

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025
CHRISTMASTIDE EDITION

INSIDE
COMMUNITY + GIVING +
CHRISTMASTIDE + HISTORY

ROCK

PLYMOUTH CHURCH
LAWRENCE, KANSAS



SAFE SPACE



PLYMOUTH IS A CONGREGATION THAT SPEAKS ITS MIND. IN THE SERVICE OF AND BELIEF IN A LOVING AND ACCEPTING GOD, WE GLADLY OWN OUR ROLE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR RESPECTIVE TIME AND PLACE IN THE WORLD.

TO FIND US ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT:
PLYMOUTHLEWRENCE.COM



Thank you, Plymouth Church...

Plymouth Members & Friends,

As we enter the Advent season, many of us are thinking about how we can help those in need and work to build a more just world. Each year, Plymouth donates 100% of the offering from the Christmas Eve services to our mission partners. This year, we will donate the contributions to three organizations: Just Food, our local fresh food bank, Justice Matters in Douglas County, and Our Church's Wider Mission (the United Church of Christ's global organization).

Lawrence's Just Food program supplies nourishment to 300 to 600 families every day, totaling more than 20,000 of our friends and neighbors every year. In addition, through its 15 food pantries located in Lawrence schools, Just Food annually supplies nourishment to more than 4,000 students and their families. In the past four years, Just Food's assistance to older adults has grown by 66%.

We are a congregation dedicated to social justice in our community and beyond, and Justice Matters shares those values. This year, alongside continued work on homelessness and elder care, Justice Matters will begin researching ways to address and mitigate youth trauma in our local community. This problem was identified by many community members in listening sessions. Over the years, Justice Matters' efforts have been instrumental in researching and fighting for solutions around affordable housing and promoting restorative practices in our schools, among many other issues.

Giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) this Christmas is a way of honoring our connection with the United Church of Christ. OCWM supports pastors in their journey, from the call to ministry to healthy retirement, as well as providing assistance with church operations and training for lay leaders. It helps with disaster relief, at home and around the world, including in the recent hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida. And through its Justice and Witness Ministries programs, OCWM supports leadership training and grassroots advocacy activities that help build a more just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

We appreciate the generous spirit of the Plymouth congregation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean or any member of the Service and Justice Board.

Sincerely,

The Plymouth Service and Justice Board

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DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025
CHRISTMASTIDE EDITION

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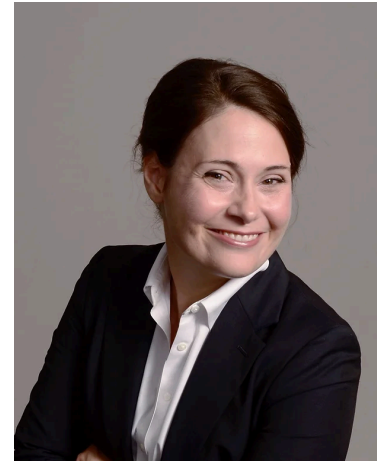
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The view from here.



Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

It's been a rough stretch for the Miller-Colemans. This year's brought us grief and transition in spades. It's also been a year filled with hope, maybe not the kind we expected or even prefer, but gritty, hard-won, sometimes surprising hope that glimmers with possibilities.

Step by step, we're trekking through the wilderness. God's opening a way where some days it seemed like there would be no way. There's a road ahead of us, we can see its outlines more clearly every day.

Sitting in the middle of it, waiting for us with a dopey grin, is an eight week old puppy named Bernie. He's coming home just in time for Advent. Seems like the perfect time to add a family member who will quickly get bigger than two fifths of our family members. Am I right? Totally. We can't wait. (Pray for us!)

Let's be real - some days hope feels like the most difficult thing in the world. It's hard to see through the thorny thicket of everything

that's happening around us - grief, transition, politics, climate, all of it.

But here's the truth: hope isn't about pretending everything's perfect. It's about believing love will win, even when things look tough. And this December, Plymouth Church is all about holding onto that kind of hope - the gritty, resilient, never-give-up kind.

Worship this month will feel like little beacons of light pushing back against the darkness. You don't want to miss any of this. Take our 'Magnificat' choral work on December 8th - it's not just music, it's a revolution of hope sung right from the heart. Imagine Mary's ancient song of justice and joy, now ringing through our sanctuary. It's right on time.

The Children's Christmas Pageant on December 15th? Pure magic. Kids have this incredible way of seeing the enchantment in our world that adults sometimes forget.



They'll remind us that miracles can happen anywhere - even in the most unexpected places.

Feeling all the feelings this holiday season? Our Longest Night service on December 18th is exactly for you. We're creating a space that says, "Holly Jolly isn't half the story. We're waiting and watching for the light to dawn through the shadows." No plastering on fake smiles here - just real, honest community in worship.

Our Gathering of Grace on December 22nd brings an Americana vibe to Lessons and Carols. Think of it like hope with a guitar - authentic, a little rough around the edges, but completely genuine.

And Christmas Eve? Those candlelight services (4pm for families with tinies, 6pm and 8pm traditional) are basically hope personified. Each little flame is us saying, "Darkness doesn't get the final word."

We're not promising everything will be easy. But we are promising this: you are not alone. Not ever. We're a community that believes in showing up - for each other, for strangers, for anyone who needs a bit of light.

As we roll into the new year, we're practicing hope. Not the fluffy, everything-will-be-perfect kind. The roll-up-your-sleeves, hold-each-other-close, we're-in-this-together kind of hope.

We'll be launching a worship series mid-January called 'Jesus for President' focused on the Gospel according to Luke. He's going to show us how the Lord of Heaven and Earth takes a human form and turns the world upside down. It's what love looks like with skin in the game.

Light is emerging - the road ahead is getting clearer. I can see it from here. There are puppies. There is grace. Light shines all around us and the darkness does not overcome it.

You are loved. Seriously loved. And I can't wait to see you in church.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman
Senior Pastor

All things in moderation.

Soni Jordan

Plymouth 2024 Moderator



As we enter the Christmas season, I have noticed my kids slowly become more and more excited. In particular, my four-year-old daughter has 100% bought into the magic of the season. She helps me with baking, shopping, making Christmas lists, and picking out decorations. She has also become quite obsessed with story of Baby Jesus. She can pass away the afternoon playing with a nativity, and she keeps her children's Bible nearby so she can see the baby whenever she wants.

It's understandable why she is so taken with the story of Jesus' birth. For my daughter, it hits all the right notes: a baby, bright stars, singing angels, gifts, and lots of animals. What's not to love?

As an adult, it's similarly easy to be taken with the story and to also see the deeper meanings layered into it. The humility of a birth in a manger for someone meant to be a king is the

perfect juxtaposition for the person who later in His life would teach us "blessed are the meek." The courage of Mary and Joseph to say yes to God. The demonstration of God's love through the birth of baby. The story is unique, sacred, and special, but at the same time it is common, human.

Immanuel. God with us. The duality of divinity and humanity in one person was a controversial idea at the time. Religious scholars debated the merit and the legitimacy of it. Is it possible that this is what God sent to establish a new covenant? Human and God in one being?

