



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

The Church of the Pilgrimage,
8 Town Square, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360
www.8townsquare.org

Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820

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Volume LXXVIII

April 9, 2006

No. 14

Dear Friends,

With the arrival of Palm Sunday we are invited to enter the central spiritual events which gave rise to, and are at the center of the Christian faith. Palm Sunday is an enigmatic day. On the surface it implies one thing, while underneath it is quite another. In the Palm Sunday happy "Hosannas" one can already hear the death calls, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

On Maundy Thursday Jesus met in an Upper Room to share a doleful meal with his disciples. It has come to be known as The Last Supper. It was the night upon which he was betrayed. It was the night upon which even his very closest friends would deny knowing him. One of them heard a rooster crow and that shrill cry likely altered his hearing permanently. We can hear it, too.

Good Friday came. There was nothing good in it for Jesus himself. He faced the "powers that be" under more than one guise. He was mocked, made to appear the fool, scourged, tied and nailed to a cross, suffered and slowly, ever so slowly, died. He was put in a garden tomb. Only God could know why and how on that day what good their was in it all.

The 'good' of it all could only be applied to the previous Friday from the tomb in which he'd been placed. Some women went there out of somber custom as the sun was arising. They found the son risen. That's the "good" in everything which faith is able to see.

Be with us on Palm Sunday. The spiritual parade starts there and we are still a part of the crowd of branch-wavers told to shout, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Jesus rode into Jerusalem knowing ahead of time that before weeks end that "hosanna" would not be the operative word describing his fate. He called his followers to a supper at a familiar place on Thursday of that increasingly sinister week. He invites you there, too, in a service of Last Supper remembrance. The lights go down, the darkness deepens, and then, for a painful moment, there is no light at all.

Friday came. Jesus was condemned to Rome's version of capital punishment. He carried his cross most of the way to the town dump, sometimes called the "skull." The cross was hoisted, the betrayal complete, words of utter frustration, words of mercy and forgiveness, were spoken. You are invited to our sanctuary to make dirgeful trek along the way to the cross.

Only God can overcome the darkest moments of history and of life. The intensity of the light can only be experienced by those who have gone along with Jesus from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. Holy Week is holy because of what God makes of its events from a garden on the first day of the week. Join us on the way to joyous vision supplied by God out of our darkness.

Love,

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Flowers: In memory of Marion Walker given by Marion's children and her husband Mahlon.



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.

Good Friday worship for children: On Friday, April 14th at noon at Christ Church Episcopal, there will be an ecumenical service for children and their families. Children will experientially enter into Jesus' journey to the cross through the senses of sight, sound, and touch. Come and see which Biblical character Rev. Heather will play.

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



Treasurer's Update

What a year this has been, truly a year to celebrate. The spiritual energy is contagious. The fellowship has been outstanding and outreach into our own community has taken a huge step forward. We should be proud of what we have accomplished. Yet there is so much more to be done. The Church of the Pilgrimage is certainly a hive of activity. All of this excitement comes with a price tag. We knew when we started that we would need a higher level of giving. However this year has had some surprise expenses and some income disappointments. So as we approach the year's end, we find ourselves short the money needed to fulfill all our obligations. How much? you ask; twenty seven thousand dollars by June 30. Several commitments will go unpaid, unless we react now. Please give generously. Celebrate all that we have done and will continue to do through your giving. I am personally asking for your help and support because I have exhausted all other avenues. Thank you for your generosity and support.

David Kegel, Treasurer

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Dave Kegel; Collector – Debra Richters;
Music Director-William B. Richter; Secretary- Shellie McCormack; Sexton-Tony Nightingale;
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone – (508) 747-1341

This Week:

Sun, Apr. 9: *Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast* in Allerton hall, 8:00am. *Morning Worship*, 10am, Rev. Heather Moody preaching. There will be a brief *Special Meeting* of the congregation following worship (the sole purpose of which is to set the date of the Annual Meeting). *Cherub Choir* will rehearse in the sanctuary following worship and the special meeting.

Mon, Apr. 10: *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, Church House Conference Room; *Pilgrim Festival Choir Rehearsal*, 7-10pm, Sanctuary.

Tue, Apr. 11: *Rev. Marks* will be in the office at 9:30 am; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall; The *Advisory Board* will meet in the sanctuary for a rehearsal of the Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm.

