



**2009-2010**  
**Youth Ministries Handbook**

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



## **Youth Ministries @ Plymouth Church 2009-2010**

“...I have called you by name, you are mine.”

Isaiah 43:1

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.

### **In a previous mailing you should have received:**

- The 2009-2010 registration form
- The Leaf Rake participation postcard

### **Read through this booklet to learn about:**

- A calendar of upcoming events (p. 4)
- A summary of Youth Ministry opportunities (p. 6 )
- Information about Matins (p. 8)
- The four-year rotation schedule for tours and trips (p. 13)
- Fundraiser information for 09-10 (p. 14)
- Staff and committee lists (p. 18)
- Frequently Asked Questions (p. 19 )

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!

Laurie Dickinson, Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator  
Susan Waller, Director of Youth & Children’s Music  
Angie Witmer, Minister to Young Adults & Youth

## Plymouth Youth 2009-2010 Calendar

Wed	Sep 2		Registration packets due
Wed	Sep 2	5:30 - 8:00 pm	9-12 Youth Orientation and Matins Kick-off, Waveland Hall
Wed	Sep 9	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Dinner/Rehearsal
Sun	Sep 13	9:00 & 11:00 am	CHRISTIAN NURTURE SUNDAY Matins sing at 9:00 service
Wed	Sep 16	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Dinner/Rehearsal
Sat	Sep 19	9:00 am - Noon	Car wash (Service project), Windsor Hts Hy-Vee
Wed	Sep 23	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Dinner/Rehearsal
Wed	Sep 30	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Dinner/Rehearsal (Recording for CD project)
Wed	Oct 7	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Oct 14	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal (Care packages)
Wed	Oct 21	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Oct 24	7 pm - 7 am	Reggie's Sleepout
Wed	Oct 28	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Nov 1		Butter Braid sales BEGIN
Wed	Nov 4	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Nov 11	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Nov 14	All Day	Leaf Rake
Sun	Nov 15	All Day	Leaf Rake
Wed	Nov 18	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Thu	Nov 26	10:00 - 11:00 am	THANKSGIVING DAY – Pilgrim Worship
Wed	Dec 2		Butter Braid sales END
Wed	Dec 2	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Dec 9	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Dec 12		Butter Braid PICKUP
Sun	Dec 13		Butter Braid PICKUP
Wed	Dec 16	5:00 - 6:45 pm	Youth Holiday Party
		7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Thu	Dec 24		CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
		5:00 pm	(Family Service)
		7:00 pm	(Saturday Night Band)
		9:00 pm	(Chancel Choir)
		11:00 pm	(Matins)
Fri	Dec 25		CHRISTMAS DAY

*Please read monthly Youth newsletter for changes and updates to the Calendar.*

## Plymouth Youth 2009-2010 Calendar

Sat	Jan 2		Pizza sales BEGIN
Wed	Jan 6	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Jan 13	6:00—7:00 pm	Parent/Youth Potluck
Wed	Jan 13	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins PARENTS Rehearsal
Wed	Jan 20	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Jan 24		Pizza sales END
Wed	Jan 27	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Jan 31	10:00 - 11:30 am	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Stepping Stone
Wed	Feb 3	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Feb 6	7:00 am -Noon	Pizza making and distribution
Sun	Feb 7	10:00 - 11:30 am	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Stepping Stone
Wed	Feb 10	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Feb 14	9:00 - 10:00 am	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Blessing
Wed	Feb 17		ASH WEDNESDAY
Wed	Feb 17	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sat	Feb 20		Ski trip to Afton Alps
Wed	Feb 24	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Mar 3	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Mar 10	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
	Mar 15-19		Spring Break
Wed	Mar 24	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Fri	Mar 26	TBA	Garage Sale
Sat	Mar 27	TBA	Garage Sale
Sun	Mar 28		PALM SUNDAY
Wed	Mar 31	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Thu	Apr 1		MAUNDY THURDAY
Fri	Apr 2		GOOD FRIDAY
Sun	Apr 4		EASTER
Wed	Apr 7	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Apr 11	9:00 & 11:00 am	SINGING CHURCH SUNDAY Matins sing at both services
Wed	Apr 14	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	Apr 21	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Apr 25	TBA	Variety Show
Wed	Apr 28	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	May 5	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	May 12	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	May 19	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Wed	May 26	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Matins Rehearsal
Sun	Jun 6	9:00 - 10:00 am	Matins Home Concert
Sun	Jun 6	10:00 am	Matins Breakfast
Sun	Jun 6	11:00 am	Matins Tour send-off
	Jun 7-13		Matins Tour

*Please read monthly Youth newsletter for changes and updates to the Calendar.*

## Plymouth Youth Ministries

**CAR WASH SERVICE PROJECT** ~ Saturday, September 19, 2009, 9:00 am 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 our profits will be donated to a local charity of our choice. Invite your friends and family to stop by and get their car washed!

