

# Plymouth United Church of Christ

PLYMOUTH  
United Church of Christ

## Upbeats

News and Views  
from the  
*Jazz and Justice Church*



October, 2010

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### IN THE MEANTIME . . .



Beloved Community,

Once again you have shown yourselves to be a true beloved community. You have blessed me with prayers, understanding, words of comfort, cards and love. Thank you for all the grace you have extended to me since Brandon was injured in Afghanistan.

Although he still has months of rehabilitation ahead of him, Brandon is beginning to walk, transfer and wheel with assisted devices. Eventually, he is expected to make a full recovery and be able to climb mountains, run races and generally be his active self again.

Right now he is in the Palo Alto VA where he is receiving intensive physical and occupational therapy. Our hope is that he'll be able to return home to continue outpatient therapy rather than being transferred out of the area.

The Church Council generously agreed with the recommendation of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee that I be allowed to have the time off I need to care for Brandon. I'll still be in worship on Sundays but will spend some weekdays in Palo Alto.

I plan to be in the office most Tuesdays, Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays.

There are many of you who have filled in for me in various functions during my absences. Thank you all. I'm especially grateful to Pastor Marjorie who always bears the major load when I'm away, as I have been so much this year. She is taking a well-deserved and much needed vacation during October.

You reflect God's light to me, and because of that, I'm able to see the path.

Autumn blessings,

*Rev. Lois*



# What's Happening Within the Plymouth Community

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## Our Community in Life Together

**Birthdays in October**

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1  | Crystal Hall         |
| 2  | David Sturdevant     |
| 4  | Tom McCall           |
| 6  | Asia Patterson       |
| 7  | Mwanza Furaha        |
| 10 | Liz Eastwood         |
| 13 | Haywood Gilliam      |
| 14 | Owen Davis           |
| 16 | Estella Lopez        |
| 17 | Yvonne Dawes         |
| 20 | Reginald Branch, Jr. |
| 24 | Jeannette Brantley   |
| 28 | Marcella Conley      |

### Prayers for:

- **Brandon Trapp**, Rev. Lois' son, now in intensive rehabilitation at the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto
- **Marilyn Tracy** who injured her knee in a fall
- **David Sturdevant** --whose sister, Donna, died on Sept. 17th after a long, courageous time of living with tongue cancer
- **Shirley Fifield** who had knee replacement surgery on September 27th
- **Tim Bockmiller** who is seeking housing and employment
- the **unemployed** of our congregation.

**Prayers, Congratulations and  
Good Wishes**



Fortunately, we are a church where questions are welcome. We began our current adult education series, **Living the Questions**, last month. As progressive Christians, it sometimes seems easier to articulate what we don't believe, more than what we DO believe. This is an opportunity to explore major topics of our faith through discussion, meditation, journaling, video and more, while we seek to deepen personally and communally. Our series continues during October. The sessions are held in the Fireside Room at 7:00 p.m. You do not need to have attended any of the previous sessions in order to join us. We welcome everyone who is interested.

**October 7: The Myth of Redemptive Violence**

**October 14: Practicing Resurrection**

Contact Pastor Lois for additional details and information for this series:

**654-5300 x2 or [revlois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revlois@sbcglobal.net)**



# Healing Waters

**Come and soak in the renewing waters of  
community prayers for healing**

Healing services are held on the **first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. In a quiet, contemplative setting, folks ask for healing prayers for themselves, friends and family, and for our community.

**October 5, November 2, December 7**

Plymouth United Church of Christ - Fireside Room

424 Monte Vista Ave. (at Oakland Ave.)

Oakland, CA 94611

(510) 654-5300 - [www.plymouthoakland.org](http://www.plymouthoakland.org)

For further information or to arrange individual healings sessions call  
Carolyn Collins, M.Div., at (510) 530-8198 - email: [bardeel@yahoo.com](mailto:bardeel@yahoo.com).

## **Rev. Marjorie Reaches A Milestone on Her Journey**

We extend congratulations and best wishes to our Associate Pastor, Rev. Marjorie Wilkes Matthews, on her “retirement” from Pacific School of Religion. September 30 was her last day at PSR after seven years of service. Rev. Marjorie has served PSR as Executive Assistant to the President, Director of Foundation Relations and as an Adjunct Faculty Member.

She will be taking a well deserved and long awaited vacation from her duties at Plymouth from October 4 through October 23.

**First Friday at the Movies**  
**Presents**  
**Avatar**  
**Friday, October 1**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**In the Fireside Room**

# Plymouth Church Calendar

## October, 2010

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| Sun  | Mon | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat                                       |
|--|-----|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |     |  |  |  | 1<br>Friday Night<br>Movie<br>Avatar<br>7 - 10pm | 2   |
| 3<br>Worship<br>11:00 am<br>World<br>Communion | 4   | 5<br>Healing Prayer<br>7 - 8pm                       | 6<br>Scripture<br>Meditation 1p - 2p<br>Choir - 7:00 pm  | 7<br>Living The<br>Questions<br>7pm - 8:30pm                                   | 8  | 9<br>Yard Sale                            |
| 10<br>Worship<br>11:00 am                      | 11  | 12<br>Church Council<br>7pm - 9pm                    | 13<br>Scripture<br>Meditation 1p - 2p<br>Choir - 7:00 pm | 14<br>Fellowship Lunch<br>12noon - 1pm<br>Living the Questions<br>7pm - 8:30pm | 15   | 16  |
| 17<br>Worship<br>11:00 am                      | 18  | 19<br>Tuesday Oasis<br>7 - 8:30pm                    | 20<br>Scripture<br>Meditation 1p - 2p<br>Choir - 7:00 pm | 21   | 22   | 23<br>Oakland Care<br>Center<br>3pm - 4pm |
| 24<br>Worship<br>11:00 am                      | 25  | 26<br>Justice & Witness<br>Ministry<br>6:30 - 8:00pm | 27<br>Scripture<br>Meditation 1p - 2p<br>Choir - 7:00 pm | 28   | 29   | 30  |
| 31<br>Worship<br>11:00 am                      |     |  |  |  |  |   |

