

Plymouth Congregational Church
 PO Box 1901
 Fargo, ND 58107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Back to
 School!**



Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

We leave judging to God.

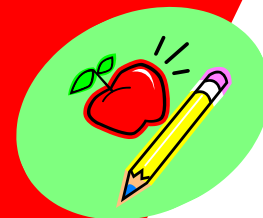


We welcome guests any & every Sunday of the year! Worship is central to our life together and our worship facilities are accessible. We seek to come together to experience God's Spirit every week as we pray, sing, cry, & laugh.

Come as you are! Following the example of our teacher & guide, Jesus, we welcome you no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. You are welcome here.

Plymouth Congregational Church
 901 North Broadway
 Fargo, ND 58102
 Phone: 701-235-9226
 E-mail: info@plymouthfargo.org
www.plymouthfargo.org

Amelia's office hours: Monday – Friday; 10 a.m.– 1 p.m.



Special points of interest:

- **Pastoral Ponderings**
- **Green Sneakers**
- **Rummage Sale**
- **Stewardship Campaign**
- **Oak Mound Thank You**

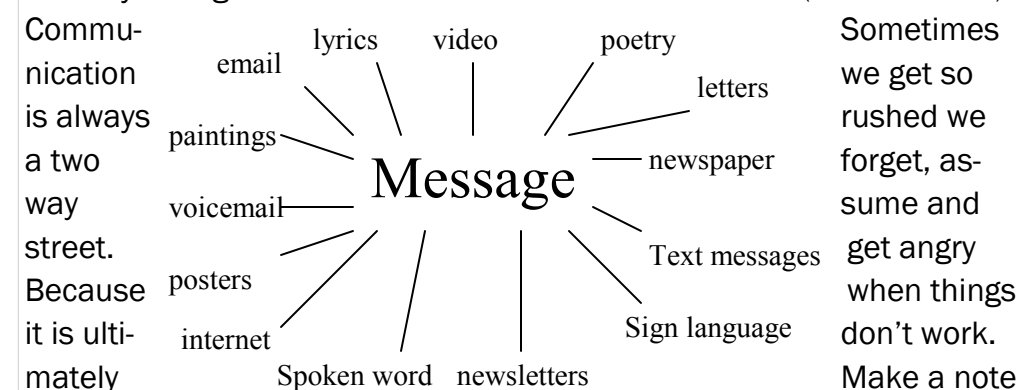
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The Chronicle

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
 Volume 11 Issue 7
 September 2011

Greetings, As humans we need to hear, see, or take in a message at least seven times and in as many ways as possible to truly understand it. Assuming that another "understands or knows" our message is always dangerous. Communication is always a two way street. Because it is ultimately about transmitting an idea, feeling or question to another person there are unlimited options for each to misunderstand. Communication, community and communion all have the same root: "to make common, to share, to mutually participate." Whether sharing bread and wine, a place to live, or information, if care is taken for everyone involved to understand then we all are enriched. It is no coincidence that Jesus held in highest esteem and taught all of us that if we "make common," or "share," or "mutually participate," we are all made better. Just because it is means we must be respectful even if we struggle to compromise. At Plymouth we need to be sure to share open, clear information so that all are brought on board. Did we remember to let that person know about...(fill in the blanks.)



Sometimes we get so rushed we forget, assume and get angry when things don't work. Make a note to yourself to remember to check and re-check so that our communication and community grow even better. God's blessings to all! In Christ, Pastor JoBeth

Understanding also

Northern Plains Conference Fall Youth Rally October 20 - 22, 2011

Location: Bismarck United Church of Christ

Address: 1200 East Highland Acres Road

Time: Thursday @ 1 pm - Saturday @ Noon

Cost: \$50/Save \$5 If Registration Postmarked by Oct. 8th

Registrations Due: October 14th

Bring: Sleeping Bag, Pillow & Personal Care Items, Clothing (appropriate for sports & service project), Swim Suit, Work Gloves & Rake, Money for Snacks (while traveling), Talent Show Items (instruments, etc.), Adult Chaperone / Advisor

