
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

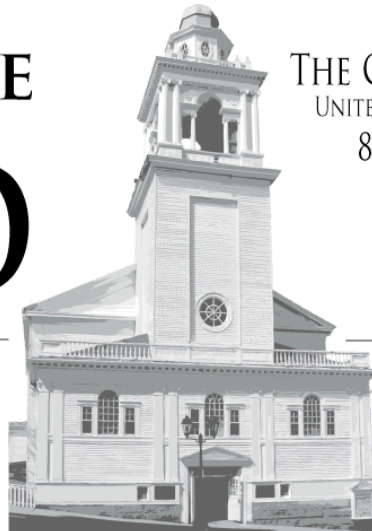
THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

January 6, 2008

Dear Friends,

I write this letter on the next to the last day of anno 2007. I find that hard to believe! Tempus fugit.

Even though in a state of half-believing about the passage of time, I am still savoring some events of 2007 and, since they are most recent, our sublime Advent/Christmas services and celebrations. Our Christmas Eve services were not only very well attended, they were rich in spiritual depth and meaning for people who have spoken to me. The early service, a family service with living Nativity, was wondrous. The holy family, the super active children in sheep and angel's costumes, the Cherub and Youth Choirs, the enthusiasm of a congregation of more than 400-all this was a deeply moving experience! I personally savored every single minute of it.

The service beginning at 11:30pm, attended by about 250-275 people, was a deeply spiritual preparation for, and celebration of, the birth of Christ. Lighting the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath is an extraordinary moment as "Joy to the World" is played on the chimes. The Communion is exceptional. The congregation makes its way forward to the table of grace and kneels before the light of Christ to receive the sacrament. It chills me to recall the mingling of joy and sublimity in that part of a true Christmas celebration.

Who could not be moved during the concluding segment of the service when the ministers take the light from the Christ candle and then the light is passed from one person to another? On the third verse of singing "Silent Night" when we raise our candles on high in an otherwise darkened sanctuary, I can feel the presence of the Christ shared among the assembled, often with tears. "Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at they birth, Jesus, Lord at they birth." I must reemploy the word "sublime." It is a sacred and holy moment which can be experienced authentically only one time a year in the context of celebrating Christ's birth.

And now, it is on to 2008. Who knows what the New Year will bring. With Mary I ponder many things in my heart. I wonder, as you do, about the future, near and far. I have increasingly come to trust n God to give me, not only guidance, but wisdom to accept the supervision given. It is my discernment that this is an inspiration for which all faithful people should aspire.

I thank you for all your kindness through 2007. I appreciate every token of good will shown to me by a people of God I cherish. And, I pray for every good thing for you in 2008.

Happy New Year!

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

Jan 6: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Gary Marks preaching. The Visioning Committee will sponsor its first Listening Session in Allerton Hall, 11:30-1:30. Cherub Choir rehearsal.

Jan 7: Monday Meal of Hospitality, noon.

Jan 8: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Advisory Board will meet in the Robinson Center, 7:00pm. The Missions Committee will meet at 7pm in the Stewart Room.

Jan 9: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm.

Jan 10: The Membership and Evangelism Committee will meet in The John Robinson Center, 7:00pm.

Jan 11: Rev Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. The Guild will meet in Allerton Hall, 1:00pm. Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary, 6:00pm.

Jan 12: Wedding in the sanctuary, 5:30pm.

Coming Events-

Jan 13: Practice for a Vision Listening Session in Allerton Hall, 11:30am-1:30pm. We will be hosting Overnights of Hospitality from January 13-20.

Jan 15: The Board of Trustees will meet at 7:00pm in The John Robinson Center.

Jan 16: Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm.

Jan 17: The Stewardship Committee will meet in the Robinson Center, 7:00pm.

CHURCH RECORD

In Memoriam: On December 20, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral for Daisy MacDuffee. On January 2, 2008 Rev. Donald Jennings conducted a memorial service for Marjory Deane in the sanctuary. Rev. Marks participated as host pastor and assisted in the service.

Hospitalized: Deacon Gil Besse and Ruth Belcher are now residing at the Newfield House.

Baptism: On December 20, 2007 Rev. Marks baptized Lindsey Marie Thayer in a private baptism in the sanctuary. Lindsey is the daughter of Glenn and Brenda Thayer. Her sister is Brianna.

Congratulations: Born December 26th to Timothy and Jacqueline (Hoyt) Pickering, Plymouth Street, Middleboro, Charlotte Jennifer Pickering, 7 lbs 13 oz, 20 inches. Granddaughter of Verna and Al Hoyt and Great Granddaughter of Shirley Hoyt. Congratulations!

NOTES-

On December 21, 2007 Rev. Marks gave the closing prayer at The Forefathers Day Banquet at The Radisson Hotel.

On December 18, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a worship service at the New House.

We thank Diane and Gay Flood for organizing both a Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Meal of Hospitality. They had several helpers. These people are saints! The meals were greatly appreciated. They were also delicious. Gary had his Christmas Day noon meal at the church and he attests to the wonderful food, hospitality and general good will extended to the poor and homeless of Plymouth. The crew publicly demonstrated the

spirit of Christmas, even as they do throughout the year. God Bless you! Those who provided food or helped to serve were Susan Miller, Rosa Cook, Lynnette Lancaster, Pat Harper, Carol Johnson, Janet Holmes, Barbara Peavey, Diana Budge, Jen Healy, Gordon Campbell, the May Family, Greg & Hanson Quinn, Al & Verna Hoyt, Christine & John, Meg & John Bross, Carol & Rollin Johnson, Janet Holmes, and Rosalee Sinn.

We also thank Shellie Souza, our office administrator for all the extra work she so cheerfully gave during the hectic week before Christmas.

There were many who mad our Christmas Eve Services the beautiful celebrations they were. It takes many hours to prepare for the Christmas Eve Family Service and, to some degree, the 11:30pm Candlelight Communion Service. Both services were magical and Gary and Heather are grateful to all who helped make them the sacred events they were.

A thank you to William, Sarah and Lucy Stearns for playing the roles of the Holy Family during the Family Service.

“Thank you’s” continue. Thanks to Nate and Melissa Davie for lighting the Christmas Eve Advent candles.

It was very special to have seventeen-year-old Bridgette Wargovich play the organ on December 30th. She accompanied the congregation and the choir in their singing beautifully. Her Postlude was stunning. Thank you, Bridgette.

We thank the Kelley DePasqua, Jennifer Martin, McKenna family for providing the Advent Candle Service on December 23, 2007.

Sidney Rowland writes: “A sincere thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant you gave me for Christmas. I do appreciate your thoughts of me. With all good wishes to your, and with Love. Sidney Rowland”

Dottie Fry writes: “Thank you so much for my beautiful poinsettia. I put it out in our lobby on the fourth floor so we could all enjoy it. Everyone said it was the prettiest they have ever seen. Thank you! Dottie Fry”

Shellie Souza would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas bonus she received this year. She is grateful to work with such a wonderful congregation and wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

Our sympathies are extended to Meri Schuft whose father died recently.

ATTENTION: ANNUAL PASTOR’S PASTA SALE

On Sunday, January 27th The Pilgrimage Women’s Fellowship is sponsoring its annual Pastor’s Pasta Sale. You may order ahead on the Sundays prior to the 27th to purchase your dinner in a bag which includes a quart of pasta sauce, one pound of pasta, homemade bread and cookies for dessert all for the grate price of \$15. There will be pints available for a price of \$10 as well as some marinara sauce for those who prefer a meatless meal. We are preparing approximately 50 dinners and will have some extra sauce and bread available the 27th. Take advantage of an easy and inexpensive meal and help the Fellowship raise funds for it’s charitable efforts. Diana Budge

ATTENTION MEMBER OF THE PILGRIMAGE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Friday evening, January 25th, we will be getting together to bake bread. If you have signed up to help, this is a reminder and if not, we can use extra help. Saturday morning January 26th, we will be making sauce and putting our dinner packets together. If you have signed up to help, this is a reminder as well. Please call me if you can help and for the times that we will be working. Call Diana Budge at 508-746-4514

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Recent inquiries have been made regarding church membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Church of the Pilgrimage, please speak to Rev. Marks or call the church office. A series of classes will be offered in late winter or early spring.

