



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Dear Friends,

Often preachers and teachers are attracted to stories, parables and fables in an effort to make a point in a sermon or other writing. In a magazine I recently came across a fable which is similar in its lesson taught to others I've read. Repeating it here may help us focus upon how we behave in our personal lives or how we think about our church life.

A bunchy of fleas were hanging out on a blanket, just jumping up and down having a good time. Then someone came along and put a jar over the fleas. Not knowing what had happened, they just kept jumping. The fleas began to hit their heads on the jar after a while. After hitting their heads a few times, they got the message and stopped jumping so high. Though they still jumped, the fleas learned to stop about an inch from the top of the jar.

After about an hour the person who had placed the jar over the fleas removed it. The fleas never knew the difference. They had fixed in their minds, as it were, that there was a ceiling about them beyond which they could not jump. With the jar now removed the fleas could have jumped higher than they'd learned to jump. The never did jump any higher than the imaginary barrier they had fixed in their minds.

In life and in church we can become accustomed to barriers beyond which we are afraid to go. Often we have fixed in our minds that we cannot do something because we fear we'll "hit our heads" on a barrier which really no longer exists.

Personally, I'm that way when I don't do something I want to do, because once upon a time I "hit my head." An example: I fear taking the train into Boston because I have gotten lost a few times when trying something new on my own. It is a kind of imaginary ceiling I've got in my mind which keeps me from trying something new. There are other personal examples I could cite regarding imaginary barriers that have had far more significant effects on my life than my fear of taking the train to Boston!

Church's including our own, tend to think that there are barriers beyond which they cannot go. We get into patterns of thinking which artificially limit our potentials.

This is surely true when we consider our service to the church, including our financial support of its ministries. As in other areas of life, we need to be assured that God will be with us in all that we do in God's name. There are no barriers above us, unless they are imaginary ones! Let's jump as high as we can!

Love,

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Evening Prayer will be held on Wednesday, May 31st. This will be the last class until September. Please join us for this service of quiet prayer, meditation and reflection.

FOB/Keyless Entry: Please be advised that the new FOB system is now in place for both buildings. The following applies to all who have a FOB:

- All committee chairs may use their FOB to access the building from 8am-8pm.
- All FOB holders should use their FOB when they enter and exit the buildings.
- The last person out of the building is responsible for using their FOB to alarm the building.
- Anyone with a key should drop it off at the office. If you try to use your key to gain entry to the church building you may set off the alarm.
- Outside groups have access to the building only during the hours they have requested.
- Any problems or questions, call Shellie at 508-746-3026.

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer (a note from Laura Curtin)

I just wanted to thank you for your donation to The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. The walk was this past weekend and it was a great success. The weather in Boston was beautiful. Mid 60's, sunny with a little wind. Perfect! My 3 friends and I made it the whole 39 miles with minimal blisters. I was so honored to be waling with three of my close friends Michele, Sarah and Shari. It meant so much to me to be there. And for their support. Thank you for making that possible.

We were among 2600 walkers. It was a breathtaking site seeing all those walkers. It was a sea of pink. My fund raising total was over \$9500 on the eve of the walk. The four of us raised over \$18,000. The Boston event raised \$6.3 million. That is unbelievable. We couldn't have done it without your support. Many people will be helped by your generosity.

Much health and happiness to you.

Love, Laura

This Week:

Sun, May 28: *Morning Worship*, 10:00am, Rev. Gary L.Marks preaching.

Mon, May 29-Memorial Day: The Church Office will be closed; *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Brownies*, 4-5pm & *Girl Scouts*, 6-7, Church House, Stewart Room.

Tue, May 30: *Rev. Marks* will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Wed, May 31: *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, June 1: *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Fri, June 2: *Rev. Marks* will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am.

Coming Events:

June 4 Service of Confirmation during Morning Worship.

June 9-10 Mass Conference U.C.C. Annual Meeting, Mt. Holyoke College

June 11 Church School Sunday followed by the Annual Meeting of The Church of the Pilgrimage

June 17 The Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament at Squirrel Run Golf Course.

CHURCH RECORD

Baptism:

- On May 21, 2006 Brooke Victoria Trepanier was baptized during the morning service.

Hospitalized

- Jean Patenaude, Jordan Hospital

Pawtucket Red Sox Game: Verna and Al Hoyt have obtained 50 Box Seats for the July 16th



Pawtucket Red Sox Game (the seats are all together on the first base side). We will be leaving immediately after Church to make the 1:05 starting time. The cost will

be announced soon, but should not be more than \$25.00 per person, INCLUDING the cost of the bus. See Verna or Al to reserve your seat. First come first served.

Pilgrimage Women's Fellowship - DON'T MISS OUT! Our Annual Banquet is quickly approaching and there is still time to sign up! This year's banquet will be held on Monday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m. at The Run of the Mill Tavern in Plymouth. This is always an enjoyable evening as we wind down our busy year together. We welcome all the women of the church even if you have never before attended one of our meetings. So please sign up no later than Sunday, May 21st by calling Marna Blomberg at 781-826-2543. If you would like to attend but cost is an issue - no problem, but make sure you still sign up so that we have a total number of people attending. If you would like a ride, please call Marna or Jenny at 508-747-7168. Thank you and we hope you are able to join us!

Rev. Marks' 35-year celebration will air on PACTV this week, Memorial Day weekend, Sunday morning at 8am and again at 6pm.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-

May is Heifer International Month: Help End Hunger and Poverty

Each Sunday individuals and families are invited to sign up to help Heifer at the special tables in Allerton Hall. The income raised will help buy farm animals for hungry families and will help rebuild the barn at Overlook Farm that was lost in a fire on March 6th.

During the past three decades The Church of the Pilgrimage has contributed \$50,960.65 to help end hunger and poverty through Heifer International.

Sunday, May 28, 2006 Final Day of Heifer Month. Special Children's Message.

Scarves for the Women of Kisinga, Uganda

If you have some scarves you don't use, please consider donating them to the women in Beatrice Biiri's home village of Kisinga, Uganda. Beatrice will be present this Sunday to receive any donations to take home with her, when she returns for the summer, after completing her sophomore year at Connecticut College. Thank You.

Church World Service Responds to Floods

Church World Service is issuing emergency appeal #6287 New England Flood in the amount of \$35,000. People wishing to make donations to support this effort, should send their gifts to:

Church World Service
2006 New England Flood #6287
PO Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515

Or by calling 1-800-297-1516 ext. 222 or online at www.churchworldservice.org.

It is sad to report that Jane Cole is moving from Plymouth to be nearer family members. Jane has been an active member of The Church of the Pilgrimage for more than twenty years. Her charming cheerfulness and wisdom will be greatly missed.

Happy Day! Laura Curtin walked the whole 42 miles of a breast cancer awareness walk on the 20th-21st of May! Laura: you are an inspiration to us all! God bless you!



GOLF TOURNAMENT SIGNUP: The 6th Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament will tee off at 8 Saturday morning, **June 17, 2006** at Squirrel Run Golf Course. (Please note the corrected date!!!) We need corporate and individual hole sponsors (\$100) to make this fundraiser a success. Ask your employer, or advertise your own business. Our hole sponsors are getting a "two-for" deal: Since our 7th Golf Tournament is coming up so soon (Sept. 23 at Southers Marsh GC), we're offering a price break if you reserve hole sponsorship for both now. We are taking reservations immediately for individuals and foursomes at \$80/person. Not a golfer? Join us at noon for the Bar-B-Q and raffle prizes: \$25/adults, \$5/kids. Call Mike Harrington, 508-747-2060, or Judy Mitchell, 508-746-3959, for more info.

Rev. Heather's Installation Slide Show can be viewed on the church website, www.8townsquare.org. This slideshow was created by Doug Post and includes pictures from the Ecclesiastical Council, the Installation Service and the reception.