



Photo by Dr. Larry Visser

Plymouth First United Methodist Church

June 26, 2007

Beacon

We invite people into Christian community where they can become deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

45201 N. Territorial Road Plymouth, MI 48170-6528
(734) 453-5280 Fax: (734) 453-0375 www.pfumc.org



Dear Church Family,
You are wonderful! I want to thank you for the outpouring of love you expressed at my retirement event. To all who planned it and executed it, I am grateful.

You were, as always, gracious and kind. Thank you so very much for the generous love offering. It is deeply appreciated.

It has been a great and eventful twelve years together. You remember the financial difficulties when I arrived and how we paid off the mortgage which led the way to having Partner Churches in Russia and Poland, as

well as supporting our own missionaries around the world. The installation of the elevator led to the creation of the CORE for our youth ministry and for Route 252, our worship service for children and families. Life-changing Community Life Groups have helped us to study God's Word, pray together, and experience a deeper level of Christian fellowship. Mission teams as well as individuals have reached out in the name of Christ in the United States and around the world. You can add to the list from your own experience. I am so proud of what you have accomplished in the Lord's name.

My prayer is that God will bless you and keep you in His love and care. In His Love,
Dean Klump

Inside this Issue:

Thank You Stephens Ministry Sympathy to ... Prayer for all times	2
July Calendar	3
Childrens News Youth News New Member Classes Gardners All Church Conference	4
Prayer Concerns UMW Circle News Team Egypt Primitimers Financial summary	5
July Birthdays Adult ASP Summer music Music Academy Change of Address	6
Bookbytes Community Corner	7
Business Ads for the New Pictorial directory	8

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am Worship Service

July 1

Scripture: **Genesis 3:1-13;**

John 8:31-32

Sermon: "Free at Last"

July 8

Scripture: **Habakkuk 1:1-4**

Sermon:

"How Long, O Lord?"

Rev. John Grenfell III,

Senior Pastor



Vacation Bible School

July 16—20

9 am to Noon

LIFT OFF !

This year at Vacation Bible School we will "lift off" to experience the panoramic love of God with a theme of hot air balloons. Each day the children will be lifted up while they learn Bible lessons, see skits, play games, do experiments, make crafts, sing great music, have snacks, and much more! Every day will be fun-filled as they learn more about God's love. All children ages 2 years thru

4th grade are invited to Vacation Bible School. The fun begins **July 16 at 9 a.m. — Noon**, and lasts all week long until July 20. There will be an Open House on Wednesday evening at 7 with a brief program and fun for the whole family.

Cost is \$14 per child (\$35 max for immediate family).

VBS HELP WANTED

There are so many opportunities to help with Vacation Bible School! Be a preschool teacher or an elementary leader, or help with crafts, games, snacks, music and much more! Please contact Abby Kammann at 453-5280 or abby@pfumc.org.



Thanks to all that have said prayers for my mother, Judy Holtmann. I think the prayers have helped; at this point her condition has stabilized and she has regained some of her strength. She is grateful for the prayers on her behalf, and was truly touched by the cards from church as well.

Don Klingler

Thank you to all who played and/or sponsored a hole for the Men's Ministry Golf Outing on June 9. We were able to raise \$2,000 to support 2007 Mission trips to ASP and Egypt!
The Men's Ministry

Thank you! Thank you!
On behalf of my mother and myself we would like to thank all the members of First Church that either attended her 95th birthday party on June 10, or sent her birthday greetings. A special thank you to Ruth Dostie for organizing and planning the party. Also to the following people who helped:

Florence Turner
Nancy Braden
Katherine Juras
Ginger & Gary Krueger
Karen Burton
Julie Fitzsimmons
Cindy Reinhart
Jean Miller
Marilyn Stevens
Grace & Jim Clouse
Cam Dostie
Sandy Kosky
Linda Bynum
Sandy Hackett

You all made this day so very special. God bless you all!

George Thompson
Katherine Thompson

Dear Dr. Klump:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you and the parishioners of the First United Methodist Church for your recent visits, cards and phone calls in memory of Mark Caudill. Mark joined your Church in 1987 and remained active as a Board Member and usher until late in December, 2006, when he became too ill to fulfill these duties.

