



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXVIII

April 23, 2006

No. 16

Dear Friends,

It was a splendid Easter Day! I never tire of repeating the glad greeting, "He is risen!" I am still singing "Alleluia!" I don't get weary of saying and singing that, either.

The Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill was deeply moving and inspiring occasion for all of us assembled there to greet the rising sun and the Risen Son. I estimate that 125-150 people were there at 6:00am. As we began our service the sun arose above Long Beach and a thin strip of clouds, which hugged the horizon. It was a magnificent scene! The congregation was all smiles, faces lit up by the emerging sunrise and by Resurrection joy and hope. We had a marvelous, spiritually enriching experience. People were not only caught up in the grandeur of the day and Easter gaiety within themselves, but there were heartfelt greetings, hugs, and pure joy among those who had gathered for what turned out to be something almost mystical. No. It was mystical!

Our two services at The Church of the Pilgrimage were well attended. We considered the wisdom of having two services with Easter being at the onset of the school spring vacation, but as it turned out there would have been too many people to have comfortably fit into one service. Both services were full of a contagious Easter joy. The music was sublime. We heard the choir sing the "Halleluiah Chorus" and the congregation felt the power of the Risen One surging up in the assurance that Christ shall reign forever and ever. The "Halleluiah Chorus," often heard at Christmas, was meant to be sung at Easter. It fits Easter joy; it is Easter gladness!

It was wonderful to greet the "regulars" at our services, but also special to see people who may have moved away from Plymouth and who returned to their spiritual home on Easter. The same joy I described with regards to the Sunrise Service was present at our services at The Church of the Pilgrimage. It was good, deeply, abidingly good to share the joy of our faith. There was Resurrection power in the congregation's singing, "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!"

We should remember that Easter defines the character of our faith. We must proclaim the gospel, the good news, that God seeks to give to the world a vision of life, which is greatly to be preferred to the doom and gloom which is so much a part of the world and our lives.

We at The Church of the Pilgrimage must do all that we can, do all that we must do, to act in all our doings as though we believe that "He is risen!" We must try to allow "Alleluia's!" overwhelm negatives, fear and un-Easter-like attitudes. Christ is risen! Let's give our all to keep the message of hope and love alive!

He is risen!

Love,

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Flowers: In loving memory of Henry, Mary and Keith Dunlap from Robert and Marylyn Dunlap Colburn. An Easter Lily was given by Dave & Christie Fry MacElhiney in memory of Michael Rosenkrans.

Greeters: The Canducci Family



The mailboxes have moved! The mailboxes located in Allerton Hall have moved over the church house. They are located to the left of the staircase on the ground floor of the church house. Anyone who is unable to make their way over to the church house may give their mail to the deacon in charge. Thank you.

Evening Prayer: We continue to offer Evening Prayer Services on most Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. The services are based around Scripture, daily reflections, silent and spoken prayers. You are welcome to attend these services. They are from 7:00-7:30 pm.

Community Observance of Yom Ha-Shoa (Holocaust Memorial Day 2006): Monday, April 24, 7:30pm at Beth Jacob Community Center (Court St. at Brewster in Plymouth Center). An interfaith observance commemorating the destruction of European Jewry by

the Nazis and giving recognition to the significance of the Holocaust for people of all faiths. Both Rev. Marks and Rev. Moody will be participating in the service. All are welcome!

The Confirmation Class will meet at its regularly scheduled time on Sunday, April 23rd. Confirmands: we hope to take a trip to Cambridge for a Jazz worship service on Sunday, May 7th. Please check your schedules prior to April 23rd's meeting.

From the Board of Trustees

--All chairs need to pass in their committee's narrative report to the secretary **by April 25th**.

--The Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, April 18th has been moved to Tuesday, April 25th at 7:30pm. All chairs of all boards are urged to attend this very special budget meeting. The budget will be discussed from 7:30 to 8:15. Other important board agenda items will be taken up at 8:15.

Church Membership: If you are interested in church membership, please see Rev. Marks or call the church office.

This Week:

Sun, Apr. 23: *Morning Worship* 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching.

Mon, Apr. 24: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Monday Meals*, 10:30-1:30 pm, Allerton Hall; *Brownies*, 4-5pm & *Girl Scouts*, 6-7, Church House, Stewart Room; *Nominating Committee Meeting*, 7pm, Conference Room; *Pilgrim Festival Choir Rehearsal*, 7-10pm, Sanctuary; *Holocaust Remembrance Service*, Beth Jacob Community Center, 7:30pm.

