
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

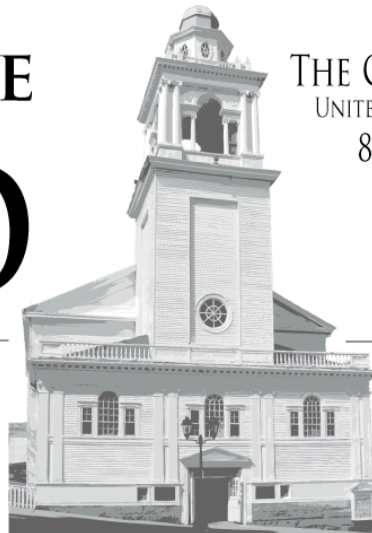
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

September 9, 2007

Dear Friends,

“If we don’t change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.” I can’t remember where I encountered that quotation. Maybe it was a message in a fortune cookie from a Chinese restaurant, but it sounds a bit too profound for that to have been its source. (Have you, as I have, noticed that fortune cookies no longer have anything to do with fortune telling)? In any case, I’ve thought upon what the quotations means during the summer.

Ending up where we are headed is not always a bad thing. Some people are able to set goals for their lives which enable them to reach honorable and fulfilling life destinations. More often than that, however, most of us get into ruts, rigid ways of thinking and acting which are not at all goal oriented. We just go along with the drift of things, sometimes, with little or no consideration given to a change in our life’s direction. If we don’t change our direction, we end up not even knowing what possibilities changes in course could make in our lives.

In spiritual matters the biblical faith of the church has always taught that the way we should be headed ultimately is toward the kingdom of God. But, as history unfolds, as times changes, as the church adjusts its message to honor its covenant with God who still has more truth and light to break forth from the holy Word, a change in direction can be a good thing. Indeed, to remain entrenched in ways of the past can blind us to the truth of God, truth yet to be made known unto us. In order to strain toward God’s future ultimately we need to change directions sometimes to reach less than ultimate destinations. Sometimes we need to change destinations in order to discern the long way home.

It seems that every church everywhere reacts to change with the same sentence: “But, we’ve always done it that way.” I know I’ve heard that reaction to change hundreds of times over these years. Yet, The Church of the Pilgrimage has changed in measured ways through the years. Most of them have been for the good and some have helped us change direction while keeping our vision fixed upon the destination of God’s realm foreshadowed in the person of Jesus the Christ.

Surely change is a good thing when old ways of doing things have lost their relevance or, worse than that, when long established patterns cause us to be resistant to further truth and light still breaking out of God’s Holy Word.

Now we have a Visioning Committee whose goal it is to discern ways by which we may need to make changes which keep us goal oriented in both the short and long term. That is a good thing.

May God bless us as we labor on. We must ever be vigilant in discerning the will of God as we make progress toward where we should be headed.

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 9: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks, preaching. A service of Holy Communion will be a part of our worship service today. Church School Registration before and after worship. Confirmation orientation is today. A petition will be available for those wishing to support the U.C.C. Collegium of Officers Pastoral Letter regarding the war in Iraq. Copies of the letters are available on the table in the upper vestibule of the church building. Our national minister and president, the Rev. John Thomas, plans to deliver the petitions with, it is hoped, 100,000 signatures to Washington, D.C. in October.

Sept 11: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the office from 9-10am.

Sept 12: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be at home working on her sermon. Choir Practice will be at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Sept 13: Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. Christian Education Committee Meeting at 7pm in the JRC.

Sept 14: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Guild will meet in Allerton Hall at noon. Wedding in the sanctuary at 4pm. Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary at 5:30pm.

Sept 15: Women's Fellowship Retreat at Iris Haven. Wedding in the sanctuary, 2:30pm. Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary, 6:30pm

Coming Events:

Sept 16: Habitat Sunday. Church School begins. Wedding in the sanctuary, 3:00pm.

Sept 19: The Wednesday Evening Prayer sessions will resume after a summer recess. The prayer sessions are from 7:00-7:30pm. (see "Notes").

Sept 21: Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary.

Sept 22: Annual Pilgrimage Golf Tournament at Souther's Marsh Golf Club (see "Notes"). Wedding in the sanctuary, 5:00pm.

CHURCH RECORD

Recuperating after a stay at Mass General Hospital, Judy Mitchell. It was great to see Judy in worship on September 2nd!

FLOWERS: In loving memory of Mr & Mrs Harry W. Burns, Harry Jr. and Warren. Given by Jane Burns.

NOTES

Monday Meals of Hospitality will resume on Monday September 17th. If you would like to prepare a meal, help serve or assist in any way, please sign-up in Allerton Hall after church. Thank you!

It was a delight to welcome the **Rev. Peter J. Gomes** to our pulpit on Sunday, September 2, 2007. We thank Peter for his annual visit.

Gary plans to resume **The Phoenix Affirmations** study group and finish it up in the near future.

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.

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.

Judy Mitchell send the following: Thank you to all who have expressed your care and concern to me over the past month or so. The prayers, cards, calls and even meals have helped me more than you can know. I feel truly blessed to be part of this loving congregation. Love, Judy Mitchell

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION WILL BE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Parents are invited to register their children for Sunday School classes on this date. Registration is a simple, yet essential task that ensures we have adequate supplies for our classes and helps us to maintain accurate records regarding each child's emergency contact and allergy information. Sunday School Teachers, please plan on attending registration so that you can welcome the children you will be teaching this year. We will also be having a teachers' meeting during the Craft & Story Hour that day. **Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, September 16th.**

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY: A NEW APPROACH

This fall, 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. A flyer outlining the three themes we'll be exploring—creative expression; rhythm and percussion; and faith, film and popular culture—is included with this issue of the *Herald*. 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 hoping to meet primarily on Sundays

after worship. We invite all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to join us! In September, we're hoping to do an outdoor activity (we're looking into go-carting, since we know you really want to drive). 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! November will find us doing some kind of adventure activity (possibly 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.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

We will be having an informational meeting for 9th graders who want to participate in Confirmation and their parents on **Sunday, September 9th** following worship (NOT September 16th as was stated in an earlier Herald). Mentors who have been chosen by that time are also invited to attend. At that meeting we will have a detailed schedule available as well as an explanation of expectations and activities we'll be doing. Parents, please call the church office as soon as possible to let us know your child's name and contact information so we can order materials. All Confirmands need to choose an adult member of the congregation whom s/he trusts to be her/his Confirmation Mentor. If your son or daughter is having trouble thinking of a Mentor, please contact Rev. Heather.

A NEW START TO WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our first meeting in September will be a retreat at Iris Haven in South Plymouth. The retreat's purpose is to provide a time for women of the church to get away, reflect and plan a new and revitalized format for our meetings. Please join us if you would like to be a part of this group that wants to plan how Women's Fellowship can meet the ever-changing needs of our members and our church. Reservations may be made during July by calling the church office before noon. The retreat will be Saturday, September 15th for the minimal cost of \$25.

VISIONING COMMITTEE

The Visioning Committee will have a brief informal meeting after church on **September 9, 2007 at 11:30 in the conference room of the John Robinson Center**. The meeting will be brief, but feel free to bring your lunch, coffee, etc. Items for discussion include setting a regularly scheduled monthly meeting that works for the committee, an outline of our goals and objective for the committee, and engaging in some prayer and discussion to guide our work. All members of the Visioning Committee are requested to attend, and anyone interested in the work of the committee or in joining the committee is welcome. Please RSVP to Christina Borel at Christina.borel@gmail.com so that we have an appropriate number of copies, and so that the agenda can be posted prior to the meeting.

ATTENTION PIE MAKERS!

Available this week, next to the pie tins, will be large plastic bags, red twist ties and yellow paper tags (with the baking

instructions on one side). Please put each pie that you make into one of these bags, twist it shut with the given tie and attach the yellow tag through the twist tie. Also, please write the kind of pie that you've made on the back of the tag. This pie making endeavor was a great success last year and I look forward to it being an even greater success last year (and I think there are many out there looking forward to it as well). Thanks, Jenny

FINAL REMINDER! KEYS AND FOB'S

Please be reminded that if you are still in possession of a key or FOB to any church building or door and need to report that to the church office.



PLYMOUTH'S 1ST ANNUAL DIVERSITY DAY

The first Annual Town of Plymouth Diversity Day will occur from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday, September 15th at the Plymouth Rock State Park. Diversity Day will be a free, family oriented event filled with cultural learning, live entertainment, projects, and give-a-ways. The town of Plymouth No Place For Hate Committee invites all to join us in this *Celebration of Each Other*.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for a way to include God in your marriage? Find out how on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones-and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next two UCC Marriage Encounter weekends will be held on October 26-28, 2007 and November 9-1, 2007 at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden, CT. For more information or to register, contact Lynne & Bruce Hildreth at 978-663-4727 or Hildreth4@comcast.net.

PILGRIM ASSOCIATION

At the request of The Old South Union Congregational Church, the Pilgrim Association will gather for an Ecclesiastical Council on Tuesday, September 11th at 7pm at Old South Union Congregational Church, 25 Columbian Street, South Weymouth, MA to meet, review the credentials of and hear the ordination paper of Theresa Stirling and to examine her as to her fitness to be ordained to Christian Ministry in the United Church of Christ. Following the Council there will be a reception for Ms. Stirling in the Parish Hall of the church. For directions to the Old South Union Congregational Church, please visit their website at <http://www.oldsouthunion.org/>.

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.

HARVEST FAIR

The Harvest Fair will be held on Saturday, October 27th. Please see Laura Curtin for further information on the Harvest Fair and how you can help. Thank you.

WOMEN'S GUILD

On September 14th at noon there will be a Guild Luncheon hosted by the Executive Board. Eileen Ganem will be our guest speaker.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

Saturday, September 15, 2007 from 8:30am-3:00pm at Iris Haven, South Plymouth. Please join us. Reservations are necessary and can be made Sunday, September 2nd or 9th or call the church office at 508-746-3026. Cost will be \$25. Retreat leader: Rosemary MacKay. Hostess: Janet Synnott. Opening "brunch" and full lunch will be provided. This will be our only meeting in September. Our next meeting for the year is Monday, October 1st at the home of Diana Budge.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM
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