



## Willits Educational Series



**FREE!**

**Friday  
May 7, 2010  
7 p.m.**

**Plymouth  
Congregational  
Church**

**Waveland Hall**

**Childcare available.  
Call the church office,  
255.3149, by May 4  
with names & ages  
of children.**

## Featuring Iowa Supreme Court Justice Mark Cady

One year after he wrote the Court's opinion in the case of *Varnum v. Brien* that recognized marriage equality in Iowa, Judge Cady will address Plymouth family and friends during the 2010 Willits Educational Series. **Join us for coffee and dessert** as we enjoy this exciting opportunity to hear Judge Cady share his thoughts about:

- the governmental process,
- separation of powers, and
- the doctrine of equal protection under Iowa law that led him to write the historic opinion for the court.

Also an author and educator, Judge Cady will participate in a brief question-and-answer period following his presentation.

Judge Cady's lecture is sponsored by the Earl M. Willits Educational Endowment.

**Earl M. Willits**  
*educational endowment*

**Plymouth**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Plymouth Church  
4126 Ingersoll Ave.  
Des Moines, IA

[www.plymouthchurch.com](http://www.plymouthchurch.com)

**“We agree to differ. We resolve to love. We unite to serve.”**

# Come to think of it....



## David Ruhe, *Senior Minister*

May is a wonderful month, but it always seems to go by in a whirl. Some of that is personal: both Priscilla and our son Paul have birthdays in May, and Mother's Day always merits attention. Spring activities launch and the grass needs cutting—seemingly every fourth day or so. But it only recently dawned on me why May is so busy in the church: May is our month for rites of passage.

This weekend we will be celebrating **Confirmation**, the culmination of a two-year program in which our seventh and eighth graders prepare to decide whether to assume for themselves responsibilities their parents committed to when the children were baptized. It's not so much an arrival as the commitment to a journey. We take it very seriously and rejoice in the new beginning it represents.

We will also be **receiving members** into the church this weekend—another rite of passage that marks the beginning of a journey in faith. We will promise to “walk together with them in Christian love.” When that really happens, nothing is more important or valuable. People joining the church this weekend have given the matter a lot of thought, sometimes over a number of years. This is worthy of celebration.

May, particularly Mother's Day, is traditionally a very popular time for **baptisms**. In baptism we remember that God's love is the most basic reality of our existence. Sometimes we get so busy that we forget.

May is also the month of institutional transition at Plymouth. The second Tuesday marks the **Annual Meeting** of the congregation, at which we will receive the reports of the preceding year's activities, elect new leaders for the coming year and reflect a bit on how we're doing. We take inventory, size things up. At the end of May retiring Board members transition off and new board members are welcomed, usually at gatherings especially for this purpose. Some of these spill over into June.

Shortly after the Annual Meeting, we conduct our annual **performance reviews** for all the members of the program staff. We receive feedback on how we've been doing, discuss steps to improve performance and strengthen our relationship with the church, and set goals for the coming year. Then before everybody begins to scatter for the summer we conduct a thorough **overview of the calendar** for the next 18 months, making certain that important events are anticipated and resources aligned. After this May staff retreat, given staggered vacations through the summer, we won't all be together again until the third week of August, when the fall begins.

Graduations are acknowledged and celebrated at the annual **Baccalaureate** service, usually the third weekend in May. That's always a beautifully bittersweet event that marks transition on all sorts of levels. Whew!

So I'm not completely crazy: May might be the busiest month of the year. Wouldn't have it any other way.

See you in church,

*David Ruhe*

# Community Outreach

## Personal Needs Collection

It is time for collection of personal needs items again! The Board of Benevolences thanks you for your ongoing generosity to local organizations. We are asking for your help again in May for another local organization, the Family Violence Center. Please drop off the following types of personal needs items to the baskets outside Waveland Hall this month: diapers, baby wipes, baby powder, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, bars of soap, razors and feminine hygiene products. As always, your generosity is most appreciated!

— *The Board of Benevolences*

## Food Pantry Weekend is May 15 and 16

The theme for this month's collection is "April showers bring May flowers." The twist is, however, the spelling of flower. It has been changed to "flour." How about donating a kind of flour...pancake flour, Jiffy mixes, cake flour mix, or just plain old flour!! The DMARC Emergency Food Pantry welcomes ALL food donations. Remember to check the expiration dates. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, make your check out to Plymouth Church with "Food Pantry" on the memo line. The Board of Benevolences thanks you for your continued support.

