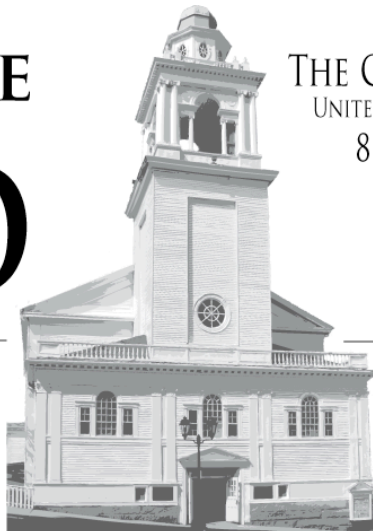

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

February 24, 2008

Dear Friends,

Lent is traditionally a time in which we focus upon devotional and spiritual practices. In recent years many Christians have found a deepening, or reconnecting, with their faith through ancient spiritual and prayer methods often associated with monasteries. Indeed, there are a great number of neo-monastic communities emerging among Christians around the world. Since I now “do” the internet I found many such emergent communities when I typed in “monasticism” or “neo-monasticism.” For the last dozen years I personally have been longing for a personal spiritual life which gives strength and integrity to my own activistic and social sense of the Christian life.

I am not alone in my quest, to be sure. Christians of all kinds, Roman Catholic, Protestant, et. al. are searching for a deepened sense and personal experience of the living and still speaking God. St. Ignatius exercises called Examen are utilized across the divisions which have splintered Christianity for generations. People want to learn again what it means to listen to God rather than just praying for things. Many prayer practices are centered in silence, listening and contemplating in a desire to hear the “still small voice of God.”

I’ve been pursuing the role of silence in spiritual pursuits primarily through the desert fathers and mothers and their influence on Celtic Christianity in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northumbria. It all started for me with a seminar at The Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Switzerland. I have visited tens of monastic sites including Iona and Lindisfarne. Many Christians are finding meaning in the ancient Rule of St. Benedict, including his prayer practice known as Lectio Divina. That is a tool being using in our Wednesday Lenten Prayer sessions. Basically Lectio Divina is a learning to “pray” the scriptures and it includes periods of silence and listening for the Word of God.

As Diana Butler Bass has noted we live increasingly in a world of noise which serves to disconnect us from others. Modern technology drives us ever deeper into isolation. The so-called “information age” has limited our contact with other human beings and with God.

Year ago I tried to read the fourteenth century mystic Meister Eckhart. Recently I read a quotation which reminded me of that reading by citing one of his more memorable thoughts. He said; “Nothing in all creation is so like God as silence.” I am persuaded that all of us on a spiritual quest are trying to rediscover God, or to be open to God, as the foundation of our Christian life in general.

Join us on the spiritual journey during Lent.

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

Feb 24: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Karen McArthur preaching. There will be a budget informational meeting in Allerton Hall during the Coffee Hour. Cherub Choir rehearsal.

Feb 25: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.

Feb 26: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office, 9:30am. The Advisory Board will meet in the Conference Room in The Robinson Center at 7:00pm.

Feb 27: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office, 9:30am. Lenten Soup/Salad and Prayer Service at 6pm; Service 7-7:30pm. Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.

Feb 28: Rev. Heather will be in the office at 9:30am.

Feb 29: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office, 9:30am.

Coming Events-

Mar 2-Communion/One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Mar 3-The Missions Committee will meet in The John Robinson Center at 7:00pm.

Mar 5-Soup/Salad Supper and Lenten Prayer Service: Supper, 6pm in Allerton Hall/Service 7-7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Mar 6-The Christian Education Committee will meet in the JRC, 7pm.

Mar 8-Time and Talent Auction/Dinner in Allerton Hall, 6pm.

Mar 9-The Chest of Joash Service will be a part of morning worship.

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized: Cliff Sampson, Jordan Hospital; Paul Sinn, Boston Medical Center. Recuperating after a brief stay at the Jordan Hospital, Ken Heckman.

FLOWERS - In loving memory of Miriam L. and Henry Barnes. Given by Tom Barnes.

GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY – We thank those who were greeters during the month of February: Jen, Norm, Liam, Katrina, and Gerritt Bingham-Maas; Sarah Barnicle and Peter Causton; Alice and Ken Heckman.

NOTES-

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Karen McArthur to our pulpit on February 24th. Karen is an ordained minister in The United Church of Christ and is a financial consultant to several churches. She has a keen understanding of the relationship between faith and finance. Karen has done a great deal of good for us in structuring our financial ministries. She will also be

present at the budget informational meeting following the morning worship. Plan to be with us to hear and meet a person who has provided great services to The Church of the Pilgrimage.

Due to a request from the Board of Trustees the **Church Council meeting** has been changed from February 24th to March 9th. Marylyn Colburn, Assistant Moderator

During the season of **Lent** on Wednesday evening we will be holding a service of **Soup/Salad Suppers and Prayer Services** in the sanctuary. The suppers will be held in Allerton Hall at 6:00pm. The prayer services will be held in the sanctuary from 7:00-7:30pm. The services may be varied in content, but will include a version of the ancient prayer process, **Lectio Divina** (Spiritual reading of Scripture). We hope that you'll be a part of these events as we all prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

If you are interested in **church membership**, please speak with Rev. Marks or call the church office. When a significant number of people have indicated an interest a series of three classes will be scheduled.

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PARENTS - There will be no Children's Communion Service on Sunday, March 2nd as Rev. Heather will be traveling with the youth group on the NYC trip.

INFORMATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

The Board of Trustees will be having an informational meeting after the worship service Sunday, February 24th on the status of the current budget with discussion regarding next year's budget. We hope you can attend this meeting.

TASTE OF JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Congregation Beth Jacob is offering a 3 night free workshop called "Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?" It is designed for Jews, non-Jews, intermarried couples, and those teaching comparative religion classes. A well-respected Jewish educator will be leading three one-night workshops starting on February 28, 2008. We will be exploring the topics of *Jewish Spirituality*, *Jewish Ethics*, and *Jewish Community*. We invite you and all members of your community who are interested to come and join us. For more information or to register please call 508-283-3618.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH: Updates and Opportunities

Monday Meals of Hospitality are a free hot meal at lunch time 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 our coordinator Diane Flood at 508-209-0266.

The Plymouth Food Warehouse Donations The following items are always needed at the warehouse: canned tuna, chicken, and ham, macaroni & cheese, pasta and sauce, canned vegetables or fruit, beans, baby food & formula (with current dates), condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly; hearty soups and chili, crackers, cereal, juice, coffee & tea. *Thank you for remembering the hungry!*

Homelessness happens during any season, any month, any day of the year. That's why we've joined with Rae Brightman, a local Girl Scout, to collect **school supplies for homeless children** in Plymouth County. Rae distributed backpacks to 70 homeless children in Plymouth County in the Fall. With Rae, we are still collecting new or excellent condition backpacks, as well as binders, notebooks, calculators, pencils, pens, crayons, markers--any school supplies appropriate for students in Kindergarten through High School. Please pick up a list of needed supplies and leave supplies at the green bins in the foyer. For more information, contact Janet Synott or Carol Johnson.

Overnight hosts needed! If you would like to help, our third and final week of this season's Overnights of Hospitality hosted by The Church of the Pilgrimage will take place from **Sunday, March 9th through the morning of Sunday, March 16th**. We have openings for six overnight hosts and we would love to have our schedule set by the end of February! If you can help with this lifesaving service to the homeless men of Plymouth, please contact Sarah Barnicle (508)747-5531, or any members of the Mission Committee.

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS

Our next Junior High Youth activity will be Saturday-Sunday, March 1st-2nd, as we travel to the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine for Nightwatch. For this trip, we will join other Junior High youth from other churches in the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. Parents-Rev. Heather will be in touch with you about transportation to and from Framingham, MA, where we will board the bus to NYC.

