



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

The Church of the Pilgrimage,
8 Town Square, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360
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THE REVEREND GARY L. MARKS,
SENIOR PASTOR
508-747-3738 garymarks@8townsquare.org

THE REVEREND HEATHER MOODY,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
hmoody@8townsquare.org

Church Office hours
Mon-Fri - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: 508-746-3026
FAX: 508-746-4362
office@8townsquare.org

Volume LXXIX

January 28, 2007

No. 4

Dear Friends,

It's a good thing to be good-natured, whenever it is possible to be so. Consider the man whose phone rang at 3:00am. He sleepily answered and heard a person ask, "Is this 555-1111!" "No," the man said, "This is 555-1112." "Oh, I'm so very sorry for having disturbed you," the voice replied. "That's okay," the man said, "I had to get up to answer the phone anyway."

We can't always be good-natured, of course, and there are things which rankle us so much that we have to try very hard not to become angry and make furious responses when we are put upon. I remember one time receiving a phone call from the Plymouth Police Department at about 1:00am. The voice said, "Is this Rev. Marks?" I answered that it was, though at that hour I had to think before I answered. The dispatcher said, "The front door to your church is wide open." I replied that I'd be over there as soon as I could get dressed. When I got to Town Square I found the church door to be wide open, all right, but it was the door of the Unitarian Church, not the door to The Church of the Pilgrimage!

I could have been less than good-natured, but I did manage to thank the police officer for looking out for the well being of both churches in Town Square. I was rather pleased at myself for such a show of magnanimity.

It does seem that we often do treat each other in less than good-natured ways these days. I am, I confess, not very kindly while I'm driving when someone cuts me off in traffic or pulls out of the side street too closely in front of me. I get really out of sorts when I have to drive to Boston for meetings during rush hour. People aren't nice to each other on the Southeast Expressway, generally, and gestures made are not friendly waves of greeting!

I seem to recall that New York City was starting something like a "friendliness campaign." I've never heard how it is turning out, but such a campaign would be welcome in Boston and Plymouth—anywhere!

In my studies of Celtic Christian spirituality I have learned that their early Christian centers tried to stress the importance of hospitality in response to the grace of the gospel at work within them. It is a lot like being good-natured, being openly and overtly kind in our daily lives. Being good natured says a great deal about us as people, and the absence of friendliness indicates much about us and the values of our culture, as well.

St. Brigid's monastery at Kildare, Ireland was known for its generous hospitality and, by the way, was also known fondly as "the City of the Poor." It is from places like Kildare that a famous statement on being hospitable has survived. I'll end my letter by citing that statement on good-natured hospitality. It is entitled The Celtic Rune of Hospitality ("rune" means a "secret" or "mystery").

"I saw a stranger yesterday.
I put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place;
And in the sacred name of the Triune God
He blessed myself and my house,
My cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark says in her song,
Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise."

Love,

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Flowers: In memory of Robert Walters. Given by Kathleen.

Greeters: Alice and Ken Heckman

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

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

Sweatshirts-Tote Bags etc.

Verna and Al Hoyt have had the church logo made into an embroidered emblem and a silk screen. This means you can now order t-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, jackets, wind shirts and tote bags with The Church of the Pilgrimage on them. Verna and Al will be wearing samples in the near future, and will take orders. There are ball caps and t-shirts in the church office. A portion of the price each goes directly to the church's general fund.

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Jonathan 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

On Our Church Calendar

Sun, Jan. 28: Morning Worship 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks, preaching; New Member Class in the John Robinson Center, 11:30am-12:30pm; Directory Photos in Allerton Hall during coffee hour: Cherub Choir will sing today; Junior Choir Rehearsal, 11:30am, Sanctuary (pizza party to follow); Senior High Fellowship, 4-7pm, JRC.

Mon, Jan. 29:

Tue, Jan. 30: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Directory Photos, 6-pm, JRC.

Wed, Jan. 31: Rev. Marks will be in the office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Evening Prayer Service, 7pm in the sanctuary.

Thurs, Feb. 1: Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Christian Education Committee Meeting, 7pm, JRC Conference Room.

Fri, Feb. 2: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm.

Sat, Feb. 3: The Boy Scouts will be using Allerton Hall for a Blue & Gold Banquet.

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; AA, 7-8pm, Stewart Room.

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

Coming Events:

Feb. 4-First meeting of the Theological Discussion Group, 11:30am in the John Robinson Center.