## Lighten up Your Closet for Spring

As you begin to move your spring and summer clothes to the front of your closet, look for items that you might donate to the Plymouth Women's Career Closet.

Plymouth women are collecting all sizes of in-style, spring and summer women's career clothes for our joint project with the Young Women's Resource Center (YWRC). The YWRC provides us with an area where we've set up shop so that central Iowa women, who are interviewing for jobs or need clothing for work, can be waited on in a boutique-style atmosphere.

All clothing is free, and each customer can leave with three or four complete outfits. Our Career Closet is the only place in the Des Moines area right now where any woman can come for career clothes and be treated to a quality shopping experience, wardrobe advice and high-quality career clothes.

Please place your donations of clean, gently worn women's clothing, shoes, jewelry and handbags in the container just inside the doors to the Plymouth pre-school, off the south driveway. Put jewelry and accessories in zip-lock bags and shoes in individual boxes or bags.

For more information or to volunteer to clerk at the Closet, contact Georgia Sheriff at 270.6203, or [sheriffga@aol.com](mailto:sheriffga@aol.com).

**GREEN TIP:** Planting season is upon us and what do you do with all those nursery pots and trays you accumulate? Ask a few questions before you buy and then make your purchases from an earth-friendly vendor. Many of our local garden centers (including Home Depot and some Earl May stores) offer to recycle your nursery pots. They may send them off to nurseries for reuse or to a facility that shreds the pots to produce recycled plastic products. You can put them in your compost and they'll disintegrate within two years. Many plants now found in garden centers come in peat pots with a removable paper or plastic collar. A little investigation will help keep your garden green!



## Brown's Woods

Do you love nature? Do you love parks that have hiking trails? Did you know that Plymouth is an Adopt-A-Park Sponsor for Brown's Woods? Members of the Board of Christian Social Action will be leading volunteers the first Saturday of the month on a mission through the park to remove invasive species. We meet in the parking lot at 10 a.m. and work for about two hours. Join us to help ensure the continued enjoyment of this urban forest preserve for all generations.

Questions? Contact Karen Barnhizer at 238.6031 or by email at [kbarnhizer@gmail.com](mailto:kbarnhizer@gmail.com).

## Civil Rights Milestones

In recognition of the significance of Plymouth Church's recent endorsement of Marriage Equality, the Board of Christian Social Action is pleased to highlight several other civil rights milestones occurring in 2010.

### 75 YEARS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ADVOCACY

On April 17, 1935, Plymouth Minister Stoddard Lane joined five other Iowans as founders of the Iowa affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. This made Iowa only the fifth ACLU affiliate in the nation, and the first not located on either coast. Known today as the ACLU of Iowa, this nonprofit, non-partisan, membership organization has more than 3,000 Iowa members, and continues to advocate for equality and fairness for all, including the rights of free speech, religious freedom, due process, the right to privacy and reproductive freedom.

# The Center for Spiritual Growth

## Adult Education Opportunities Amens

The AMENS Group (All Men Experiencing Nurturing Spirituality) meets **every Tuesday morning at 6:45 a.m. in Burling Room** for fellowship, a short program and lively discussion. All are welcome.

## Weekly Centering Prayer

**Mondays, 6-7 p.m.**, in the Center for Spiritual Growth, Inspiration Lounge. All are welcome.  
Questions? Call Kathy Reardon at 280.3861(h) or 274.4006 (w).

## Shawl Knitting Ministries

Join us in the knitting ministry as we offer our hearts in this simple way. All ages, genders and levels of experience are welcome.  
**Center for Spiritual Growth,  
Welcome Lounge on Tuesdays from  
5-6:30 p.m.**



If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, please contact Jean Walker at 277.9630 or Janet Jennings at 222.0831.

## Something's Brewing

**First Tuesdays at Raccoon River  
6 p.m.  
Raccoon River Brewing Company  
Hosted by Matt Mardis-LeCroy**

**No fee (Food and drink will be available for purchase)**  
Join us on the first Tuesday of each month at Raccoon River Brewing Company (200—10th St., downtown Des Moines) for informal conversations about God, life and whatever else happens to come up. No prior knowledge of the Bible or theology will be expected and all are welcome!

## Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study

Join Matt Mardis-LeCroy on **Wednesday mornings 9:30-11 a.m. in the Coffee Shop** for an in-depth study of the text for the upcoming weekend. No prior knowledge of scripture is expected and all are welcome!

