

The Herald

First-Plymouth Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Issue #15 • August 11 - September 7, 2010



Worship with us in August

August 14 & 15

Barb Smisek preaching. Lorrie Beadell Love, soprano. 11:59 Jim Keck teaching

August 21 & 22

Communion
Jim Keck preaching. Jay Colwell, baritone
9:00AM. Plymouth Cantorei 10:30AM.
11:59 – Jim Keck teaching

Aug. 28 & 29

Jim Keck preaching. Amanda Turner, hand bell soloist at 9:00 and 10:30AM services.
11:59 – Jim Keck teaching

Sept. 5 - Taizé

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.

A Word From Jim

9:00AM Worship Service gets a burst of joy!

Beginning in September, one of our children's and youth choirs will sing every Sunday during the 9:00AM worship service. Besides adding a dose of joy into our service, we hope this will accomplish a number of spiritual goals. First, music is such a key part of our spiritual life at First-Plymouth, and we have two incredibly gifted choir directors in Tom Trenney and Jeremy Bankson. **So, we have a rare opportunity for our children to grow musically and spiritually through participation in a truly special music program.**

Also, we believe it is time for our children to have a greater level of participation in worship at First-Plymouth. Worship helps nurture us as followers of Christ, and our children are as much a part of our faith community as the adults. By singing, and occasionally taking part in leading the liturgy, at the 9:00AM worship we are more deeply weaving our young ones into the spiritual life of First-Plymouth.

If you are a parent, please look for upcoming announcements for the ways your child(ren) can take part, and if you are a regular attendee of the 9:00AM service look forward to a richer experience of Christian community!



Calling all Children, Youth & Families...

August 27 - 6:00PM-Church Open House & Back to School Blessing

If you like scavenger hunts and adventure, the fun begins in the sanctuary. As you venture through the church, you'll register for Church School, youth group and choir. Pastor Barb & Pastor Karen will be there to give a 'back to school blessing.' There will be food to eat, UNL ice cream to enjoy and the Spitfire Fiddle Band will be back this year with more foot tapping music.



Small Courtyard, Big Price tag!

It is costing First-Plymouth about \$60,000 dollars to replace the roof/floor of the interior courtyard. Obviously, this is well beyond what we budgeted for basic repairs. But we are committed to maintaining the rare quality of our historic building. If you are able to make a special gift towards our roof repairs this summer please send a check with "roof" in the memo line. Thank you!

Mission/Study Trip to Ghana 2011

You are invited to add your name and email address to the "Nebraska Conference UCC Possible Participants" list for June 2011 visit to Ghana, West Africa.

We will be celebrating our 20-Years of Partnership with the Evangelical-Presbyterian Church of Ghana. First-Plymouth sent Rev. Jane Ellefson to do her mission work at the EPC Seminary in 1991. Since then Nebraska UCC folks (about 80) have travelled to visit our Ghanaian partners.

Jane will send updates on plans, dates, costs, passport & medical preparations. This information will help you decide if 2011 is the year you want to join the group. Send Jane (janeabra@yahoo.com) your name and email address if you wish to explore this idea for mission travel.

Taizé Service

Experience God in a new way, through prayer, singing, meditation, and candlelight the first Sunday of each month at 7PM.

Congregation News

Welcome!

Welcome these new members to First-Plymouth: *Donald Wells, Dennis & Carla Seeba, Ginnifer Seeba, Jeffrey Hines, and Traci Bair.*

Meet some new members of First-Plymouth:

Eric Williams has a background in fine art with a Bachelor's degree in sculpture and drawing from the University of Nebraska.

Jane Powers-Williams is a former member of First-Plymouth. She has a degree in Psychology/Human Services. She has four children, and loves to garden, cook, and read.

Dorothy Bentley has three adult daughters, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.



Eric Williams & Jane Powers-Williams

New Member Orientation & New Member Sunday

Thurs., Sept. 23, 7-8:00PM in Pilgrim Hall. You will meet others who are joining the church and the staff. New members will be received into the congregation on Sept. 26 during the 9:00AM service. Visit www.firstplymouth.org to join, or complete a membership form on the Welcome Table near the main church entrance.