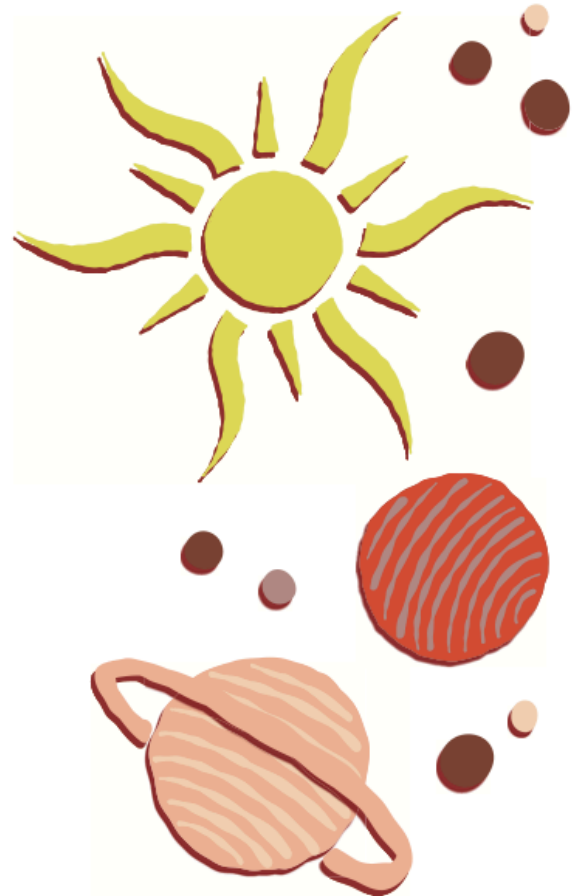
No doubt the Jewish people of the time were expecting something different. Something less than the son of God. Something more than a carpenter from Nazareth. Perhaps a warrior to strike down enemies. Or a king to establish a new kingdom for God's people. The early Christians took a leap of faith in

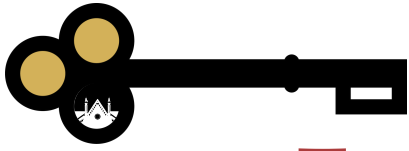
believing in Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy.

The humanity of Jesus is one of God's greatest gifts to us. A divinity that understands exactly what it means to be human: to eat and drink with friends, to lose your temper, to be tempted, and even to question God when you are in your lowest moments. Who better to take the whole conceptualization of God's beloved and flip it on its head? Who else could take the covenant between God and humans and throw it wide open to all people?

Like many of you, I have my favorite Christmas songs. I love Christmas songs that are kind of sad ('Please Come Home for Christmas') and Christmas songs from my favorite Christmas movies ('Run Run Rudolph'). I especially love Christmas songs that are hymns, my favorite of which is 'O Holy Night.'

When the mood is right the lyric "The thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, and yonder breaks a new and glorious morn" can move me to tears. This is partially because I can relate to the feelings of weariness that can accompany the holiday season, of feeling like I'm running on fumes. But even greater than the feeling of weariness is the reminder of the hope that accompanies the season. The story that keeps you grounded when it feels like the world is spinning out of control around you. The story that the world falls in love with over and over again.





Enter In

Sanctuary and Organ Project at Plymouth Church

Project Update

The Enter In project at Plymouth Church is progressing well. The project is being managed by a group of eleven, known as the Project Management Committee (PMC), which includes seven voting members and four ad hoc members.

Accomplished to date:

- **Sanctuary Pipe Organ:** A recommendation has been developed and approved for the construction of a new sanctuary pipe organ. It will be built and installed by the Schoenstein Company of Benicia, California, with installation planned for January 2028.
- **Sanctuary Renovation Design:** The PMC has developed and approved a design contract for the sanctuary renovation with Clark-Huesemann, Lawrence.
- **Goals and Aspirations:** The committee has affirmed the vision for the sanctuary renovation, which will focus on enhancing accessibility, acoustics, and aesthetics, while also emphasizing the historical significance of the space.
- **Congregational Engagement:** On October 20, a meet-and-greet fellowship session was held with Jane Huesemann and Steve Clark of Clark-Huesemann Design Company, providing an opportunity for congregants to ask initial questions and express concerns.
- **Historical Significance:** The PMC has secured the services of Stan Hernly Associates as a subcontractor to ensure the historical integrity of the project is preserved.
- **Project Timeline:** A tentative project timeline has been established by the design team, with efforts slated to begin in 2025.

How You Can Stay Involved

The PMC continues to welcome feedback, ideas, and suggestions from all congregants as the project moves forward. There are several ways to share your thoughts:

1. Attend Listening Sessions: Participate in any upcoming congregation listening sessions organized by the PMC.
2. Ask Questions: Submit questions or comments through our online form on the **Enter In** webpage (QR code below), or reach out via email to the PMC chairperson, Terry Schmidt, at **terrylschmidt@msn.com**. Terry will also be available to meet with congregants after the traditional service or before the start of the Gathering of Grace service.