## Wise (Women In Spiritual Exploration)

**Thursday mornings from 7-8 a.m.** in the Burling Room. All women are invited to meet for the purpose of spiritual growth. The WISE statement of purpose reads: *To focus on and grow through the experience of Our Spirit, in a community of love, friendship and spiritual intimacy. To support, nurture and exercise Our Spirit through meditation, prayer, study, work and play. . . and by being together.*

## Common Thread

**First Thursday of each month  
7 – 9 p.m. – Waveland Hall**  
Speakers and discussions pertaining to Spiritual/Metaphysical studies. Are you curious about Common Thread? Go to our new site, <http://thecommonthreadadm.blogspot.com/>

**Common Thread will also present spiritual DVD flicks** on the third Monday of each month in Greenwood Room from 7-9 p.m.

## Fellowship Forum

Join us in the Greenwood Room every **Sunday from 10:10-10:50 a.m.** for conversation about scripture, current events and the life of faith. All are welcome to participate! Hosted by Matt Mardis-LeCroy.

## Igniting Your Divine Spark

**Sunday mornings, 10:10-10:50 a.m.,  
Inspiration Lounge  
Moderated by Marsha Hines**

This series will feature brief presentations from a variety of presenters and topics, allowing plenty of time for spontaneous insights and inspiration. Consider it meat to sustain your every day reality. All are welcome!

## Plymouth Men

The Plymouth Men meet for lunch together the **first Friday of every month** at Legends Restaurant, 50th and Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines. **Our next meeting will be Friday, May 7.** Mark your calendars so you won't miss it. We gather at 11:45 a.m. for this "dutch lunch." All Plymouth men are welcome to join us.

## Plymouth Book Discussion Group

The Plymouth Book Discussion Group has scheduled discussions of the below-listed books in the Harmony Conference Room of the Center for Spiritual Growth, **Sundays at 10:10 a.m.:**

June 6	<i>A History of Tractors in Ukrainian</i> by Marina Lewycka
July 11	<i>Driftless</i> by David Rhodes
August 1	<i>House of Daughters: A Novel</i> by Sarah-Kate Lynch

Please join us for discussion.

# Your church home

## New Group!

The Plymouth Drum Circle will meet on Saturday, May 15, in the Coffee Shop, from 1 - 3 p.m. All women, men and teens are welcome. Bring your African and Native American drums and rattles. There will be some extras for you to borrow. We will do some drumming and discuss possibilities.

There will be an opportunity to attend a workshop and concert by a world-class percussion and Native Flute Duo on Thursday, May 20. For more information, call or e-mail Jeanne Lyle at 225.6139 or [jeanlyle@mchsi.com](mailto:jeanlyle@mchsi.com)

## Memorials Matter

Memorial gifts were recently used to purchase music for Singing Church Sunday. Our worship services are greatly enhanced by the gift of music from the bell choirs, children's choirs, Soul Singers, Matins and Chancel Choir.

Memorial gifts are a thoughtful and meaningful way to pay tribute to a loved one by enhancing our place of worship and its ministries. The Arts, Memorials and Architectural Changes Committee (AMAC) meets monthly to decide on the use of memorial funds for special church needs. If you have any questions regarding the work of the AMAC, please contact our Director of Administration, Jennifer Hines, at 255.3149, ext. 19.

## Our Website's Alive and Well

Bookmark [www.plymouthchurch.com](http://www.plymouthchurch.com) and check back often for current events and information about Plymouth Church.

See you on the Web!

## Save the Date—AMOS presents “Working” by Studs Terkel

Join AMOS, StageWest, and the Drake University Theatre Department for a presentation of Studs Terkel's "Working," a 1970s introspective look at the American worker that still resonates with today's workforce. Performances in Des Moines will be **May 6, 7, 8, 14 & 15** at 8 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Ave. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from AMOS members (contact Sue Hoss at 633.0098, [suechef\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:suechef_2@yahoo.com)) or in Waveland Hall between and after services on April 25 & May 2. Proceeds will benefit the social justice work of AMOS in central Iowa.



## Stepping Stone Blessing

Congratulations to the families who attended the Eighth Grade Stone in April and the blessing ceremony on April 25. These families spent time together sharing, laughing and growing as they learned about what it means to be a faithful member of the church.

## Part-Time Custodial Help Wanted

Plymouth Church has an opening for a Sunday custodial position. This position requires occasional lifting and moving of heavy items. Applicant must be able to communicate in English. Criminal background check is required.

