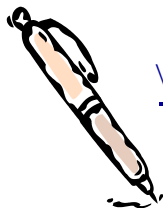


The Chronicle

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume 9 Issue 7

October 2009



A note from Pastor Aaron...

Special points of interest:

- October 12 Church Dinner
- October 16 UCM Gala
- October 22-24 Youth Rally
- October 25 Costume Sunday
- October 28 Book Club

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Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll

on people nationwide."

Beginning on October 25, join us in worship for a 4 week sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why we will be having a worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time

we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in our worship service on Sunday, November 22.

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Church Dinner to be held October 12

A dinner will be held Monday, Oct. 12 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. here at Plymouth Church. All are welcome! This year's menu will feature fry bread tacos, taco in a bag and soft shell tacos along with beverages and desserts.

There will also be the option of dining in or ordering ahead of time and driving through to pick up your

food.

Items still needed for the meal include:

- 100 Bottled Water
- 100 Cans of Soda
- 100 Small bags of corn chips (Doritos)
- 25 loaves Frozen Bread Dough
- 100 Soft Tortilla Shells
- 10 jars Salsa
- 10 jars Taco sauce
- 30 lbs Hamburger

- 30 packets Taco seasoning
 - 3 - 5lb bags Colby Jack Cheese
 - 10 tubs Sour Cream
 - 6 heads Lettuce
 - 50 Tomatoes
 - 200 Plastic Forks
 - 250 Napkins
 - 200 Styrofoam to-go containers
 - 200 Scotcheroo Bars
- Come support the church & enjoy a tasty dinner!**



“To Boldly Go” Youth Rally to be held October 22-24

The Northern Plains Conference Fall Youth Rally, “To Boldly Go,” is in Jamestown from

Thursday, October 22 through Saturday, October 24.

There are registration forms on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Book Club begins this month!

Our book club will start Oct. 28 at noon at The Fargo Coffee Co. (1601 University Dr. S in Fargo). All are welcome! Get the books, read them, and come to discuss them!

Reading list:

October 28—*Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory (Short one to

get started!)

November 25—*While I Was Gone* by Sue Miller

December—No Meeting

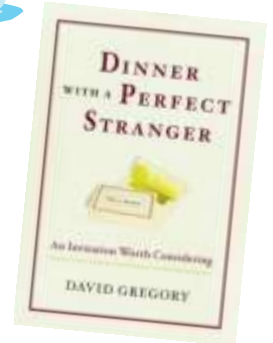
January 27—*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler

February 24—*American Jezebel: The*

Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans by Eve LaPlante

March 31—*The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown

April 28—*Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* by Donald Kraybill, Steven Nolt, and David Weaver-Zercher



The first book to read is **David Gregory's *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger***.



Have fun serving concessions & raising money to support Plymouth Church!

UP Center Concessions Teams

We are looking for people to help serve concessions as a crew at the UP Center.

We need groups of people to work at the UP Center on these dates:

Friday, Nov. 13

Saturday, Nov. 14

Thursday, Feb. 25

These events are fundraisers for Plymouth Church, and they are fun! Often groups go out after-

wards. Time commitments vary, but each is noted on the sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Sign up today!



Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

The annual UNICEF campaign, "Make Halloween count," focuses on making a difference in the world through voluntary service.

Participants learn about the realities of

children struggling with disease, disasters, and other hardships by knowing the money they raise will help save lives. Just 6 cents can provide water for 1 thirsty kid.

One of the main ways to raise money is through the use of

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF collection boxes. **Because they're small,** cardboard boxes that are quick to assemble and hold onto, participants, especially youth going out trick-or-treating, can easily carry them throughout the night.

Plymouth's goal is to

raise \$140 by Nov. 1. You may pick up a box in the church office and hopefully bring it back full of donations on Sunday, Nov. 1!

To learn more about the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign, visit www.unicefusa.org/trickortreat

Support Farmers – Buy Fair Trade Coffee

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

But there is an alternative: Fair Trade. The UCC Coffee Project is a bridge between

these communities and our own. By paying a fair price, working with democratic cooperatives, offering affordable credit and supporting sustainable agriculture, the UCC Coffee Project helps farmers to build better lives for themselves and their families.

You can purchase the coffee in our Dining Fellowship Hall for \$6.99/bag.



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

Sponsor a child & change a life!

