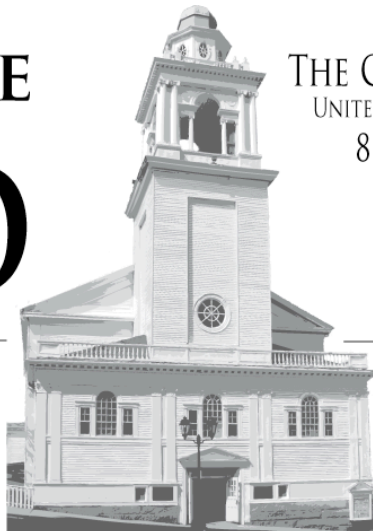

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXIX, No.30

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

September 30, 2007

Dear Friends,

I read an article in the current issue of The Christian Century (September 18, 2007) which added to a growing concern about how people are increasingly isolated from one another. People watch cable TV, communicate by e-mail, spend seemingly endless hours at computers, buy things on line rather than going to shops, etc. The author of the article, a Methodist pastor, speaks of what he calls our “cultures ever-increasing individualism.” I’d rather call it an isolationism. He did mention that even in grocery stores shopping for food is becoming less and less personal. Self-checkout lanes in our stores will outnumber the lines that lead shoppers to a human cashier. “At that point,” he adds, “going to market will become a solitary enterprise.” I find that disconcerting, indeed. Personally, I avoid self-checkout lanes because, I confess, I’m intimidated by the technology, not a surprising confession to those who know me!

It seems indisputable that people are less and less defined by community than in previous generations. I don’t romanticize the past at all, but I am keenly aware, as I’m sure you are, that people are becoming defined by isolation more than they are by social groupings. There are real dangers in this trend in our society. We have begun to feel uncomfortable, less secure in interpersonal relationships. This, in turn, can lead to a kind of self-absorption which can lead to very destructive tendencies in our global-village-world. Ironically the age of communication is causing us to be uncommunicative.

The author of the above cited article notes that the church is, and must remain, a community of people which seeks to share in the life and way of Christ. The church is a community which seeks to enhance interpersonal relationship for the glory of God and the greater good of the human race. The gifts of faith are by their very nature communal. It is not accidental, for instance, that our celebration of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is called Holy Communion. The sacrament of Baptism is also an act of parents and a church community making commitments to be present for a child’s spiritual development and well-being.

I am convinced that one of the primary roles of the emerging church will be to fill the gap left by a technical society which subtly leads us into a stultifying, perhaps lethal, isolationism. We were meant to be beings in community. Individualism is a positive trait so long as it is a shared individualism.

Join me, your brothers and sisters, in keeping our church community vital, active and redemptive. We are a community of faith. We serve a triune God, a God defined by interrelationship. We as people are largely defined by the company we keep.

Love,

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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 30: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching.

Oct 1: On October 1, 2007 Rev. Marks will speak on the 1606 Scrooby Covenant at the Craigville Conference Center to a group of retired UCC ministers.

Oct 2: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. The Mission Committee will meet in the JRC Conference Room at 7:00pm.

Oct 3: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office at 9:30am. Evening Prayer at 7pm in the sanctuary. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Oct 4: Rev. Moody will be at home working on her sermon. The Christian Education Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Oct 5: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office at 9:30am. Wedding rehearsals in the sanctuary, 4:30 and 5:30pm.

Oct 6: Wedding in the sanctuary, 4:30pm.

Coming Events:

Oct 7: Neighbors in Need Sunday. Wedding in the sanctuary, 3:00pm.

Oct 10: Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm.

Oct 11: Membership & Evangelism Committee Meeting, 7pm, JRC Conference Room.

Oct 12: Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary, 6:30pm

Oct 13: Wedding in the sanctuary, 4:00pm.

Oct 14: The first of three New Member Classes in the JRC Conference Room, 11:30am-12:30pm.

CHURCH RECORD

Baptisms on September 23, 2007: Haley Meredith McCormack, daughter of Diana & Shawn McCormack. Ella Layne Dunlap, daughter of Layne & Scott Dunlap. William Francis Novak and Jacob Allan Novak, twin sons of Elizabeth & Christopher Novak.

Weddings: On September 22, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a wedding ceremony for George H. Wood and Bonnie Law Sola in the church sanctuary.

In Memoriam: On September 27, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a memorial service for Goodwill Stewart in the sanctuary. A Committal Service preceded the church service in Brockton.

We extend our sympathies to Mike Scagliarini and his family who's brother, Bruce, died last week. Rev. marks attended a service for him on September 18, 2007.

Our sympathies are also extended to the Armstrong family. Chi Armstrong's son-in-law, Walter Lind, passed this life last week. Our prayers are with his wife Kathy.

