



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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April 1, 2007

No. 13

Dear Friends,

I read a very engaging article in The Christian Century, March 20, 2007 this morning. It was written by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crosson and entitled "Collision Course." I won't try in this limited space to deal with the details of points made. The writers, though, begin with a kind of lament concerning the fact that the events of Holy Week aren't as well known among Christians as they could or should be known. I have long felt exactly that way and have often said as much over the years in letters like this, sermons, etc. One reason for this lack of knowledge and understanding is the changes in the use of the lectionary and alterations in liturgical practices. That means, simply put, that the story of Jesus' death has replaced Pal Sunday on the Sunday before Easter.

That change is unfortunate as the author's point out. It has occurred largely because Good Friday has ceased to be a public holiday. Most of us over 50 remember that businesses were closed from noon 3:00pm on Good Friday, the traditional hours of Jesus' dying woes on the cross. There was no school. People went to church, often for the whole three hours, usually listening to seven sermons preached on the "seven last words" of Jesus from the cross.

It was a somber day, I recall, but I remember it as a very holy or spiritual time. Nowadays, however, Good Friday is just another workday. Thus, we tend to go from singing "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty," perhaps a Good Friday hymn like "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," to "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." Spiritually and liturgically that is regrettable. It is Holy Week, after all, and many important events in Jesus' last week of earthly life are neglected. I agree completely with the authors of the above cited article when they say: "To remember and observe Good Friday without the frameworks provided by Palm Sunday and the rest of the Holy Week risks missing the significance of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrections." (p. 27)

I go on this way in an effort to encourage you to attend as many of our Holy Week services as you are able. Easter occurs during the spring, but it is far more than an expression of joy in the earth's annual cycle of renewal. Easter needs the frameworks which Holy Week provides.

When I was in seminary I learned that The Gospel of Mark is the Passion Story with an extended introduction. I recommend that we all read Mark during Holy Week, at least Mark chapters 11-16. Then, try to be present for our moving Last Supper/Maundy Thursday Service. The Good Friday Service, through drama and participation, deals with Jesus' last days in Jerusalem.

I will venture to say that Easter will mean far more than otherwise it would if you experience it within the framework of Holy Week. Together we should rehearse the drama of redemption during Holy Week as the frameworks of our Christian spiritual pilgrimage together.

Love,

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PACTV will begin airing current worship services from The Church of the Pilgrimage on Sunday's at 12pm and 6pm. Please pass the word to anyone you know who may be unable to attend worship on Sundays.



Palm Sunday communion service.

Palm Sunday Breakfast: On April 1st at 8am in Allerton Hall, the Advisory Board will serve scrambled eggs, ham, fresh fruit and homemade Hot Cross buns following a special

Membership: A number of people have spoken to Gary about church membership since our last class. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Church of the Pilgrimage, please speak to Gary or call the church office. A new class will be planned as soon as it can be fitted into the schedule.

Flowers: In loving memory of Miss Jeanette Holmes and Curtis & Aurissa Holmes. Given by the family.

Especially for Children: Good Friday Worship Service



On Friday, April 6th 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 sense of sight, sound, and touch. Come and see which Biblical character Rev. Heather will play.

CHEST OF JOASH

This Sunday, April 1st.

Please remember to bring your
pledge cards to worship.

On Our Church Calendar

Sun, Apr. 1-: Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast in Allerton Hall, 8:00am; Palm Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00am; Service of The Chest of Joash during worship; Coffee Hour following worship in Allerton Hall; Junior Choir Rehearsal and Cherub Choir Rehearsal, following worship.

Mon, Apr. 2: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 10:30am, Allerton Hall.

Tue, Apr. 3-The First Day of Passover (Exodus from Egypt): Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Maundy Thursday rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:00pm.

Wed, Apr. 4: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm.

Thurs, Apr. 5-Maundy Thursday: Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary, 7:00pm.

Fri, Apr. 6-Good Friday: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office at 10a.m.; Good Friday Ecumenical Children's Service 12pm at Christ Church Episcopal; Good Friday Service in the sanctuary, 7:00pm.

Other Groups Meeting at Our Church

Monday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall; Pilgrim Festival Chorus, 7-10pm, Sanctuary; Brownie Girl Scouts, 4-5:30, Allerton Hall; Junior Girl Scouts, 6-7pm, Great Hall; Brownie Girl Scouts, 5:30-7:15, Stewart Room (every other week).

Tuesday: Brownie Girl Scouts, 3:30-5:30, Stewart Room; Aerobics, 6:30-7:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Wednesday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall; Cub Scouts-Boy Scouts, 6:30pm-10:00pm, Great Hall; Daisy Girl Scout Troop, 4-5:30pm, Stewart Room (every other week).

Thursday: Aerobics, 6:30-7:30pm, Allerton Hall; Brownie Girls Scouts, 5:30-6:30, Stewart Room; Women's AA, 7-8pm, Stewart Room.

Friday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall.

