

Plymouth Congregational Church
2001 East Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912-3286

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PLYMOUTH CHURCH LIFE

August 2, 2011



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Lansing, MI 48912-3286

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Web Site: <http://www.PlymouthLansing.org>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011 — 10:30 AM

REV. JOY A. BAUMGARTNER

“TABLE MANNERS”

EPISTLE LESSON: I Corinthians 8:1-13

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011 — 10:30 AM

GLORY SERVICE

MARGARET WALLIN

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

August 7, 2011

Ten-thirty O'clock

Liturgist..... Betty Briggs

Greeters..... Evelyn Van Kirk and Carolyn Wickham

Altar Guild..... Marcia Cornell

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Gordon Stow by Brynna Bolley.

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 14, 2011

Ten-thirty O'clock

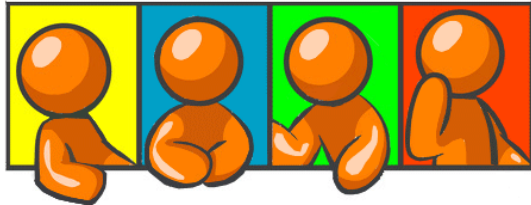
Liturgist.....Shawn Sparks

Greeters.....Betty Briggs and Helen Elliott

Altar Guild..... Bunny McComb

The flowers at the altar are provided by the Rose Standish Circle.

Town Hall Meeting



SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP
IN WILLIAMS FELLOWSHIP HALL

REMEMBER IN PRAYER OUR PLYMOUTH CHURCH FAMILY

SPARROW SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

Marshall Ruhno

HOLT SENIOR CARE & REHAB CENTER, HOLT

Ruth Fransisco

BURCHAM HILLS

Erdine Phillips

Catherine Stow

Tom Tabler

TIMBER RIDGE SENIOR ASSISTANT LIVING

Charles and Joyce Schroeder

HOME

Jeanne Bolton

(Lisa Bolton-Hunt's step-mother)

Kathy Caulder (friend of Brynna Bolley)

Maritza Christle (Melynda Christle's aunt)

Mark Christle (Melynda Christle's cousin)

Bunny Gruhn (Marcia Anderson's sister)

Marilyn Hastings

Lisa Bolton-Hunt

(in care student, away on internship)

Linda Klikman (friend of Clayton Ropp)

Dawn Moore

Barbara O'Neal (Lisa Bolton-Hunt's aunt)

Marlene Patterson

Allen Ropp (Clayton Ropp's brother)

Royal Snyder (Clayton Ropp's cousin)

Eleanor Thede (friend of Marilyn Hastings)

Gary Thomas

Heather Weldon

(granddaughter of Marilyn Hastings)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY IN AFGHANISTAN

Kenneth Smith, U.S. Air Force (cousin of Bonnie Rose)

OTHER MILITARY SERVICE

John Chain, Jr. (nephew of David Chain) Coast Guard

David Granger, Fort Campbell, KY—WELCOME HOME

Adam Hedlund (grandson of David & Margaret Hedlund) U.S. Air Force, Langley, VA

Jeffrey Rose-Fellows, U.S. Navy, Pensacola, FL (grandson of Bonnie Rose)

Ray Underwood (nephew of Glen & Marcia Anderson) WELCOME HOME

REV. JOY BAUMGARTNER, INTERIM MINISTER

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Birthdays

SEPTEMBER 1—15

- 9/1 Heather Baldwin
- 9/1 Kirk Baldwin
- 9/1 Payton Henrys
- 9/4 Joyce Earl
- 9/4 Jeffrey Freburg
- 9/4 Tom Tabler
- 9/5 Jean Bennett
- 9/5 Taylor Fitzgerald
- 9/5 Barbara Smith
- 9/6 Betty Bradley
- 9/6 Heather Fransisco
- 9/7 Eleanor Smith
- 9/10 Heather Henrys
- 9/10 Will Sygrove
- 9/14 Betsy Sessions
- 9/15 Donna Hobart
- 9/15 Jaylee Oeschger



We extend our sympathy to Jim DeLine and family on the death of his father, Ralph DeLine, on July 27, 2011.



Congratulations to Barbara Stuart who retired from Michigan State University after 43 years and 5 months of service. She worked in the office of Planning and Budgets.



REV. JOY BAUMGARTNER

PASTOR'S PASSAGE

Watching our government at work especially during the past few weeks has been an exercise in frustration to say the least, and I couldn't help but think that as a Christian, there are so many lessons to be gleaned from this time in history. Living with freedom can be cumbersome and heart wrenching.

