



# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

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

March 4, 2007

No. 9

Dear Friends,

They aren't seen that much in New England, but large signs in front of even small churches are very much in evidence in southern states. I've seen them in Florida and Kentucky where it seems there is a church on every corner in some cities. They usually designate themselves to be "non-denominational," whatever that means. But, even Baptist churches, Methodist churches, etc. have such signs. I've even seen a couple such billboards in front of U.C.C. churches! They usually have a white background with large black letters and brightly illuminated.

Such signs indicate services and times, pastors, prayer groups, etc., but often they have catchy phrases intended to jolt one into guilt for not attending church. Frankly, I hate most such wayside preachments, but sometimes they are clever. I saw one once which read, "Ch\_\_ch." Then there was a question, "What's missing?" The answer, of course, "UR." Clever, right?

Such aphorisms are not unlike bumper stickers. I think my favorite one was on the bumper of an Episcopal rector's car which, read, "If you love Jesus tithes, anyone can honk!" (Do you remember all those bumper stickers which read, "Honk if you're Irish, Italian, Scots, et al)?

I think my least favorite such traveling adage is, "God is my co-pilot." That one makes me nervous. What would happen if the pilot opted to turn over the operation of the vehicle to God? Such faithfulness would be unwelcome!

I have gone on like this because I read of this sign on a billboard in front of a church: "God's love is not lent, it is given." That caught my attention. We often don't pause in reflection and prayer to realize that life, love, and peace are gifts which God offers to us. In fact, we don't usually think much about the giftedness of life and the ways in which we can be gifts to each other. Lent is a good time to recall that we are more what we are given than what we earn. We can't, in fact, earn God's grace; it is always given, never lent. The season of Lent is, however, through worship, prayer and meditation, an opportunity to clear ourselves of all those trappings of life which keep us from fully realizing the gift of God's love expressed for us in Jesus Christ. Lent can also be a time for us to ponder anew what we should be doing for others because of the love God wants to express through us.

I'll end with a sign I once saw, not on a flashy billboard in front of church, but over the door to the church. It read, "Only sinners need enter here." That is an inclusive message, indeed, and it means that every one of us finds a welcome in the church.

Lent is a time to learn that God forgives and loves us. That aspect of Lent is never lent, always given.

Love,

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**Flowers:** In loving memory of Steven Emerson Rogers.  
Given by his parents and sisters.

**Greeters:** Confirmand Nick Balboni 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** THANKS to all of you who place orders for daffodils this year for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days! You can pick up your orders on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Altogether we collected more than \$560, which will go a long way to further the fight against cancer. Thanks again, 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, Mar. 4:** Morning Worship 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks, preaching; Coffee Hour following worship in Allerton Hall; Directory Photos in Allerton Hall during Coffee Hour; Junior Choir Rehearsal, 11:30am, Sanctuary; Cherub Choir Rehearsal, following worship; Lenten Discussion, John Robinson Center, 11:30am-12:30pm (theme: "Discernment"), Leader: The Rev. Charles Harper; Confirmation Meeting, 4:30pm, JRC; Junior High Fellowship, 6pm, JRC.

**Mon, Mar. 5:** Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11:30am, Allerton Hall.

**Tue, Mar. 6:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am; Rev. Heather will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Directory Photos, JRC, 6-8pm.

**Wed, Mar. 7:** 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 JRC, Great Hall; Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.

**Thurs, Mar. 8:** Stewardship Committee will meet in the JRC in the Conference Room, 7pm.

**Fri, Mar. 9:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; The Guild will meet at 1pm in Allerton Hall.

**Sat, Mar. 10:** The Boy Scouts will have their Pinewood Derby in the Great Room of the John Robinson Center.

### 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. 11-Lenten Discussion ; Theme: "Testimony," 11:30am-12:30pm in the John Robinson Center.**

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

**Mar. 24-Time and Talent Auction, dinner 6:00pm, Action to follow in Allerton Hall.**

**Apr. 1-Palm Sunday Breakfast.**

### CHURCH RECORD

#### Hospitalized

- Betty O'Connell, Jordan Hospital.

#### Baptism

- On February 25, 2007 William John Bergendahl was baptized during the worship service. William John is the son of Paul and Lisa Bergendahl.

**Women's Fellowship** meets March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Allerton Hall. Our program will be Rev. Rosemary McKay. She will direct us towards paths of individual spiritual growth. This can be considered both a time to consider the purpose of lent and/or beginning step to the Women's Fellowship Retreat at Iris Haven on March 17<sup>th</sup>. All women are invited to join us.

**P.S. A reminder to those attending the retreat, if you still need to pay with checks for \$25 payable to Pilgrimage Women's Fellowship.**



## 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 include boat rides, dinners at home or delivered, babysitting, window washing, weeding, dump runs, cookies, Red Sox Tickets, and much more. You can begin signing up this Sunday 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.