Wed, Apr. 12: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Rev. Marks* will be in the Church Office at 9:30am; *Boy Scouts*, 7-9pm, Great Hall; *Choir Rehearsal*, 7:30, Sanctuary; *Evening Prayer Service 7-7:30*, Sanctuary

Thurs, Apr. 13-Maundy Thursday (The First Day of Passover): *Membership & Evangelism Meeting*, 7pm at the home of Amy Simpson; *Maundy Thursday Office of Tenebrae and Service of Communion* in the sanctuary, 7pm

Fri, Apr. 14-Good Friday: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Ecumenical Service* at Christ Church, noon; *Women's Guild*, Allerton Hall, 1-3pm; *Celtic -Inspired Good Friday Service* 7pm, Sanctuary.

Coming Events:

Apr. 16 Easter Sunday/Resurrection Day Sunrise
Service on Cole's Hill 6am; Two Services at The Church of the Pilgrimage, 9am and 11am

Apr. 19 Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7-7:30pm

Apr. 20 Pilgrim Association of The Mass. Conference, U.C.C.-Annual spring Meeting will be held at The First Congregational Church, U.C.C. in Stoughton at 6pm, dinner tickets, \$7.50.

Apr. 21 Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary, 6:30pm

Apr. 22 Wedding in the sanctuary, 3:30pm

Apr. 24 Holocaust Remembrance Service, 7:30pm, at The Beth Jacob Community Center.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized:

- Roland Shuart, Jordan Hospital.

In Memoriam:

- On April 4, 2006 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Russell Holmes.

Greeters: The Anderson Family on April 9th.

Rev. Mark's 35th Anniversary Celebration: Please mark you calendars and plan to attend the worship service on April 30th at which time we will honor Rev. Marks for his 35 years with us at The Church of the Pilgrimage. There will be a celebration luncheon following the service.

From the Guild Change: Due to Guild falling on Good Friday, our program will be switched with the May 12th program. We will have a music program appropriate for Good Friday. The "Big Birthday Bash" for all members will be held on May 12th. All are welcome, come join us!

Harvest Fair Meeting Reminder: On April 10th at 7pm there will be a meeting of the Harvest Fair at the home of Laura Curtin, 10 Kristin Road, Plymouth.

From the Board of Trustees

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

* The keyless entry system will be up and running shortly on the church building. Debby Porter will meet with all individuals needing their FOB, or training after church next week to finalize any concerns. Also, all FOB users should submit to the office a detailed schedule of which building and when they expect to be using the building so that your FOB will be activated for your meetings/building use. Please call Debby at home (508-746-4109). It is important that a detailed list of your times and dates be submitted so that your FOB can be activated.

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

Memorial Lilies: The joyous Easter season is fast approaching. By your loving donation of Easter lilies, we can enhance the beauty of our church on Easter morning. Sign up in the lower vestibule following the service on the next three Sundays, or call the church office. There will be an insert listing the donors and those memorialized in the Herald. The suggested price for a multi-flowered, replantable lily is \$15. The flowers may be donated to shut-ins or picked up after the 11 o'clock Easter Sunday service on Sunday, April 16. Volunteers will be welcomed to take flowers to shut-ins following the service.

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 2:00p.m.

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!

Thank you Stewardship Committee: We thank our thoughtful Stewardship Committee for the wonderful luncheon it provided following worship on April 2nd. It was enjoyed by all who attended. Gary hopes that you will thank your wonderful and sensitive Stewardship Committee for its dedicated efforts to focus your giving on perpetuating the life of Christ through the varied ministries of The Church of the Pilgrimage.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS: The Overnights of Hospitality for homeless men held at The Church of the Pilgrimage was a touchingly successful activity. We are grateful to all whom in any way made this program work. Those who participated were as blessed by the experience as the men who were recipients of food and shelter. "We were able to experience the rewards of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 25 and, in the process, give honor to him." "I say to you, as you did to one of the least my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40). The pastors of the church are grateful to the Missions & Outreach Committee for persevering in making this hospitality program a part of the ministry of The Church of the Pilgrimage. The Overnights of Hospitality program should be a permanent part of our ministry until there is a better solution to the plight of the homeless. May God bless our Missions Committee. *SEE ENCLOSURE FOR MORE MISSIONS INFORMATION*

Parking: It has come to our attention that people have been parking in a private section of the Eastern Bank parking lot. This section is located on the left (north) side of the lot against the wall. The tenants may tow your vehicle if you park there.