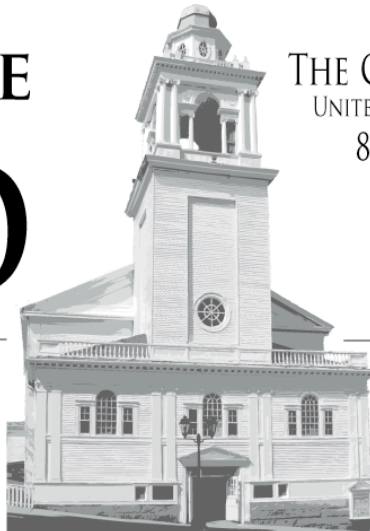

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXXI, No. 15

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

April 26, 2009

Dear Friends,

This is my first letter in The Pilgrimage Herald since before Holy Week and Easter. The Lenten season was a very full one at The Church of the Pilgrimage and I get a little tired just recalling all that transpired from Palm Sunday through Easter. There were many services during Holy Week and I savor each one of them. The Palm Sunday service with children of the congregation distributing the palms was moving and it always touches me as they process passing out the symbols of that biblical event.

Our Maundy Thursday Service is one of the most solemn, yet beautiful, services of the year. It was a well attended service, but I think the sanctuary should be full as we remember the night upon which Jesus was betrayed. The celebration of the Last Supper on the night of its origin stirs my deepest spiritual feelings. I am drawn into the events which led to Good Friday. This year's service was extraordinary!

Our Good Friday Service was attended by about thirty people. It is an interactive service as we make our way around the sanctuary where the events of the day are marked by symbolic events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. The readings for that service, based upon a Neo-Celtic one from the Lindisfarne Community in England, are graphic and realistic. They leave no doubt that Jesus was fully human.

The break between Good Friday and Easter Sunrise always seems spiritually long to me. I wait in sadness, but with eager longing for the dawn of God's new day of hope. The Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill this year was extraordinary! At 6:08am the sun seemed to emerge in a perfect yellow/orange from the sea. An awesome thing happened, too, in the sun's ascent. A combination of sun, a strip of clouds just above the horizon, and the sea caused a near perfect cross to appear before our eyes! The congregation of probably one hundred fifty was greeted with a vision of Easter hope which likely will never occur just like that again. It was astounding!

Our two Easter Sunday Services were glorious. The power of the music, the lilies, the good cheer were proper expressions of Resurrection joy. I personally needed to feel in my bones and spirit the gifts of Easter hope and I was not disappointed! Singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" never meant more to me than Easter, 2009!

Let us savor the extreme grace and joy of our faith as we face the difficulties of our personal and shared lives. Where would we be without Easter hope? I think God Almighty for Easter!

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

Apr 26: Morning worship 10am, Rev. Gary Marks preaching. There will be an important Informational Meeting regarding the church's budget following worship in the sanctuary. The Junior Choir and the Cherub Choirs will rehearse.

Apr 27: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall 11am-1pm. Yom-Ha-Shoa Service at Beth Jacob Community Center (see insert).

Apr 28: The Advisory Board will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Apr 29: Bible Study in the JRC at 10am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7pm.

May 2: Pilgrim Festival Chorus concert, 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Coming Events –

May 3-Pilgrim Festival Chorus concert, 3:00pm in the sanctuary.

May 5- The Mission Committee will meet in the JRC at 7:00pm.

May 7-The Christian Education Committee will meet in the JRC at 7:00pm.

May 10-Mother's Day

May 16- "Hats Off to Music" 6:30pm in Allerton Hall

May 17-The Annual Meeting of The Church of the Pilgrimage.

Office Hours for Rev. Gary L. Marks

Apr 28, 29, May 1: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Office Hours for Rev. Heather Moody

Rev. Moody will be away on retreat April 27th-May 4th.

Flowers: On Sunday, April 19th the flowers were given in loving memory of Henry, Mary, and Keith Dunlap. Given by Robert Colburn and Marylyn Dunlap Colburn

Church Record

Hospitalized: Recently hospitalized, Deacon Mahlon Walker.

Baptisms: On April 19, 2009 Maddix Julia Levy, daughter of Brooke Elizabeth (Barry) and Michael Robert Levy, was baptized during the worship service. On April 19 Ethan David Nelson, son of Catherine Beatrice (Turcott) and David Kent Nelson, was baptized during the worship service.

In Memoriam: On April 23, 2009 Rev. Marks conducted a memorial service for Virginia Hutton. On April 24, 2009 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Dorice Goodwin at The National Cemetary in Bourne.

N O T E S

On April 15th **Gary gave a lecture at Pilgrim Hall** on The Rev. John Robinson and the Separation.

We thank **Nancy and Brian Morse** again for providing brass accompaniment in memory of Nancy's mother for our Easter services. It was fabulous!

We thank our Office Manager, **Shellie Souza**, for all the extra duty she provided for our Holy Week/Easter Sunday services.

There will not be an issue of **The Pilgrimage Herald** for the week of May 3rd. Our office manager needs to spend much extra time preparing the Annual Report booklets.

We have obtained 100 **Church of the Pilgrimage coffee mugs**. These white porcelain mugs have the church logo and web address on them. The mugs will be for sale the next few Sundays. They are \$6.00 each or 4 for \$20. \$3.00 of each mug sold goes directly to the church. There are samples in a box in the Choir robe closet.

Ginny and Dick Bramhall sent a note of thanks for the beautiful Easter lily.

Ever wonder what happened to **the old window panes**? Our own Don Moore has beautifully leaded and etched individual panes, and they are still available for purchase at \$100 each or \$200 for 3, with all proceeds to go towards replacing the rest of the sanctuary windows. If you haven't ordered yet, please contact Jessica Hague (by phone or email) and she will make arrangements to get one to you. If you placed an order but have not yet received your window, please contact Jess for that too. These windows are gorgeous, and we hope you strongly consider taking one or more home!

ANNUAL MEETING: May 17, 2009

MISSIONS & OUTREACH UPDATES !

Health and Hygiene Kits. We'll be putting together *Health and Hygiene Kits* for Church World Services (CWS) on **April 26** with the Junior High Youth Group. These kits are sent to families here in the U.S. and other countries around the globe who have experienced national disasters, violence, and poverty. If you would like to start collecting items at home, with a group, or with your neighbors, the following items are what will be needed for the kits. Buying in bulk would be very helpful!

- Hand towels measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- Washcloths
- Wide-tooth combs
- Nail clippers (no metal files or emery boards)
- Bars of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- Toothbrushes (sold separately and in original packaging)
- Band-Aids® (regular size)
- Gallon size plastic bags with zipper closures
- Important: We will not be collecting toothpaste for the CWS Hygiene Kits.

Spring Cleaning Book Drive. A non-profit bookstore called *More than Words* in Waltham trains young people who have been homeless, in foster homes, and in trouble with the law to run a book store, use a computer, and learn sound business skills and practices. We will be collecting books for this store between **April 26 and May 3rd. Please do not deliver books to the church until after the Easter holidays.** Please consider donating the following gently used or better condition books: fiction and non-fiction, hardcover or trade paperback, current textbooks, cookbooks, history books, art books, religion books, philosophy books, children's books, coffee table picture books, antiquarian, unusual or collectable books, audio books (CD or cassette), university publishers (Harvard Press, etc.), music CD's, movies: DVD, and VHS video games. Many thanks! Talk to Peter C. or Sarah B. for more information.

Monday Meals of Hospitality are a free hot meal at lunch time for those in need. Meals are served in a warm, friendly, and open atmosphere. If you would like to donate, prepare a meal, help serve, or assist in any way, please call our coordinator Diane Flood at 508-209-0266 for more information.

Red Bin Donations. Non-perishable food is needed at the Plymouth Food Warehouse. Our donations are especially appreciated in this economy where people are choosing between gas and food. Please remember to pick up something when you grocery shop this week!