Upcoming Events

The PMC is tentatively planning an information exchange session with the congregation in mid-January. During this meeting, we will share at least two design concepts for the sanctuary. Stay tuned for more details!

Special Thanks

The PMC is on track to fund the initial steps of the Enter In project, thanks to the generous pledged gifts from our congregation. These contributions are making it possible for us to move forward with the early stages of the project.



Keep up with the project here!
plymouthlawrence.com/enterin

Plymouth Christmas Giving Guide 2024

Lawrence Community Shelter Donations

Mission: “Grounded in human rights and social justice, our mission is to advance compassionate solutions for people facing homelessness through advocacy, shelter, and housing.”

Lawrence Community Shelter requests gift cards valued \$20 from Target or Amazon.

We will also be collecting adult underwear and throw blankets.

Donations may be dropped off at the **Featured Ministries Table** outside of the Church Office on Sunday mornings December 15 or 22.



**You can also donate items
via their Amazon Wish List!**





Mindy Hazlett Mitten Tree

Our **Annual Mitten Tree**, officially named the Mindy Hazlett Dunlap Mitten Tree, may be found in our sanctuary during Advent.

Please bring your donations of new mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats to hang on this tree. All items will be given to our **Head Start Mission Partner** and the **Lawrence Community Shelter**.

Thank you to the Hazlett family for sharing this memorial to Mindy and to Jim and Beverly Carothers for donating the beautiful tree.

The Willow Domestic Violence Center Donations

Mission: “The Willow builds safer communities through shelter, services, and support to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.”

Willow Domestic Violence Shelter requests gift cards valued \$20 from Target, or local grocery stores.

We will also be collecting comfort items for survivors who come to the shelter right before Christmas.

These are things like comfy socks, nice lotions, nail polish, journals, and/or color pencils.

Donations may be dropped off at the **Featured Ministries Table** outside of the Church Office on Sunday mornings December 15 or 22.



Head Start Angel Tree

See next page!



Head Start Angel Tree 2024

One of the long-standing holiday traditions at Plymouth Church is the Angel Tree, an opportunity for us to **share our blessings with the children who attend Head Start.**

Select a child from the list who will receive your gift of clothing and toys.

Further instructions about what to purchase and when and where to deliver your gifts are provided on the website.



Pastors' Emergency Fund Poinsettias 2024



Order
Online



Each year during the Christmas season, we decorate our sanctuary with **beautiful poinsettias**.

Plymouth members and friends purchase the poinsettias, often in memory or in honor of loved ones. Others give directly to the Pastors' Emergency Fund. Likewise, our pastors use the Pastors' Emergency Fund to assist Plymouth members, friends, and community members in need.

The Pastors Emergency Fund continues to be more critical than ever.

Sunday, December 8 is the last day to make your order!





Christmastide

at Plymouth Church

Special Christmastide Services

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 8 • 9:30am

Major Choral Work:

The Taylor Scott Davis Magnificat

see page 21

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 15 • 9:30am

Children's Christmas Pageant

see page 17

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 22 • 11:30am

Lessons & Carols in the Gathering of Grace Service

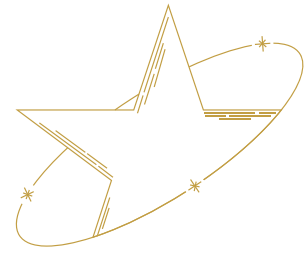
A service of scripture and carols in the rootsy style of our weekly Gathering of Grace service.

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 18 • 7pm

Longest Night Worship Service

see page 16

Christmas Eve Services



CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICE • 4pm

A family-friendly worship service with carols and the story of the nativity. Arrive in the sanctuary at 3:30pm for children to pick out their angel and shepherd costumes.

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in this "pick up" pageant. Angels and shepherds will be invited to sit on the chancel steps during the service as we act out the nativity scene.

Nurse care is available!

TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE I • 6pm

This is Plymouth's biggest service of the year. If you and your family are planning to attend, please head to Plymouth earlier than usual to get a good seat. Plymouth is one of several downtown churches, and we will be sharing parking spaces along Vermont. Parking is also available in the parking garages by the Library on Vermont Street, and the Arts Center on New Hampshire Street.

CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT • 7:30pm

The annual concert on Christmas Eve between the 6 and 8pm services will feature music of the season. Come enjoy Christmas music in the quiet stillness of our beautiful sacred space.

TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE II • 8p

Plymouth closes the night of Christmas Eve celebration with our second candlelight service. As the hours of Christmas Eve tick closer to Christmas, the raising of candles and singing of "Silent Night" for the last time in 2024 brings a meaningful resolution to our day.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The Carol (2nd-4th grade) and Chapel (5th-8th) choirs will be singing on Christmas Eve at the 6pm service. It is always a magical time having the children's choirs join the Chancel Choir for "Away in a Manger" and the congregation for "Silent Night."

There will be one massed rehearsal in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22 at 10:30. All children are encouraged to participate!

Music is being rehearsed during regular rehearsal time on Sundays from 10:30-11am.

REMINDER TO PARENTS: Have your singers meet in the Mayflower Room to robe and rehearse at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve.

ADVENT LABYRINTH & SILENCE WITH COFFEE



Advent is traditionally a time of quiet and preparation. A time of quiet so we can listen. A time of quiet so we can prepare for the joy of Christmas. **During this busy holiday season, you are invited to Plymouth to find a time for silence, to find some time for yourself.**



On **Wednesday, Dec 11 from 9am - 3pm**, the Membership Board and members of our Mental Wellness team will be hosting a day of silence. Stop in for an hour, come for a few hours, or stay the day.



There will be several opportunities throughout the church building to unplug and reconnect. Spaces will be open for prayer, invitations to guided meditations, rooms where you can sit and read, journal, create or write. You can bring lunch. There will be coffee.



The space we are most excited to invite you into is the labyrinth that will be in the Mayflower Room. **A labyrinth is an ancient walking meditation**, where you are invited to walk through a winding pattern, to the center of a circle and then back out again. As you walk, maybe you have an intention or a prayer that you are carrying. Maybe you just want to see where the silence takes you. Maybe it's a moment of calm in the midst of your busy life.

If you've never walked a labyrinth - come and try it! If you have, come again and see what new things are waiting for you on its path.



The Longest Night at Plymouth Church

**Wednesay, December 18
at 7pm**

For some, the Christmas season is a time of both joy and sorrow. The days get shorter, and the holidays can bring up memories of lost loved ones or remind us of the difficulties we face in our everyday lives.

This year, on Wednesday, December 18, at 7pm, Plymouth will hold a candlelight service in the sanctuary in anticipation of the longest night of the year. There will be meditative music and prayer, poetry, and a short message about light in the darkness. Everyone is welcome to attend; come and find a connection with your church community and peace for your soul.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

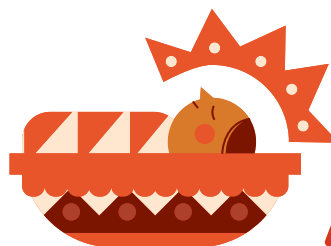
SUNDAY, DEC. 15 AT 9:30AM

We are so excited for you all to see the hard work that our children and adult volunteers have put in over the last month. Special thanks to Norine Spears for her leadership.

All children participating in the pageant should arrive at the Mayflower Room at 8:30 am. (This includes children choirs.)

After the pageant, the children will return to the Mayflower Room for our annual Sam Elliott Party including festive games and activities.

We hope to see you on this special Sunday!



Plymouth Christmas Eve Offering

Special Offering

We are entering the Advent season—a time of joyous giving. Each year, Plymouth donates 100% of the offering from the Christmas Eve services to our mission partners.

This year, we will donate the contributions to **Just Food, Justice Matters in Douglas County** and **Our Church's Wider Mission**, the United Church of Christ's global organization.

This offering will be open on Sunday, December 15 and at all of our Christmas Eve services using the **special green envelopes**. All donations given on Christmas Eve will go directly to these mission partners.

