



# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Periodical  
Publication  
U. S. P. S.  
# 432820

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Volume LXXIX

April 8, 2007

No. 14

Dear Friends,

I wonder how people in general would answer the question: "What does Easter mean to you?" A church school teacher asked her class to answer just that question. One pupil wrote that it means; "Egg salad sandwiches for the next two weeks."

I know that speaking of Easter in this way may seem a frivolous manner in which to treat the central event of the Christian faith. It is a trifling means of referring to the great, joyous event of Christ's Resurrection. Yet, when I enter a CVS, a Walgreens, a Wal-Mart, et. al. I see as signs of Easter only a display of marshmallow and chocolate bunnies, yellow and pink chicks, stuffed animals in the form of bunnies, and a host of other money making mockeries of the great promise of Easter. Indeed, a few years ago someone, somewhere took a local school board to court as crossing the line between church and state when a classroom displayed rabbits which, it was argued, could be taken to be an expression of the Christian faith! How frivolous is that? As I recall the suit brought that Santa Claus also conveyed a Christian bias.

Easter eggs, rabbits, chicks, etc. are associated with fecundity and renewal of life and the earth, appropriate representatives of spring, but hardly representing the profundity of new life represented by God's victory in Christ over death.

Easter is a spring event in the yearly calendar, but it loses its religious and theological power when it is reduced to being an image of the natural renewal of the earth. It has nothing to do with eggs, chicks or bunnies! Indeed, there is nothing "natural" about resurrection. The Resurrection did not occur as a phase repetition within nature's grand cycle. It is a unique event answering the longing within the human spirit for personal and social redemption. The Resurrection is celebrated annually, but it is not a part of the natural cycle like the blooming of the crocus or lily. In fact, it is the holy event which points to the future as the place where God's realm and human redemption will find resolution and human hope will be realized.

The Resurrection was a unique event, to be sure, but it is an event which is not yet complete. It is still an unfolding reality which has life and purpose in our faith. We (in the church) are to be the place and people through whom the Risen Christ continues to live in faith. We are to be on a pilgrimage toward love, peace and justice which are the messages derived from the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. This is to be both our joy and hope.

So, what does Easter mean to us? It isn't to be found in nature's cycles, surely not in chicks, eggs or bunnies. It means singing "Alleluia" when our deepest human longings find inspiration and rest in hope. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Love,

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**Flowers:** The Easter Lilies that adorn the pulpit are given in memory or honor of loved ones. Please see the enclosed list. Thank you to those who donated.

**The Phoenix Affirmations** discussion group will begin after Easter. Peter Causton still has a few books available. The target date is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

**PACTV :** We are pleased that our Sunday services are again appearing on PACTV. We thank the Membership and Evangelism Committee for making this ministry possible. Current worship services will air on Sunday's at 12pm and 6pm. Please pass the word to anyone you know who may be unable to attend worship.

**No Herald:** We will not publish a Herald the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Wednesday Evening Prayer Services** will resume on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. All are invited for these mid-week services of prayer, reflection and meditation.

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

## On Our Church Calendar

**Sun, Apr. 8-The Resurrection of Christ:** Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill, 6:00am (across from Plymouth Rock, near Massasoit's statue). Two services at The Church of the Pilgrimage: 9:00am and 11:00 am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. There is no Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday. The Cherub Choir and the Junior Choir will no rehearse today.

**Mon, Apr. 9-Easter Monday:** The church office will be closed; Monday Meals of Hospitality, 10:30am, Allerton Hall; Rev. Moody will be on Retreat from April 9<sup>th</sup>-April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Tue, Apr. 10:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.

**Wed, Apr. 11:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; Organ Concert in the sanctuary, 7:30pm, Peter Lea-Cox, at the console.

**Thurs, Apr. 12:** Stewardship Committee Meeting, 7pm, Conference Room; Christian Education Committee Meeting, 7pm, Conference Room; Scout Training, 6pm, Great Hall.

**Fri, Apr. 13:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; Guild Meeting, 1pm, Allerton Hall.

**Sat, Apr. 14:** Schola Cantorum, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.

### 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. 15-** Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks, preaching; Yom Ha-Shoah Service (Holocaust Remembrance Day) at the Beth Jacob Community Center, 7:00pm.

**Apr. 18-** Wednesday Evening Prayer resumes, 7pm, sanctuary.

**Apr. 22-** The Theological Study Group will resume in the John Robinson Center, 11:30am-12:30pm.

**Apr. 28-** The Council will meet in the Robinson Center at 10:00am.

**Apr. 29-** Stewardship Luncheon following morning worship in Allerton Hall.

## CHURCH RECORD

### Hospitalized

- Recuperating at home after recent hospitalization, Helen Belcher.

### In Memoriam

- On March 30, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Evan Pierce.
- On March 31, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a service of Christian burial in Manomet for Charles Dieksmeir.
- On March 31, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a service of Christian burial for Margaret Szupillo in Middleboro.

### Births

- Isabella Maria Rosario was born on March 30, 2007 to Virginia (Mann) and Timothy Rosario. Congratulations to Grandmother, Sandi Santos and Aunt Debra Sue Richters.

**Women's Fellowship Meeting**, for April will be the second Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

**Women's Guild Meeting**, for April will be held on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Preliminary Stewardship Report:** The Stewardship Committee is proud to announce that, thus far, we have received 40 new pledges from new members and friends of our Church family. It is nice to be part of a growing, friendly Church.

