

Plymouth Congregational Church  
PO Box 1901  
Fargo, ND 58107

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### Special points of interest:

- ***“Pennies from Heaven”***
- ***Women’s Fellowship Fall Rummage Sale***
- ***Sunday School Openings***
- ***Our Mission***
- ***Interim Pastor***

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# The Chronicle

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume 10 Issue 8

August 2010

## A note from Howard Etson

It has been a pleasure to work here these past few months. In the past few months we have completed what some would call a Circle of Life — a birth, a wedding and a funeral. So let us keep all of these families as well as our church family in our prayers as our church family moves forward. Let us now welcome our new pastor and teacher Jo Beth Marshall.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Howard R. Etson

## Welcome Jo Beth Marshall to Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ!

### Give to “Pennies from Heaven”

Almost every day we have people come to Christ’s church looking for help. Our collection called “Pennies from Heaven” provides this help for those in need, but we also need YOUR support!

We invite you to please bring your extra coins & put them into the jug on the table in the back of the sanctuary to help with this cause.

Because of “Pennies from

Heaven,” Plymouth Church has been able to help a woman afford glasses, a person purchase a prescription, & many other people in getting state identification necessary for employment.

In hard times such as these, giving pennies can be an act of grace & a huge difference in someone’s life. This is how the Kingdom of God grows!



**We are out of money orders for State IDs, so consider buying a money order in the amount of \$8 made out to NDDOT.**

## 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. We seek 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.

We want you to feel comfortable, so relax & be yourself.

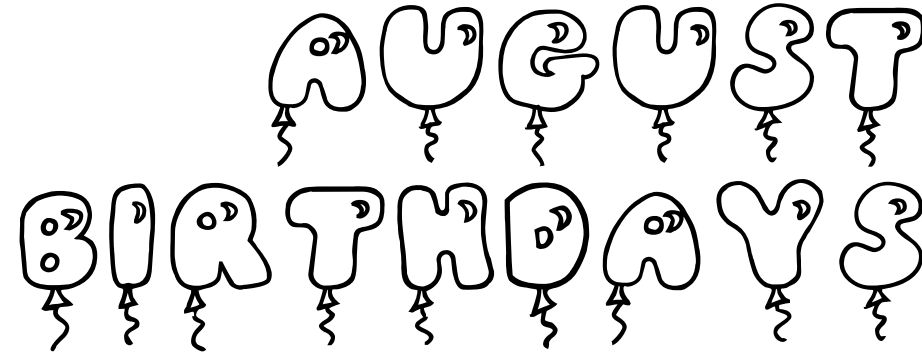
Our worship facility is handicap-accessible, but please don’t hesitate to ask for additional assistance if you need it.

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.



- 1-Randy Schmidt
- 3-Marie Martin
- 4-Jeff Hess
- 7-Erika Schur



- 8-Claudia Murray
- 10-Ellen Scheiring
- 15-Kasey Ferguson
- 18-Ben Shropshire
- 26-Rob Scheiring

- 27-Marian Ruppert
- 27-Hailey Smith
- 30-Berea Mohr
- 30-Dorothy Knapp

## Sunday Worship Help

We need scripture readers, greeters, and nursery attendants for the summer. Please consider helping out one Sunday. Sign up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.



The Women's Fellowship Fall Rummage Sale will be held September 10th & 11th! Please bring items to sell and put them in the rummage sale room

## AUGUST SERVING GROUP

- CHAIR:**  
 Al & Betty Bauder  
**CO-CHAIR:**  
 Denver & Irene Saylor  
 Barb Carriker  
 Helen & Gordon Goodfellow  
 Lori & David Hill  
 Clara & Bob Kiefert  
 Beth Begg

## Sunday School Openings

The Christian Education Team is planning for next year's Sunday School program and we have several opportunities for members to be involved. To encourage new families to join Plymouth, we must support youth programing.