Births: James Philip Brian Morrissy was born on September 19, 2007 at 10:26am. Congratulations to the proud parents, Deb & Dan Morrissy.

FLOWERS: The flowers are given my Shellie & Rick Souza in celebration of their marriage.

NOTES---**GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT**

Twenty-nine golfers enjoyed a beautiful summery morning at Southers Marsh Golf Club last Saturday, as the team of Peter and Kelly Balboni and Bob and Carol Taylor brought in the winning score. Nineteen people joined us at noon for a delicious meal. The helicopter pilot put on an exciting show, finally swooping down to drop the 500 golf balls where the closest to the tee could be determined. The winning ball belonged to Bob Hanophy of New York City, who took home \$385. Midge Cronin did a great job managing the 50-50 contest in her hard hat. Sue Healy came early and stayed late to check people in and sell more golf balls. Our hole sponsors are listed on a separate sheet in the Herald. Please make a point to thank them personally. After a day filled with fun and fellowship, it's nice to report that the event added \$3,765.50 to the operating account of the Church. Thank you to everyone who participated. Your Golf Committee: Mike Harrington, Judy and John Mitchell. *See you next year!*

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will be meeting on Friday, October 12th at 1:00. The program which will follow the business meeting is entitled "Syrian Dig" and will be presented by Rudy Dornemann, Archeologist. Also, Guild members are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Plymouth Food Warehouse.

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. Now available in the office or on a table in Allerton Hall, 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. We'll meet after church at 11:45am to travel to Cartland together. We'll return to the church by 2:15pm.

On Saturday, October 13th we'll travel to Heifer Project's Overlook Farm in central Massachusetts for a mini-mission trip. We'll leave the church promptly at 7:00am to go to Hanover UCC parking lot where we'll board a bus at 7:30am. We'll return to Hanover around 5:00pm and to our church around 5:30pm. The cost of the trip is \$10 and is being sponsored in part by our congregation's Missions and Outreach Committee.

***You MUST register for this trip by September 30th by calling the church office, 508-746-3026. *** **Sunday, November 25th** will find us doing some kind of adventure activity (like laser tag or indoor rock climbing). Meet after church at 11:45am. 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

Our next Confirmation meeting will be Sunday, October 7th from 11:45am-1:15pm. We'll be going to the Miles Standish state forest, so bring warm, comfortable clothes and wear tie shoes (like sneakers or hiking boots).

Confirmands, if you haven't paid your retreat fee of \$80, we need it ASAP! Make checks payable to: The Church of the Pilgrimage, with "Confirmation Retreat" on the memo line. Scholarships are available---please contact Rev. Heather.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, October 7th, we will resume our first Sunday of the month worship service for children and youth ages 3 through 8th 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 10am service begins in the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

This year, instead of collecting money, we are inviting our children to bring a non-perishable food item each week for their offering. This offering will go to the Plymouth Food Warehouse which in turn supports numerous food banks throughout Plymouth as well as neighboring communities. Items we are collecting include: Canned tuna, chicken, and ham; Macaroni & cheese; pasta and sauce; canned fruit; canned vegetables; baby food & formula (with current dates); condiments like ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise; peanut butter & jelly; soup; crackers; cereal; coffee, tea, and juice.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS

The **Monday Meals of Hospitality** have resumed. 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.*

COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to help with coffee hour on Sunday. There is a sign up sheet in Allerton Hall and if you have any questions you may speak to Hildegard Schimpf. Thank you!

The church office will be closed on Monday, October 1st and Thursday, October 4th. We will be staffed by volunteers with modified hours for the remainder of that week. Our church secretary, Shellie McCormack will be getting married in our sanctuary on Saturday, September 29th and is taking some time off after the wedding. Also, we will not be producing a Pilgrimage Herald that week.

CROPWALK

We walk because they walk. Please help stop hunger by agreeing to sponsor a walker or by walking yourself. Sunday, October 28, 2007 at 12:30pm, Zion Lutheran church, 384 Court Street, Plymouth, MA. For further information please see a member of our Missions and Outreach Committee.

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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will gather at its usual time, the first Monday of the month, October 1st at 7:00pm. However, it will be at member's homes and for this first meeting at the home of Diana Budge, 15 Oak Street. Parking is available across the street in the Oak Street School parking lot. Call or see Jenny Healy or Kathy Marks, if you need directions or a ride.

Please join us as women "striving to know the will of God" through Fellowship and Biblical studies (Oct. 1, 7pm-Home of Diana Budge).

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Please note that Sunday, October 7th is designated as Neighbors in Need Sunday at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Further information will be provided.



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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Publication
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