Share your love, prayers and support with a boy or girl who lives in poverty. When you sponsor a child, you are linked with one particular child who will know your name, write to you, and treasure the thought that you care. He or she will pray for you often and write to you. All the information you need to sponsor a child through Compassion International is 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 and 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, and also my pastor, and the good fellowship of my

friends.

Now I am working at the hospital. I am going to the patients and giving care to them and knowing their problems and 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



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

Looking for a gift? Buy a goat.



Goats are great for families! The gift of a dairy goat represents a lasting way of helping a family.

Most of us have too much “stuff.” Birthdays and anniversaries can only add to the problem.

Consider giving a meaningful gift that will allow someone to feed themselves. You can purchase a goat, cow, llama, or sheep in honor of a loved one—or a share of an animal.

Your donation will purchase a farm animal for someone who is living in poverty.

“I loved my Heifer gift. I don't need more chocolate or knick-knacks. Knowing that a family gets a goat for milk, and 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.

Church World Service in need of kits

Church World Service, an organization dedicated to helping with hunger, poverty and disasters, has a service that provides different kinds of kits to those around the world and in our own communities who are in need. In light of all of the flooding

and storms in the United States and around the world, there has been a shortage of these kits, especially the clean up buckets and hygiene kits.

There are people in desperate need of help, and a small package of supplies could be just

what they need.

To learn how to assemble a kit and where to ship it, please visit www.churchworldservice.org and click on the “Kits” link at the top.

Thank you for your generosity!



Visit churchworldservice.org to learn more about making a kit & helping someone in need.



Shelter and Support in a Spiritual Setting.

Churches United for the Homeless—a mission partner in the fight against hunger & homelessness

Support Plymouth Church's Feeding Ministries

CUH Meal Crew

On the 4th Saturday of each month, our meal crew serves the evening meal at the Churches United for the Homeless Shelter. Call the church office today to be part 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 and 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 for requests in our Sunday bulletins!

Sandwich Ministry Sundays

On the first and 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 and delivering them to the shelter. We also need donations to purchase bread, lunch meat, peanut butter, and jelly.

Give to “Pennies from Heaven”

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

Please bring your extra coins and 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:

an older women afford glasses,

a person purchase a prescription at MeritCare hospital,

buy milk for kids at a nearby elementary school,

assist people in getting their state identification pictures necessary for gaining employment.

This money truly helps **us be a “port in a storm”** for some people in our community. In hard times such as these, giving pennies can be an act of grace and a huge **difference in someone’s** life. This is how the Kingdom of God grows!



Your contribution to *Pennies from Heaven* can be the small grace of Jesus Christ to someone.



Supplies Needed for the YWCA Women’s Shelter

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

Their primary needs include:

- Gas & grocery gift cards
- Diapers & diaper wipes
- Pack ‘n Play portable cribs**
- Any & all food
- Pedialyte
- Baby formula (especially orange Good Start)
- Seasonal clothing
- Pillows
- Dressers
- Soap, detergent & disinfecting spray or wipes

- Ziplock storage bags
- Hygiene items
- Pull-up training pants
- Car & booster seats
- Strollers
- Small televisions
- Twin mattresses, plastic covered
- Batteries (9V, AAA)

The basket for these items is in the entryway on the north side of the church (parking lot side).

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.

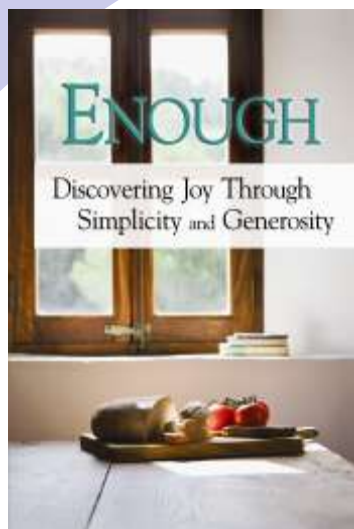
Plymouth Church, in cooperation, with our partner churches, is

looking for ways to stand in the gap for those that need it.

We are considering helping by creating a “**compassion fund.**” to provide help to those who most need it. It **wouldn’t be a hand-out**, but a loan admin-

istered with Community Home management.

There will be a special offering taken on Thanksgiving Eve to support this ministry.



Upcoming Worship Services at Plymouth Church

Proverbs:

Wisdom for Life

Where do we turn for wisdom today? Dr. Phil? Oprah? Family? Friends? For nearly 3,000 years people have looked to the Book of Proverbs – that biblical book which offers the wisdom of the ages for people of faith. The Proverbs were written from the perspective of elders passing on great truths about God and daily life to the next generation. Come and discover ancient wisdom that will help you live today!

