



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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No. 23

Dear Friends,

Several weeks ago I based my letter upon a question I found in a fortune cookie in a Chinese restaurant. Perhaps you recall that letter, but I repeat the question here. "Do you see difficulty behind every opportunity, or opportunity behind every difficulty?"

That question came to mind after I attended two recent meetings called jointly by the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board. Both meetings were informational; both had to do with the budget of the church. The first meeting held on May 23rd dealt with a budget shortfall and some great ideas emerged from that meeting. Discussion was also focused on ideas which might lead to adequate funding of the church's overall ministry for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. According to the treasurer \$6,500 was given at that meeting which made a significant impact on the current deficit. People at that May 23rd meeting demonstrated a great love for the church and The Church of the Pilgrimage in particular. My sense of that meeting was that those gathered there saw opportunity behind difficulty.

On June 4th, a second meeting was called to discuss use of space issues for our renovated Church House. I can't be detailed about that meetings content, but I can say that those present had a free exchange of ideas and issues concerning Church House use. One church member appealed to the relatively small group of people gathered to move on in Christian love and forgiveness and to emphasize the very positive aspects of our congregation's ministry. I saw in that welcome plea an attempt to find opportunity behind every difficulty.

The Christian faith is as durable as it is graceful. The church which exists to perpetuate that faith has always been able to overcome difficulties by recalling itself to its original purposes. Our faith is, of course, based upon the life and teachings of Jesus the Christ. But, the life and teachings of Jesus would not have had the transforming and durable power they have were it not for what happened on the first day of the week next following a lamentable Friday in first century Jerusalem. On Good Friday the hopes of the followers of Jesus' Way were crushed, their dreams shattered by the execution of the one they'd come to believe to be the Messiah, the Son of God. That is the ultimate difficulty!

God used even that ultimate difficulty as an opportunity to express the greatest vision of hope the world has ever known. The whole church, the ecumenical church, is founded upon the opportunity of Easter. It is upon that hope, that fifty days after Easter the church was founded on the Day of Pentecost. Those who believe in Easter hope and are in Covenant with God have, by the gift of faith, agreed to be the presence of Christ in our world. Implicit in that God-given faith is that Easter is our opportunity to overcome every difficulty for the sake of the body of Christ, his church is the world.

June 4th was Pentecost Sunday. We confirmed some of our young people in an impressive and solemn service on that day. Pentecost is the day upon which the Spirit of God swept over ordinary people to form the church. The church is expected to keep the power and hope of Christ's Resurrection alive in a world in which Crucifixion is so often the order of the day. If the Church of the Pilgrimage is a place of Pentecostal Spirit, it will be able to use any difficulty as an opportunity for hope, renewal and grace-filled mission.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Love,

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Attention Parents of children ages 3 through 8th

grade: Please bring your children to Allerton Hall by **9:45a.m.** this **Sunday, June 11th** for Church School Sunday. Children will then gather in their Sunday School classes with their teachers to prepare for worship. The Sunday School classes will process into the sanctuary following the choir during the Processional Hymn and will sit in their class groups in the front pews.

Teachers: Be in Allerton Hall by **9:40a.m.**

Covenant Card: We hope you all received a wallet-sized card designed by Megan Verdugo and that you will carry it with you and refer to it often. The 1606 covenant, revised slightly by Rev. Marks, is printed on

the back of the card. The photograph on the back of the card features a lovely view of the tower of The Church of the Pilgrimage from Burial Hill.

FOB's: Recent update/upgrades have been made to the computer software that allows access to both the Church Building and Church House, which should eliminate any problems we have been having with the FOB's. Please try your FOB and then call the church office to verify your FOB# so we can make sure our records are accurate. If you are still holding a key, please turn it in to the church office. Thanks.

This Week:

Sun, June 11: *Morning Worship*, 10:00am –The Children of our church school will be leading our worship; *The Annual Meeting* of The Church of the Pilgrimage will follow morning worship in the sanctuary; *Rev. Marks* will perform a wedding in Chatham at 5:30pm.

Mon, June 12: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Girl Scouts*, 6-7, Church House, Stewart Room.

Tue, June 13: *Rev. Marks* will conduct a worship service at The Newfield House at 10:00am. He will be in the church office following the service; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Wed, June 14: *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.

Thurs, June 15: *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Fri, June 16: *Aerobics*, 9am, Allerton Hall; *Rev. Marks* will be in the church office, 9:30am. .

Sat, June 17: *The 6th Annual Pilgrimage Golf Tournament/Lunch* will be held at The Squirrel Run Golf Course (see notes for details).

Coming Events:

June 20: *The Board of Trustees will meet at 7pm in the Conference Room in Church House.*

June 21: *Rev. Heather will be in Indianapolis for Mix '06 UCC/DOC Women's Event until June 25th.*

June 25: *Gary and Kathy plan to leave for Scotland in the afternoon. Gary will preach that day.*

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized

- Recuperating at home after hospitalization, Robert Tibbetts.

Births

- Caileyann Frances Cotta, daughter of Anthony and Andrea Cotta and sister of Vanessa and Alexzander.

Confirmands

- Jessica Brown
- Jessica Saunders
- Patrick Simpson
- Courtney Willis

Sympathy

- We were saddened to learn of the death of Albert Armstrong on June 4, 2006. Our prayers are with his family, including his prayers Bob and Chi Armstrong who live in Florida.

Flowers: In loving memory of John & Frances Scheid and brother Jack. Given by Paul and Nancy Scheid and family.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2006—

Jessica Brown, Jessica Saunders, Patrick Simpson, and Courtney Willis. Remember that Confirmation is not graduation—there is always more learning, more growing, more exploring to be done. After all, we are all on a journey of faith, and our relationship with God, like all other relationships, continues to grow and change. Don't forget that as full members of the Church of the Pilgrimage, you now are empowered to vote at Congregational Meetings—see you at Annual Meeting this Sunday! **A word of thanks to the Confirmands' mentors:** Marna Blomberg, Jenny Healy, Cliff Sampson, and Barbara Quinn. Your attention and insights have been greatly appreciated. It is so important for our young people to have adults in their lives who care about them and are willing to listen to their ideas and experiences. **Thank you to the Confirmands** for their wonderful words of wisdom captured in a beautiful

quilted banner. The banner will be on display in Rev. Heather's office—please stop by and check out the beautiful design (some of you may recognize fabric that was also used in the burning bush congregationally created art work from my Installation that is now on display in Allerton Hall). Thank you, Jenny Healy for creating the banner. It's absolutely lovely and I shall treasure it! -Rev. Heather

Please prayerfully consider signing up for Craft and Story Hour this summer.

Sign-up sheets are located in Allerton Hall on one of the bulletin boards. Also, we need **you** to be a Sunday School teacher for one Sunday a month during the 2006-2007 school year. This is a wonderful and vitally important opportunity for you to be a part of the faith formation of our children.

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.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-

The Missions & Outreach Committee are grateful to Paul and Rosalee Sinn for hosting a delightful supper at their Cedar Bushes home on June 1st.

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. We will continue to accept scarves until June 18th.

Digital Camera Request We have received a request for a digital camera for Beatrice Biiri to take to someone in Kisinga, Uganda. If you can help, please see Rosalee Sinn or Meg Bross.

Church World Service Responds

Church World Service was among the first to respond with water and blankets to Bethesda Hospital in Yogyakarta, Indonesia to help victims of the May 27th earthquake, which has claimed over 6,000 lives and destroyed tens of thousands of homes.

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.

International Fair Overlook Farm: Saturday, June 24th from 11:00 to 5:00 and on Sunday, June 25th from noon to 5:00. This event will be held rain or shine. Admission is free although there will be a \$5.00 parking fee per vehicle. For more information see the poster in Allerton Hall, call 508-886-2221 or visit www.heifer.org/overlook.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SIGNUP: Don't miss the fun! The 6th Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament will tee off at 8:00am Saturday morning, June 17 at Squirrel Run Golf Course. The \$80/person fee includes greens fees, lunch and a registration gift bag. Not a golfer? Join us at noon for the Bar-B-Q and a chance to win great raffle prizes: \$25/adults, \$5/kids.

400th Anniversary Celebration: Rev. Marks has been working with The First Parish Unitarian Universalist church and Peggy Baker, Director of Pilgrim Hall, on plans we will jointly share in the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Scrooby Covenant. So far the groups have these events planned.

August 1st-Rev. Marks will give a lecture at The Church of the Pilgrimage entitled, "The Scrooby Covenant, 1606-2006."

August 8th-Stephen O'Neil will give a lecture on the significance of Burial Hill, First Parish Church.

August 22nd-Peggy Baker will give a lecture on the Rev. John Robinson, The Church of the Pilgrimage.

August 29th-James Baker will give a talk on First Parish Church in the 19th Century.

In addition to the above lecture series members of The Church of the Pilgrimage and First Parish, UU will be offered a rare opportunity at Pilgrim Hall Museum on September 9th at 11am. Director Peggy Baker has agreed to provide a special display at Pilgrim Hall of original documents regarding the Church in Plymouth which continued the 1606 Scrooby covenant in the Church in New Plimoth. Adaptations of that Covenant continues to be the foundation of The Church of the Pilgrimage. It also served as a model for other New England Congregational Churches who were "gathered" subsequently to the Pilgrim Church. Peggy Baker will also conduct a guided tour featuring Pilgrim artifacts at Pilgrim hall.

The number of people on this special tour will be limited, so you are asked to indicate your interest before August 15, 2006. Call Ann Young at 508-746-1620, Ext. 4. If interest is sufficient, another display and tour will be arranged.

Gary has also consulted with our Music Director, Bill Richter, to offer a performance of The Pilgrim Canticle during Thanksgiving week at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Gary organized the Canticle.

Other plans are being made to mark what to many is an obscure 400th Anniversary, but which actually provided an essential organizing first principle in the formation of New England and, indeed, America. Get excited about the 400th Anniversary of the Scrooby, Leyden, Plymouth Covenant! Please plan to attend as many of these events as your can. Other events are yet to come.

From Gary: I want to thank Rev. Heather, the mentors and all who had a part in training our Confirmands who were received into membership in The Church of the Pilgrimage on June 4, 2006. It was a beautiful service and deeply moving for all in attendance. Heather did a very nice job in conducting her first Confirmation Class. I am grateful, too, for the dedicated and loving support of the adults who showed great love and understanding

in preparing our terrific young people for Confirmation. Thank You!

Wanted: Pie Bakers To add to our frozen pie sale for the Harvest fair we came up with the following idea. Our goal is to have as many frozen pies prepared as possible well ahead of the October rush. By spreading out the work over the next several months, it gives us an opportunity to make a greater variety of pies using what is in season or what is on sale. To assure a uniform product, all pies should be put into the disposable pie plates that I will provide, and should be made using the master recipe pie crust recipe (but may be filled with your choice of fruit-custards don't freeze well). Be sure to wrap the pies in multiple layers of plastic and put a label under the top layer of plastic saying what kind of pie it is. If you do not have room in your freezer, contact me and I will see to it that they get into a big freezer. Our goal is have each pie baker make one pie a month beginning in June and ending in October (you are certainly invited to exceed that amount, but it is not required; likewise, if you are able to make fewer, they will gratefully accepted as well). They will be sold frozen. To sign up and get your recipe and pie plates, please contact Jenny Healy at 508-747-7168 or poetick@verizon.net. Thank you very much for your participation.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, the 2006 Annual Business Meeting will be held on June 11, 2006, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive Reports of all Boards, Committees and Officers.
2. To act upon the 2006 Budget of the Church.
3. To act on a motion presented by the Board of Trustees regarding naming of the Church House building.
4. To hear a report from the Bylaw Review Committee and act on recommendations presented.
5. The election of Officers, Board and Committee Members.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



Clerk