Make Checks Payable to: NPCUCC

Mail Registrations to:

Bismarck United Church of Christ

Att: Dawn Archer

1200 East Highland Acres Road
Bismarck, ND 58501

Green Sneakers



You may say – what? Who wants green sneakers? It isn't the color it is the program that makes "Green Sneakers" so unique. What this program is about is recycling used or unwanted sneakers. You see, it takes a lot of petroleum to produce sneakers and when they are not used and put into the land fill it takes thousands of years to recycle them back to an earthly product. By recycling the unwanted or gently used sneakers we preserve our earth and give a needy person a foot cover.

The gently used sneakers are recycled by the "Green Sneakers" organization that uses us as a means of collecting the items and they will distribute them to reputable relief agencies that in turn send them to developing countries for distribution to the needy. They will pay charitable organizations, like us, 50 cents per pound or approximately \$1.00 per pair of used tennis shoes.

We can, with the money raised from the collection of these items, fund projects we are interested in. So, we are asking our friends, neighbors, and members to bring a pair of unwanted, gently used or whatever you may call your pair of discarded tennis shoes to church with you on Rally Sunday, September 11, so we can begin our project of "Green Sneakers". This project will run from September 1, through May 31, 2012. There is no cost to our church for this project and it will help the environment, a needy person and it will also employ people in developing countries who desperately need jobs.

We will collect sneakers at the church during normal business hours during the week. The hours at 10 am-1 pm Monday through Friday. We will also collect on Sunday mornings at church. Let's have fun with this and see how many shoes we can collect by asking everyone to support us. More to come on this topic.....Stay tuned.

Serving Groups

September
CO-CHAIR:

Marian & Russ Ruppert

CO-CHAIR:

Dale & Marilyn Larson

Edna Middlestead

Doris & Ken Ruby

Ann Smith

Ellen & Bob Sylvester

Rummage Sale

Plymouth Women's Fellowship's Annual Rummage Sale has been scheduled for September 9th and 10th. Clean, gently used items are welcome and may be brought to the church for storage in the Women's



Fellowship rummage room in the basement at any time.

Birthdays

August 3—Kiana Le

September

5-Dan Ochsner

11-Ben Mohr

19-Judy Maxson

19-Marlys Skaarer

19-Russ Ruppert

27-Josh Hummel

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your journey with Oak Mound Congregational United Church of Christ, both in the past few months of decision and grief and celebration, and in the years of partnership in the gospel we all share. The communication and caring you all demonstrated from April through July of 2011 is greatly appreciated, and the actual day of celebration and closing was enriched by your presence and your prayers. July 31, 2011 was just about the perfect day for us with the weather cooperating in the gathering of so many folks for whom the Oak Mound congregation has been either personally important or an enduring part of the neighborhood and our common ministry.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Also, a big thank you goes to each congregation -- among whom you are all included, I hope! -- for your gracious welcome to and gentle inclusion of the former members of Oak Mound Church. It is a hard thing to have gone through the closing of a beloved church community and begin to integrate into another one, and I trust you all to care for your new members with compassion and dignity and delight.

It has been an honor and a joy to have served this congregation, and I will hold each member in my heart and in my prayers for a long, long time to come. Blessings to you all!

Finally, it is my privilege to share with you this poem written on July 31, 2011 by one who grew up in -- and was obviously nurtured by! -- this beloved church.

"Reflections of Oak Mound"
by Sherry Fillafer, daughter of Harry and Phyllis Fillafer

1896 Oak Mound Congregational was built,
Christian lives intertwined like the patchwork of a quilt.

115 years of fellowship -- oh, if only walls could talk!
Hard working farmers with the sun their only "time clock",

Generations of families committed hard work and love
To this place to worship the holy spirit above.

