



www.plymouthfw.org



BELL

What Excites You about the Future of Plymouth?

Dear Plymouth Members and Friends,

As we move into the future, it is important to take some time to ask if we have the vision of where we are going firmly in place. If we have our “eye on the prize,” do we have a sense of what “the prize” is? The things that excite us will motivate us to do great things! We will work at those things, and we will share those things with others. Other people will take note of the level of excitement on our corner as we continue moving towards the object(s) of our excitement.

The Plymouth Vision Statement has not been visited since 1998. Who of us has not changed in 12 years? We probably all could agree that Plymouth Church is not the same as it was 12 years ago in almost every way. To start to get a feel for the direction that we, the members and friends of Plymouth Church, feel we’re headed, I invite you to prayerfully ponder, consider, and/or think on the question: **What excites you about the future of Plymouth Church?** I want to know what you think of when you think of where we are now and where you see us in the future. How will we exist? What things would you have Fort Wayne think of when someone mentions Plymouth Church? Does what you see in the future for Plymouth Church “excite” you? If it does, what is it that you see?

I want to hear what you have to say. I invite you to send your comments to ericb277@verizon.net, or call 260-797-3037 and let me hear from you. Please leave a message if I’m not able to answer the phone or send me a text message. Additionally, if you’d like to post a message on my FaceBook wall, that would be great! The information gathered from all of you will form a database of information from which a future task force may begin to consider the formal Vision Statement of Plymouth Church. Thank you for your participation in this visionary work of the church.

Eric Black, Assistant Moderator

Staff Note

We are sad to report that our weekend custodian, Michael Faurote, is no longer with the church. He has taken advantage of an opportunity for full-time work and is now “making ice cream” in Decatur. Michael’s presence will be missed, and we thank him for his faithful service to the church.

Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation

May 23, 2010, 10:00 am

Dixieland music and bright colors of red, yellow, and orange will create a festive worship for Plymouth’s celebration of Pentecost Sunday – the birthday of the Church. You are invited to be an “Expression of the Spirit” by wearing the Pentecost colors of red, yellow, and orange, representing the Holy Spirit’s “tongues of fire” that touched the apostles and gave birth to the Church.

The Covenant Class youth will be received into the membership of the church: Misha Chemey by baptism; Lindsey Lehman, Lenora Lewark, and Emma Walker by confirmation.

Come, Celebrate with Thanksgiving!

Plymouth People News

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips has completed her 2-year term as president of the Northeast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. She did a GREAT job, and we say “Thank you” for her leadership.

Plymouth Church member Timothy Price is now ministering at Cross UCC in Berne, Indiana. He continues to serve the Abundance UCC church planting in Warsaw, Indiana.

In Our Prayers ...

During the month of May we pray for **Cedars HOPE and Mental Health America**, partners in mission, whose work is supported in part through Plymouth benevolence.

Conditions of Special Need:

Karen Anderson, Adine Eagar, Phil Glassley, Judy Herman, Doris Kelien, Marie Elena Lyon, Connie McAfee, Wanda Pohl, Fran Schnizer, Ruth Smith, Ken Sprengel, and Jack and Tina Worthman.

In the UCC, every day is a day of prayer for peace.

Carl T. Boone, SSgt. Rick Foster, Maj. Mark Lovelace, and David Worcester; and chaplains from the UCC, Bruce Farrell and Anthony Taylor.

Sympathy is extended to Jeanette Sowers on the death of her sister, Justine June Fluttrow, on April 18.

Sympathy is extended to Brad Kuhns, on the death of his grandmother, Maxine Shirar, on April 18.

Sympathy is extended to Tim Brabbs, and family on the death of Tim's father, Walter Brabbs, of Flint, MI, on April 21.

Sympathy is extended to Eric Miller and family on the death of his grandmother, Alice Nitsch, on April 25.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Faye Gaskill, who died April 27.



From the Senior Pastor

Dear Plymouth,

In the first chapter of Acts we read of the Ascension of Jesus. The Ascension occurred forty days following Easter, and ten days prior to Pentecost. It is the story of Jesus taking his leave. He was **"lifted up"** (Acts 1:9; NRSV); **"a cloud received him out of their sight"** (KJV).

