
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,
MASSACHUSETTS 02360

www.8townsquare.org

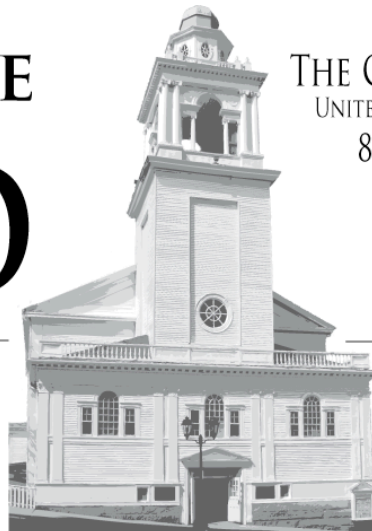


CHURCH OFFICE

PHONE: 508-746-3026

FAX: 508-746-4362

office@8townsquare.org



THE REVEREND GARY L. MARKS,
SENIOR PASTOR
gmarks@8townsquare.org

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

Volume LXXIX, No.28

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

September 16, 2007

Dear Friends,

It was nice to see many young people in church on Sunday. Registration for Church School was taking place and a Confirmation Orientation meeting followed morning worship. People were, in some cases, returning following a bit of a summer recess.

The church was really a bit like a beehive before and after worship. There were several sign-ups going on during the Coffee Hour, including the Golf Tournament, Women's Retreat and there was an opportunity to add signatures to the Iraq War petition. There was a good feeling at the Coffee Hour as people caught up with one another after the summer. (I almost forgot that there was also a sign-up for Monday Meals of Hospitality). There were visitors among us who are looking for a church home. I hope that they felt that they were well received. I thank the steady efforts of the Membership and Evangelism Committee to extend the kind of welcome which encourages people to return once they have attended the church a few times. I am always reminded of the burden which accompanies the observation, "you only have one chance to make a good first impression." I hope people feel welcome when, as one visitor said to me, they come to "check us out."

We also have a newly formed Visioning Committee which held an organizing meeting last Sunday. I like the "spiritual" approach which it is hoped will guide the committee's work. I was unable to attend the first meeting of the committee, but it has my full support and heartiest blessings.

It was also great to have the full choir back on Sunday and to welcome the wonderful talent of Elizabeth Chapman Reilly to the organ console. We are truly blessed by the marvelous music provided by those who love to sing and play to the glory of God. They have lots of fun doing it, too! I thank Bill Richter and the Music Committee for the joy they provide for our worship services.

Ours is a very busy and active church, to be sure. I am fully aware, however, that just being busy does not mean that we are being the church. There are a spate of books recently which probe the notion that just being a "full-service church" is not likely to lead to the spiritual vitality which should define the church. Writers suggest that faithful, even successful, churches move from a program to a process model. Those writers suggest that we should accept a "simple church" model, "designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth." (In The Christian Century, September 4, 2007). I hope to learn about the process model this year, that is if I'm not too busy!

In any case, welcome to the new church season. I hope that together we will learn, or better, deepen what it means to be disciples of Jesus simply in a complex world.

Love,

©The Church of the Pilgrimage in Plymouth, MA Inc., all rights reserved.

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Elizabeth Hughes; 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 CALENDAR

Sept 16: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Heather Moody preaching. Habitat Sunday. Teacher Commissioning Service/Church School Opens. Coffee Hour. Wedding in the sanctuary, 3:00pm

Sept 17: Monday Meals of Hospitality begin.

Sept 18: Rev. Moody will be in the office from 9-9:30am; Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. The Board of Trustees will meet in the Conference Room in the Robinson Center at 7:00pm. MACUCC Vital Congregational Life Cluster Group meeting, 7-9pm, JRC.

Sept 19: Rev. Moody will be in the office at 9:30am. Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm. Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30pm.

Sept 20: Rev. Heather will be in the office at 9:30am. Stewardship Committee Meeting, 7pm, JRC Conference Room.

Sept 21: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary, 5:30pm.

Sept 22: Annual Pilgrimage Golf Tournament at Souther's Marsh Golf Club (see notes).

Coming Events:

Sept 25: The Advisory Board will meet at 7:00pm in the Conference Room in The Robinson Center.

