

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

## Our Christmas Offering helps three organizations

BY JEFFREY SARTAIN, MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Photo: Mark Luinenburg

Each year the entire amount received at our Christmas Eve services, and contributions designated for Christmas Offering, go to those in need.

Three organizations will receive our congregation's support this Christmas.

Each has an urgent and specific need. These were selected by the Plymouth Community Fund Committee: Trish Grose, Shawn Koester, Lee Mauk (chair), Loretta Menke, Rusty Nelson and Sean Somermeyer.

At least 50 percent will go to **Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ**. Our gifts will be used in their entirety to assist the displaced people of Syria (both refugees in neighboring countries and those displaced internally in Syria). Millions have witnessed intensifying violence and the loss of jobs, homes and loved ones.

Too often they also have lost hope. As we tell again the Christmas story of a Middle Eastern family far from home and without basic resources, we will ensure that such families still struggling today will receive tangible

support and symbols of our love. To learn more, visit: [www.globalministries.org/syria](http://www.globalministries.org/syria).

Close to home, **Groveland Food Shelf** serves the hungry in our immediate neighborhood. It is housed in the church's lower level. The Food Shelf needs commercial-grade refrigeration units to comply with codes. Your gifts

to the Christmas Offering will ensure that the new refrigeration is purchased and installed—enabling us to get on with doing the work of offering food to the hungry in our midst. For more details: [www.grovelandfoodshelf.org](http://www.grovelandfoodshelf.org).

Another local organization is **Better Futures Minnesota**, which offers a second chance to men coming out of prison. This organization is Plymouth's partner, along with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and Westminster Church, to build Great River Landing. The specific need is a new van to transport men to job sites. A portion of our Christmas offering will help us, together with Westminster, to buy a used van to meet this critical need. [betterfuturesminnesota.com/](http://betterfuturesminnesota.com/)

Watch for a letter coming to your home with a special gift envelope. You

can also give online at [plymouth.org/act/](http://plymouth.org/act/). Or bring your offering to any of our Christmas Eve services. God bless us as we give generously to those in need at Christmas.

Each of these organizations has a specific and urgent need: Assisting displaced people from Syria, feeding our neighbors and providing second chances to men coming out of prison.

# Update on Racial Justice Journey workshops

BY THERESA VOSS, RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE MEMBER

We sat in “circle,” a Native American practice, and there was to be no beginning and no end. The person talking would hold a symbolic object, in this case a strikingly imperfect piece of wood, something broken yet beautiful. Ground rules had previously been established: This was to be a safe space, where people were to be held lovingly. If “mistakes” were made, we would learn to sit in discomfort. We heard that struggle is a gift, and that it is important to validate others. We had discussed the difference between conflict and combat. And we had discussed whether guilt was useful and when to move on.

Then, “What does it mean to be white?” One by one, we spoke from our own experience, moving between head and heart. We listened to poetry, we wrestled with anger. Could we recognize our privilege? Would we be willing to go out of our way to

advocate for someone without our privilege? Have we? Have we not?

The circle was the culmination of the three-part workshop *Personal Lenses and Collective Environments: A Call for Racial Justice*, led by our Racial Justice Journey consultants Colette Campbell and Jonathan Stuart of Workingbetter2gether.

Nearly 40 Plymouth members took part in the October workshops, with another 40 participating in workshops



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held in November. A variety of unique and interactive learning techniques were employed to get participants thinking about race and privilege on a deep level, and to encourage us to talk with one another about our thoughts, feelings and experiences. After just the first session, 87 percent of participants responded positively to the statement “I am aware of my privilege in a new / deeper way.” Many people commented that the sessions were very helpful in assisting them in recognizing unconscious biases and in giving them a better sense of how to be an ally to people of color.

Additional dates for workshops are being planned for early next year. If you have any questions about these workshops or about the Racial Justice Task Force efforts, contact Maggie Heier, Racial Justice Task Force Chair, at [maggie.heier@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.heier@gmail.com).

