

# Plymouth United Church of Christ

## Upbeats

News and Views  
from the  
*Jazz and Justice Church*



Special Summer Edition - July/August, 2011

### IN THE MEANTIME . . .

Beloved Community,

What a busy, blessed June we've had! Our Annual Meeting, the amazing Jamie Davis concert, and our regular calendar filled our month with excitement and activity. Maybe it is time to slow down. Be still. Take it easy. That is what I am going to do through vacation and study leave for most of July. Below is a beautiful Thomas Merton poem entitled *In Silence* that invites us to return to our BE-ING during these summer months.

Be still

Listen to the stones of the wall.

Be silent, they try

To speak your

Name.

Listen

To the living walls.

Who are you?

Who

Are you? Whose

Silence are you?

Who (be quiet)

Are you (as these stones

Are quiet). Do not

Think of what you are

Still less of

What you may one day be.

Rather

Be what you are (but who?) be

The unthinkable one

You do not know.

O be still, while

You are still alive,

And all things live around you

Speaking (I do not hear)

To your own being,

Speaking by the Unknown

That is in you and in themselves.

"I will try, like them

To be my own silence:

And this is difficult. The whole

World is secretly on fire. The stones

Burn, even the stones

They burn me. How can a man be still or

Listen to all things burning? How can he

dare

To sit with them when

All their silence

Is on fire?"

Summer Blessings,

*Rev. Lois*

# What's Happening Within the Plymouth Community

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## Our Community in Life Together

### Birthday Blessings in July

<b>1</b>	Jason Winne-Gess	<b>15</b>	Eve Wood
<b>5</b>	Angela Spell	<b>16</b>	Rachel Medema
	Theresa Freeman	<b>17</b>	Michelle Burr
<b>10</b>	Jeannette Morris	<b>20</b>	Maya Gilliam
<b>12</b>	Darren Falls	<b>23</b>	Zane Haxton
<b>14</b>	Carol Chavez	<b>30</b>	Mary Lou Watson
	Joy Richardson		

### Birthday Blessings in August

<b>2</b>	Betty McKean
<b>6</b>	Opal Taylor
<b>10</b>	Duncan Falls
<b>20</b>	Deborah Winters
<b>27</b>	Margaret Benedict

## Prayers for the Congregation

### Prayers of Concern

Mechelle LaChaux's father who is recovering from a serious heart attack.

Vivian and Don Patterson. Vivian is in hospice care.

Raymond Holkko for appropriate housing.

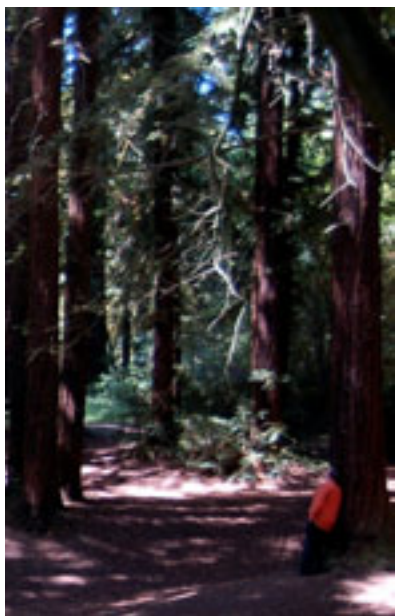
### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Congratulations

- Rachel Medema & Zane Haxton will be married in Washington State in August.
- Joy Richardson & Zachary Moon were married on June 24.
- Nicholas Cortese is now a production manager at a candy factory!
- Channing Wayne graduates from college on July 16.
- Mathieu Gallagher graduated from Laney College on June 10.
- Jeremy Armstrong graduated from the Culinary Academy with highest honors. He was one of only three out of 120 to receive this honor!
- Evan Lovejoy-Guron, son of Erin and Vanessa, was baptized on June 26.
- Rev. Sandy Gess (Jason Winne-Gess' mom and Dianne Winne's wife) was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church on June 19th.
- Opal Taylor & Diana Jenkins-Taylor bought a new home that they are in the process of renovating.

## 11th Annual Worship in the Park & Picnic Plymouth Church Worship Among the Redwoods



Plan to join us on **Sunday, August 28th** as we once again worship amongst the glorious redwoods in Roberts Regional Park. This is a treasured event of our community. We'll worship at our regular hour of **11:00 a.m.** under the magnificent redwoods and then have a pot-luck barbeque picnic together. We will gather in the Huckleberry Picnic area of Roberts Park.



Parking is \$5, so carpooling is a good idea. Carpools will leave the Plymouth parking lot at 10:40 sharp. Other activities available: Swimming: \$3.50/ages 16 thru 61; \$2.50/ages 1-15 and 62 & above; hiking trails for walking and biking; baseball diamond and volleyball court (first come first served); play structure; and large meadow.

