



THE ARTS

Art Exchange in Jones Commons

BY KRISTIN MAKHOLM

You have probably noticed in Jones Commons that our church architectural drawings have been replaced by dynamic paintings. I have been asked, as a one-time curator of prints and drawings and the current director of the Minnesota Museum of American Art and as a member of the church's accessions committee, to explain the reasons for the change.

It was time for the drawings to come down. The architectural drawings that record the original architects' vision for our new 1909 church building are stunning and informative. Yet they have hung for more than 11 years in a bright, light-filled space with the sun often shining directly on them at the end of the day.

Yet works on paper are fragile. Drawings, especially, left too long in such a light-filled place may have ink, watercolor and pencil fade; the paper also can darken. The look and colors of the drawing changes, in most cases, forever. Even though these drawings are covered with UV plexiglass, it does not block all the damaging rays, which can build

up over time. To preserve these drawings, we must keep them out of the light.

The importance of conserving these drawings for future generations—of being responsible stewards of our legacy—outweighs the immediate desire to see and appreciate these drawings on a daily or weekly basis. We hope there will be opportunities in the future to see them in special viewings.



PAINTING BY NOTED ST. PAUL ARTIST
TA-COUMBA AIKEN

Retiring the drawings, moreover, offered us the fabulous opportunity to consider new artwork to animate Jones Commons. The Fine Arts Board invited noted St. Paul artist Ta-Coumba Aiken to install five paintings to enliven a space that's often home to families, kids and community gatherings.

Ta-Coumba was chosen for this year-long display due to his prominence in civic engagement. He has created some of the region's most noted public artworks, including the Jax/Gillette Children's Hospital mural, the Minneapolis Central Library's tile fireplace, the North Side's Pilot City murals project and a temporary mural in Union Depot made of more than 596,000 Lite Brite pegs. A collaborative painting he did with Plymouth kids 15 years ago can still be viewed on the second floor of Plymouth's Education wing.

We hope this change and future art directions in Jones Commons will reflect our growing and developing awareness of ourselves and our place in a dynamic and ever-shifting cultural world.

Emerging Leaders and Marriage Equality

BY JAMES GERTMENIAN



A couple of items to share with you this month . . .

I am excited that, on April 7, we will have the privilege of welcoming the Rev. Stephanie Price and the Rev. Patrick Heery (introduced to you on page 6 in this issue of *the Flame*) to Plymouth's pulpit, where they will share the Sunday

morning sermon. Stephanie and Patrick attended last year's Emerging Leaders Institute (sponsored by The Plymouth Center for Progressive Christian Faith) and are serving on the planning committee for the next one. In my experience, they are the embodiment of what we hoped for when we decided that The Plymouth Center would focus on the nurturing and support of new, young leaders for the Church. They are committed, smart, faithful, bold and engaging. Along with others who have attended our Institutes, they are poised to help the Church evolve into the new forms and ways of being that will surely mark its future.

By the way, we are pleased that the next Institute, set for March 2014, will feature Brian McLaren, a prolific writer and one of the most insightful thinkers today about the future of Christianity. His books include *A Generous Orthodoxy* and *A New Kind of Christianity*. The small group of young leaders who are chosen to attend will have a great opportunity to interact with Brian and to carry forward the conversation about what faith communities will look like over the next century. As always, I am proud of Plymouth's role in carrying out this important work.

On another front, everyone knows that the issue of marriage equality is before our State Legislature this session. As you

might expect, a group of thoughtful Plymouth members have been imagining about how our congregation might be involved in this important discussion. Last year Plymouth took the extraordinary step of voting—as a congregation—to adopt a stand against the then-proposed Marriage Amendment, which would have created a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages. The process leading to that decision was long and carefully considered.

We will not be seeking a similar institutional stand on the new marriage proposal, primarily because there is not sufficient time for us to engage in the kind of process that would be necessary to honor our Congregational polity. Instead, supporters of marriage equality will be working to help Plymouth members take individual action on this issue, particularly in lobbying legislators who will be voting in the next few weeks (see page 8). Also, by vote of the Board of Deacons, we will re-install on our property (and make available for various events) the banner that reads: "Plymouth Church Supports Marriage for All." It is an outward expression of an exhaustively discussed, long-held and widely understood value in our congregation: the full inclusion of GLBT people in our life and the recognition of their equality before God. For me, this is yet another reason for pride in how Plymouth lives out its values.