**REGGIE'S SLEEPOUT** ~ Saturday, October 24, 2009

Drake Stadium, 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.

Help raise awareness and money for 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 09-10

Are you interested in playing basketball in the church basketball 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

**SKI TRIP** ~ Saturday, February 20, 2010

Our annual ski trip is an opportunity for fun and fellowship for all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, their friends, and their family. We leave early in the morning and travel by chartered bus to Afton Alps, Minnesota where we enjoy a full day of skiing or snowboarding. We return to Plymouth late that same night. This trip is a great chance for middle school youth to "try out" a youth activity. Estimated cost ~ \$80-100, depending on age and rental needs.

**VARIETY SHOW** ~ April 19, 2009

Calling all singers, instrumentalists, actors, poets, performers...What's your talent?? All 9-12 graders are invited to be a part of this Plymouth tradition led by the Matins ensemble.

**MATINS/TOUR**

\*\*Please see the Matins section of this handbook for more information about Plymouth's choir for high school students.

### **MISSION TRIP ~ Summer 2010**

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 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 are visiting. 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.

### **CHURCH-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH**

- Brown's Woods Workday Volunteers. Contact Pam Childers, [pchilders@aea.k12.ia.us](mailto:pchilders@aea.k12.ia.us) or 251-6364
- Centering Prayer. Contact Kathy Reardon, 280-3861
- Flower Delivery Team. Contact Faith Ferre, [fferre@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:fferre@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149
- Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together. Contact Faith Ferre, [fferre@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:fferre@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149
- Homeless Assistance Team. Contact Jane Hemminger, [janehemminger@gmail.com](mailto:janehemminger@gmail.com) or (h) 274-9516, (c) 490-6362
- Prayer Team. Contact Jeanette Brodersen, [jbrodersen@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:jbrodersen@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149
- Shawl Knitting Ministry. Contact Jean Walker, 277-9630
- Teach Sunday School. Contact Barb Godwin, [bgodwin@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:bgodwin@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149
- Thanksgiving Pilgrim Service. Contact Sharon Parker Lenihan, [splenihan@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:splenihan@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149

mat·ins (măt'nz)

morning prayers

liturgical service used for early morning worship.

Matins Choir is a choral tradition entering its 55th 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 building 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 will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Recital Hall. The Matins Choir provides worship and music leadership every Sunday morning at the 9:00 a.m. service (which happens to be the first service of the morning at Plymouth). Matins is open to any youth grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> 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 x21 or swaller@plymouthchurch.com). 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, seventy percent (70%) attendance is required.

## Rehearsal and Sunday Worship Expectations

Wednesday rehearsals begin promptly @ 7:00 p.m. in  
Recital Hall

Sunday Worship rehearsals begin promptly @ 8:15  
a.m. in Recital Hall.

## How to get along in Matins.....Essentials of Respect

Respect the director and 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 usage during rehearsal and worship

\*Items will be confiscated if used inappropriately!

NO gum chewing in rehearsal or worship

NO food, gum, candy or beverages in Recital Hall

Dress for worship

Although we wear robes, please dress appropriately for worship. No graphic tees or ripped/torn jeans.

## Matins Tradition

There are four pillars on which the Matins tradition is founded. 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 – The most obvious pillar of Matins Choir is 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 which 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 which 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 Choir places great value on social interaction among members. Matins strives to build security by establishing and deepening relationships by providing 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 the many similarities in human qualities and values, which in turn 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 choirs share their music ministry and serve as worship leaders in the 9:00 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. The service component will also be an added part of the choir tour experience. Matins encourages sharing gifts of ourselves to 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.

<b>Year 1 (2010)</b>	<b>Matins Tour TBA</b>	<b>Mission TBA</b>
Year 2 (2011)	Matins Tour <i>0-6 hour drive to destination</i>	Mission Trip <i>12+ hour drive</i>
Year 3 (2012)	Matins Tour <i>12+ hour drive</i>	Mission Trip <i>0-6 hour drive to destination</i>
Year 4 (2013)	Matins Tour <i>6-12 hour drive to destination</i>	Mission Trip <i>6-12 hour drive to destination</i>

## ***2009-2010 FUNdraising!***

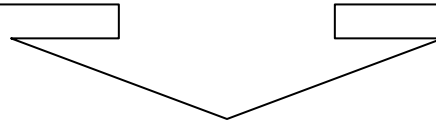
There are three ways youth can earn money to alleviate the costs of summer travel:

### **1. GROUP FUNDRAISERS for GROUP ALLOCATION (CHURCH SPONSORED)**

- Money is earned as a whole group, and money is allocated to individuals based on the points they have earned.
- **LEAF RAKE** : November 14-15, 2009. 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)
  - **MAXIMUM POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED: 2**
- **PIZZA SALES**: Pizzas are sold in January, and youth/parents gather the morning of February 6, 2010 to assemble and package orders. Basic concept is that pizzas can be cooked by purchasers for Super Bowl or frozen for future use.
  - 1 point for youth participation (sell 10+ pizzas and participate in assembly)
  - 1 point for parent/adult sponsor participation (participate in assembly)
  - **MAXIMUM POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED: 2**
- **GARAGE SALE**: Prep beginning the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Sale is March 26-27, 2010. 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)
  - **MAXIMUM POINTS THAT CAN BE EARNED: 2**