Feb. 11-Church Council Meeting.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalization

- Recuperating following hospitalization, Mary Clark.

Church Council Meeting

Please be advised that there will be a church council meeting on February 11th in the John Robinson Center following the worship service.

Theological Discussion Group

Gary has decided to begin the group by suggesting that a book entitled, The Phoenix Affirmations, by Eric Elnes may be a fruitful way to address issues of faith and theology in our time. The book is based upon twelve affirmations which under gird the emerging church in the twenty-first century. It is the author's belief, and Gary's, that the Great Awakening of the church will come from within churches which are open to the Spirit's reforming activity among us. The emerging church will not come either from the right or left wings of Christianity, but from within churches where people are open to the three great loves of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. They are love of God, love of neighbor, love of self. The book is an ideal source for discussing the theological challenges and underpinnings of emergent Christianity. To get started Gary is calling a first meeting on February 4th following worship at 11:30am in the Robinson Center Conference Room. He will introduce the book and the group will determine the

times and frequency of its meetings at that time. This group can be an engaging and exciting way to discuss the future of faith, worship and mission. Join us!

Confirmants and Mentors:

Don't forget that your \$25 CityReach Retreat fee is due by Sunday, January 28th. We will be having a very important meeting on Sunday, February 4th at 11:45am to discuss and prepare materials for our "Open Your Heart...Do Your Part!" campaign. Please check out our church website to see the announcement about this.

Junior High Fellowship News and Notes:

Our Junior High Fellowship meets the first and third Sundays of the month from 4-5:30p.m. Plans are underway for a day trip to the City to take place sometime in May. The trip would include travel to Boston on the train, exploring some of the sights and sounds of Boston, and perhaps even a culinary adventure. We invite our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to be a part of planning this trip. Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 4th.

Senior High Fellowship News

Our next meeting will be this Sunday, January 28th at 4:00pm. This event will include creative shopping and a culinary adventure. Intrigued? We hope you'll join us and bring a friend!

Coming Soon:

Lenten Series on Practicing Our Faith

We invite you to take a look at the purple flyer included with this issue of the Herald for more information. On Sundays after church we will discuss a Christian practice and on the following Wednesday there will be a soup supper with a worship service incorporating that practice. Here are the Christian practices that will shape our Lenten Series:

Sunday, Feb. 25th & Wed., Feb. 28th: Hospitality

Sunday, March 4th & Wed. March 7th: Discernment

Sunday, March 11th & Wed. March 14: Testimony

Sun., March 18th & Wed. March 21st: Honoring the Body

Sun. March 25th & Wed. March 28th: Healing

Notes-

The Board of Trustees has received thank you's from Rev. Gary, Rev. Heather, Shellie and Tony. They were overwhelmed by the congregation's generous Christmas gifts.

The Flower Committee has received numerous thank you cards this year, as in previous years, from grateful recipients of poinsettias and lilies at Christmas and Easter. The cards always express gratitude for the visit as much as for the flower the visitor brings. The season's cards can be found tacked to the Membership and Evangelism's bulletin board. Read them and become inspired to take a lily to someone at Easter.

Our church was host to the Southeast Area of the Mass Conference on January 20th. The meeting sought to "listen" to the church's of the conference in an effort to build strong relationships for mutual ministry and mission.

The last in a series of New Member Classes will be held in the John Robinson Center Conference Room on January 28th from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Music Committee Announcement

The Music Committee is pleased to announce that our Music Director, Bill Richter, now has an expanded role. In addition to his duties of directing the Sanctuary Choir, the Junior choir, and managing the entire music program of the Church, Bill now has the added responsibility of Organist.



ANNUAL PASTOR'S PASTA SALE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH

Pilgrimage Women's Fellowship is sponsoring it's annual Pastor's Pasta Sale. You may order ahead on the Sundays prior to the 29th to purchase your dinner in a bag which includes a quart of pasta sauce, one pound of pasta, homemade bread and cookies for dessert all for the great price of \$15. There will be pints available for a price of \$10 as well as some marinara sauce for those who prefer a meatless meal. We are preparing approximately 50 dinners and will have some extra sauce and bread available on the 29th. This year we will also offer for sale, a limited supply of homemade tortellini for which we will take orders in advance. Take advantage of an easy and inexpensive meal and help the Fellowship raise funds for it's charitable efforts.
Diana Budge