Directions: To reach the park take Hwy 13 to Joaquin Miller Rd., go east up the hill and turn left on Skyline Blvd. Roberts Regional Recreation Area is 1 mile up the hill on the right.

**Please Note:**

**THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP IN THE PLYMOUTH SANCTUARY ON THIS SUNDAY**

## National Night Out Returns to Plymouth UCC - August 2nd

Following our fabulous celebration last year, we once again host a National Night Out event this year. Plan to join us for a barbecue, games, fun for the kids, and a wonderful opportunity to show our hospitality and meet our neighbors.

This event takes a lot of planning, set up and clean up; volunteers are needed to help out. If you're interested in helping make this event as huge a success as it was last year, please contact

Estela Lopez (510-922-260). email: [lopez\\_este@hotmail.com](mailto:lopez_este@hotmail.com) or Rhina Ramos (535-9098), email: [rhinaramos@yahoo.com](mailto:rhinaramos@yahoo.com)



## Gathering of Waters

### Homecoming Sunday - September 11<sup>th</sup>



If you are traveling this summer, please bring back a small amount of water from your destination! On our *Homecoming Sunday, September 11*, we will have a ritual in which we will combine water from our travels to symbolically reconnect as a community. If you are not traveling, we are



happy to receive water from your tap or a public park. San Francisco Bay and Lake Merritt are great, easily accessible local sources for water !



## What a Father's Day It Was!

Thanks To All Who Made Our Benefit Concert A Huge Success



Our benefit concert featuring both the talent and generosity of Jamie Davis, his quintet and Stafford and Sturdevant was an enormous success. The house was packed and Plymouth Church surely rocked. We even had a dance line going across the back of the sanctuary! The concert brought in some funds, helped us make new friends and got us out there as a venue for jazz, hospitality and radical welcome. Watch for more *Jazz and Justice* events in the future.

## Honoring Our Mothers



Jean Lindborg



Julia Zeno

Our church mothers are among the strongest foundations of our beloved community. Their presence provides us with wisdom, compassion, stability and foresight. We love them all and honor them.



Marylin Tracy

Those not able to be with us on the morning that we honored them include:

**Joanne Grimm, Margaret Benedict, Betty McKean, Marcella Conley and Betty Foote.**



Shirley Fifield



Betty McCall

## Items of Special Note During the Summer

**Scripture Meditation** will meet July 13, 20 and 27 but will be taking a break in August.

**Rev. Lois** will be on vacation and study leave July 4 through 31.

**Rev. Marjorie** will be away August 1- 29.

### New Members Gathering

Saturday, August 27

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Would you like to explore membership in Plymouth, the Jazz and Justice Church? Now's your chance!

Rev. Lois will open her home for brunch for anyone interested in joining the congregation as a member. If you are interested, contact Rev. Marjorie during July or Rev. Lois during August.

New Members will join during worship on September 11, Homecoming Sunday.

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### Notes from Jerusalem

Staci Imes has written, "I wanted to talk to religiously observant Jews...It has been a fascinating, sometimes challenging, and often inspiring journey...Being here, it's easy to see how it's easier and even natural for all parties to dehumanize the other. ...Holding the faith, values, dreams, and

### Enjoy Singing Hymns? Can't Find a Hymnbook? We're Working on a Solution

We are in the process of ordering some desperately needed hymnals to supplement our supply. If you would like to buy a hymnal for the church in memory of a loved one, please let us know via email ([plymouthoakland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:plymouthoakland@sbcglobal.net)), phone (654-5300) or sign up after worship.

The cost is \$20 and your loved one's name and your name will be placed on the inside cover.



### The Sacred Zone for Children

It is summer time and all the children are on vacation but not the Sacred Zone, our church school. Alma and Karen will continue to be there each Sunday to provide the children of the church with religious education. We hope you continue to come and take part in the fun activities we have planned during the summer.

nightmares of these communities in tension-- recognizing that each person is equally valued by God and yet does not have equal power on earth--is not easy or comfortable. I'm not even sure it's possible, but I'm sure we're supposed to try." Staci is pictured here in the Christian Quarter in Jerusalem.



# Prayer at Plymouth

## Prayer Is Not Just for Sunday Mornings

### Intercessory Prayer

Calling all Plymouth Pray-ers! Do you like to pray? Is it part of your daily practice?

A new group is forming and you are invited. The idea is to gather an intercessory prayer team who will pray from home for the needs and concerns of our congregation and community.

Ayanna Moore is coordinating this effort. If you are interested, please contact her at 425-894-9016.

### The Jazz of Prayer

The Jazz of Prayer is a six week program exploring various kinds of prayer, both historical and contemporary. The series will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning **Tuesday August 16th and continuing through September 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 7:00 PM in the Pastors' office.**

We will learn about different ways to pray and try out each form for ourselves. This is both a class and a discussion group, so bring your own experiences and questions to share. The *Jazz of Prayer* will be led by Julie Kramer, M.Div. who will share various forms of prayer down through the ages, from Mystics to Modern Day practices.

#### August 16

Traditional Prayers

#### August 23

Emotional Prayers

#### August 30

Reconciling Prayers

#### September 6

Prayers for Change

#### September 13

Wordless Prayers

#### September 20

Healing Prayers

### Scripture Meditation

This group meets in the Plymouth Fireside Room at 1:00pm each Wednesday. Different selections from scripture are used each week. Participants reflect on whatever might be on their hearts as they share these readings.

The Scripture Meditation group will not meet during August.

### Feeding as a Spiritual Practice

Theresa Freeman coordinates a program that feeds dozens of people nutritious meals each week. Theresa brings to this process a deeply held belief that sharing food is a spiritual practice as well as engagement in social justice.

You may join Theresa each Thursday from 10am to 2pm to prepare and distribute food and to reflect on feeding hungry people as a sacramental act.

Contact Theresa for more information:

[TFreeman7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TFreeman7@sbcglobal.net)

510-227-4060

# Plymouth Church Calendar

## July, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  UCC General Synod - Tampa, FL	2  UCC General Synod - Tampa, FL
3 Worship 11:00 am Communion  UCC General Synod - Tampa, FL	4  Independence Day	5 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon  UCC General Synod - Tampa, FL	6  Choir 7:00 pm	7  Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	8	9
10  Worship 11:00 am	11	12 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon  Church Council 7:00 pm	13  Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm  Choir - 7:00 pm	14  Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	15	16
17  Worship 11:00 am Communion	18	19 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon	20  Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm  Choir - 7:00 pm	21  Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	22	23  Oakland Care Center 3-4pm
24  Worship 11:00 am	25	26 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon  Justice & Witness Ministry 6:30 pm	27  Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm  Choir - 7:00 pm	28	29	30
31  Worship 11:00 am						

## August, 2011

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon	3 Choir 7:00 pm	4 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	5	6
7 Worship 11:00 am Communion	8	9 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon  Church Council 7:00 pm	10 Choir 7:00 pm	11 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	12	13
14 Worship 11:00 am	15	16 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon  The Jazz of Prayer 7 pm	17 Choir - 7:00 pm	18 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	19	20
21 Worship 11:00 am Communion	22 <b>Deadline for September Newsletter</b>	23 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon Justice & Witness Ministry 6:30 pm The Jazz of Prayer - 7pm	24 Choir - 7:00 pm	25 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	26	27 Oakland Care Center 3-4pm
28 Worship in the Park and Picnic 11:00 am	29	30 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon  The Jazz of Prayer 7 pm	31 Choir - 7:00 pm			

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

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### **Plymouth Goes to the Oakland Care Center**

Members from Plymouth Church visit, pray and sing with residents of the Oakland Care Center each month. Everyone is invited to spend an hour with us during our next visit:

**Saturday, July 23 at 3:00pm**

This is always an inspiring and much appreciated time with some very grateful people.

### **United Church of Christ General Synod**



We have our very own delegate to the United Church of Christ General Synod 28!

**Rev. Melissa Gardner-McBride will be in Tampa, Florida, July 1-5, as the Bay Association representative to the Northern California Nevada delegation.**

If you would like to watch any of the proceedings, the worship services and plenary sessions will be streamed live at: <http://www.ucc.org/synod/live.html>. Please pray for Melissa during this time. She will be one of the Committee Chairs, which is a huge responsibility.

### **The Front Porch Senior Center At Plymouth**

If you are looking for a place to meet new friends and share old stories, the Front Porch is the place for you. Yoga, crafts, special speakers and just plain conversation and hospitality are available.

**Fireside Room - Tuesday mornings  
10 a.m. to noon.**

### **A Walk for Mentoring**

Federal budget cuts have forced the elimination of funding vital to sustaining the OreMi Mentoring Program. OreMi is a transformative mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents. It provides one-to-one relationships between a youth and an adult, meant to empower each individual to grow and expand their horizons.

Join Family Support Services of the Bay Area for a **Walkathon at Lake Merritt on Saturday, July 23, 2011 from 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM** to save our mentoring program.

### **Stop the Death Penalty**

Efforts are underway to abolish capital punishment in California. State Sen. Loni Hancock has introduced **SB 490** that will replace the death penalty with life without possibility of parole.

Contact **Rev. Bob Matthews** for more information about the bill and the **Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**: [revbobmat@comcast.net](mailto:revbobmat@comcast.net) or **510-697-7713**.

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