GRACE NOTES

## Glorious! Advent, Christmas and New Year's Day

BY PHILIP BRUNELLE

December is a month filled with music! Glorious music for Advent and Christmas by all of our choirs as well as guest instrumentalists. How blessed we are to have such a wonderful array of Plymouth talent!

The Adult Choir will be singing a wide range of music during Advent stretching from the Renaissance (Gibbons) to the 20th and 21st centuries (Janáček, Kellam, Dove and Rütli).

Then on Christmas Eve, there are three different services: the 4:45 service will include all of our young people, our handbell ringers and our dancers; 7:45 will feature our five wonderful soloists with a focus this year on music from England (each year we have enjoyed music of a different region of our world); and, at 10:45, the Lessons and Carols service will include one of Bob Chilcott's beautiful pieces for Christmas Eve, as well as music of Alan Bullard and Sasha Manning and an atmospheric *Norwegian Lullaby*.

Sunday morning—Christmas Day—will include Peter Warlock's lively carol *The Sycamore Tree*, John Rutter's beloved *What Sweeter Music* and a charming carol by Brian Holmes, *Who Will Go to Bethlehem*. This morning will also include our annual Carol Sing—a chance for all of us to join in singing some favorite carols.

And—Jan. 1, New Year's Day, will feature one of Johann Sebastian Bach's festive cantatas composed especially for New Year's Day, *Praise God, O My Spirit*, for choir, soloists, organ, three trumpets and timpani. A wonderful way to welcome in the New Year!



Photo: Ann Marsden

# Sharing the joy of giving

In November, an unusual event gave needy people a rare gift: the joy of giving. This holiday season, people served by the Strobel Drop-In Center had the opportunity to choose and wrap gifts for women in transition at Ascension Place.

During their early Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 23, Strobel Drop-In Center members “shopped” at tables of attractive, needed items such as soaps, shampoos and pens, filling gift bags and, if they wished, writing cards to the anonymous recipients.

People served by the Strobel Drop-In Center at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis typically face the dual challenges of mental illness and low incomes. Women at Ascension Place are in crisis or transition and living in supportive



housing while they get their lives back on track.

Along with the gift of being able to give to others in need, our Strobel Drop-In Center folks also received Target gift cards.

Sharing joy, giving and holiday cheer at this early Thanksgiving event was funded by the Strobel Family Foundation, as is the Strobel Drop-In Center.

**Ascension Place** is one of our Plymouth Community Fund community partners. Learn more about them at [ascensionplace.org](http://ascensionplace.org). The organization has a wish list of household necessities and clothing to donate to their clients: [ascensionplace.org/wishlist](http://ascensionplace.org/wishlist).



## Christmas Eve Services Saturday, Dec. 24

4:45 p.m.

Family Service in the Sanctuary  
Youth Choir, Children’s Choirs,  
Handbells

7:45 p.m.

Sanctuary Candlelight Service  
(ASL interpreted)  
Vocal quintet, harp and organ

10:45 p.m.

Sanctuary Candlelight Service of  
Lessons and Carols  
Senior Choir, harp and organ

## Sunday, Dec. 25

10:30 Sanctuary Service

## Wednesday, Dec. 28

5:30 p.m. Service of Remembrance

## HOLIDAY MUSIC

**Giving Voice Chorus concerts:** Comprised of people with Alzheimer’s or other dementia and their care partners, the Giving Voice Choruses in Minneapolis and St. Paul celebrate life, music and memory. Tickets are \$12, free for those under 12; call 612/321-0100.

St. Paul Giving Voice Concert: *Peace, Joy and Love*. Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., Dec. 11, 1 p.m.

Minneapolis Giving Voice Concert: *Friends and Family*. Olson Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St., Bloomington. Dec. 17, 1 p.m.

