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# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,  
MASSACHUSETTS 02360

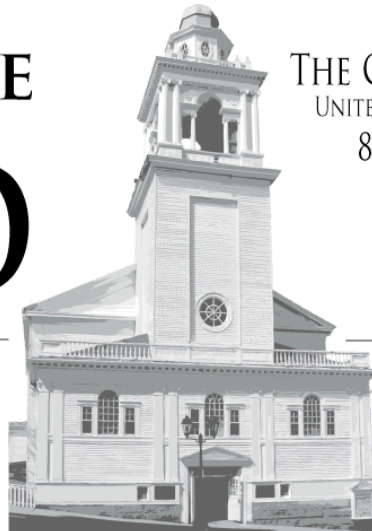
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

September 7, 2008

Dear Friends,

The last letter I wrote here was for the July newsletter. Then I mentioned that my daylilies were just beginning to bloom. Now they have had their season, each magnificent flower having had their one-day in the sun, or the rains as was often the case in the July of 2008.

We have a fairly large number of daylily plants and each morning I picked off and counted the spent previous day's flowers. This year I kept a running or cumulative count of the number of blossoms the plants produced. I dead-headed 4,890 flowers! The first lily appeared on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the very last one on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Those plants provided great beauty and pleasure to me and by picking off each one I was able to thank them for the enjoyment they have brought into each day, rain or shine.

You may deem this practice a bit peculiar, if you are charitable. Obviously, I don't think it at all odd. It teaches me, even on days when other things may be humdrum or challenging, that each day is a gift of God and it reminds me to be thankful. To be grateful for even small expressions of beauty is never a waste of time, odd or an exercise in futility.

The arrival of Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer, though autumn doesn't begin until September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Daylight hours grow shorter than they were, now at an accelerated pace and for many of us the working days grow longer and more intense than before. Yet, there is more than drudgery in the passing and emergence of the cyclical seasons. There are opportunities to be productive and to be energized by new challenges and to be exhilarated by visions of new possibilities. And, though the lilies are gone and won't appear for a very long time after rest beneath the frozen sod, there are still many beautiful things and qualities in human relationships which are able to offer moments of enchantment amid the problems and perplexities of the daily round. May God grant that we are aware of beauty and grace whenever and wherever they are present.

There are many elements of beauty and grace which we share together in the robust life of The Church of the Pilgrimage, though there are bills to be paid, decisions of great consequence to be made, visions to be clarified and put into practice, there are always moments of beauty to be enjoyed and celebrated. There is worship, preaching, music, sacraments, children to be nurtured, songs to sing, missions to be performed—and many more beauties to be embraced. The lilies were marvelous, but so are the joys of love, tears, laughter and all other things bright and beautiful!

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

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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. 7:** Morning worship 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Rev. Marks will bring greetings on behalf of The Church of the Pilgrimage to The Society of Mayflower Descendants. The group will meet in our sanctuary at 2:00pm. Church School Registration Sunday.

**Sept. 9:** Rev. Marks will conduct a worship service at The Newfield House at 10:00am. He will be in the church office following that service.

**Sept. 10:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.

**Sept. 11:** Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. The Membership and Evangelism Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

**Sept. 12:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Women's Guild luncheon at noon in Allerton Hall. Wedding in the sanctuary at 5:00pm. Open and Affirming Film at 7pm in Allerton Hall.

**Coming Events:**

Sept. 14: First Sunday of church school. Discernment Forum during the Coffee Hour.

Sept. 20: Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament and Luncheon at Souther's Marsh Golf Course (see notes). The Women's Fellowship retreat at Iris Haven.

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

CHURCH RECORD

**Baptism:** On August 10, 2008 Bria Nicole Cushing was baptized during the worship service. Bria is the daughter of Megan Elizabeth (Flora) and James Joseph Cushing.

On August 31, 2008 Sandra Lynne Shaughnessy was baptized during the worship service. Sandra is the daughter of Jeanne Marie (MacKay) and Patrick Joseph Shaughnessy.

**Wedding:** On August 31, 2008 Rev. Marks conducted a wedding service for Lindsey Kegel and Chad MacDonald in the church sanctuary.

**In Memoriam:** On July 3, 2008 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Dorothy Johnson.

On August 9, 2008 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Kathleen Walters. "Kakie" was a long time member and deaconess in The Church of the Pilgrimage.

On August 13, 2008 Rev. Marks conducted a committal service for Marie Fisler. Mare was the mother of Nancy Schied.

