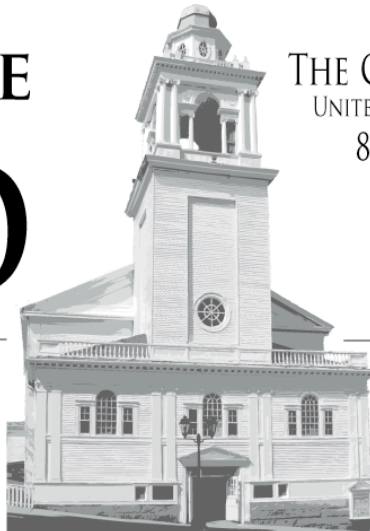


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# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXX, No. 27

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

September 14, 2008

Dear Friends,

The church year has begun. On this coming Sunday our church school will be open. We have a fine Christian Education program and our school is staffed by a number of dedicated teachers. This year we will be featuring a new curriculum that is both teacher and student friendly. We can always use help with the church school program. If you would like to help, please contact Rev. Heather, the Christian Education Committee or call the church office for information.

The whole church schedule intensifies in September. Our fabulous choir returned after a summer recess on September 7<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to hear the choir again! Soon there will be rehearsals for the Cherub and Youth Choirs. It is ever a source of joy and pride to hear our wonderful children respond to the sensitive and highly qualified leadership of Kelley DePasqua and Lois Post.

Michael Eaton joins our music program as our permanent church organist this year. Michael played on Sunday and thrilled the congregation with his enormous talent. Almost everyone in the congregation remained for his difficult and extraordinary well-played postlude. Michael helped in the building of our magnificent pipe organ and he is able to utilize it in order to provide us with majestic music to the glory of God. We offer a hearty welcome to Michael and are blessed to have him with us.

In October our Wednesday Evening Prayer Services will resume. I lead the services and they follow a general order for Evening Prayer in the Celtic tradition. Prayer and its power is greatly under used by Christians. In the current issue of The Christian Century magazine there appears a fine article on prayer by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre in which she says, "People who've turned to prayer as a last resort can teach us why it should be the first." Perhaps you would like to join us on Wednesday evenings as we try to make prayer a "first resort" activity.

The year just beginning promises to be a very active one. We hope to be able to offer adult educational opportunities, receive new members, and to engage the church as a whole in discussing and acting upon important issues of our time. The boards and committees of the church work with dedication and diligence to keep the church running and meeting its spiritual and financial obligations. By the grace of God and a lot of hard work we have an exciting, aware congregation as it tries to honor our Covenant with God and one another. We try "to walk in God's ways made known, or to be made known to us, according to our best efforts..."

Love,

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

ON OUR CALENDAR

**Sept. 14:** Morning worship 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Church School begins. "Coffee and Conversation" - the Discernment Committee invites you to join them for a discussion on the topic: What Is Open and Affirming? Where Are We? Please plan to be present for this event following morning worship. (see "Notes" for further information).  
**Sept. 16:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm, JRC Conference Room.  
**Sept. 17:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Music Committee Meeting 6:30pm; Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  
**Sept. 18:** Stewardship Committee Meeting, 7pm.  
**Sept. 19:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.  
**Sept. 20:** Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament at Souther's Marsh Golf Club (see "Notes"). Women's Fellowship Retreat at Iris Haven (see "Notes").

**Coming Events:**

Sept. 21: Church Family Service. The Church Council will meet in the Rev. John Robinson Center Conference Room at 11:30am.  
 Sept. 28: Habitat for Humanity Sunday.

CHURCH RECORD

**Hospitalized:** John Chandler-Jordan Hospital.

**Baptism:** On September 7, 2008 Rev. Marks baptized Trace Scott Flora, son of Laura (McClaren) and Scott Flora in a private service in the sanctuary.

**Wedding:** On September 6, 2008 Rev. Marks took part in a wedding service for Cara Lynn Hanby and Thomas Joseph Crawford at The Pinewood Lodge.

**Recuperating:** Sydney Rowland is now at The Golden Living Center. Cliff Sampson continues to recuperate at The Golden Living Center.

**FLOWERS-**The flowers are dedicated to family past, present and future. Given by Jon and Debby Porter.

**GREETERS-**Gil and Karyl Silva

**NOTES-**

Wednesday Evening Prayer Services will resume on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. These are informal services focusing on a reading from Scripture, a brief meditative reading and silent prayer. Please feel free to join us.

Rev. Marks is willing to offer an extended adult educational opportunity, if enough interest is shown. The course would last for several weeks, one evening a week. Interest in such a course should include a commitment to attend and participate in the course. Please indicate your willingness to participate in the study by calling the church office or contacting Rev. Marks. Options include an eleven or twelve-week course entitled "Saving Jesus," and a guided Bible study based on U.C.C. materials. The "Saving Jesus" course would require a fee since the materials are relatively expensive, though inability to pay the fee would not be a factor necessary for participation. For either educational opportunity a covenant to take part is important. Let Gary know.

Please let the church office and the ministers know of pastoral needs. It is helpful to the ministers to know of hospitalizations, especially our-of-town hospitalizations.

Isabella Linh Medeiros, daughter of Randy and Minh Medeiros was born on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Isabella is the granddaughter of Nancy Medeiros and great-granddaughter of Betsey Randall.

We remind everyone in the church who wishes to place information in the weekly Herald to make it available to the church office by Tuesday morning prior to the Sunday upon which the Herald is dated.

On September 7, 2008 Rev. Marks spoke to the Society of Mayflower Descendants which met in our sanctuary. The Society meets in Plymouth every three years.

We thank Al Hoyt for painting the lower panel on the seaside of the church building. It looks terrific!

In July Rev. Marks was interviewed by Aljazeera-English Television Network. The theme of the interview was the role of the Pilgrims and Puritans in the formation of American ideals. On August 20, 2008 Rev. Marks was interviewed by a German production company based in Frankfurt, Germany. That company was commissioned by ARTE, a French-German non-profit public broadcasting service, similar to PBSA in America, which is producing educational documentaries about the English settlement of North America in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The program in France and Germany is called "Adventures ARTE" and is broadcast to an audience of 500,000 in Germany and one million in France. Gary was enormously honored to have been included in both interviews.

On September 1, 2008 Rev. Marks took part in a rededication ceremony at The Pilgrim Hall Museum. The additions and upgrades to Pilgrim Hall are stunning and pride a pleasurable experience for visitors from around the world. You will want to check it out!

We thank Diana Budge for her presentation on September 7<sup>th</sup> on behalf of the Discernment Committee.

It was a delight to have our Sanctuary Choir perform on September 7<sup>th</sup> after a summer recess. It was also a magnificent performance by our new permanent organist, Michael Eaton, during worship. We are blessed to have such an accomplished organist and we continue to be blessed by our fabulous pipe organ.

**MINISTRY TEAM NEWS**

Please join the Ministry Team for a meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:30-1:30 in the Stewart Classroom of the JRC. Open to all members of the Congregation. The meetings will involve planning some of the Ministry Team's activities for the year, including a leadership development retreat in November.

**HARVEST FAIR NEWS**

This Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> I will be holding a short meeting in the upper vestibule after church. I need help in many areas and much of what it needed can be done at home. I hope I can count on you for help. Please call me. Laura Curtin 508-746-7761

**DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE****Topic: Open and Affirming**

The Open and Affirming Discernment Committee was formed at the request of the Advisory Board. Its purpose is to determine the will of the congregations with regard to the issue of welcoming all people into our church family, including but not limited to individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are charged with study, listening and opening our hearts and minds to God's speaking.

The United Church of Christ, at the General Synod in 1985, passed a resolution in response to concerns related to the issue inviting the member churches to join it in this endeavor by becoming an Open and Affirming church. As a member of UCC, we may develop our own Open and Affirming statement and are free to decide what kind of a role we choose to take. As a local church, the decision is ours.

The process taken by the discernment committee is to investigate whether we are ready, as a church, to move forward and adopt our own Open and Affirming statement. To that purpose, we have read, prayed, interviewed and listened to as many of you as we could and would like to offer an opportunity for you to be heard once again. This Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to Coffee and Conversation. We hope that this will provide you with a chance to voice your concerns, ask any questions and exchange ideas.

As a committee, we will then make our recommendations to the Advisory Board and it will be their responsibility to decide how or if to implement those suggestions.

We are not charged with making the decision for you. At the end of this process, the members of the church will decide.