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS

This month, join Adult Leader Al Hoyt as we continue to explore our faith through rhythm & percussion. We're meeting this Sunday, February 24th from 10:15-11:15a.m. 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: Don't forget your registration fee of \$50 is due **this Sunday, Feb. 24th**. Make checks payable to "The Church of the Pilgrimage" with "Senior High Mission Trip" on the memo line. In the meantime, Rev. Heather is working on printing stock certificates. We'll have a Mission Trip participant signing party in the next couple of weeks. Then we will begin our fundraiser of selling shares of stock in the Missions Trip.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Our next Confirmation meeting will be **Sunday, March 2nd** from 11:30 to 1:15pm. This is an extra meeting to work on the "Where is the Love" rap that we hope to present to the congregation on Confirmation Sunday. Jeff Donn will help Confirmants to write lyrics and rehearse. This is a very important meeting, so please plan on coming. We will have our regularly scheduled Confirmation meeting the following week – Sunday, March 9th---from 11:45-1:15pm.

DAFFODILS IN MARCH: The American Cancer Society

Daffodils in March can brighten our days and bring even more hope to the many who depend on cancer research. This year the day of dedication will be March 24th, Easter. Can't you see it now, the sanctuary decked out not only with our memorial lilies but also with daffodils each representing hope, joy, love and new life. The daffodils can be picked up after either service on Easter. However, we will still ask that Easter lilies be picked up only after the 2nd service.

This year the Cancer Society has 3 choices for you to consider:

\$10 – for a bunch of 10 daffodils

\$15 - for a potted arrangement of 3 daffodil bulbs

\$25 – for a teddy bear with a bunch of daffodils

Place your order this Sunday and give a breath of spring to someone as well as to yourself. The American Cancer Society depends on these Daffodil Days to continue their life saving research.

2008 STEWARDSHIP NEWS

We are happy to have Reverend Karen McArthur preaching on Sunday, February 24th. Karen, besides being a minister, is our churches financial advisor. Rev. Karen will be meeting with the congregation after church in Allerton Hall to discuss our churches financial health in the current year and to outline next years proposed budget. We hope you all will attend.

Sunday's agenda is full and inspiring:

- Ray Quinn will give a report of the activities of the Board of Trustees
- Shirley Axon will be giving a Testimonial of Faith.

As we attempt to give the congregation a complete overview of church operations, this week the Advisory Board reports its activities in the Herald.

From the Advisory Board

In it myriad responsibilities, the Advisory Board (a.k.a. The Board of Deacons and Deaconesses) of the Church of the Pilgrimage seeks to do its work in the Light of God's Word.

A primary responsibility is worship: "Meetings for worship shall be held every Sunday at such a place and hour as the Advisory Board may determine..." (Bylaws and Rules of the covenant, Article VI-Meetings, A. Worship) and this directive opens up a variety of every week tasks, from one extreme of making sure an officiating pastor is both present and prepared, to the other extreme of seeing that there are hymnals and Bibles in pew racks. At lease one Deacon is assigned to be the Deacon of the Month and the list of duties to fulfill this responsibility is lengthy!

The Advisory Board works with the Pastors in ministering to the spiritual needs and interests of the Church and the community; and to that end, faithfully seeks to listen for and to respond to concerns and issues raised. Currently, for example, the Board has authorized the work of an Open and Affirming Discernment Committee and the Visioning Committee.

Another continuing emphasis of the Board is to provide support to members of the church family in times of crisis with its programs of meals and personal visits. In all these tasks, and many more, the Advisory Board is guided by the Light of God's Word.

Stewardship thought of the week:

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." – Corinthians 9:6.

TIME AND TALENT AUCTION DINNER

Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 6:00pm

Last two weeks to sign up for Tom Healy's famous (and delicious) pork roast and applesauce dinner, only \$8/adult, \$4/child, max. \$20/family. The church budget desperately needs your participation to make this fundraiser a success. And Trace Sears enjoys a full house when he's auctioning off the items.

Also, please return your donation forms of time and/or talent to Allerton Hall after church or to the church office. In the past, we've had donations of dinners (duck, on the beach, Mexican, Italian, Greek, you name it), cookies, bread, babysitting, cleaning inside and outside, weekend get-aways, boat trips, dump runs, weeding, Red Sox tickets, lessons (computer, dance, tennis, singing), paintings, baby clothes, estate planning, golf, eggs, baklava, tortellini, wedding singer, poetry. Contact Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959 or je_mitchell@comcast.net with questions, donations or dinner sign ups.



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