



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXIX

May 6, 2007

No. 17

Dear Friends,

I read a list of things in Homiletics magazine which struck me funny. They are questions like George Carney used to ask before he became as smutty in his humor as he is now. The list is comprised of common questions having to do with life's nagging little frustrations. Here are a few such questions.

- Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are going dead?
- Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough money?
- Why do people believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
- Whose idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?
- Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?
- Is there ever a day when mattresses are not on sale?
- Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?
- Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?
- How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?
- Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?
- In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer when we complained about the heat?

I love these sorts of questions. There are, however, some very serious questions people have regarding life and I share many of them. We all wonder why "bad things happen to good people." Why do the innocent suffer? Why is there cancer and mental illness? Why are people poor and homeless? Why can't people resolve their differences without resorting to violence? Why are human beings, so capable of love, so able to display hatred? You have questions like this, I am sure.

The truth is, these questions have always plagued our race and they are far easier to raise than to answer. For many people such questions have theological implications and test faith's veracity. To be honest such questions have tested my own faith.

Yet, I always return in prayer to God to make some sense of issues regarding human suffering, justice, righteousness, etc. I place my trust in God, even as I am angry with God, that in some inscrutable way all things "work together for the good." (Romans 8:28). I do believe that faith and trust in God is like lighting one candle rather than cursing the darkness.

One last humorous question: Why does Dice K. make more money pitching one game for the Red Sox than I'll make in a lifetime?

Love,

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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 6: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching; The Theological Discussion Group will meet from 11:30am – 12:30pm in The Rev. John Robinson Center; Junior Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsal, following worship; The Pilgrim Festival Chorus will perform Haydn's "The Creation" at 3:00pm in the sanctuary-William B. Richter, Director.

Mon, May 7: The Pilgrimage Women's Fellowship will meet in Allerton hall, 6:00-7:45pm (see notes).

Tue, May 8: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-noon.

Wed, May 9: Rev. Marks will be in the office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the office from 10am-noon; Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7pm; Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, sanctuary.

Thurs, May 10: Stewardship Committee Meeting at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room; Nominating Committee will meet at 7pm.

Fri, May 11: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-noon; The Guild will meet today in Allerton Hall.

Coming Events:

May 13- The Annual Meeting of The Church of the Pilgrimage will be held following morning worship.

May 19-Breakfast for those who have volunteered to help the Taskforce for the Homeless, 9:00am in Allerton Hall.

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.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, the 2007 Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 13, 2007, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive Reports of all Boards, Committees and Officers.
2. To act upon the 2007 Budget of the Church.
3. The election of Officers, Board and Committee Members.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



Clerk

CHURCH RECORD

Baptism: On April 29, 2007 Evelyn Catherine Nelson, daughter of Catherine Beatrice (Turcott) Nelson and David Kent Nelson was baptized during the worship service.



Flowers: In loving memory of Martha Besse and Mrs. & Mrs. Peter Smith and Miss Gertrude Smith. Given by Gilbert L. Besse and family. Right Side Flowers: In loving memory of my son Gary Courtney. Given by Billie Courtney.

Thank You: The ushers for the six services in April were: Meg and John Bross; Don Moore and family, Nathaniel, Augusta, Matt and Naomi; Ken Heckman; Kathy Marks; Robin and Doug Trask with Justin and Jackie; Barbara and Ray Quinn; Dot and Everett Lanman; Betsey Randall; Laura Sampson; Suzanne and Sherm Anderson and family; Marylyn and Robert Colburn; Pat and Tom Mudgett; John McNicholas. I wish to thank them all and also the members of the Advisory Board who extended their help.

Deacon, Mahlon Walker

Women's Guild: On Friday, May 11th the Guild will meet in Allerton Hall for a program featuring Carol Johnson and Meg Bross as guest speakers. All members are asked to bring canned goods for the Plymouth Food Warehouse. The June 8th meeting will be held at the Radisson in Plymouth. Members are asked to bring \$20 for their meal at the Radisson to the May 11th meeting.

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.

