

PLYMOUTH CHURCH LIFE

January 4, 2012



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Lansing, MI 48912-3286

Phone: (517) 484-9495 – Fax: (517) 484-2588

revjoyb@aol.com pastor@plymouthlansing.org
music@plymouthlansing.org secretary@plymouthlansing.org
accountant@plymouthlansing.org sexton@plymouthlansing.org

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

10:30 AM

“One of a Kind”

REV. JOY A. BAUMGARTNER

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3:1-15

Matthew 2:1-12

Luke 2:21-38

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

10:30 AM

COMMISSIONING OF KATHY FARNUM

AS A STEPHEN MINISTER

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 739
LANSING, MI

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Desired In-Home Delivery
Date of January 6, 2012

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
SERVICE OF GLORY**

January 8, 2012 Ten-thirty O'clock

Liturgist Catherine Hawkins
Altar Guild Jackie Stebbins

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPHANY

January 15, 2012 Ten-thirty O'clock

Liturgist Kathy Farnum
Social Hour Hosts Plymouth Choir Members
Altar Guild Bunny McComb

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Clara Thocker by her family.

**SOUP AND SALAD POTLUCK LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



Please bring a soup or salad to pass

REMEMBER IN PRAYER OUR PLYMOUTH CHURCH FAMILY

NEW LIFE ASSISTED LIVING CENTER, 607 TURNER ST., DEWITT, MI 48820

Doug Melville

HOLT SENIOR CARE & REHAB CENTER, HOLT

Ruth Fransisco

BURCHAM HILLS

Erdine Phillips

Catherine Stow

Tom Tabler

DELTA RETIREMENT CENTER

Dale Granger

TIMBER RIDGE SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING

Charles and Joyce Schroeder

HOME

Mike Bushnell

Kathy Caulder (friend of Brynna Bolley)

Mark Christle (Melynda Christle's cousin)

Katherine McDowell

Helen Milliken (friend of Ealanor Smith)

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

Marlene Patterson

Allen Ropp (Clayton Ropp's brother)

Eleanor Thede (friend of Marilyn Hastings)

Gary Thomas

Joyce Vance (Phil Brown's spouse)

Heather Weldon

(granddaughter of Marilyn Hastings)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY IN AFGHANISTAN

Cal Caverly (son-in-law of Ron & Kathy Farnum)

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

OTHER MILITARY SERVICE

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

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)

REV. JOY BAUMGARTNER, INTERIM MINISTER

2216 Wood Street, Lansing, MI 48912

Home Phone: (517) 721-1306 -- Cell (in emergency) (517) 899-6784

revjoyb@aol.com

pastor@plymouthlansing.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 2—15

- 2/2 Carolyn Pratt
- 2/4 Brandon Bolley
- 2/4 Bailey Henrys
- 2/6 Charles Driver
- 2/7 William C. Hoyt
- 2/8 Margaretta Freburg
- 2/9 Susan Steffel
- 213 Marcia Olds
- 2/14 Dorothy Brown
- 2/14 Marie DeVries
- 2/15 Michael Losey

With Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Michael Bushnell on the death of his father, Carl Gene Bushnell, on December 27, 2011.

Epiphany



REV. JOY BAUMGARTNER

PASTOR'S PASSAGE

Whew! The end of another year – can you believe it? Time seems to move so swiftly when there is so much to do, especially as we celebrate the holidays at the end of each year. And in all that busyness, I fear that we often miss the opportunities to take a moment, take a deep breath, and listen for the voice of God.

I read a story the other day about a man who was visiting his psychiatrist and telling of his feelings and wonderings about faith. The man asked his doctor, “Why is it that when I say I talk to God, you call it prayer. But when God talks to me, you call it a hallucination?”

Granted, we may not physically hear the voice of God as we do humanity, but have you ever had a moment when you simply “know” something? It’s as though God placed you in that time

and space and you somehow know what to do? Or say? Have you ever had a moment when God seems so real. It’s as though you could reach out and touch that presence?

You see, that’s one of the beautiful aspects of faith and the gathering of people within a religious family and Church. We are grounded in the belief that God is real. That God is relevant in our lives. That God is available, and for Christians, the reality of Jesus in Spirit even today connects with God in an incredibly profound way.

The Christmas story that we read is not just a story of old – it’s a story of the possibility of God coming into our souls and hearts and minds and inspiring us to serve in magnificent ways. The story of the Magi following the star and bringing gifts and being transformed by the presence of that child – and taking a new way - is our story. The naming of the child and dedication with the prophecy of his future is the beginning of looking to the future – a dangerous future when we attempt to change the world with love.

