



BELL

May 15, 2013

Amazing Grays Feature Stan Holdeman in June

The next meeting of the Amazing Grays, **Sunday, June 10, 11:30 am**, will feature our famous storyteller-in-residence, Stan Holdeman, talking about “Bonnie and Clyde of the Bible.”



If you have never heard Stan tell a story, don't miss this entertaining meeting! You will see the Bible come alive in his vivid adaptation of each character in the story.

A luncheon will be prepared by Rhonda and Mom.

Menu

*Minestrone Soup and Rustic Italian Sandwiches
Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad or
Summer Kraut Salad
White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake*

The cost of the luncheon is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. For reservations, please use the sign-up sheet on the office bulletin board or call the church office: 423-9424.

Richard C. Hess Scholarship Recipients Named

The Peace and Justice Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013-14 Peace Studies Scholarship:

Kyle Metzger is earning his master's degree in peace studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Goshen, Indiana. Currently, he is a part-time Multicultural Activities Coordinator at Huntington University. Kyle already has made a difference working with students to offer a wide variety of multicultural experiences. He plans to focus on enriching the diversity and multicultural experiences at the campus and for the community. Kyle's goal is to become a faculty member where he will teach in the areas of peacemaking and diversity.

Rachel Winsburg, a senior majoring in Peace Studies at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, received the scholarship last year. Her current focus is on immigration reform to create justice in the system. Rachel is studying Border Issues in Tucson, Arizona, and doing an internship with the Coalition for Human Rights (Coalicion de Derechos Humanos). Rachel's goals are to work for a not-for-profit agency using her Spanish skills to assist with immigration and legislation pertaining to immigration, or to work with young people to empower them to make good choices in their lives and to promote justice.

Pentecost Celebrates Birthday of the Church

On Sunday, **May 19, 10:00 am**, Dixieland music and the bright colors of red, yellow, and orange will create a festive worship for Plymouth's celebration of the birthday of the Church, Pentecost.

You are invited to be an “Expression of the Spirit” by wearing the Pentecost colors (red, yellow, and orange), which represent the Holy Spirit's “tongues of fire” that touched the apostles and gave birth to the Church. A birthday party for the Church will be in the Folsom Room following worship.

Summer Worship Schedule

Although regular Sunday worship will continue through the summer at **10:00 am**, the weekly 8:00 am Communion service conducted in the Plymouth Chapel, on Sundays, will temporarily be suspended during the summer. The last 8:00 am service will be **Sunday, June 2**. The early morning service will resume **Sunday, September 9**. Hospitality hour will move to **9:00 am** for the summer.

No Christian Education classes will be held from **Sunday, June 2 through Sunday, September 2**. They will resume on **Sunday, September 8**.



In Our Prayers

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

Members and friends serving overseas: SSgt. Christopher Black, Major Marc Lovelace, SSgt. Joe Luyben, MSG Jeffrey J. Diemer, SSgt. Christopher Hollingsworth, serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; UCC Chaplains: Jon Bailey, Rebecca McMichael, Leticia Rouser, and Beth Stallinga.

Plymouth people in our prayers: Mary Bir, A.J. Calkins, Roberta Claire, Judy Combs, Curt Conrad, Kim Crowell, Barbara Davidson, Beth Dickerson, Tom Eagar, Ed Gomez, RaeAnna Graff, Loretta Henderson, Helen Hill, Brian Ingmire, Judy Kuelling, David Legg, Joan Lipscomb, Gordon Miller, Tod Ramsey, Carol Rolland, Dave Ross, Marylynn Sloop, Kay Walter, and Melody Worsham.

Sympathy is extended to Cammy, Matt, Brendan, Tasha, and Melody Sutter, on the death of Cammy's father, children's grand-father, Ramon Steffen, April 17.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Daniel J. Grant, who died April 21.

Sympathy is extended to Joanne Huber on the death of her son, Lynn Huber, April 25.

Mothers of Young Children (MOYC)

Thursday June 20 6:30 pm

Saturday July 20 10:00 am

Rainbow Scarves To Be Dedicated on Pentecost

The rainbow scarves made for the General Synod will be dedicated on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**. During this festive worship service, the scarves will be worn by the knitters, crocheters, and weavers who made scarves, as well as by others who are willing to be participants in the dedication of the scarves prior to their being shipped to California.

Anyone with a scarf still a "work in progress" is invited to bring the completed scarf to the church office by **Sunday, May 26**. Contributions toward the cost of shipping can be made by checks payable to *Plymouth Church* with "Synod Scarves" on the memo line.

Summer Adult Study

This summer, we will have an informal Adult Sunday School starting on **June 2, 9:00 am**. We will meet in the Folsom room in a comfy corner; we may eventually move elsewhere. For questions, please contact David Grim (420-3688), davidbradlee@yahoo.com; or Kim Crowell, (260-587-3799), kkcrowell@embarqmail.com.

Knit & Kibitz

Standish Circle and Knit & Kibitz will have a combined meeting at Laura Rudolph's lake home on **Thursday, June 6**.

Laura is planning to be at the house about **1:00 pm** and invites anyone who wants to come early and enjoy the lake, to come after that time. Everyone is asked to bring a salad to share at **5:30 pm**. We will have our business meeting after the meal. We will disperse the funds we have made over the past year, from Standish members selling pepper jelly and wreaths, and from Knit & Kibitz members selling knit and crochet items at Christmas time.

Instructions on how to get to Laura's house will be sent to you by e-mail, closer to the meeting date. For more information contact Riet Zwiep (485-1676) or by email at janandrietzwiep@frontier.com.

Green Spotlight On Evangelism and Marketing Board

The Evangelism and Marketing Board (E&M) is doing an outstanding job of marketing the good works of Plymouth while being good stewards of the environment. A great example of this was the recent exchange of plastic bags and reusable food containers for Plymouth's sturdy shopping bags. The plastic bags will be recycled (of course!), and the reusable containers will be available for taking home leftovers from church functions.

E&M has invested in using National Public Radio (NPR) and Cinema Center as vehicles for paperless marketing. The Plymouth website provides much paper-free information to its readers, as well. E&M is exploring video boards for electronic signage as one more way to reduce paper usage in the building.

Thank you E&M, for your green efforts.



Graduates Sunday, June 2

On **Sunday, June 2**, we celebrate our Graduates! The service will include special music and personal reflections from some of our high school grads! This is always a wonderful worship service, so we hope you will join us to help celebrate this special occasion!

Youth Group Takes Hiatus

Our last Youth Group gathering is **Sunday, June 9!** We will end the season with a gathering at *Casa Jaurigue* from **12:00 - 3:00 pm**. Come for lunch, fun, volleyball, and much more. Please let Kara know if your teen will be able to be there!

Youth Summer Mission Trip 2013

All youth, ages 12 and up, are invited and encouraged to join the Rev. John P. Gardner and Kara Jaurigue for our mission trip the **week of June 16**. The work will be in Salyersville, Kentucky, an area torn apart by tornadoes, but also a place of persistent poverty.

The community has been very hospitable and welcoming of volunteer efforts. Projects will be scattered around the county — some in places you wouldn't imagine! Work will include cleanup, working on floors, walls, cabinets, skirting around mobile homes, and so on. Many of the projects will be work on mobile homes.

So far we have eight teens signed up! If you are interested, please contact Kara as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made.

Gay-Straight Alliance Youth Group Schedule

The Center for Nonviolence Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) youth group meets every **second and fourth Thursdays, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**, at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) main branch downtown. The group is open to LGBTQ and ally youth under 20-years old. For more information, please contact the Center for Nonviolence at (260) 456-4112.

Barry Shaw Award for High School Seniors

The Southside Optimist Club is accepting applications for the Barry Shaw Award. It consists of \$1,000 for scholarship or for a Non-Profit. **You must be a Senior in High School as of November, 2013.** Applications will be in the Narthex and also available in the Office. The application lists the requirements and also gives contact information for questions.

Thank You, Plymouth!

Again, Plymouth members have shown their caring and generosity by supplying many mops and other cleaning supplies for Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN). These items are used by the families and case workers to ensure a safe and clean environment for young children and their families.

Thank you for supporting this important agency and its work!

Ministry with the 21st Century Child

A workshop on the topic of the 21st Century Child was sponsored by the Lilly-funded Center for Congregations on April 25, here in Fort Wayne. Barb Duch, Carol Jackson, Karen Nesius Roeger, Cammy Sutter, and I attended on behalf of Christian Education Board. Presenter for the day was Ivy Beckwith, a lifetime church professional in ministry with children and youth.

The Millenials and Generation Z are the “plugged in” generations, the “Digital Natives.”

“Today’s students - K through college – represent the first generations to grow up with this new technology. They have spent their entire lives surrounded by and using computers, videogames, digital music players, video cameras, cell phones and all the other toys and tools of the digital age ...” “... it is now clear that as a result of this ubiquitous environment and the sheer volume of their interaction with it, today’s students think and process information fundamentally different from their predecessors. These differences go further and deeper than most educators suspect or realize...” “... it is very likely that our students’ brains have physically changed and are different from ours as a result of how they grew up.”

We were reminded that children learn from every relationship and every interaction with the people and content of their world – e.g. church. We need to be consistently intentional about the ways we include children in the life of the congregation. We all must be cognizant of how and what we are teaching them about life in the community of faith. We have new challenges as Church to understand and respond in meaningful ways to these generations within our midst.