We believe that God is still speaking and we are trying to listen.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT: TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO SIGN-UP**

The Annual Church of the Pilgrimage September Golf Tournament will be held Saturday morning, September 20, 2008 at Souther's Marsh Golf Club in West Plymouth. This is a **major** church fundraiser and we need **EVERYONE'S** participation to make it a success. **Golfers:** We are taking reservations immediately for individuals and foursomes at \$100/person, which includes greens fees, a cart, gift bag and lunch. **Non-golfers?** Join us at noon for a fellowship, a delicious meal, and great raffle prizes: \$20/adults, \$10/kids. And **everyone** can participate by purchasing golf balls for the exciting **Helicopter Ball Drop:** \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Sign-up your neighbors and co-workers for the Ball Drop-you don't have to be present to win. Call Mike Harrington 508-747-2060 or Judy Mitchell 508-746-3959 for more information.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> !**

Parents, if you did not have a chance to register your child(ren) last Sunday, please take the time to fill out a registration form when you bring your child(ren) to Sunday school in the John Robinson Center (or Allerton Hall for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders). This helps the Christian Education Committee to make sure we have sufficient classroom materials and supplies. It also helps our teachers to keep your child(ren) safe by alerting them to any

allergies your child(ren) may have and ensuring only authorized adults can pick up your child(ren) after worship.

**CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

We need YOU to come to church this September 14<sup>th</sup> (even if you are not scheduled to teach) for a special Sunday School Teacher Service of Commissioning. During our regular Sunday morning service, the congregation will recognize you for the ministry you will be doing with our children and we will offer you a prayer of blessing.

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION**

Our next Confirmation meeting will be Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:45-1:15p.m. This meeting is for both Confirmands and Mentors. So Confirmands, be sure to have your Mentor chosen by that time. If you need help selecting a Mentor, please give Rev. Heather a call. Confirmands, **remember to bring your retreat fee of \$80 to this meeting.** Make checks payable to: The Church of the Pilgrimage, with "Confirmation Retreat" on the memo line. Scholarships are available—please contact Rev. Heather.

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP OVERVIEW**

This year we will be meeting once a month for a particular activity focused around the themes of having fun, community building, and service. Although our scheduling will fluctuate slightly from month to month, we are going to meet primarily on Sundays after worship. We invite all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to join us!

Our Kick-Off meeting will be **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** with some kind of outdoor activity. More information to come...we're looking into go carting, since we know you really want to drive.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP OVERVIEW**

Building on the fantastic success of this past summer's senior high mission trip, we are working hard at planning some AWESOME activities that include mini-mission projects, movies, and maybe even visiting another church like the one we attended in North Carolina. This year we will meet once a month and we'll be joining with the senior high youth group from Second Church in Manomet. Mark your calendars now for our kick-off meeting: **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-7p.m.** We warmly invite all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to join us, and bring a friend!

**CHERUB CHOIR**

The Cherub Choir will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 14 following the worship service. We will meet in the JRC in the large room on the second floor (the Great Room). Any child ages 4 through grade 2 is invited to join. Please talk to Lois Post if you have any questions.

**PILGRIM ASSOCIATION**

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm at North Community Church, Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts the Pilgrim Association will gather for the Ordination of Ms. Ann M. Aaberg as Pastor of Mystic Congregational Church in Mystic, Connecticut. Reception to follow in the Parish House across from the church.

**MONDAY MEALS OF HOSPITALITY**

The **Monday Meals of Hospitality** begin on Monday, September 22, 2008 in Allerton Hall. They will continue for the next thirty-nine Mondays of 2008-2009. Following the gospel mandate “to feed the hungry,” we have a great opportunity at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Last year, our church volunteers provided a warm, nutritional lunch for around fifty different individuals. Over forty Monday Meals volunteers prepared part of a meal, made dessert, and/or provided paper products, overseen by Diane Flood and the Monday Meals committee. Any church member who would like to be a part of this wonderful church ministry is encouraged to call Diane at 508-209-0266. Thank you!

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT**

Come and join us at Iris Haven on Saturday, September 20 from 8:30am to 4:00pm for a time of reflection and planning, relaxation and retreat, great food and warm company. All women of the church are welcome to spend the day with us: membership in women’s fellowship is neither required nor expected (though we’d love to have you any time). The cost is \$25 per person and includes breakfast and lunch. Please know that cost not discourage anyone from coming; complete funding is available for anyone who needs it. Please see Kathy Marks or Jenny Healy during coffee hour to sign up.

**WANTED:** Jars, 9 and 16 oz for jams and jellies and all manner of canned goodies for the fair. New (available at grocery stores, Benny’s and Charlie’s Hardware, among other places) or used (scour those cupboards for last year’s empties) gratefully accepted. They can be left in Allerton Hall by the pie making supplies box. Thank you for your help (and thank you to those who have already made contributions to this end). Jenny



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Periodical  
Publication  
U. S. P. S.  
# 432820

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM  
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