Prior to this departure the disciples had posed a question: **"Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"** No direct answer was forthcoming. Jesus suggested such knowledge was off-limits, possibly even beyond his own grasp. **"It is not for you to know the times or seasons,"** he states. Yet immediately there came a promise of remarkable clarity: **"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). This verse rejoins the original question. Disciples are not sidelined observers of the kingdom coming. Disciples are not counseled to wait, to make peace with passivity, until Jesus returns to fix all faults and depose all rivals. Jesus states otherwise: faithful disciples are participants, an empowered people, witnessing to God's love, even to the end of the earth.

The Ascension serves as prelude to Pentecost. It speaks of departure and paves the way for descent of the Holy Spirit, fire power from heaven. At Pentecost, we celebrate new life being infused into the church's often fretful and tired soul. We become that which we seek: expressions of love, the embodiment of mercy, the exercise of peace. We bridge the gap between heaven and earth. We keep hope alive. We live the gospel. How glorious! How great and full of grace is the God who makes such life possible!

Stanley Hauerwas once wrote: **"The work of Jesus was not a new set of ideals or principles for reforming or even revolutionizing society, but the establishment of a new community ... the visible church is not to be the bearer of Christ's message, but to be the message."** Such a teaching is helpful and necessary, especially for any church wondering when Jesus will restore the kingdom. The church is a colony of heaven, the fulfillment of ancient promise. And the flames of Pentecost are a signal: the work of Jesus continues in a people devoted to the practice of faith.

May the flames long burn in our midst, igniting ministry, inspiring praise!

Blessings,
John P. Gardner

Divorce Support Group (no meeting May 30)

Divorce Support Group meets every **Sunday, 5:30 to 7:00 pm**, in the Mayflower Room. This support group, an outreach of Plymouth Church, is fortunate to have the volunteer guidance of trained therapists (and Plymouth members), Jeanette Boerger and Jim Cates. Separating and divorcing individuals can survive and recover more effectively when an empathetic group of persons shares their journey. No one needs to be alone in his or her pain and distress. New group participants are welcome at any time.

Interfaith Hospitality Time Again ... June 6-12

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) time is coming and volunteer opportunities are available! The dates for Plymouth to be the "host" church at the IHN location at 2925 E. State Blvd. are **June 6-12**. Dinner preparers and evening hosts are needed for each night of that week. Sign-up sheets have been posted outside the church office. When you sign up, please include a contact number and your proposed menu, if you are providing the meal.

You Are Invited to Get Acquainted!

If you are among those who are newer to Plymouth Church and would like to meet one another, as well as some other Plymouth folks, this time is for you.

Sunday, June 13, 9:00 am, in the Folsom Room, there will be a special "Corner Conversation" where we will introduce ourselves in a relaxed, informal time of sharing names and how we came to Plymouth. Newer folks will be given opportunity to ask questions, make comments, simply listen. Congregational Life Committee, along with the pastors, is hosting the gathering.

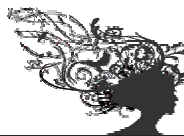
The Arts at Plymouth: Summer Season

Sponsored by the Plymouth Music Series and the Plymouth Music Ministry, this summer brings two terrific opportunities for arts enrichment:

Summit City Art Song Festival / June 9-16 Plymouth Summer Arts Festival / July 11-18

June 9 through 16, the Summit City Art Song Festival takes place at Plymouth Church. The festival is under the direction of soprano Denise Ritter Bernardini (you may remember Denise from her many performances in Fort Wayne, including several appearances on the Plymouth Music Series and recently as the soprano soloist with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Finale concert May 8). Denise and Plymouth Music Director Robert Nance are collaborating to help make this festival possible and to bring this valuable educational opportunity to area singers. Singers from around the region will converge to study art song and work with clinicians from several regional institutions. Throughout the festival, clinicians and students will be presenting a variety of recitals open to the public. Details on the various concerts and activities of the Arts Song Festival will be forthcoming. Information can also be found at <http://artsongfestival.blogspot.com>.

July 11 through 18, during the Three Rivers Festival, the Plymouth Music Series presents its annual Summer Arts Festival. Each day of the series features hour-long concerts, with artists such as piano duo Klepach and Nance, soprano Denise Ritter Bernardini and tenor Don Bernardini, a DePauw Music School student recital, a Cabaret, and Plymouth Players performing the musical *Godspell*. Details with exact times to be mailed in June. For now, save the dates so you won't miss a single performance!



Next Bell Deadline

The next deadline for submission of material for *the Bell* is **Wednesday, June 9**. We appreciate your prompt submission of articles!

Youth to Attend Regional Youth Event

On **Sunday, June 13**, the youth attending this summer's Regional Youth Event will be commissioned during worship. The group, led by Timothy Price and Kara Jaurigue, will travel to Defiance College, **June 17-20**, for this semi-annual youth event. Please keep the group in your thoughts and prayers!

Jackie Brabbs, Misha and Natasha Chemey, Stephen and Anna Stachofsky, and Emma Walker will represent Plymouth at this fun-filled event.

Mothers of Young Children

Mothers of Young Children group will meet **Saturday, June 12, 10:00 am**. Location is to be announced. This is an active and growing group of moms with little ones in the church, offering friendship, support, and fellowship to one another. If you have small children and are looking for that outlet, this could be just the group for you!

Knife and Fork

Knife and Fork next gathers on **Wednesday, June 16, 11:00 am**, at Friends Too on W. Jefferson Blvd. Bob Pugh is the coordinator for the June event. Please call your reservations into the church office by Tuesday, June 15. Transportation arrangements can be made if needed. Please let us know when you call your in your reservation.

Seeking Volunteers

July is coming fast, and the Congregational Life Committee is seeking volunteers to help staff the booth at Pride Fest, as well as volunteers to help with the Three Rivers Festival Finale Fireworks cookout event. Check out the June issue of the Bell for more information about both events.

Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Mark Glassley, mrg7945@hotmail.com.

Plymouth Pilgrims Off to Palestine/Israel

A group of Plymouth Church members will be joining Dr. Michael Spath's pilgrimage to Palestine/Israel this summer, **June 16-27**. *Pilgrims of Hope – a Study and Solidarity Tour in the Land Where Jesus Walked* – is Dr. Spath's 7th tour of the holy land. Plymouth participants include Ruth Bracht (and her granddaughter, Jordan), Dave Jolliff and Sandy Moliere, Judy Kuelling, Mary Spath, and the Rev. John P. Gardner.

The itinerary for the pilgrimage includes visits to Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial), the Church of the Nativity, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Mount of Beatitudes and the Mount of Olives, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Meetings are planned with Archbishop Elias Chacour in Haifa, the Rev. Mitri Raheb in Bethlehem, Rabbis for Human Rights, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, and Dr. Bernard Sabella.

The prayers of Plymouth are requested for the Pilgrims of Hope making this journey.

Peanut Butter Sunday

The next opportunity to collect our *100 jars* of Peanut Butter for the Wellspring Food Bank is **Sunday, June 20**. You can contribute jars of peanut butter on any Sunday by putting them in the box near the front office.

Growing Solutions Needs You!

Since its beginning in 2008, Plymouth's Growing Solutions has been bolstering the health of our community by contributing fresh, home-grown fruits and vegetables to our city's hungry families through Wellspring's food bank. Our community's need has not diminished. In fact, even when the need is lower, the demand for fresh produce remains.

"How can I help?" you may ask. You may only have a small yard or even none at all. You might not like getting dirty or planning what to plant and when to harvest. The thought of watering too much or not enough might just make it too much to add to your life. We're happy to give you more ways to help Plymouth feed the hungry. Growing Solutions has some space at the Fort Wayne Parks Community Garden on Bluffton Road. We will have "Garden Work Days" in the Spring and Summer and will need volunteers to help with some routine maintenance and harvesting. We also need volunteers to assist in getting our produce to Wellspring, and we can come up with something for anyone. We also hope to be able to bring some gardening resources from the Purdue Extension and our local Master Gardeners.



"That's all fine and good, but how do I get involved?" you're asking yourself. We're making it easy. Join us for a work day. Join our FaceBook page. When you're in your FaceBook account, search for "Growing Solutions at Plymouth" then "Become a Fan" and you'll get weekly or slightly more frequent updates on gardening in NE Indiana and the results of our efforts. You can also pick up a pamphlet from the church office and return an interest form. Contact for this project is Ben Fogt, benfogt@gmail.com.

Let's Get Growing!

Only Rain in Our Drain

As part of our efforts to become a Fort Wayne Certified Green Business (see article in March Bell), there is now a label on the storm drain in our main parking lot. It states, "No Dumping, Drains to Waterway." This reminds us that what ever goes in our city drains goes in our rivers.

It is important that we do not let pollutants such as soap from car washes, oil from cars, or any other contaminates get in the drains. Our rivers and water ways are God's gifts to us that we need to respect and care for at all times. So, for the drain in our parking lot and the ones on your street, please remember, "only rain in the drain."