If pride in Plymouth is the element that links these two items, I'll own that. I know that pride has its dangers, and I know full well that Plymouth has its faults and plenty of room for improvement. But I'm going to enjoy the pride in these instances . . . just as I enjoy the work we do together and give thanks to God—daily—for this remarkable congregation.

GRACE NOTES

A vibrant month of music

BY PHILIP BRUNELLE

The month of April will be filled with wonderful music for the Easter season. We begin on April 7 with two special guests, cellists Tony Ross and Beth Rapier from the Minnesota Orchestra, providing prelude and postlude, and the Plymouth Choir singing music of Mendelssohn and Benjamin Britten.

The year-long Britten salute continues on April 14 when

we hear his *Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac*, performed by our tenor soloist Dan Dressen and boy soprano Danny Allin. This is a very special work telling the story of Abraham obeying God's command about Isaac. Our boy

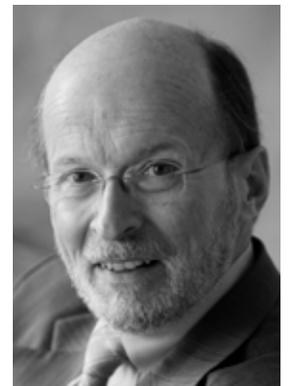


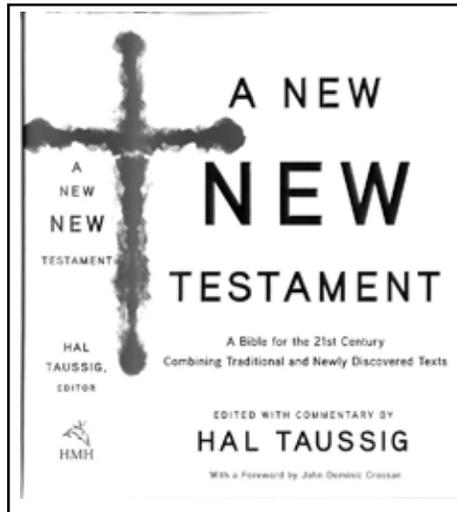
Photo: Ann Marsden

Jesus Seminar: *Reframing Christian Scriptures*

BY PAULA NORTHWOOD

Expect illuminating presentations and lively discussions when the Jesus Seminar on the Road—***Reframing Christian Scriptures: How Newly Discovered Texts Open up the Past and Future*** comes to Plymouth Church April 26-27.

Hal Taussig, editor of *A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts*, is co-leader of the seminar. He recently told a Day1 interviewer that this book has come together over many years of hearing from a variety of people *that learning about many of the new discoveries of ancient Christian documents meant a great deal spiritually and intellectually to those who heard about them. Over and over again people acted as if they had just discovered their long lost sibling as I told them about the likes of the Gospel of Mary, The Thunder: Perfect Mind, the Acts of Paul and Thecla and others. So*



many people in so many different settings kept asking me why this material was not in the traditional New Testament.

This Jesus Seminar on the Road examines how a more diverse set of Christian scriptures changes the way we understand Christian beginnings—and has significance for the way we see ourselves today. Taussig and Arthur Dewey, a specialist on the historical Jesus, will present exciting talks and

workshops April 26-27. Details and registration (\$20–\$75, depending on how much of seminar one attends and when one registers) are available on the Westar Institute website (<http://www.westarinstitute.org/events/reframing-christian-scriptures/>).

Get ready for the Jesus Seminar!

Prepare for the Jesus Seminar and learn more about the Gnostic Gospels, Thursdays, April 4-25, 7:00–8:30 p.m. Join Don Burrows, classics Ph.D. candidate, and Minister for Education Paula Northwood as they explore some of the texts that did not make it into the canon. Paula will examine such Gnostic texts as *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* and *The Gospel of Thomas*, using Elaine Pagels' *Beyond Belief*. Don will explore *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*. No registration; no fee; meets in room 205.

NOTES

soprano is a member of the Northfield Youth Choir. The Plymouth Choir also sings a joyful anthem on an Easter theme by Philip Moore, for many years the organist at York Minster.

April 21 includes music of Handel as well as the Norwegian composer Knut Nystedt, now 97 years old! And the month concludes with Malcolm Williamson's elegant setting of "Worthy is the Lamb" and the Midwest premiere of Bradley Ellingboe's "Dappled Things"—set to poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. What a varied and vibrant month!