Tue, Apr. 25: **Deadline for Annual Reports of all Committees**; Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Pilgrim District Women's Meeting*, 9:30am, Allerton Hall and Sanctuary; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall; *Advisory Board* will meet at 7pm in the Conference Room; *Board of Trustees* will meet at 7:30pm in the Stewart Room

Wed, Apr. 26: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; Rev. Marks will be in the Church Office at 9:30am: Rev. Heather is on vacation; *Boy Scouts*, 7-9pm, Great Hall; *Choir Rehearsal*, 7:30, Sanctuary; *Evening Prayer Service* 7-7:30, Sanctuary

Thurs, Apr. 27: *Dress Rehearsal* for Pilgrim Festival Chorus; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Fri, Apr. 28: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Dress Rehearsal* for Pilgrim Festival Chorus.

Sat, Apr. 29: There will be a "thank you" breakfast for those who helped as volunteers with the Taskforce for the Homeless programs in Allerton Hall, 9:00-10:30am. Pilgrim Festival Chorus presentation of The Brahms Requiem in the sanctuary, 7:30pm.

Coming Events:

Apr. 30 Anniversary Celebration for Rev. Marks; Brahms Requiem, Pilgrim Festival Chorus, 3:00pm in the sanctuary.

May 7 Heifer Project International Luncheon following worship in Allerton Hall.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-

The Innocence Quilt: Christine Spencer, member of The Church of the Pilgrimage and the founder of The Innocence Quilt, a non-profit project to honor children who are missing and abused in our country. In "Thousands of voices, one goal," a brochure about her advocacy, Christine explains that she crafts her quilts, each block representing a missing or exploited child, to send out a message of love to that young human being, and raise awareness about the scandal of violent crime against children in our country. On Sunday, April 23rd, Christine's beautiful quilts will hang in Allerton Hall where she will be available to speak, during the coffee hour, to individuals about her long term commitment to this cause. On April 27th, Christine will take her quilts to the Boston State House for display in The Great hall during the conference of the Massachusetts Office of Victims' Assistance, where 800 people are expected.

To support Christine in her program of social justice, there are a number of options.

1. Help with quilting.
2. Donate 100% cotton fabric, thread, queen size sheets or batting, black sharpie permanent markers or rotary cutters with replacement blades.
3. Make a monetary donation to help cover expenses. For donations, please look for a basket marked **The Innocence Quilt** near the Missions and Outreach table or call Christine Spencer at 508-746-8155.

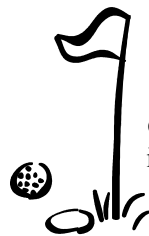


Rev. Marks 35th Anniversary Celebration: Gary's 35th year celebration is next Sunday. We are making preparations for a glorious meal, and we need your help. If you had signed up previously to bring sandwiches or a fruit platter, please call me as we have made some changes to the menu. If you had not signed up, it is not too late. We need food, funds and hands to help orchestrate this momentous event. If you are able to help in any of these capacities, please call Jenny Healy 508-747-7168 or e-mail me at poetick@verizon.net.

NOTICE: If you are having an event or a function that requires a set-up, please give the sexton at least a 24-hour notice. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE The SECOND ANNUAL PAWSOX TRIP, Sunday, July 16th. Details forthcoming.

Mark the date: Rev. Heather Moody's Service of Installation will be Sunday afternoon, May 21st, at 3:00p.m.at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Prior to the Installation Service, the Pilgrim Association of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ, will hold Ecclesiastical Council for Rev. Heather at 2:00pm.



Calling All Golfers! And anyone else who loves a good time! The Golf Tournament is up and running, but we need your help! Please contact Jon Porter, 746-4109, if you are interested in working on the Golf Tournament Committee. All ages are welcome!

Making Things Happen at The Church of the Pilgrimage:

There are many people and groups to thank for making events and programs possible in our church. That is especially true during Holy Week.

1. Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast: The Advisory Board, Communion Committee, Confirmation Class.
2. Maundy Thursday Communion Service with Office of Tenebrae: The Advisory Board, Communion Committee.
3. The Good Friday Way of the Cross Service: Ministers and Kathy Marks.
4. Memorial Easter Lilies: The Flower Committee (This is a big undertaking and we often don't give enough recognition to all the work involved)!
5. The Sexton for extra set-ups during the week.
6. The terrific and cheerful work of our church secretary, Shellie McCormack. (In addition to producing the Pilgrimage herald, there were five bulletins to prepare during Holy Week)!
7. Those responsible for getting greeters, ushers, acolytes, Crib Room help, etc.
8. Extra volunteers who rearrange the sanctuary for six services from Palm Sunday through Easter.
9. Our wonderful musicians who put in hours and hours of extra work to provide excellent music during Holy Week. The choir showed up in great numbers for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. The music was rapturous!

I may have overlooked someone or group. If so, I apologize. Things just don't happen by themselves and much more goes into providing quality worship than we usually take time to think about. Gary praises God for all who help to make our church the special place it is!

MAY IS HEIFER MONTH AT THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE.