



# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXIX

February 25, 2007

No. 8

Dear Friends,

In the early days of my own spiritual and faith formation there wasn't much mention of the season of Lent, let alone a celebration of it! As a matter of principle if something wasn't mentioned in the Bible, then it wasn't legitimate. As the great preacher Barbara Brown Taylor said, "don't bother looking for Lent in your Bible dictionary. There was no such thing in biblical times." While that's true the early church, as Taylor pointed out, began to develop practices to help people recapture part of the spirit of being Christian. Seasonal celebrations help us do that, especially in a culture where Christians become comfortable and complacent in society.

It didn't take long for the early church to lose its distinctive role and seasons like Advent and Lent, including Ash Wednesday, began to draw upon biblical sources in an effort to re-experience the original power of faith in those who would be the followers of Jesus' Way. Lenten traditions can be documented to the sixth century and practices to train the spirit in Christianity are likely older than that.

Lent is a forty-day season, excluding Sundays, and is in some form now a part of most mainline church observances, as it is in Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. Lent is not some novelty of modern liturgical renewal! It is based upon Jesus' forty days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, or by the allurements of the world.

I'm pleased that we now place emphasis upon seasons such as Lent. Our forebears never really objected to the biblical events which are the focus of the seasons, but only to excesses in the use of them. Lent is a penitential season, so-called, and the theme of penitence is surely a major part of our early Puritan tradition! Surely, too, there is real need as persons, nations, world and church to be in a penitential mode. Lent is a concentrated reminder of that need.

I hope you'll be in worship, in special study and worship opportunities, and in private study and prayer during Lent, 2007. The word Lent is actually derived from the phrase, "the lengthening of days." As the days grow longer toward Holy Week and Good Friday may it be that we will have ourselves prepared for the power and grace of the risen Christ.

Love,

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**Flowers:** In loving memory of Miriam L. and Henry Barnes. Given by Tom Barnes.

**Ushers:** Shirley Axon, Jane Chapman, Kathryn Lafayette, and Arlene Axford.

**Greeters:** Confirmand Kathy Lindquist and family.

**Next Membership Class:** A number of people have indicated an interest in a new church membership class. Please speak with Gary or call the church office to indicate your interest. You'll be contacted when a new class is about to begin.

#### **Photo Schedule for 2007 Church Directory**

Sunday, March 4      During Coffee Hour  
Tuesday, March 6      Evening 6-8pm  
Sunday photos will be taken downstairs in Allerton Hall during coffee hour. Non-Coffee Hour photos will be a combination by appointment and on a drop-in at the John Robinson.

#### **Pancakes at Overlook Farm**

March 3, 10, 17 and 24 — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Observe the maple sugaring operation, tour the farm and The Global Village. Enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast with maple syrup and pork sausage from the farm. Adults \$5.00, children age 10 and under \$3.00, children under are free. Reservations are required. Call 508-886-2221.

**American Cancer Society-Daffodil Days** will be here before you know it. The daffodil is the first flower of spring, so it was chosen by the American Cancer Society to be the symbol of hope that cancer will be beaten. You can support the fight against cancer by buying daffodils. **The last day to order is this Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.** Your flowers will arrive on March 25<sup>th</sup>. See Jane Burns, Marge Sears or Alice Dunham for questions. Thank you, and enjoy the arrival of spring!

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Acting Treasurer – Jonathan Porter; Collector – Debra Richters and Nate Davis;  
Music Director-William B. Richter; Secretary-Shellie McCormack; Sexton-Tony Nightingale;  
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone-508-747-1341

## On Our Church Calendar

**Sun, Feb. 25-The First Sunday in Lent.** Morning Worship 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks, preaching; Stewardship Campaign begins; Lenten Study Practicing Our Faith (topic: "Hospitality"); Orders will be taken during coffee hour for daffodils to support the American Cancer Society; A Service of Installation will be held for the Rev. Judy Medeiros at The Second Church, UCC in Manomet at 2pm. An Ecclesiastical Council will convene prior to the Service of Installation at 3pm; Junior Choir will rehearse at 11:30.

**Mon, Feb. 26:** Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11:30am, Allerton Hall.

**Tue, Feb. 27:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am; Rev. Heather will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; The Advisory Board will meet in the Conference Room in the Robinson Center, 7:00pm.

**Wed, Feb. 28:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Lenten Soup Supper, 6pm in Allerton Hall; Lenten Worship at 7pm in the sanctuary; Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.

**Thurs, Mar. 1:** Christian Education Committee will meet in the JRC in the Conference Room, 7pm; "Choose Your Charity Fundraiser," 6:30pm-10:30pm at the Plymouth Elks Club.

**Fri, Mar. 2:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; City Reach Retreat (March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>).

### 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:

**Mar. 4-The Second Sunday in Lent. Lenten discussion following worship.**

**Mar. 6-Lenten Soup supper at 6:00pm in Allerton Hall, Worship Service to follow in the sanctuary.**

**Mar. 18-Chest of Joash Service during Morning Worship.**

## CHURCH RECORD

### Hospitalized

- Betty O'Connell, Jordan Hospital.
- Bill Harting, Chuck Blanton, and John Crosston recuperating after hospitalization.

### In Memoriam

- On February 15, 2007 Rev. Moody assisted in a funeral service for Edmond T. Rocheleau, Jr. at St. Patrick's Church in Falmouth.
- On February 19, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Daniel Montrond-Mendes, infant son of Kristen Montrond and Elvolvo Mendes.



## Time and Talent Auction

The annual Time and Talent Auction will be held **Saturday, March 24**, starting with a delicious Healy-family meal at 6:00pm, followed by a bargain packed auction led by Allen Hoyt. Mark your calendars, and put on your thinking caps: everyone has a talent to share, and this is your chance to offer it as a donation to our church. Previous donations included boat rides, dinners at home or delivered, babysitting, window washing, weeding, dump runs, cookies, Red Sox Tickets, and much more. Please sign up at coffee hour for the dinner (\$8 adult, \$4 child, \$20 maximum per family) and your original, special, one of a kind talent. This is an evening loaded with laughs-don't miss it!! Questions, call Judy Mitchell 508-746-3959.

### Starting this Sunday—

#### Lenten Series on Practicing Our Faith

We invite you to join us as together we explore a way of living that leads to wholeness and a closer relationship with God, our community, and creation. Using the book, *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, we will explore five Christian spiritual practices through discussion and worship.

It all begins this **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, with a Discussion Group about the practice of hospitality. We'll meet from 11:30-12:30p.m. in the Great Hall (the second floor) of the John Robinson Center (JRC). Childcare and transportation from the Sanctuary to the JRC will be provided for those who need it. The JRC has an elevator and is handicapped accessible. Then, on **Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**, join us for a Soup Supper prepared by the Board of Trustees at 6p.m. followed by a worship service at 7p.m. centered on hospitality. Childcare will be provided during the worship service.

#### Lenten Series Schedule:

Sunday Discussion Group(s): 11:30-12:30p.m.

Wednesdays: Soup Supper at 6:00p.m., with  
Worship at 7:00-7:30p.m.

*Childcare provided during Sunday Discussion Group  
and Wednesday Evening Worship*

Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> & Wed., Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>: Hospitality  
Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> & Wed. March 7<sup>th</sup>: Discernment  
Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> & Wed. March 14<sup>th</sup>: Testimony  
Sun., March 18<sup>th</sup> & Wed. March 21<sup>st</sup>: Honoring the Body  
Sun., March 25<sup>th</sup> & Wed. March 28<sup>th</sup>: Healing

### Junior High Fellowship News and Notes

Our Junior High Fellowship for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meets the first and third Sundays from 4-5:30p.m.

#### Upcoming Schedule:

**March 4<sup>th</sup>:** Movie and Pizza Night (we'll meet until 6p.m.)

**March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Bowling at Alley Kat Lanes (bring \$9 for shoes and two strings of bowling)

**May:** Trip to Boston—come to our regular meetings to be a part of the planning of this trip.

**Confirmants and Mentors:** There was a misprint in last week's issue of the Herald. We will be meeting at the John Robinson Center on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at **4:30p.m.** Be sure to bring your supper with you as we'll be eating on the way to Boston. We plan to return by 5:00p.m. on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Carpenter Needed:** We have need of a carpenter to do some repair work at the Parsonage. Please call Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3939.

**Penny Drive-Volunteer Needed:** The Board of Trustees is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the return of the Penny Drive. If you are willing to help one Sunday a month by engaging our youth to collect spare change from our congregation, please let a member of the Board of Trustees know. Thank you so much for your consideration of this important job!

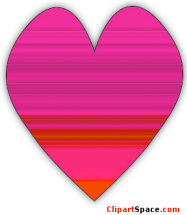
**Lancaster's in Mississippi:** We hope soon to provide a forum for Rich and Lynnette Lancaster's volunteer works in rebuilding projects in Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. We are proud of them!

**A Note from Gary:** Some have asked recently about the small brownish envelopes which appear periodically in the pews, usually on Communion Sundays. The church has two funds which are used to assist those in need. One is the Relief Fund. That resource can be used only for church members. There is a Relief Fund Committee. The pastor consults that committee when the funds are needed or requested.

The second fund is called The Pastor's Discretionary Account. The pastor(s) can use that account at his/her discretion for those in need, or for financing church related needs not budgeted or underbudgeted. The ministers have helped people with rent needs, to supply heat or electricity, food, childcare needs, etc. The Discretionary Account has been used, for instance, to rent a van for youth activities. In other words, the Discretionary Account can be used at the discretion of the ministers, as its name indicates.

Both these funds have accomplished enormous good over the years, though there is never much money in either. The Relief Fund now has only just over \$1,000. The Discretionary Account a little more than that.

We hope this information helps explain what both funds are, and is an encouragement to you to help supply them with money.



**OPEN YOUR HEART...  
DO YOUR PART!**

This year's Church of the Pilgrimage Confirmation Class needs your help! We are going on Ecclesia Ministries' CityReach Retreat in Boston on March 2-3. We'll be learning about

homelessness and handing out lunches as well as clothing and toiletries from our congregation to people in need. The items we are collecting include new unopened packages of underwear, t-shirts, and socks; gently used sleeping bags, pants, sweaters, coats, and shoes; and toiletries like bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, hand & body lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Please bring your donations to church by this Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Got questions? Call Jeff Donn at 774-454-3615.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**Save the Date!** 2007 Church of the Pilgrimage **Golf Tournament**, Saturday, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 8:00am at Southers Marsh Golf Course.

**Save the Date!** Saturday, **June 16<sup>th</sup>** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Pawtucket Red Sox Trip**.

**Save the Date!** Massachusetts Conference, UCC Annual Meeting, **June 22, 2007** in Hartford, Connecticut and UCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Save the Date!** Organ Concert, Wednesday, **April 11<sup>th</sup> 2007** at 7:30pm. Peter Lea-Cox, English organist, choral director and composer.

**Save the Date!** Schola Cantorum of Falmouth, Saturday, **April 14**, 7:30pm. Concert of early Italian sacred choral music with some organ works. Guest conductor, Peter Lea-Cox.

**Guild Meeting:** March 9, 2007 the Guild will hold their monthly meeting at 1:00pm. The program to follow will be "Book Reviews." We hope to see you there!

**Women's Fellowship:** March 1, 2007 the Women's Fellowship will hold their monthly meeting at 7pm in Allerton Hall. The program is entitled "Lent: Preparing for A Spiritual Journey." All are warmly welcome!

**Theological Discussion Group:** Between twenty-five and thirty people attended the session of The Theological Discussion Group on February 18<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that the group would not meet until after Easter. It was the general consensus of the group that Sunday following worship is the best time for such a gathering. During Lent, as you are aware, there is a Lenten series meeting at that time. The Theological Discussion Group, it is hoped, will be an ongoing gathering which is only beginning with the book **The Phoenix**

**Affirmations.** It does not have a specifically Lenten orientation and themes will be selected as time goes by.

Gary did not expect such a large number of people. The larger group will be broken down into smaller groups which then will gather in the larger forum from time to time.

There is interest and enthusiasm for the theological discourse within the congregation. That is exciting! I can't wait to join others who are fellow pilgrims on a journey in which faith reaches toward understanding and focus for ministry and mission in the world! Gary.

## **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 nine 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:** Again this year, the Missions and Outreach Committee will be collecting items for Health Kits and Baby Kits. Place any items or complete kits in the boxes labeled and placed on the windowsill in Allerton Hall. Church World Service sends these kits to refugees, displaced people, and victims of natural disasters. For the contents of each kit, see the description below:

### **To assemble a Health Kit you will need:**

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One comb
- One metal nail file or nail clipper with file
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- One tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces)
- Six Band-Aids

### **To assemble a Baby Kit you will need:**

- Six cloth diapers
- Two shirts
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blanket (one can be a knitted blanket)