Mark was diagnosed with cancer in September, 2006 and passed away on the morning of June 10, 2007. One of Mark's final wishes was that he did not want a memorial service; as he wanted his family and friends to remember him in healthier times. As his family and in his memory, we have respected this final wish. If the parishioners wish to hold a memorial service for Mark that is certainly fine with his family, but we stand firm

with Mark's final wish and will not attend.

Some parishioners have also asked how they may honor Mark, and we are happy to offer these suggestion:

- Mark was dedicated to Habitat for Humanity-Detroit, so please feel free to donate your time or make a monetary donation to Habitat at 14325 Jane St. Detroit, Mi 48205, or via their website: <http://www.habitatdetroit.org/Donate/giftfromheart.aspx>;
or
- Schedule an appointment for an annual physical for you and your loved ones. We can assure you that this is a very generous gift not only to you, but to your family and friends.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Caudill Family
(Jo, Pat, Jane & Gary,
Cherilyn & Cameron)

We express Christian sympathy to...

...Joan Barrett on the death of her father, Maurice Willaert who passed away on June 10.

...the family of Mark Caudill. Mark died on June 10.

...Pat Bixby and family on the death of her brother, Walton Tate, on June 5.

...Virginia Duke on the death of her son, Craig on June 22

Stephen Ministry

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We are talking about that undistracted, full-attention kind of listening. This is one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others.

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both

listening and comforting to care for others calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith.

Our Stephen Ministers work with our pastor to reach more people in our community in need of Christian Care than our pastor can alone provide. Currently we are visiting shut-ins in their homes, nurs-

ing homes and rehabilitation centers.

If you would like to receive care from a Stephen Minister, please contact Joan McNally at (734) 453-9114. *(If you believe that someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please obtain permission from him/her before calling Joan.)*

PRAYER FOR ALL TIMES

Through the prompting of the Holy Spirit we are called to gather in prayer. All are invited to be part of pre-service prayer time for our pastors, congregation and morning worship. Meet in the parlor at 9:30 am. Feel free to come every time you are available.

Plymouth First United

Methodist Church

45201 N. Territorial Road

Plymouth, MI 48170

Phone: (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org

July 2007

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>9 a Wake-up-call 10 a Worship Service Traditional Family Style Mission trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>Independence Day Church Closed Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>12:30 p Study & Prayer Fellowship 3 p Directory Picture taking Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>3 p Directory Picture taking 6:30 p Sr. High Movie Night Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>10 a Directory Picture taking Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 a Wake-up-call 10 a Worship Service Route 252 Family Style 11 a New Member Class Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6 p softball game Haggerty at Hines Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:30 p Beacon Belles Mission Trip Team Egypt</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 a MPB* 6 a WPB** 12:30 p Myrtle Circle 1 p Library work time 6:30 p D.I.R.T. Jr. High 7 p Stephen's Ministry</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 p Trustees Meeting 7 p Staff/Parish Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 a Wake-up-call 10 a Worship Service 11 a Baldwin Soup Kitchen 11 a New Member Class</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 a VBS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9 a VBS 7:30 p All Church Conference</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 a MPB 6 a WPB 9 a VBS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 a VBS 6 p VBS Open House 7 p Finance Committee</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 a VBS 1 p VBS lunch 6:30 p Sr. High Movie Night</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11 a Baptism Seminar</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 a Wake-up-call 10 a Worship Service NEW MEMBERS JOIN 1 p Gulyas Baby Shower</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:30 p Beacon Belles</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6 a MPB 6 a WPB 9:30 a Detroit Zoo/ Primetimers 1 p Library work time 6:30 p D.I.R.T. Jr. High</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2 p Knitting & Crochet Group 7 p Ad Council</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8-noon Church Gardening 12 p Coker Shower 6:30 p Post High Bowling in Canada</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 a Wake-up-call 10 a Worship Service Route 252 Family Style</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10 a Cornwell's Dinner Theatre/Primetimers</p>	<p>*MPB; Men's Prayer Breakfast **WPB; Women's Prayer Breakfast</p>			

Events for Children & Youth

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Preschool Day Camp:
August 1 & 3 9 am-noon

Elementary Day Camps:
August 8, 15, 17,
22, 24 10 am-2 pm

Area 56 Back to School Blast:
August 23 11 am-4 pm

Parents Night Out:
Sept 14 5:30-9:30 pm

Help wanted this summer!