## Sunday, Jan. 1 New Year’s Day

9:45 First Service

10:30 Sanctuary Service

Bach Cantata No. 143

*Praise God, O My Spirit*

Choir, soloists, trumpets,  
timpani and organ

# Beacon secures funding for Great River Landing

BY KRIS BERGGREN, BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative recently announced that the City of Minneapolis and Minnesota Housing have awarded tax credit financing worth \$14.1 million to build Great River Landing.

The housing is the fourth development sparked by the Housing 150 collaboration among Plymouth Congregational Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Beacon, created several years ago in honor of the congregations' sesquicentennial anniversaries.

The building will be located at 813 North 5th Street in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis, near the Target Field transit station. It is to include single room occupancy and efficiency apartments for 72 adults, primarily African-American men who have experienced incarceration, unemployment and homelessness.

“We will disrupt cycles of generational poverty, homelessness, unemployment and incarceration.”

and financial support to envision and create housing that will help to address some of the persistent racial inequities of opportunity in our city,” said Beacon Executive Director Lee Blons.

Rev. Carla Bailey joined Beacon advocates to thank Minneapolis

the formerly incarcerated. Health issues may be complicated, family relationships strained. But we know that none of those issues can be effectively addressed if the person leaving prison faces homelessness,” Bailey said.

The supportive housing will be staffed by Better Futures Minnesota, an experienced service provider specializing in helping men find work, establish rental history and reconnect with their families. Each tenant will participate in onsite supportive services offered by Better Futures, including job training, counseling and life coaching and health and wellness training.

Better Futures CEO and President Dr. Thomas Adams said such programs benefit the community in several ways.

“By implementing best practices for supportive housing for people who have been in prison, we will disrupt cycles of generational poverty, homelessness, unemployment and incarceration,” Adams said.

Fundraising for the annual \$1 million cost of providing annual supportive services at Great River Landing is ongoing.

Advocates hope to advance a bill called Unlocking Opportunities during the legislative session that would create dedicated funding for programs and services to support those facing barriers to housing and job access after incarceration.

Construction is estimated to begin in late 2017.



CELEBRATING THE FUNDING OF GREAT RIVER LANDING ARE PLYMOUTH MEMBERS, BEACON INTERFAITH COLLABORATIVE LEADERS AND CITY OFFICIALS.

“We are pleased that the City of Minneapolis and Minnesota Housing have prioritized funding to build Great River Landing. We’re grateful to Plymouth Congregational Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church for their moral leadership

council members at an October meeting when the funding was recommended.

“We know that everyone leaving prison faces barriers to re-entering our communities. Employment is difficult—next to impossible, for

# Great River Landing: Ongoing support needed

BY STEVE PUNDT, HOUSING TASK FORCE

*This article is adapted from Steve's fellowship concern presented Nov. 13.*

Today, we observe the annual Sabbath to End Homelessness. This is a program of the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, which is a collaboration of 14 churches, synagogues and mosques, all working together to end homelessness. Plymouth has been an active member of this group since it began 10 years ago.

This morning I want to share some great news, tell you about an ongoing need to keep that great news supported and ask for your help as we take on a very big challenge.

First, the great news: the Housing Task Force of Plymouth has worked with Westminster Presbyterian Church and Beacon Interfaith Collaborative Housing to create Great River Landing. This will be a home for 72 men who have been *locked out* of housing and employment because of their criminal histories; men who have been *locked into* a cycle of dependency, homelessness, unemployment and recidivism. We have worked with Westminster and Beacon to build the political and

community support to make Great River Landing possible.

As you can see by the story on the opposite page, Great River Landing is fully funded and construction will start next year!

Secondly, there is an ongoing need to support Great River Landing. Supportive services for these 72 men will be provided by Better Futures Minnesota, a nonprofit with a successful track record. The Better Futures model is to provide the men with housing, employment, community and accountability to break the cycle of homelessness, unemployment and recidivism. The men of Better Futures get housing and a job, not a handout; they get a chance, not charity. Better Futures has reduced the rate of recidivism for their men, at a cost of less than half the cost of incarceration. Great River Landing will be secure and staffed 24/7. This intensive supportive housing will cost \$1 million a year. We continue to work with the city, the county and the state to secure the annual funding for Great River Landing.