Coming Events:

Apr. 8-Easter Sunday-The Resurrection of Christ

- Easter Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill, 6:00am (The hill across from Plymouth Rock near Massasoit's statue).
- Two Services at The Church of the Pilgrimage, 9:00am and 11:00am.

Apr. 11-Organ Concert in the Sanctuary, 7:30pm.

Organist: Peter Lea-Cox, English organist, choral director and composer.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized

- Cheryl Pratt, Helen Belcher, John Crosston Jordan Hospital.

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 this 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 Easter Sunday service on Sunday, April 8. Volunteers will be welcomed to take flowers to shut-ins following the service.

Women's Fellowship Meeting, for April will be the second Monday, April 9th at 7pm in Allerton Hall. Susan Galligan of the Abington Historical Society will present a "lively" program on Victorian funeral customs. A slide show and samples of memorabilia such as funeral invitations and elaborate mourning dress will provide glimpses into Victorian times and how people in the 1890's honored their loved ones. **We invite all interested people to join us April 9th at 7pm.**

Women's Guild Meeting, for April will be held on Friday, April 13th at 1:00 followed by a program with Rev. Chuck Harper doing poetry readings. Members of the Guild are asked to bring one item for the food pantry. We hope to see you there!



Photo Directory Update

New Photo Opportunity-

Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007

The Membership and Evangelism committee is pleased with the number of persons who have responded to the invitation to have pictures taken for our new Photo Directory. We now have 115 photos which can be viewed in Allerton Hall.

In the best of all worlds it would be wonderful to have pictures of all participants in the life of the Church of the Pilgrimage in the new Directory. To that end, we are providing the two additional Sunday mornings during coffee hour.

Opportunity for purchasing photos:

Sundays: April 1, April 15 and April 22. Pictures are displayed in Allerton Hall the Sunday following each photo session. **There is no obligation to purchase pictures.**

However, if a picture is desired an order can be placed during coffee hour. One order will be placed following April 22nd.

The order for all photos will be ordered on line, shipping and tax included (Kodak processing). The cost is \$8 per Sheet with the following set options:

Set	Number and Size of prints
1	2 - 5x7
2	1 - 5x7 and 2 - 3.5x5
3	1 - 8x10

All profits will go to the General Fund of the Church.

NOTES—

* We thank all those who purchased daffodils for The American Cancer Society's Daffodil Sunday. The flowers adorned our worship on March 25th and were welcome harbinger's of spring and hope for cancer survivors. Jane Burns reports that a total of 80 bouquets were purchased, a record!

* We thank Judy Mitchell for her informative presentation during the service on March 25th.

* We extend our congratulations to Jane Cole on her 90th birthday. A party was held for her in Cohasset on March 24th.

* Thank you to everyone who helped make the Time and Talent Auction a success. Our net profit, after dinner expenses were paid, is **\$3837!!** Tom and Jen Healy, with help from Trace Sears and Doug Trask, put on a superb dinner. Al Hoyt was an energetic auctioneer who got us out in record time. Verna Hoyt and Sue Healy provided valuable support. But the main thanks goes to everyone who donated their time and talent, and to everyone who came to the event. Even if you were outbid, your efforts helped drive the prices up, which truly benefited the church. Please note: Bid winners should call the person named on the card they received as soon as possible to arrange to get their time or talent.

PILGRIM ASSOCIATION Massachusetts Conference- UCC ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

To the members, churches and friends of the Pilgrim Association-You are hereby invited and requested to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of the Pilgrim Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ at **First Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC, Scituate, Massachusetts on Thursday, April 26, 2007**. Schedule will be as follows:

6:00-6:30	Registration
6:30-7:00	Business Meeting-elect officers
7:00-7:45	Dinner-with birthday cakes for the UCC!
7:45-8:00	Worship
8:00-8:45	Speaker: Rev. Ms. Elizabeth Ann King, Assistant Moderator, 26 th General Synod

All church and clergy are reminded of their responsibility to present at meetings of the Association, represented by both lay and or clergy delegates. The cost of the dinner will be \$7.50 per person, payable at the door. Please call 781-545-5300.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS...

Monday Meals of Hospitality: Please call coordinator Diane Flood at 508-209-0266 if you could help with one of the Monday Meals for those in need in our community. There are about five more Monday's remaining. Thank You.

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: We continue to collect non-perishables each week. The following items are needed: canned fruit, baby food (with current dates), ketchup, relish, mustard, soups, coffee, tea, crackers, cereal, juice, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and sauce, and canned tuna and chicken and ham. Thank you for your participation.

UCC Equal Exchange Coffee: You can purchase organic coffee and hot cocoa for home use and gift giving following the service today. Prices are exceptional. This is a project of the Missions Committee and the United Church of Christ.

Gifts of the Heart Kits: THANK YOU to all who have contributed items for our kits this year. We have now completed fifty health kits. Bravo! For the layettes, we need only infant sweaters and onesies before assembling the layettes, with the help of volunteers, during the coffee hour some Sunday in April.

