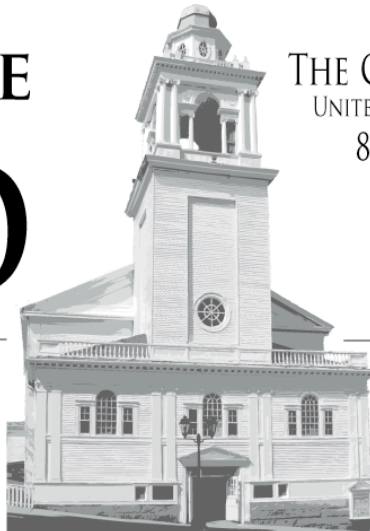

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

April 6, 2008

Dear Friends,

It seems like a long time since I've written a Pastor's Letter, though it has only been two weeks. This is my first letter since Holy Week and Easter which means that much has happened.

We had, I think, fabulous services beginning with Palm Sunday and through Easter Sunday. Our Maundy Thursday Service is one of the most moving services of the year and one of my favorite ones. It is a solemn service, but rich in meaning. It sets the scene for Easter by focusing upon the loneliness of Jesus after sharing in the Last Supper with his perplexed, confused and ultimately disloyal disciples. Our deacons/deaconesses reading from the scriptural accounts of that evening did a splendid work. I do wish we could be successful in encouraging more to attend that service. No one leaves untouched and all are better prepared for Easter than otherwise they would be for having attended.

About five years ago I decided that our church should have a Good Friday Service. I searched for a service which could focus our attention on the events of that dark day in a dramatic and realistic way. I settled upon a participatory worship experience which I found in the service book produced by the neo-Celtic Christian Community near Lindisfarne (Holy Island) in Northumbria, England. The book is entitled Celtic Daily Prayer which is also the primary source for our Wednesday Evening Prayer meetings. I've been to Holy Island twice, once as a part of a seminar at Durham University, England, and Kathy and I visited again during a study time a couple of years ago. It is a holy place. The service on Good Friday centers on the horrid events endured by Jesus on the day of the Crucifixion. Worshipers are invited to walk to various places around the sanctuary where symbols of Jesus' trek are placed in an effort to make real and tangible the Way of the Cross. About 40 attended and reports are that they were moved and touched by the drama of the crucial series of events which are at the center of our faith. They are all a part of the biblical story which make Easter the wonderful celebration it is.

On Easter Day I began by preaching at the sunrise service on Cole's Hill at 6:00am. We had not calculated the early arrival of Daylight Savings Time when a few of us planned the service. It was, therefore, pitch dark when we began! As it turned out the morning brightened as we read, sang and prayed. It was marvelous! About 150 were there. We lingered for a while and the orange sun emerged from the sea just after we sang "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." It was almost mystical, definitely holy, and amazingly communal.

The two services at The Church of the Pilgrimage were sublime. The flowers, the music of our magnificent choir, the joy of our songs made it a joyously triumphant experience. I am still basking in the afterglow of Easter. May it be that our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection will allow us to live out its life-giving power in our lives and the world.

Love,

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Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Elizabeth Hughes; Collector – Debra Richters and Nate Davis;
Office Administrator-Shellie Souza; Sexton-Tony Nightingale;
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone-508-747-1341

ON OUR CALENDAR

Apr 6: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. The service includes Holy Communion. The New Member Class will meet in the John Robinson Center Conference Room from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Apr 7: Monday Meals of Hospitality, Allerton Hall, 11am. The Women's Fellowship will meet in Allerton Hall at 7:00pm.

Apr 8: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am.

Apr 9: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Choir Practice at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Apr 10: The Membership and Evangelism Committee will meet in the John Robinson Center at 7:00pm.

Apr 11: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Guild will meet in Allerton Hall at 1:00pm.

Apr 12: Pilgrim Festival Chorus will perform *Dona Nobis Pacem and five Mystical Songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams* in the sanctuary at 7:30pm. There will be a second performance on Sunday, April 13th at 3pm.

Coming Events-

Apr 15: The Board of Trustees will meet at 7:00pm in the Conference Room in the John Robinson Center.

Apr 19: Church Family Fun Night

Apr 22: The Advisory Board will meet at 7:00pm in the Conference Room in The Robinson Center.

Rev. Moody will be away on retreat from April 8th through April 15th.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized: Cliff and Laura Sampson are now both at The Golden Living Center. Laura was a recent patient at The Jordan Hospital.

Baptisms: On March 30, 2008 Victoria Marie Roderick, daughter of Robert Vincent Roderick, III and Ashley Michelle Hyman, and Mason Christopher Peterson, son of Norris Wayne and Kristen Ingrid Peterson were baptized during the morning worship service.

In Memoriam: On March 29, 2008 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Jesse Miskelly in the

sanctuary. Jesse was a long time member of The Church of the Pilgrimage and she had a great love for it and its ministry. She lived in Pennsylvania for the last eighteen years. Jesse was 101 years old.

FLOWERS: In loving memory of Jeanette Holmes and Curtis and Aurissa Holmes. Given by the family.

We are in need of flowers for our April 13 and April 27 worship services. If you would like to remember or honor loved ones with flowers for the sanctuary please call the church office at 508-746-3026.

The deadline to submit Annual Reports to the church office is Sunday, April 13th. Thank you in advance!

