



Capital Campaign Committee Members Commissioned and Campaign Underway!

The capital campaign is officially underway after the individuals directly involved in the various campaign committees were commissioned, on **Sunday, January 10**. Our logo, **HERE, for Good!** and theme, "**Living, Giving & Building Community**", will drive everything the campaign does over the next few months. We are busy creating and printing informational materials, which we think will help you better understand the infrastructure needs we are planning to fund through the monies raised in this campaign.

If you have not been aware of these needs, we must replace our ancient boiler and upgrade our entire HVAC system - as well as replace the roof on our sanctuary, which is beyond its expected life span. The expected cost of all of this is around \$2,500,000.

Yet, more importantly, we believe these materials speak well to why we are addressing the infrastructure needs we face, which is: Plymouth Church remains a beacon of faith being lived to its fullest; a place where doubt, thoughts, and questions are welcome; a sacred place that is open and affirming; a wise place where we try to find new ways to be good stewards of our environment; a sanctuary for peace and a generous people sharing their time, talent, and treasure—locally and globally.

When asked, please join us in this daunting but noble effort, so we may remain **HERE, for Good!**

Respectfully,
Steve Hollingsworth, Campaign Chair

Ash Wednesday, February 10

The Christian observance of Lent begins with an evening worship service for Ash Wednesday, **February 10, 7:00 pm**, in the Plymouth sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday worship includes a ceremony for the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of worship participants. Together, we recall the words from Genesis: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:19). The evening service will also include the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The season of Lent places special emphasis upon acts of charity, prayer, and fasting. Through devotion and the practice of faith we respond to the call of Jesus to embrace more fully the love of God and neighbor.

SAVE THE DATES

**Congregational Meeting &
Casa d'Plymouth**
January 24, 12:00 pm
No Plymouth Brunch Bunch

Interfaith Prayer Service
Sunday, January 31, 4:00 pm
*For 2016 Indiana General Assembly
To Promote LGBTQ Rights*

Open & Affirming 15th Anniversary
Saturday, April 30, 6:00 pm
Sunday, May 1, 10:00 am
With Speaker Andy Lang

A Festival Hymn Sing: Hymns to Warm the Soul

A special hymn sing on **Sunday, February 7, 2:00 pm**, features many of our most favorite people: our audience! Guided by the inimitable host Janice Furtner and accompanied by Maestro Robert Nance, we journey through centuries of soulful song together.

Shrove Tuesday

**Pancake Supper: February 9,
5:30-7:00 pm**

Come, celebrate Mardi Gras! The Congregational Life Board invites all ages to enjoy pancakes and sausage for supper, Mardi Gras hat making, and face painting. Donations of "water only" pancake mix, and syrup are requested and need to be at church by **Sunday, February 7**.

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is the feast before the fasting of Lent.

In Our Prayers

During the month of January, the Global Ministries Division of the UCC/DOC invites us to pray for the people of China, especially the Henan Province, where the impact of HIV/AIDS has challenged community schools and health care. We also pray for **Pilgrims of Ibillin** (Israel); **Bright Stars of Bethlehem**, and the **Diyar Consortium** of ministries (West Bank, Palestine).

Plymouth people in our prayers:

Tom Adams, Jack Ade, Sally Ade, Betty Argus, Wayne and Carol Bauer, Elizabeth Bayle, A.J. Calkins, Linda Combs, Roger and Tony Crouch, Barbara and Bob Davidson, Pat Eltzroth, Ralph Eltzroth, Gail Escosa, Yolanda Hayes, George James, Sandra Lockwood, Dorothy McCarthy, Phil Nesius, Carol Patterson, Timothy Price, Steve Riethmiller, Dulanna Rothert, Vera Scott, Cathy Seymoure, Joan and Alan Simon, Kelly Smith, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel.

Members and friends serving our country: Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman; Nick Brattain, US Navy, Pensacola, FL.

UCC Chaplains serving overseas: Chaplain Albert Ghergich, Chaplain James Janecek, Chaplain Mark Roeder.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of William Harold Theurer, November 10, to parents Rachel and Michael Theurer, Portland, IN. Cousins are Kristen, Eric, Lyra and Evan Miller.

Congratulations to Leslie Frohberg and Tina Logan, who were united in legal marriage on November 15, in Plymouth's chapel. They have been together for 15 years.