Children

The Children's Ministry needs your help this summer!

Choose the job that is right for you.

Day Camps: Come for the day and play with the kids, help with games, projects, snacks, Bible lessons, and more.

Sunday School: Sign up to teach a week or two of Preschool Sunday School or help with Elementary Sunday

Youth News

Jr. High:

Wild and wacky fun this summer at D.I.R.T. theme nights. Come dressed for the theme. Get prizes for the best dressed, games and coming up with the best acronym for D.I.R.T.

July 11

"Wild West Night"

Dress in Wild Western Wear and come prepared to duel.

July 25

"A Blast from the Past"

Return to your childhood and dress like a baby, and be sure to bring a vehicle to enter the "Baby Races."

Sr. High:

Movie Nights

Hang out with your friends, eat popcorn, share some treats and watch

"Evan Almighty"

June 26 6:15 pm
AMC 20 at Haggerty & 7 mile
Bring money for your ticket and treats.

"Simon Birch"

July 17 6:30 pm
At 7088 Chadwick Drive in Canton, the home of Katelyn Montgomery.

Coming in August:

3 Day Adventure Trip on August 2-4 at Spencer Lake Wildlife Area in Eastern Ohio.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

On June 17, First Church began the summer schedule with one service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School is provided for children ages 2-5th grade. Preschool (2-5 year olds) will continue with their school year curriculum in two classes, 2 & 3 year olds in room 313, and 4 & 5 year olds in room 311. Completed K-5th grades will join in Children's Worship as one large group in either

room 307 or the Choir Room. (Check the signs for details each Sunday.)

On July 1 and 8, we will have family worship in the Sanctuary and those children who have completed K-5th grades will join their families. If you have any questions or are interested in helping this summer, please contact Abby Kammann in the church office.

FROG WEEK:

August 13-15 Service work at Metropolitan UMC, First Step, & Greening of Detroit.

CEDAR POINT

August 16

8 am to 11:30

The cost is \$32 if you sign up by August 5th and \$42 after the 5th.

College Students:

July 28 at 6:30 pm meet at Pizza Papalis in Greektown and then go bowling in Windsor. At Playdium 5 Pin Bowling. Check out the web at; www.mnsi.net~playdium/

Contact Joe Rea for questions and concerns at joe@pfumc.org

New Members Classes

Sundays,
July 8 & 15
11 am to 12:30 pm

Lunch will be provided.
-Childcare is available-

Reception will be on
July 22

Please contact Cindy Crecelius at 416-0369 to sign up.

Gardeners!

Saturday,
July 28,
8 am-Noon

Sarah Smith-Hiller needs help keeping OUR church grounds looking great.

Bring your gloves and tools. You do not need to stay the entire morning, just come and get an assignment to complete at a time that fits your schedule.



Motorized Medical Scooter

The church has been given a motorized 4-wheel medical scooter, which is currently not being used. If any church member is in need or knows of someone in need, please contact Pastor Dave. The scooter is battery operated and has an electric plug for charging the battery. It is very stable and has a basket on the front..

All Church Conference

Staff Parish Relations Committee has scheduled a special "All Church Conference:"

Tuesday, July 17
7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

There will be only one item to review on the agenda, that is the approval of Dr. Grenfell's compensation. This meeting is required by the Discipline.

Members

Erma Collins, Vern Dolmage, Jenny Frew, Jean Fried, Jean Glenn, Karl Little, Lois Maiorana, Lyda Miehle, Mary Rickard, Jeane Smith, Evelyn Stanible, Katherine Thompson, Elizabeth Trame, Austin Strobridge

Extended Family

Dorine Anderson, *mother of Kathy Lawrence*
 Terry Baggett, *sister-in-law of Dot Kornegay*
 Michael Carne, *stepson of Pat Carne*
 Mary Cherrie, *friend of Torngas*
 Aaron DeBono, *friend of Hoys*
 Joy Delph, *friend of Wanda Cave*
 John Duke, *husband of Virginia Duke*
 John Duke, *son of Virginia Duke*
 Jim Ferguson, *father of Stephanie Saia*
 Ralph Fulton, *father of Karen Wells*
 Milt Goldman, *friend of the Whitecars*
 Onalee Gyde, *grandmother of Sue Hoy*
 Kenneth Korb, *son-in-law of Betty Austin*
 Ann & Conrad Krankel, *friends of the Zerby's*
 Mary Lonergan, *friend of the Cokers*
 Erv Mahoney, *son-in-law of Nancy Remick*
 Lynda McIntosh, *daughter of Bonnie Iler*
 Carol Meszaros, *friend of PFUMC*
 Wayne Mielke, *friend of the Costellos*
 John Mitchell, *friend of Jan Shettler*
 Nicholas Morgan, *friend of Jim & Grace Clouse*
 Laura Murphy, *friend of Rej family*
 Barbara Quarles, *aunt of Natalie McLaughlin*
 Jeff Quinn, *son-in-law of Bonnie Iler*
 Jerry Richards, *brother of Jan Seamonds*
 Marino Scarpone, *father of Janet Robertson*
 Bob Sigmon, *friend of the Zerbys*
 Doug Smith, *friend of Dave Daley*
 Mary Tavana, *friend of Sharon Walk & Kim Lehmer*
 Christopher Todd, *brother of Tammy Todd*
 Christine Wall, *granddaughter of Carol Wall*
 Sandra Wisniewski, *sister of Joanne Wheelock*
 Sarah Wood, *sister of Gordon Tyler*
 Randy Yanska, *friend of the Zerbys*
 Brenda York, *niece of Muriel Gyde*
 Danny Zabicki, *friend of Mark Carver*

Military Family

Justin Atkinson, Beau Barker, Kevin Bowen, David Bruch, Kevin Clifton (Strobridge), Brandon Cook, Rob Day, Jeremy Thomas Jones, Ernie Krajewski, Matthew Kimsal, Ryan McClain, Christopher McClain, Casey McKinley (Poole), Cpt. Dustin Mitchell (Tillapaugh), Josh Nelson, Brandon Saleh, Jessica Skelly, Justin Skelly

Missionary Family

Heather Berlin, Sarah & Kris Kappler, Kim & Paul McVety, Beth Ann Nelson, Christina Wichert

UMW CIRCLES

MYRTLE Circle will gather on July 11 at 1:00 pm in the Parlor for dessert and some social time. Any questions? Call Diane Dolmage at (734) 453-2094.

RUTH Circle will not meet during the summer, our Fall meetings begin on Wednesday, September 19 at 11:30 am in the Parlor. If you have any questions or are unable to attend please contact Katherine Thompson at (734) 459-8227. Guests and new members are very welcome!

Team EGYPT**June 28—July 11**

Words cannot adequately express our awe and appreciation to each of you for your support. One last thing though, we could use your prayers for our travels, safety, and the opportunity to share God's love with the people in Egypt.

Heather has created an on-line blog for us to share our trip with you. <http://teamegyptfmc.blogspot.com/> Our plan is to post something regularly.

Check it out!

We will be live via Cairo at the 10 am worship service July 8.

Primetimers**Detroit Zoo & Picnic with Knee High Fellowship**

July 25 9:30 am ~ 3 pm
 Carpooling from the church.
 Cost: \$9 Seniors
 \$11 Adults
 \$7 children 2-12
 2 & Under FREE
 *Bring a sack lunch

Cornwell's Dinner Theatre

July 31 Meal~noon
 \$31 Showtime ~ 2pm

Picnic & Ice Cream Social

August 19 11:15 ~ 2 pm
 Following Church

Financial Summary**Update as of May 2007**

We are grateful for the tithes and offerings given to support our Ministry Budget. Your continued faithfulness makes our congregation programs and outreach ministries possible. Through our Ministry Budget, we grow in faith and share Christ with others.

May, 2007

Income:	\$445,964
Expenses:	\$455,039
Budget:	\$479,060

July Birthday's

May God Bless you!

