



# Plymouth UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 2006

**Pastor:** Rev. Lois Mueller   **Ministers:** All Members   **Office Manager:** Bruce Tutcher   **Newsletter Editor:** Lisse Hooker

## IN THE MEANTIME . . .

Beloved Community,

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on June 5th, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

The World Environment Day theme selected for 2006 is **Deserts and Desertification** and the slogan is **Don't Desert Drylands!** The slogan emphasizes the importance of protecting drylands, which cover more than 40% of the planet's surface. This ecosystem is home to one-third of the world's people who are more vulnerable members of society.

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP.

Plymouth will celebrate World Environment Day in an Earth Sabbath worship service on June 11th.

Blessings, Lois

### Native American Prayer

**Earth teach me stillness  
as the grasses are stilled with light.  
Earth teach me suffering  
as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility  
as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth teach me caring  
as the mother who secures her young.  
Earth teach me courage  
as the tree which stands all alone.  
Earth teach me limitation  
as the ant which crawls on the ground.  
Earth teach me freedom  
as the Eagle which soars in the Sky.  
Earth teach me regeneration  
as the seed which rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself  
as melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness  
as dry fields weep with rain.**

~Anon., American Indian

### The Video Series "Living the Questions"

**Concludes this month**

**Thursdays: June 8, 22**

**7:00 p.m.    Fireside Room**

# Silence the Violence June 1, 2006

On June 1 you have an opportunity to join young people in the Bay Area as they launch a summer-long campaign to address the crisis of neighborhood violence in Oakland and San Francisco, where the homicide rates are skyrocketing.

It starts the morning of June 1 when powerhouse radio station KMEL "silences the music" at 9 am, during peak driving hours. Then all of Oakland and Alameda County will observe a moment of silence at 11 am. Join us as we take a breath at this time to honor and mourn those we have already lost to violence.

In the evening, join others in community for one of the many "Silence the Violence" candlelight vigils happening all over Oakland and San Francisco.

For further information, go to [www.ellabakercenter.org](http://www.ellabakercenter.org) <http://www.ellabakercenter.org/> or call 510-428-3939

◆◆◆◆ Plymouth will hold a vigil at 7:00 pm ◆◆◆◆

If you feel called to "plant" a cross on the Oakland Ave. hillside of the church, there is a spade and hammer as well as crosses with names on them at the back of the church in the breezeway.

## Friday Night at the Movies

Join us Friday

June 9th

7:00 pm

Fireside Room

for the Academy Award  
Nominated film:

**TransAmerica**

Bring your favorite toppings;  
Jeffrey will provide chocolate,  
vanilla and strawberry  
ice cream!

## Church Council Retreat

Wednesday, June 21st

2 pm—8 pm Fireside Room

**Dear Church Council Members,**

Please put Wednesday, June 21st, 2-8 pm  
on your calendars for the Plymouth  
Church Council Retreat!

Please RSVP to me as soon as you know if  
you'll be able to come!

This time together should make the com-  
ing year an enjoyable and productive one  
for all of us!

**Bless you in your service,**

**Lois**

# "Peace Talks"

## Summer Camp 2006

The UCC Outdoor Ministry is offering summer camps for children of all ages. For more information please contact:

Asst. Conference Minister for Outdoor Ministries:  
Barbara J. Broadbent 510-247-8996  
<[bbroadbent@ncnccucc.org](mailto:bbroadbent@ncnccucc.org)>

To register contact: Camp Registrar: Joy Davis  
510-247-8995 or [joy@ncnccucc.org](mailto:joy@ncnccucc.org)

## Our Community in Life

### *Our Prayers are with:*

Our pastor, **Lois Mueller**, her two sons **Brandon & Elliot Trapp** and their father, **Tom Trapp** who is facing cancer.

**Lillian Potts**, who continues to struggle with her health.

Our city, **Oakland**, as the murder rate continues to rise.

**Lisse Hooker** and her mother **Mildred Hooker** who is suffering from unremitting nerve pain in her face which is not responding to drug treatments.

**Lorant Chovan**

**Mabel Lem**

**Don & Betty McKean**

## SAVE THE DATE!!!



Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.

7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WORSHIP & PICNIC

## PENTECOST SUNDAY is June 4th Wear Red!



### *Spiritus*

I used to think of you  
as a symphony  
neatly structured,  
full of no surprises.  
Now I see you as  
a saxophone solo  
blowing wildly  
into the night,  
a tongue of fire,  
flicking in unrepeated patterns.

~by Steve Turner,

*Up to Date: Poems 1968-1982*,  
(London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1983)

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### Work of the Spirit

The actual work of the Spirit in the mission of the Church often begins with a gestation period, a time of uncertainty, of unrest, of searching, more like the prelude to the emergence of a work of art or of a new scientific discovery than to the formulation of some secondary textbook. This is the dissatisfied questing and longing, half conscious sometimes, which characterizes the early life of many a reformer or innovator. It can be a phase in the life of a Christian community. Then comes some fresh apprehension of Christ, breaking in upon the group or the individual with the force and often the form of a vision.