Congratulations to Merideth Lechtanski and Amanda Minch who were united in legal marriage on December 12, 2015, in Plymouth's sanctuary. They have been together over 11 years.

Sympathy is extended to Michael and William Theurer, husband and infant son, in the unexpected and tragic death of Rachel Theurer, age 25, wife and mother, on November 11, Portland, IN. Rachel died unexpectedly of an extremely rare and undiagnosable condition following the birth of her first child. We also extend sympathy to Michael's cousins, Kristen, Eric, Lyra and Evan Miller.

Sympathy is extended to Ann, Steve, and Laura Filler and family on the death of daughter and sister, Lisa Marie Filler, on November 28.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Laura Benya, a 90-year member of Plymouth, who died December 2, at the age of 102.

Sympathy is extended to Laura Coon and Mary Voors and family on the death of Laura's brother, David Lee Coon, on December 4.

Sympathy is extended to Tony Kell and family on the death of his brother, Tom, who died January 7, in Elkhart.

Sympathy is extended to Carol Shedd and family on the death of her sister, Sharon Mogg, January 16, in Byron Center, MI.

Plymouth University, February 14 through March 20

Plymouth University is opening its doors during the **9:00 am** Education Hour this Lenten Season! With several adult classes to choose from each week, even if you think Sunday school isn't your thing, we hope there will be something to interest you. Options include spending time in quiet meditation, diving into a careful reading of the Bible, chatting over coffee while coloring, and many more. Lent is a time to stretch ourselves in preparation for Easter. Plymouth University invites you to learn something new as a part of your Lenten stretching! No registration needed; look for full course listings soon.

Plymouth University also is looking for more teachers! We are particularly interested in hands-on passions and projects (like photography, meditation, or music) that are a part of your personal spiritual expression. To learn more about being a Plymouth University teacher, talk with Katie Watson or any member of the Christian Education Board.

From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

In anticipation of the holiday celebrating the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., the Justice and Witness Ministry (JWM) of the United Church of Christ encouraged people to participate in seven days of reading from a wide range of King's writings. The JWM expressed concern that celebrations of King's life are frequently reduced to snippets of his "I Have a Dream" speech. According to scholar Michael Eric Dyson, the Dream speech can be overemphasized. If the Dream speech is the sole source for understanding King's life and ministry, then it serves to dull the luster, to eclipse a full measure of his significance.

Among the resources suggested by JWM was a list of five "**underappreciated speeches and sermons**" by King. I picked one to re-read this past week, King's speech, "Remaining Awake through a Great Revolution," delivered at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on March 31, 1968. It serves to remind: spending time in the written work of Dr. King is always rewarding, always inspiring.

In this particular speech, King revisited the well-known Washington Irving story that features Rip Van Winkle. King was intrigued, not simply that Rip Van Winkle slept for twenty years, but that he slept through the American Revolution. Rip nodded-off during the reign of the dreaded sovereign, King George; he awoke when George Washington was serving as president. Van Winkle found himself utterly amazed and completely lost. King's comment: "**one of the great liabilities of life is that all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes, the new mental responses, that the new situation demands. They end up sleeping through a revolution.**"

King was aware of living, not simply in a revolutionary time, but in the complexities of a triple revolution. He mentioned (1) a **technological revolution** (the impact of automation and what he called "cybernation;") (2) a **revolution in weaponry** (the threat posed by atomic and nuclear weapons; and (3) a **human rights revolution** (what he called "**the freedom explosion**" taking place all other the world).

We must, in King's words, "seek to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of humanity working together for good."

Some sections of the "Remaining Awake" speech are dated and riveted in the past. But King's analysis of a triple revolution was remarkably perceptive. The revolutionary forces impacting life in King's day continue to exist in our own. And the challenge posed by King remains strikingly relevant: we can either withdraw into dull and silent lives, or we can muster the resources of faith, hope, and love to bring about the kind of community that fosters justice and peace in keeping with God's design. We must, in King's words, "seek to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of humanity working together for good."

Human progress, King often reminded, "**never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.**" Advancement of the beloved community comes through tireless effort, the persistent work of individuals, who are "**willing to be co-workers with God.**" Without such resolve, we ally ourselves to the primitive forces of social stagnation.