Continued on Page 4



There are openings for January 22 and 29 for flowers to be placed at the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Please call Marcia Olds at 336 0439 or the church office at 484-9495.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 29, 2012

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 | Darlene Greenman Ross, Organist |
| Kathy Farnum, 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)

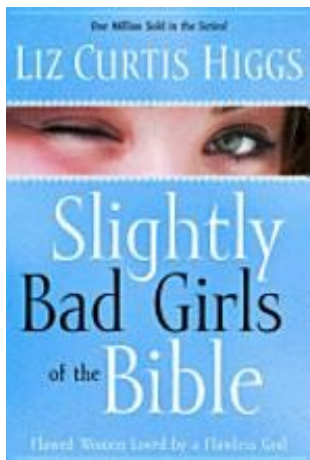
Now the New Year begins – and all of those stories are part of our ancestry too. By hearing them and understanding the context and meaning, we gain courage for the journey ahead. Our journey is the Christ journey. Our ministry gives witness to our determination and commitment to follow his teachings and those who continued his message.

As we, the members and friends of Plymouth Congregational Church begin this new year, let's march together, united in the ministry of Christ to our members, our friends, this community and the world. Let's truly.....
BE THE CHURCH

New Year Blessings,

Joy

BOOK REVIEW AND DISCUSSION



Beginning January 11, 2012, and continuing on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM, the Board of Religious Education will be offering a book review and discussion of **Liz Curtis Higgs' "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible"**. Let's see what our ancient counterparts, such as Sarah, Hagar, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel have in common with today's woman.

Books are available from the Church office for \$11.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

9:30 AM Living the Questions
9:45 AM Youth Group Discussion
10:30 AM Service of Glory
10:30 AM Sunday School/Music
11:30 AM Soup & Salad Potluck
2:00 PM Matinee Musicale Recital

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012

8:30 AM Greater Lansing Garden Club
7:00 PM Board of Trustees
7:00 PM Lansing Storytellers
7:00 PM LCC Scenes Class

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

9:30 AM Capital Area Music Teachers
1:00 PM Rose Standish Circle
4:30 PM Board of Music

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

12:30 PM No Day But Today (NA)
1:00 PM Alzheimer Support Group
6:00 PM Book Review & Discussion
7:00 PM Mary Brewster Circle

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012

1:00 PM Bylaw Committee
4:00 PM Youth Music (Grades K-5)
4:45 PM Youth Music (Grades 6-12)
5:00 PM Serving Spaghetti Dinner
6:30 PM Bell Choir
7:30 PM Plymouth Choir

The musicians who performed at the Christmas Eve service were due to a generous contribution by anonymous members of the congregation. The music department appreciates the support of the church in being able to intensify the religious experience of our members.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

9:30 AM Living the Questions
9:45 AM Youth Group Discussion
10:15 AM Pilgrim Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM Sunday School/Music
11:30 AM Social Hour
11:45 AM Board of Deacons
11:45 AM Board of Benevolences
11:45 AM Board of Religious Ed
2:00 PM Performing Arts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

12:00 PM Low Vision Support Group
7:00 PM Church Council

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

8:00 AM Men's Morning Manna
10:00 AM Clothing Closet
10:00 AM Alzheimer Male Caregivers
12:30 PM No Day But Today (NA)
6:00 PM Book Review & Discussion and Girlfriends

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012

4:00 PM Youth Music (Grades K-5)
4:45 PM Youth Music (Grades 6-12)
6:30 PM Bell Choir
7:30 PM Plymouth Choir



MY THANKS

I am always overwhelmed at the kindness and generosity of so many here at Plymouth. For the cards, notes, little goodies and surprises during this Christmas season, I am profoundly grateful. You are truly a wonderful family!

Joy

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas poinsettia plant. It brightens up our little room and we are enjoying it so much. It was so thoughtful of you.

We miss you all and hope that one of these Sundays we'll make it to church. We don't have a car anymore as the doctor told Charlie he shouldn't be driving, but I have two sons that see that we get to our doctor, dentist and eye appointments, or anyplace else we need to go.

Thank you again for remembering us and I am sure we'll "see you in church!!"

Love to all!

Jo and Charlie Schroeder

Thank you for the lovely Christmas poinsettia delivered to me by Vee Bjornson.