☐ NOTES--

- > Gary is compiling a list of people who have indicated an interest in church membership. If you have spoken to him or phoned the church office about membership, please remind him. When the list is complete, he'll announce dates and times for series of membership classes.
- > The Theological Study Group met on June 22nd. The next meeting will be held on May 6th from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Rev. John Robinson Center. The discussion will be based upon chapters 3 and 4 of The Phoenix Affirmations. Please read those chapters. If you haven't attended a class, you are invited to do so. Books are available through Peter Causton.
- > The Evening Prayer Services have resumed. On most Wednesdays the prayer group meets in the sanctuary from 7:00pm – 7:30pm. These meetings are times of reflection, meditation and quiet repose before God. Scripture is employed to stimulate prayer as are meditative readings. Rev. Marks leads the group and the format reflects the Celtic Christian tradition. Those who regularly attend these prayer services find them to be important components on their spiritual journey. You are welcome to join us.
- > Congratulations to Jenny Healy who celebrated a birthday with a “0” in the number last week!
- > We thank our hard-working and dedicated Stewardship Committee for providing a delightful “Thank You” Luncheon following worship last Sunday. The fellowship and food were much appreciated. Thank You!
- > The woman who became ill in the worship service last Sunday is doing well. Her name is Ilene Turcott, and she is the grandmother of Evelyn Catherine Nelson who was baptized during the service. It was good to have Deacon Doctor Moore in attendance. Deaconess Alice Heckman, a nurse, was there to help along with Lisa Oxsen. Ilene caused us a scare, but we thank God she is doing well. Her family is grateful to the church for its loving concern. Cathy and David Nelson plan to pursue church membership.
- > Those who have entered upon the study of The Phoenix Affirmations are encouraged to read chapters 3 and 4 for our next meeting, May 6th, in the Robinson Center. Childcare, we hope, will be provided. If you missed our last meeting, don't let that deter you from attending.
- > Please notify the church office if you know of someone hospitalized or in need of pastoral care. The ministers need to know who may want their attention. Thank you!
- > Helen Belcher wishes to thank the many church friends who have brought food and sent good wishes to speed the recovery from knee replacement surgery. Ruth remains at Newfield House but we hope that she will come home soon.
- > Some of the year-end tax letters that were mailed in February contained errors. Our collectors had a problem with the computer system last year and some information was not recovered initially. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and ask that you contact collector, Debra Richters (508-746-0558) if you would like to obtain a new tax letter.
- > As we prepare for our Annual Meeting on May 13th, we remind the congregation to fulfill their pledge obligation for the 2006-2007 fiscal year by continuing to bring their pledge envelopes to church. If you have not yet received a pledge card/stewardship packet for the upcoming fiscal year please contact Neil Bottomley (508-746-0167). Thank you.

Event for All Women of the Church You are invited to an intergenerational event Monday, May 7th from 6 to 7:45 in Allerton Hall. May is a month to recognize mothers, daughters and sisters of faith and the roles they serve in our church and the wider church. Dinner will be a “bring to share meal” (sometimes called pot luck). After the dinner, hosted by Women's Fellowship, Rosalee Sinn will present a program on the impact Heifer Project makes in the lives of Women of the World and their families. Thru pictures and stories, Rosalee will take us into the homes of women in our global village. Bring a daughter, a sister, a mother. Reservations may be made after church for the next 3 Sundays or by calling the church office. At that time, please tell us if you wish to share a main dish, salad or dessert. Also, please bring a picture of a woman who has been an important influence in your life. You will have a chance to share your thoughts about this person at your table. If you are like me with only sons and a mother and sisters too far away, bring a sister of faith. May 7th is my mother's 91st birthday so I will bring a birthday cake in her honor to share with you my church family.

Shalom, Kathy

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.macuss.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.

Confirmands and Mentors: Our next (and last) confirmation meeting will be this Sunday, May 6th from 11:45-1:15p.m. Be sure to check out the United Church of Christ's website: www.ucc.org. Don't forget: Confirmation Sunday is May 20th.

Junior High Fellowship News and Notes Our Junior High Fellowship for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders meets the first and third Sundays from 4-5:30p.m. Our next meeting will be this Sunday, May 6th and will involve an outdoor service project, weather permitting. We hope you'll join us, and bring a friend!

Children's Worship Service On Sunday, May 6th we will have our regular first Sunday of the month Worship Service for Children and Youth ages 3 through 9th grade. Worship will be in the John Robinson Center and will include a Service of Communion. Parents, please bring your children to their classrooms *before* the 10a.m. service begins in the sanctuary.

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 2nd Grade 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 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

Sun, May 20th: **Confirmation Sunday.** Join us as we welcome six wonderful young people into full membership.

Sun, 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.

Sun, 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.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS...

Monday Meals of Hospitality: The Monday Meals are over until October, but the Missions Committee expresses gratitude to Diane and Gay Flood for their loyal work each Monday for seven months, coordinating this vital program, providing roast beef or ham sandwiches and goodies in lunch bags each week for the many who needed them, and inviting many more people to become involved. They are saints.

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: We continue to collect non-perishables each week. The supplies are very low at the warehouse. 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 Coffee Project Sales will come to an end soon, but resume in the fall.

Heifer International at The Church of the Pilgrimage-May 6th: Special Guest at the Children's Service and Coffee Hour will be **Simon Sandilen** from Tanzania, East Africa. Simon is Maasai by birth and has worked for Heifer for more than 20 years. Each child will receive an attractive *Fill the Ark Calendar* and coin box. Adults will receive *The Most Important Gift Catalog in the World*.

The United Church of Christ ~ 50th Anniversary Celebration

On **Friday, June 22, 2007**, the **Massachusetts Conference** will hold its **Annual Meeting** just outside of Hartford, from 8:00am to 1:45 pm at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT. The Meeting is being held in Connecticut to make it easy for Annual Meeting delegates, clergy and visitors to take part in the UCC Anniversary Celebration as well. Those who plan to attend the Annual Meeting delegates, clergy and visitors to take part in the UCC Anniversary Celebration as well. Those who plan to attend the Annual Meeting are encouraged to also register for the weekend for Synod, so they can attend the Synod activities on Friday, the Synod in the City on Saturday and the Community Worship on Sunday.

Saturday, June 23, 2007 is the biggest celebration day, called **Synod in the City**.

Sunday, June 24, 2007, at 3:00 pm at the Hartford Civic Center is the **Community Worship** service held as part of the General Synod. This worship service is open to all, no registration required.