Certainly, to believe in a cause and support our beliefs is an honor and a privilege as an American. But to hang on with no room for flexibility whatsoever and take a stand that can lead to disaster can be less than honorable. We find this in our homes, our churches, our cities and our nation. At some point, we have to at least discuss and be able to negotiate what we believe to be the best for the most involved. And that's not an

easy task, as we have witnessed.

As Christians, we stand by certain tenets of the faith, but we also know that while we may believe in one particular path, others may find another road a better way to travel. Is there only one way? Or can we agree that perhaps there are many ways to follow Christ.

Growing up, I lived in a time when Catholics did not eat meat on Friday. I can remember some of my friends in high school laughing at football games on Friday night when they would all order hot dogs. I had to refuse. But that was a part of the belief system of the faith journey my family had taken. Were we wrong? Surely, as the rules changed in later years, I wondered: "How do we know what's right? How do I know what pleases God and is just a silly rule?" When I asked my mother she responded, "Perhaps it's about our attitude. If what we do is done with the intention to please God, then is it silly?" She offered a great challenge.

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THE CHURCH STAFF

- | | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Joy A. Baumgartner, Interim Minister | John Dale Smith, Dir. of Music/Comm./Events |
| Rev. David Bandfield, Associate Minister | Dr. Penny Draper, Ass't Director of Music |
| Lisa Bolton-Hunt, Assistant Minister | Tina M. Thompson, Financial Secretary |
| Margaret Wallin, Assistant Minister | Ronald L. Silky, Sexton |
| Betty Briggs, Director of Rel. Ed. | James J. Triantaflos, Ass't. Sexton |
| Joan Chandler, Administrative Assistant | |

PASTOR'S PASSAGE

Continued from Page 3

Is it our intention to please God? Is it our intention to use our lives to fulfill God's purpose in the world? Is it our intention to use whatever power or authority we have to make changes that will serve all God's children? One of our dear elder members wrote to me this week and said: "How can we possibly make sense out of these comings? But then we learn that one of God's great emollients is Time and Patience, when properly applied. As I age, I realize that the former is finite, and that the latter shouldn't be, but often is." This past week especially has given me much to think about in terms of how we relate to one another, how we display our beliefs, and how we bring a peaceful solution to a difficult problem. How about you?

BE THE CHURCH

My Blessings

Joy



Sunday, August 14

Following Worship

Please bring a dish to pass.

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011

9:30 AM Living the Questions
9:45 AM Youth Group Discussion
10:30 AM Worship—Communion
10:30 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Town Hall Meeting
11:45 AM Jr. and Sr. High PF

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2011

8:30 AM Greater Lansing Garden Club
9:00 AM Bible School
5:30 PM Board of Trustees
6:30 PM Mozart Requiem Rehearsal

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2011

9:00 AM Bible School.
9:30 AM Matinee Musicale

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2011

9:00 AM Bible School
10:00 AM Clothes Closet
12:30 PM No Day But Today (NA)
1:00 PM Alzheimer Support Group
7:00 PM Mary Brewster Circle

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011

9:00 AM Bible School
7:00 PM Swing Dance Club

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011

2:00 PM Bible School

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

9:30 AM Living the Questions
9:45 AM Youth Group Discussion
10:30 AM Worship—Service of Glory
10:30 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Potluck Luncheon
11:45 AM Jr. & Sr. High PF
7:00 PM Elkabong Concert

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011

6:30 PM Mozart Requiem Rehearsal

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011

12:30 PM Women's Fellowship
Board
7:00 PM Church Council
7:00 PM Penny Draper's Piano
Students Recital

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011

8:00 AM Men's Morning Manna
10:00 AM Alzheimer Male
Caregivers Support Group
12:30 PM No Day But Today (NA)
1:00 PM Mich. Conf. Pastoral
Relations Committee
6:00 PM Girlfriends

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011

7:00 PM Swing Dance Club

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2011

6:00 PM Wedding Renewal
Rehearsal
6:45 PM Movie Night

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011

7:30 PM Wedding Renewal



NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED

The Board of Religious Education is asking for your help in the Nursery through the month of August. Our current Nursery Attendant will return in September, meanwhile we would appreciate your assistance. Please sign up for one Sunday through August 28th. A signup sheet will be available at a table near the Vacation Bible School table.



If you are available for more than one Sunday, wonderful!! The duties of a Nursery Attendant are to be available from 10:15am – 11:45am Sundays and provide love and affection for any child 3 years of age or younger. Many toys are available for the children to play with! You are able to hear the service in the Nursery so you won't miss much at all! Thank you for your help these next few weeks.

Betty Briggs, Director of Religious Education.

BI-WEEKLY CLOTHING CLOSET

AUGUST 10 — AUGUST 24

Plymouth's Clothing Closet located on the lower level will be open Wednesdays, August 10 and 24 from 10 AM until 1 PM for anyone needing gently used clothing. Please come help yourself. Someone will be there to assist you.

You may bring clothing to be given to the Clothes Closet on Sundays or during regular church office hours—8 a.m.—5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. **There is a need of clothing for children and men.**

SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ COOKING FOR JESUS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 8-12, 2011



**Monday Through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

**Friday
2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Please call the church office
if you can help.



Girlfriends

Wednesday, August 17 — 6:00 PM

At Vinaigrettes
940 Elmwood Rd., Lansing 48917

Please call the Church office at 484-9495
to make your reservation.

POSITIVE VISIONING – THE LABYRINTH

This is such an exciting time in the life of Plymouth Church. We are in the preparation stages for choosing a search committee, just receiving feedback from every member and now awaiting the results of the response sheet concerning the traits most needed in a settled Senior Minister. Then comes the appointment of the official Senior Minister Search Committee in September and the work of the Holy Spirit will be much in evidence throughout that process. We will all be praying daily for the insight and cooperative spirit of this committee.

Also on the horizon is the completion of the Labyrinth Project. There have been questions by a few concerning the process used, so let's go over the details so that everyone understands this important endeavor.

When the Long Range Planning Committee (now Positive Vision Task Force) began meeting, we recognized a need to look at the entire scope of ministry and how our boards and committees communicate and work together. We began to dream and vision together about every aspect of ministry at Plymouth Church, rather than only building, grounds and maintenance, which was already being handled by the House Committee of the Trustees. But we could see how so many projects and ideas became mired down because of a lack of communication with other boards or committees.

When first meeting, and at subsequent meetings, it became clear that great opportunities existed for each and every ministry. After working and dreaming and putting details of various ideas together, the Long Range Plan was presented at the annual meeting last year and overwhelmingly approved by the congregation.

The Labyrinth Project was on that list and so a project manager was chosen and a sub-committee gathered to research and draw up a plan. After securing all the information needed, the House Committee of Trustees was approached to approve the choice of location and design. The Fine Arts

Continued on Page 7

WANTED!

Quality, Used Items for Plymouth's NEARLY NEW GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, OCT. 21, 9 AM – 6 PM
SATURDAY, OCT. 22, 9 AM-NOON



Volunteer a little of your time. We need people to mark, sell, set-up, take-down, and much more.

Call the Church office at 484-9495 to volunteer.

What do we need?

Toys	Strollers	Cribs
Highchairs	Clothing (infant & Youth)	Fans
Radios	Toasters	Blenders
Irons	Bikes	Skates
Dishes	Glasses	Towels
Small Furniture	Lamps	Chairs
Rugs	Christmas Ornaments	Kitchen Items
Post, Pans	Flatware	Tools
Pictures	Home Decorations	Yard Tools
Baskets	Jewelry	Etc., etc., etc.

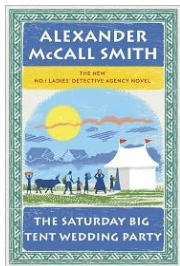
You may bring your jewelry now to the Church office.

FROM YOUR LIBRARY COMMITTEE...

"Decision Points", George W. Bush's biography, is a work that brings readers inside the "Governor's mansion on the night of the 2000 election", aboard Air Force One following the attacks of 9/11/01, and into the Situation Room just "moments before the start of the war in Iraq". You will learn of the President's views on many key decisions that were made during his era, his achievements and his heartbreaks. His memoir will captivate, surprise and change perspectives as the reader learns of the man at the center of this pivotal eight year history. This Biography was given in Memory of Michael J. Foster by Gwen and Terry Tisdale.



The latest in the best-selling series by **Alexander McCall Smith** is **"The Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party"**. This touching tale begins with Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's No. 1 Lady Detective being asked to investigate a killing of two cows on a remote cattle post. While working on this investigation, Precious must also solve a runaway problem of a dire sort. Many more questions arise in this charming and delightful tale to say nothing of a wedding at hand. This novel was a loving gift from Jean Krause, a dedicated "No. 1 Librarian". Your Library has this series, start at the beginning and follow Precious through all her twists and turns!



The Long Night of the North Wind was a time even before the ancient peoples came to Michigan. A time when the land was covered with thick heavy ice. **"The Legend of Michigan"** written by **Trinka Hakes Noble** and beautifully illustrated by **Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen** tells of the North Wind boasting of being the strongest of all the winds. Nothing could live in the frigid land of the North wind until one day two travelers met. The innocence of the young boy from the South coupled with the wisdom of an old warrior from the East and a pair of old warm mittens changed the North Wind's icy hold on the land. You will find this lovely book along with others in the series in the children's section. This book has never been checked out. Be the first!



We are in the midst of our Summer. Find a good book and enjoy your longer days!

POSITIVE VISIONING – THE LABYRINTH (continued from pg. 6)

Committee chair was approached and the issue discussed at their meetings and a liaison was chosen to represent fine arts on the committee. That representative wrote in part recently, *"Last year when we discussed it at great length and when we realized that the possibility of getting one (a labyrinth) was on the drawing board, so to speak, the committee pretty much gave its approval, which in my estimation is the same as a vote. The only ones who were vocal and seemingly against it were (two members). I felt at the time that their concern was mostly about how it would be maintained and by whom. Of course, they were also worried about the cost, which we assured them would not come out of the operating budget. It was already clear to us that the funds would be forthcoming from other sources."* The chair of the board assured the Positive Vision Committee of the support of that board and it went forward.

When the final plans were made, all issues resolved, the project was presented to the Board of Trustees. After questions and discussion, there was consensus that all were in favor of going ahead with the project. Rev. Baumgartner asked specifically if a vote was needed and was told that a vote was not necessary, that the presentation had been received by consensus. We all left that meeting with a sense of great joy that the board had acted by consensus and were delighted with the outcome.

The final plan was then presented to the Church Council, where the discussion of official votes was addressed. It was also presented to the Board of Deacons, since the project is of a spiritual nature and will invite not only our members but the community to a time of prayer and meditation.

So, the work has begun, but with the heat of August upon us, the sand and stone work will be completed in September and October, depending on weather conditions and volunteer availability. We are so grateful for all the support and encouragement and especially those members and friends of the Positive Vision Task Force, Fine Arts and House Committee who have worked so hard to bring this project to reality.

Plymouth Summer Concert On the Lawn



ElKabong

Classic Rock Group Concert
Sunday, August 14, 2011 — 7:00 PM
Plymouth Congregational Church

Elkabong is a classic rock cover bands, covering tunes from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's. They are known for cover dance tunes, strong vocals and harmonies, and power driving guitars.

Jerry Krause: Vocals, Keys, Bass
Mark Mauren: Vocals, Guitar
Scott Koster: Vocals, Lead Guitar
Mike Willemin: Drums

**BRING YOUR CHAIRS OR BLANKETS
AND ENJOY SOME EXCITING MUSIC**



Our Sunday School children send out messages to our friends in the military at least two times a year. We received a nice note in return from Ray Underwood, nephew of Glen and Marcia Anderson. Here is his note.

Dear Mrs. Briggs and Sunday School Class,

Thank you very much for the letter that all of you signed. I definitely do appreciate it, and all that you sent me while in Iraq.

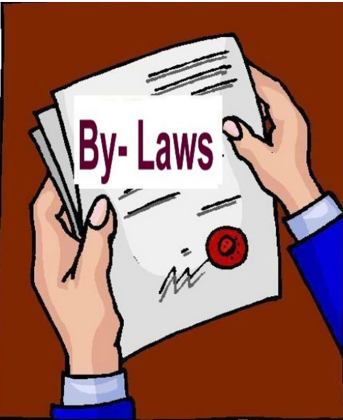
Things have been very hectic for my family these last few weeks. We found out earlier this month that Sharon, my wife, is pregnant. Also, I've accepted an appointment at two Methodist churches here in Nebraska. Needless to say, it's going to stay busy for quite a while!

In Christ,

Ray, Sharon & Lil' D

The children very much enjoy making and decorating these messages. It is their thoughtfulness that reminds our friends in the military that we will not forget all they are doing for our country.

Betty Briggs,
Sunday School Teacher



BYLAWS 101

The May 2011 edition of Plymouth Congregational Church Bylaws is available online at <http://plymouthlansing.org/bylaws.pdf> and in hard copy form at the church office. There is also a copy in the Reference Section of the Church Library.

Any board, committee, church organization, or individual may approach the Bylaws Committee at any time requesting changes in the bylaws which directly affect them, or about any concerns regarding procedure which may be affected by the bylaws.

