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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2011

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**THE CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES ARE BACK WITH AN ALL-NEW
MUSICAL COMEDY A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR BASEMENT
OPENING AUGUST 19 AT PLYMOUTH PLAYHOUSE**

(Minneapolis, MN) Curt Wollan and Troupe America Inc., the producer of the national hit musical comedy *The Church Basement Ladies* announced that they are back with an all-new musical comedy ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement***, the fourth installment in the successful series previewing August 12,13,14,17,18, opening August 19 at Plymouth Playhouse.

In the latest installment, ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement***, these “bulwarks never failing” are at it again. The year is 1960 and a reformation is underway. With a new crop of Confirmands, Beverly, the youngest of the bunch, dons her first pair of high heels for her confirmation ceremony, Mrs. Snustad, the matriarch of the kitchen wins top honors at the County Fair for her “Grand Champion” pickles. Mavis, the able-bodied farm wife, must find a way to deal with the new “Super Highway” which cuts through her farm. Karin, the real homemaker of the kitchen, finds new freedom behind the wheel of her husband’s pick-up and must reconcile a new world of change for her daughter Beverly. Pastor, who has always found strength and solace in the church basement, has found new love and announces his impending nuptials. The Church Basement Ladies are once

again required to face change head-on. Against the changing tide, these “bulwarks never failing” stand strong in their faith and in their friendships. With more crazy antics, more great new songs and more lessons reluctantly learned, your favorite Church Basement Ladies are at it again in the all-new musical ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement***.

Executive Producer Curt Wollan’s creative team includes composer/songwriter Drew Jansen, who wrote the original score and lyrics for *Church Basement Ladies* and co-wrote with Dennis Curley, the music and lyrics for *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping*. Sketch comedy writer, Greta Grosch, develops the script as she did with *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping* and *Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas*. ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement*** is directed by Curt Wollan, choreographed by Wendy Short Hays with set design by Jared Grohs, lighting design by Scott Herbst, sound design by Mark Brodin, costume design by Katrina Benedict and musical direction by Dennis Curley.

ABOUT THE CAST

True to their same style of down-to-earth humor and charm in the kitchen of the church basement, the original cast features Janet Paone in the role of the “Widow Snustad” (Vivian), the matriarch of the kitchen, Greta Grosch as the able-bodied farm wife, “Mrs. Gilmer Gilmerson”(Mavis), Dorian Chalmers in the role of “Mrs. Elroy Engelson” (Karin), the best cook in the kitchen and Tara Borman as Karin’s teenage daughter “Beverly Signe Engelson.” Tim Drake performs his usual pastoral duties.

HISTORY OF THE SHOW

All three installments of the musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies* are inspired by the books of author/humorists Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson including the bestseller *Growing Up Lutheran*. The original production opened at the Plymouth Playhouse in September 2005 and performed to more than 250,000 patrons in its two and a half year run. Its sequel, *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping* opened March 2008 to equally enthusiastic response. In November 2009, *Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas* opened and was instantly sold out, performing to more than 160,000 at 102.6 % capacity, which produced a return visit in 2010. All three versions have toured extensively. Additionally, it continues to be released to several cities across the country including Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, and Kansas. Over the course of the last three highly successful *Church Basement Ladies* musicals, audiences have fallen in love with these residents of the church basement kitchen. The show has become the most successfully produced show locally and nationally in Troupe America’s twenty-four year history.

TICKET INFORMATION

All performances of ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement*** are at the Plymouth Playhouse with previews August 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, opening August 19.

Performances dates, time and prices:

Wednesday	1 pm	\$26
Thursday	1 pm	\$26
Thursday	7:30 pm	\$30
Friday	7:30 pm	\$38
Saturday	3:00 pm	\$36
Saturday	7:30 pm	\$38
Sunday	2:00 pm	\$32

Overnight “Stay & Play “ packages are available (includes a room for two at the Best Western Kelly Inn, a dinner voucher at the Green Mill Restaurant and two theater tickets to the current show, all under one roof). The Plymouth Playhouse is located at I-494 and Hwy. 55, twenty minutes west from downtown Minneapolis, in suburban Plymouth, Minnesota. For ticket information call the Plymouth Playhouse Box Office at 763-553-1600 x 1 or visit plymouthplayhouse.com. Tickets are also available online. For group information call 763-383-1073.

PRESS INFORMATION

For press photos and an expanded story line, go to plymouthplayhouse.com/press. For media inquires and appearances please contact:

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