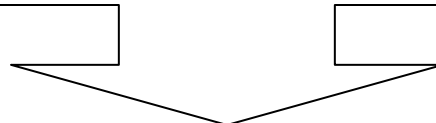
**2. INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISER for INDIVIDUAL CREDIT  
(CHURCH SPONSORED)**

- Youth collect profit money in individual accounts for the amount of their individual sales
- **BUTTER BRAID:** Orders for frozen Butter Braids are taken mid-November through the first part of December. Braids are distributed mid-December so purchasers may have prior to Christmas. Youth may sell to friends, family, neighbors, etc. Youth may also sign up to sell to the congregation before or after worship services. Youth will also need to be available for sorting the braids and helping with church member pick-up if they are sold at church.
  - o Estimated \$4 earned for each Butter Braid sold



**3. ON YOUR OWN--EARNING MONEY OUTSIDE OF  
CHURCH**

- Youth may choose to earn money on their own outside of church activities through activities such as babysitting, shoveling walks, part time jobs, etc.



**MONEY FOR SUMMER TRAVEL!**

## ***Fundraising continued...***

Money earned during church fundraisers will be distributed as follows:

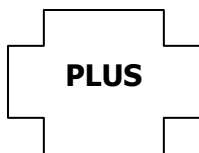
### **GROUP ALLOCATION**

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

5 or 5+ points earned = 100% of the allocation

4 points earned = 75% of the allocation

3 points earned = 50% of the allocation



### **INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT**

Youth will earn an estimated \$4 for every Butter Braid they sell.

## **Other notes about fundraisers...**

It is not possible to earn more than the cost of the trip. If, between points collected and individual account money collected, a youth earns more than the cost of the trip, the excess money will be pooled back into the group allocation.

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, Terri Sterk, 254-1094.

## **2009-2010 Youth Executive Committee Members**

### **Program Staff**

Angie Witmer, Minister to Young Adults & Youth

- Pastoral needs

Susan Waller, Director of Youth & Children's Music

- Matins Director

Laurie Dickinson, Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator

- Staff member working with Service, Education and Fellowship team.

### **Support Staff**

Marta Hawkins

Nancy Slotterback

### **Board of Christian Education Reps**

Tim Beebout

### **Adult Members**

Kathy Dewald, Secretary

Wade Dewald

Jane Hemminger

Roberta Jorgensen

Joni Lore

Terri Sterk, Chair

Lisa Turk

### **Youth Members**

Jenna Bishop

Libby Caris

Meredith VerSteeg

## Frequently Asked Questions...

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

Matins is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and service with a 50+ year history at Plymouth, but it does require commitment. Matins rehearse every Wednesday evening, and sing every Sunday at the 9:00 service—sometimes they even sing at both services! For more questions about Matins, ask Susan Waller, [swaller@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:swaller@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149

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

Of course! Check out the "Plymouth Youth Ministries" section of this booklet for all the ways you can be a part of Plymouth. Activities like Car Wash, Ski Trip, Wednesday Night Dinners, and Variety Show are open to all 9th-12th grade youth, and many groups within the larger church welcome youth participation—such as the Homeless Assistance Team. For more questions about youth opportunities, ask Laurie Dickinson, [dickinson.laurie@gmail.com](mailto:dickinson.laurie@gmail.com) or 277-5615.

FAQ #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 are helping to build houses or serving meals in a shelter, you will grow in your faith as you allow God to use you as an instrument of service! For more questions about Mission Trip, ask Barb Godwin, [bgodwin@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:bgodwin@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149

FAQ #4: *How will I get information about on-going Plymouth Youth Ministry activities?*

Read your monthly Youth Newsletter (available online at [www.plymouthchurch.com](http://www.plymouthchurch.com))! Also, check out the youth sections of your worship bulletin and Contact. For questions about the Youth Newsletter, ask Marta Hawkins, [mhawkins@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:mhawkins@plymouthchurch.com) or 255-3149.

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

Obviously there are several factors which 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 2009, the costs were as follows:**

**Matins Tour to the Wisconsin: \$540**

**Mission Trip to Pine Ridge, SD: \$560**

FAQ #6: *How can I defray the costs of travel?*

Participate in fundraisers! Look over the *2009-2010 FUNdraising* graphic in this booklet to find out how to earn fundraising points. Those who earn 5 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 2009, the allocation for youth who earned 5 or more points was \$501.** Selling Butter Braids puts money in your individual account to put towards your trip. For general fundraiser questions, ask Youth Committee Chair, Terri Sterk, 254-1094.

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

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