

YOUTH MINISTRIES HANDBOOK 2011 - 2012

Plymouth's Youth Ministry is a safe, nurturing Christian community where youth can learn and grow in faith, fellowship and service.



Plymouth

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Youth Ministries

Plymouth Church 2011-2012

God is calling **you!** You are chosen as God's precious child. Join in our faith community as we grow in God's love together through our worship, fellowship, learning and service.

Read through this booklet to learn about:

- Staff and committee lists (p. 3)
- Summary of Youth Ministry opportunities (p. 4-5)
- Calendar of upcoming events (p. 6-7)
- Information about Matins (p. 8-9)
- Three-year tour and trip rotation (p. 10)

- Fundraiser information for 2011-2012 (p. 10-11)
- Frequently Asked Questions (p. 12)

At Plymouth we say it all the time:

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Shana Johnson

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Susan Waller

Director of Youth & Children's Music

"...I have called you
by name,
you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1



Youth Executive Committee Members

2011-2012

Program Staff

Susan Waller

- *Director of Youth & Children's Music*
- *Matins Director*

Shana Johnson

- *Youth Ministries Coordinator*
- *Staff member working with Service, Education and Fellowship team*

Support Staff

Marta Hawkins

Nancy Slotterback

Board of Christian Education Rep

Lisa Holderness Brown

Adult Members

2012

Jane Hemminger

Roberta Jorgensen

Sandee Lyons

Mary O'Brien, Chair

Lisa Turk

2013

Jason/Laura Crowley

Tracy Edwards

Doyle Karr

2014

Sarah Ennis

Melanie Hewitt, Chair Elect

Lynn Rankin

Linda Wilker

Youth Members (4)

To be determined

Plymouth
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4126 Ingersoll Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50312

515.255.3149

www.plymouthchurch.com

www.facebook.com/plymouthchurch



Plymouth Youth Ministries

CAR WASH SERVICE PROJECT

**Saturday, September 17, 2011,
9 a.m. to noon
Windsor Heights Hy-Vee
parking lot on University**



ALL 9-12 graders – prepare to get wet! Have fun washing cars and raising money for a worthy cause. All profits will be donated to a local charity of our choice. Invite your friends and family to stop by

and get their cars washed!

REGGIE'S SLEEPOUT

**Saturday, October 29, 2011
Drake Stadium, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.**

Help raise awareness and money to combat youth homelessness in Iowa by spending the night at Drake Stadium. Sleep in a box, pup tent or sleeping bag and enjoy food, activities and entertainment. All 9-12 graders are invited.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Winter 2011-2012

Are you interested in playing basketball in the church league? All students in grades 9-12 are invited to be a part of the “Plymouth Rocks” team. Contact Rick Long for more information, 223.9877.

LOCK IN

January 14, 2012

Lock In includes an evening of fun, games, movies and food. Youth will sleep over at the church that night, with parent supervision.

SKI TRIP

February 2012

On rotating years, all youth in grades 9-12 are invited to ski for a day at Afton Alps, MN. The bus leaves early in the morning and returns the same day.

VARIETY SHOW

March 4, 2012

Calling all singers, instrumentalists, actors, poets, performers — What's *your* talent? All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to be a part of this Plymouth tradition, which is led by the Matins Ensemble.



MATINS TOUR

Summer 2012

Please see page 8 for more information about Plymouth's choir for high school students, and information about its annual tour.

MISSION TRIP

Summer 2012

One of the main purposes of mission trips is to share life and ministry with people who live in a different part of the county and who have had different life experiences. Our goal is to not only help others who are less fortunate than we are, but also to learn and be open to new ideas and customs. We will gain insights regarding the problems and living conditions of the area that we visit. We will participate in work projects, take part in community activities, and learn about their way of life. We will grow spiritually through worship, sharing, and reflection, individually and as a group.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Dinners are provided by parents every Wednesday night in the Youth Room. All High School youth are invited to have a meal prior to their Wednesday evening activities. Parent volunteers provide meals; please sign up on the Youth Room door.

CHURCH-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH

- **Centering Prayer.** Contact Kathy Reardon, 280.3861.
- **Flower Delivery Team.** Contact Church Office, 255.3149.
- **Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together.** Contact Church Office, 255.3149.
- **Homeless Assistance Team.** Contact Jane Hemminger, janehemminger@gmail.com or (h) 274.9516 (c) 490.6362
- **Prayer Team.** Contact Church Office, 255.3149.
- **Shawl Knitting Ministry.** Contact Jean Walker, 277.9630.
- **Teach Sunday School.** Contact Barb Godwin, bgodwin@plymouthchurch.com or 255.3149.
- **Thanksgiving Pilgrim Service.** Contact Sharon Parker Lenihan, splenihan@plymouthchurch.com or 255.3149.