We ask for your help with a phone call, an email or personal visit to help

secure the required funding to make Great River Landing a success.

Now for the third thing—the very big challenge. We are asking the Minnesota Legislature to pass a bill that would create a source of funding for programs like Better Futures. The bill is called Unlocking Opportunities. This would be a statewide grant program, administered by the Department of Human Services. Unlocking Opportunities would fund programs that provide housing, employment and services to people with felony convictions—to serve those men and women who have been locked out of opportunities.

Why do we do this work? Recently, our bulletin had a page outlining “The Purposes of the Church,” which is like Plymouth’s mission statement: *We, the people of Plymouth Congregational Church, humbly seek and serve God within, among, and beyond ourselves. To serve Beyond ourselves, we invest our time, talent and treasure consistent with our values, serve people in need and advance human rights and social justice.*

Please join our effort to support Great River Landing.

## SUNDAY FORUM—WHERE LIFE AND FAITH MEET—9 A.M., JACKMAN

**Dec. 4:** Reducing Stigma—Providing informed and compassionate care to people with mental illness; Sue Abderholden, MPH, executive director of the Minnesota branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**Dec. 11:** Community Singing—Just for the joy of it; Barbara McAfee offers an opportunity to lift your spirits as you lift your voice in song with others. All voices welcome; no music used.

**Dec. 18:** Peruvian Weaving—Art of the Andes; presented by Melanie Ebertz of ArtAndes, who also will have textiles from the Andes on display in the gallery starting Dec. 11. (See page 7.)

# Tips on year-end giving

BY JOY HANSEN, ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Have you considered the tax benefits of giving appreciated stock to fulfill or increase your 2016 pledge and Capital Campaign pledge? The process is really simple! Contact Joy Hansen at 612/977-1265 or joyh@plymouth.org, or go to our website: www.plymouth.org. Click on the Giving button at the top of the page and then click on "Gifting Stocks." Plymouth's account number with Charles Schwab is #3429-0850, DTC #0164.

## IMPORTANT TAX TIPS

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2016 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible; please check your statement to confirm before you file your taxes. To qualify for a 2016 tax deductible stock gift, be sure your stockbroker/advisor has initiated the transfer of shares to Plymouth's account by Dec. 31, 2016.

## YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

The Accounting Department will gladly accept your year-end contributions through Dec. 31. Please plan ahead. The building will be open the usual hours Dec. 28-30, but the church office is closed Dec. 31. IRS regulations state that gifts must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31 to receive 2016 tax credit. Please clearly mark your envelope "2016" for these year-end gifts. We are unable to give 2016 tax credit for checks that are not received by staff at the church or postmarked by Dec. 31. If you have any questions, contact Joy Hansen at 612/977-1265 or joyh@plymouth.org.

## CHECK

### YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE

To log into your account:

- Please go to the Plymouth website (www.plymouth.org).
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Member Login" link under "Quick Links."
- On the page that opens, enter your email or user name and your password.

- You'll be taken to your overview page.

View your pledge or giving:

- From your overview page, find the "My Giving Summary" section.
- Click the "My Giving History" or "My Pledge History" link.

## YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE, TOO!

There is another way to give to Plymouth. Go to www.plymouth.org and click on the Act button at the top of the page. Then click on "Give." This will take you to a secure server where you can put in your donation amount and bank and/or credit card information. After you submit, you will get a confirmation email and the amount will show up on your bank statement/credit card statement, payable to Plymouth Church. You can give a one-time gift, or set up a profile and designate a recurring gift. It's that simple. If you have any questions, please contact Joy Hansen.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to Plymouth Congregational Church!

