



# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

The Church of the Pilgrimage,  
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www.8townsquare.org

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Dear Friends,

On Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> a significant event transpired in the Great Hall in Church House. The two boards of the church jointly hosted a meeting to discuss the church's financial needs. There is a budget shortfall for the present fiscal year and a danger that we will not meet budget needs for 2006-2007. The call to this meeting was a wise one so that church members will have a better grasp of budget matters before the annual meeting than otherwise they would.

There were also other matters touching upon the budget which came up during an open, but friendly exchange of opinions and ideas. Issues were raised about nursery school rental space, for instance, and what impact options before the church would have on the budget.

The group of (I'm guessing) 60-70 members were all reflecting their deep love for The Church of the Pilgrimage and were sure that we can't trim our ministries much because to do so would detract from one of the most active mainline churches on the South Shore. It was noted that our education and music programs were among the chief reasons that people are attracted to our church. The quality of worship was mentioned as a feature which draws people into our congregation. It was discussed, in that regard, that we have been "making do" with no permanent organist for some considerable time now and all saw the need of funding the organist position. It was noted, too, that we have really been struggling along with a secretary who is overburdened and who is half-time in pay, surely more than half-time in what she contributes to the church's life!

There were some great ideas exchanged and we'll make those known as time goes on. The budget shortfall is not caused by people not honoring pledges, etc. The church's expenses have, quite simply, outrun income because of fuel costs, maintenance issues, to name two.

The remarkable moment came when church members offered to write a check for \$1,000. Others followed that offer in the same amount. The collective effort did not eliminate the current debt, but it did cut into it in a substantial way. It is my hope, and of those who made those gifts, as well, that others will see our challenges as opportunities to serve the great ministry of our church. Some of us can do more than others financially, and almost all of us can do more to support the church than we do. Kathy and I have increased our pledge and I hope you'll do the same.

The meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> was one in which, I dare to say, the Spirit of God was moving. In true "free church" tradition we sought the "discern the mind of Christ," and to trust that we can meet our financial challenges for the sake of our beloved church's ministry. We must keep on the positive course and avoid laying blame upon people or circumstances where they really don't belong.

I pray for the Spirit's continued movement among us and within each of us. If we feel that Spirit, we shall solve our problems, including financial ones, in the spirit of thanksgiving for the blessing The Church of the Pilgrimage is.

I know that this is an unusually long Pastor's Letter, but I need to mention that people at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were greatly impressed by our congregation's increased sense of its global and local missions awareness. Our mission to the poor, the afflicted, the disenfranchised was deemed an important part of our congregational identity. Praise God for that.

May God bless you and The Church of the Pilgrimage!

Love,

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**The Evening Prayer Services** will not be held until late summer or early fall. It has been a very special part of the spiritual pilgrimage for those who have attended the services on a regular basis.

**The Stewardship Committee** reminds all who have not done so to return pledge cards as soon as possible. We need to know as well as we can how much money can be allocated to various budget line items.

**Budget Meeting** The meeting called to discuss the budget on May 23<sup>rd</sup> was a very productive meeting, indeed. Those present showed a great love for The Church of the Pilgrimage and came up with some wonderful ideas regarding the budget, but about the church's ministry in general. Please see the

"Pastor's Letter" for further discussion of what was a fruitful and challenging meeting.

**From the Advisory Board/Board of Trustees:**

There will be a brief forum immediately after worship on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary to discuss use of space issues relative to the church house for the coming year. All are invited and urged to attend.

**Rev. Heather's Installation Slide Show** can be viewed on the church website,

[www.8townsquare.org](http://www.8townsquare.org). This slideshow was created by Doug Post and includes pictures from the Ecclesiastical Council, the Installation Service and the reception.

### **This Week:**

**Sun, June 4:** *Morning Worship*, 10:00am Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

**Mon, June 5:** *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Brownies*, 4-5pm & *Girl Scouts*, 6-7, Church House, Stewart Room.

**Tue, June 6:** *Rev. Marks* will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Stewardship Committee Meeting*, 7:15pm, Church House Conference Room; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall.

**Wed, June 7:** *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Rev. Marks* will be in the Church Office at 9:30am; *Boy Scouts*, 7-9pm, Great Hall; *Music Committee Meeting*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall; *Choir Rehearsal*, 7:30, Sanctuary.

**Thurs, June 8:** *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall; *Membership & Evangelism Committee Meeting*, 7pm at the home of Amy Simpson.

**Fri, June 9:** *Rev. Marks* will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Mass Conference, U.C.C. Annual Meeting* at Mount Holyoke College; *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Guild Lunch* at Bert's Restaurant, noon; *Rev. Heather* at Mass Conference Annual Meeting through June 10<sup>th</sup>; *Heather Moody's Birthday*.

**Sat, June 10:** *Mass Conference, U.C.C. Annual Meeting* continues.

### **Coming Events:**

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

**June 13** *Rev. Marks* will conduct a worship service at The Newfield House, 10:00am.

**June 17** The Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament at Squirrel Run Golf Course (see notes).

### **CHURCH RECORD**

#### **Baptism:**

- On May 28, 2006 *Rev. Marks* baptized Owen Ainley Mayo in a private service. Owen's parents are Anthony Mayo and Joanne (Holmes) Mayo.

#### **Hospitalized**

- Jean Patenaude, Jordan Hospital

**Flowers:** Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> the flowers were given by Shirley Gray and her family in memory of her husband, Douglas Gray. Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> the flowers are in loving memory of Arthur and Rose Doten. Given by their children.

**Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> is Church School Sunday. We will be presenting Bibles to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders.** Parents—please call or email the church office with the correct spelling of your 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader's name. We would be happy to present a Bible to any child above 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade who has not received a Bible from The Church of the Pilgrimage—parents let us know if your child falls into this category.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

### **MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-**

**Thank you to all who contributed to the annual Heifer International drive this month.** Together we raised more than \$2000 in gifts. Sue Healy and Rosalee Sinn deserve our special thanks for making arrangements to bring two, gentle lambs last Sunday from the Colchester Farm in Plympton, to emphasize the significance of animals in the lives of families receiving them from Heifer International projects around the globe.

#### **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 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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 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](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

**International Fair Overlook Farm:** Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 5:00 and on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.heifer.org/overlook).

**GOLF TOURNAMENT SIGNUP:** Don't miss the fun! The 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Attention parents of Sunday School aged children:** This Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, is Confirmation Sunday. There will not be a Children's Message during morning worship. **Please bring your children to the Church House prior to worship.** Children will first rehearse their parts for Children's Worship Sunday (June 11<sup>th</sup>) and then they will enjoy a Craft and Story Hour.

**Rev. Heather's previous Herald omission:** It has come to my attention that I forgot to offer a word of thanks to Cliff Sampson in my letter included in last week's Herald. Cliff presented me with the congregation's gift of an amazing red stole covered in fabric flames of myriad colors. I have not had a red stole, and so now I have a stole to wear on Pentecost Sunday as well as other occasions where the work of the Holy Spirit is celebrated, such as ordinations and installation services. It is an absolutely beautiful gift that I treasure, and you will have an opportunity to see me wearing it this Sunday! Thank you for honoring me with such a lovely gift! -Rev. Heather