Sept 26: Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm

Oct 1: Rev. Marks will speak to retired U.C.C. clergy at the Craigville Conference Center.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized: Gloria Johnson, Kakie Walter – Jordan Hospital.

FLOWERS: In honor of our parents, children and grandchildren. Given by Deborah and Jonathan Porter.

NOTES---

The Wednesday **Evening Prayer Services** will resume on September 19th. The services follow a simple neo-Celtic Christian order based upon Evening Prayer Services developed by and used on the Lindisfarne Island (also known as Holy Island) off the coast of England. A meditative atmosphere is achieved by a focus upon Scripture, daily readings and silent prayer. Those who attend regularly find the meetings to be meaningful and have expressed a deepening spirituality in their life's pilgrimage. We invite anyone interested in spiritual direction and formation to join us. Gary usually leads these meditations.

There will be a petition available regarding the war in Iraq should you wish to sign it during the Coffee Hour. The Collegium of Officers of The United Church of Christ has offered a Pastoral Letter to the churches seeking 100,00 signatures calling for an end of the war in Iraq. The Minister and President of The United Church

of Christ will bring the signatures personally to Washington, D.C. in October. Copies of The Pastoral letter are available in the upper vestibule.

The group discussing **The Phoenix Affirmations** will resume discussion as soon as Gary can find available time to schedule it.

HARVEST FAIR

Our **Harvest Fair** is in full gear scheduled for **SATURDAY October 27,2007 @9:30am** (an earlier start this year!)

We are having two new tables this year. One is the **Men's Table**. We are looking for things such as small hand tools and/or small working power tools. Sporting equipment, and other small things that men may be interested in.

Our other new table is the **Color (theme) Table**. This year we have chosen the color GREEN. So, we are looking for anything on the smaller side that is any shade of green. Whether it is a vase, a lampshade, a frame, place mats, etc.

The next scheduled Harvest Fair meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 30th after coffee hour upstairs in the hallway of the sanctuary. We welcome all new members and any willing helping hands and minds before and/or for the day of the fair. I will start a sign up sheet in another week for areas that will be in need of helpers.

Harvest Fair Raffle Ticket will also go on sale this Sunday September 16th during coffee hour. As always we will have our special \$10 tickets (there are only 100 of these sold) that offer such wonderful prizes as a weekend away at the Williams Inn in Williamstown MA. And our bargain regular tickets that are 6/\$5.00 or \$1.00 each and include such prizes as an oil and filter change, courtesy of Cape Auto Body, or a gift certificate to Issac's Restaurant. These are just two of many prizes to be won. A complete listing will be available Sunday.

One other important note, the Harvest Fair committee is always delighted to accept any donations that you may have for our annual fair. I do need to ask that if you have things you would like to donate please call me and I would be happy to make arrangement with you to either pick them up myself, or meet you. I ask that we do not use the church office or the Robinson Center for a drop off. We have rented space upstairs and need to be considerate of times that that space is being used. We also do not want to have boxes piled in front of door ways, not only does this look messy for someone renting space but we also do not want to leave things outside in

the elements and make more work for our secretary and ministers. I will have two drop off times the week before the fair as I did last year. This helps free up some of the traffic the Friday before the Fair. Thank you all for your help in this matter.

Sincerely, Laura Curtin and The Harvest Fair Committee
508-746-7761

The **Bubbles and Bath** table is always looking for things. Do you have any pretty soaps, new creams, perfumes, bath items that you received as a gift that are just not your liking? How about any hand towels or candles. Please contact Barbara Northrop if you can help. 1-781-582-2050



The **American Girl Doll Table** is in need of sewers. If you can help make doll clothes, please contact Marilyn Colburn at 508-746-8690.

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY: A NEW APPROACH

In case you haven't heard yet, beginning in October we will be offering an experiential approach to ministry with our 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. We invite our senior high youth to come to worship in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month for the service of communion. Then on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of the month, we hope you'll join us for the beginning of the worship service before going to the John Robinson Center's youth room for the day's youth ministry experience. Last week we included a flyer outlining the three themes we'll be exploring: creative expression; rhythm and percussion; and faith, film and popular culture. This new meeting time and content comes out of discussion with our senior highs about their scheduling needs and their interests. Also in the works: a Senior High Mission Trip to Tarboro, North Carolina to work with Habitat for Humanity in building homes in a hurricane-ravaged area. The trip will be June 22nd - 27th, 2008.

