

# The Herald

## First-Plymouth Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Issue #14 • August, 2010



### Worship with us in August

**July 31 & August 1**  
Jim Keck preaching.

**August 1**  
11:59@First-Plymouth- Jim Keck teaching.

**Taizé-**August 1-7:00PM

**August 7 & 8**  
Nancy Erickson preaching. Plymouth Brass at both Sunday services.



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

## Building Upkeep and Use Plan due out this summer. Meanwhile, we need to fix the roof!

*By Meg Lauerman, Church Moderator*

A team of three architects and a contractor have been poring over every square foot of our historic icon we know as First-Plymouth Church in order to formulate a long-term maintenance and use plan. Meanwhile, another kind of pouring has been going on outside—lots of heavy rain. As a result, it appears roofing updates have floated to the top of the list of things that need immediate attention.

As any of you who happen to be homeowners know, re-roofing is not cheap. As you can imagine, restoring the roof on an historic building is ‘up there’ in more ways than one.

I can’t overstate how fortunate we are to have the leadership of Assistant Moderator Lowell Berg, an architect, in formulating a long-range plan to help us prioritize projects over the next several years to preserve and make best use of the church structure for our programs and services. Lowell is working with Wynn Mehlhaff and Lynn Jones, both also architects, and Dan Vokoun from Sampson Construction (all members of First-Plymouth). The group has spent countless hours over the past six months going over every wall, floor, door, ceiling, and window. They have talked with each church staff member to help plan for structural modifications that will best fit current and future programs, including youth programs, community gatherings and worship. I’m told the full plan should be done by the end of summer, and will be presented to the congregation.

The structural planning group has placed a ‘red flag’ on sections of the roof, and you may notice that work on at least two major sections of roofing will be going on yet this summer. Waiting for winter makes no sense. We are



fortunate to have some cash reserves on hand, and can pay for the needed immediate renovations from a combination of the cash reserve and the First-Plymouth Foundation funds. While the Trustees and Council hate to dip into the Foundation funds at a time

that we are trying to grow the Foundation, this makes sense.

Two things we are asking of members of our congregation:

- If you are able to make a special contribution to the First-Plymouth Foundation to help cover the immediate roofing project, that would be wonderful and very appreciated.
- If you can remember First-Plymouth Foundation in your will for the long-term benefit of the church, that would also be terrific, and you would then be a member of the First-Plymouth Legacy Society.

We are undoubtedly looking at the prospect of a capital campaign, quite possibly by fall of 2011, once we have digested the structural plan and the projected costs of the associated building projects. Much more discussion on that will take place in the coming months.

Meanwhile, I ask that each of you take a few moments to reflect on the significance of this beautiful structure, what it means to the community now, and how we can continue to build it into a current and relevant hub of personal growth and worship in our region.

I have faith that this congregation will continue to demonstrate the ‘can-do’ attitude that is such a hallmark of First-Plymouth.

## Join the F-P Peace & Justice Team

Are you looking for a venue to put your faith in action? Bring your ideas and fresh perspectives to our first planning meeting, on Wed., Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:15-6:30PM in Courtyard Lounge.

## Summer Giving Tree —Back To School!

The Board of Christian Outreach is seeking gift and cash donations for St. Monica's Home, Dimensions-First-Plymouth Early Education Program, Friendship Home, Light-house, Antlers and other local agencies. Look for the apple gift tags between services on Aug. 1 and 8. Collection boxes will be at the west entrance during the week or return to the Giving Tree collection table on Sun., Aug. 8. Return items no later than Wed., Aug. 11 (with tags attached). We can make a difference in making back to school a positive time for Lincoln families and children.

## You're Invited! "This Side of Forty" Annual Fall BBQ

Adults on "either" side of forty are welcome at the Annual Fall BBQ. "This Side of Forty" meets four times a year to meet new people, hear educational presentations, and have topical discussions. Join this fun group Sun., Aug. 22 at the home of Neal and Lois Thomas. We will be meeting at 5PM and eating at 6PM. Meat will be provided, bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP by noon Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> to 483-6605 and for directions. Questions, contact Rev. Barb Smisek, [barbara@firstplymouth.org](mailto:barbara@firstplymouth.org)

# Congregation News

## Welcome!

Welcome these new members to First-Plymouth: Charles & Barbara Perdew, Karyn Snow, Kiran Bahl, Vincent Triche, Luke & Steph Hickey, John Conley.

## Meet some new members of First-Plymouth:

*Tyrone Branch, Jr. & Alicia Risk.* Ty is a long distance runner and cyclist and is an electrician. Alicia is an assistant at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Ty & Alicia have a 9 year old son, Aven.