Volunteers Needed

Everyone's invited to extend a warm welcome to 'All Ye Faithful' on Christmas Eve.

Ushers, Candle Lighters, Door Greeters are needed at 4pm 6pm and 8pm. **Training provided.**

Sign up with the Deacons at the Featured Ministries Table!





Plymouth's Advent Bake Sale

Sunday • December 8

We want your favorite cookies, cakes, pies, bars, breads, Christmas candy, and gingerbread creations for the sale!

Early drop off is available on Saturday, December 7 from 9-11am in the kitchen by the Mayflower Room.

Or Sunday, December 8 between 8:30 and 9am.

100% of the proceeds go to Plymouth's Mission Partners!

Cookies will be replated so please use minimal packaging.



Plymouth

Christmas Caroling & Christmas Parties



Youth Service Corps Christmas Caroling December 8 • 4:30-6pm

Drop off is at Plymouth Church at 4:30pm
and pick up will be at 6pm.



**Sign up online
for caroling!**

Join us as we visit some special Plymouth Church members (senior members and those who could use some extra cheer) to spread Christmas joy from our Plymouth community during this advent season. Youth should wear coat/ hat/ gloves/ appropriate shoes if the weather requires it, as they will be outdoors.

Parents are needed to help with the carpool. We are excited to continue this wonderful tradition!

Christmas
PARTY

Plymouth Youth Christmas Parties December 15 • 4:30-6pm

**Middle School Mayflower Room
High School Room 203 North**

Bring a White Elephant Gift (around \$10)!

We will have cookies to decorate from our Youth Café team.

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater or festive gear.



MAGNIFICAT

Taylor Scott Davis

PLYMOUTH CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR
& CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 2024
IN THE 9:30AM SERVICE

The Magnificat text has frequently been set to music from the earliest known in medieval chant to contemporary versions. Through musical language, composers express what they believe the text means to them.

Coming directly from Luke 1:46-55, Magnificat (Song of Mary) is a personal expression of joy and thanksgiving for the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, rejoices at the favor bestowed on her despite her lowly state. She sings praises to God, recalls the mercies shown to Israel and sings of the Incarnation's fulfillment of God's ancient promise to Abraham.

In five movements, Taylor Scott Davis expresses all of Mary's emotions through powerful, exuberant and joyful choruses, tensions between singers and instruments, and simple and beautiful melodies.

Taylor Scott Davis's music has been described as "sonically luxurious", memorable and inspiring of hope. In demand as a composer, he has written and arranged for choirs, orchestras and chamber ensembles. Magnificat received its premier recording by the 2023 Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble VOCES8. The music is scored for choir, soprano solo, and chamber orchestra.

In April 2025, the Plymouth Chancel Choir will participate in a massed choir performance of this work at Carnegie Hall.



Starry Nights

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
FULL OF LIGHT AND WONDER

ONLINE HERE!



Ask the History Committee

...What's up with that plaque?

The idea for this column happened one day at church when Toni Dudley came up to me and asked about the plaque near the handicapped accessible entry into North Church. It was so dark one could hardly read the text. And since it is rather small, coming up the sidewalk, legibility was at zero!

Since I knew nothing about the plaque, I first went to the annual reports but found nothing about a dedication ceremony in 1983. So I called a few people who were members at that time. Bev Carothers told me that Don Alderson had been the Dean of Men at KU and Betty, who just died a few years ago and had worked at Watkins Hospital at KU. Dave Ambler knew that Don was very interested in disability services while at KU and he brought that same interest to Plymouth. Don was on a committee to study the accessibility issue in the church. In the early 1980s the topic was not considered paramount. But in discussions before Council, some members worried that a ramp

would detract from the appearance of the church and suggested it be put on the alley entrance instead of the front side. The controversy became heated among members but the ramp and elevator were unanimously approved in 1981.

Don did not live to see the changes to the church—he died in November of the same year. But, in 1983, the ramp that many of us take into North church was installed in honor of Donald Alderson because of his strong advocacy and commitment to making our church accessible to all.

