

Plymouth United Church of Christ

Upbeats

News and Views
from the
Jazz and Justice Church



June, 2011

IN THE MEANTIME . . .

Beloved Community,

One week ago, Carolyn Collins, Darren Falls and I were your representatives at our Northern California Nevada Conference's Annual Gathering. For decades we have gathered during May at beautiful Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Unfortunately, due to rising costs and the increasing inflexibility of the Asilomar administration, we had to transition this year to the Sofitel hotel in Redwood City. Our hotel rooms overlooked a lagoon that was lovely but didn't quite match the inspiration of the Pacific Ocean!

Our Conference is going through other transitions, as well. Due to the economic downturn, staff has been reduced and reconfigured. We also have transitioned from our Conference Minister of thirteen years, Rev. Mary Susan Gast, to our new Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Phil Hart. It is definitely a time of change!

Although transitional times can be anxiety-producing, they can also be times of tremendous creativity. Rev. Hart encouraged us to look at this interim time as fertile

ground for re-imagining the Conference and re-imagining Church. To illustrate, he showed a Nightline episode that examined the creative process of the preeminent Palo Alto design company IDEO. To bring excellent innovation to the design process they found that *focused communal trial and error is invariably better than planned individual genius and being playful is essential*. This sounds like jazz to me!

This coming Sunday is our Annual Meeting, a very important day in the life of our church. It is a time to review the past church year and look ahead to discern our future direction. During our next year together, I hope we will remember that *communal trial and error while being playful* will help us be open to the wild Pentecostal Spirit that might shake us up a bit but will bring us into a new place of God's imagination.

Breathe deeply -- it's Pentecost!

Blessings,

Rev. Lois

What's Happening Within the Plymouth Community

Our Community in Life Together

Birthday Blessings in June

2	Dianne Winne	19	Sandy Gess
6	Avram Gur Ayre	20	Nicole Winston-Sandefur
8	Staci Imes	21	Elizabeth Hasychak
11	Bruce Tutcher	22	Raymond Freitas
	Roger Glenn	28	Kelly Childress

Prayers for the Congregation

Prayers of Concern

- Don & Vivian Patterson – Vivian has entered hospice care.
- Marilyn Tracy – Sister-in-Law and best friend is in hospice care
 - Channing Wayne – continuing health challenges
 - Staci Imes as she travels through Palestine and Israel

Prayers of Thanksgiving

- Rev. Robert Matthews - recovering from a pacemaker implant
 - Congratulations to Elliot Trapp, Pastor Lois' son, who graduates from DePaul University on June 12th.

Prayers for the World Community

- For the people throughout this nation who are suffering the effects of tornadoes
 - For all who are unemployed or underemployed
- For Divine guidance for all the world's government leaders as we work for peace, justice and the end to oppression
- For those in our neighborhood who cannot afford food or housing or medical care

**Join us For a Special
Father's Day Concert
Sunday, June 19th - 5:00 p.m.**



**The Great Jazz Baritone
Jamie Davis**

With a compelling, full and deep baritone voice and passion for his craft, Jamie Davis leaves his audiences uplifted and feelin' good...really good, confirming his lead position amongst the quintessential great male vocalists.

Opening for Jamie at the Father's Day concert will be the musical duo David Sturdevant and John Stafford, fresh from performances at the New Orleans Jazz Festival.



P l y m o u t h United Church of Christ
424 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland, CA 94611
(510) 654-5300

www.plymouthoakland.org
plymouthoakland@sbcglobal.net

Tickets are \$20 in advance - \$25 at the door

Purchase Tickets at: www.jamiedavisjune19plymouth.eventbrite.com

**Plymouth
United Church of Christ
ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, June 5, 2011**

Immediately Following Worship

Plan to join us for our Annual Meeting
where we will:

- share a pot-luck lunch
- receive our annual report
- elect new officers and committee chairs
(see page 5 for the recommendations from the
Nominating Committee)
- discuss our proposed budget
 - consider bylaw revisions
 - Consider new rental policy
(see next column for the text of the proposal)



Susan Ode, Church Clerk

**Please bring food to share. Sign up during
coffee hour or call or email Karen Eppler
(658-9588 or eric_eppler@att.net)**

RENTAL POLICY PROPOSAL

For consideration at Plymouth Church
Annual Meeting on June 5, 2011
Per Church Council action, May 10, 2011

***Statement of our policy
to be presented to prospective new renters.***

“We do not discriminate against any person, group or organization in hiring, promotion, membership, appointment, use of facility, provision of services or funding on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, faith, nationality, ethnicity, marital status or physical disability.”