*Alan Linderman* is a physician and is president of the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership. He married Sarah at First-Plymouth 13 years ago. They have 2 children. Alan has been coming to First-Plymouth for a few years and wanted to make it official!

*Angie Jones* is involved in beagle rescue. She has an 8 year old granddaughter who also attends First-Plymouth. Angie is a self-employed career services professional who assists others in finding work.



Tyrone Branch, Jr. & Alicia Risk



Angie Jones

Joys  
&  
Concerns

## Weddings

Travis Holm & Abby Hatcher – June 20  
Terry McWilliams & Melanie Vanous – June 26  
Jeffrey Flanders & Kellie Loftis – July 3  
Matthew Williamson & Jennifer Avey – July 3  
Jeremy Jorgensen & Emily Sowl – July 28  
Jeran Stuck & Jill Tingle – July 9  
Brooke Eklund & Kelly Wittow – July 10  
Mitchel McCarthy & Michelle Eret – July 10  
Andrew West & Metta Cederdahl – July 17

## Baptisms

James Antony Bustamante-Gilmore – July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Carter Matthew Krull – July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Ruby Sun & Josette Mun Spann – July 11<sup>th</sup>

## In Memory

Millie Ely died June 29, a memorial service was held July 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Millie joined First-Plymouth in 2009.  
Marvin Rader died July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Services were held July 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Marvin joined First-Plymouth in 1975.  
Loyde Adams died July 14<sup>th</sup>. Loyde became a member of First-Plymouth in 1983.  
Services were held July 17<sup>th</sup>.

# A Word From Jim

“Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head” - I loved that song and the movie, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. But it’s no fun having raindrops falling on our heads at First-Plymouth. We suddenly have two roofs that require immediate replacement, and the unusual amount of rain this summer has made that abundantly clear.

**So please read the remarks from our Moderator in this issue, and consider whether you might be able to make a special financial gift toward keeping our beautiful church building safe from the elements!**

Meanwhile, we do not let the leaking roofs slow us down. Kathie Johnson and her scores of volunteers put on another wonderful vacation church school where the kids learned the Bible stories about Abraham, Joseph and Jesus. Mitch Connelly took a group of junior high schoolers to Minnesota to work at a camp for the developmentally disabled. Tom Trenney and Jeremy Bankson put on another Abend-musik community sing, and the pastors of First-Plymouth have continued to lead us in worship and minister to the sick and anguished. Even with leaky roofs, the ministry of Jesus Christ is having a great summer at First-Plymouth.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### “First-Plymouth Packers”

Volunteers are needed to help with the Backpack Program for the 2010-2011 school year. Also needed: an extra van or truck, to serve as a substitute to deliver totes to Prescott and Elliott on Thursdays. Call Gordon or Maril Freese at 420-6084.

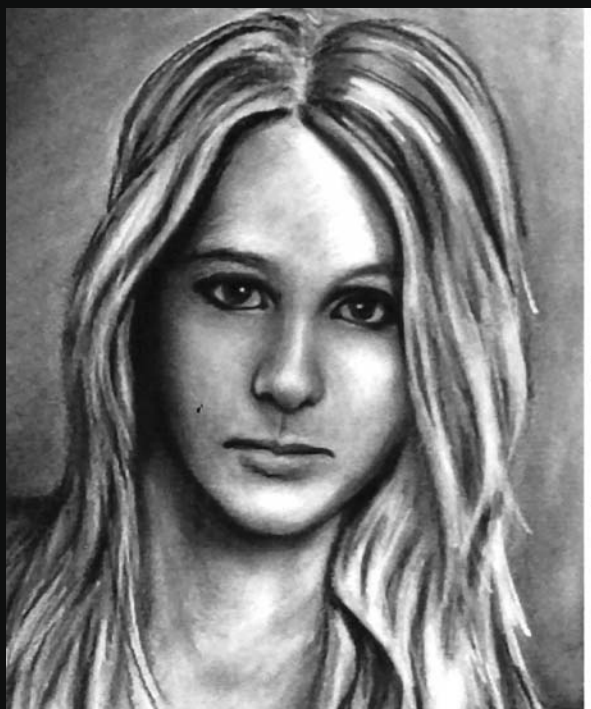
### Calling all Psychologists and Licensed Mental Health Professionals:

Clinic with a Heart (our church sponsored free medical clinic) is seeking additional volunteers to serve as Mental Health Providers at Tuesday evening clinics. If you are interested in learning more about this service to the uninsured or underinsured citizens of our community, contact Ann Hamilton, LMHP ([annhamilton@aol.com](mailto:annhamilton@aol.com)) or Shirley Foster, Director of Volunteers, Clinic with a Heart, ([shirley@clinicwithaheart.org](mailto:shirley@clinicwithaheart.org)).

## Elements of Life: Courtney Kenny

(Otis & Rowena's Granddaughter and Daughter of Caris Young Kenny & Bob Kenny)

Courtney (self-portrait on left) has been interested in art since childhood. She is a 19-year old art student at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. Her charcoal drawings can be previewed July 31, 7-9PM in Pilgrim Hall and they will be displayed there during August.



You are cordially invited to attend the Preview and Open House for the Courtney Kenny Art Exhibit and meet the artist.

Date: July 31st

Time: 7:00 - 9:00p.m.

*ELEMENTS OF LIFE: Courtney Kenny*

First Plymouth  
Congregational Church  
2000 "D" St.  
Lincoln, NE 68502



## Notable Women of 2010

The annual Notable Women recognition is intended to serve as a reminder of our belief that all people are blessed with gifts from God and that all are notable in their own unique ways. The Board of Women's Ministries is seeking new recommendations for Notable Women of 2010. Recommendations may be written about the person in the form of an essay, poem, short story or letter. The composition (no more than one page) will be displayed along with a photograph of the notable woman in October in Pilgrim Hall. The composition should touch on her involvement in the life of First-Plymouth and her faith as well as her unique qualities of heart and mind, and may be either hand written or typed. Be sure to include the name of the person submitting the recommendation. Send your recommendation to First-Plymouth Church, c/o Board for Women's Ministries, 2000 D St., Lincoln, NE 68502 or e-mail to [elizabeth@firstplymouth.org](mailto:elizabeth@firstplymouth.org). For questions, call Nancy Erickson at 476-7565 ext. 244. **Deadline for submission is**



# 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](mailto: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. Aug. 2, 9, 23 & 30, 7:30-9:30PM; and Fri. Aug. 13 & 20, 6-8PM, in F-P Gym.

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

**Sunday Brunches:** Aug. 1, 11:45AM, Paul's BBQ; Aug. 8, 11:45AM, Fast Food Picnic (Peter Pan Park).

### Upcoming Events:

- Social & Program Planning – 8/5
- Movies on the Green – 8/5 & 8/12
- Pathetic Pool Night – 8/7
- Stransky Park Concert – 8/12
- Ribfest – 8/14

## Singles Plus+ News

Single Adults (60 and older)

**Breakfast & Brunch:** Mon. Aug. 9, 9AM, Greenfields; Mon. Aug. 16, 11AM, Bagels & Joe; and Mon. Aug. 23, 9AM, at Panera Bread.

**Bridge:** Wed. Aug. 11 & 25, 1-4:30PM, in Pilgrim Hall. Open to all!

## Church Open House

Social fellowship for all church members

**July Event:** Fri., July 30, 7:00PM, at Tammy Alvis's home. Meet other members of First-Plymouth! Bring an appetizer and beverage (most bring wine) to share. RSVP for directions to [tammy@firstplymouth.org](mailto:tammy@firstplymouth.org) or call 476-7565 ext. 204.

## Cribbage Club

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

# Children's Ministry

Kathie Johnson, Director of Children and Family Ministries, 476-7565, Ext. 215, [kathie@firstplymouth.org](mailto:kathie@firstplymouth.org).

Join us in our Sunday 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.

## Splish-Splash at the Summer Splash!

The pool party for upper elementary and their families on July 10<sup>th</sup> was refreshing after a hot day in the sun. We enjoyed waterslides, water basketball with lots of fun time in the water with our church friends at Meadow Lane Pool. And to make a perfect ending to the evening, everyone enjoyed a delicious root beer float!

**August 27 – Church School Open House** – Mark your calendar for an evening of fun and adventure at the Church School Open House and Back to School Blessing!

# Bible & Religion Studies

R Registration Required

W Walk-Ins Welcome

## W "They Never Taught Me That in Sunday School"

Informal discussion 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, Calvert Parlor. Bring a sack lunch if you would like.

# Adult Classes and Workshops

R Registration Required

W Walk-Ins Welcome

## R Pilates Sessions:

New 5 wk class starting!

Mondays, Aug. 2 – 30, 5:30-6:15PM. Cost: \$30. Led by Deb McCauley, certified Pilates instructor. Learn a balanced blend of strength training and flexibility. Improve your abdominal core, coordination, standing alignment and balance. Pre-registration required, call 476-7550 to register.

## R Classes starting in September --Mark Your Calendar

Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming Activities Booklet and online. For more info. email [addie@firstplymouth.org](mailto:addie@firstplymouth.org) or call 476-7565 ext. 239.

