



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820

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

May 27, 2007

No. 20

Dear Friends,

I'm glad that I've lived in area where there are very real distinctions among the seasons of the earth. New England certainly has extremes in its seasonal transitions! Sometimes in the depth of winter I pine for a visit to some tropical land, but on balance I know in my soul that I appreciate spring, summer and fall the more because of my mid-winter longings for warm places. I do think that New Englanders know how to enjoy a beautiful day more than those who enjoy them year round. (Maybe that's my way of compensating for having to endure New England's uncanny climate).

This is the transitional time of year, too, with regard to rites of passage. The Boston Globe offered its annual accounting of college/university graduation on Monday and I am always interested in what commencement speakers have to say to those receiving degrees. It is a time of high school graduations, proms and other celebratory activities. In the church we just received a delightful group of Confirmands into The Church of the Pilgrimage and The United Church of Christ. It was a solemn and moving service on Sunday as we welcomed young people into full membership of our congregation. Soon it will be Church School Day. It's a time of transition for earth and human accomplishment.

Recently I read of a college graduation ceremony which was held on a hot spring day. As the graduates walked across the platform to receive their degrees from the college president, she smiled, shook their hands, and loudly said, "Congratulations!" Then, in a much lower voice heard only by the degree recipients, she said, "Keep moving."

The president, merely wishing to keep the line moving, was actually offering valuable advice to the graduates. It is good advice of all of us. "Keep moving." We should never stagnate in life whatever we do. We should keep learning, keep seeking to broaden our horizons, keep moving toward goals no matter who we are, what we do or where we are on our life's pilgrimage.

It is good, too, to keep moving in our spiritual lives. I believe that we are spiritual beings and that there are ever new spiritual opportunities opening before us. It is important in that regard to develop our interior prayer lives as a basis for actions in ministry and mission. We have to keep moving to the tune of the Spirit and never delude ourselves into believing that we have all the spiritual and missional gifts that are to be had. God is not only still speaking, God is still moving in and through the church and those who are willing to make themselves available to God's Spirit of renewal.

As I remind graduates and Confirmands, graduation and Confirmation are not ends in themselves. They are merely transitions to new opportunities. The same is true for the church. We need to keep moving in joyful concert with the Spirit.

Love,

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Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of my husband, Douglas Grey. Given by Shirley Grey and family.

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, May 27: Morning Worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching.

Mon, May 28: Memorial Day. The Church Office will be closed.

Tue, May 29: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.

Wed, May 30: Rev. Marks will be in the office, 9:30am; Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7pm; Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, sanctuary.

Fri, June 1: Rev. Marks will be in the church office a little later than usual due to an early appointment; Rev. Moody will be in the church office at 10am.

Coming Events:

June 3: Children's Sunday; Theological Discussion Group will meet in the conference room of The John Robinson Center, 11:30am-12:30pm.

June 8: Guild Luncheon at The Raddison Hotel in Plymouth, noon.

June 10: Graduating Seniors Sunday.

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.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized

- Sandy Squillante
- Bugs Burns, Beverly Manor.
- Janet Broadbent, now residing at Lifecare Center in Plymouth.
- Jacob Brenner recuperating at home.

Confirmation Class

- Nicholas Balboni
- Danielle Budge
- Catherine Lindquist
- Kayla McNicholas
- Christina Saunders
- Mary Saunders

NOTES

- The breakfast meeting for those volunteers who helped with the Overnights and Meals of Hospitality was well attended and the breakfast itself was terrific. It was as gratifying as it was moving to see how many people are committed to following the gospel call to serve those in need. It is good to see how many Pilgrimage people are involved in the homeless ministry. God bless you all! The "Thank You" breakfast was held in Allerton Hall on May 19th.
- The next meeting of the Theological Discussion Group will be on May 3rd in the Conference Room of The Rev. John Robinson Center, 11:30am-12:30pm. The discussion will be centered on chapter 5 and 6 of The Phoenix Affirmations. If you've missed a couple of sessions, please feel free to rejoin us.
- Our sympathies are extended to Brian Morse whose mother passed away last week. Congratulations to Julie Sears who complete the Best Buddies Bike Challenge this past weekend and to Laura Curtin for completing her second year of the Avon Breast Cancer Walk. We are proud of both of you!
- Steve Triffletti, Moderator has appointed Elizabeth Hughes Campbell as Treasurer to fill the vacancy in the office of Treasurer.
- The MAUCC is looking for help with a survey. In order to create a workshop to be offered at the September 29th Annual Meeting they need volunteers between 18-40 to complete an online survey that can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=719723571730>. Thank you in advance.

2007 Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament, Saturday, September 22nd at 8:00am at Souther's Marsh Golf Course. Please mark your calendar and let your golf friends know!



Saturday, June 16th - Annual Trip to the PawSox: We have great seats and it is a great family trip. Tickets are \$30.00 per person, which includes the bus ride and the game ticket. Please see Al or Verna Hoyt to reserve your seat at this great family event. First come, first served.

Can You Help? Al Hoyt is looking for a few volunteers to help paint the outside of the Church. We will only be painting the first floor, so there will be no climbing ladders or staging. The project will begin TUESDAY, May 22 at 9:00AM and continue daily (except Sundays) until done. If you can give a day or two to scrape, sand or paint, please show up.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS...

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: We continue to collect non-perishables each week. The shelves empty rapidly! 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.



Heifer Month at The Church of the Pilgrimage

Thanks to everyone who has given so generously to help hungry people around the world have hope and a chance for a better life. We have one more week of our Heifer Ark drive and the Church School children will be bringing in their Ark bank money on June 3.