## Sunday Custodian

Duties include opening the church, placing outdoor parking signage, setting up tables and chairs in meeting rooms, assisting Deacons with sanctuary prep, and coffee and continental breakfast prep for fellowship hour. During winter months, responsibilities include sidewalk maintenance. Approximately seven hours per week from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To apply, or for more information, please contact Dan Olson, Plymouth Church Facility Manager at 419.5194 or [dolson@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:dolson@plymouthchurch.com)

# Your church home



## NOTICE OF PLYMOUTH'S ANNUAL MEETING Tuesday, May 11, 2010, Waveland Hall 7 p.m. Dessert 7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

*Because of the large number of persons proposed for nomination, we regret that we were not able to accommodate all suggestions. —The Nominating Committee*

### **MODERATOR**

**Sid Ramsey, 1998**

*Vice President, Iowa Health System*

Board of Deacons, Board of Stewardship,  
Faith Forward Campaign, Personnel  
Committee

### **MODERATOR ELECT**

**Libby Jacobs, 1983**

*Consultant, The Jacobs Group*

Faith Forward Capital Campaign,  
Communications Task Force/Committee,  
Plymouth Women's Adventure Group,  
Sunday School Teacher, Board of  
Membership, Church Council Member-  
at-large

### **CHURCH CLERK**

**Betty Fosburgh, 1990**

*Homemaker/volunteer*

Deacons, Visual Arts Committee, Hospitality  
Committee, Women's Fellowship, Moms &  
Moppets, Choir Guild, Office Volunteer,  
Board of Music & Fine Arts, Church  
Directory Coordinator

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**David Everett, 1991**

*The Waldinger Corporation*

AMOS, Board of Benevolences, Board of  
Trustees, Board of Membership

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONTINUED**

**Beth Stelle Jones, 2007**

*Plymouth Nursery School Teacher*

Board of Deacons, Bible Study, Plymouth  
Women's Adventure Group

**Shelly Soorholtz, 1985**

*Senior Executive Customer Representative,  
Merck Human Health Division*

Past Moderator, Chair, Board of Christian  
Stewardship, Faith Forward Capital  
Campaign Committee, Chair, Board of  
Membership, Confirmation Guide, Sunday  
School Teacher, Family Life Committee,  
Chancel Choir, Visual Arts Committee

### **PLYMOUTH FOUNDATION BOARD (One to be elected)**

**Will J. Hoekman, 1973**

*Retired bank and manufacturing executive*

Plymouth Foundation, Director of  
Greenwood Park LLC, Board of  
Membership, Stewardship Committee,  
Chancel Choir

### **BOARD OF BENEVOLENCES**

**(Four to be elected)**

**James Bird, 1986**

*Retired*

### **BOARD OF BENEVOLENCES CONTINUED**

**Shawn Burke, 2004**

*Thomson/Reuters, Account Representative*  
Board of Benevolences

**Robert Chambers, 1994**

*Retired financial advisor*

**Tamara Rood, 1994**

*Freelance writer (marketing releases, etc.)*  
Board of Christian Social Action, Church  
School teacher

**Dorraine Schuling, 1995, filling**

*unexpired term*

*Retired*

Board of Benevolences, Board of Christian  
Social Action, Peace Committee,  
Nine to Dine

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Five to be elected)**

**Shannon Goudelock, 2009**

*Special Education Teacher*  
Stepping Stones participant

**Lee Konfrst, 1997**

*Attorney/Public Affairs Consultant*

Church School Teacher, Sound Team, Board  
of Christian Social Action

# Your church home

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONTINUED

**Ted Kempf**, 2006

*Vice President of Marketing for Deltek*  
Stepping Stones participant

**Sarah Ramsey**, 2008

*Public Policy Director, United Way*  
Church School Teacher

**Kristin Sehmann**, 2007

*Business Analyst for Wells Fargo*  
Church School Teacher

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

(Five to be elected)

**Beth Anderson**, 1998

*President, Anderson Stores*  
Peace Committee, Wednesday Bible Study,  
Bulletin Volunteer

**Sonia Parras Konrad**, 2010

*Attorney at Law, Co-director ASISTA*

**Diane Krell**, 1989

*Community Activist*  
Peace Committee, Board of Deacons,  
Stephen Ministry, Refugee Resettlement,  
Matins Advisory

**John McCormally**, 2009

*Attorney, Iowa Dept. of Justice*  
Rebuilding Together

**Linda Powers**, 1988

Board of Christian Social Action, Sunday  
School Teacher, Board of Christian  
Education

**Ben Stone**, 1997

*Attorney and Executive Director of American  
Civil Liberties Union of Iowa*  
Board of Christian Social Action