On August 21, 2008 Rev. Marks presided at a graveside service for David Kimball, Sr.

**Those known to have been hospitalized during August:** Nicole Webster, Sydney Rowland, Ronald Peck, Jeffrey Mallon, Wesley Nickerson.

During August Rev. Marks made eight visits to the Jordan Hospital.

**FLOWERS-**The flowers are given in honor of all the Armstrongs. Given by the Armstrong Family.

**NOTES-**

Wednesday Evening Prayer Services will resume on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

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.

The new carpeting in the sanctuary has now been installed. Reports have been generally favorable. We thank all who contributed to the project which further enhances the beauty of our beloved sanctuary and place of worship.

Rev. Marks thanks Deacon Trace Sears and Sarah Barnicle for providing delightful Children's Messages during August.

On August 10, 2008 Rev. Marks led the worship service at South Pond Chapel.

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30am in the JRC Conference Room.

The Women's Guild will hold their luncheon on September 12<sup>th</sup> at noon in Allerton Hall. The program will be about the Children's evacuation of London during World War II. Jill Howard will be the speaker.

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

The Open and Affirming Discernment Committee was formed at the request of the Advisory Board. It's 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. We are offering a film on Friday evening, September 12<sup>th</sup> in Allerton Hall that may be helpful in answering some of the most frequently asked questions. We urge you to attend. On 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.

#### **HARVEST FAIR NEWS**

On 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

#### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT**

Come and join us at Iris Haven on Saturday, September 20 from 8:30-4:00, 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 nay time). The cost is \$25 per person and includes breakfast and lunch. Please know that cost should 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.

#### **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.

#### **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH!**

We invite (and strongly encourage!) all parents of children and youth ages 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade to register your child(ren) for Sunday School this Sunday. You can do this by filling out a registration form in Allerton Hall either before or after worship. This helps the Christian Education Committee to plan for 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. Sunday School begins September 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

We need YOU to come to church this Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> (see Church School Registration announcement). During the Craft & Story Hour run by the Christian Education Committee, you will have the opportunity to meet with the other Sunday School teachers for your class. You can work out your teaching schedule, take a look at the new curriculum, and go over any questions you may have. Then, on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, be sure to come to worship for a special Sunday School Teacher Service of Commissioning.

#### **CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION**

We will be having an informational meeting for 9<sup>th</sup> graders who want to participate in Confirmation and their parents this **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** following worship (**NOT** Mentors who have been chosen by that time are also invited to attend. At that meeting we will have a detailed schedule available as well as an explanation of expectations and activities we'll be doing. Parents, please call the church office as soon as possible to let us know your child's name and contact information so we can order materials. All Confirmands need to choose an adult member of the congregation whom s/he trusts to be her/his Confirmation Mentor. If your son or daughter is having trouble thinking of a Mentor, 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. More information to come.... 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!

#### **PILGRIM ASSOCIATION**

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm the First Congregational Church, UCC, Hanover, Massachusetts the Pilgrim Association will gather for the Ordination and Installation of Ms. Margaret D. Clapp as the Associate Pastor. Reception to follow in Riley Hall.

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.

## MUSIC NEWS



Thanks to all who organized, attended and even performed in our annual **Summer Concert Series**. We had a very varied and talented roster of performers and many well-pleased listeners week after week. Special thanks to Bob Taylor, Deb Cheney and David Peck for their commitment to this series.

**The Sanctuary Choir** will have its first rehearsal of this season on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 and will return to singing at the weekly Sunday morning service on September 7<sup>th</sup>. New members, of all musical experience levels, are ALWAYS welcome. If you have been thinking about joining us, please do! We rehearse every Wednesday night from 7:30-9:00 in the sanctuary. Please see Music Director, Kelley DePasqua, after the service if you would like more information. We are also thrilled to announce, if you have not heard already, that we happily have hired **Michael Eaton** as our full-time **organist**. Michael comes to us from Church Hill United Methodist Church in Norwell where he has been the Director of Music for the past 7 years. He has a degree in Organ Performance in New England Conservatory and works for Andover Organ as an organ builder and designer. He lives in Weymouth with his wife and two young children and is excited to join us to work both with our choir, our organ and our church community.

Junior Choir will have its first rehearsal on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. All young people in grades 2-8 are encouraged to join us! The junior choir will sing the third Sunday of every month, unless otherwise scheduled, starting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Junior Choir rehearses for half an hour after church every Sunday, except for on the Sunday when they perform. See you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
8 TOWN SQUARE,  
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM  
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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