

Plymouth Congregational Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

We leave judging to God.



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

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.

Special points of interest:

- **Pastoral Ponderings**
- **Green Sneakers**
- **Stewardship Campaign**
- **Roof update**

Inside this issue:

Pastoral Ponderings	1
News & Events	2
Calendar	3
Moderator Message	4
Team Reports	5-7

The Chronicle

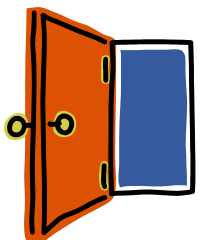
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
 Volume 11 Issue 8
 October 2011

In this God's season of splendor greetings to all! "When one door closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us." - Helen Keller

A new door that has opened at Plymouth UCC is one that the confirmands are providing for everyone and they are providing our leadership. It is a door into informal worship at a service at 6:30 pm in the Mayflower Room. Nicole, Kaitlyn, and Kennede will be leading a worship of song, prayers, scripture and communion with fresh baked bread each Wednesday. If Sunday morning worship doesn't work for you for any reason or you want a different or additional way to add to your worship life, come join us on Wednesday evening after school or work, before choir or just because it works better in your schedule. Come because you want to come together with others to try a new way to worship. Come to support

individual confirmands. Come to check it out. Come to support yourselves and a new generation. Each generation reinvents church to make it relevant and meaningful in their lifetime. We know this to be true or we would all be worshipping and singing in Aramaic or Latin or Greek. Jesus taught us that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." If we come together to worship God, in Jesus the Christ and in the Holy Spirit, we know God will be with us. This does not mean we make up everything in each generation, but instead we carry the essence forward while perhaps we change the packaging. It means to formulate relevant worship in a meaningful way in each generation and there God will be in the midst of it. For us, it means that we teach the Christian faith that shares the message that Jesus gave us in a way that is relevant to life in the 21st Century.....in the world in the United States of America in North Dakota in Fargo in Plymouth

Congregational United Church of Christ. That is what we are doing at Plymouth. So whether on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening, come, bring a friend, and let us support all the generations to find ways to worship God in our time and place. God's authority is firm but a loving and caring one. Can we flourish and share that love with the next generation and the next and the next and.....?



What doors is God opening for us today? Are we still looking at the closed door? Are we opening our hearts, minds and beings to possible doors God might open for us? Let us be watchful for and work toward seeing God's doors swing open into our personal and church lives today. And all that is done in God's name for the good of all will be blessed. May you have a glorious fall. Shalom, Pastor JoBeth

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

Serving Groups

October

CO-CHAIR:

Judy Maxson

CO-CHAIR:

Paul & Marvel Haag

Darryl & Cathy Hummel

Mary & Rene Vargo

Janet Lewis

Birthdays

October

5-Morgan Laite

12-Linda Trindade

18-Irene Saylor

25-Rene Vargo

28-Mark Walstead

30-Ann Smith

31-Adisyn Schenck

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.

Pastoral Search Committee Report - Sept. 2011

The Pastoral Search Team wants to thank Betty Bauder and Marlo Lutt for agreeing to serve on the team. We are now up to a full team again. We have been trying to tie up the items mentioned in the last article. A big thanks to Walt Meidinger, Henrietta Fiechtner and Judy Maxson for their hard work on cleaning up the church membership. We will be meeting in October to begin rewriting the church profile. Once we have completed this process we will send it to the conference office and they will begin circulating so we can start hearing from perspective pastoral candidates. For those who are impatiently waiting, this process takes quite a while so don't expect results for several months. In the meantime we still have a lot of work to do to get our church ready to welcome a new pastor. Thanks everyone for your hard work, patience, and support.

Melisa Toepke-Peterson

Women's Fellowship has agreed to furnish three meals during the coming school year. The meal will precede their worship service on Sunday evenings and the first one Plymouth is providing is on October 9th. We are in need of volunteers to furnish the meals. If you would be willing to provide a hotdish, salad or bars, please let me know. The students will serve the meal. I am hoping to have arrangements in place by October 1st.

Just a short note to say thanks for the support and hard work of people who came together to make the rummage sale a success. For all of those who set up, who worked the sale, and all the packing up efforts, it was truly a fellowship of good people who did a great job.

THANK YOU!

Tammy Breuer
237-6660

Marsha Lutt
Margaret Sherwood Circle

Board of Trustees

Status of roof and possible repair

- The roof is leaking and to mitigate the damage present and future here are the facts:
- A new roof would cost in range of \$27,000 to \$30,000
- If we went with new roof could not get it done until next spring because of contractor schedules.
- We don't have the money at this time for a new roof.
- To solve the problem for now it would cost estimated \$4,200 for minor repair which should last five years.
- If we went with minor repair we could get it done this year if weather permits or early spring.



After careful consideration of all the facts regarding the roof the trustees have decided to go with the minor repair. The trustees would also encourage and accept donations for the cost of the minor repair or the new roof.



Music

Tracing Some “Hymns”

Working with the music of the church is like opening a huge unabridged dictionary. It is full of varied types and sources, from all times and many places, rich and full.

Often the songs of the church get lumped into “hymns.” The hymn is the words, the verse. It is really a poetic form which can then be set to music. “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” is a hymn by Isaac Watts, one of hundreds he called “hymns of human composure,” that is, in everyday language. Up to this time, 1719, congregational singing was the singing of psalms. This hymn is based on Ps. 90, but the style was a totally new hymnody. The tune to which we sing it has a name—St. Anne—which was written by William Croft in 1708.