I won't say the plaque looks like new. But it does look brighter, and it is certainly easier to read thanks to some good old elbow grease and brass polish.

All that by way of leading into this new column. I would not know any of this if Toni Dudley had not asked me about the plaque. So, now there is a way for you too to ask a question of the History Committee! Questions can be about the church building, customs, historical people, or anything you are wondering about the story of Plymouth's Church. I am particularly hoping children will send in their questions!

All questions may be sent to **susanmccarthy283@gmail.com**.

Susan McCarthy, Plymouth Historian



The plaque reads:

Donald Keith Alderson Memorial Ramp
Dedicated March 27, 1983

Plymouth's 50 Plus Year Members Spotlight

by Stacy England

Bev Mayer

Bill and Bev Mayer found their way to Plymouth Church in 1954. Bev said, "There was a wonderful minister when we joined and other good ones during my time at Plymouth."

They were married in 1948 in Kansas City, KS. Before their marriage, Bill served as a navigator on B-24 bombers with the Army Air Corps during WWII. Bev studied English at Kansas State University, where she was a cheerleader, and at the University of Kansas. They graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1943.

Bill graduated from the University of Kansas in the spring of 1949 with a degree in journalism. After a year as managing editor of the DePere, Wis., Journal-Democrat, they returned to Lawrence in June 1950, where Bill became a reporter for the Journal-World.

Their daughter, Valerie, was born in 1956, and their son, Lyn, was born in 1959. Both grew up in Plymouth Church. "We put them in Sunday school from nursery on." Their children were involved in Sunday school, confirmation, and youth groups.

Val played violin at Plymouth with the faculty and sang in the choirs from a young age. She is now a professional vocalist, violinist, and violist in Central Florida.

Bev and Bill became acquainted with other young couples at Plymouth by being involved. "We were introduced to people in the church that way."

"We just started going to do things and went to dinner groups. That was fun, and it works," said Bev. "We also had grand church dinners for things such as Thanksgiving."

Bev's daughter, Val, has strong memories from those days. She said, "We looked forward to the Thanksgiving dinners."

Bev and Bill both served on ministerial search committees over the decades. "Our first minister was wonderful."

"I did some Sunday school teaching," said Bev. She served on the membership board at Plymouth and enjoyed volunteering at the thrift store. She said, "That was a fun way to meet people."

Bev and Bill both volunteered with Meals on Wheels. Bev volunteered with the Red Cross and the Visiting Nurses Board. "Later on, I started substituting in the schools," she said. After 10 years of substitute teaching, she worked at Weaver's Department Store for a while.

In addition to friendships at church, they were heavily involved in groups that followed KU athletics, getting together at people's houses for conversation.

They socialized through Bill's work at the Journal-World. When the children were still living at home, the Mayers traveled as a family, often for Bill's work. Val said, "We got to see Pearl Harbor."

Bev said, "When he retired, that's when we started traveling, and it was a lot of fun." They traveled in the U.S. and Europe. Bev especially enjoyed France. "We saw most of the 50 states, not all of them, just as they came up."

"We went to a lot of Elderhostels and enjoyed them." Bev and Bill visited art museums, botanical gardens, and national parks. "We were nuts about art museums."

She said, "We just enjoyed traveling."

Bill passed away on April 4, 2014, and Bev's son, Lyn, passed away in 2019.

Bev moved to Brandon Woods in May 2016, where she lived for eight years. After the fire at Brandon Woods in August 2024, Bev moved to Florida, where Val lives, to be closer to family. They are both in contact with their friends from Plymouth.

Val continues communicating and visiting with her long-time friend, Ruth Anne (King) Sneegas. "Ruth Anne and I were in Sunday school, confirmation class, and youth groups. In high school, we were cheerleaders, on the dance team, and in the orchestra."

Bev keeps in touch with her many Plymouth friends. "I valued the interaction with other Plymouth members," she said. "Most of the people became very, very good friends in the church."



Rock

DEC 2024/JAN 2025
CHRISTMASTIDE EDITION



administration@plymouthlawrence.com
785-843-3220 • www.plymouthlawrence.com

925 Vermont Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044