



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

The Church of the Pilgrimage,
8 Town Square, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360
www.8townsquare.org

Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820

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Volume LXXIX

January 7, 2007

No. 1

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! This is, of course, my first letter in 2007. It will be February, at least, before I stop dating things 2006! At the end of one year and the start of a new one I do a lot of reminiscing. I'm sure you do, too. I think of 2006 in terms of the opening line of A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times and the worst of times." I won't have enough space here (nor would you want to hear) to write about all the many bitter/sweet recollections of 2006. It surely was an event-filled year for my family and for the church.

We now enter the season of Epiphany and celebrate the light of God revealed in the birth of Christ. I have come to appreciate the focus we place upon the church's seasons and, though very bustling, I really enjoyed our Advent/Christmas seasons at The Church of the Pilgrimage. It gives a kind of structure to the church's life and allows us to center on the great themes of our faith when we have seasonal emphases in our worship lives together.

Last Sunday the Scriptural themes were those used for Epiphany itself which is January 6th. For the Invocation I read a prayer from one of the resources produced by the contemporary Iona Community. Several people spoke to me about the prayer, so I'm going to include it in this Epiphany/New Year letter. Most of you know that Kathy and I spent a couple of days on the sacred island of Iona last July. It is a marvelous place which "feels" holy. St. Columba came to Iona in the mid-500's and it has been a place of pilgrimage since that time. Surely, our visit to Iona was a highlight of our own pilgrimage.

The prayer is included in The Iona Community's readings for Advent and is appropriate for Epiphany, as well.

"Christ of the cosmos, living Word,
Come to heal and save.
Come from the depths of eternity,
unfolding the purposes of God.
Come from the dawn of time,
shaping the universe:
divine expression,
mystery made known.

In your quiet hidden way,
come to heal and save.
Incognito, in our streets,
beneath the concrete, between the cracks,
behind the curtains, within the dreams,
in aging memories, in childhood wonder,
in secret ponds, in broken hearts,
in Bethlehem's stable, still small voice,
Word of God, amongst us."

May the joys and comforts of faith accompany us during 2007.

Love,

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Membership Classes

Rev. Marks will offer three membership class on January 14, 21, 28 in the Robinson Center. The classes will last for one hour, 11:30am-12:30pm. If needed, childcare will be provided.

The classes are an opportunity for new members to share their faith journeys while learning about the church universal and the places of The United Church of Christ and The Church of the Pilgrimage within it. If you have been contemplating making The Church

of the Pilgrimage your spiritual home, please feel free to attend these classes. Please call the church office and we will be happy to add your name to the list 508-746-3026 or speak to Rev. Marks.

Flowers: Given in loving memory of Kathy Manson, beloved wife, mother and friend.

Greeters: Shirley Axon and Katherine Lafayette

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Jonathan Porter; Collector – Debra Richters;
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, Jan. 7: Morning Worship 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks, preaching; Confirmation Meeting, 11:45-1:15pm, JRC; Memorial Service, 2pm, Sanctuary; Junior High Fellowship, 4-5:30pm, JRC

Mon, Jan. 8:

Tue, Jan. 9: Rev. Marks will conduct a worship service at the Newfield House at 10am. He'll be in the church office following that service. Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm.

Wed, Jan. 10: Rev. Marks will be in the office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Evening Prayer Service, 7pm in the sanctuary.

Thurs, Jan. 11: -----

Fri, Jan 12: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-12pm; Guild Meeting at 1pm in Allerton Hall with an Auction to follow.

Plymouth South High School: Monday, January 15th from 7:30-9:30a.m.

Junior High Young People Wanted!

Junior High Fellowship meets the first and third Sundays of the month from 4-5:30pm. Our next meeting will be this **Sunday, January 7th**. We welcome all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to come and enjoy creative activities, lively discussion, and a tasty snack. Share the good news about Junior High Fellowship and bring a friend!

Senior High Fellowship News

Our next meeting will be January 28th at 4:00pm. This event will include creative shopping and a culinary adventure. Intrigued? We hope you'll join us in January, and bring a friend!