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, Associate Pastor

News from the Church Office ... Summer Communications

As part of Plymouth Church's efforts to carry forward our Mission 4/1 Earth environmental stewardship, we will be "taking the summer off" and not producing our traditional printed issues of *the Bell* during June and July.

The summer months are always busy, as many of you are travelling, enjoying time at the lake and with family and friends, and running busy children to ball games, band practices, summer camps, and assorted other activities. We have identified this time as a great opportunity to experiment with some new electronic communications tools and formats. We are very excited about the prospects for this type of communication. Hopefully, this summer will allow us to define and *refine* how we share Plymouth's joys and concerns, events and activities, and our continuing mission work here in our own church and in the broader community. Since part of Plymouth's mission is to be strong environmental stewards, reducing the amount of printed material we produce this summer will definitely support this effort. And the decrease in postage and materials costs will help us be better financial stewards of our church's resources.

Starting the first week of June, all of our members and friends who have email addresses in our database will begin receiving our electronic newsletter, which will be produced and mailed out through Constant Contact. We are still fine-tuning the details, but we anticipate them being weekly and/or bi-weekly, featuring current news and information about our church family and what we are busy doing!

Our biggest challenge is making this work for *everyone* ... especially those of you who do not have email, but still want to be kept informed of what is happening at Plymouth. So here's how you can help!

- If you have an email address but have not shared it with the church office, or if your email address has recently changed, AND you are interested in receiving our electronic communications, please let us know (see below for details on who and how to contact).
- If you have an email address, but do NOT wish to participate in the electronic distribution, please let us know.
- If you don't have email and you want to be included in a printed mailing, it is important that you contact the church office and tell us. Our goal is to make sure everyone is informed and included. Be assured that we will be trying our best to identify all of you who need printed material.
- ***Contact information: send email to lme@plymouthfw.org or call Lettie in the church office, 423-9424.***

Please continue sending your news articles to Suzanne in the church office, sls@plymouthfw.org, ***whenever you have the information available***. Event and activity information will be published based on registration timeframes and actual event dates.

We anticipate a full, printed publication of *the Bell* in August ... details will be shared as soon as they are available!

Lettie Eagar
Office Manager

Tickets for *Lombard* At The Civic Theatre

Plymouth Church has a limited number of ticket vouchers available for the **May 31 through June 9** Fort Wayne Civic Theatre performances of *Lombard*. This one-person show, directed by Philip Colglazier, has Carole Lombard revisiting her colorful past while awaiting a flight home to L.A. "Drawing liberally upon her legendary sailor's vocabulary, Lombard reminisces about ex-husband William Powell, as well as Russ Colombo, George Raft, Gary Cooper, Joseph P. Kennedy, and her attempt to secure the role of Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind*. Despite being set on the eve of her death, *Lombard* is the warm, funny story of a woman who was a fighter, both in her career and personal life."

Ticket vouchers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. These ticket vouchers are part of a sponsorship agreement between Plymouth Church and the Civic Theatre. Please check with the Civic Theatre Box Office to make sure your voucher can be used for the show time of your choice. Contact Lettie in the church office with your request.

From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

Plymouth's participation in the UCC program, *Mission 4/1 Earth – 50 Great Days* (April 1 - May 19) has really captured my interest. As various materials and handouts have reminded, we have joined with other participating UCC congregations in promoting earth care and environmental integrity. The effort, urging church members to be conscientious and involved stewards of creation, is dedicated to proclaiming gospel in practical, visible, and life-changing ways. How wonderful!

The challenges posed by climate change and global warming are daunting and often overwhelming. The most recent issue of *Sojourner's Magazine* argues that global warming **"is a clear and present danger – with perpetrators, victims, and most important, solutions."** (see "Licking Climate Change," *Sojourner's*, May, 2013).

Mission 4/1 Earth acknowledges the present danger, while accenting solutions. As Christine Leggett reminded us recently in worship: **"We can green up, power down, and shout out for the environment."**

Mission 4/1 Earth has strategically focused upon three goals: (1) to tally 1 million hours of earth care; (2) to plant 100,000 trees; and (3) to write 100,000 letters of environmental advocacy to elected officials.

It's the numbers that have drawn my attention. I've personally logged a few hours of earth care (primarily recycling), planted one tree, and written three letters. This isn't much in the large scheme of solutions. But when considering how others are involved, the situation changes. As of **Sunday, May 5**, Plymouth members had accumulated the following: 1,337 hours of earth care; 129 trees planted; and 52 letters written and sent. And Plymouth's contribution to the mission gets combined with that which is taking place within other UCC congregations. The UCC website most recently reported 179,269 hours of earth care; 35,203 trees planted; and 17,565 letters written and sent.



At this junction, it doesn't look like the national goals for *Mission 4/1 Earth* will be met. But meeting the goals, I sense, was never the point of this urgent endeavor. What *Mission 4/1 Earth* has forcefully illustrated is the power and inspiration of collective action. Everyone can contribute something and become part of the solution to the environment perils we face.

Together, we can accomplish far more than if working alone. In concert, as Christians committed to prudent and respectful use of the world and its resources, we can make a difference for good!

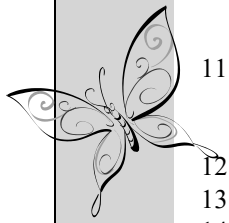
A few days yet remain in *Mission 4/1 Earth*. Keep the count growing! And may God be praised!

Sincerely,
John P. Gardner



Rev. Gardner planting a tree

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1	John Silcox
3	Nathan Siples
4	Sally Felger Joanne Huber Curt Smith
5	Cassidy Bradley
7	Julie Davidson
8	Betty Henning Rick Schilb Jonah Silcox
9	Tim Chronister
10	Elizabeth Escosa Carter Marcia Howard Marty Kabisch Judy Kuelling Dick Stumpf
11	Kris Conner Lois Horn Ashlee Vanderbosch
12	Dwight James
13	Mariellen Beitman
14	Spencer Jordan Polly Lipscomb Evan Alan Miller Donna Riethmiller
15	Chris Colclessor Laura Filler Karen Holdeman Melody Sutter
18	A'Qwaun Graff
19	Megan Degitz Jim Gilliom David Weber
20	Kirby Volz
21	Chance Zachery Hackett
22	Carrie Callaghan Courtney Davies Michelle Dollarhite
23	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 James Arata Roberta Braunlin

Children's Fellowship Time (CFT)

Greetings! Grace and peace from the growing hearts and hands of our children here at Plymouth Church. It is such a blessing for the young and growing ones in our midst to join together in Children's Fellowship Time (CFT) during our brief 20 minutes or so during Sunday worship.

We are being and playing joyfully together and making great friends! In CFT we provide a brief Christian fellowship time for our first through fifth graders to get to know each other and to have some simple structured activity. While the adults are listening to the sermon, our children are weaving bonds of friendship as part of the fabric of our church. Here's what we do on a typical Sunday:

Meet and Greet:

When we depart the sanctuary after the peace candle prayer, we meet in the Amistad Room. Each child is welcomed by name, visitors are greeted warmly, and everyone is invited to find a seat. Each child is made to feel important and at-home.

Heart Focus:

Before breaking out the activities, the adult leader prompts a short group discussion about what has been on the kids' minds that week. Christian themes and faith values are often mentioned by the leader in simple, understandable ways. The children are encouraged to speak from their hearts about school, play, life in general, etc.

Seated Activities:

After group discussion, the quietest table gets to choose first from the activity box. Here, the children may choose to enjoy board games, activity sheets, drawing, or reading story books. The adult(s) is attentive to making sure everyone is being included and having a good time.

Special Activities:

From time to time, a church member may have something special to share with the kids. It may be a liturgical dance, a Bible story book, a song, sharing about a church project.

Our time together goes very quickly and soon we return to worship during the offertory, New children in worship are always welcome to join us. Feel free to speak with me, share your ideas, and ask any questions you may have.

David Grim, parent
CFT Leader

JUNE 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Share Your Shopping</i> <i>Graduate Sunday</i> 8:00a Chapel Communion 9:00a Hospitality 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:30a Youth Group	3 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:45p Yoga 6:00p Sophie's Cafe	4 10:30a Staff meeting 11:45a Women's Book Study 6:00p Executive Council	5 8:30a Women's Breakfast @ Atz's 8:30a Retired Men's Breakfast	6 1:30p Memorial Gifts committee 6:30p Standish Knit & Kibitz	7	8 9:00a BH costume work 6:00p New member dinner
9 9:00a Hospitality 10:00a Worship 11:30a Amazing Grays 11:30a LAST Youth Group of season	10 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:45p Yoga 6:00p Sophie's Cafe	11 10:30a Staff meeting 4:45p Benevolence 7:00p PFLAG	12 2:15p Moderators meeting 7:00p We the Living	13	14	15 <i>SCAN duck race</i>
16 9:00a Hospitality 10:00a Worship & Communion	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:45p Yoga 6:00p Sophie's Cafe	18 10:30a Staff meeting 11:30a Knife & Fork 11:45a Women's Book Study 5:30p Board meetings	19	20 5:30p Peace & Justice committee (PJs) 5:30p Nominating committee	21	22
23 9:00a Hospitality 10:00a Worship	24 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:45p Yoga 6:00p Sophie's Cafe	25 10:30a Staff meeting 5:30p HVAC committee	26	27 6:30p Mothers of Young Children (MOYC)	28	29
30 9:00a Hospitality 10:00a Worship/ Healing						



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

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Looking for our email addresses?

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Financial Administrator

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Custodian

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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.