### A Note from Bill, our Music Director:

You will notice that the organ console has moved! The organ was designed to move freely anywhere on the platform and in the next few weeks I will be trying some new settings of the choir and organ to make the sight lines and the choir performance more unified. Please see me or any member of the choir with your thoughts as we try some new positions for the musicians.

### 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.

Have you ever asked, "What does God want me to do, and how can I know?" Ever wondered if there might be a way to listen for God? Join us this Sunday for a Discussion Group about the practice of discernment. 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, March 7<sup>th</sup>, join us for a Soup Supper prepared by the Deacons at 6p.m. followed by a worship experience in the JRC at 7p.m. centered on discernment. Worship will include the option of walking a labyrinth. Childcare will be provided during worship.

#### 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, 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

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

**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!

**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!

**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.

**Thank you!** A warm thank you to all who turned out for our pizza and movie night: it was a resounding success! It was a blast-true fun and fellowship. I'm sorry to say we didn't make any money, but the good news is, we broke even. Everyone contributed to the meal and to the fun and the wide spread help made it all possible. A special thank you to Sherm Anderson for making the movie really happen and to Trace Sears for all the desserts and to John and Sue Healy for all their help in the kitchen. And congratulations to Ryan Anderson for being the first to find the angels in the sanctuary! We're looking forward to the next one already! Maybe we'll start with the buffalo chicken pizza next time. Jenny and Tom

## **MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS---**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of Meg Bross. Lynette Lancaster will be reporting about the trip that she and her husband took to work with the Back Bay Mission in Beloxi, Mississippi.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** March 18, 2007.

**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)

**Confirmants and Mentors:** We will be meeting at the John Robinson Center this 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. Also, bring \$ for breakfast on Saturday morning. We plan to return by 5:00p.m. on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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.

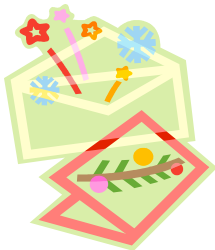
Upcoming Schedule:

**March 4<sup>th</sup>:** Movie and Pizza Night (we'll meet until 6p.m.) Bring \$5 for pizza.

**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.

**Senior High Fellowship News :** Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m. We'll gather to prepare a delicious dinner for our guests participating in our Overnights of Hospitality ministry. Then we'll serve the meal. During our January gathering, we discovered many culinary skills and gifts among our Senior Highs, so we do hope all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will join us!



**Pat Mudgett** will be selling her handmade greeting cards before service and during coffee hour this Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> only. Half the proceeds will go to the Guild for their expenses and charitable endeavors. Thank You!

**NOTES---**

On February 24<sup>th</sup> Rev. Marks and Chuck Harper attended an American Congregational Library Retreat at Andover/Newton Theological School.

The Ash Wednesday Service on February 21<sup>st</sup> enjoyed a nice attendance. We thank Deaconess Alice Heckman for her help and Deaconess Jenny Healy for providing the bread for Communion.

The ministers and several members of our church attended the Eccleistical Council and Service of Installation for the Rev. Judy Medeiros at The Second Church, U.C.C. in Manomet on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Two windows on the ocean side of the sanctuary were replaced last week. The good news is that a large number of people didn't notice the difference! We

thank our hardworking Board of Trustees for arranging for the installation of the windows.

We thank Neil Bottomley, chair of the Stewardship Committee, for his informative Stewardship Moment during the service last Sunday.

**The Stewardship Challenge**

“Giving in Faith for the Future”

We are a church on the move within the confines of our loving congregation, our community and the churches wider mission. We do, however, need to address short falls in revenue. Maintenance on the sanctuary, staff salary issues and funding mortgage payments for the John Robinson Center need to be addressed. These budgetary short falls can be resolved by increasing the number of people who pledge and by increasing the amount each person pledges. Below is an example of how far an increase of \$1.00 in your pledge will go.

**If you increase your pledge by: we could:**

\$1.00 per week	give staff at 3% raise
\$1.00 per week	increase our maintenance budget by \$7500
\$6.00 per week	fully fund our mortgage payment for the John Robinson Center

Total: \$8.00 per week

**The Stewardship Committee challenges everyone to increase their pledge over last year by \$8.00 to accomplish these goals.**



**PILGRIM ASSOCIATION  
MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE-UCC**

You are cordially invited to attend the Ordination into Christian Ministry of **Jim Conley** at **UCC Congregational Church of Norwell**, 460 Main Street, Norwell, Massachusetts on **Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 3:00pm**. This invitation comes to you from the UCC Congregational Church of Norwell, Pilgrim Association of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ. Following the Ordination Ceremony there will be a reception for Rev. Conley in the Parish Hall of the church.

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