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

(Four to be elected)

**Dixie Hoekman**, 1973

*Retired*  
Board of Christian Education, Board of  
Membership, Sunday School Teacher,  
Chancel Renovation Committee, Matins  
Parents Committee, Faith Forward, Arts,  
Memorials and Architectural Changes  
Committee, Nine to Dine and Chancel Arts

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP CONTINUED

**Beth Koenig**, 1989

*Retired*  
Spiritual Growth Committee, Stephen  
Minister, Church School Teacher, Board of  
Deacons, Board of Christian Social Action

**Tom Schoelerman**, 1982

*Advisor, American Express*  
Board of Deacons, Board of Benevolences

**Tom Stanberry**, 2003

*Attorney*  
Board of Christian Stewardship,  
Confirmation guide, youth mission trip  
chaperone, Faith Forward Capital Campaign

## BOARD OF DEACONS

(10 to be elected)

**Sherwood Adams**, 1989

*Architect*  
Confirmation, Arts and Memorials, House  
and Space Committee, Board of Deacons,  
Family Life Committee

**John Childers**, 2004

*Office Manager*

**Doug Detrick**, 2001

*Re-engagement Specialist*  
Stewardship

**Doug Hansen**, 2004

*Producer at Meredith*  
Board of Music and Fine Arts

**Lisa LaValle**, 2001

*Chef, Des Moines Art Center*  
Sunday School Teacher, assisted on Kitchen  
Committee

**Sara Minnis**, 1992

*Methodist West gift shop manager/volunteer*  
Plymouth wedding coordinator

**Carma Mitchell**, 1985

Personnel Committee

**Mary Pearson**, 1983

*Owner, printing and forms company*  
Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation

**Jack Porter**, 1990

*State of Iowa, State Preservation Architect*  
Sound engineer, Double House Committee,  
Board of Deacons

**Barb Smith**, 2010

## BOARD OF MEMBERSHIP

(Four to be elected)

**Adam Boon**, 2009

*Pharmacy Manager, Iowa Lutheran Hospital*

**Paula Mohr**, 2006

*Architectural Historian*  
Board of Deacons

**Jesse Van Der Pol**, 2010

*Interactive Designer, Meredith*

## BOARD OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

(Four to be elected)

**Barb Miller**, 2002

*Retired*  
Board of Music and Fine Arts, Chair of  
Visual Arts Committee, Flower Delivery  
Team, Hospitality/Greeter, Rebuild

**Avis Shuck**, 1972

*Retired*  
Board of Deacons, Benevolences, Altar  
Committee, Board of Christian Education

**Randy Sieberling**, 1991

*Chef Manager*  
Board of Music and Fine Arts, Fine Arts  
Series, Chancel Choir, Confirmation

**Sheryl Terlouw**, 2009

*Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield*  
Chancel Choir

## BOARD OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(Three to be elected)

**Aaron Harpold**, 2009

*Horticulturist for the City of West Des  
Moines*

**Sandi Smith**, 1994

*Certified Health Coach*  
Matins Parents Advisory Committee

**Adele Ver Steeg**, 2003

*Spiritual Director*  
Matins and Plm Youth parent

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Three to be elected)

**Dick Jones**, 2007

*Surety Manager*

**Maureen Keehnle**, 2004

*Attorney*  
Board of Deacons, Plymouth Foundation

**Brad Nielsen**, 2000

*Investment Consultant*  
Board of Deacons, Stephen Ministers

# The Arts @ Plymouth

## Carl Gravander, an Encore Organ Recital

Can't get enough of Carl Gravander's beautiful organ music? You can hear him play once again during an organ recital at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3424 Forest Ave., Des Moines on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 4 p.m. The recital will feature music for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

## In the Gallery:

Photography by Judith Eastburn  
March 27—May 7, 2010  
Coming soon, an exhibit by Lee Middleswart  
For information on purchase, contact  
Nancy Slotterback at 255.3149 or  
[nslotterback@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:nslotterback@plymouthchurch.com)

# Plymouth Women

## Interesting Books, Interesting Women

Women's Fellowship Faithful Readers meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Inspiration Lounge for a lively discussion of an interesting book. Our schedule includes:

May 27     *Hole in the Gospel* by  
Richard Stearns

We're looking at our world through new lenses, and we welcome newcomers! Let's get together! For more information, call Jean Nelson at 255.5019.

## Plymouth Women's Luncheon

Join us **Thursday, May 20, at 12:15 p.m.** in Waveland Hall for lunch and a presentation by KCCI-TV journalist, news anchor and Plymouth member Emily Price. Call 255.3149 by 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 18, to make a reservation. The cost is \$7.50 and is due at the luncheon. For more information, contact Alice Wisner at 221.9327, or go to [www.plymouthchurch.com](http://www.plymouthchurch.com), Plymouth Women Fellowship and Study Groups, Women's Luncheon Group for more details.

## Moms & Moppets

Moms and Moppets provides an opportunity for mothers of young children to gather on a regular basis for fellowship, education and support, while at the same time offering a separate peer social group for their children. Questions to Molly Hagkull at 279.0398, [m.hagkull@mchsi.com](mailto:m.hagkull@mchsi.com) or Emily Bissel, [emilybsn@gmail.com](mailto:emilybsn@gmail.com).

The **support group** meets the third Thursday of each month, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room at Plymouth Church, September through May. Non-church members welcome.

**May 20: End-of-the-year brunch.** Potluck brunch and celebration slideshow.

# Calendar

## Saturday, May 08, 2010

8:30 AM Garden & Grounds  
Committee Planting Day  
Green Team Meeting  
9:00 AM Gallery Committee  
Installation and Meeting  
5:30 PM AA  
Worship (Casual)  
6:00 PM Babysitting Exchange

## Sunday, May 09, 2010

8:15 AM Matins Warm Up  
8:30 AM Infant - 2 years old Childcare  
9:00 AM Worship/Baptisms  
9:15 AM 2 year olds - 6th Grade  
Church School  
10:00 AM After-Worship Fellowship  
Matins Leadership Meeting  
10:10 AM Fellowship Forum  
Igniting Your Divine Spark  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Warm Up  
11:00 AM 2 Year Olds – Kindergarten  
Childcare  
Worship/Baptisms  
12:00 PM After-Worship Fellowship  
1:00 PM AA  
6:00 PM HAT Casserole Building  
6:30 PM HAT Meeting  
7:00 PM LADOS

## Monday, May 10, 2010

7:00 AM Tai Chi  
8:00 AM Group Spiritual Direction  
5:15 PM Yoga  
5:45 PM Centering Prayer  
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 661  
Peace Committee  
6:30 PM Buddhism Class  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts #50

## Tuesday, May 11, 2010

6:45 AM AMENS  
12:00 PM Al-Anon  
5:00 PM Shawl Knitting Ministry  
6:30 PM Board of Deacons  
Board of Membership  
Spiritual Journey  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts #50 Parents  
Meeting  
Dessert  
7:30 PM Annual Meeting

## Wednesday, May 12, 2010

7:00 AM ROC  
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study  
11:00 AM Saturday Worship Planning  
Team Meeting  
12:15 PM Trustees Finance Meeting  
12:30 PM Tai Chi Class  
2:45 PM Spiritual Direction  
4:00 PM Stephen Minister Leadership  
Team  
5:00 PM Choir Guild  
Choir Guild Childcare  
6:00 PM AA  
Matins Dinner  
Re-membering Soul  
7:00 PM Matins Rehearsal  
Plymouth Bells Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 13, 2010

7:00 AM WISE  
11:00 AM Adeline Luncheon  
5:30 PM Board of Spiritual Growth  
Youth Executive Committee  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM AA - WOD

## Friday, May 14, 2010

9:00 AM Bulletin Collators  
7:00 PM Movie Night

## Saturday, May 15, 2010

1:00 PM Drum Circle  
5:30 PM AA  
Worship (Casual)

## Sunday, May 16, 2010

7:30 AM Plymouth Bells Warm Up  
8:15 AM Matins Warm Up  
8:30 AM Infant - 2 years old Childcare  
9:00 AM Worship/Baccalaureate  
9:15 AM 2 year olds - 6th Grade  
Church School  
10:00 AM After-Worship Fellowship  
10:10 AM Fellowship Forum  
Igniting Your Divine Spark  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Warm Up  
11:00 AM 2 Year Olds – Kindergarten  
Childcare  
11:00 AM Worship  
12:00 PM After-Worship Fellowship  
1:00 PM AA

## Monday, May 17, 2010

7:00 AM Tai Chi  
5:15 PM Yoga  
5:30 PM Board of Music and Fine Arts  
Picnic  
5:30 PM Plymouth Women Board  
Meeting  
5:45 PM Centering Prayer  
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 661  
6:30 PM Buddhism Class  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts #50  
Flick Nite