The Phoenix Affirmations discussion group will begin after Easter. Peter Causton still has a few books available. The target date is April 22nd, 11:30am-12:30pm in The Rev. John Robinson Center. The topics for discussion promise to be exciting and will have implications for our long-term vision as a progressive church.

Meeting Date Correction !!!!Harvest Fair 2007:

Spring is here and before we know it, Summer then Fall will be upon us! I will be holding the first meeting for the Harvest Fair 2007 on **Monday, April 2, 2007 at 7pm** at my house, 10 Kristin Road, Plymouth. All are welcome!! We are always looking for new hands to help make our annual Harvest Fair a big success. New people often bring new ideas and we welcome those! Please call if you need directions or a ride to the meeting. Thank you, looking forward to seeing you. Laura Curtin 508-746-7761.



Spring is here! The vernal equinox has come and gone. And the seed catalogs are arriving in the mail. As you plan your garden this year, we at the **Country Store Table** (think Harvest Fair) are busy planning ways to fill our tables with the blessings of the seasons. Here are some easy ways you can help. If you have the space, plant an extra seed or two of winter squash, pumpkins or pickling cucumbers (poor Diana's source ran dry last year leaving almost pickle-less). We'd love to have a basket of squash and pumpkins to sell and the extra cukes could be passed on to Diana Budge)or Gary if we can get him to make his famous crock of pickles). Consider planting some additional basil and making pesto to freeze and sell (we can provide a recipe if you need one or you can give it to me and I can get it to the pesto makers in the congregation); this can be done in August and September leaving more time and energy to help out at a table the day of the fair. As you go out in the next week or so to trim back your grapevines, consider making a few simple wreaths with the cuttings or donating them to someone who knows how (I don't know who that is but call me and I'll find someone). There are lots of simple ways that everyone can help by doing little tasks like this throughout the year. Think of what gifts you have been graced with. And share them. Please call or email me with any ideas or plans you might have along these lines. Thanks, jenny: 508-747-7168 or email poetick@verizon.net.

All **committee chairs** need to pass in to the secretary their narrative report for publication in the Annual Meeting booklet by **April 27th**. Thank you!

Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day 2007) will take place on Sunday, April 15th at 7pm at the Beth Jacob Community Center in Plymouth. All are welcome to this interfaith service of remembrance.

A Stewardship Moment:

Dear Friends,

I have the privilege of addressing you today as Chair of our Board of Trustees. I took this job with much trepidation, but the amazingly hardworking board of individuals I serve with has made this year actually pleasurable.

This year, two sanctuary windows have been replaced, and the cupola and cupola roof have been repaired. We have turned on the new alarm system in the church building, and replaced broken locks. We have overseen the Acting Treasurer's hard work paying the bills, and the Collectors hard work collecting our pledges. We have met with our investment advisor, and made sure the buildings were ready for the Homeless weeks. We have seen our buildings used not just for our own purposes, but for a women's AA group, numerous Boy Scout, Cub Scout, Girl Scout and Brownie meetings and activities, the Homeless Overnights and Monday meals, and numerous musical practices and performances.

I began this year with sleepless nights worrying over the financial situation, comforted only slightly by Heather's reassurances the God would see us through. I am much more comfortable that she is right as I look around at this active, energetic congregation, who love this Church and the faith we share so much.

I feel a little superfluous talking to you today, knowing you already have your pledge cards filled out. But I would ask you to think again about Neil's Stewardship letter, suggesting an \$8 personal increase to fund a budget to provide services our congregation needs and deserves. I would ask you, if you are able, to alter the amount on your card to reflect how much you value what you receive from this wonderful institution which houses our faith. I have increased my pledge by \$8 a week-I pray you will join me as we proceed on our faith journey.

Judy Mitchell, Chair, Board of Trustees

Confirmands and Mentors

Be sure to read the chapter on Food in *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*.

Confirmands will be involved in serving food and communion at the Palm Sunday Breakfast this Sunday, on April 1st at 8a.m. Our next Confirmation meeting will be Sunday, April 22nd from 11:45-1:15pm.



Junior High Fellowship News and Notes

Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 1st, **but at a special time**—after our morning worship service! Join us for badminton and pizza in the John Robinson Center at 11:30am. Also, because of Spring Recess, we will **not** have a meeting on Sunday, April 15th.

With Thanksgiving: Our Lenten Series on Christian spiritual practices was a wonderful success. We thank Rev. Chuck Harper and Rev. Gary Marks for the fine job they did facilitating our Sunday morning Discussion Group. We thank the following church Boards and Committees for cooking and preparing for the Wednesday evening soup suppers and for cleaning up afterwards:

February 28th: Board of Trustees

March 7th: Advisory Board

March 14th: Christian Education Committee

March 21st: Music Committee

March 28th: Membership and Evangelism Committee

The meals were delicious and they provided a lovely opportunity to break the bread of Christian fellowship with one another. Indeed, they beautifully demonstrated the Christian practices of hospitality and service. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