If you have not sent in your pledge, Easter Sunday would be a good time to place your pledge in the offering plate. If you have misplaced your pledge card, one will be available in your pew or at the table in the rear of the Sanctuary.

**Holocaust Remembrance Service:** On Sunday evening, April 15, congregation Beth Jacob of Plymouth will host an observance of Yom Ha-Shoa (Holocaust Memorial Day), under the auspices of the Town of Plymouth's "No Place for Hate" Committee and the Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Association. This is an interfaith service; and the entire community is invited. The observance will take place at Beth Jacob Community Center, located at the corner of Court Street (Route 3A) and Brewster, in Plymouth Center, Sunday, April 15, beginning at 7:00pm. We hope that many of you will want to attend this moving service which helps remember never to forget what happened to six million people not all that long ago.

### NOTES—

\*The Palm Sunday Breakfast with Communion Service was a wonderful event! There were 140 people celebrating the morning in a crowded, but jubilant Allerton Hall. The service was casual, but solemn. The food was outstanding. It was at once the holiest and most delicious breakfast in town. These events don't just happen. They take a great deal of planning and just plain hard work. At the risk of leaving someone out, I am going to name the names of some who worked all day Saturday, as well as Palm Sunday. They are: Jenny Healy, Trace Sears, Alice Heckman, Dottie Bottomley, Tom and Pat Mudgett, Kathy Marks, Tom Healy. These are just the names of those who spent the most time! There were others, Janice Lee among them. We thank the whole Advisory Board for sponsoring and overseeing the Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast. We also thank the Confirmands for arriving on time to serve the Communion and help out with servicing. It was a great morning at The Church of the Pilgrimage!

\* We thank Kathy Marks for providing Palm Sunday decorations for the Communion Breakfast and the sanctuary for our Palm Sunday services. Deaconess Dottie Bottomley provided lovely flowers for the Palm Sunday services.

\* We are grateful to all who have overseen the sheltering and feeding the homeless in our church facilities during the past winter. A large number of Pilgrimage people have been involved in that program acting as overnight chaperones and in preparing delicious lunches and dinners. The Monday Meals of Hospitality have been a wonderful addition to our ministry to the community. Gary has noted that The church of the Pilgrimage and other Interfaith church/synagogue partners helped save lives during the winter. God bless you!

\* It was nice to hear our tower bell being tolled in Palm Sunday! It is a beautiful bell and it reminds us of the people of God being called to worship.

\* Gary was presented with a check and a plaque from our Cub Scout/Boy Scout troops on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We thank the Scouts!

**Jr High Fellowship** will not meet on April 15<sup>th</sup> because of spring Recess. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmands and Mentors** next meeting will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:45-1:15

**Rev. Heather Moody** will be on retreat from April 9-april 16<sup>th</sup>. She would welcome your prayers during that time.

## 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 four 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.

**THANK YOU TO ALL who made the Overnights of Hospitality** successful last week. The superb meals were provided by: Rev. Heather, Confirmands with Chuck Harper and Trace Sears; Barbara Quinn; Janet Holmes; Peter Simpson; Shellie McCormack, Rick Souza, Gloria Souza and Rachel McCormack; Diane Flood; Deb and Dan Morrissy; Meg and John Bross. The patient and understanding chaperones were: Andy Latosek and Bill Davenport; Ray Tompkins and Anita Chase; John Bross and Rich Pecorella; Peter Causton and Gordon Campbell; Ken Heckman and Bill Davenport; Peter Simpson and Judy Erickson; Chuck Harper and Dave Moreland; Joyce Ashley and Dave Tassinari. We also thank Tony Nightingale Jr. for his good service all week. This interfaith program for emergency shelter, with seven congregations participating is over now until November.

**Gifts of the Heart:** During the coffee hour on **April 15, 2007** members of the Missions and Outreach Committee will assemble ten layettes and fifteen school kits for Church World Service. Come and join us. We thank everyone who contributed Health Kits. We have 54 now!



**Thank you very much to all who made this extraordinary Palm Sunday Breakfast happen.** Thank you to Tony for somehow making seating for 150 work in that space- quite a feat unto itself. Thank you to Dottie Bottomley (in case you couldn't tell her touch when you walked through the door) who, with the help of Tom Mudgett, Janice Lee, Diana Budge and Kathy Marks, transformed the whole of Allerton Hall on Saturday with the purples and the flowers and the crosses. This entire crew would again be invaluable the next the next morning getting the food and drink to the tables as well as taking charge of the clean up on Sunday. Next I would thank my bakers; these hot cross buns were not my creation but ours (truly our best yet if I may say so). Trace, Kathy and Alice Heckman spent over six hours on this labor of love, made shorter by the additional hands of Megan and Nora who stepped in for the most labor intensive part of the job. Again, at the crack of dawn (or maybe just after as it turned out), Trace and Kathy were there on Sunday. Followed closely by Megan, Alice, Dottie and all the rest from Saturday's set up. The confirmands also provided welcome hands throughout the service of the meal. And lastly, all of those who made it possible for Trace and I to leave the kitchen knowing that everything would be put back in order for the Monday inspection- Diane Harting, Jeanne Patenaude-Lane and I'm sure many others who I don't even know about (or may have had my eyes been focusing properly at that point in time). I received many compliments for the meal that day, but I must deflect that praise and distribute it where else it is due. The danger of listing names is that someone may be left out; forgive me if I have missed your name but know how much every pair of hands was appreciated. And, of course Rev. Marks and Rev. Heather for the beautiful service reminding us why were gathered together. Thank you, jenny