AMAZING GRAYS

Summer Schedule of Events

Sunday, June 13, 11:30 am

We are privileged to have Dr. Sue Ellen Braunlin reporting on her medical team experiences in Haiti.

Rhonda Eitsert will prepare a delicious lunch. Make your reservations to the church office.

Cost \$5.00

Co-sponsored by the Women's Study Group

Saturday, June 26

Limited reservations are being held for a fun evening at the Arena Dinner Theater.

The play is "Father of the Bride."

Dinner at 7:00 pm, show time at 8:00 pm.

\$35.00 will secure your reservations. Please make your check out to Carol Shedd. Act quickly on this one!

July 10, Saturday at 10:00 AM

Bring your lawn chairs and watch the Three Rivers Festival Parade from our Plymouth Church parking lot. After the parade, we will enjoy a carry-in luncheon in the Folsom Room. Bring your favorite dish to share.

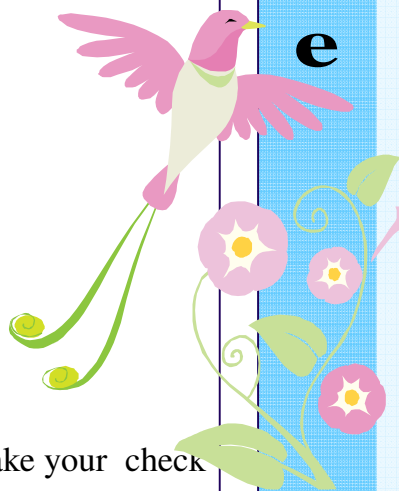
Graduates—We Want to Hear From YOU

It's that time of year again, and we'd like to help you celebrate! If you are graduating this year, we'd love to hear about it. Whether its high school or college, we want to know! Please submit a brief bio, or just share your name and accomplishment, to the church office at dln@plymouthfw.org by **Wednesday, June 2**, so we may print them in the **June 6** Sunday bulletin. Congratulations to you!

New Plymouth Directory

Please mark your calendar that in July, John Escosa of Stedman Studios will be taking photos for a new church directory. More information will be coming regarding the exact dates and times. If you are interested in helping on this project, please contact the Congregational Life Committee: Mark Glassley, Donna Childs, Laura Knox, and Jim Conner.

**J
u
n
e**



**B
i
r
t
h
d
a
y
s**

1	John Silcox
3	Nathan Siples
4	Joanne Huber
	Curt Smith
5	Cassidy Bradley
7	Julie Davidson
8	William Hall
	Betty Henning
	Rick Schilb
9	Tim Chronister
10	Elizabeth Escosa
	Marcia Howard
	Marty Kabisch
	Judy Kuelling
	Dick Stumpf
11	Kris Conner
	Lois Horn
	Ashlee Vanderbosch
12	Dwight James
13	Mariellen Beitman
14	Polly Lipscomb
15	Chris Colclessor
	Laura Filler
	Karen Holdeman
	Melody Sutter
	Gabriel Walden
19	Megan Degitz
	Jim Gilliom
	David Weber
20	Seth Beltz
	Kirby Volz
22	Carrie Callaghan
	Courtney Davies
23	Jill Rae Sackash
	Cammy Sutter
24	Laura Ramsey
25	Edward Eberhardt
	Ranelle Melton
	Gordon Walter
27	Virginia Nance
	Harriet Siples
28	Millie Dove
	Jeanette Kent
	Kyra Mendenhall
29	Lisa Filler
	Robert Logan
30	Jon Allmandinger
	Roberta Braunlin

Our Foods Resource Bank Ministry Continues!

During the past five years, the members and friends of Plymouth have joined with the congregation of Salem UCC in Magley, Indiana, to support the mission of Foods Resource Bank (FRB). That partnership effort will continue in 2010! Plymouth's involvement in the FRB effort was initiated by Doug and Gale Cunningham and has continued with the strong support of our congregation.

Plymouth's financial contribution over the past five years has totaled just under \$61,000 – one of our church's largest benevolent efforts! Plymouth's contribution is added to that of the Salem UCC members, along with the net profit from the sale of the 20 acres of corn which had been raised and harvested by the generous farmers from the Salem congregation. The five-year contributions and profits given to Foods Resource Bank from our project have totaled \$111,399.11.

The yearly donation is designated for helping specific communities in need around the world. Our previous gifts have been focused on communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia South, Zambia Eastern, Nicaragua, Kenya, and Tanzania. The need for improved food security, access to safe water, sustainable crops, improved farming skills, health care, orphan care, and a range of other vital issues has been the goal of FRB support in these communities.