Like King before us, we face the jangling discords of war, poverty, and racism. And like King, when awake and aware of the revolutionary times in which we live, we are called upon to advance the kingdom of God. Let us not disappoint. May God grant us courage to seek the magnificent development set before us in the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
John P. Gardner

Thanks From Foods Resource Bank Task Force

Foods Resource Bank —2015 Financial Report

EXPENSES:	Norm's Preble Garden (noon meal expenses)	\$555.00
	Salem U.C.C. (Farm expenses)	\$712.50
	(Farm Rent)	<u>\$3000.00</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4267.50
INCOME:	JOHN DEERE FOUNDATION	500.00
	TROXEL EQUIPMENT (local John Deere dealer)	500.00
	PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC	10,310.00
	PLYMOUTH (corn bags)	230.56
	SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	1313.45
	SALEM (corn bags)	318.48
	NOON MEAL DONATIONS	869.00
	BAKE SALE	387.50
	KETTLE KORN	126.00
	SALE OF 20 ACRES OF SOYBEANS	7549.52
	TOTAL INCOME	\$22,104.51
	Total income	22104.51
	Total expenses	<u>4267.50</u>
	Total	\$17,837.01

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this FRB program for 2015. Yield was down due to excessive rains in the spring. The soybean yield was 41.5bu. per acre. This year monies will be split with Dominican Republic Bateyes and Uganda Teso, I'm sure we will be helping many, many people.

This is our 2015 FRB report; once again we would like to thank everyone from Plymouth and Salem for a very successful project and will be looking forward to next year.

Coordinators;
Rick Schilb - Plymouth U.C.C. Fort Wayne, IN
Kent Girod - Salem U.C.C. Decatur, IN.

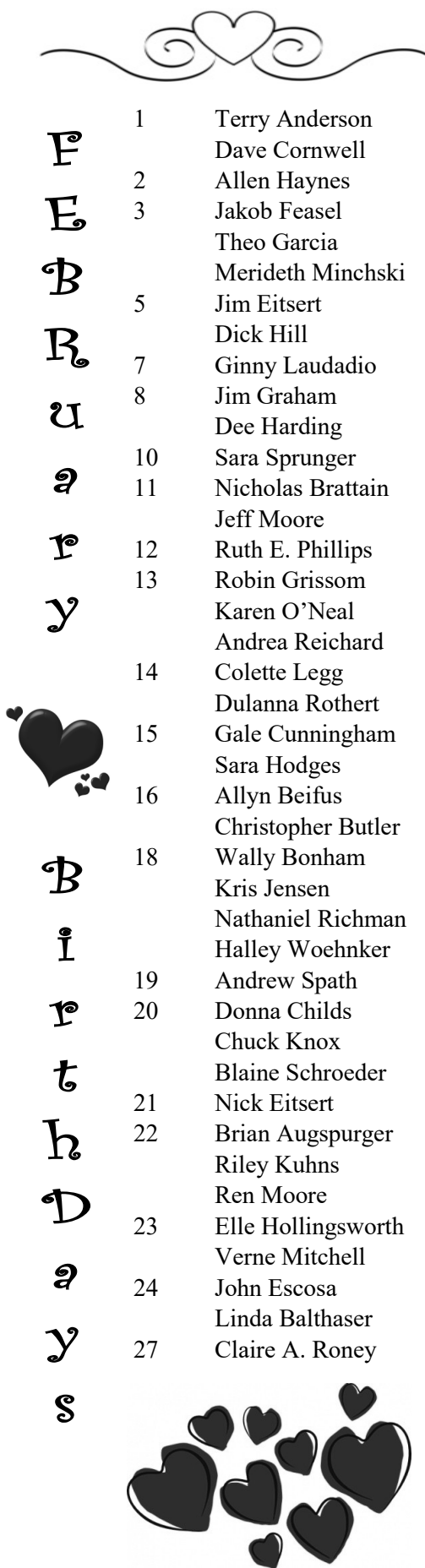
A Wellspring Shoppe Thank You

Wellspring is appreciative of the support of our Wellspring Shoppe by Plymouth Congregational Church, as evidenced by your donations in October, 2015, of the following:

- *Eight women's coats, (one of which was a leather coat !)
- *Two pairs of children's gloves
- *One children's hat
- *Four men's coats
- *One women's hooded sweatshirt
- *One adult hat

The Wellspring Shoppe concentrates on serving those with great need. Participants can access the Wellspring Shoppe on a quarterly basis and records are kept to ensure those most in need are helped. During the first eleven months of the year, we distributed over 12,000 clothing and other household items to 656 unduplicated households representing 1,688 individuals.