## SEW GOOD WORKSHOP

Sew Good Goods will host their first open workshop on Dec. 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Needlers room. Come cut, pin and sew items to be donated.

All supplies are provided by Sew Good Goods. Prior sewing experience is not needed, though feel free to bring your own sewing machine if you prefer to use it. Email any questions to sewgoodgoods@gmail.com.

## Room for your book on the shelf

Plymouth authors, please note that the Elaine Marsh Library is creating a collection of books written by Plymouth members. As you can see by the photo, there is room for your book on our library shelves.

Would you please donate a signed copy of your book to the library? Your book can be left at the front desk or on the desk in the library, with a note from you telling us of the donation.



# Christmas crafts: Elves wanted on Dec. 4!

BY CHRIS HIGH, HEAD ELF

**Traditions.**

**Memories.**

**Handmade treasures.**

Do you sing carols while setting up your tree? Does each ornament tell a story? How long has Plymouth been part of the events leading up to your Christmas? Some still have the ornaments made here at Plymouth by their children 30 years ago. Others remember being captivated by the childhood stories from past ministers.

The story continues this year on Sunday, Dec. 4, with the Christmas Craft Workshop. There will be crafts for all levels: from paper angels to color and decorate for the wee ones to creating chromatic disbursement for the awe-inspired. “Upcycling” items typically thrown away into gifts and cards will contribute to good stewardship of the environment.

In total, 12 different crafts await your creativity. Weave wheat. Make a



snow globe. Decorate a gingerbread person. Give a little light. Produce an original design. What’s a tree without ornaments? Then add a little hot cocoa for the winter ahead.

The Craft Workshop will be held in Jones Commons from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. It runs concurrently with the holiday reception in Guild Hall and caroling and storytelling in the Chapel.

A ticket system is used to pay for making a craft. Purchase tickets by the reception desk in Jones Commons. Tickets cost \$1, or get a deal and buy 25 tickets for \$20! The cost to make a craft is 1, 2 or 3 tickets.

This year the 2016 Christmas Craft Workshop would like to present an opportunity to start a new tradition for Plymouth. There will be a little tree in Jones Commons awaiting some handmade crafts or cards from the Workshop. If each household gives one handcrafted item, we as a community could extend some heartfelt wishes to Plymouth’s homebound members, who may need a little cheer.

You are invited to tinker in the workshop! Put on your curly-toed booties and become an elf on Sunday, Dec. 4

ARTS

# Colorful textiles warm up the Gallery in December

BY GREGG DAUBERT, GALLERY COMMITTEE

Stillwater resident Melanie Ebertz founded ArtAndes in Peru in the mid-’80s, after meeting weavers while backpacking in remote Quechua villages. She began working with them and has been designing both textiles and cultural journeys in the Andes ever since. “The textiles are rich in cultural heritage; they reflect an ancient tradition of expression and human fortitude,” Melanie says.

The stunning handwoven rugs have designs rooted in Pre-Colombian times with a contemporary flair and hints of Abstract Expressionism. The fine weaving craft starts with hand-spun wool on a drop spindle, natural



dyes and, lastly, the complicated tapestry weave.

Please meet Melanie at an artist’s reception on Dec. 11 and enjoy this exhibit with your friends through Jan. 18. Join us at Sunday Forum, 9 a.m. on Dec. 18, to learn about how

the long-term relationship between Minnesota and the Andean region of Ayacucho, Peru, has transformed lives by preserving both craft and culture.

See more of ArtAndes work at [artandes.com](http://artandes.com).

# December 2016

## 01 THURSDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
10:30 Book study: *Revelations—Visions, Prophecy & Politics*  
12:00 Plymouth Pew Clergy Discussion Group—offsite  
6:00 Strobel Drop-in Center  
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

## 02 FRIDAY

## 03 SATURDAY

## 04 SUNDAY—ADVENT II

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 Sunday Forum  
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal  
9:30 Meditation  
9:45 First Service  
10:30 Sanctuary Service  
10:30 Church School, Jr. High, Sr. High  
11:45 Confirmation  
11:45 Christmas Festival  
2:00 Advent Recital: Maria Jette and Sonja Thompson

## 05 MONDAY

1:00 Home Retreat Meeting  
6:30 Racial Justice Journey: Disparities and Brokenness  
7:00 Great Books Group

## 06 TUESDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
12:15 Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group  
6:00 Leadership Council  
6:30 Deacons and Leadership Council  
6:45 One More Chair Bridge Game  
7:00 Contemplative Life Program

## 07 WEDNESDAY

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
9:45 Knit A Bit  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Session  
10:30 *The Rebirthing of God*  
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
4:30 Legacy Giving Committee  
5:15 Katy's Cafe  
6:00 Zumba  
6:00 Young Voices  
6:00 Cherub Choir

6:00 Bells Jubilee  
6:30 Youth Choir  
6:30 Genesis Dancers  
6:30 Sew Good Goods workshop  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration—Yoga  
6:50 Chorister Choir  
7:00 Plymouth Choir  
7:35 Alleluia Dancers  
7:35 Coventry Bells  
8:00 Chapel Singers

## 08 THURSDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
10:30 Book study: *Revelations—Visions, Prophecy & Politics*  
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
7:00 Board of Worship  
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance  
7:00 Plymouth Keyboard Music Club

## 09 FRIDAY

## 10 SATURDAY

9:30 Star of Wonder—VocalEssence concert for youngsters  
11:00 Star of Wonder—VocalEssence concert for youngsters  
4:00 Welcome Christmas—VocalEssence

## 11 SUNDAY—ADVENT III

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal  
9:00 Sunday Forum  
9:30 Meditation  
9:45 First Service  
10:30 Sanctuary Service, with Living Nativity following  
10:30 Church School, Jr. High, Sr. High  
11:45 Confirmation  
11:50 Church tour  
11:50 Katy's Cafe  
11:50 Artist's reception  
11:50 Caring for Creation  
12:30 Racial Justice Journey: Privilege and Guilt  
4:00 Welcome Christmas—VocalEssence

## 12 MONDAY

6:30 Racial Justice Task Force

## 13 TUESDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
4:00 Building and Grounds  
6:30 BeFrienders  
6:30 Gun Violence Prevention Initiative

## 14 WEDNESDAY

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
9:45 Knit A Bit  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Session  
10:30 Habit 18  
1:00 Strobel Drop-in Center Christmas Service  
2:30 DCEH Steering Committee  
5:00 Sunday Forum Committee meeting  
5:15 Katy's Cafe  
5:30 Board of Fine Arts  
6:00 Board of Community Life  
6:00 Cherub Choir  
6:00 Bells Jubilee  
6:00 Zumba  
6:00 Young Voices  
6:30 Youth Choir  
6:30 Genesis Dancers  
6:30 Board of Spiritual Formation  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration—Yoga  
6:50 Chorister Choir  
7:00 Plymouth Choir  
7:35 Alleluia Dancers  
7:35 Coventry Bells  
8:00 Chapel Singers

## 15 THURSDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

## 16 FRIDAY

## 17 SATURDAY

## 18 SUNDAY—ADVENT IV

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 Sunday Forum  
9:00 Adult Bells Rehearsal  
9:30 Meditation  
9:45 First Service  
10:30 Sanctuary Service  
10:30 Church School, Jr. High, Sr. High  
11:45 Confirmation  
11:50 Church tour  
11:50 Katy's Cafe  
5:00 Third Sunday meal



19 MONDAY

20 TUESDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
12:15 Traumatic Brain Injury Support Grp  
6:30 Deacons

21 WEDNESDAY

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
9:45 Knit A Bit  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Session  
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
1:30 OMC Book Club  
3:00 Stewardship Committee meeting  
4:00 BeFriendsers  
5:00 Board of Finance & Administration  
5:15 Katy's Cafe  
6:30 Christmas Eve dress rehearsal  
6:30 Spiritual Exploration Committee  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration-Yoga  
7:00 Plymouth Choir

