



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

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No. 26

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that by the time you read this, the month of July will be almost over and we will be more than halfway through the season of summer. Summertime is often a period of rest and relaxation, as kids and teachers get a break from school, families take vacation trips, and many of us spend time at the beach. I have heard that some of our members even take a vacation from going to church during the summer months (can you imagine?!). Rev. Gary even assured me that the pace of things slows down during the summer as most of our boards and committees take a break from their regular meeting schedule. It's as if the church is like a gas stove whose bright hot flame of energy that keeps us fired up for all of our ministries during September-June gets turned down to a low, gentle simmer for July and August.

While it's true that we do not have some of the same programming during the summer that we offer during the rest of the year, we do have alternative options that only occur at this time of year, such as the splendid Summer Concert Series. Several of our boards and committees have continued to meet in spite of the potential for some well-deserved time off. With the congregation's approval of an ambitious budget for 2006-2007 at our June Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees has communicated our need for additional funds and members of our congregation have responded with grace and generosity. (If you have been out of town or have lost the form for making an additional contribution to the church, this month's *Herald* provides another opportunity to share your treasure generously.) The Membership & Evangelism Committee has obtained a database program that will dramatically improve our congregation's ability to track and communicate with one another. This valuable and much needed tool will benefit all aspects of ministry at The Church of the Pilgrimage—we can even publish an updated photo membership directory without the assistance of a company like Olan Mills! Meanwhile, planning continues at a brisk pace for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Scrooby Covenant, and many exciting events are in place for the month of August (details are in this issue of the *Herald*).

The vitality and energy of this congregation are palpable. If anything, the stove only has been turned down to medium high heat. But then this should not surprise us, for the Holy Spirit continues to dance among us, encouraging, inspiring, motivating, inviting, and engaging us regardless of the season. Indeed, the energy and vitality of this congregation are indications of the Spirit's presence. It is both a gift and a privilege to be a part of such a dynamic, Spirit-filled congregation. Praise God for the work we are doing! May God continue to show us what we yet may do, and may we continue to be open to the Holy Spirit's leadership and inspiration.

God's Peace and blessings,

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Meals Program: If you or someone you know in our church family has been ill, hospitalized or in need of some help, keep in mind that The Church of the Pilgrimage has a program in place that will provide a hot meal. For the months of July and August, please contact Barbara Quinn at 508-746-3901 and she will arrange for a hot meal.

Board of Trustees Meetings: These are open meetings. All members of the church are always welcome.

- ✓ Sun., July 20th (after church) –Informal Meeting
- ✓ Wed., August 16th 7:00pm – Formal Meeting in the John Robinson Center.

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer –Jon Porter; 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

CHURCH RECORD

Baptisms

- On July 2nd, Rev. Moody baptized Adam Charles Bilodeau, son of Sarah and Jon Bilodeau.
- On July 9th, Rev. Moody baptized Brynn Ashley Cushing, daughter of Megan and James Cushing.
- On July 9th, Rev. Sinn baptized Eleanor Margaret Schaefer, daughter of Abia and Joseph Schaefer.

Funerals

- On July 13th, Rev. Moody conducted a funeral and committal service for Cheryl Nickerson Brown.
- On July 20th, Rev. Moody conducted a graveside service for Olive Corthell Boucher.

Weddings

- On July 7th Rev. Moody conducted a wedding for Crystal Titus and Randy Budge at Brewster Gardens.
- On July 22nd Rev. Moody conducted a wedding for Lauren Steele and Paul Chamorro in the sanctuary.

Flowers for the month of August-

We have openings for flowers for August 13th and 27th. If you would like to honor, celebrate, or memorialize someone, please contact the church office (508-746-3026).

August 6: In loving memory of Sara Marks, Floyd and Pauline Marks and Boyd Mayhew. Given by Gary, Kathy, Jon, JD and Robbie.

August 20: In loving memory of my parents, Raymond and Marilyn Monto. Given by Mal Borsari.

September 3: In loving memory of our parents. Given by the Armstrongs.

Greeters for the Month of August-

August 6: Diana Budge

August 13: Eileen Ganem

August 20: Marjorie Sears and Alice Dunham

August 27: Susan Miller

Thank You to our July Ushers-

Christina Borel, Jessica Hague, Verna Hoyt, Jessica Brow, Carissa Brown, Nathan Davis, Ashley Latosek, The Willis Family, Gordon Campbell, Geoff Campbell, Jennifer Mason, Melissa Davis, Charles (Chip) Stevens, and Sally Stevens.

Summer Sunday Worship-

All Sunday Worship Services will be held at 10:00am. The Order of Worship will be listed in the Bulletin, which will be distributed by the ushers.

There will be no regular Church School classes until September. Younger children, 3rd grade and under, are invited to attend Bible Story/Craft Hour downstairs in Allerton Hall following the Children's Message. Older children are to remain in worship.

All are invited to join us for Coffee Hour downstairs in Allerton hall following the worship service.

Planning a vacation for the month of August? We wish you traveling mercies and the blessing of re-creation time. As you journey to visit family, friends, and enjoy some time away, remember your church community here in Plymouth. We count on the support of all our church members to keep the ministries of this congregation healthy and strong. Please be sure to mail your pledge to the church office if you will be unable to present your offering during our Sunday morning worship service. Thank you.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-

The Missions and Outreach Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed items purchased them or made a donation to the silent auction fundraisers in June and July. The third auction will take place on Sunday, August 27th during coffee hour. We welcome small donations at that time. Suggestions: potted plants, small antiques, pottery, china, jewelry, a coffee table book, a children's book or notecards, all in excellent condition.

New Members: The Missions and Outreach Committee is looking for two more members. Join us if you can, for some or all of our activities each month.

NOTICES FOR AUGUST-

Office Hours for the summer: M-F, 8:00am-Noon.

Please call the church office if you are aware of **persons hospitalized or in need of pastoral care**. It is especially important to let us know about out-of-town hospitals.

Thank you for your help.

Please inform the church office of **recent graduations, weddings**, etc. We like to honor and keep track of our young people as they attain significant events in their lives.

Thank You: We would like to thank Bobbie Preston, Janet Synnott and Jessica Hague for volunteering to cover the office while our secretary, Shellie, was on vacation last week.

Golf Tournament Sign-Up: The Annual Church of the Pilgrimage September Golf Tournament will be held Saturday morning, September 23, 2006 at Southers Marsh Golf Club. We welcome corporate and individual hole sponsors (\$100) to make this fundraiser a success. We are taking reservations immediately for individuals and foursomes at \$100/person, which includes greens fees, a cart, gift bag and lunch. Not a golfer? Join us at noon for an American Barbeque and great raffle prizes: \$25/adults, \$15/kids.

Harvest Fair Reminder-Knitters: The fair is nearly upon us for knitters that would like to contribute to the Knitting Nook table. We can use baby sweaters particularly and also mittens in all sizes, children to adult. Although the fuzzy scarves are probably not as popular as last year, there are some lovely yarns that will work up quickly in the scarf department. We can use all the help that we can get and there is time left to produce some knitted items. Many thanks to all who can help! Diana Budge

Harvest Fair Reminder-Calico Corner: If you can sew and have a little time, we would appreciate any handmade items such as placemats, table scarves, hats, handbags or bags of any kind, children's jumpers or dresses (toddler sizes) or any other creative item for which you have a talent. Please put your fingers to work and contribute to the cause. The more items that we have, the more profit we can generate for the church budget. Besides it's great to join in the fun! Diana Budge

Attention-Brown Bag Auction: You are invited to a social evening at Allerton Hall on Saturday, September 16, 2006 at 7pm. Appetizers and desserts as well as beverages will be served and we will have a Brown Bag Auction during the evening. Everyone who would like to participate is asked to bring an item or items sealed in a brown paper bag. Attached to your bag should be a card with hints as to the contents. Please be as imaginative as you can while not giving away the actual contents of the bag. (Being deceptive is encouraged) On the back of the card please write the actual contents of the bag for the auctioneers benefit. We will auction off the bags with a minimum bid of \$20. A contribution of \$3 per adult is requested to defray the cost of refreshments. We would like to encourage everyone to share in the fun of a night of fellowship and fund-raising. While we are not serving a dinner, you can be assured that some delicious goodies will be available. You are welcome to bring some favorite goodies of your own to share if you'd like, but it is not required. You will be bidding blind on the bags and you could buy a treasure or maybe not. We like surprises. Sign-ups will be after the church service on the first two Sundays in September to help to give us an idea of numbers but if you decide to come and have not signed up, please know that you will be welcome.

Diana Budge---Sponsored by the Advisory Board

Women's Fellowship News: Keep us in mind as you enjoy summer. The first meeting, September 11th, will be a potluck picnic. We will be asking each of you to bring a favorite summer dish and recipe to share. You will also be asked to bring a favorite poem, book, souvenir, postcard or picture that reminds you of summer as we head into fall. It's Summer-Enjoy---put Women's Fellowship Picnic, September 11th, on your calendar.

Also: Summer might be a time for you to work on a craft or make jams etc. for the November Church Fair.

New Church Database!

Efforts to create a complete and accurate database are well underway. To date information on members, attendees and their families has been scattered across several lists maintained by various committees and church officers (e.g. membership, stewardship, clerk, collector etc.) A complete central database shared by all will greatly help us along the way toward the greater mission of serving the church.

The Membership and Evangelism Committee has been working with the Advisory Board, Board of Trustees and some computer professionals within the church to review a number of commercial databases specifically designed for use by churches. The reviews included both hands on efforts and consultations with other database users. Our ultimate database selection was based on stability of the vendor, ease-of-use, flexibility, and of course security. The database itself will reside in the church house with both physical and software security in place.

More information will be forthcoming shortly, including a questionnaire that will be used in part to populate the database. The questionnaire will ask for skills and talents, family relationships and willingness to serve.

There is genuine excitement about what this project can do for our church. Each discussion brings new ideas of what is possible once we have this database in place.

Christian Education Information

Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer

opportunity? Please prayerfully consider serving as a Sunday School Teacher for one Sunday a month. The curriculum we use is very teacher-friendly with detailed lesson plans and multiple options for each lesson. This is a wonderful way to be a part of the faith formation of our children and have fun doing it. Interested? Great! Please write your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Allerton Hall.

Do you enjoy making crafty creations? Do you like to read stories to children? We still need **Craft and Story Hour volunteers** for Sunday, August 16th and for Sunday, September 3rd. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Allerton Hall.

Sunday School Registration will be on Sunday, September 10th

Parents are invited to register their

children for Sunday School classes on this date.

Registration is a simple, yet essential task that ensures we have adequate supplies for our classes and helps us to maintain accurate records regarding each child's emergency contact and allergy information. Sunday School Teachers, please plan on attending registration so that you can welcome the children you will be teaching this year. **Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, September 17th**.

Attention parents of soon-to-be Ninth Graders: Please call the church office if you would like your son or daughter to participate in the 2006-2007 Confirmation program. We will be contacting you at the beginning of the school year with information and a preliminary program schedule, including a day-long Confirmation Retreat and possible service opportunities. **Confirmands-to-be:** Please prayerfully consider whom you would like to have as your Confirmation Mentor. Be sure to ask that person as soon as you are able so that we can all begin this fun year of faith exploration together.

The Christian Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 2nd at 7:00p.m. in the Church House.

Rev. Heather will be on vacation Wednesday, August 9th through Wednesday, August 23rd. For Thursday, August 24th and Friday, August 25th, she will be on retreat. These two days will be spent planning the Confirmation program, Junior High Youth Group and Senior High activities for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family members of William (Bill) Allen, Gerald (Gerry) Collins and Cheryl Nickerson Brown. Both Bill and Gerry died on Sunday, July 9th; Cheryl died on Monday, July 10th. Bill Allen was Bruce Allen's brother, Gerry Allen's brother-in-law and Linda Brown's uncle. Gerry Collins was Bruce & Gerry Allen's son-in-law and Linda Brown's brother-in-law. Cheryl Nickerson Brown was Bob and Louise Brown's daughter-in-law; she was their son Brian's wife.

400th Anniversary Celebration: Rev. Marks has been working with First Parish Unitarian Universalist and Peggy Baker, Director of Pilgrim Hall, on plans we will jointly share in the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Scrooby Covenant. 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 15th -Lynne Wilkinson, First Parish Music Director, will present a program entitled "Trimmings and Trappings-Life in 17th Century New England Revealed Through Costume and Story" in the First Parish Sanctuary.

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.

Summer Hymn Sings at South Pond Chapel

The Chapel is located on Long Pond Road, off exit 5 in Plymouth. Each Sunday a different local minister leads the service. South Pond Chapel was built in the 1870's as a Union Evangelical church for residents of the village at South Pond in Plymouth; it offered them a place to worship close to their homes that, at the time, was remote part of town. Since 1959, the Chapel has offered a place for people of all denominations to gather to sing their favorite old-time hymns and gospel songs together, and to hear special music.

August 6: Rev. Irving Beveridge (Interim, Kingston Baptist Church)

August 13: Rev. Gary Marks (The Church of the Pilgrimage)

August 20: Rev. Jeff Jones (First Baptist Church of Plymouth)

August 27: Rev. Peter Gomes-Old Home Day (Harvard Memorial Church)

The Church of the Pilgrimage Summer Music Series

Every Tuesday Evening-All concerts begin at 8:00pm

August 1 Highland Pipe Band

August 8 John Peshut, Piano; songs from the American Songbook

August 15 North Channel, Folk Music

August 22 Linda Fredericks, Soprano

August 29 Richard Hill, Organ

Treasurer's Report-

Total FY 05-06 Income = \$328,437.96

Total FY 05-06 Expense = \$327,257.62

Balance = **+\$1,180.34**

Budgeted FY 05-06 Pledge = \$148,970.04

Actual FY05-06 Pledge Collected = \$165,921.69

An Increase of **+\$16,961.65**

Total FY05-06 Capital Campaign

Pledge Collected = \$145,448.71

Blessings and thanks to all at The Church of the Pilgrimage who very generously gave so deeply of their treasure to help support the financial needs of this church during our last fiscal year. This generous support has put us into the black for the first time in many years!

Jonathan Porter, Financial Secretary and Acting Treasurer



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Congregational - United Church of Christ

THE REVEREND GARY L. MARKS
Senior Pastor

THE REVEREND HEATHER MOODY
Associate Pastor

8 Town Square, Plymouth Massachusetts 02360

(508)746-3026

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July 25, 2006

Dear Friends,

At the end of June, we wrote to you about our deficit budget that the Congregation had approved at our Annual Business Meeting. We explained that without an immediate commitment of donations and pledges to eliminate the approved \$50,000 shortfall, we might be faced with eliminating programs and reducing staff.

We would like to report the current situation. In just a few short weeks, some of us have made a statement of faith and affirmed our financial commitment to the continued growth of our Church's mission and ministry.

As of our meeting last week, we have received \$26,716 in one-time donations and increased pledges, plus an additional \$6,800 stock donation. That's about 2/3 of the needed total.

With these donations, The Church of the Pilgrimage is well on its way to reducing the budget deficit. We are confident that we will be able to continue to fund our ministry for this upcoming year, without the cuts that were feared. However, full funding of the approved budget is not certain. In addition, we have major, non-budgeted repairs to contend with, including replacement of the windows in the Sanctuary and a new roof on the Robinson Center. With all of our continuing and increasing financial support, we believe this goal can be attained.

We are so fortunate to belong to the active and growing Christian community of The Church of the Pilgrimage. We pledge our commitment to work with you to keep our Church strong and support its mission.

If you have any questions, please let us know. Feel free to contact anyone on the Board with concerns, questions, or creative solutions. If you have already sent in your donation or increased pledge, your Church thanks you. In case you missed the opportunity to contribute to our mission earlier, please complete the form below and send it to the Church Office, to the attention of the Board of Trustees.

Yours in Christ

The Church of the Pilgrimage Board of Trustees: Judy Mitchell, Chair, Ray Quinn, Vice Chair, Susan Healy, John Blomberg, John McNicholas, Austin Curtin, Dawn Durmis, Jessica Hague, Doug Post, Verna Ross-Hoyt, Kevin Murphy

To: the Board of Trustees
The Church of the Pilgrimage

Name: _____

Address: _____

I/we believe in the mission of The Church of the Pilgrimage, and pledge to support this mission to the fullest of my/our abilities. To show my/our dedication to that cause, I/we pledge to:

- _____ Make a supplemental one-time donation of:
 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ other \$ _____
 to The Church of the Pilgrimage, which is _____ enclosed
 _____ will be submitted by ____/____/2006
- _____ Request a pledge card so that I/we can make a pledge of sustaining financial support.
- _____ Request that the Financial Stewardship Committee increase our existing pledge commitment by:
 _____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ other \$ _____ per week.

signed: _____ date: _____

(please return this with your contributions to the Church office, or place in the collection plate during Sunday services)