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY OVERVIEW

This year we will be meeting once a month for a particular activity. Although our scheduling will fluctuate slightly from month to month, we are going to meet primarily on Sundays after worship. We invite all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to join us!

On Sunday, September 30th, we'll be going Go Carting at Cartland in Wareham. Cost: \$10 for unlimited rides. Then in October, we have been invited to go to Heifer Project's Overlook Farm in western Massachusetts for a mini-mission trip. This trip will be **Saturday, October 13th**, so mark your calendars now! **Sunday, November 25th** will find us doing some kind of adventure activity

(like laser tag or indoor rock climbing). Looking ahead, our big trip of the year will be **March 1st-2nd** as we travel with other junior highs from the Mass Conference to the Episcopal Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City for NightWatch. For more information, go to www.macucc.org/youth/nightwatch.htm

CONFIRMATION NEWS

There will be a Confirmation Meeting for Confirmands and Mentors Sunday, September 23rd from 11:45a.m.- 1:15p.m. Confirmands, remember to bring your retreat fee of \$80 to this meeting. Make checks payable to: The Church of the Pilgrimage, with "Confirmation Retreat" on the memo line. Scholarships are available—please contact Rev. Heather.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPT. 16TH!

Parents, if you did not have a chance to register your child(ren) last Sunday, please take the time to fill out a registration form when you bring your child(ren) to Sunday school in the John Robinson Center (or Allerton Hall for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders). Teachers, even if you aren't teaching Sunday school we hope you will come to church this Sunday, as we will be having a Commissioning Service for you during worship in the sanctuary.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS

Habitat for Humanity: Sunday, September 16th is **Habitat Sunday**. The program will be as follows: an update on Habitat work around the world, our two homes in progress in Plymouth and Kingston, and we will hear from Karen Wood, our most recent Habitat homeowner. There will also be an opportunity to donate to our local work.

Monday Meals of Hospitality will resume on Monday, September 17th. **Monday Meals** are a free hot meal for anyone who is in need. If you would like to prepare a meal, help serve or assist in any way, please sign-up in Allerton Hall after church or call coordinator Diane Flood at 508-209-0266. Thank You.

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: We continue to collect non-perishables each week (see the red bins in the foyer) and enthusiastically welcome the participation of the Christian Education program this fall! The supplies are very low at the warehouse. The following items are needed: canned tuna, chicken, and ham, macaroni & cheese, pasta and sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, baby food & formula (with current dates), condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly; soups, crackers, cereal, juice, coffee & tea. *Thank you for thinking of the hungry next time you shop.*

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 22: Time is running out to participate in this very important fundraiser *even if you don't play golf*. **Come to the luncheon at 12**, where you can watch the exciting helicopter ball drop, buy raffle tickets for great prizes, enjoy a delicious baked stuffed chicken dinner (\$20/adults, \$10/kids), and share laughs and fellowship with your friends. **Take a Helicopter Ball Drop form** to your work or neighborhood or family gathering to fill with names of people not attending, and don't forget to buy lots of balls yourself (last year's winner split over \$800 with the church). Of course, golf is great at Souther's Marsh Golf Club in West Plymouth, so best of all would be to join us at 7 for the 8am shotgun start, best ball tournament (\$100 fee includes cart, lunch & gift bag). Call Mike Harrington 508-747-2060 or Judy Mitchell 508-746-3939 for more information.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Rev. Marks will be offering a series of three Church Membership Classes beginning on October 19th. The classes will be one hour long, 11:30-12:30 in the Robinson Center. Childcare will be provided. Please call the church office to express an interest in membership, or contact Rev. Marks.

BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

Gary is seeking the desirability among men of the church for a Bible study or thematic study group. Please let Gary or the church office know if you are at all interested. There are some interesting materials from the U.C.C. God Is Still Speaking campaign which may be a starting point.



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
8 TOWN SQUARE,
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820