Sincerely,
Francis (Frank) M. Zirille
Executive Director



Amazing Grays To Celebrate Valentine's Day

The Amazing Grays announce the Third Annual Plymouth Talent Show on **Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, 11:30 am.**

Please see Kara Jaurigue if you would like to be a part of this VALENTINE'S DAY special event! A special luncheon will be prepared by Rhonda Eitsert. Reservations are due no later than **5:00 pm, Thursday, February 11.**

Scholarship Opportunities

The Grants and Scholarships Committee has the pleasant responsibility of awarding scholarship grants for **tuition and fees** from the earnings generated by several endowed funds. Completed applications are due in the church office as noted below.

By February 15

The **Richard Nelson Kent Memorial Fund** provides educational grants for tuition and fees for members of the United Church of Christ in the Northeast [Indiana] Association and other qualified applicants who are at least 16 years of age and entering into or continuing ecological studies, conservation biology, or other environmentally related studies.

The **R. Donald and Genevieve M. Sinish Fund** provides awards for tuition and fees for 16-to-24-year-old members of Plymouth Church.

The **Van Gorder Scholarship** is awarded annually for tuition and fees for post-secondary education leading to a degree, certificate, or license for a graduating senior who is a member of Plymouth Church.

By April 15

The **Richard C. Hess Peace Studies Scholarship** will award a \$1,000 tuition and fees scholarship for a college student majoring in peace studies or a related program.

Completed applications with all supporting materials must be received in the church office by the stated deadline. Incomplete applications are ineligible for consideration.

To request application packets, or to receive additional information, call the church office (423-9424), leave your name, phone number, and email address, and one of the members of the Grants and Scholarships Committee will respond to your request.

Annual Women's Retreat April 23

The 2016 Annual Women's Retreat for Plymouth women members and friends will be **April 23, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**, at Victory Noll Retreat Center in Huntington, IN. We will spend the day enjoying the hospitality of Our Lady of Victory Missionary sisters, in a lovely, peaceful environment. A full lunch is provided, with morning and afternoon snacks.

Plan now to participate and benefit from a Saturday of reflection and renewal. Program details will be forthcoming.

Philip Gulley – 2016 Parry Lecturer

Plymouth Church will be hosting Philip Gulley as a Parry Lecturer the weekend of **February 27-28.** The title for Gulley's lecture is, "The Awakened Soul." The lecture will be delivered on **Saturday at 4:30 pm** (he also will be preaching on Sunday at the **10:00 am** worship service). Plan on arriving early (4:00 pm) for coffee, tea, and crumpets!



Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor, writer, and theologian. He has been described as an "eclectic writer", and has published 20 books of both fiction and non-fiction. Titles of his work include:

I Love You, Miss Huddleston: And Other Inappropriate Longings of My Indiana Childhood (a memoir of his coming-of-age in Danville, Indiana); *If the Church were Christian*; *Living the Quaker Way: Timeless Wisdom for a Better Life Today*; and *The Evolution of Faith*. Along with James Mulholland he also coauthored, *If Grace is True* and *If God is Love*.

Gulley's early work prompted Paul Harvey, the popular radio host, to comment, "Through deft storytelling and his own irresistible brand of humor, Phil Gulley explores the depths of the Heartland's heart."

More recently, responding to Gulley's book, *The Evolution of Faith*, Diana Bulter Bass said: "No one raises more provocative questions about Christianity more kindly than Philip Gulley."

Arrangements for Gulley's visit are being coordinated by the Parry Lecture Planning Committee: Patricia Adsit, David Grim, Charles Belch, Patricia Pendleton, and Dana Wichern.



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

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Green-Up Your Valentine's Day

This year, consider giving e-cards instead of paper cards, antique or recycled jewelry, fair-trade chocolate, organic (or home-grown) flowers, and digitized instead of commercially packaged music. And if you wrap a gift, consider planet-friendly options such as a reusable box and ribbon.

Looking for our email addresses?

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Vision Statement

Adopted October 2011

Praying for guidance for the journey

... Honoring the mystery of God

... Responding with spirits renewed

... Moving courageously toward wholeness.

Mission Statement

Adopted October 2011



Plymouth Church is an inclusive Christian Community welcoming you as you are, supporting you in your own Journey with God, and challenging you to live out the teachings of Jesus, individually, collectively, globally.

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