Theological Discussion Group

Interest has been shown in a theological discussion group. The group would address questions and issues appropriate to the spiritual life and ministry in progressive churches. The group would meet at least on a monthly basis. Gary is willing to organize The group and share in its leadership. Please call the church office or speak to Gary to indicate your interest.

Notes—

We thank all who provided the beautiful Memorial Poinsettias for our Christmas services. There were 104 of them and they made a splendid display in honor of the Word made flesh. Thank you!

The Christmas Eve/Christmas services at The Church of the Pilgrimage were wondrous! The poinsettias, the music of our choirs and organist, the joy of our young people, the grandeur of our awe-inspiring decorated sanctuary combined to express the merriment associated with the holy birth of Christ.

In the three services on Christmas there were between 900-1,000 people at worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage. The 7:00pm Family Service with Living Nativity was the largest of the three services. The sanctuary was filled to the point of overflowing! The 11:30pm service was well attended and those who were there were joyously moved by its solemn, yet happy, welcome of the birth of Christ.

There was a sense in which The Church of the Pilgrimage was a resetting of Bethlehem on those glorious Christmas Eve/ Christmas Day celebrations.

We thank everyone who volunteered to move the sanctuary furnishings around for our three Christmas Eve/Christmas services. It was greatly appreciated.

We thank Megan Verdugo who donated the welcome pamphlets placed in the pews. M&E Committee

The Women's Guild

The Guild will hold their monthly meeting on Friday, January 12, 2007 at 1pm. Join in the fun with Amy Simpson as the auctioneer. Please bring your item to be auctioned as well as an item to help stock the food warehouse. Thank you.

Attention FOB Holders

The FOB system is now in place for both church buildings. If you are the last to leave either building, be sure to set the alarm. If you are not sure how to do this, please check with Shellie in the church office for a refresher course. The FOB entrance for the church is the Allerton Hall ramp door.

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; AA, 7-8pm, Great Room.

Friday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall.

Coming Events:

Jan. 14-New Member Class in The Rev. John Robinson Center, 11:30AM-12:30PM (see first page)

Jan. 15-Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at Plymouth South High School. The church office will be closed for the ML King Holiday.

Jan. 20-The MAUCC will be using the Robinson Center for "Listening Sessions" from 9am-6pm.

CHURCH RECORD

Baptism

- On December 24, 2006 Rev. Marks baptized Colin Michael Medeiros, son of Michael and Angela Medeiros, grandson of Nancy Medeiros, great-grandson of Betsey Randall.

Hospitalized

- Recently hospitalized and now recuperating at home, Cheryl Pratt and Robert Mullaney.

Please contact the Church Office if you know of someone hospitalized or in need of pastoral care.

Children's Worship Service

This Sunday, January 4th, 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 (formerly known as the Church House) and will include a Service of Communion. Parents, please bring your children to their classrooms *before* the 10a.m. service begins in the sanctuary.

Confirmation News:

Confirmands and Mentors—our next Confirmation meeting will be Sunday, January 7th from 11:45-1:15pm. We will be discussing an alternative date for the CityReach service retreat: March 2nd-3rd. Also, reserve the date for the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at

Ball Caps-Sweatshirts-Tote Bags etc.

Verna and Al Hoyt have had the church logo made into an embroidered emblem and a silk screen. This means you can now order t-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, jackets, wind shirts and tote bags with The Church of the Pilgrimage on them. Verna and Al will be wearing samples in the near future, and will take orders. A portion of the price each goes directly to the church's general fund.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: The Plymouth Area Food Warehouse, now in a new location at 14 Apollo 11 Drive (the 2nd left after Plymouth Fitness in the Industrial Park) relies on food drives and other donations to keep its shelves stocked. We continue to collect non-perishables each week. 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. With each gift we are helping "Our Neighbors in Need."

UCC Equal Exchange Coffee

You are probably aware that fair trade Equal Exchange organic coffee has been served at coffee hour following the service since October. Now you can purchase organic coffee and hot cocoa for home use and gift giving following the service today. Prices are exceptional. This is a project of the Missions Committee and the United Church of Christ. Enjoy!

The Missions and Outreach Committee

Cordially invites everyone to come for dinner and a celebration of Epiphany on Saturday, January 6, 2007 5:30-7:30pm in Allerton Hall

Each family should bring one bag of non-perishables for the Plymouth Area Food Warehouse

PROGRAM

- 5:30 pm Craft for Children
- 5:45pm Puppets with Sheldon Peavey
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 6:45 Children's March
- 7-7:30pm Carol Sing led by Rev. Heather

Please sign up for this event in Allerton Hall during the coffee hour.

Pilgrim Association News

Ecclesiastical Council: Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 2pm at The First Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC, 381 Country Way, Scituate, MA 02066-2595 to meet, review the credentials of and hear the faith journey of The Reverend Mr. Michael Dunfee. The Association will then proceed with the church, at 3pm to install The Reverend Dunfee as Pastor. A reception will follow the installation in the Fellowship hall.

Winter Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at First Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC, 381 Country Way, Scituate, MA 02066. Speaker: The Rev. Jill Wiley. "Faith, Politics and Christian Citizenship". Gathering: 9:30am, Meeting: 10am-1pm, Luncheon: \$5.00. For reservations call: Joy Hazell at FTCC: 781-545-5300. Reservations must be made by Friday, January 19, 2007. Canned and non-perishable foods will be collected for the Scituate Food Pantry

MLK, Jr. Breakfast

The 13th annual Greater Plymouth Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 15, 2007 at the Plymouth South High School, Long Pond Road in Plymouth, MA.

The guest speaker will be George Spivey of Falmouth; he is currently the Equity/Affirmative Action Officer for the Town of Falmouth and Falmouth Public Schools.

Mr. Spivey was employed by Falmouth Public Schools from 1983 to 2000 and held positions of teacher, careers department chairman, coordinator of alternative education, and principal. In that position, he has brought the "No Place for Hate" campaign to Falmouth. The No Place for hate initiative, created by the Anti-defamation League and the Massachusetts Municipal Association, empowers communities to respect diversity and prevent and respond to hate crimes in their towns.

This event is organized by the Greater Plymouth Interfaith Clergy Association. A major sponsor is the Plymouth No Place for Hate Committee.

A continental breakfast will be prepared by the students of the Plymouth South High School Culinary Arts Program, under the direction of Barry Levy.

Tickets can be purchased from churches affiliated with the Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Association, and from the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra's office. Tickets cost \$6.00 for students and seniors, \$10 for adults, and a family ticket (for 4 can be purchased for \$25. Contact the Reverend Bob Stott at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran church of Plymouth, 508-746-3041.

2006 Cropwalk News

In a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Plymouth Interfaith Crop Walk 2006, Meg Bross and David Tassinari:

Dear Friends,

The good news about the Plymouth Interfaith Crop Walk 2006 is that together, our groups raised \$8,884.36 for disaster relief around the world. Twenty-five percent of this will be divided between two local organizations, The Plymouth Area Food Warehouse and the Taskforce for the Homeless.

Thank you all for urging so many people to participate in the walk. Others collected over \$1000 on-line this year. Bravo! Enclosed you will find the amounts that came in the day of the walk or shortly thereafter.

Congratulations to all for keeping the Crop Walk a growing presence in our community.

Sincerely, Meg Bross and David Tassinari

1. Christ Church Episcopal	\$1943.00
2. Zion Lutheran church	1826.31
3. The Church of the Pilgrimage	1465.00
4. First Parish Unitarian	806.00
5. Second Church Manomet	783.00
6. Glynn Electric (sponsor)	500.00
7. Interact at Plymouth South High School	459.00
8. The Christian Science Church	310.00
9. The First Baptist Church	125.00
10. Careworks Vineyard Christian Fellow	110.00
11. Rising Tide Charter School	90.00
12. St. Mary Parish	50.00
13. United Methodist Church	42.00
Total to date November 15 2006	\$8,509.36

Congratulations and thank you to all who participated by walking or sponsoring a walker!