Mrs Annette W Heindryckx	7/1	Mrs Susan McDaniel	7/8	Mrs Nancy Bishop	7/16	Mrs Betty Ankrapp	7/23
Mr Henry Kluver	7/2	Mr William Stirton	7/8	Mr Dennis Brunzell	7/16	Mrs Christine Beaudoin	7/23
Jimmy Hull	7/3	Mrs Meri Lyn Hill	7/9	Mrs Lisa Hollo	7/16	Jessica Bondy	7/23
Ronald W Lowe II	7/3	Mr Robert Thompson	7/9	Julie Beaudoin	7/17	Sophia Daly	7/23
Mrs Dorothy Lybarger	7/3	Mr Donald Iler	7/10	Gretchen Heller	7/17	Mrs Cheryl Koenig	7/23
Mr Lindon Ma	7/3	Lauryn Quinn	7/10	Mrs Harriet Hotchkin	7/17	Mr Richard Bixby	7/24
Mrs Cassandra Best	7/4	Mrs Ruth Burr	7/11	Ms Wendy Johnston	7/17	Mrs Lynne Coker	7/24
Mrs Judith Cox	7/4	Mrs Carol Heidmous	7/11	Mr Wesley Kappler	7/17	Meg Pairitz	7/24
Mr Basil DeWitt	7/4	Sara Castle	7/12	Mr Thomas Williams	7/17	Eric Beaudoin	7/25
Aaron Freehling	7/5	Mrs Deb Jenkins	7/12	Warren Buzzard	7/18	Mr Douglas Hubbard	7/25
Mr Zach E Holmes	7/5	Mr Charles Roebuck	7/12	Mr Kirk Campbell	7/18	Mrs Donna Moore	7/25
Katelyn Montgomery	7/5	Mrs Chantel Spieth	7/12	Mr Karl Little	7/18	Mrs Ruth Smith	7/25
Mr William Pickering	7/5	Lindsay Vogelsberg	7/12	Dr Steve Gulyas	7/19	Mr Jerry Morrison	7/26
Mrs Denise (Beach) Hartrick	7/6	Mr Sanford Burr	7/13	Mr Christopher Holland	7/19	Mrs Susan Sayers	7/26
Megan Meyer	7/6	Mr Walter Murray	7/13	Mr Herb Letcher	7/19	Mr James Hutchings	7/27
Ryan Bird	7/7	Mrs Mara Patterson	7/13	Mrs Dolly Porter	7/19	Mrs. Angela Jenkins	7/27
Mr Steve Edwards	7/7	Mrs Chris Satterfield	7/13	Mr David Daigneau	7/20	Mr Carl Robertson	7/27
Mrs Linda Johnson	7/8	Mr Arthur Smith	7/14	Mr Jeff Garcia	7/20	Nicholas Saia	7/27
		Mr George Thompson	7/14	Mr E. Michael Hartke	7/21	Mrs Nancy Bobcean	7/28
		Mr Dale Thornbury	7/14	Channing Rapnicki (Smith)	7/21	Dr Gary Krueger	7/28
		Mrs Patricia Drake	7/15	Ashley Seamonds	7/21	Mr Gordon Tyler	7/28
		Ryan Harrison	7/15	Kristen Beyer	7/22	Mrs Jan Wilbur	7/29
		Mrs Elaine Honecker	7/15	Mrs Maryjane Garcia	7/22	Mr Michael Demianenko	7/30
		Mrs Deirdre Hope	7/15	Mr Jim Kruger	7/22	Megan Drake	7/30
		Mr Eric Joy	7/15	Mrs Carolyn McWhirter	7/22	Megan Montgomery	7/30
		Mrs Marian Owens	7/15	Mr Chris Phifer	7/22	Stephanie Murray	7/30
		Mrs Linda Selberg	7/15	Tyler Schroeder	7/22	Ms Kimberly Allen	7/31
		Mr Paul Volansky	7/15	Mr Jack Ammons	7/23	Mrs Charlotte Kime	7/31

Adult ASP

All interested adults are invited to join us on our mission trip this fall. We are being invited back to the Chavies, Kentucky, year-round center again this year. We have been there several times before, but we know that there is a need in that area and we are familiar with the surroundings. (We know exactly how long it takes to get to the ice cream shop!)