- United Church of Christ 101: 9/5
- Five Ways to Read the Bible: 9/7 and/or 9/8
- Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends (Divorce Recovery): 9/8
- Divine Life of Animals: 9/8
- Parenting Through Strengths: 9/8
- You and Your Spiritual Gifts: 9/8
- The Bible and Theology: 9/8
- Feel Good Yoga: 9/8
- The Book of Genesis: 9/8
- Exploring Transformational Mission: 9/9
- Adult Confirmation: Christianity 101: 9/9
- Digging for Jesus. Biblical, Archaeological, and Other Ancient Sources: 9/12
- Friends in Faith (Formerly Adult Discussion Group) 9/12
- What Type of Church is First-Plymouth: 9/14
- Practices for a Healthy Body: 9/15
- Gender Dynamics Discussion: 9/21



# What's Sacred?

Occasional brief musings by  
Kathryn Campbell, Minister of  
Spiritual Direction



Walking through the northwoods, I felt an inner nudge to go down a path where I rarely go, along a cove of the lake. Relishing the beauty of the water lilies and reeds and the reflections on the water, I happened to look down. Blueberries! Lots of them! The small, wild ones with the intense tart-sweet flavor. It didn't take long to pick a pint or so.

There's a message here somewhere but I'm occupied relishing the blueberries!

For spiritual direction, Annual Spiritual Check-up, or conversation on anything in your life from a spiritual perspective, contact Kathryn Campbell, Minister of Spiritual Direction, [kathryn@firstplymouth.org](mailto:kathryn@firstplymouth.org) or 488-3647.

# Automatic Funds Transfer

If you would like your gifts to First-Plymouth Church to be automatically transferred from your checking account each month, contact Louise at 476-7565 ext. 207 or at [louise@firstplymouth.org](mailto:louise@firstplymouth.org) to receive information and an authorization form.

## Youth Corner: Date Night Raffle Results

The First-Plymouth Youth Raffle has come to a close and the winners have been selected. Those lucky individuals are as follows. Jennifer Brinkman was the lucky winner of the Traditional Prize which was two tickets to the Bourbon Theatre and a gift card to Misty's Steakhouse. The winner of the Grill and Chill Prize and two passes to the Zoo bar and a gift certificate to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Char Grill was John Rastello. The

Homegrown Prize winner was Brian Evermon who will be enjoying a dinner for two at Bread and Cup and a movie at the Grand. Jane Lowe was the winner of the High Society Prize and will be enjoying a dinner for two at JTK and a movie at the Grand theatre.

Following the drawing for the four main prizes we entered all tickets into a second drawing for a variety of other prizes. The First of these prize winners

was Beth Hartman who won two tickets to the Ross Media Arts Center. Lori Chleborad also won two tickets to the Ross Media Arts Center. We also gave away two tickets to the Adventure Golf Center, which went to Mckenzie Davenport. The lucky winner of our final prize was Ron McGinnis who received four tickets to a Lincoln Saltdogs game.

Thank you to all those who purchased tickets in support of the Youth Group Mission trip to Camp Friendship. With your help we raised nearly \$1500.00 to put towards our mission fund.

### Future Herald Articles

The deadline for the Aug 11 Herald is noon Aug. 3.

The deadline for the Sept. 8 issue is noon Aug. 31.

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## Calling All 8th Graders: 2010 Confirmation

What is Confirmation? It is an important time for youth to have fun together, learn about the Bible, understand the significance of church membership and explore the meaning and depth of personal faith.

Confirmation day is a rite of passage signifying that you are leaving childhood, a vow to follow Jesus' teachings of peace, justice, and inclusiveness, and incorporation into the adult membership of the congregation. Faith development is a life-long journey, confirmation is the development of a foundation and a jumping off point for a greater sense of belonging.

I am truly excited about this year's confirmation class. We have created some great opportunities for personal and spiritual growth by focusing on:

- Community service and mission work in the local community: Matt Talbot Kitchen, Center for People in Need, CROP Walk, and summer mission trips
- Sermon discussions and reflections: learning about Faith in Action
- Interfaith worship at a Hindu Temple, Jewish Synagogue, African American Episcopal Church
- Share personal reflections on faith and spirituality; develop a sense of belonging
- Timberlake Camp Fellowship Retreat and lock-ins

***My goal is to offer youth and their parents a fully interactive and engaging experience with both church and community life.***

If you are an 8<sup>th</sup> grader interested in Confirmation or know of someone interested, pick up a Registration form from Mitch, fill it out, and return it to the church office. You don't need to be a member of this church to be a part of Confirmation – you can participate in classes, activities and fellowship and you do not have to “join” the church. The more youth in the program the better, all are welcome and encouraged to participate in this rich experience.

Mitch Connelly, Youth Leader, 476-7565 ext. 221 or [mitch@firstplymouth.org](mailto:mitch@firstplymouth.org)

