



Plymouth UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 2007

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

IN THE MEANTIME . . .BY OUR MODERATOR, MAJORIE WILKES

And the word of God became one with the word of the woods, which became one with the word of Mordecai

Dear Plymouth Family:

Many of you know that I spent the month of July at Mercy Center, a beautiful retreat center operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Burlingame. During a morning prayer service at Mercy, Sister Suzanne Toolan shared with us the story of Mordecai, a little boy who refused to go to synagogue to learn the word of God – not because he felt any antipathy toward the synagogue or toward the word of God, but because he preferred to spend his days in the woods, climbing the trees and swimming in the lake. These were the things that called to his heart.

And so I'm wondering . . ., what calls to your heart? What are the places and pastimes for which your heart yearns? When and where do you feel most clearly the presence of God? Does it happen when you're praying? Does it happen when you're journaling? Does it happen when you're doing something creative? Perhaps it happens when you're working in your garden or preparing a meal or listening to a really wonderful piece of music. Perhaps it happens when you're walking in the woods or standing on the beach or sitting in a pew at church.

Most of us give so little time to the things for which our hearts truly yearn. Our deepest yearnings are crowded out by work and childcare and all the other day-to-day responsibilities that clamor for our

attention. During my time at Mercy Center, I was reminded that the times I love best – writing in my journal, walking on the beach, and listening to jazz – are also the times when I can hear most clearly the still, small voice of God. I was reminded that some of the most important communication I've received from God wasn't very loud or very dramatic. God didn't shout; God whispered – and I had to slow down and quiet down to hear the message.

What is God whispering to you these days? When and how do you find the time to listen? How are you transformed by those moments?

By the time you read this, our congregation will have celebrated our annual outdoor worship at Roberts Regional Park, where, to quote our dear Pastor Lois, "the redwood trees do the preaching," and we become like young Mordecai – God's word merges with the woods and with us, and we experience the oneness of it all.

As summer comes to a close and some of us begin revving up for another busy fall, I pray for each of us to have more "Mordecai moments" – moments when we slow down and follow our deepest yearnings, hear God's gentle whispering, and let our hearts be filled.

Blessings to you all,

Marjorie



❧ **Thomas Davis Trapp** ❧

July 10, 1952 - August 16, 2007

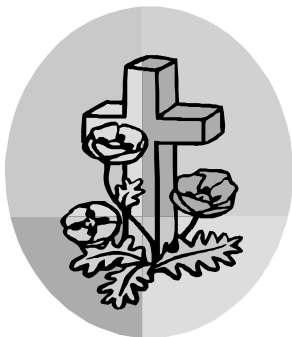
Tom Trapp, Rev. Lois' former husband and father of her two sons, passed away at the age of 55 after a 15 month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born in Oakland and was raised in northern and southern California, attending high school at St. Ignatius in San Francisco and completing his undergraduate work at UC Davis in 1973. He attended Hastings School of Law and began his practice in 1995. He was a founding partner of of Barg, Coffin, Lewis & Trapp, and was managing partner there until his death.

Tom was highly respected in the field of environmental law and had a passion for airplanes, cars, music, travel and the outdoors. His most valuable times, however, were spent with his family and friends.

He is survived by sons, Brandon and Elliot Trapp; mother, Carol; former wife, Rev. Lois Mueller; sisters, Kathleen Trapp Roberts (Richard) and Barbara Trapp Landry (Rick); brother Bob Trapp (Gretchen); and many members of his extended family.

A Mass was held in celebration of Tom's life Friday, August 24th at Corpus Christi Church in Piedmont. In lieu of flowers the family requests donatons to the Thomas Trapp Environmental Scholarship, Hastings Alumni Center, 200 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102 Attn: Dr. G. Arnold.

Our Prayers go out to:



Rev. Lois and her two son's, Brandon and Elliot Trapp on their loss.

**Oakland Care
Center Worship**

**Saturday
Sept. 22
3:00 pm**

**3030 Webster St.
Oakland**

Can we collect 93,500 more anti-war signatures in 53 days?

Visit the 100K for Peace website today to find out how you can help accomplish the largest campaign goal in UCC history.

Today, I am proud to share with you that the United Church of Christ has launched a new anti-war campaign website, 100,000 People for Peace. The goal of the campaign is to gather 100,000 petition signatures within the next 53 days.

Just after World Communion Sunday (October 7), I plan to take these 100,000 names with me to Washington, D.C., and present them – in person – as our unified call for peace to leaders of Congress and members of the Administration.