Plymouth Youth 2011-2012 Calendar

Wed	Aug 31		Registration packets due	Wed	Nov 2	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Aug 31	5:30-6 p.m. 6-7 p.m. 7-7:30 p.m. 7-8:30 p.m.	High School Youth/Parent Potluck (Waveland Hall) Orientation Meeting Parents Q&A & Fundraising Signups Matins Rehearsal & Opening Circle	Sun	Nov 6	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Sep 7	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner (Car Wash signs) Matins Rehearsal	Wed	Nov 9	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Sep 11	9 a.m. 10:15 a.m.-12	Matins Sing Confirmation Reunion Brunch	Sat	Nov 12	All Day	Leaf Rake
Wed	Sep 14	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner (Car Wash signs) Matins Rehearsal	Sun	Nov 13	9 a.m. All Day	Matins Sing Leaf Rake
Sat	Sep 17	9 a.m.-Noon	Car Wash (Service project), Windsor Heights Hy-Vee	Wed	Nov 16	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Sep 18	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Sun	Nov 20	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Sep 21	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal	Thu	Nov 24	10 a.m.	THANKSGIVING Pilgrim Worship
Sun	Sep 25	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Sun	Nov 27	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Sep 28	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal	Wed	Nov 30	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Oct 2	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Sun	Dec 4	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Oct 5	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal	Wed	Dec 7	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner (Make luminaries) Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Oct 9	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Sun	Dec 11	9 a.m.	Matins Sing Project Memories
Wed	Oct 12	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner (Care packages) Matins Rehearsal	Wed	Dec 14	5-6:45 p.m. 7 p.m.	High School Holiday Party Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Oct 16	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Sun	Dec 18	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Oct 19	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal	Wed	Dec 21	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Oct 23	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Sat	Dec 24	11 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE Matins Sing
Wed	Oct 26	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal	Wed	Jan 4	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Pizza sales BEGIN H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Oct 29	7 p.m.-7 a.m.	Reggie's Sleepout	Sun	Jan 8	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Sun	Oct 30	9 a.m.	Matins Sing	Wed	Jan 11	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Youth/PARENT Potluck Matins PARENTS Rehearsal
				Sat	Jan 14		Lock In

Sun	Jan 15	9 a.m.	Matins PARENTS Sing
Wed	Jan 18	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Jan 22	9 a.m.	Matins Sing Pizza sales END
Wed	Jan 25	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Jan 29	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Feb 1	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Feb 4	7 a.m.-Noon	Pizza assembly and distribution
Sun	Feb 5	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Feb 8	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Feb 12	9 a.m. 10-11:30 a.m.	Matins Sing 12 th Grade Stepping Stone
Wed	Feb 15	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Feb 19	9 a.m. 10-11:30 a.m.	Matins Sing 12 th Grade Stepping Stone
Wed	Feb 22	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	ASH WEDNESDAY H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Feb 26	9 a.m.	Matins Sing 12 th Grade Stone Blessing
Wed	Feb 29	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Mar 4	9 a.m. TBA	Matins Sing Variety Show
Wed	Mar 7	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Mar 11	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Mar 14	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Mar 19-23		Spring Break	
Sun	Mar 25	9 a.m.	Matins Sing

Wed	Mar 28	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Fri	Mar 30	TBA	Garage Sale
Sat	Mar 31	TBA	Garage Sale
Sun	Apr 1	9 a.m.	PALM SUNDAY Matins Sing
Wed	Apr 4	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Apr 8	9 a.m.	EASTER Matins Sing
Wed	Apr 11	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Apr 15	9 & 11 a.m.	SINGING CHURCH Matins Sing
Wed	Apr 18	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Apr 22	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	Apr 25	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Apr 29	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	May 2	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	May 6	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	May 9	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Mar 13	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	May 16	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	May 20	9 a.m.	BACCALAUREATE Matins Sing
Wed	May 23	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	May 27	9 a.m.	Matins Sing
Wed	May 30	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	H.S. Dinner Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Jun 3	TBA	Matins Home Concert
	Jun	TBA	Matins Tour
	Jul/Aug	TBA	Mission Trip



MATINS CHOIR is a choral tradition entering its 57th year at Plymouth Church. Matins is founded on the principles of music, spirit, service and fellowship. Although the primary foundation and life of this choir is music... spirit, service and fellowship are integrated elements that bring richness and depth to the choral experience. Matins is a program that builds leaders, not only in music ministry but also in the areas of service, fellowship and spirit. The Matins Choir tours each June to various destinations across the United States, spreading joy through love and song. As you step into the Matins “circle,” you step into an experience that is life-changing.