Sunday, October 4—

“Financial Wisdom” World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 11—“The

Character of the Wise”

Sunday, October 18—

“Ancient Wisdom for Modern Families”

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

We will begin a series called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Over a period of 4

weeks, we will look at some of the financial challenges facing us as a nation and examine our own spending, saving, and giving habits. In addition to exploring biblical principles of financial management, we will learn ways to assess our financial situation and develop a financial plan that will allow us to experience the true joy that comes through simplicity and generosity.

Sunday, October 25—

“When Dreams Become Nightmares”

Plymouth Discipleship Groups

Tuesday Evening Family Dinner Group

Each Tuesday evening at 5:30pm, young adults and their families are invited to come to share dinner and some time together at United Campus Ministries (1239 12th Street N – behind the Bison Turf in Fargo). Dinner is provided and kids can frolic. Come and enjoy the time together!

Women's Fellowship Groups

Two women's circles—Mayflower and 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.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)

On Tuesday evenings, the

TOPS group comes together to encourage and support its members in eating and living well.

Bell and Chancel Choirs

On Wednesday evenings, our Bell and Chancel Choirs practice music to offer in worship of God. You are always welcome! Come and make music to the LORD.

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



Get Involved—Ministry Teams

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

Here are our teams:

Congregational Care—work to care for the people in the Plymouth Church community. This includes our Called to Care ministers, our new Parish Nurse, and more.

Stewardship and Memorials—Caring for the world is a vital part of Christ's church. This team works to make Plymouth Church a good steward of the talents and resources that God has given.

Building and 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 and a meal of teaching and 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 signup on the table in the back of the sanctuary or on our website.

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:30 am Holy Communion Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	5	6 6 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Trustees 8 p.m. Church Leadership Council	7 6 p.m. Disciple Bible Study & Confirmation	8 9 a.m. Retirees meet at Fryn' Pan (302 Main Ave. Fargo)	9	10
11 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	12 3-7:30 p.m. Church Dinner	13 6 p.m. TOPS	14 6 p.m. Disciple Bible Study & Confirmation	15	16 5:15 UCM Gala at Grace United Methodist Church 7 p.m. Dinner	17
18 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	19	20 1 p.m. Mayflower Circle meets at Villa Maria 6 p.m. TOPS	21 6 p.m. Disciple Bible Study & Confirmation	22 "To Boldly Go" Youth Rally in Jamestown	23 "To Boldly Go"	24 "To Boldly Go" 4-7 p.m. Serve dinner at Churches United
25 COSTUME SUNDAY! 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	26	27 1 p.m. Margaret Sherwood Circle 6 p.m. TOPS	28 9 a.m. Community Prayer Meeting 12 p.m. Book Club at Fargo Coffee Co. 6 p.m. Disciple Bible Study & Confirmation	29	30	31

You can always find the latest calendar on our website—www.plymouthfargo.org.
If you have anything to add to the calendar, please send it to info@plymouthfargo.org.

You're invited...

to the UCM Gala on Oct. 16

United Campus Ministries is holding a Gala on Friday, Oct. 16 at Grace United Methodist Church, 1120 17th St. South Moorhead.

The evening's events are:

5:15 p.m. United Choir rehearsal (Optional)
5:45 p.m. Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. Dinner

Dinner will be lasagna with **The Olive Garden's** salad and breadsticks. Cost is \$25 per person. There is a sign-up on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Come and support our local campus ministry!

Attention Youth of Plymouth!

Are you interested in drumming, playing percussion or just hanging out with fun people?

Plymouth is starting a new Fargo-based, choreographed drumming group called *Sheltered Reality!*

Based on the professional Sheltered Reality group which has dedicated itself to being a youth-oriented project, the group will have youth members use music and education as a way to reach out to audiences and motivate them to advocate for those in need.

To learn more, call the church office at 701-235-9226 or e-mail info@plymouthfargo.org.



Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Plymouth Church
901 Broadway N
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

Phone: 701-235-9226
E-mail: info@plymouthfargo.org

We leave judging to God.



www.plymouthfargo.org

We welcome guests any and 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, and laugh.

Come as you are! Following the example of our teacher and 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 and be yourself. Our worship facility is handicapped accessible, but please don't hesitate to ask for assistance if you need it for any reason.

Plymouth Congregational Church
PO Box 1901
Fargo, ND 58107

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