NOTES-

Regular **Wednesday Evening Prayer Services** have resumed. These services are held in the sanctuary at 7:00pm each Wednesday unless otherwise announced. The services are Celtic inspired and consist of meditation upon verses of Scripture, silent prayer and a reading relating to the theme of each service. Those who attend these services on a regular basis find them to be important spiritually centering experiences. Feel free to join us at any time.

The **Membership and Evangelism Committee** would like to ask and encourage everyone to wear their **nametags** to coffee hour. There will be baskets to drop the nametags in if you are unable to return them to the board. Thank you for your cooperation.

We once again thank everyone who loaned or gave an Easter Lily plant for our Easter services. It is a beautiful way to remember or honor loved ones and the plants surely do add singular beauty to our sanctuary.

Thank you notes for Easter Lilies were received from Sandi Pierce, Ginny and Dick Bramhall, Marjorie and Ruth Belcher and Sidney Rowland.

We thank members of The Advisory Board for providing, with the ministers, such a movingly beautiful service on Maundy Thursday.

We apologize for not being able to mail the March 23rd issue of The Pilgrimage Herald. The office computer was out of service and the mailing labels were, therefore, not available. The computer is up and running now (thank you, Sherm!) and we hope there will be no further interruptions. There was no March 30th issue of The Herald.

We thank our office administrator, Shellie Souza, for all the extra duty she gave to the church during Holy Week even though her office computer was out of service. She was able to produce four bulletins during that week using the computer in Rev. Heather's office. Thank you!

CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT ~ APRIL 19TH

The last one was so much fun that we had to plan another. Join members of our church family for an intergenerational evening of food, fellowship, and fun and games ranging from backgammon to boggle and jenga to jump rope. All are welcome. Save the date. Detail to follow

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Pledges are coming in extremely well. If you have not yet made your pledge for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, would you take a moment to fill out your pledge card and mail it to the Church office. Your pledge will help us exceed our goal of \$195,000. We are counting on you.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Guild will meet on Friday, April 11th at 1:00 pm for a program presented by Bruce and Gerry Allen entitled "Allen's 2007 African Adventure." Members are reminded to bring non-perishable food items for the Plymouth Area Food Warehouse.

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS

Save the date! Our next Junior High Youth Group meeting will be Sunday, April 27th. We'll meet after church for a fantastic activity. More information to come...

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS

Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 13th from 10:15-11:15am. Come to the beginning of the worship service in the sanctuary before going to the JRC's Youth Room for the day's youth ministry experience.

Senior High Mission Trip to North Carolina: For those of you going on the trip, remember to work on selling shares of stock in the trip to friends, family and neighbors. Your goal is to sell at least 10 shares by April 20th to people who are not a part of our congregation. Don't forget you are also responsible

for taking care of selling shares to the congregation on at least one Sunday during April.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Our next Confirmation meeting will be this **Sunday, April 6th** from 11:45 to 1:15pm. In the JRC's Youth Room.

RECOGNITION BRUNCH FOR TEACHERS AND YOUTH LEADERS

We warmly invite all our Sunday School Teachers and our Junior & Senior High Youth Leaders to a tasty brunch held in your honor this Saturday, April 5th. The Recognition Brunch will be held at T-Bones Steakhouse (right around the corner from our church) and begins at 10:30am. We know you work very hard on behalf of our congregation's children and youth, and the Christian Education Committee would like to honor your efforts. So please join us for delicious food, good conversation and the joy of fellowship.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SERVICE

This **Sunday, April 6th** we will have our regular 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.

2ND GRADE BIBLES

We're working on gathering a comprehensive list of this year's 2nd graders who will be receiving a Bible on Children's Sunday (June 8th). 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.

NEXT YEAR'S CONFIRMATION CLASS

Calling all 8th graders and their parents—are you interested in being a part of Confirmation next year (2008-2009 school year)? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please call the church office (508-746-3026) with your name and contact information.

SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

As many of you have heard, the Senior High Youth Group is going on a Mission Trip to Tarboro, North Carolina this June. For this trip, we'll be joined by senior highs from other UCC churches in Massachusetts as we travel to an area of the country that remains devastated by damage from past hurricanes. We'll partner with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a family in need. Mission trips like this one are a powerful way for our young people to put their faith into action through service. It will be a transformative experience for our youth, but we need your help to make it happen.

Therefore we are asking everyone who is part of our congregation to become personally invested in this trip. This month, our youth will be selling shares of stock in the Mission Trip for **\$10** a share. We hope you will show your support by becoming a shareholder in our Mission Trip. We will have a shareholder's meeting when we return from the trip to share our experiences through pictures, video and stories. That way you will be able to ascertain the return on your investment!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Come one, come all, all who hear this Heralding cry. A guest from the 18th century will be the program for Women's Fellowship, Monday, April 7th at 7pm in Allerton Hall. We would like those interested to join us for Gordon Campbell's presentation of "Manners and Civility in the days of George Washington." Gordon will be in full 18th century dress as he instructs us in matters of civility for that day and time. Come and enjoy his presentation. See how far we have strayed from the days of our founding fathers in matters of matters and civility. Bring a friend. Come join us for program, refreshment and fellowship.

Yours truly, Women of The Church of the Pilgrimage



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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
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