BETH RAPIER AND TONY ROSS
PLAY PRELUDE AND POSTLUDE APRIL 7



Connecting Communities through Cooking

Jesus said, “We come to serve.” Join Plymouth’s own Chef Jeff in a five-week cooking course that will enrich your

spiritual practice. Jeff’s stated mission is to use his passion for food and service excellence to create memorable meals. Discover different ways of how food connects us all, and new cooking disciplines that will add meaning each time you prepare and serve a meal.

Jeff Riley, executive chef and owner of Chef Jeff catering, is proud to be one of the founding members of the Minneapolis Technical Institute’s Culinary program, providing culinary training and mentoring for local youth.

This Spiritual Enrichment class meets Saturday mornings, 9–11 a.m., April 6, 13, 20 and May 4, in the church kitchen. The \$75 fee includes class materials. Limited to 15. Please register in advance on the Plymouth website (http://plymouth.org/learning/SE_registration.html).



CHEF JEFF RILEY, AT RIGHT, CONSULTS WITH A COLLEAGUE.

Excellent Sunday Forum Lineup scheduled for April

April 7 We’re in America Now; Sandra A. Brick and Fred M.B. Amram—Concurrent with her fiber art exhibition in the Howard Conn Art Gallery, Sandra will discuss how she plays with the cliché “Can a picture paint a thousand words?” In her case, the words belong to husband, Fred, who translates into literature his experiences as a Jew in Nazi Germany and in adapting to a new culture here. With slides and stories, Sandra and Fred will together explore how they discover each other by working as a team. The forum session will conclude with a tour of the exhibition.

April 14 The Minneapolis Council of Churches: A Force for Good; Noya Woodrich—Come meet and greet the

dynamic new president of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Noya Woodrich leads the largest council of churches in North America, bringing her experiences, education, cultural and community insight gained from her Athabascan heritage as well as her upbringing in a white Lutheran household in central Wisconsin. Come hear Noya’s vision for the council’s future.

April 21 Plymouth’s Work in India; Douglas and Jane Koons—To this day, India remains one of the most exotic nations of the world. During this forum session, Jane and Doug will share information about several projects that have been initiated in India since they made a decision to move to south India in 2007. Feel free to join in the

discussions by bringing your own stories of India to this gathering.

April 28 First People’s Fund: Nurturing Artists, Strengthening Communities; Lori Pourier, Duane “Dewey” Goodwin, Elizabeth Jaakola—How do you nurture and support the creativity of indigenous artists within their communities? In part by honor and recognition, in part by providing the means to pursue cultural work, and in part by providing networks of established American Indian artists to enable collaboration and growth. Lori Pourier, president of the First People’s Fund, will tell us about the achievements of this innovative nonprofit and will also introduce us to two recent recipients of its national awards.

Compulsive Overeating: My Story

BY VICKI H.

By the time I entered Overeaters Anonymous, I was 100 pounds overweight and filled with shame and self-hatred. I had struggled with my weight and eating my whole life.

I lost both my parents to alcoholism in my mid-20s. I quickly slid into severe depression which lasted for many years and during which my use of food, especially sweets, became my trusted “sedative” for dampening overwhelming and painful feelings. I would eat larger and larger quantities of cakes and pastries that would bring on hours of pain-relieving sleep, only to awaken to more pain and shame about my size and food behavior. Near the end of my binging years, I would buy one box of 10 Twinkies to eat in the car on the way home from the grocery store, and another box of 10 to eat at home as planned. I was humiliated, terrified and lost.

Gratefully my depression responded to treatment and lifted in my mid 40s. However, my now well-ingrained compulsive overeating

would not respond to any of my efforts to control it.

About this time, the church asked me to clean out files, where I found “Overeater Anonymous” pamphlets. Timidly, I took a quiz: a person might have a problem with compulsive overeating if answering three or more questions in the positive. I had answered 14 of the 15 in the positive!

It was then that I knew I was a compulsive overeater.

I attended my first OA meeting, and for the first time in my life, I did not feel ashamed! I have now maintained a 50-pound weight loss for 5 years, and with the help of other OA members have learned to work the 12-step recovery program giving me not just physical but emotional and spiritual recovery, too.

“OA is a fellowship of...compulsive overeaters who welcome all those who eat compulsively.” OA is patterned after Alcoholic Anonymous and uses the 12 steps

of AA replacing the words “alcohol” and “alcoholic” with food and “compulsive overeater.” Compulsive overeaters may or may not be overweight, but eating certain food or certain foods, and food cravings set up a mental obsession they cannot control.



I will always remember my first meeting in which I heard these words: “Whatever your circumstances, we offer you the gift of acceptance. You are not alone any more. Welcome to Overeaters Anonymous. Welcome home!”

If you are concerned about any type of addiction for yourself or a loved one, please feel free to contact the Rev. Cathie Crooks, or stop at the Faith Partners table in Guild Hall on the first Sunday of the month.

Global Connections presents *Budrus* for Film Club April 14

On April 14, Global Connections presents *Budrus* (2009, 70 min.), a documentary on a small Palestinian town about to be divided by an Israeli barrier wall, causing it to lose its sacred olive trees critical to townspeople’s economic survival. A Palestinian community organizer unites Arabs and Israelis to oppose this and his 15-year-old daughter launches a women’s contingent on the front lines. Positive relationships among both sides continue to this day, serving as a successful model for communities to “wage peace” instead of violence in occupied Palestinian territories.

Dixie Vella from the local Middle East Peace Now will help lead discussion afterward and provide information about MEPN. Join us at 12:15 p.m. in Jackman Hall. Buy lunch at Katy’s Café or bring your own. The room has tables for eating and comfortable chairs. All are welcome!

Transforming Governance: Vote April 28

On April 28, following the 10:30 a.m. service, members of the congregation are invited to stay for a meeting to vote on the conceptual design for transforming governance at Plymouth Congregational Church.

The policy-based governance model proposed by the Ad Hoc Governance Committee will improve accountability, make decision-making more transparent, extend to more people opportunities to serve and encourage long-range strategic planning. Our current system grew organically; while our governance

may not be *broken*, the strategic plan found Plymouth's current governance unduly clumsy and inefficient in moving along decisions and empowering congregation members. It called for a committee to study this situation. The committee's two years of intense study have been followed by several months' of communications and listening sessions about this proposal. To see the latest information and list of committee members, go to http://www.plymouth.org/about/transforming_gov.php

If the congregation approves this design for transforming governance, suggestions for people to serve on a Transitional Policy Board to craft bylaws, etc., will be accepted from the congregation. A group including former Moderators and clergy will use those suggestions to build a slate of candidates for the Transitional Policy Board to be considered (separately from the usual board nominations) at the annual meeting June 16, 2013.

—Lani Bennett

Price and Heering: Emerging Leaders and guest preachers April 7



Rev. Stephanie Price, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, serves as Associate Pastor at Hope United Methodist Church in Greenwood Village, Colorado. She also works as a Cooperative Developer for the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Foundation, organized the Food and Justice Initiative of the Rocky Mountain Conference. Her most recent

project, "The Greenhouse," is a church plant that involves the development of a 9-acre piece of land into an spiritual space where members of the community and congregants from established faith communities can come experience ecological responsibility as an expression of sacred ritual.



Rev. Patrick David Heery is the editor for Presbyterian Mission publications, including the Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.)'s flagship publication, *Presbyterians Today*. The great grandson of a minister, Patrick was ordained as a ruling elder while still a teenager. Just a week after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary in May 2011 with a Master of Divinity, he began work with the PC(USA) in Louisville, Kentucky, as associate for social witness and managing editor of *Unbound*, an online interactive journal of Christian social justice. Patrick has served as a prison and hospital chaplain, was trained by People Improving Communities through Organizing in community organizing, and is particularly active in LGBTQQI advocacy. He loves nature, writing, philosophy and hiking with his much loved beagle/springer spaniel mix, Darby.

Seminar for those considering membership

Why Plymouth? Why Me? interactive seminars are for people interested in membership in Plymouth Church. The next seminar will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., April 14. In addition to learning more of what Plymouth has to offer, this seminar provides an opportunity to become better

acquainted with other prospective members. Individuals who decide to join the church are welcomed at a special reception. New members are received into the community during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on May 5. To register for the April 14 seminar, please contact Emily Venell

at 612/977-1281 or emilyv@plymouth.org. If you have questions regarding membership at Plymouth, you may contact Jeffrey Sartain, Executive Minister. Jeff can be reached in the church office, after he returns from sabbatical April 8, at 612/871-7400.

New management for Early Learning Center

Beginning on April 1, 2013, Project for Pride in Living, Inc., will assume responsibility for the operation of the child-care facility at Plymouth Congregational Church. In the transition from Children's Home Society, Stevens Square Early

Learning Center will retain its current management and staff.

Project for Pride in Living was sought as a potential partner because their organization also strives to help children thrive. PPL operates Early Wonders Preschool for children

ages 2½ to 5 years. PPL's expansion into the Stevens Square location at Plymouth Church will give even more families in our community access to excellent early learning opportunities, in addition to PPL's integrated support services.

Lydia Apartments Closet Drive

When people move into an apartment at Lydia Apartments, they have an opportunity to acquire household necessities from the Closet. With new residents arriving, there is a need to restock these shelves with the basics for setting up an apartment. A new resident recently attended Connections Committee meeting and expressed his deep appreciation for the items, which reaffirmed the importance of the Closet

donations for the Closet. Especially needed are:

- pots and pans (with lids)
- blankets
- mattress pads (twin, extra long)
- crock pots
- lamps (table and floor)
- small, rubber-backed rugs
- can openers
- sharp knives

On April 7 and 14, there will be a table in Guild Hall where you can drop off

Through this effort we continue to support Lydia Apartments, and people in our community who are



transitioning from homelessness.

—Marlene Kuxhausen

PARISH REGISTER

DECEASED

- Dorothy Brindle
- Elsa Thum Lutz, mother-(in-law) of Hazel Lutz and Tom Anderson, of Charles and Karen Lutz, and of Tom and Carol Lutz; grandmother of Toni Lutz.
- Mary Louise Wheaton
- Carolyn Wiester

BEREAVED

- Dorene Bruns, death of father
- Jane and Dick Gerber, death of Jane's brother, Dean Kalmoe
- Drew Gesell and Annette King, death of Drew's mother, Mildred Gesell, and Annette's mother, Annabelle King
- Clint Hall and Joan Parsons, death of Clint's sister LaVerne Kenyon

- Bob and Karen Reed, death of Bob's sister, Laura Reed Hiltz; Wil and Andrew Reed, death of aunt
- Sheri Sheeks, death of mother, Avis Ahrndt; Martin and Heidi Sheeks, death of Martin's grandmother; Katie Sheeks, death of grandmother
- Al and Parker Trostel, death of Al's sister Louise Trostel Deskey-Wegg

BAPTIZED

- Caiden Thomas Newton Becker, son of Christine Alison Becker and Sean Alexander Newton
- Lawrence Carlton Mathison, son of John Mathison and Michelle Trotter-Mathison

Marriage Equality, One More BIG Step

BY PAUL PRICE

As a member of Plymouth Church, a Deacon, and a gay man, I write to inform you about developments regarding marriage equality and to share with you my thoughts on this issue. The Minnesota legislature has before it two bills (House File 1054 and Senate File 925) to finally provide marriage equality to all lesbian and gay Minnesota citizens. Current Minnesota law prohibits lesbian and gay people from marrying the people we love. We Plymouthites need to actively encourage our legislators to achieve this moral good.

In 2011, the Minnesota legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment to enshrine marriage inequality in our state constitution. It was placed on the 2012 general election ballot. This effort failed due to the persistent and organized opposition of other Minnesotans.

Based on our rich history of engaging social justice issues, Plymouth Congregational Church joined many other religious groups to oppose the amendment. In March 2012, our Church passed, after careful consideration, a congregational resolution publicly stating our opposition to the amendment. The Board of Deacons

formed Plymouth Church United for All Families, which organized opposition inside our congregation in concert with the statewide Minnesotans United for All Families.

This legislative session, however,

This would
recognize the full
human potential
of lesbian and gay
people as we have
been created.

we do not have time to engage in the same congregational process regarding the proposed legislation. As of this writing in early March, the first floor votes may occur in early April. Still, we can contribute to the effort to pass the legislation.

How?

Watch the weekly Bulletin Announcements for updates on where and how you can contribute your energy and resources to support the legislature in passing HF 1054 and SF 925. Stop by the Gay Straight Alliance table in Guild Hall after the

10:30 service for recent news and directions to volunteer opportunities. Look for updates in the Church's webpage (www.plymouth.org) and Facebook pages (www.facebook.com/PlymouthCongregationalChurch). Go to the Minnesotans United for All Families website (mnunited.org/volunteer) to volunteer and gather information. Minnesotans United is organizing this effort in conjunction with OutFront Minnesota (outfront.org) and Project 515 (project515.org). They need people for phone banking, data entry, fund raising, writing letters to editors and calling legislators.

If our legislature passes this marriage equality legislation, they will eliminate one of the last Minnesota state government-sponsored forms of invidious harm to lesbian and gay people. For me, this would recognize the full human potential of lesbian and gay people as we have been created.

We, like all others, hope for deep relationship with another human being. We equally care for the generations that will come after us when we leave. As religiously based individuals, with a devotion to social justice rooted in Plymouth's long history, all of us can help achieve this goal in Minnesota.

Special Social Justice Service, 5 p.m., April 28: Everyone is invited!

Plymouth Church has a rich history of serving the poor. We also have a calling to use our voices to join together in advocacy as an expression of our faith. Wilder Research's 2012 Minnesota Homeless Study found that 10,214 adults, youth and children were sleeping in emergency shelters and on the streets one night in October. These numbers call us to use our collective voice to encourage change. It is also important to take time to come together to sing and pray together, to celebrate the work that we are doing and to inspire us to keep going and to do more. Please join us for a special Social Justice Prayer Service on Sunday, April 28 at 5 p.m., in Guild Hall. The service will include youth choir performances and family-friendly activities.

Earth Sunday, April 21

BY JAMES P. LENFESTEY

For Earth Sunday, April 21, Caring for Creation proposes to center Plymouth as part of the solution to the planetary emergency of climate change. Please consider these possible actions:

1) Commit to make our church facility carbon neutral by 2030.

Energy consumption that cannot be limited by conservation will be provided by sources such as wind or solar that do not produce waste carbon. Mayflower Congregational Church made the carbon-neutral commitment two years ago and is well on the way to achieving it.

2) We are asking the congregation, as individuals, families, businesses, and college alumni to consider disinvesting in the fossil fuel industry.

The spark for this

international campaign comes from author Bill McKibben, the Martin Luther King of climate science.

3) Participate in an ongoing citizen science project at the Nature Conservancy's Schaefer Prairie

preserve an hour west of Minneapolis, hosted by naturalist and Plymouth member David Astin. Through C4C, Mr. Astin will offer Plymouth members his course, "Learning to See Nature: A Spiritual Practice," including the guided trip to Schaefer Prairie.

Stop by the Caring for Creation table in Guild Hall to pick up more information and to discuss any of these initiatives. While there you can also sign up for a Warbler Day in May, also led by Astin.

Youth: Night on the Street, April 19

Did you know that there are 2,500 homeless youth on any given night in Minnesota? You can help to change this by putting your faith into action and joining with hundreds of area youth at A Night on the Street, April 19.

A Night on the Street is an overnight youth service and learning experience organized by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Spend the night sleeping out and raise funds for affordable housing. You'll put your faith into action in a concrete way. Interested? Contact Shannon Kearns, shannonk@plymouth.org.

Poverty Scholars and Potluck, April 14, 5 p.m.

BY SAM KING

Willie Baptist and John Wessel-McCoy, members of Union Theological Seminary's (New York) Poverty Initiative, will speak at Plymouth on Sunday, April 14 at 5 p.m., in Jackman. Baptist, a formerly homeless father who came out of the Watts uprisings, was a shop steward for the United Steelworkers, had 40 years of experience organizing the poor through the National Welfare Rights Union and other organizations, and is the co-author with Jan Rehmann, a Union professor, of *Pedagogy of the Poor*. This book, which will be available for purchase at the event, brings together grassroots poverty activism with relevant social theories about poverty. Baptist is scholar in

residence at Union and coordinates the poverty scholars program. John Wessel-McCoy, a Union grad and case manager working with homeless people, is project organizer for the Poverty Initiative, a consortium of grassroots poverty organizations around this country and abroad, seeking to better the situations of their members by their own efforts and by social action. Their mission is to complete the work started by Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign.

For the last four years I have been working with John and Willie and other members of the Poverty Initiative from around the country to generate material for an anthology

of poetry by people emerging from poverty. This anthology, entitled *Out of the Depths, Voices from the Heart of Poverty*, will come out sometime in the spring of 2014.

Don't miss this chance to be inspired and motivated by these two powerful witnesses and activists, whose work has led to the betterment of the lives of many. Learn from them how those who have felt dis-empowered have tapped the power within themselves and by banding together to transform seemingly hopeless conditions.

Please bring a dish to share and a willingness to listen and interact with two national leaders in the effort to end poverty.

April 2013

01 EASTER MONDAY
Church office closed.

02 TUESDAY
9:45 Knit A Bit
10:00 Archives Committee
12:30 Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

03 WEDNESDAY
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
1:00 Drop-In
5:15 Katy's Cafe
6:00 Church Council
6:00 Young Voices
6:15 Alleluia Dancers
6:15 Cherub Choir
6:30 Coventry Bells
6:45 Chorister Choir
6:45 Genesis Dancers
6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
7:00 Family Gathering Time
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:30 Youth Choir
7:30 Bells Jubilee

04 THURSDAY
10:30 Meals on Wheels
12:00 Clergy members of Plymouth
6:00 Drop-In
7:00 Explore Noncanonical Texts: The Gnostic Gospels and *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

05 FRIDAY
9:30 Compassionate Communications Practice Session
7:30 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players

06 SATURDAY
9:00 Connecting Communities Through Food: Cooking as Spiritual Practice, four-session workshop; please register.
7:30 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players

07 SUNDAY
8:45 –11:45 Childcare
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
9:00 Sunday Forum
9:15 Bible Study: It's Our Sacred Text
9:30 Meditation

9:50 First Service
10:00 Blood pressure screening
10:30 Sanctuary Service
10:30 Church School & Confirmation
11:50 Katy's Cafe
11:50 Artists' reception
12:00 Wider Church Relations

08 MONDAY
2:15 OLLI class: *Robert Bly in This World*
6:00 Network of Spiritual Progressives
6:00 Home Retreat meeting
7:00 Great Books Group
7:00 Using the Enneagram Tool for Women's Personal and Generational Healing

09 TUESDAY
9:45 Knit A Bit
4:30 Plymouth American Indian Initiative
5:30 Buildings and Grounds Meeting
6:30 BeFriends

10 WEDNESDAY
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
1:00 Drop-In
5:15 Katy's Cafe
6:00 Young Voices
6:15 Alleluia Dancers
6:15 Cherub Choir
6:30 Coventry Bells
6:30 Board of Children, Youth, & Families
6:30 Board of Deacons
6:30 Board of Membership
6:45 Chorister Choir
6:45 Genesis Dancers
6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
7:00 Family Gathering Time
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:30 Youth Choir
7:30 Bells Jubilee

11 THURSDAY
10:30 Meals on Wheels
2:15 OLLI class: Freud c/o Hollywood
6:00 Drop-In
7:00 Explore Noncanonical Texts: The Gnostic Gospels and *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance
7:00 Plymouth Keyboard Music Club

12 FRIDAY
9:30 Compassionate Communications Practice Session

5:00 Inauguration of United Theological Seminary President
7:30 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players

13 SATURDAY
9:00 Connecting Communities Through Food: Cooking as Spiritual Practice, four-session workshop; please register.
5:00 Taste of Eat Street Fundraiser
7:30 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players

14 SUNDAY
8:30 Board of Stewards
8:45 –11:45 Childcare
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
9:00 Sunday Forum
9:15 Bible Study: It's Our Sacred Text
9:30 Meditation
9:50 First Service
10:30 Sanctuary Service
10:30 Church School & Confirmation
11:45 Plymouth Community Fund Committee
11:50 Katy's Cafe
12:00 Family Gathering
12:00 Caring for Creation
12:15 Plymouth Film Club
12:30 Why Plymouth? Why Me? interactive seminar
1:00 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players
4:30 *Pedagogy and the Poor* potluck and discussion (see page 9)

15 MONDAY
2:15 OLLI class: *Robert Bly in This World*
7:00 Using the Enneagram Tool for Women's Personal and Generational Healing
7:00 Literary Witnesses: Jane Hirshfield

16 TUESDAY
9:45 Knit A Bit
12:30 Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

17 WEDNESDAY
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
1:00 Drop-In
4:00 BeFriends
5:15 Katy's Cafe
6:00 Young Voices
6:15 Alleluia Dancers

6:15 Cherub Choir
6:30 Coventry Bells
6:30 Board of Outreach
6:30 Board of Trustees
6:45 Chorister Choir
6:45 Genesis Dancers
6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
7:00 Family Gathering Time
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:30 Youth Choir
7:30 Bells Jubilee

18 THURSDAY

10:30 Meals on Wheels
2:15 OLLI class: Freud c/o Hollywood
6:00 Drop-In
7:00 Explore Noncanonical Texts: The Gnostic Gospels and *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

19 FRIDAY

9:30 Compassionate Communications Practice Session
5:00 Night on the Street begins
7:30 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players

20 SATURDAY

8:30 Night on the Street ends
9:00 Connecting Communities Through Food: Cooking as Spiritual Practice, four-session workshop; please register.
7:30 *Into the Woods*, Eat Street Players

21 EARTH SUNDAY

8:45–11:45 Childcare
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
9:00 Sunday Forum
9:15 Bible Study: It's Our Sacred Text
9:30 Meditation
9:50 First Service

10:30 Sanctuary Service
10:30 Church School & Confirmation
11:50 Katy's Cafe
5:00 Third Sunday Meal