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 31st: **Confirmation Sunday.**

Sunday, June 14th: **Church School and Graduating Seniors Sunday.**

Our children will provide some of the leadership for our regular worship service. We will have a service of recognition and blessing for our graduating high school seniors. We will also recognize the adults who serve as Sunday School Teachers.

Confirmation News

Our next Confirmation activity will be Sunday, May 10th.

Junior High Youth Group Overview

Join us after worship on April 26th for a mini-mission project. We'll be assembling Health Kits for Church World Service. By the time you read this, Rev. Heather will have contacted you to let you know what you need to bring for this project. Looking ahead to May, we'll travel to the Soule Homestead Education Center, a non-profit working organic farm in Middleborough. Join us on **Saturday, May 16th from 10a.m. to 12p.m.** as we "get to the root of it" by learning about how to grow our own food and reduce our household waste through composting. We'll finish our time at the farm with a fun interactive scavenger hunt that includes great prizes. We welcome all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to participate in Jr. High Youth Group, and bring a friend!

Senior High Youth Group Overview

Our May meeting will take place on **Fri, May 15th at 5p.m.** at the Second Church in Manomet--please note the change in location from previous Herald announcements. This meeting is for senior highs AND their parents. Our topic? Teen Dating Violence. Believe it or not, it happens to 1 in 3 high school students. Come and learn the early warning signs and what you can do if it happens to you or a friend. A workshop for high schoolers and their parents focusing on healthy relationships, sexual harassment, and partner violence. Led by Wendy Garf-Lipp and her colleagues from Womansplace Crisis Center, an organization that has been working to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Plymouth County for 25 years. This is an important event. Bring a friend.

2nd Grade Bibles!

We're working on gathering a comprehensive list of this year's 2nd graders who will be receiving a Bible on Church School Sunday (June 14th). 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.

Attention Graduating Seniors and Parents

We want to honor our graduating high school seniors during worship on June 14th and we would like to publish your name and any information you have about your future plans in an upcoming issue of the Herald. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be able to be present on June 14th and to share what's next for you.

Remembering the Church in your Will

Who needs a Will, I'm invincible!

When we were single and in our 20's, I am sure that creating a Will was the last item on our list of priorities.

Times change as each of us travel along life's path – marriage, the birth of children, promotions at work, start of a new business, death of a parent all make us think about our future. A Will is a legal document that creates a blue print of our wishes should we not survive. It makes sure that our assets are distributed in accordance with our life's plan and that the members of our family are taken care of according to our wishes.

When thinking about a Will you may wish to leave a portion of your estate to your Church. Your gift (a bequest) might be in cash, stock or property. If, for instance, you are interested in making sure that the Church Sanctuary is always well maintained, you might limit your gift to be used for Church maintenance. Be sure that your gift restrictions are broad enough to allow the Church to use the restricted funds.

Although all of us tend to procrastinate when it comes to facing unpleasant realities, it is important to work with your attorney to make sure that the people and institutions you love are taken care of in accordance with your wishes should the inevitable happen.

If you are having trouble determining how large your gift might be, consider the Church as another sibling or child. If you have three children divide your estate by four, giving 3/4 of your estate to your family and 1/4 to charity.

Your generous gift to the Church will help rebuild our endowment, which has been decimated by the current financial crisis and will help provide extra income to allow future generations to continue to serve our community and the world. Remembering the Church of the Pilgrimage in your Will is a way of giving back to God a share of the many blessings that God continues to bestow upon you.

We appreciate your consideration of a gift to the Church in your Will.

God loves you,
The Stewardship Committee

A Stewardship Appeal

If you have not sent in your pledge to the Church office, please do it as soon as possible. The Board of Trustees is in the process of making the Church budget for the ensuing six months and our collective pledge dollars will guide the Board in its decision making. Your pledge is important in determining the level of Church services in these difficult economic times.



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



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