Combined rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings from 7–8 p.m. in Recital Hall. The Matins Choir provides worship and music leadership every Sunday morning at the 9 a.m. service (which happens to be the first service of the morning at Plymouth). Matins is open to any youth in grades 9-12 regardless of singing ability or religious affiliation. All are welcome into the “never-ending circle of Matins.”

Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is required and expected. In the occasion of an absence, notification prior to that absence is strongly recommended. Communication is essential. Call or email Susan if you will not be in attendance (255.3149, ext. 21 or swaller@plymouthchurch.com). [Note: Until Susan returns from sabbatical, please contact Jaqui Giltner at scanesj@gmail.com or call the church office at 255.3149.]

If you have a regular conflict or have a conflict that lasts over a period of time, please contact the director to work out a rehearsal/performance solution. There are times in which it is necessary to miss a rehearsal or performance, however attendance commitment from every individual results in a positive group environment. If you will be absent on any given Sunday, attendance at Wednesday rehearsal is still expected. We are working on a variety of different literature that is not only for the upcoming Sunday but also for the weeks to follow. In order to participate in Matins Tour, 70 percent attendance is required.

Rehearsal & Sunday Worship Expectations

WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS begin promptly at 7 p.m. in Recital Hall.

SUNDAY WORSHIP REHEARSALS begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. in Recital Hall.

How to get along in Matins

– Essentials of Respect

- Respect the director and your fellow Matins in everything you do!
- Keep talking to a minimum during rehearsals.
- Maintain a worshipful demeanor while in the chancel (i.e. no talking, note passing, snoozing, slumping, paper crunching, etc.)
- Absolutely **NO** cell phone or iPod use during rehearsal and worship. Items will be confiscated if used inappropriately!
- **NO** gum chewing allowed in rehearsal or worship.
- **NO** food, gum, candy or beverages allowed in Recital Hall.
- Dress for worship: Although we wear robes, please dress appropriately for worship. No graphic tees or ripped/torn jeans are allowed.

Matins Tradition

The Matins tradition is founded on four pillars. Each stands alone in its importance, yet when all four are integrated into the choral experience, a deep, rich and meaningful tradition is established and maintained.

MUSIC: Music is the unifying thread bringing together individual talents and voices into a common and shared experience, which in turn is shared, expressed and communicated to the hearts and minds of all who hear – both in Plymouth Church and beyond – for their own personal experience

and inspiration. In addition, music allows and promotes emotional grounding and support within the choir, as well as bonds of trust and caring.

SPIRIT: Matins Choir members grow to realize that there is an indescribable spirit that unites them. “Spirit” is the soul of the body. In Matins terms, it is the soul of this choir. Spirit is the essence and vital force that invisibly guides and nurtures the group. Spiritually speaking, Matins has its roots in the religious values of understanding, acceptance, love, peace and justice among all people.

FELLOWSHIP: Matins places great value on social interaction among members. By establishing and deepening relationships, we strive to build security and provide Matins the opportunity to meet and know people on different levels. The choir highly respects the uniqueness and creativity of the individual. At the same time, Matins promotes the discovery of similarities in human qualities and values, which builds trust and restores faith in the potential of humankind.

SERVICE: Commitment to service is a priority of the Matins experience. Each Sunday morning the choir shares its music ministry and serves as worship leaders in the 9 a.m. service. The choir continues to support local charities and service projects throughout the year with gifts of money, time, talent and needed items. Service is also part of the choir tour experience. Matins encourages sharing gifts of ourselves with others.



Trip/Tour Rotation

The annual Mission Trip and Matins Tour are culminating year-end experiences where youth get to share their gifts as they travel to new places. The Youth Executive Committee has designed the following rotation schedule to assist in long-range trip planning.

Year 1 (2012)	Matins Tour <i>6-12 hour drive to destination</i>	Mission Trip <i>6-12 hour drive to destination</i>
Year 2 (2013)	Matins Tour <i>12+ hour drive to destination</i>	Mission Trip <i>0-6 hour drive to destination</i>
Year 3 (2014)	Matins Tour <i>0-6 hour drive to destination</i>	Mission Trip <i>12+ hour drive to destination</i>



FUNdraising

GROUP FUNDRAISERS for GROUP ALLOCATION (CHURCH SPONSORED)

Money is earned as a whole group, and allocated to individuals based on the points they have earned.

LEAF RAKE: November 12-13, 2011. Youth, parents, families, and volunteers join together to rake, collect and dispose of leaves in Des Moines yards that have been contracted.