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS

We invite all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders to join us for an experiential approach to youth ministry. We're meeting the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month from 10:15-11:15a.m. This means our next meeting will be Sunday, January 13th. Come to the beginning of the worship service in the sanctuary before going to the John Robinson Center's youth room on the second floor for the day's youth ministry experience. Remember to mark your calendars for 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. The cost of this trip is \$450 per person. We will be working on planning some fundraising activities to reduce this cost.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

We invite all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to join us! This month we are working on our fundraiser for our trip to New York City—Sub Sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday. Each Sunday in January we need people to take orders before and after church for Super Subs. Call Rev. Heather if you can help. **Our next Junior High activity will be Sunday, February 3rd**. We'll meet at 8:30a.m. to make the Super Subs. The goal of the fundraiser is to reduce the cost of the trip by at least \$30 per person. If we raise more money, we'll reduce the cost further. For more information about the March 1st-2nd trip, go to www.macucc.org/youth/nightwatch.htm

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Our next Confirmation Meeting will be Sunday, January 6th from 11:45-1:15p.m. Confirmands, be sure to meet with your Mentor to watch the January movie: the "Minimum Wage" episode of the t.v. show *30 Days*. Rev. Heather has the DVD that you can borrow if you need it. If you haven't watched the previous months' movies, *Contact*, *Dead Poet's Society*, or *Amistad* with your mentor, please do so ASAP.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS

WE NEED YOU! Our second week of overnights sponsored by The Church of the Pilgrimage will take place from January 13-19. As we have in the past, we will provide hot dinners and warm shelter for one week. We have many openings for cooks and overnight hosts and would like to fill our schedule before the New Year! **If you would like to help with this lifesaving service to the homeless men of Plymouth, please talk to Meg Bross or any other member of the Missions Committee.** **Monday Meals of Hospitality** 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.

The Plymouth Food Warehouse Donations: The following items are 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.

"PRACTICING FOR A VISION"

The members of the Visioning Committee invite you to enter Advent as a time of intentional prayer and reflection (sometimes known as discernment) on the ways that God is calling our church to live out our ministry in the future. The Committee asks that you use the "Prayer for Discernment" that can be found on our website or in previous issues of The Herald, and the Sunday bulletin. Following this time of spiritual practice, the Visioning Committee will hold three Listening Sessions during the first three Sundays of January from 11:30-1:30 to reflect as a congregation on the ways that the Spirit is moving in our Congregation. More information can be found on the church website (<http://www.8townsquare.org>), and by contacting a member of the Visioning Committee (Christina Borel, Marna Blomberg, Mark Coombs, Jessica Hague, Jeanne Lane, Connie Lawn, Nate Moore, Tom Mudgett, and Trace Sears.) We hope that you'll join us as we continue to practice for a vision!

GUILD

Please join us for our monthly Guild meeting on Friday, January 11th. The meeting will be a book review by Pat Mudgett and Amy Simpson. Since we had to cancel our December meeting we thought we would have our Yankee Swap at his meeting. Please bring you gift for the swap along with any non-perishable food items for the food warehouse

PILGRIM ASSOCIATION

The Pilgrim Association will gather for Ecclesiastical Council on Sunday, January 27, 2008 at 2pm at Old South Union Church, So. Weymouth. Schedule starting at 2pm with the Ecclesiastical Council to meet, review the credentials of and hear the faith journey of The Reverend Ms. Jennifer Barrett Siegal. The installation of Rev. Jennifer Barrett Siegal as Associate Pastor will be at 3pm. There will be a reception in the Church Hall following the Installation Service.

Junior High Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Planning to watch the Super Bowl?

Do you like to eat when you watch the game?

Enjoy good food and support our Junior High trip to New York City by ordering a

****SUPER SUB****

Order forms for these tasty sandwiches will be available beginning this Sunday, January 6th. Cost: \$8.00 Super Subs will be made game day morning (Sunday, Feb. 3rd) and available for pick up after worship.

THE 100,000 PRAYER JOURNAL

The 100,000 Prayer Journal from our church needs you and your contribution of a prayer, thought, scripture or even inspirational photo. Please bring your contribution to church **this Sunday**. We have only a few and need more to complete our scrapbook of Inspirational messages that will be used by UCC chaplains stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Please help us fill our journal and offer words of peace and support to be read by the service women and men. **And** if you would like to be part of putting together this book, please come Monday night, January 7th at 7pm to the Maybury Parsonage. Bring a scissors, writing pen or anything you might use for "scrapbooking" our Prayers and notes into a beautiful journal. Call Kathy if you can help and need directions. 508-747-3738.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

Monday, January 21, 2008 from 7:30-9:30am at Plymouth South High School. If you are interested in the Annual Martin Luther King Breakfast you may purchase tickets for \$10 adults/\$8 students and seniors/ \$25. family. Please see Rev. Gary or Rev. Heather for tickets or you can make a reservation through the church office.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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