There are openings:

- on the **Christian Education team** (1 time/month right after church)
- for **nursery helpers** (1 time/month)
- for **Sunday School teachers** (Approx. 14 times each per year. Teams take turns every other week, no Sunday School on

school holiday weekends. The curriculum is easy to follow with great ideas for games and crafts.)

- for **Sunday School Director** (oversee classes and find substitutes)

The Christian Education Team is not only of great importance to the youth of the church, we think we have more fun than any other team at Plymouth. We organize the Fall Fest, youth group, Egg Hunt and more. The Sunday School director, teachers, and the nursery staff get to work with the most energetic and beautiful members of Plymouth, the youth!

The sooner our team knows

who will take these positions, the better we can plan for next year. Sunday school and nursery staff all fill out background checks as part of our safe church policy. These are given to the pastor/acting pastor. There is no cost to you.

Please call or email - About Sunday School Director, teaching, or Christian Ed. Team: Roxane Meidinger 237-9197 rmeidinger@cablone.net

About nursery: Erika, Courtney, Karen Schur 280-0167 karenmouse30@hotmail.com



August 2010						
1 10:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	9	10	11	12 9 a.m. Retirees Meet at Fry'n Pan	13	14
15 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	16	17	18	19	20	21 4-7 pm Serve at Churches United
22 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	23 Deadline for September Chronicle	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	30	31				

You can always find the latest calendar on our website—[www.plymouthfargo.org](http://www.plymouthfargo.org). If you have anything to add to the calendar, please send it to [info@plymouthfargo.org](mailto:info@plymouthfargo.org).

## Upcoming Worship Services at Plymouth Church



We are happy to announce that we will have an intentional interim pastor starting August 1! Jo Beth Marshall will be at Plymouth on that Sunday to

be introduced and to get acquainted and will begin preaching on August 8. Margaret Kloster will preach on August 1.

# Plymouth Discipleship Groups

## Women's Fellowship Groups

Two women's circles—Mayflower & Margaret Sherwood—meet each month. These circles are open to all women of Plymouth Church. Quarterly, the

circles come together for a Women's Fellowship lunch.



**Bell & Chancel Choirs**  
Our Bell & Chancel Choirs practice music to offer in worship of God. You are always welcome! Come & make music to the LORD.

Discipleship groups are vital to building Christian relationships. You are welcome!

# Mission Opportunities

## Our Mission

**Jesus Christ calls the Plymouth Church family to fight the causes of poverty that lead to hunger and homelessness and to help those who are in need now.**

## Volunteers Needed!

Looking for a place to volunteer over the summer? Several places need your help!

- Food Pantry Volunteer—Stock shelves, assemble boxes and hand out food.

contact Nicolette Schaefer-Vrchota at 293-1440 or nschaefer@valleyseniors.org.  
**Dorothy Day Food Pantry**



### YWCA Cass Clay

Examples of Fun & Flexible Volunteer Opportunities:

- Shelter Children's Services—Read, do arts & crafts, play games, etc.
- Donations Volunteer—Sort, organize and put away donations.

For more info go to [www.ywcacassclay.org](http://www.ywcacassclay.org) and click on the 'volunteering' tab.

### Meals on Wheels

Volunteers needed to help deliver noon meals. You can volunteer for as little as one hour a month.

Individuals and groups are always welcome. They need groups to stock, clean and sort during the day and to help clients with distribution. They are open Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm.



If you want to know more, call 218-284-8895 or email [fmddh.foodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fmddh.foodpantry@gmail.com)



# Get Involved—Ministry Teams



We work in teams at Plymouth Church with the goal to grow into mature followers & servants of Jesus Christ.

Here are our teams:

**Health Cabinet**—This team works to promote wholeness in the people in the Plymouth Church community. The group includes our Called to Care ministers, our Parish Nurse & more.

**Spiritual Growth/Christian Education**—Growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ is vital to all people in the church. This team works to create opportunities for that to happen.

**Building & Grounds**—How we care for God's temple demonstrates a community's commitment. This team keeps our space functioning in ways that honor God.