You will have a chance to meet people from other churches and get acquainted, share some good home cookin', hear good stories, and sleep in bunk beds.

We are scheduled to leave on Oct. 11 and return on Oct. 14. The

cost this year will be about \$70 per person. Won't you please consider joining us for a little hard (but very rewarding) work, and fellowship with others in our church family? We really do have a good time.

If you have any questions feel free to ask any of the adults that have gone before or you can contact Phil Daigneau at (734) 459-4902 or by email at PDaigneau@comcast.net.



Summer Music

Are you interested in singing, ringing bells or playing your instrument for worship during July and August? Need help finding music? Contact Marcia Van Oyen for assistance and to schedule a date.

Music Academy Update

The Music Ministry Task Force has been working hard to do research and formulate plans for launching a music academy here at First Church. We still hope to launch the academy this coming fall, and are currently considering offering a Kindermusik program, as well as lessons in piano, voice, and flute. Watch for more information in The Beacon later this summer, or if you have immediate questions, contact Marcia Van Oyen.

Change of Address

Please change your phone book

Mrs. Joyce Roebuck
42500 Cherry Hill , Apt. 1045
Canton, MI 48187

Ruth Leader
14707 Northville Rd, #315
Plymouth, MI 48170-6074

Nichole Hatch (Reid)
29557 Sierra Point Circle
Farmington Hills, MI 48331-1430

BOOKBYTES

School's out and the kids are around 24/7! The summer fun starts. Did you know teenagers have two categories for parents: Stupid and Not-so-stupid.

"Not-So-Stupid Parents (Why Your Kids Think You're Weird and How to Prove Otherwise)" by Hayley DiMarco is a parent's survival guide. It isn't a book on parenting, but it is a book on understanding teenagers. She also wrote "Stupid Parents: Why They Just Don't Understand and How You Can Help". Her goal is for parents to learn to meet their children in the middle during the power struggle, stop the yelling, decode teen-speak, negotiation and balance between

overprotection and permissiveness.

Charlene Ann Baumbich gives encouragement in parenting these crazy, irritating, wonderful kids. Her book "Don't Miss Your Kids (they'll be gone before you know it)" Suggests how to keep a sense of humor, see crisis in a positive light, recognize a child's uniqueness, and permission to enjoy them.

Some other parenting helps on the 649 shelf include:

- Children are Wet Cement
- Congratulations! You're going to be a Dad
- My Kids Don't Live With Me Any More
- How to Really Love Your

Child

- Laugh With Your Teenager
- Making Children Mind Without Loosing Yours

Most are written with a humorous twist:

OK, Teenagers! Enough stuff for your parents. Do you wish things were different around your house? More fun, fewer fights, more freedom, less frustration, more respect, fewer rules? Oh, yeah! Alex J. Packer tells how to get what you want in his Teenage Handbook "Bringing Up Parents". Included is a problem appendix for solutions for day-to-day issues such

as cleaning your room, money, friends, chores, driving and lots more. It's easy reading with lots of topics and cartoons.

There's something for everyone! After all the parents and teenagers read these books, can't you imagine the harmony and bliss of everyday life!

*Useless Fact:
A goldfish has a
memory span of
3 seconds!*

READERS: While spring cleaning, have you found PFUMC Library books terrifically *overdue*? It may be one of nearly **80** books that fall into that category.

Community Corner

THREE REASONS WHY YOU NEED COMMUNITY TO FLOURISH

By Pat J. Sikora | Published 06/1/2007 | Community Building, June 2007, Group Interaction |

Community is what you were created for. It is God's desire for your life. It is the one indispensable condition for human flourishing."

John Ortberg, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*

Everyone needs community. Everyone needs to be connected. I think it is safe to say that people simply will not—cannot—grow outside of community. Are you in community? Are you creating community for those within your sphere of influence?

Community is, most simply, a place to belong. God created us to live in community, to belong. Since the creation, mankind has learned that people thrive in healthy communities and languish alone. The family, the church, the town, the club, and even Starbucks® serve the purpose of community.