An Open Invitation to the Women's Retreat

Saturday, March 17th from 8:30am-4:00pm at Iris Haven in South Plymouth: The Pilgrimage Women's Fellowship is sponsoring this retreat and invites women of our congregation to join us. There are approximately 10 more available spaces at this daylong first Women's retreat. The retreat topic is "Developing Your Personal Spirituality." The cost of \$25 includes brunch-like morning snacks and a wonderful lunch! Reservations may be made by contacting the church office or calling Kathy Marks at 508-747-3738. The retreat will be hosted and lead by Rev. Rosemary MacKay and Janet Synnott.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: The Plymouth Area Food Warehouse, now in a new location at 14 Apollo 11 Drive (the 2nd left after Plymouth Fitness in the Industrial Park) relies on food drives and other donations to keep its shelves stocked. 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. With each gift we are helping "Our Neighbors in Need."

UCC Equal Exchange Coffee

You are probably aware that fair trade Equal Exchange organic coffee has been served at coffee hour following the service since October. Now 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. Enjoy!

THANK YOU to all the people who volunteered last week to make the Overnights of Hospitality a success in The Robinson Center. The people from our congregation who stayed overnight make a huge commitment and keep the program going. They were: Alice and Ken Heckman, Peter Simpson, Peter Causton, Gordon Campbell, John Bross, Chuck Harper and Andrew Latosek. Meal preparation for twelve to fifteen each night is another critical part of the sheltering program. The following people brought delicious dinners: Al and Verna Hoyt, Peter, Amy, Patrick and Michaela Simpson, Sarah Barnicle and Peter Causton, Barbara Quinn, Kevin and Kathy Murphy, Patti Vaughn, Deb, Dan, Mackay and Dakota Morrissy and Meg and John Bross. Thank you also to Tony Nightingale, Jr. for keeping the space clean each day. This has been a meaningful mission in our church.

Greetings from Biloxi, MS

We are here for 2 weeks working on Katrina relief through the Back Bay Mission (UCC). The level of destruction here is astounding, and although it's been 19 months since the storm, the amount of work to be done is a bit overwhelming; there is talk of it taking a decade for recovery. The check we carried to the mission from our Mission Committee was gratefully accepted, and we're sure it will be put to good use in the extensive rebuilding that is taking place. Thank you for your generosity, and God Bless you. Love, Rich and Lynnette Lancaster

Happy Anniversary UCC

The 50th Anniversary Party for the United Church of Christ will be in Providence, Rhode Island from June 22-26.

With the theme "Let It Shine," great plans are being made for a nationwide celebration. Here we are so close and such an important part of the Congregational side of the 1957 merger. Let's not be left out. We are all invited to the main Party event, Worship, Sunday, June 24th. Go to www.ucc.org for your invitation.

And now, who would like to brainstorm ways The Church of the Pilgrimage can get involved? Organize a bus from Plymouth, throw a coffee hour birthday party, host a guest speaker. If you want to help "Let It Shine" call the church office. We'll get together ASAP, in the next 2 weeks.

The Women's Fellowship February 5th Meeting

The meeting will have as it's emphasis, "Projects of the Heart." We will welcome Christine Spencer and Meg Bross as our guest speakers. Christine will show "The Innocence Quilt" she made and explain its role in the ongoing project she began several years ago. Her commitment to the cause of abused children has led her and her quilt to the Massachusetts State House. She will speak about ongoing aspects of her project including the making of a birthday quilt for residents at The Home for Little Wanderers. Meg will give us an update on the Evenings of Hospitality Project as well as Monday Meals of Hospitality at our church. We can be very proud of the variety of programs and the deep commitment to others by so many in our church community. Join us at 7pm, February 5th, in Allerton Hall to learn more about some of the Church's Projects of the Heart. All are invited!

Adopt A Family Christmas

I would like to thank everyone who so generously contributed to the Adopt A Family again this year. Every year, we as a congregation give to others in need, this year I think we went above and beyond! I heard from the Kingston Coalition and the families of the children we adopted. They all sent nice letters and cards that I have put up in Allerton Hall for everyone to read. They were so grateful for our generosity. Thank you all again for helping us share the true meaning of Christmas.
Love, Laura Curtin

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 food, clothing and toiletries from our congregation to people in need. On Sunday, Feb. 11, we'll place a Giving Tree in our church's Allerton Hall with cards showing the items we need to bring to Boston. We invite you to take one or more of these cards. Please bring your donations to church the following Sundays, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25, or during the week in between. Got questions? Not sure what to donate? Call Jeff Donn at 774-454-3615.