~by Simon Barrington-Ward, CMS Newsletter, no. 448 (July 1982).

Above were found in Resources for Preaching and Worship, Year B, compiled by Ward & Wild, p. 151.

# JUNE 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Silence the Violence Vigil 7 pm	2	3
4 <b>Pentecost</b> 11:00 am Worship Communion	5	6 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am	7 Scripture Meditation, Fireside 1 pm Choir 7 pm	8 Women's Fellowship Lunch 12 pm Fireside 6 pm "Living the Questions"	9 Movie Night Fireside 7pm <u>TransAmerica</u>	10
11 11:00 am Worship Earth Sabbath Birthday Sunday	12	13 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am Church Council 7 pm	14 Scripture Meditation, Fireside 1 pm Choir 7 pm	15	16	17 Joy Crocker Memorial Concert @ Skyline UCC 2 pm
18 11:00 am Worship Communion	19	20 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am	21 Summer Begins Scripture Meditation, Fireside 1 pm Choir 7 pm	22 6 pm "Living the Questions"	23	24 Oakland Care Center Worship, 3 pm Joy Crocker Memorial 4:30
25 11:00 am Worship	26	27 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am	28 Scripture Meditation, Fireside 1 pm Choir 7 pm	29	30	

## June Birthdays

Lorant Chovan June 3  
 Jerome Turner June 8  
 Roger Glenn June 11  
 Bruce Tutcher June 11  
 Audrey Hanson June 13  
 Nicole Sanefur June 20  
 Raymond Freitas June 22  
 Rev. Kelly Childress June 28

## Oakland Care Center Worship

June 24 3 pm  
 3030 Webster St., Oakland

Join us as we bring worship in  
 song, prayer and scripture to  
 the delightful residents at the  
 Oakland Care Center.

# Joy Crocker Memorial Celebrations

*Celebrating the life and music of Joy Crocker*



There are two memorials planned for our former musical director and longtime member of Plymouth, Joy Crocker.

The first is Saturday, June 17 at 2:00 pm at the Skyline Community Church of Oakland. This event will be a potluck & concert. For more information or ride-sharing, please email: [celebration@JoyCrocker.com](mailto:celebration@JoyCrocker.com) or call 510-703-9350.

The second memorial will be held here at Plymouth on June 24th at 4:30 p.m.

## Seeking Long-Term Disaster Recovery Volunteers

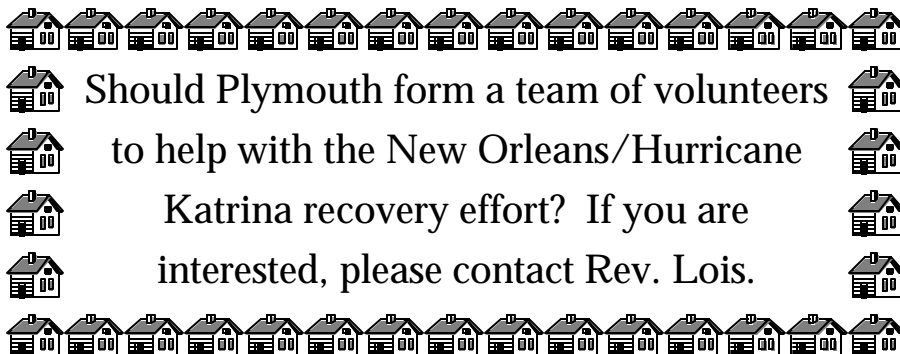
### *Will you help rebuild New Orleans?*

Do you have general construction skills? Do you have organizational/administrative skills? Do you have a caring and compassionate heart?

**YOU are NEEDED for the recovery process from Hurricane Katrina.**

Systems are in place for expanding and continuing the UCC's participation in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans. The UCC hurricane recovery office is in place, significant rebuilding work has begun and much more work has been identified as being needed. Many volunteer work groups have already come and worked with people who have "unmet needs" in the recovery process. Groups are now scheduled well into 2007. As the city comes back to life, long-term volunteers are needed to help facilitate the work of these groups and aid in the overall recovery and rebuilding.

Volunteer positions are available in UCC National Disaster Ministries through the Volunteer Ministries "Partners in Service" program. For more information, please contact Mary Schaller Blaufuss at [blaufusm@ucc.org](mailto:blaufusm@ucc.org) or call 866-822-8224 x3214



### Newsletter Deadline

Since we do a "double issue" for July/August be sure to get all relevant announcements, articles etc. to Lisse no later than June 23.

# Moderators Report

April 28, 2006

Dear Plymouth Community,

Last month on this date I was surrounded by luxury in a beach front home located at Cape San Blas Florida. The Dolphins were hunting about twenty-five yards offshore by the sand bar. On the Beach in front of me Francis and Isaac were building in the sand, My wife Lucie and our friend Liza were sitting under a beach umbrella, the only sounds that I heard was the lapping of the waves as the tide went out. Lucie and I had been invited to come celebrate, and witness the power of faith and the strength of hope that our Creator has given to each of us. Liza Buckley and Hank Bass and their two boys' Isaac and Francis were members of Plymouth who relocated to Florida when he took a position at FSU Tallahassee. Five years ago Liza had a cancerous kidney removed, and she has had test indicating she is clear of cancer each year since.. Hank received Tenure this year; what a joy.

Lucie was able to make the long flight without extreme pain, and my wound from September, 2005 surgery was not bleeding as heavy. As I took in all of this, and acknowledged my Daily thanks to the creator, and my ancestors for all that they have given, I had no idea that in six days a wound that had been bleeding and had shown no signs of closing for five months would close completely. On Sunday April 30, 2006 as we were praying and giving our thanks in Florida, here at Plymouth the annual Congregational meeting was being held in Oakland CA. I was chosen to be the Moderator for Plymouth UCC.

When Lucie and I returned to Oakland on May 4, 2006 our friend Katherine Jenks picked us up from the airport and observed how relaxed we both were. I share this with you because of the events that have occurred here at Plymouth UCC since that day let me know that when you truly let your creator prepare and guide you all things work out fine. I needed my wound to be healed so that I could assist Karen and Eric Eppler and Betty Foote and my wife Lucie in cleaning and laboring to remove the overgrown vegetation for two consecutive weekends when we returned. I needed a rested and tranquil heart to deal with the thefts that took place at the church property at 412 Monte Vista sometime on May15, 2006. I would need this reservoir of hope to deal with this problem, and others that we face at Plymouth. Some of the issues like the City of Refuge have been around for almost year. Together we will deal with these issues that have been unsettled too long and all members will be asked to do a little more to help. This 424 Monte Vista has been a neglected property for more than a decade and is deteriorating it will require money and labor to halt this deterioration.

You are being asked by to me read the Church Council agenda that will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fireside room for two Sundays prior to Church Council meeting the second Tuesday of each month. The minutes from each Church council meeting will be available to review on the same bulletin board in the Fireside room the Sunday after Church Council meets. The budget statement will be available on the same board the Sunday after the Church council meeting.

One of our Ministers in Covenant, Marjorie Wilkes, (who is also a member of Plymouth) will be conducting a Survey to ascertain what members envision for Plymouth UCC's future. The first of these meetings was held on Sunday May 28, 2006. I attended and found it to be refreshing to hear people speak with frankness and passion about what they needed or liked or disliked about our worship service, the next one will be June 4, 2006, after church services. It is important that as many member voices as possible be heard.

There will also be a workshop to take the results of this survey to make an assessment. This process may not be comfortable as we go through it, however as we all know through prayer and contemplation and stepping out of the narrow zone that so many of us seem to be comfortable in and engaging the issues we will be successful.

I would like to thank you giving me this opportunity to serve you. Please do me a favor when you have issues concerning Plymouth Church contact a commission chair. We have Commissions that are charged with handling most of the issues that you may have concerning the Church, see them first.

Respectfully Yours,  
Asia Patterson, Moderator

# Annual Meeting at Asilomar

This years annual conference at Asilomar was, as usual, inspirational! Thank you Plymouth for the opportunity to enjoy this rich experience. It was rewarding, inspiring and at times somewhat overwhelming. I was joined in this adventure by Rev. Lois and Carolyn Collins (my roommates), Bea Morris, Melissa Gardner-McBride and David Sturdevant, Owen Davis, Jaime Davis and Yofe Johnson for Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship.

Some of the highlights of this years conference (aside from the obvious one of our musicians performing on Saturday evening!) were the screening of the film "Call Me Malcolm", documenting the process of a UCC Minister who undergoes a sex-change operation; The Da Vinci Code workshop led by Laurie Manning (who preached here last Sunday) and most especially the two services led by Marcia McFee on Thursday and Friday evenings. She is a dynamic performer, author and worship consultant who also has a great spiritual message to go along with her theatrical presentation.

In the discernment and voting sessions we learned more about and made decisions regarding the UCC's position on Immigration rights, Right to Die/Physician Aid in Dying and Global Science and Technology regarding such subjects as stem cell research . We also learned a lot about the deeper meaning of covenant, which was the topic of this years conference.

It was a unique and wonderful experience and an honor to represent Plymouth as a delegate.

**Sincerely, Lisse Hooker**

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