- 1 point for youth participation (rake entire day)
- 1 point for parent/adult sponsor participation (rake entire day).
- Expectation is that youth/parents rake both days.
- **MAXIMUM POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED: 4**

PIZZA SALES: Pizzas are sold in January 2012, and youth/parents will gather the morning of February 4, 2012 to assemble and package orders. Basic concept is that pizzas can be cooked by purchasers for Super Bowl or frozen for future use.

NOTE: No Sales = 0 points

- 1 point for youth participation (sell 10+ pizzas and participate in assembly)
- 1 point for selling 20 pizzas but not participating in assembly

2011-2012 (subject to change)

- 1 point for parent/adult sponsor participation (participate in assembly)
- 2 points for selling 20 pizzas and participating in assembly
- **MAXIMUM POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED: 2**

GARAGE SALE: Prep beginning the week of March 26, 2012. Sale is March 30-31, 2012. This fundraiser requires a lot of adult assistance, because the biggest part of the sale takes place on a Friday while kids are in school.

- 1 point for youth participation (4 hours of work)
- 1 point for adult participation (4 hours of work)
- Expectation is that each youth/adult will work 8 hours
- **MAXIMUM POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED: 4**

PARENT CHAIRS:

- 2 points Leaf Rake, Garage Sale
- 1 point Pizza Sale

DISTRIBUTION

Money earned during church fundraisers will be distributed as follows, based on points each youth has earned:

- Total Earnable points = 10
+/- parent chairs, extra pizza point
- Full allotment = 9 points



GROUP ALLOCATION

The money earned from group fundraisers (Leaf Rake, Pizzas, Garage Sale) will be divided as follows:

- 9 or more points earned = 100 percent of the allocation
- Total fundraising money ÷ total points = \$ value per point

OTHER NOTES ABOUT FUNDRAISERS...

- If youth choose to go on more than one trip, they may apply their group allocation to one trip of their choice.
- Parents can earn an additional point per fundraiser by chairing a fundraising committee.
- Questions about fundraising may be directed to the Youth Committee Chairperson, Mary O'Brien, 274.2967 or tmkjo@aol.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

1: I'm interested in joining Matins. What is the commitment?

Matins is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and service with more than a 50-year history at Plymouth, but it does require commitment. Matins rehearses every Wednesday evening, and sings every Sunday at the 9 a.m. service—sometimes it even sings at both services! If you have more questions about Matins, ask Susan Waller, swaller@plymouthchurch.com or 255.3149.

2: I know Matins isn't for me. Can I still participate in youth activities?

Of course! Many opportunities exist for youth at Plymouth Church! See page 4 for just some of the ways you can be a part of Plymouth. Activities like Car Wash, Wednesday Night Dinners, Mission Trips and Variety Show are open to all 9-12 grade youth, and many groups within the larger church welcome youth participation—such as the Homeless Assistance Team. If you have more questions about youth opportunities, ask Shana Johnson, sjohnson@plymouthchurch.com or 274.6693.

3: What kinds of things can I expect to do on a Mission Trip?

Work hard, serve, bond with others, learn about a new culture or community, pray; the activities vary depending on the location of the trip. Whether you help build houses or serve meals in a shelter, you will grow in your faith as you allow God to use you as an instrument of service! If you have more questions about Mission Trips, ask Barb Godwin, bgodwin@plymouthchurch.com or 255.3149.

4: How will I get information about ongoing Plymouth Youth Ministry activities?

The easiest way is to *register* – that will ensure you receive timely information by email. You can also watch for information available online at www.plymouthchurch.com, check your worship bulletin and the *Contact* newsletter, or follow Plymouth Church on Facebook – www.facebook.com/plymouthchurch.

5: How much will the Matins Tour and Mission Trip cost?

Obviously there are several factors that influence the cost of trips. Some factors we can control, such as location (see Trip/Tour Four-Year Rotation Schedule). Others, such as gas prices, are always in flux. **In 2011, the costs were as follows:**

- **Matins Tour to Minneapolis: \$525**
- **Mission Trip to New Orleans: \$880**

6: How can I defray travel costs?

Participate in fundraisers! Look over the 2011-2012 FUNdraising pages in this booklet to find out how to earn fundraising points. Those who earn 9 or more points (from Leaf Rake, Pizza Sales, and Garage Sale) get the full allocation of fundraising dollars. This requires participation on the part of youth *and* a parent or guardian. The total allocation amount varies from year to year, depending on the success of the fundraisers. **In 2011, the allocation for youth who earned full allotment of points was \$396.** If you have general fundraising questions, ask Youth Committee Chair, Mary O'Brien, 274.2967.

7: I'm unable to participate in one of the fundraisers. Are there other ways to earn points?

Parents can earn an additional 1-2 points per fundraiser by chairing a committee. If you are concerned about earning enough points, please talk to a staff person.

