-day activities. Ella said Kamp Kaleo is special. "It's an experience unlike any other. It's a really peaceful, spiritual place to be."

Ella's sister Lydia is also involved with the UCC. Lydia was selected to be one of 30 people from around the world to participate in the Stewards Program for the Conference for Reformed Churches. The conference will be held in Grand Rapids, MI to create the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). For conference and Kamp Kaleo information, visit <http://www.kampkaleo.com/or> <http://www.reformedchurches.org/>

Volunteer Opportunities

Vacation Church School July 19-22nd

We need teachers, assistants and craft leaders. Contact Kathie Johnson 476-7565, ext 215 or kathie@firstplymouth.org.

Items Needed for VCS:

- Egg cartons
- Baby food jars
- Metal lids from frozen orange juice cans
- 33 mm film canisters

Congregation News

Welcome!

The following new members were welcomed into the First-Plymouth family on May 23rd:

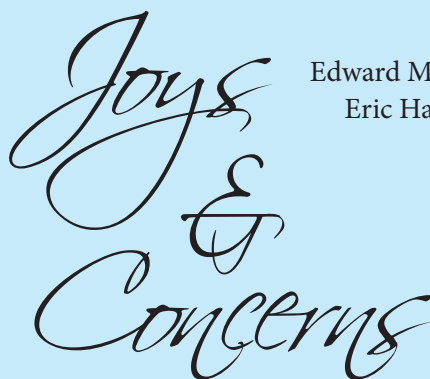
Mitch Bargmann	Steven DeLair, II	Christopher Richardson
Jesserae Beck	Charlie Foster, Jr.	Julie Richardson
Dorothy Bentley	Shirley Foster	Alicia Risk
Ty Branch	Adam Gullion	Erin-Ann Scott
Andrea Brenning	Angie Jones	David Shapiro
Karl Cochrane	Alan Linderman	April Stevenson
Melissa Cochrane	Jaime Meinke	Linda Stevenson
Jim Christo	Matthew Meinke	Amy Theilen
Vicki Christo	Bruce Mellberg	Eric Williams
Sally DeLair	Sara Reed	Jane Powers-Williams
Steven DeLair	Andrew Richardson	

Meet some new members of First-Plymouth:

Jesserae Beck is a single mother of two sons, ages 3 and 2. She works as an administrative assistant at a construction company and attends Southeast Community and Metro Community Colleges full time and is majoring in education.

April Stevenson grew up in the printing business in Lincoln. She plays the flute with the Lincoln Civic Orchestra and Sarabande Fling. April sells beaded jewelry at art galleries and serves on the Library Board.

Bruce Mellberg was raised in Holdrege, Nebraska, graduated from UNL and worked with the National Park Service. He is a paraeducator with Lincoln Public Schools.



Weddings

Edward Maready, Jr. and Elizabeth Ann Dowd – May 22nd
Eric Hammerschmidt and Shannon Schultz – May 29th
Jeffrey Baker and Lisa Davidson – May 29th
Brian Ekasala and Kristi Ogorzolka – June 5th

Baptisms

Bryn Walker Dickson – June 6th
Ainsley Grace Pickel – June 6th
Whitney Lynn Sylvestre – June 12th

In Memory

Robert H. Lau, a Member of First-Plymouth since 1931, died June 3rd. Services were held June 13th.

Children's Ministry

Kathie Johnson, Director of Children and Family Ministries, 476-7565, Ext. 215, kathie@firstplymouth.org.

Join us for **Summer Sunday activities** from 9:00-9:45AM and 10:30-11:30AM. Classroom locations are posted throughout the church. **Infant and toddler** care is provided during both services. Location: west entrance, lower level, Toddler A.

Vacation Church School – July 19-22

9:00AM-Noon
“Baobab Blast: God’s Great Get-Together”
Age’s 3’s thru 6th grade.



The Baobab is a huge tree found in Africa that is a meeting place for many people to gather, discuss, and share stories. All kids are invited to gather around the Baobab Tree where they will learn that Jesus includes them as one of his important disciples. Registration forms are on-line or in the literature racks. Deadline July 2nd.

Youth Corner

Youth Leaders: Mitch Connelly 476-7565 ext 221, mitch@firstplyyouth.org
Confirmation: Julie Hendricks 476-7565 ext 243, julie@firstplymouth.org

Camp Friendship

On July 24th the First-Plymouth Youth Group will go to Annandale, MN to volunteer at Camp Friendship, a camp for individuals with developmental disabilities. The cost of renting a bus for transportation is \$5,600. Throughout June, the youth will be promoting a **DATE NIGHT RAFFLE** to help defray transportation cost. By purchasing a ticket, you are entered in a drawing to win one of three date nights out for dinner and entertainment for two. Tickets will be sold after church services until mid-July (1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00). The drawing will be held on the morning of Sun. July 18th.



Mission Opportunity

Kamp Kaleo Outdoor Ministries will participate in the 6th annual Nebraska Junk Jaunt, Sept. 24-26. Last year, over \$15,000 was raised. Teams are needed to sort, arrange and price items before the sale and to assist on the sale days. Contact Gordon or Maril Freese, 420-6084 if you can help or if you have items to be picked up for donation. See bulletin board in west hallway for more information.

What's Sacred?

Occasional brief musings by Kathryn Campbell, Minister of Spiritual Direction

Desmond Tutu tells of a crucial event in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa when, during solitary prayer, he felt compelled to call for another mass demonstration even though many blacks had been killed by police in a recent one. It was against all reason. Unknown to him the highest levels of government were just beginning to move toward ending apartheid. A week later 30,000 people of all colors, creeds and economic levels marched with no police in sight and no loss of life. Was this coincidence or God-inspired? Tutu quotes one of his heroes: “When I pray, coincidences happen. When I don’t, they don’t.” (As told in *Made for Goodness*, by Desmond Tutu & Mpho Tutu, 2010).



Is summer a good time for you to focus on your prayer life, to have an Annual Spiritual Check-up or talk about a difficult situation in your life from a spiritual point of view? Contact Kathryn Campbell, Minister of Spiritual Direction, kathryn@firstplymouth.org or 488-3647

Top 10

Reasons To Become a Stephen Minister at First-Plymouth

- 10 It is always good for your heart to help others.
- 9 You gain a deeper understanding of scriptures.
- 8 You meet some really nice people.
- 7 Stephen Ministry Training helps you relate to others.
- 6 It is fun!
- 5 It is a confidence builder.
- 4 You are a member of a special group of people.
- 3 You learn about the God-given gifts you have within you.
- 2 There is always good food involved!
- 1 You are making a real difference in the life of another person.

Contact Barb Smisek at 476-7565 or barbara@firstplymouth.org for more information. You could become part of the new Stephen Ministry Training group that will begin early this fall.

Church Summer Hours

The office will be open 8AM-4PM, between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Adult Fellowship Groups

Get connected...join a group. All Adult fellowship groups have e-newsletters. To be added to a specialized list, email addie@firstplymouth.org

First-Plymouth Singles News

Single Adults (30's-60's). For more info. check out the Singles newsletter, *The Individualist*.

Volleyball – Mon. June 21 & 28, 7:30-9:30PM; and Fri. June 18 & 25, 6-8PM, in F-P Gym.

Sunday Discussion Group – Sundays, 9:15AM, Tower Rm. Topics vary. Join for exciting and intellectual discussion on current events, books and more.

Upcoming Events:

- New Singles Members Welcome/Bad Beverage Night – 6/17
- Celebrate Lincoln Festival – 6/18
- Jazz in June – 6/22 & 6/29
- Stransky Park Concert – 6/24
- Pathetic Pool Night – 6/26

Cribbage Club

Mondays, 6:30PM, in Courtyard Lounge. Beginners welcome.

HopeKeepers

Will meet June 17th at 6:30 in Room G.

Singles Plus+ News

Single Adults (60 and older).

Breakfast & Brunch – Mon. June 21, 11AM, The Cup (25th & Randolph); Mon. June 28, 9AM, Panera Bread (201 N. 66th).

Bridge: Wed. June 23, 1-4:30PM, in Pilgrim Hall. Open to all!

Church Open House

Social fellowship for church members

June Event: Fri. June 25, 7PM, at Sheila and Wynn Mehlhaff's home. Great chance to meet other F-P members! Bring an appetizer and beverage (most bring wine) to share. RSVP to mehl48@windstream.net.

Programs & Activities

R Registration Required

W Walk-Ins Welcome

Bible & Religion Studies

W "They Never Taught Me That in Sunday School"

Informal discussion (class led) and coffee, Sundays, 9AM, in the Resource Room. Dr. Peabody's class will resume Sept. 12.

W Sunday Discussion Group

Sundays, 9:15AM, Tower room. Open discussion on current events, books, movies and more. All are welcome.

W Not Your Ordinary Bible Study

Led by Rev. Jim Keck. Every Thursday, at Noon, in Calvert Parlor. Bring a sack lunch if you would like.

Pastor Karen Clarke

Karen Clarke, who initiated the Animal and HopeKeepers Ministries at First-Plymouth has received her license for ministry. Help Pastor Karen celebrate with a cake reception on June 20th after the 9:00AM worship service in Pilgrim Hall.

11:59@F.P

Integrations

During June, the 11:59 service will be exploring holism and this new view of the human being. A free beginning class, "Yoga for Everyone" will be held 11:30-11:55AM every Sunday in June. Yoga helps you reconnect with your body so you can calm the mind and be in the present, and to receive

Communion in Your Home

If you would like to receive communion in your home, call 476-7565 ext. 201, leave your name and phone number and a visitation minister will call to set an appointment.

and experience spirit. Led by Tataya Radke, you will learn easy gentle moves that connect the body and breathing. Then attend the 11:59 service where Jim will be discussing: Dreams, Meditation, Physical Training, and Intellectual Study as Prayer.

Summer Study with Rabbi Ilan Emanuel & 11:59 Series

Rabbi Emanuel, from the South Street Temple, will be teaching Sundays, July 11, 18, and 25 from 11:00AM-11:50AM, Calvert Parlor, on the Abraham Cycle - and Cantor at our 11:59AM contemporary worship service. This will be a three part special summer series. Islam, Judaism and Christianity are called the 'Abrahamic faiths' because

they all worship the God of Abraham - the God who called Abraham to journey into a new land in faith. The 11:59 service in July will be exploring this common link among the three great monotheistic faiths, and we will have a Rabbi to help lead us! Attend the Bible study first then the 11:59 with Jim and Rabbi Emanuel.



MOZART'S REQUIEM

Wednesday, June 23

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Tom Trenney, Conductor

HAYDN'S THE CREATION

Wednesday, July 21

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Dr. Peter Eklund, Conductor

RUTH WATSON HENDERSON'S FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Wednesday, August 18

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Jeremy Bankson, Conductor

COME SING ALONG! Join Abendmusik for our first annual Summer Sings series. We'll spend two hours at First-Plymouth Church in a fun, energetic rehearsal and instant performance of some of the world's greatest choral music. Scores, hospitality, refreshments and fun are included—and **FREE**. No sign-up, auditions or long-term commitment. Just good times and great music.

If you are in the Hospital

Please call or have someone call the church (476-7565) to let us know that you are in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit. If you know in advance you will be having surgery, let us know.

Tech Help Needed for 11:59

Volunteers needed at 11:25AM and after the service at 12:30PM for set-up and tear down for the 11:59 service. Some heavy lifting required. Contact tammy@firstplymouth.org or call 476.7565 ext. 204.

Facebook?

Are you on Facebook? Become a "fan" of First-Plymouth Church. When you log onto your Facebook account, type in our name in the "search" button. Photos and updates are posted regularly.

Constant Contact

Do you want to receive updates from First-Plymouth weekly? Visit www.firstplymouth.org and click on the Constant Contact button (lower left) to register your email and to pick which group you'd like to receive updates from. We will not share your email address with anyone.

Future Herald Articles

The deadline for the June 30th Herald is June 22nd by noon
The deadline for the July 14th Herald is July 6th by noon.

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Women's Board Announces Scholarship Recipients

The Board for Women's Ministry is pleased to announce that it will be assisting four women in our church who are non-traditional students reach their career goals. **Sandi Starkey** will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. She is working on her Master's at the University of Nebraska, College of Education and Human Services. Her goal is to teach at the college level with an emphasis on design and business. Sandi has been a member of First-Plymouth with her husband, Bob Meier, for many years.

Three scholarships of \$500 each were also awarded. **Antonia Lewicki** is working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Her goal is to obtain a job where she can use education as a tool to enrich the community. **Anastasia Paus** will be attending Southeast Community College to become a Certified Medical Assistant and aspires to get her R.N. degree. **Tina Boilesen** is working toward her Master's

Degree in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. She has attended First-Plymouth since 1992 and has played a leadership role on several boards.

The Board wishes that it could assist all of the applicants. Everyone can help next year's applicants by taking part in the fundraiser you will be hearing more about—think First-Plymouth tee-shirt.