Joys
&
Concerns

Weddings

Barry Hilton & Natalie Anderson – July 24

Baptisms

Brynn Elizabeth Gatliff – July 24
Easton Matthew Brian Sample – July 25
Sara Grace & Elizabeth Faith Rowley – July 25
Sophie Holly Hemphill – July 25

In Memory

Mary Boshart, a First-Plymouth member since 1955, died July 28th. Services were held Aug. 2nd.

Ride Your Bike to Church Sun., Sept. 19th

Promote good health, reduce your carbon footprint, enjoy the beautiful Fall morning. Have Fun! If you prefer not to bike, consider walking or carpooling. Rain date- Sun., Sept. 26th.



Bible & Religion Studies

R Registration Required

W Walk-Ins Welcome

W Digging for Jesus. Biblical, Archaeological, and Other Ancient Sources

Sundays, 9:00AM, Resource Room, starts Sept. 12. Led by Dr. David Peabody, NE. Wesleyan University.

W "Something Else" Discussion

Sun. 9AM, Calvert Parlor. Starts Aug. 29. Led by Jim Hewitt.

W Sunday Discussion Group

Sundays, 9:15AM, Tower room. All are welcome.

W Not Your Ordinary Bible Study

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

W Friends in Faith (formerly Adult Discussion Group)

Begins Sept. 12 between 9 & 10:30AM service, 2nd floor Staff Room. Discuss Chapt. 1 of Phoenix Affirmations by Eric Elnes, UCC Minister of Countryside Church in Omaha. Purchase on line or at your local bookstore. Open to everyone. Contact Penny Larsen, 423-8960 for information.

Adult Classes & Workshops

R Classes & Workshops starting in September

Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming Activities Booklet and online. For more info. and to register, email addie@firstplymouth.org or call 476-7565.

United Church of Christ 101: 9/5 -26. Led by Pastor Karen Clarke. Explore the history and development of the UCC.

Five Ways to Read the Bible: 9/7-10/12 and/or 9/8-10/13. Led by Carolyn Zeisset. Experience reading the Bible thematically, analytically, contemplatively, relationally & imaginatively.

Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends (Divorce Recovery): 9/8-10/27. \$35. Led by Kathy Foster and Gary Summers. Divorce is not easy and can be extremely painful. Learn about yourself and how to rebuild your life.

Divorce Recovery for Children: 9/8-9/29 (Elementary school children), 10/6-10/27 (Middle school children). Led by Rachael Kluck-Spann. A class for children whose parents have been through a divorce or separation.

Divine Life of Animals: 9/8-29. Led by Pastor Karen Clarke. \$15. Discuss the spiritual importance of animals.

Parenting Through Strengths: 9/8-29. Led by Nancy Marshall. \$15. Recognize your child's strengths using *Clifton Youth Strengths Explorer*.

You and Your Spiritual Gifts: 9/8-29. Led by Rev. Ralph and Joyce Sturdy. Discover the Spirit's vision for your life and learn what your spiritual gifts are.

The Bible and Theology: 9/8-11/10. Led by Rev. Nancy Erickson. Registration deadline Aug. 25th. \$13. Examine two major doctrines: The Trinity (Who is God?) and The Christ (Who is Jesus?), each will be looked at through Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament and Church doctrine.

Feel Good Yoga: 9/8-5/18.

Led by Nan Graf. \$5 a class. Beginners welcome.

The Book of Genesis: 9/8-10/20. Led by Dr. Dan Clanton, Doane College. Explore Genesis best known stories and discuss what they meant to their first audiences and to readers today.

Exploring Transformational Mission - Book Study: 9/9-11/11. Led by Rev. Barb Smisek. \$17. Interested in mission? Explore the philosophy and practice of mission.

Boot Camp Blast: 9/9-10/14. Led by Deborah McCauley. \$30. Full body muscle toning, agility exercises and calorie burning cardio drills. For all ages and fitness levels.

Adult Confirmation: Christianity 101: 9/9-5/19. Led by Rev. Barb Smisek. \$20. Learn or re-learn the basics of Christianity through lecture, film, music and art.

What Type of Church is First-Plymouth: 9/14. Led by Rev. Jim Keck and Rev. Barb Smisek. Explore First-Plymouth and the United Church of Christ's unique identity and history in a fun way.

Practices for a Healthy Body: 9/15-10/6. Led by Susan Brasch & Kay Jantzen. Learn daily practices to promote energy, balance and self-monitoring.

Gender Dynamics Discussion: 9/21-10/12. Led by Gary Summers. Explore the myths, misconceptions and realities about gender identity.

Wednesday Night Live

Mark your calendar —Wednesday nights (dinner, classes, music for all ages) starts Wed. September 8th!

Notable Women of 2010

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 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. For questions, call Nancy Erickson at 476-7565 ext. 244. **Deadline for submission is August 20.**

Save the Date Women's Fall Retreat

Dream Work: On the Journey Toward Transformation, facilitated by Sr. Jeanne Ranek. October 22-23 at the St. Benedict Center near Schuyler. Watch for more information in literature racks by main entrances.

**First-Plymouth will
be closed Sept. 6 for
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. Aug. 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 for exciting and intellectual discussion on current events, religion, books and more.

Sunday Brunches: Aug. 15, 11:45AM, Piezano's; Aug. 22, 11:45AM, Fast Food Picnic at Cooper Park; Aug. 29, 11:45AM, movie and potluck, Calvert Parlor, F-P Church.

Upcoming Events:

- Ribfest – 8/14
- New Singles Members Welcome/Bad Beverage Night – 8/19
- Movies on the Green: 8/19
- Movie Night: 8/21
- No Better Cause Concert: 8/27
- Outreach at F Street: 8/30

Singles Plus+ News

Single Adults (60 and older)

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

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

Good Grief! Widow Support

2nd Wed. of the each month (Sept.-Dec.), 4:00-5:00PM, at First-Plymouth. Led by Cherie Bayley.

A new group that welcomes members and non-members who are widows for group fellowship to share, shed some tears, hold hands and look to the future. If you know someone who might benefit from this group, pass the word on. Following the fellowship, the group is invited to join First-Plymouth's Wednesday Night dinner.

Tower Club 2

Social fellowship for young couples with or without children.

Sat., Aug. 28th, in the Fallbrook neighborhood. Hosted by Steve Christophersen & Tracy Edgerton, Shelley & Keith Zaborowski and Matt & Jennifer Brinkman. Dinner, drinks and fun to mark the end of summer. Contact Jennifer Brinkman at jennifer.brinkman@gmail.com to RSVP and more details.

Cribbage Club

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

This Side of 40 Annual BBQ

Sun., Aug. 22nd, gather at 5:00, eat at 6:00PM at Neal & Lois Thomas's. Bring a side dish. Call 483-6605 or nealt@inetnebr.com for reservations by noon Aug. 22nd.

5th Annual Block Party: Volunteers Needed

When: Sun., Sept. 12th, 4-6:30PM.

Where: First-Plymouth Courtyard, 20th & D.

Volunteers needed to: Deliver flyers, set up, make & serve popcorn, face painting, games, clean up, and more.

To Volunteer: Contact Elizabeth 476-7565 ext. 217, elizabeth@firstplymouth.org or Barb Smisek, 476-7565 ext. 219, barbara@firstplymouth.org

Children's Ministry

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

Join us Aug. 29th when Church School begins. Classes are 9:00-9:45AM and 10:30-11:30AM. Classroom locations are listed below.

9:00 Church School Classroom Locations

K's thru 5th Grade begin in Worship with family

(dismissed to classrooms following the Lord's Prayer).

3rd -5th Grade Sing or stay in worship w/family on 1st & 3rd Sunday.

Age/Grade	Room	Location
Infants thru 3 year olds (Child care)	Toddler A Classroom	West Entrance, lower level
3's (before 10/15/10 4-5's (not enrolled in Kdg.)	Toddler B Classroom	West Entrance, lower level
Kdg., 1st & 2nd Grades (2010-11 School year)	Classroom B 2nd Floor	West Entrance, 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades
(2010-11 School year)	Classroom E	West Entrance, 2nd Floor

10:30 Church School Classroom Locations

All Children begin in their classroom.