TOY PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

Women's Fellowship supports the R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project. Please join us at their Open House on Thursday, August 11, 2011, from 11am to 2pm at 5937 South Martin Luther King Blvd. A light luncheon will be served. You can take a tour of the workshop and meet the "elves" who make the toys. There will be a

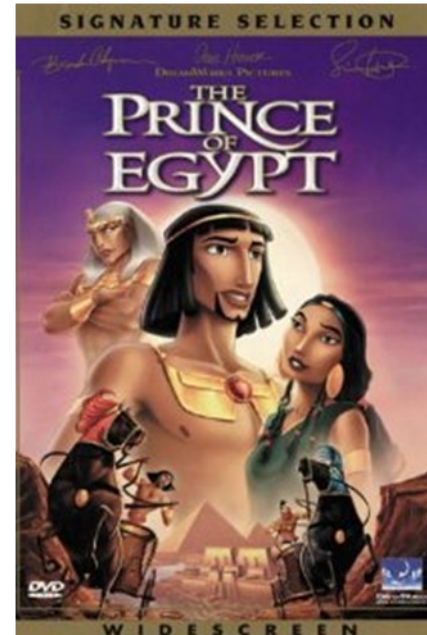


R. J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project receives Community Service Award. (Larry Koster in center)

guest speaker, a fish bowl available for donations, and anyone who brings at least a \$25 donation will get a ticket for the drawing! R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project was the recipient of the Community Service Award for 2011. You will see one of our church members, Larry Koster, Workshop Leader, at this Open House. Come by and say "hello" and keep the Toy Project as a continuing community service project.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 — 6:45 PM
JOIN US FOR PIZZA AND A MOVIE



This is the extraordinary tale of two brothers named Moses and Ramesses, one born of royal blood, and one an orphan with a secret past. Growing up the best of friends, they share a strong bond of free-spirited youth and good-natured rivalry. But the truth will ultimately set them at odds, as one becomes the ruler of the most powerful empire on earth, and the other the chosen leader of his people! Their final confrontation will forever change their lives and the world.



From the Board of Benevolences **OPPORTUNITY AND NEEDS**

UNDIES SUNDAYS — AUGUST



Please bring NEW t-shirts, underwear and socks for children on Sundays during August. These will be distributed through the social workers at school.



We are making a commitment to our friends at the Greater Lansing Food Bank. They have put out a call for help after one of their 3 refrigeration trucks was destroyed in a senseless act of vandalism. We are selling water and other refreshments at the Plymouth Concert Series. That \$1 you spend on a bottle of water is going directly to the Food Bank to help defray the costs associated with purchasing another vehicle. Our first concert saw us earning \$100! [the heat is good for SOME things!!!] So, keep coming to the concerts, tell your friends and keep drinking! [the water that is!]

These restaurants provided meals gratis or at a greatly discounted rate to City Rescue Mission during its kitchen renovations: Applebees [S Cedar], Amy's Catering, Fazoli's [W Saginaw], Sultan's [EL], Texas Roadhouse, Famous Taco, Spuds, Blimpies [E Michigan], South Church [Chef Randy], Turkey Man & Mary's Homestyle Catering. It's good to know some of the business that share the Benevolences load. And don't forget Meijer [Lake Lansing Road].

There is growing violence in the Sudan. Over 60,000 people have been displaced, many killed, churches burned. Japan continues to experience earthquakes. Samaritan's Purse is a constant and quiet presence wherever Christ is needed in our conflicted world. They are asking us to pray. We can do that.



It's Backpack and School Supplies time again! This year the Lansing City Rescue Mission will not be collecting backpacks due to the expansion of their shelter programs. Christian Services will be handling the distribution of the backpacks to families who request help through the Clearinghouse. Churches are

asked to provide backpacks as **Gender Neutral** as possible (i.e only plain colored backpacks). They are also asking us to **Fill** the backpacks this year.

For **Pre-school – 4th Grade** the items needed to fill a backpack are: Folders, 2 Notebooks, 5 Pencils, Markers, Crayons, Glue Sticks, Scissors.

For **5th Grade – 12 Grade** the items needed to fill a backpack are: 3 Ring Binder, Folders, 6 Notebooks, 5 Pencils, 5 Pens, Colored Pencils.

A **New Backpack** is the most essential and most expensive item a family has trouble providing for their children. **We are hoping to reach a goal of 20 backpacks this year!** Please drop your filled backpacks off at the church by Sunday, August 28th. Delivery will be made on Monday, August 29th. Thank you for making a student happy on their first day of school!!

The 2011 Lansing Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, September 18 at M.S.U.'s Auditorium Field. Register a team, join a team or sponsor a team. For more info call 999-3336 or email www.alz.org/mglc.



The Lansing Area Aids Network Walk will be held Sunday, September 25. See Chuck Gabler for more info.