22 THURSDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

23 FRIDAY

24 SATURDAY—  
CHRISTMAS EVE

4:45 Family service  
7:45 Candlelight Service; vocal quintet, harp and organ; ASL interpreted  
10:45 Service of Lessons & Carols with the Senior Choir, harp & organ

25 SUNDAY—CHRISTMAS

10:30 Sanctuary Service

26 MONDAY

Building closed

27 TUESDAY

Building closed

28 WEDNESDAY

9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
9:45 Knit A Bit  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Session  
1:00 Strobel Drop-in Center  
5:30 Service of Remembrance  
6:00 Leadership Council  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration-Yoga

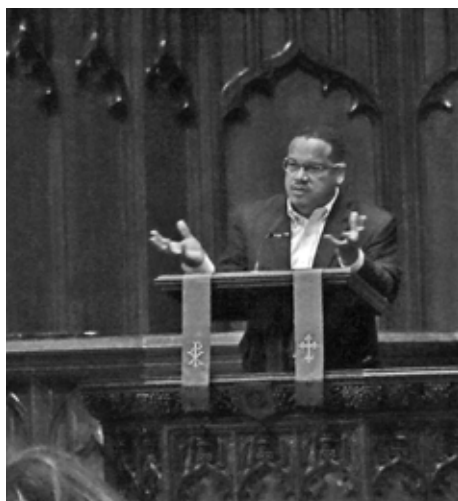
29 THURSDAY

10:00 Archives Committee  
10:30 Meals on Wheels  
6:00 Strobel Drop-in Center  
7:00 Cuban Rueda Salsa Dance

30 FRIDAY

31 SATURDAY

12:00 Building closes for New Year's Eve



From left: City Council member Elizabeth Glidden, U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sartain spoke when Plymouth hosted a **Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness** event Nov. 13.

PARISH REGISTER

DEATH

John Steimle, husband of Ruth Steimle

BEREAVED

Nicole and Jason Gjevre, death of Nicole's sister

Jessi-Ann Bettcher; Maxwell and Sylvia Gjevre, death of aunt.  
Dorothy Noreen, death of grandson Daniel Cooper

MARRIAGE  
Ann and Zach Rosol

BIRTH

Kyle Stephen Hubbard, son of Darrin and Heather Hubbard

Kenneth Michael Purser, son of Katherine (Monten) and James Purser; grandson of

Michael and Rosanne Monten

BAPTISM

Wesley James Doberstein, son of Megan and John Doberstein; grandson of Don Doberstein

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Submit items for publication no later than 12/14 for January. We reserve the right to edit or delay the publication of any article.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**9:45 First Service in the Chapel,** especially for young families. Service ends at 10:15. *No First Service on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.*

**10:30 Service in the Sanctuary**

- Dec. 4 Paula Northwood
- Dec. 11 Catherine Crooks
- Dec. 18 Jeffrey Sartain
- Dec. 25 Carol sing

**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services in the Sanctuary**

- 4:45 Family service
- 7:45 Candlelight service; vocal quintet, harp & organ
- 11:45 Candlelight service; Plymouth Choir, harp & organ

**Dec. 28 Service of Remembrance, 5:30 p.m.**

**Plymouth Congregational Church**

1900 Nicollet Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-3789

Address Service Requested

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# Christmas Festival, Dec. 4

Begin the holiday season with your Plymouth family, enjoying food, music, stories and crafts!

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Holiday reception** with light refreshments, in Guild Hall

12 noon

**Carol sing** with Philip Brunelle and storytelling with Carla Bailey, in the Chapel

12 noon-1:30 p.m.

**Craft workshop**, especially for children and families, in Jones Commons.

For details about the crafts, please see article on p. 7.