(K's - 2nd Graders begin in the Chapel for music)

Age/Grade	Room	Location
Infants thru 3 year olds (Child care)	Toddler A Classroom	West Entrance, lower level
3's (before 10/15/10 4-5's (not enrolled in Kdg.)	Toddler B Classroom	West Entrance, lower level
Kindergarten (2010-11 School year)	North Class Room	East Entrance off 21st Street
Kindergarten (2010-11 School year)	South Class Room	East Entrance off 21st Street
First Grade	Classroom B	West Ent, 2nd floor
Second Grade	Classroom C	West Ent, 2nd floor
Third Grade	Classroom D	West Ent, 2nd floor
Fourth Grade	Classroom E	West Ent, 2nd floor
Fifth Grade	Classroom H	West Ent, 2nd floor

VCS - Baobab Blast: God's Great Get-Together

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped get ready for VCS, lead activities during the week, and clean up afterwards.

Children gathered under the Baobab tree to learn about building community and how important it is to reach out to others around the globe. This year's mission offering will go to help protect the children in Africa from malaria. What a fun week hearing stories about Trust, Love, Sharing, and Following!



Youth Corner

Youth Leader: Mitch Connelly
476-7565 ext 221, mitch@firstplymouth.org

Camp Friendship Update

Eighteen members of the First-Plymouth Youth group recently embarked on a mission trip to Annandale MN. They spent a week volunteering at a camp for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The youth helped counselors facilitate art and craft activities, spent time engaging campers in conversation, provided support for campers with physical disabilities, and more.

Softball Wrap Up

The First-Plymouth Youth softball season recently came to a close. First-Plymouth sponsored two teams composed of both Jr. and Sr. High youth. Thanks to those who spent time cheering from the stands and supporting the teams. Additional thanks to Debi Smith and Jens Lehman for their help coaching throughout the summer.

Calling All 8th Graders: 2010 Confirmation

Confirmation 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. Opportunities for personal and spiritual growth will focus on: community service & mission trips, sermon discussions, worship at a Hindu Temple, Jewish Synagogue, African American Episcopal Church, develop a sense of belonging, retreat, lock-ins. Contact Mitch, 476-7565, ext. 221 or mitch@firstplymouth.org to register.

T-shirt Design Contest

Sponsored by the Board for Women's Ministries

Design a t-shirt for First-Plymouth! T-shirts featuring the winning design will be for sale this Fall with proceeds benefitting the Women's Scholarship Fund. Winner gets a free t-shirt and a special Grand Prize. The contest runs Aug. 18-Sept. 8. Submission forms and contest rules will be available between services Aug. 22 & 29, and at www.firstplymouth.org.

Women's Luncheon

Sept. 16, Noon, Pilgrim Hall, Cost \$5

Hershey Kisses...Godiva Shells filled with ganache...Grand Gru estate grown...guilty pleasure or therapeutic foodstuff? Here is an opportunity to learn more about this consuming topic: Chocolate. V. J. Nelson will share tidbits on the history, production, and popularity of chocolate. Come prepared to challenge your tastebuds. RSVP to elizabeth@firstplymouth.org or call the church at 476-7565 ext. 217 by noon, Sept. 13th.

Future Herald Articles

Deadline for Sept. 8 issue is noon Aug. 31.

Deadline for Sept. 22 issue is noon Sept. 14.

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Worship, Education, and Music Options for Children & Youth and their Families

At First-Plymouth, we offer three distinct options for families on Sunday mornings. Please look at the opportunities offered for children and youth during our worship times, and decide which option is best for you. (Worship schedule begins on September 5, singing groups don't sing until the 19th).

At 9:00AM while parents worship . . .

- Grades K-2 begin in worship with their families. After the Lord's Prayer, children go to the chapel for music and then move to their classroom.
- Grades 3-5 participate in worship on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month either with their family or with their fellow Choristers; on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of each month, children begin in worship with their families, then go to church school following the Lord's Prayer. (Note: Choristers rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:30PM in the Chapel)
- Grades 6-12 worship for the entire service on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month when the Chorale sings; the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of the month, youth will worship together through the sermon, then go with Mitch Connelly for a discussion in the Youth Room (Note: Chorale rehearses on Wednesday from 5:45-6:30PM in the Choir Room with Jeremy Bankson)

At 10:30AM while parents worship . . .

- Grades K-5 attend church school each week.
- Grades 6-8 will meet with Julie Hendricks in TBA.
- Grades 9-12 will gather for a discussion with Mitch in the Youth Room.

At 11:59 a.m. while parents worship . . .

- Children and youth share in the worship experience with their families.