It is very pretty and brightens up my room.

Jean Krause

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY AND UNDERSTANDING

One of our members came to me recently and asked about an adult class to help our congregation become more familiar with the history and polity of the Congregational Way. Our staff and Religious Education Board and even our Deacons had talked about this several times. This person, however, asked if this type of class could be held AFTER WORSHIP on Sundays for approximately 4-6 weeks from 11:45 to 12:30 p.m. Many people sing in the choir or have multiple activities during the week that prevent them from coming either during the day or even in the evenings. So..... I will be talking to our Religious Education Board and we will look at scheduling a class such as this in the new year. However, WE NEED YOU TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE A PART OF IT AND SIGN UP!

So, please call the Church office and let Joan know that you would like to be on the list of those interested. We will then schedule the class. But don't forget to watch the *Church Life* for other offerings as well.

Joy

ANNOUNCING DINNERS FOR 8



The Board of Deacons is kicking off our new program, *Dinners for 8*. What is *Dinners for 8*? It is an opportunity for small groups to share table fellowship and get to know each other better. The idea is that you sign up to attend a dinner with a host/hostess and Plymouth members you do not know well, in order to get to know them better. Each person or family unit will bring a dish to pass that serves 8.

Norm and Mary Robison are hosting a dinner on January 6th.

Lisa Bolton-Hunt and Rob Hunt have graciously offered to open their home on January 21, (changed from January 14) at 6:30 PM. Please sign up in Williams Fellowship Hall after church on Sundays or call the Church office.

FROM THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCES— OPPORTUNITY AND NEEDS



Samaritan's Purse is a constant and quiet presence wherever Christ is needed in our conflicted world. There is a new instability in N. Korea with the death of Kim Jong II, continued strife in Africa, Haiti and economic hardship here at home. They go wherever God calls. They are asking us to pray. We can do that.

Thanks to all you contributed hats, mittens and scarves to our Mitten Tree and all who supported Operation Santa. You've given the gift of Warmth and Love.

The City Rescue Mission is working with Finley's American Grill. Donate any non-perishable food item and receive a \$5 certificate good for January-March, 2012. Finley's has supported the mission for more than a decade. The mission is always in need of toilet paper, new men's/women's underwear, socks, women's t-shirts and pajamas [XL & XXL], gloves, mittens, scarves, hooded sweat-shirts, men's jeans, copy paper, double blade razors and shaving cream.



FYI: Want to check out the integrity of a charity? Go to www.charitynavigator.org.



For the younger readers, "*Kids' Cookbook*" by the American Heart Association is an excellent book to introduce your youngster to the ways of healthy eating and fun recipes to discover in the wonderful world of cooking. Chapters such as "A Trip Through the Supermarket" or "Setting the Table" introduce good food choices and learning proper table-setting skills. Each recipe includes step by step instructions along with illustrated directions. Pick a recipe and make this a family affair. Your kids will love doing things together!



GIRLFRIENDS

Girlfriends will meet on Wednesday, January 18, at 6:00 PM at the church with the Book Review and Discussion group. Food will be brought in.

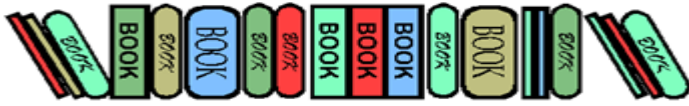
BOARD OF DEACONS NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE



Please sign up at coffee hour to host a coffee hour. This includes bringing treats. There are several openings in January/February.

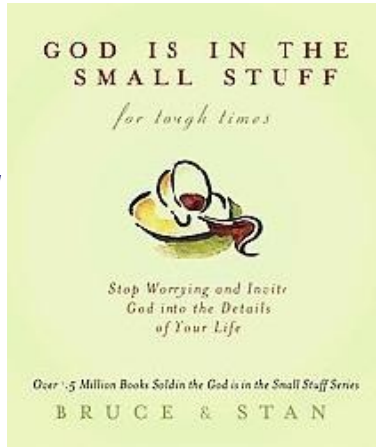


Also sign up to be greeters before church.

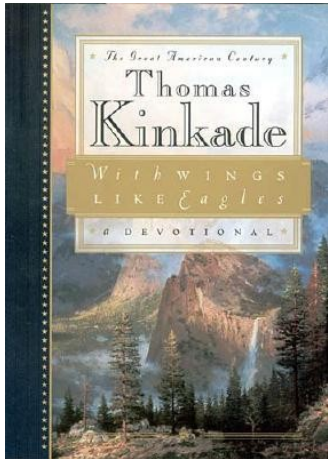


FROM THE JOYCE GRANGER MEMORIAL LIBRARY...