22 MONDAY

2:00 Harlan Smith Memorial Service
2:15 OLLI class: *Robert Bly in This World*
7:00 Using the Enneagram Tool for Women's Personal and Generational Healing

23 TUESDAY

9:45 Knit A Bit

24 WEDNESDAY

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
10:00 OLLI & VocalEssence: *Paul Bunyan*
1:00 Drop-In
5:15 Katy's Cafe
5:30 Spiritual Enrichment Committee
5:30 Board of Fine Arts
6:00 Young Voices
6:15 Alleluia Dancers
6:15 Cherub Choir
6:30 Coventry Bells
6:45 Chorister Choir
6:45 Genesis Dancers
6:45 Spiritual Enrichment-Yoga
7:00 Family Gathering Time
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:30 Youth Choir
7:30 Bells Jubilee

25 THURSDAY

10:30 Meals on Wheels
2:15 OLLI class: Freud c/o Hollywood
6:00 Drop-In
7:00 Explore Noncanonical Texts: The Gnostic Gospels and *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*

26 FRIDAY

9:30 Compassionate Communications Practice Session
7:30 Jesus Seminar on the Road: *Reframing Christian Scriptures*

27 SATURDAY

8:30 Jesus Seminar on the Road: *Reframing Christian Scriptures*
9:00 Connecting Communities Through Food: Cooking as Spiritual Practice, four-session workshop; please register.

28 SUNDAY

8:45–11:45 Childcare
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal
9:00 Sunday Forum
9:15 Bible Study: It's Our Sacred Text
9:30 Meditation
9:50 First Service
10:30 Sanctuary Service
10:30 Church School & Confirmation
11:50 Katy's Cafe
11:50 Congregational Special Meeting: Transforming Governance Proposal
5:00 Social Justice Prayer Service

29 MONDAY

2:15 OLLI class: *Robert Bly in This World*
7:00 Using the Enneagram Tool for Women's Personal and Generational Healing

30 TUESDAY

9:45 Knit A Bit

ARTS

INTO THE WOODS, APRIL 5-20

Eat Street Players offers the Sondheim favorite *Into The Woods*, 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, April 5–20, with one matinee at 1 p.m., April 14. The extraordinary cast includes Plymouth community people—Doug Freeman, Annette Cummings and Kira Church—as well as talented folks from the community. On April 13, arrive at 5 p.m. to join in the gala Taste of Eat Street to raise funds for the troupe. For more info about the show and the gala, and to reserve tickets, visit www.eatstreetplayers.org.

ZEN POET JANE HIRSHFIELD, APRIL 15

Prize-winning poet, translator and essayist Jane Hirshfield will read at 7 p.m., Monday, April 15, at Plymouth. *The New York Times* describes Hirshfield's poetry as "radiant and passionate"; other reviewers say it's "ethically aware," "insightful and eloquent" and rich with "succinct wisdom." Her several anthologies recording the works of women poets from the past have become classics. This reading is presented by Literary Witnesses, co-sponsored by The Loft Literary Center and *Rain Taxi Review of Books*. Invite your friends to this free event!
—Jim Lenfestey

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publication of any article.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:50 First Service in the Chapel
Especially for young families, this
30-minute service ends at 10:20.

10:30 Service in the Sanctuary
Preaching:

April 7 Stephanie Price and Patrick
Heery (see page 6)

April 14 James Gertmenian

April 21 James Gertmenian

April 28 James Gertmenian

**April 28 Social Justice Prayer
Service, 5 p.m., Guild Hall**
(see page 8)

Plymouth Congregational Church

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Summertime and the worship is...

This summer, two major projects will change our Sunday worship. The installation of a fire-sprinkling system in our Sanctuary and other parts of our facility is a must-do. In January 2012, a fire and safety inspection by Minneapolis's Fire Marshal was part of a citywide initiative to bring older assembly buildings into compliance with the fire code. By carrying out the installation this summer, we will meet the deadline given by the Fire Marshal.

Also important: Replacing outdated air-conditioning equipment. In addition to bringing our equipment up to code, replacing 30-plus year old machinery should make our energy use more efficient—a goal in our ongoing partnership with Class5 Energy.

We'll be out of the Sanctuary for a while this summer, probably in July and August, so please watch for details about worship. Looking ahead, the adventure continues!

BUTTRESSING OUR BUILDING

Combined, these two projects are expected to cost \$1.2 million. In addition to two households' recent gifts for building improvements totaling more than \$120,000, one of our regular theater renters has provided a gift of \$1,000. We are grateful! In addition to money from the operating fund, the remainder of the funds will be borrowed.