Some of our popular songs waited decades and even hundreds of years to be put together. “Be Thou My Vision” has an ancient Irish text from the 8th century. It was translated in 1905 into prose by Mary Byrne. The tune to which this hymn was matched is a traditional Irish melody we know by the name, “Slane”.

Some songs are created altogether at once. This is often true of the newer songs. “One Bread, One Body” was written, both words and music, by John Foley in 1978. “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling” was written, both words and music, in 1880 by Will Thompson. “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” was written by James Manley in 1978; “On Eagle’s Wings” is by Michael Joncas in 1979.

You can often gain understanding of the source of a hymn or song by checking the fine print. The source of the words and music is often found at the end of the hymn. The name of the tune and dated of composition might be noted, and certainly any copyright date. Sometimes this information is found just under the title in some hymnals along with any scripture upon which it is based.

I find that knowing the source of the words and music adds to my understanding and appreciation of the music we share together in praise and prayer.

Shalom, Marilyn Rich

Organ Report

As you may (or may not) have noticed, the organ has not been played on several Sundays recently because of problems. The Trustees have been told that this particular organ is no longer being made and the parts, if available, are very expensive. Recently our organist, Tom Thoreson, met with an organ repair person and the organ was thoroughly examined. It was pulled out from the wall, cleaned and dusted. It is hoped that it will perform well for the time being, as we are in no financial position to purchase a new one at this time. We are very fortunate to have a beautiful grand piano and clavichord, which will provide us with music in case the organ problems reoccur, so let’s say a prayer that the organ will hold out for quite some time.

October 2011

25 10:30 am Worship Service	26	27 1 pm Margaret Sherwood Circle	28 6:30 pm Wed. Night Worship 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	29	30	1
2 10:30 am Communion Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	3	4	5 6:30 pm Wed. Night Worship 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	6 9 am Men’s Retirees Group meet at Fry’n Pan	7 11 am Church Women United @ Gethsemane Cathedral—\$5 lunch	8
9 10:30 am Worship Service	10	11	12 6:30 pm Wed. Night Worship 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	13	14	15
16 10:30 am Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	17	18 1 pm Mayflower Circle	19 6:30 pm Wed. Night Worship 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	20	21	22 4-7pm Churches United
23 10:30 am Worship Service	24	25 1 pm Margaret Sherwood Circle	26 6:30 pm Wed. Night Worship 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	27	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship Service	31	1	2	3	4	5

Rally Sunday was very enjoyable. Seeing familiar smiling faces, encouragement, and most of all the fellowship after worship was very enjoyable.

We face new tasks each and every day. How we handle the situation is usually how the outcome is achieved. The cooperation, perseverance, prayer, and positive attitudes help immensely to enhance our decisions.

We are dealing with a few situations which need attention by all members:

- Volunteers for the Worship Team are needed. Talk with Pastor JoBeth, Judy or myself if you are interested.
- It would be very helpful to have more participation in Bell Choir and Chancel Choir. Just stop by any Wednesday evening between 7:00 PM and 8:00PM and we will find a bell to ring or a song for you to help sing. We will pray about this.
- Stewardship needs volunteers to help with the up-coming campaign.
- There is interest in starting a Bible Study group, anyone want to organize it? Let Pastor JoBeth know.

Thanks, Betty and Marlo, for volunteering to be part of the search committee. We really appreciate your help and experience.

Come join in the Wednesday evening worship service. It is open for anyone who wants to attend. We are hoping to continue to have a summer Wednesday service for the people who are lake goers during that time. Stop by if interested and encourage anyone and everyone to come. We cannot grow without asking for help from our friends and family. Get them all to come. Choose Wednesday or Sunday, or both!

Each of us always does what we want to do. This is true with every act. One may say I have to do something, or that I was forced to, but actually, whatever one chooses to do, is done by choice. Only you have the power to choose for yourself. So choose to help your church grow in spirit, kindness and forbearance.

The roof is being repaired to fix a potential leaking problem over the winter and into spring. We will, at some time in the future, have to re-roof the building. Cost estimates are being collected by the Trustees and will be presented when all things are finalized. (See Trustees report on p. 7)

We have passed the anniversary of 9-11 without any chaos. We have prayed for the healing for the grieving and their families. We continue to pray that the occurrence is not repeated anywhere in the world.

Our project with Green Sneakers has started. We have filled three bags of slightly used tennis shoes, they will be picked up soon. Thank you to all who have participated, but we need more so bring in more of those unused, closeted, slightly used or unwanted tennis shoes. If you don't have any at home, check out rummage sales and thrift stores. It keeps shoes out of landfills, out of sitting in a closet, and helps people with NO shoes...and it helps Plymouth to continue all its programs. So bring in all you can find! Someone will love you forever.

With God in our hearts and his spirit in our actions,

Peace.

Tom Payne



The kickoff for this year's Stewardship campaign began with Rev. Dr. Wade Schemmel sharing "Living Into God's Vision" on Sunday, September 25. The theme for this year is "Count Yourself Blessed" and for the next few Sundays fellow worshippers will share their thoughts on Stewardship and what it means to be a part of the community of Plymouth. A letter with pledge and talent cards will be sent out at the end of October with a dedication and the campaign will wrap up with a pot luck on November 13th. Pray for Plymouth!!!

Called to Care

The Called to Care team will meet the third Sunday of every month at 9:45 am in the library. We will be going over the manual. Please join us if you'd like to become part of the team!

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,

Treasurer's Report

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Operating Income and Expenses for 2011

January –Sept. 17	YTD
Operating Income \$	\$104941
Operating Expenses \$	\$102316
Extra Income Taken out of Accounts	
Money Market	\$3000
UC C Foundation Stocks	\$10000

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