The 20-acre FRB corn crop for 2010 has been planted by the Arnold family from Salem UCC, and it is now Plymouth's opportunity to share in this important mission. Each of us can make a valuable contribution. You are encouraged to fill out one of the forms below, place it in the collection plate, send it to the church office, or give it to a task force member at the FRB display in the Folsom room. Your contribution in any amount is important and can help sustain a family for a lifetime!

FRB Task Force members:

Gale Cunningham, Dan and Judy Kaufman, Laura Rudolph, Rick and Peg Schilb

For the Foods Resource Bank—2010, I would like to contribute:

(please circle one)

1 bushel of seed corn - \$200.00

½ bushel of seed corn - \$100.00

¼ bushel of seed corn - \$50.00

other amount - _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____



Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church and indicate “**For FRB**” in the memo line.

June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00a Staff Meeting 6:00p EC-FR	2 8:30a Retired Mens Breakfast @ Atz's 5:15p Bible Study	3 10:00a United Senior Action-AR	4 7:00p Young Adults	5
6 Share Your Shopping IHN Graduate Sunday 10:00a Worship&Comm. 11:15a Hospitality 5:30p Divorcing Support Grp-MR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	7 Office Closed IHN 5:45p Yoga 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	8 IHN 10:00a Staff Meeting 4:45p Benevolence Subcommittee-AR 6:00p Deacons' Worship- MR 7:00p Congregational Life-CR	9 Bell Deadline IHN 5:15p Bible Study 7:00p We the Living-MR	10 IHN 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	11 IHN IK Conference in Indy	12 IHN IK Conference in Indy 10:00a MOYC
13 Regional Youth Event Commissioning 9:00a Get Acquainted "Corner Conversation"-FR 10:00a Worship 11:15a Hospitality 5:30p Divorcing Support Grp-MR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	14 Flag Day Office Closed 5:30p Property Committee-CR 5:45p Yoga 7:00p PFLAG-MR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	15 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p Personnel Committee-AR 5:30p S&F MTG-CR 5:30p E&M-YC 6:00p Christian Education Committee-201	16 11:30a K&F@Friends Too	17 Regional Youth Event@ Defiance College 5:00p P&J-AR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	18 Regional Youth Event@ Defiance College	19 Regional Youth Event@ Defiance College 9:00a NEA Comm. on Ministry-CR
20 Father's Day Peanut Butter Sunday Regional Youth Event@ Defiance College 10:00a Worship&Comm. 11:15a Hospitality 5:30p Divorcing Support Grp-MR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	21 Summer Begins Office Closed 5:45p Yoga 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	22 10:00a Staff Meeting	23	24 6:00p Cedars-CR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	25	26
27 10:00a Worship 11:15a Hospitality 5:30p Divorcing Support Grp-MR 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	28 Office Closed 5:45p Yoga 7:00p Godspell Rehearsal-S	29 10:00a Staff Meeting	30	<p>Abbreviations: <i>EC—Executive Council</i> <i>E&M—Evangelism & Marketing</i> <i>K&F—Knife and Fork</i> <i>NEA—Northeast Association</i> <i>P&J—Peace/Justice Subcommittee</i> <i>S&F—Stewardship & Finance Comm.</i> <i>WNL—Wednesday Night Live</i></p>		



**Plymouth Congregational
Church of Fort Wayne**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

501 W. Berry St. · Fort Wayne · Indiana · 46802
Telephone: 260-423-9424

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
FORT WAYNE IN
PERMIT NO 1133

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Looking for our email addresses?

Church General Office and Newsletter

office@plymouthfw.org

Senior Pastor and Teacher

jpg@plymouthfw.org

Associate Pastor

rep@plymouthfw.org

Music Director

robert@maestronance.com

Associate in Pastoral Care

c2cftwayne@verizon.net

Youth Director

kkjaurigue@verizon.net

Office Manager

lme@plymouthfw.org

Church Secretary

dln@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator

financial@plymouthfw.org

Custodian

maintenance@plymouthfw.org



Plymouth Outreach Statement

We welcome all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join in our common mission through participation and leadership in this communion of faith. We recognize each individual as a child of God, believing that we are called to be one reconciled body of Christ with many members.

As Christians and members of Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we are a diverse group of people. We are persons of various ages, races, accomplishments and goals, abilities, sexual orientations, theological and political beliefs, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

In our diversity, we find strength and a way to understand the inclusiveness of God.

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here.