## Tuesday, May 18, 2010

6:45 AM AMENS  
12:00 PM Al-Anon  
5:00 PM Shawl Knitting Ministry  
Trustees  
7:00 PM Stephen Ministers

## Wednesday, May 19, 2010

7:00 AM ROC  
8:30 AM CONTACT Crew  
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study  
11:00 AM Saturday Worship Planning  
Team Meeting  
12:30 PM Tai Chi Class  
5:00 PM Greenwood Park LLC  
Meeting  
6:00 PM AA  
Matins Dinner  
Re-membering Soul  
7:00 PM Matins Rehearsal  
Plymouth Bells Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 20, 2010

7:00 AM WISE  
9:15 AM Moms & Moppets Meeting  
Childcare  
Moms & Moppets Meeting  
12:15 PM Plymouth Women Luncheon  
and Meeting  
5:00 PM Foundation Board Investment  
Committee  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM AA - WOD

## Friday, May 21, 2010

9:00 AM Bulletin Collators  
7:00 PM Movie Night

# Sermon

By David Ruhe • Sunday, May 2, 2010  
“New” Based on Revelation 21:1-6

Don't ask me why, but I spent most of last weekend, Sunday afternoon and Monday, putzing with computers. Like many households we have accumulated some electronic clutter over the years. I was determined to deal responsibly with our digital dinosaurs, which necessitated a Frankensteinian effort to bring new life to a once-useful laptop—"It's alive... alive!!"—so that I could give it away; and a determined attempt to revive a maddeningly sluggish family room computer, liberating it from obsolete adolescent software so that the old folks at home might again utilize it for email before email in its turn becomes obsolete. Great weekend!

Lofty goals sometimes demand drastic measures. I began with a disc-cleaning program that completely overwrote all data and programs on the computers' hard drives. It was the software equivalent of pithing their little electronic brains. I had nothing to lose. I was taking slow, annoying, dysfunctional, outdated boxes of frustration and returning them to the moment before the Big Bang. Behold, I make all things new... or so I thought.

But what I discovered was that I was not in fact going back to nothing. I was not quite making *all* things new. There was just enough computer consciousness remaining to make sense of the next thing I told it, which was to reload the operating system I was providing it



David Ruhe

on a disc. When we got to the end it turned out to be remarkably like the beginning. This was an experience that proved to be a very odd lens through which to view this morning's lesson; but then, it's an odd lesson.

Over the past several weeks we've seen a progression with the message of Easter. It began of course on Easter Sunday with the empty tomb and John's story of Mary Magdalene and Jesus in the garden. Then the news began to spread. First it accomplished the spiritual resurrection of the disciples, making them fearless, effective and determined. Then it manifested itself in Jesus' followers accomplishing great deeds of healing and power, culminating in Peter raising a woman from the dead. And finally it erupted in a message of good news with the power to bring down the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles. With the Spirit of the risen Christ at large in the world, nothing will be impossible! Easter continues. But today's lesson takes the conversation to yet another level, assuring us that resurrection is both cosmic in scope and personal in its impact.

Suddenly we're in the book of Revelation. People flee this book because of its strangeness; but really what's strange is not the

writing itself but what interpreters have done with it. Revelation is not so much prediction as proclamation; not a roadmap so much as it is a sort of cartoon allegory. It is a second century science fiction word-film, heavy on the special effects.

In its proper ancient context, the central message of Revelation regards worship. The truth is that we become like that which we worship, so we'd better worship the right thing. We can worship the God of love revealed in Jesus Christ; or we can worship the empire of Rome, and specifically the person of the emperor who has recently decided that he's divine. Christians who don't capitulate are being persecuted. The message of Revelation is, "hang in there, because God is triumphant in the end." People object to the violent and gory imagery in Revelation, but it simply dramatizes the real life experience of some of the early Christian communities.

Our passage for this morning comes from the end of the book and the culmination of the contest between good and evil. It reads like the sun coming out after a violent storm; or like the gentle resolution of a raging symphony. There has been an immense struggle over the soul of creation. Will it be faithful to God's good purposes? The answer is Yes. But to get there we pretty much end up clearing the hard drive.

Now we're rebooting, and all things are new... but not quite all things. There is a new heaven and a new earth. The sea is no more. The Hebrews, desert nomads and land

lubbers that they were, never liked the sea, anyway: it was a source of chaos and destruction. The language is reminiscent of creation, but this time there's not a garden but a Holy City, where the Temple is, where worship on earth will be like true worship in heaven. The imagery is that of a wedding: life, consecration, holiness, new beginnings, rejoicing.