The holidays are behind us and we are now getting ready return to work and school. There is much on our minds, and one of the books available from your Library is **"God is in the Small Stuff" by Bruce & Stan**. How often we get caught up in life's details. This small book is full of ideas to simplify and better our busy lives. Chapter Seven "Give God Time" tells us how to gain that inner peace and quiet only God can give us. We can do this simply by making time in our day, even a few minutes, to quietly sit and know and feel HIS presence. Each chapter is short, but full of worthwhile ideas to get us closer to our Lord. This little book is in the Worship and Devotion section.



Another devotional with a patriotic bent is **Thomas Kinkadee's "With Wings Like Eagles"** which can be read in 31 days. The daily scripture, a beautiful picture by Thomas Kinkadee and "anecdotes resonating with godly values" reminds us that the same God who watches over our Land watches over us and loves us well. This book was given in **Loving Memory of William Elliott by Rose Standish Circle**.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul store, 1020 S. Washington Ave. was completely destroyed in a fire, all contents deemed a total loss. The non-profit organization accepts donations of gently used household goods, furniture, clothes, books, etc. for resale, profits being used for community services. The society provides \$20,000-\$25,000 in utility assistance every month, while working with the city's housing assistance program, as well as incredibly fast emergency assistance. Their immediate need is for a temporary client assistance office and a warehouse to hold donations and set up a temporary store. Don't have a warehouse but want to help? Call them at 517.484.5395 to lend them a helping hand or give a contribution. More importantly...a little prayer for their future in our community and thanks that no one was injured or killed.



Christian Services has included us as part of their Entire Church Network clearinghouse because of our Prescription Ministry and our Clothing Ministry. A big 'thank you' to all who work in our closet, especially Betty Briggs and Pat Carrow. Olivet Baptist Church carries out an Emergency Diaper Ministry. One woman there delivers diapers when called. Olivet is collecting diapers sizes 3, 4 & 5 or they are taking monetary donations to purchase diapers and formula. Would anyone here like to help her? See Betty Briggs for more details. Our Rose Standish Circle will be hosting David Brock, speaker, from Sparrow's Nest, March, 2012. Watch for more details.

New Directions Ministries collects print material for prisoners, giving them an opportunity to grow in faith and an opportunity to learn. Donate print materials you no longer use, especially Christian-based materials like Bibles, books,, magazines, audio/video tapes, DVDs, CDs, *Reader's Digests*, and children's materials for waiting rooms. For delivery info, call them at 517.319.5741, ext 12 or email: lenh@newdirectionsministries.org



Thank you to all those who have donated clothing for Plymouth's Clothing Closet in 2011.

A value of \$2,694.50 was placed on the clothing that was donated to the families in need.

The Clothing Closet is still running strong and would gratefully accept your gently used clothing of all sizes for men, women and children.



CHRISTMAS CARD RECYCLING

Don't know what to do with those beautiful Christmas cards? Don't throw them away, re-purpose them!

A local small business is asking for your support. Please bring your Christmas cards to the Church office during January and they will be used to create new Christmas Art Ornaments.

Want to keep the sentiment? Please do, we only use the cover image. Ornaments will go on sale next fall and a portion of the proceeds will go to local charitable efforts. Thank you for supporting local small business!



Paula Hein
The Papered Orb

SPAGHETTI DINNER OUTREACH



Several months ago Plymouth received a \$500 grant to help feed those in need in the community. Mary Brewster Circle will start the ball rolling in January by making a spaghetti dinner for 200 on the 12th. The bulk of the food will be transported to the Mission on Michigan Avenue. It will then be divided between the men at the Mission and the Women & Children on the south end of town. Food for 50 people is being planned to be serviced at the church. As this is the first time for this mission we are trying to stay flexible. We are looking for anyone who wants to be a part of this on January 12: to cook, transport, serve, or clean. Will your group be the next one up for this challenge in February? Let's talk it up! Thank you



Plymouth has a FaceBook page of it's own. Here is the link where you can find it:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/plymouthchurchlansing/>

We have pictures, music, videos and more. Most of all it is communication for church members. There are reminders of special events, what groups are meeting, and news good and bad of Church members. Come and join us.