Our income to date is as follows:

Quilt Sales-with total proceeds going toward goats for Heifer, \$783

May 6 and May 13 Income, \$1355

May 20 Income, \$15439

TOTAL \$3577

Needed toward our goal of \$5000 - \$1323

This income translates to the following animals: 12 goats, 3 sheep, 1 water buffalo, 1 pig, 3 hives bees, 4 flocks chicks, 1½ heifers, 1 tree seedling, 5 rabbits, 1 flock ducks.

The quilt sale and donation tables will continue on May 27. Remember if you give a Heifer you get the quilt of your choice. If you give a goat, pig, or sheep you get a pillow of your choice. Our beautiful signature quilt in blue and white is still "on sale" for \$40.00. Did you know there are beautiful clothes for American Girl Dolls? And don't forget to look for the eyeglass cases, scissor sets and handbags.

We look forward to seeing you next week. We look forward to celebrating The Pilgrimage Ark on June 3 when the Church School Children will also bring their Ark Banks.

Goal: A Pilgrimage Ark---For more than 25 years The Church of the Pilgrimage has set aside the month of May as Heifer Month. This year we are stretching to send more animals two-by-two to help people in need in our attempt to raise \$5,000: **a full Ark!**

Monday Meals of Hospitality: We would like to thank the more than 45 volunteers who helped cook and/or serve over 500 meals for more than 50 different people (men, women and 3 children) who, at one time or another, attended the Monday lunches during the 30-week 2006-2007 season. A total of 909 meals and sandwiches were either served on site or prepared for "take-out." A special "Thank You" to Janet Holmes, Hildegard Schimpt, Janet Synnott, Carol Johnson, Lynnette Lancaster, and Kay Budd, who, always with spirit and good nature, were there for so many weeks. And, "Thank You" to Meg Bross whose vision and leadership inspired the initiation of the Monday Meals Program two years ago. Finally, a hearty "Thank you to all" for helping in so many ways to reach out to our neighbors in need. Your volunteering and support make it possible. D. Flood

The Church of the Pilgrimage Youth News

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2007--

Nicholas Peter Balboni, Danielle Elizabeth Budge, Catherine Eva Saunders, Kayla Elizabeth McNicholas, Christina Lyn Saunders, and Mary Corinne Saunders were received into full membership at the Church of the Pilgrimage last Sunday, May 20th. We encourage you to remember that Confirmation is not graduation—there is always more learning, more growing, more exploring to be done. After all, we are all on a journey of faith, and our relationship with God, like all other relationships, continues to grow and change. **A word of thanks to the Confirmands' mentors:** Tom Healy, Jeff Donn, Kathy Marks, Barbara Quinn, Amy Simpson, and Alice Heckman. Your attention and insights have been greatly appreciated. It is so important for our young people to have adults in their lives who care about them and are willing to listen to their ideas and experiences. Thanks also to Jeff Donn for being a fantastic Confirmation Co-Leader. Your humor, ideas, and willingness to be a sounding board are gifts we all have enjoyed and appreciated.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

My heartfelt thanks to this year's Confirmation Class for the wonderful gift of a topiary tree. The tree's beautiful blossoms will provide a lovely splash of color on my deck, and the flowers will also attract hummingbirds and butterflies. What a treat! And thank you, Nick, Dani, Cathy, Kayla, Tina, and Mary for the wonderful messages you wrote on the accompanying card. It has been a joy and a delight to get to know you and work with you this year. I'm so proud of you!
-Rev. Heather

2nd Grade Bibles!

We're pretty sure we have a comprehensive list of this year's 2nd graders who will be receiving a Bible on Children's Sunday on June 3rd. However, we want to be sure no one is left out—so **parents, please call the church office (508-746-3026) with the spelling of your child's name** as you would have it appear on her or his Bible. Also, if for some reason your child already completed 2nd grade but never received a Bible from our church and would like one, please let us know.

Attention Graduating Seniors and Parents:

We want to honor our graduating high school seniors during worship on Sunday, June 10th, and we would like to publish your name and any information you have about your future plans in an upcoming issue of the *Herald*. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be able to be present on June 10th and to share what's next for you.

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, June 3rd: **Church School Sunday.** Our children will provide some of the leadership for our regular worship service. We will recognize the adults who serve as Sunday School Teachers. The Sanctuary Choir will also sing.

Sunday, June 10th: **Graduating Seniors Sunday.** Our regular morning worship service will include a special service of recognition and blessing for our graduating high school seniors.

Summer Camp Opportunities

Parents and youth—are you working on figuring out your summer plans? Why not include attending one of our United Church of Christ-related summer camps? There are many different options from which to choose. Check out the Massachusetts Conference website: www.macucc.org/youth/OutdoorMinistriesNewEngland.htm for more information. We will try to have some brochures available in the office in the next couple of weeks. Don't let a tight budget become a barrier to attending camp as some camperships (financial assistance) may be available—just contact Rev. Heather. We hope you'll seriously consider this wonderful way to deepen your faith and experience the joy of friendship, fun, community, and good times in the great outdoors.

The Pilgrimage Women's Fellowship will be holding their Annual Banquet at The Run of the Mill Restaurant in Plymouth at 6:00pm on Monday, June 4th. We would like to invite all women of the church who would like to attend to join us for this wonderful evening. If you would like to attend, please contact me, Marna Blomberg, **no later than noon on Monday, May 21st** to make a reservation. At that time, I will review your choice of meal and the cost associated with it. If cost is an issue, please call anyway and your meal will be covered. Thank you! Marna Blomberg (781) 826-2543.



**The Guild will be holding their Annual Meeting
at the Raddison Hotel in Plymouth at Noon.**