Therefore, what do we know

about community that we can utilize?

Community helps to shape the individual into that which is valued in the society, whether that society is the family, the church, the town, or the nation. Beyond the basic economic and structural aspects of community, there is a far deeper purpose for people to interact with one another. In community, our strengths and weaknesses are reflected in the eyes of others and, as a result, healthy people change and become better. When community works well, these changes are influenced primarily by love and mutual respect. When community breaks down, changes are more influenced by coercion and law.

In the industrialized world, we have lost the natural groupings of family, kinship groups, and villages, so we need to work at deliberately re-creating a community in which to be known, loved, and supported. S.D. Gaede in *Belonging* says that today, "Relationships...are consciously chosen and cultivated, or else they do not exist."

Are you consciously cultivating community?

In community, we have a place to grow, to mature, and to heal. In the best of societies, the family, church, and government work together to esteem people and fulfill these functions. In the worst of societies, these same structures demean people and cause great harm. We see this today where a combination of abuse, neglect, and shifting social values have resulted in many who are wounded beyond measure and can barely function in the community. Increasingly, people no longer know how to conduct themselves in a group, whether that group is a family, a classroom, a church, or a town. Our churches and ministries reap the fruit of this deterioration.

James Friesen says in *Living From the Heart Jesus Gave You: The Essentials of Christian Living*, "People need to know who they are. They also need to be reminded who they are, frequently, by those who know them and really love them. And they need repair, so that they can live from the hearts Jesus gave them. That is what it takes to

achieve wholeness in a fractured world. It takes belonging to a community."

Are you consciously cultivating community?

The good news is that God is bringing wounded people into the church for the purpose of healing. Yes, He is doing it on purpose! He is calling the church to form loving communities in which these people can heal. How does this happen?

Wounded people begin to heal as they are known, accepted, and loved. One church calls this "relational deliverance"—healing through relationships. That will not happen much on the average Sunday morning where most communication is one-way and where it is easy to get lost in the crowd. Rather, it will happen in small groups, in social settings, in places where more mature people embrace the less mature and encourage them to grow. I have seen this happen repeatedly through the ministry of the church.

Are you consciously cultivating community?

Are you, as the church, creating an environment where people can find healing and mature in Christ?

Linda Bynum

Dated Material — Please do not delay.
Periodical Postage Paid
Postmaster please send address corrections

Beacon & Calendar Deadlines;
E-mail articles by 5 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays,
to lizramsey@pfumc.org.



Beacon

PLYMOUTH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

45201 N. Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-6528

Phone: (734) 453-5280
Fax: (734) 453-0375

Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

USPS 34-050
Mailed:
Twice monthly except December

PERIODICALS

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.pfumc.org

The BEACON has a new look! Tell us what you think.

As you can see the BEACON has changed from the old familiar look. Please don't be alarmed. Try out this new format and see how it feels.

It will still be available by the standard postal service, and made available electronically in the future to those individual who would prefer to receive it via email.

Please let us know what you think about the new BEACON.

Would you like to get the Beacon on line or receive it as an email attachment?

Fill out the attached response form and return it to the church office. Call Liz Ramsay or Cathy Montgomery at (734) 453-5280 or email us at lizramsey@pfumc.org or cathym@pfumc.org.

HIGHLIGHT YOUR BUSINESS AND HELP SUPPORT MISSIONS

An opportunity exists for you to highlight your business in our new church family portrait directory. Inside will be several pages that will contain business card-size ads highlighting businesses and services provided by church members. You submit your business card or same size ad (photo-art ready) along with a \$25.00 donation for missions and we will place your ad in our directory. What a great way to let others know what businesses and services our church families provide and at the same time we can make a difference in the lives of those whose faces we many never see. *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:16.

If interested, please have your card and donation to Pastor Dave by July 14.

Tell Us What You Think.

The new Beacon Format is:

POOR GOOD EXCELLENT

Suggestions for changes or additions: _____

I would like to receive my Beacon via email

My email address is:

I would like to receive my Beacon via US Post Office

NAME: _____