## **Fifth Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale Comes to Plymouth Church**

**Saturday, October 9, 2010**

Our annual yard sale is a wonderful, fun-filled day. You may not only find some great bargains but you also have an opportunity to share your “collectibles” with

your neighbors, make new friends and be of service to the wider community. You are invited to donate items for sale, including bric-a-brac, kitchen items, jewelry and clothing. We also welcome help with pricing on Thursday, October 7, set up on Friday, October 8 as well as working with us on Saturday during the sale. If you can help or if you’d just like some additional information please contact Karen Eppler at 658-9588.



### **Faith Formation**

#### **Book Study**

#### **All Are Invited**

Are you looking for ways to deepen your faith and grow in relationship with other seekers? You are warmly invited to join one of our Faith Formation Book Study Groups! These small groups (5 to 7 people) will meet once a week for a four-week period. We’ll begin during the week of October 24<sup>th</sup> and end during the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>.

You’ll be able to choose a group whose meeting time and location are convenient for your schedule.

There will be groups meeting in Berkeley, Oakland and Alameda, groups meeting during the day and in the evening.

We hope that you’ll join us! Sign-ups for groups will begin on October 10<sup>th</sup>, when the book to be discussed will be announced.

Questions? See Pastor Lois or Pastor Marjorie. Speak with us after church, give us a call at the church office (510/654-5300), or send us an e-mail message:

Pastor Lois:

[revlois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revlois@sbcglobal.net)

Pastor Marjorie:

[revmarjorie@comcast.net](mailto:revmarjorie@comcast.net)

## What's Happening in the Wider Church In & Around Our Neighboring Communities

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Blessings Given and Received

### Plymouth Church Celebrates Oakland Pride

Sunday, September 5 saw tens of thousands of friends of the LGBT community come together for an afternoon celebration of unity, love and support. Plymouth Church brought our spirit of inclusiveness and justice to the gathering by offering a welcoming space along with personal blessings for many of the people attending this amazing celebration.



### Upcoming Opportunities for Reflection and Action

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The **UCC Women's Network** is offering a one day retreat on Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The **Autumn Springs Retreat** will be held at The Little Brown Church, UCC in Sunol.

The retreat features keynote speaker Dr. Margaret Bendroth, Executive Director of the Congregational Library in Boston who will bring her wisdom and expertise in the traditions of the United Church of Christ. The day will also include workshops, worship and a light lunch.

For information and registration contact the **retreat coordinator, Rev. Mary Conant** at 925-862-2004 or via email at [mpconant@comcast.net](mailto:mpconant@comcast.net).

Autumn Springs Retreat

## Join Together for Philippine Solidarity

### A Special Gathering in Oakland

Since January 2001 there have been over 200 extrajudicial disappearances of persons working for justice in the Philippines. On All Souls Day their relatives come together in solidarity to comfort one another, to renew their commitment to discovering what happened to their loved ones, and to continue their missing relatives' commitment to justice.

This year on October 24th, in anticipation of All Souls Day, Americans from social justice, labor and religious communities will gather in solidarity for a time of prayer, information and renewal of their commitment to justice in the Philippines.

This event is being hosted by two local UCC congregations:

First Congregational UCC, Oakland, and Faith Community UCC, Oakland.

**Sunday, October 24, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.**

**1st Congregational UCC, Oakland**

**2501 Harrison St., Oakland CA**

The agenda will include addresses from Raymond 'Mong' Palatino, member of the House of Representatives in the Philippines, President of the Kabataan (Youth) Party and Rev. Joel Tendero, Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Northeast Southern Tagalog Conference.

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## Community Dialogues & Peacekeeper Training

The sentencing of former BART police officer Johannes Mehserle for the killing of Oscar Grant is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2010. The F.A.C.E.S. Project of the East Bay Church of Religious Science is presenting a series of dialogues and peacekeeper trainings to help ensure that we have a non-violent response to the verdict.

The sessions will be presented by Rev. Mutima Imani. The remaining sessions in Oakland are as follows:

**Friday, October 1, 2010 - 12:30pm – 5:00pm**  
Humanist Hall, 390 27<sup>th</sup> Street

**Tuesday, October 5, 2010 - 6:00pm – 9:00pm**  
Verdese Carter Community Center, 96<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Tuesday, October 12, 2010 - 4:00pm – 7:00pm**  
Fremont High School, 4610 Foothill Boulevard  
*TENTATIVE*

**Thursday, October 19, 2010 - 6:30pm-9:30pm**  
– **Spanish Interpreter**

Carmen Flores Recreation Center, 1637 Fruitvale

**Friday, October 29, 2010 - 6:00pm – 9:00pm**  
FACES of the East Bay/East Bay Church,  
4130 Telegraph Avenue

RSVP:

[http://  
communitydialogueandpeacekeepertraining.eventbrite.com](http://communitydialogueandpeacekeepertraining.eventbrite.com)

or call Mutima Imani

at 510-205-4069 or via email to  
[mutima.imani@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mutima.imani@sbcglobal.net)



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**Rev. Lois Mueller, Pastor - [revlois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revlois@sbcglobal.net)**

**Rev. Marjorie Matthews, - Associate Pastor - [revmarjorie@comcast.net](mailto:revmarjorie@comcast.net)**

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