(New) long-term, ongoing prospective renters shall agree in writing to the following:

“(Any long-term, ongoing) renter shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity in regards to membership.”

***Statement of our policy
in regard to process:***

“The Church Council shall request of faith-based organizations desiring ongoing use of our facilities, after the signing of a non-discrimination policy and before the signing of a final rental agreement, a period of up to 60 days concurrent with fiscal and administrative negotiations, for dialogue, exchange of faith statements, reciprocal participation and other activities intended to foster respect, understanding and right relationship.”

The Plymouth Church Nominating Committee Recommends

The Following Slate for the 2011-12 Church Council

Position & Nominee for 2011-2012	Length of Term	Term End Date
MINISTER (Permanent member of Council for duration of her/his service)		
Minister I. Lois Mueller & Marjorie Matthews	Permanent	N.A.
OFFICERS		
Moderator - 3. Duncan Falls	2 years	June, 2013
Vice Moderator - 4. Haywood Gilliam	2 years	June, 2013
Clerk - 5. Susan Ode	2 years	June, 2013
Treasurer - 6. Shelley Morris	2 years	June, 2013
Financial Secretary - 7. Karen Eppler	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
MINISTRY CHAIRS (2-year terms; half to be elected each year)		
Worship - 8. Rachel Medema	2 years	June, 2013
Care & Compassion - 9. Carolyn Collins	2 years	June, 2013
Admin & Finance - 10. Erni Ng	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
Buildings & Grounds - 11. Bernard Lubin & Eric Eppler	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
Justice & Witness - 12. Mary Lou Watson	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
Spiritual Formation - 13. Alicia Van Riggs & Chris Lundin	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
Community Life - 14. Estela Lopez & Rhina Ramos	2 years	June, 2013
COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2-year terms; half to be elected each year)		
Stewardship - 15. Paul Bolduc	2 years	June, 2013
Planning & Development - 16. Darren Falls	2 years	June, 2013
Personnel - 17. Marylin Tracy	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
Pastor-Parish - 18. Jeremy Armstrong	2 years	June, 2013
History - 19. Joanne Grimm	2 years (continuing)	June, 2012
At-Large Members (2; all serve 1-year terms)		
20. Opal Taylor	1 year	June, 2012
21. Shirley Robinson	1 year	June, 2012

Justice and Witness Workshop

Saturday, June 11, 2011

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fireside Room at Plymouth UCC

Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) is a training program offered by Justice & Witness Ministries (JWM) designed to equip local church leaders with the skills and tools needed to develop, strengthen and sustain justice advocacy ministries in our UCC congregations. It is a fantastic curriculum that includes interactive scripture study, engaging video resources, and guided reflection and dialogue for groups.

Justice LED offers congregations an opportunity to engage in theological reflection on the justice dimensions of Christian faith and discipleship. They will be able to do this in ways that make sense for the individual congregation.

Justice LED is not issue-based, so the congregation's mindfulness and engagement with justice issues will be rooted in a deepened theological understanding and reflect their particular concerns, contexts and capabilities rather than an issue someone else asks them to take up.

If you are interested in attending you may contact **Mary Lou Watson**, either by email: rusalu@sbcglobal.net, home phone: **510-644-2539** or cell phone **510-388-0504**



Pentecost
Sunday, June 12, 2011
Join us and be moved by
the Spirit!

Healing Waters

Healing services are held
in the Fireside Room

7:00 pm - June 7th, July 5th

For further information or to arrange
individual healings sessions call

Carolyn Collins, M.Div., at (510) 530-8198
email: bardeel@yahoo.com.

Plymouth Children's Choir

We are all so enchanted by our Children's Choir when they sing in our worship services. We thank **Jeanette Morris** for having the commitment to shepherd her vision into fruition while making it a fun experience for the children.

Thanks as well to all the parents who bring their children out for rehearsals. The Children's Choir will sing next during our service on June 19th. Please contact Jeanette Morris for further information (985-1816 or LJeanetteMorris@gmail.com)

Gathering of Waters



If you are traveling this summer, please bring back a small amount of water from your destination! On our **Homecoming Sunday on September 11th**, 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!