**Worship Service**—Worship is the primary activity of Christians. Our worship services are an offering to God & a meal of teaching & honoring Jesus Christ. This team works to prepare the best offering we have.

*These teams are open for anyone who would like to serve. There is a sign-up on the table in the back of the sanctuary or on our website.*

# Want to Request a Hospital Visit?

One way you can request a hospital visit from the pastor or a member of the Called to Care Team is by filling out a Prayer Request form found in the Friendship Pads in each pew. Also, you can go online to our website, [www.plymouthfargo.org](http://www.plymouthfargo.org), and fill out a Prayer Request there. We have now added a section for you to list a surgery coming up. And as always you can call the office at 235-9226 to let us know about your upcoming surgery or to request a visit.



# Supplies needed for the YWCA Women's Shelter

**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca  
cass clay**

Plymouth Church supports the YWCA Emergency Shelter with needed items for women & children requiring safe housing, along with advocacy & education, as the look for alternative housing. This shelter serves hundreds of people each year who need shelter from domestic violence, homelessness, & economic devastation.

**As of July 23, 2010, their most urgent needs include:**

- Body wash & deodorant
- Hand soap refills
- Disinfecting spray/wipes
- New pillows
- Blankets

### Other needs include:

- ANY AND ALL FOOD IS NEEDED (especially fresh/frozen meat, produce, dairy, box dinners)
- New women's and children's socks & underwear (all sizes)
- New women's bras (all sizes)
- New women's and children's swimsuits (all sizes)
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent & fabric softener
- Glass cleaner, counter top spray, bathroom cleaner
- Paper products
- Ziploc bags, plastic wrap, garbage bags
- Shaving supplies

- Hair conditioner
- Diapers (sizes 4-6)
- Pull-ups (all sizes)
- Antibiotic cream & diaper rash ointment
- Children's bubble bath & bath toys
- Unscented lotions/hand cream
- Feminine hygiene products
- New mattress pads & sheet sets (twin & full sizes)

*The basket for these items is in the entryway on the north side of the church. Our Women's Fellowship sponsors this mission activity.*

# Looking for a gift? Buy a goat.



Most of us have too much "stuff." Birthdays & anniversaries can only add to the problem.

one to feed themselves. You can purchase a goat, cow, llama or sheep in honor of a loved one—or even just a share of an animal. Your donation will purchase a farm animal for someone who is living in poverty.

*don't need more chocolate or knick-knacks. Knowing that a family gets a goat for milk, & can be self-sufficient is a great positive thing to bring into the world. It's wonderful to know a family has been given help in my name."*

*-Eileen in Rochester, New York*

There are brochures on the table in the back of the sanctuary with details on how to gift someone through Heifer International. You can also go to their website at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

Consider giving a meaningful gift that will allow some-

*"I loved my Heifer gift. I*

## Support Plymouth Church's Feeding Ministries

### CUH Meal Crew

On the fourth Saturday of each month, our meal crew serves the evening meal at the Churches United for the Homeless Shelter. Call the church office to be part of this service crew.

### Casserole Ministry

Plymouth people make casseroles that are kept at the church. These casseroles serve

two purposes: 1) to provide a meal for hungry people who stop by the church throughout the week & 2) to provide a meal for people in our congregation who have recently had a baby or a death or are just in need of some help. Please call the church office to see if casseroles are needed or look



**Sandwich Ministry Sundays**

for requests in Sunday bulletins!

On the first & third Sundays of each month, we provide the midday meal for the families at the Churches United for the Homeless Shelter. We do this by making sandwiches following our worship service & delivering them to the shelter. We also need donations to purchase bread, lunch meat, peanut butter & jelly.



*Shelter and Support in a Spiritual Setting.*  
Churches United—a mission partner in the fight against hunger & homelessness



stand in the gap for those that need it.

## Community Homes News

Community Homes is a ministry of Plymouth Church. Community homes offers Section 8 (low-income) housing to people in our community.

During these hard economic times, there are many people needing affordable housing. Even with the low cost of this housing, some people get behind on

their rent. There are few places for them to get help. Plymouth Church, in cooperation, with our partner churches, is looking for ways to

# What's Happening at United Campus Ministry

Greetings from UCM,

Well, we are less than a month away from the return of the students and we are busy, busy, busy getting ready for them. Cleaning the building, planning programs, creating promotional items, etc. It is always nice to have some time for peace and quiet, but it will be nice to have some life back in our building.

We are also gearing up for the arrival of our US-2 Missionary in mid-August. The US-2 program is a missionary program through the United

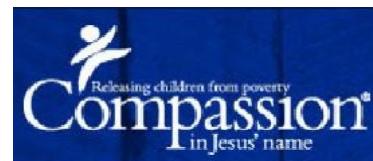
Methodist Church where a college graduate commits to two years at a mission site in the U.S. selected by the church. Ashley Rosser from southern California will be joining us and Grace UMC in Moorhead for the next two years. I am anxiously getting ready for her arrival as my new roommate. Also on the horizon is our second annual Gala and Silent Auction, of which I am the coordinator. We are already receiving some items for the auction and we're hard at work planning what I hope to be will be

a wonderful evening. We are focusing this year's event on the hope that UCM is a home away from home for the students, a way for them to be in God's house with their fellow students. Look for more information about that soon. God bless, Amelia Shoptaugh UCM Intern

### Supply Drive

All student organizations/clubs have to complete service projects, but it's hard for students to volunteer when they have class during the day. UCM is trying to

help by becoming a place where they can do service projects. We have formed a partnership with Spirit Lake Ministry Center, and we are trying to provide three things for them over the course of the year: backpacks with school supplies, Christmas shoeboxes, and fleece blankets. To do this though we need to have a stock of supplies so groups can come in and fill boxes/bags or tie blankets. Here at Plymouth we have a basket for United Campus Ministry so I encourage you to think of this when you give.



## Sponsor a child for \$38/month through Compassion International

## Sponsor a child & change a life!

Share your love, prayers & support with a boy or girl who lives in poverty through Compassion International. When you sponsor a child, you are linked with one particular child who will know your name, write to you, pray for you & treasure the thought that you care. All the information you need to sponsor a child through Compassion International can be found on

the table in the back of the sanctuary. "...My [former] sponsor is a nurse in the United States. [She] always encouraged me to study. I told her that I had joined the nursing course. Then she wrote to me & said this is a really tough job but I still encourage you to study regularly, it will be very good for you... The sponsorship provided education, my books, my

school fees, my uniforms, & also my pastor & the good fellowship of my friends. Now I am working at the hospital. I am going to the patients & giving care to them & knowing their problems & helping them... I turn the love of Jesus to the ones that are affected by diseases. So I really enjoy my job." -P. Vandhana, graduate from India

## Support Farmers – Buy Fair Trade Coffee

Around the world, coffee & fellowship come together. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship & gatherings. As one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world, coffee is a direct link between our local community & farming communities in Latin America, Africa & Asia.

At the same time, the small farmers who grow our coffee often struggle just to make a

simple living. Most live in rural communities in some of the poorest countries in Latin America, Africa & Asia. Isolated from markets, they are forced to accept very low wages. Without affordable credit, they become trapped in a cycle of debt. Many lack access to adequate housing, healthcare & education.

But there is an alternative: Fair Trade Coffee. The UCC Coffee

Project is a bridge between these communities & our own. By paying a fair price, working with democratic cooperatives, offering affordable credit & supporting sustainable agriculture, the UCC Coffee Project helps farmers to build better lives for themselves & their families. You can support this cause by purchasing Fair Trade Coffee in our Dining Fellowship Hall for \$6.99/bag.



*The United Church of Christ Coffee Project sells certified organic products from Equal Exchange.*