A place to christen a birth or celebrate a life,
A place for holy union of a man and a wife.

Sunday School gave us our start in faith affirmation
With spiritual growth through confirmation.

Fellowship on Sundays and holidays, and feasting at potlucks,
The group effort for the pancake breakfast to bring in a few bucks!

Let's not forget who coordinates it -- without getting paid.
A big "thank you" goes out to our great Ladies' Aide.

The cleaning, the mowing, and all necessary labors,
All done by church members, our friends, our neighbors.

Friendship and love that extends beyond the walls of the parish,
These are the memories we all will cherish.

Years of worship and memories bring us together for historical celebration.
Now, it's farewell and thank you to our Oak Mound family we call our congregation.

Thanks again to everybody, and blessings in our work,

-Jo



Where are we? What are we doing? Who is doing what we are doing? And why are we doing what we are doing?

Sounds like a lot of what's, who's, ands and ifs. Many questions, many unanswered questions, all of which will soon be a part of history. We are struggling to keep our bills paid, our members in tact and our teams working at full speed. Many of our members are tired, worn to a frazzle, but keep working for the betterment of our church. Faith, prayer, a positive attitude and persistence will prevail.

The church council, trustees and stewardship have been meeting monthly to keep everyone informed on budgets, collections and business needing attention. The stewardship team has been meeting and planning the upcoming campaign. The trustees have gained needed members. Thanks to Tammy Breuer, Mike Strang, Linda Trindade, and Melissa Toepke-Peterson for accepting the appointment to the Trustees. All the hard work the members of all teams do in God's name and for the good of our Church is much appreciated.

The search committee has met and will soon begin the process of putting together the church profile and submitting it to the conference for advertisement. We have come to the crossroads of rebuilding and restructuring and now is the time to move positively forward looking toward the future of Plymouth Church. Betty Bauder has accepted the call to be a part of the search committee and we thank her very much. Melissa Toepke-Peterson is the chairperson, and will answer any questions you may have concerning the search for a new pastor.

Pastor JoBeth, I want to say a very heart felt THANK YOU for what you are doing for our congregation and all the long hours of service on our behalf. You are a pleasure to work with. Your knowledge and experience has been extraordinary. We look to the future with confidence. Thank you again.

The Building and Grounds team have done an excellent job with the yard work this summer. The flowers are beautiful. The grass has been kept immaculate. Thank you for all the hard work.

Thank you everyone – and keep in mind, “It takes courage to live—courage and strength and hope and humor. And courage and strength and hope and humor have to be bought and paid for with pain and work and prayers and tears.”
-Jerome P. Fleishman

Tom Payne, Moderator



The Stewardship Team is working to make the 2011-12 campaign the most meaningful ever. Watch for the posters and information coming to the church soon.

The theme this year is “Count Yourself Blessed.” Let's start thinking about the blessings in our lives. Then we can find in our faith the ways we can reach out to bless others who are in need.

On September 25, Rev. Dr. Wade Schemmel will be joining us to help kick off the campaign. Come join us as we sing favorite hymns “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” “All Hail of Jesus' Name,” “Lord of the Dance,” and “Hymn of Promise.”

Called to Care

The Called to Care team welcomes everyone back, hope you had a great summer vacation.

The Called to Care team will meet the third Sunday of the month starting September 18th at 9:45 am in the library.

If you know of anyone who needs our prayers or for us to stop by and visit, please let one of the team members know. All team members are indicated as such on their nametags.

Thank You,
Howard R. Etson

Treasurer's Report

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Operating Income and Expenses for 2011

January –July	YTD
Operating Income \$	\$84936
Operating Expenses \$	\$88432
Special Donations January 1, 2011-July 31, 2011	
Churches United for Homeless	\$250.00
Food Pantry	\$500.00
Loan Reduction	\$1000.00
Deficit Reduction	\$500.00