Plymouth Church Calendar

June, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	2 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	3	4
5 Worship 11:00 am Communion Annual Meeting	6 Mindfulness Meditation 7:00 pm	7 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon Healing Service 7:00 pm	8 Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	9 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm Fellowship Luncheon 12:00noon	10	11 Justice LED Workshop 1:00 pm
12  Pentecost Worship 11:00 am	13 Mindfulness Meditation 7:00 pm	14 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon Church Council 7:00 pm	15 Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm Choir - 7:00 pm	16 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	17	18
19 Worship 11:00 am Communion Jamie Davis Concert 5:00 pm	20 Deadline for July Newsletter Mindfulness Meditation 7:00 pm	21 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon	22 Scripture Meditation 1:00 pm Choir - 7:00 pm	23 Spiritual Feeding Practice 10am to 2pm	24	25 Oakland Care Center 3-4pm
26 Worship 11:00 am	27 Mindfulness Meditation 7:00 pm	28 The Front Porch 10am to 12 noon Justice & Witness Ministry 6:30 pm	29	30		

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

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, June 25 at 3:00pm

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



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. Jooga, crafts, special speakers and just plain conversation are available.

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

A Warm Welcome to Rev. Phil Hart

Northern California Nevada Conference Interim Minister

Rev. Phil Hart began as Interim Conference Minister March 1. "It is truly a great honor and blessing to be here in the NCNC. I am looking forward to our ministry together and pray our work will be a blessing to all," Hart says.

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Phil began pastoral ministry when he was 20 years old as the pastor of the Somerville and Gratis United Methodist Churches in Ohio. With an undergraduate degree in psychology, a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degree, Hart is completing his Master of Arts degree in Organizational Communication.

Hart has served many roles in the Church including: local pastor, professor of theology and communication, and Interim Conference Minister for the Ohio Conference and the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. He is a Licensed Social Worker in Ohio and has worked in a number of positions in the non-profit/social welfare world including: children service investigator, court liaison, national Director of Professional Development for the National Youth Advocate Program and a trainer for the Institute of Human Services.

Greetings from Staci
Excerpts of a letter from Hebron

May 25, 2011

Dearest friends and family,

Greetings from Hebron! I'm spending 9 weeks in Israel and Palestine this summer studying how grassroots peacemakers use personal narrative in their work. I arrived safely in Jerusalem on Wednesday afternoon. I'm spending these first two weeks with a Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) delegation in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Bethlehem. The delegation is keeping a blog, so you can follow us for the next two weeks at cptdelegationmay11.wordpress.com

CPT sends teams of people into areas of conflict for long-term stays to provide an international presence, participate in nonviolent active witness, and "get in the way of violence". They host educational delegations several times per year that are very much like the kinds of delegations I led for BorderLinks on the US/Mexico border.

Our delegation is composed of ten people from various parts of the US. We walked together through Damascus Gate, into the Old City, through the covered streets of the Muslim Quarter with its smells of spices and sweets into the Old City until we reached our hostel.

Thus far, I feel very much at peace and excited for what's ahead. Although I wasn't very anxious before coming, much of the anxiety I did have has gone away. It's incredible to be here, and I have already started to fall in love with these beautiful, hospitable, courageous, and faithful people.

Much love,
Staci



CONNECTION 2011

is a **four-day retreat experience with other gay/lesbian Christians that begins on Thursday, July 21, and ends around noon on Sunday, July 24.** In addition to keynote addresses, we will participate in song and worship, family groups made up of a small number of people, workshops on various subjects, time to play and talk, and opportunities to reflect on your experience. Whether you are new or old as a Christian and regardless of where you are on your journey of integrating your spirituality and orientation, this will be a rich and rewarding weekend for you. **Evangelicals Concerned (EC)** provides safe and comfortable places for men and women to reconcile their Christian faith with their sexuality. By fostering a supportive community of believers, we desire to reunite people, regardless of their sexual orientation, with our friend, Jesus Christ. We welcome you and encourage you to contact us if you'd like more information or would like to get involved.

For more information and registration:
www.ecwr.org - or call Toll Free: 866-979-3297

Art Show

featuring

Avram Gur Arye's

latest work

Saturday, June 4, 2011

12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Redwood Gardens Community Room
2951 Derby Street (@ Claremont Blvd)
Berkeley, CA

Plymouth United Church of Christ
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