The upshot of it is that God will be among us, among mortals, among all the *peoples*, plural. There will be no more tears, no more death, no more pain: "...nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord," as the Apostle Paul would put it.

And a voice from the throne says, "See, I am making all things new." But that's not quite right, is it? Not everything is being made new, because there is still that which has always been: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. So everything is made new *except the love of God*, which is the beginning and the ending. God is our source and our destination. When we get to the end of the journey, we discover that it has all been a long journey home.

How else could you convey a message like this, except in the language and imagery of Genesis: heaven and earth? And the newest new thing turns out to be what has been all along.

Don't cry. It's OK. We're home. This isn't just a powerful image. It's also the message on which we can build our lives. It's the reminder that the things we are tempted to worship, things for which we scratch and claw and strive, things we grant the power to

tell us who we are, are things we don't need because our lives from beginning to end to beginning are in God.

Don't "store up for yourself treasures on earth," to coin a phrase, because security is not to be found in having many multiples of more than enough. It's not security, it's stuff.

Don't climb over others to reassure yourself that you're OK, deriving your sense of worth from those you can look down on: I'm smarter, prettier, richer, more enlightened, more refined, more virtuous, more whatever. Remember the teacher who said to the competitive class, "You all have A's. Now let's learn something." No one is a loser in God. We all have A's.

Don't fear the losses that are a part of life. Everything we have and love will be taken away from us: our youthful good looks, our families, our friends, our possessions, our capacities and abilities... it all goes. The drive is wiped clean in the end, which turns out to be the beginning. So love, yes; and grieve your losses, yes; but don't live in the fear of mourning. Don't let that fear stop you from loving.

Don't live in fear of those who are different, because ultimately what's most personal is most universal and the deeper we go, the more we have in common and the more our differences dissolve into our shared humanity. We are part of a human family, and beyond that we are a part of creation, which we have in common with all things; we are creatures of the God who is Alpha and Omega.

When you boil it down, this is an astoundingly simple message. In the parlance of the season,

resurrection is real. Easter is cosmic in scope.

But it is also intensely personal. If it's true that what is most personal is most universal, it's also true that what's most universal is most personal. We are made who we are by our connection to the God of all things, our beginning and our ending, our source and our destination, our be-all and end-all. And this loving God calls us by name and gives us everything we need. In the poetry of our passage for today, God gives us water "as a gift from the spring of life."

In the poetry of a different time, on the evening of his betrayal, Jesus Christ said it differently: "this is my body which is broken for you." This is all you need for life that is full, true, meaningful and abundant. This is your daily bread from the one who is your beginning and your ending. Come to the table. Remember who you are. Give thanks and rejoice. Amen

## BOOK OF LIFE

As of 4/26/10

### BIRTH:

**Margaret Rose Mullins**,  
4/20/10, daughter of Laurie  
Meythaler-Mullins and Dan  
Mullins

### BAPTISMS:

**Olivia Anne Waters**, 4/24/10,  
daughter of Taylour Waters and  
Christian Garzon  
**Rachael Christine Parkhurst**,  
4/25/10, daughter of Morgan  
and Kreg Parkhurst

### WEDDINGS:

**Catherine Koenig and Brian  
Ziebell**, 4/24/10  
**Pam Duffy and Mickey  
Carlson**, 5/1/10

# Plymouth

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# Plymouth

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Stephanie Haskins ..... Associate Minister  
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Frank Thomas..... Coordinator of TiM  
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Angie Witmer..... Minister of Young Adults and Youth

## Support Groups

**AA:** Monday nights, 7:30 p.m. at Plymouth Place, Dave Creighton, 240.6667

**AL-ANON:** Church Office, 255.3149

**GLBT:** (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered) Ron Sallade, 249.5627 or [www.plymouthglbt.com](http://www.plymouthglbt.com)

**LADOS:** (Life After Death of Spouse) DMARC, 277.6969

Plymouth offers the Stephen Ministry Program for one-to-one Christian care. Contact Faith Ferré at 255.3149 ext. 16 or Bev Burns at 224.9571.

# Worship

## Saturday Worship

5:30 p.m.  
Waveland Hall

5/8/10

**Matt Mardis-LeCroy**  
Acts 16:9-15

5/15/10

**Jeanette Brodersen**  
Acts 16:16-34

## Sunday Worship

9 & 11 a.m.  
Sanctuary

5/9/10

**David Ruhe**  
Acts 9:36-43

5/16/10

**David Ruhe**  
Acts 16:16-34

## The Contact

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