You are one of just over 6,500 people who have already endorsed our Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War. For this, we thank you! But we have a long, long way to go.

In order to reach our 100,000 goal, we still must collect 93,500 names in the next 7 weeks. If we are successful, this will be the largest online advocacy campaign ever attempted by the UCC, representing a total participation equal to nearly one-tenth of our denominational membership.

Today, I have two urgent requests:

Will you join the Action Team for our '100,000 People for Peace' campaign, so that we can count you among the leaders in this important effort? By joining the Action Team, we'll also keep in closer contact and let you know how things are progressing.

Will you help us spread the word by sending a tell-a-friend message to your congregation, family members and friends? In order to reach this huge goal, we're going to need to count on the miracle of multiplication! Each current signer needs to bring about 16 new signers before October 7.

Gathering 100,000 signatures will not be easy. This is why I'm counting on our committed pastors and lay leaders to join us in this movement for peace and justice. Our call to end the bloodshed in Iraq deserves the church's fullest attention and support.

Sincerely,

The Rev. John H. Thomas
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

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SEPTEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11:00 am Worship with Communion	3 Labor Day	4 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am Fireside Meditation Group 7 pm	5 Scripture Meditation, 1 pm Choir 7 pm	6	7	8 Plymouth Neighborhood Yard Sale!! 9 am—2 pm
9 11:00 am Worship	10	11 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am Fireside Church Council 7:00 pm	12 Scripture Meditation, 1 pm Choir 7 pm	13 noon Fellowship Luncheon	14	15
16 11:00 am Worship with Communion	17	18 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am Fireside Meditation Group 7 pm	19 Scripture Meditation, 1 pm Choir 7 pm	20	21	22 Autumn Begins Oakland Care Center 3 pm
23 11:00 am Worship	24	25 Yoga with Yofe 9:30 am Fireside Meditation Group 7 pm	26 Scripture Meditation, 1 pm Choir 7 pm	27	28	29
30 11:00 am Worship						



September Birthdays

September 9 Dorothy Sparks
 September 18 Carolyn Collins
 September 18 Sarah "Kat" Townes
 September 21 Greg Jones
 September 21 Lance Alarcon
 September 22 Lillian Woo

Thank You!!!



Thanks to all who made our annual picnic in the park a success. Special Thanks go to our wonderful coordinator,
Michelle Burr.

DONATIONS AND HELP FOR YARD SALE NEEDED

Help is needed to make the yard sale a huge success. It would be wonderful if every member would give 3 hours of their time. There are a variety of jobs to do. Pricing begins on Friday the 7th and set up, sale and clean up help is needed for Saturday the 8th. There are a few jobs that can be done before the weekend. If you have items to donate for our sale please bring them to church on Sunday September the second. We welcome items that are gently used such as bric-a-brac, kitchen items, a limited number of books and only good clothing. If you can volunteer or have questions call Karen at 658-9588 or e-mail her at k_n_eepler@juno.com.

Plymouth Neighborhood Yard Sale!!



Saturday
September 8, 2007
9:00 am—2:00 pm
Plymouth Church

MEDITATION GROUP

NEW TIME!



Our fledgling sitting meditation group is still happening. We are hoping to see attendance grow now that summer is almost over and most people are back from their travels and vacation.

The group has changed it's meeting time from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. We still meet in the Fireside room, every Tuesday except the second Tuesday, which is when the Church Council meets.

Hope to see you there!

Theresa Freeman Honored August 10, 2007

Church Women United (of Oakland) of the United Nations Office presented Theresa with their Human Rights Award for 2007. The group is ecumenically united, who practice racial, cultural, theological inclusivity as they unite to work for world peace and justice. The award was given to honor Theresa's outreach work in People's Park with Food Not Bombs. The group was enthusiastic about her desires to begin feeding programs in the East Bay area when she finishes school and pledged support in the future.

As a member of Plymouth Congregation, who sponsored the project, Theresa was presented with a lovely certificate that says "for your leadership service as a mentor and social activist on human rights and human development, an advocate for peace with justice with no boundaries of political system, country, cultural background or religion".

Theresa is extremely grateful, was totally surprised, and would like to thank Plymouth Historian Jean Lindborg, for bringing her work to the attention of Church Women United.

A fine meal was enjoyed to celebrate the event.

Blessed Peace, Blue Planet and Souler Power to you,
Theresa Freeman

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED