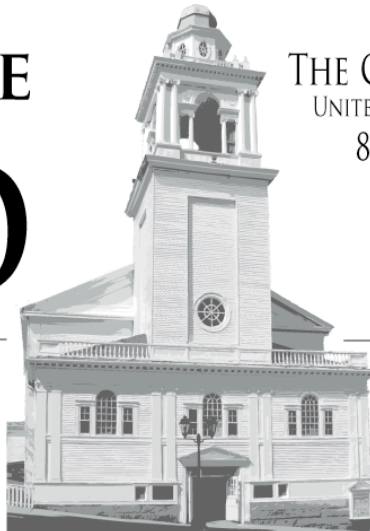

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXXI, No. 4

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

February 1, 2009

Dear Friends,

When I was an undergraduate student at Hiram College a few years ago I studied psychology under a distinguished Viennese professor names Ernst Katz. He was an old man, so old that he had studied under Sigmund Freud. He was an eccentric man, a survivor of the horrors of the Nazi holocaust and his own illnesses. He always carried an umbrella, rain or shine, his posture was stooped, his eyes always cast downward as he strolled along the campus walkways in order to measure his every next step. Yet, every time he met a student or faculty member as he ambled slowly along, he'd raise his eyes and umbrella, umbrella always closed, and offered a friendly greeting. He was the quintessential "Herr Professor." He was also delightful.

In class Dr. Katz was, in a quaint way, eloquent, quoting the great poets, playwrights and the Bible from memory, and often the quotations were of great length. When Dr. Katz administered an exam he passed out pieces of hard candy to his students in an effort to satisfy our instincts as children, as defined by Freud, as our "oral stage of development." About midway through the examinations Dr. Katz would startle his head-lowered writing and nervous students with a shrill and squeaky shout, "Life is hard." We all jumped a little but quickly returned to writing whatever we knew about the id, ego and superego.

I've often remembered Kr. Katz's accented shout: "Life is hard." It is, too, and I have no need to remind you of that fact! I think that Dr. Katz was trying to tell us in that shout that the living of a human life is never easy, but can be lived with meaning, purpose and dignity. I opine that he was teaching in his shout that life's challenges would be much greater than the anxieties we were experiencing in taking a mere exam in psychology. He knew that, all too well, as a holocaust survivor and a survivor of cancer.

Though Dr. Katz never spoke overtly about the sustaining power of faith in life's tribulations, he exuded it in his manner, his confidence that life is good, his wisdom obtained from the Holy Scriptures. I surmise that he knew that life's dignity is most to be appreciated when it has been achieved through what, at times, seems to be unbearable pain. Whether he said so or not, he radiated a belief in the inscrutable, but sustaining, grace of God.

Life is hard. It is hard for all of us, in one way or another. Let's vow to remember that when we may otherwise arrive quickly at judging others. We are all in this hard life together, but we can be grateful for the grace of God which is extended as a loving hand in our hands as we plod onward toward meaning, purpose and dignity.

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

Feb. 1: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Boy Scout Sunday. Holy Communion will be a part of the service today. The Youth will meet for worship in the JRC Great Room at 10am. The first in a series of three New Member Classes will be held in The Robinson Center Conference Room from 11:30am-12:30pm. Childcare available. Cherub and Junior Choirs will have rehearsal following worship.

Feb 2: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am-1pm.

Feb 3: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Missions Committee will meet at 7:00pm in the JRC Conference Room. There will be a joint meeting of the Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committee in the JRC Stewart Room at 7:00pm.

Feb 4: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. New Bible Study: The group will meet at 10:00am in the JRC Conference Room. Wednesday Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm. Choir Practice at 7:30pm.

Feb 5: The Christian Education Committee will meet in the JRC Conference Room at 7:00pm.

Feb 6: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.

Coming Events –

Feb. 8: The second in a series of three New Member Classes will be held in the JRC from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Feb. 13: Guild Meeting, 1pm Allerton Hall

Feb. 15 New Member Class.

CHURCH RECORD

Baptisms: On January 25, 2009 Ellison Anne Dobratz, daughter of Evan and Susan (Gorham) Dobratz was baptized during morning worship.

In Memoriam: On January 27, 2009 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Ashley Cappola in the church sanctuary.

Flowers: The flowers on the communion table are in celebration for the life of Mary Jean Maas. Given by the Bingham-Maas Family. The side flowers are given by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Peck in loving memory of their parents.

NOTES

On January 20th Rev. Marks was officially sworn in as a member of **The Four Hundredth Anniversary Committee** at Town Hall. The committee is planning for the 400th anniversary of the landing of The Mayflower in 2020. The event is expected to be international in scope. It took twelve years for Williamsburg to plan a similar celebration, so we're not starting too soon.

The **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** will begin a new book on February 4th. Gary leads the class and is considering one of two books both of which deal with the Bible and ecology. We hope that you want to part of this timely study and are able to attend.

It was heartening to see so many Pilgrimage people at **The Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast** on January 19th. The event was well attended and deeply inspiring. It seemed especially poignant that the event nearly coincided with the inauguration of President Obama.

Confirmation News

The next Confirmation meeting will be Sunday, February 8th.

Junior High Youth Group Overview

Our next Junior High activity will be Sunday, February 3rd. We'll meet at 8:30a.m. to make the Super Subs for Super Bowl Sunday. Rev. Heather will be contacting the members of the Jr. High Youth Group to help with this important fundraiser. We'll need all our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to make it happen!

Senior High Youth Group Overview

Our February meeting will take place on Monday, February 16th (Presidents' Day). We'll gather in Allerton Hall at 8:30a.m. to prepare the food for the Monday Meal of Hospitality served at our church that day. Please note the change in location for food preparation---the Monday morning Aerobics class has been cancelled for that day due to the holiday. We hope all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders will join us and bring a friend!

Sunday School Offering

This year's theme for our Sunday School Offering is "Feed My Sheep", taken from Jesus' commandment to the apostle Peter (John 21:15-17). Jesus tells Peter that if he loves Jesus, he will feed Jesus' sheep.

Many working families in Plymouth are truly struggling to have enough money to pay for food. We want to teach our children that 1.)Jesus wants us to do something about this, 2.)We can help, and 3.)We help because we love Jesus and this is a way for us to show that love. If your children come with you when you go grocery shopping, invite each of them to pick out a healthy non-perishable item that they can bring for their Sunday morning offering. This is a wonderful way to teach the spiritual practice of sharing. This offering will go to the Plymouth Food Warehouse which in turn supports numerous food banks throughout Plymouth as well as neighboring communities.

Children's Worship Service

This **Sunday, February 1st** we will have our regular first Sunday of the month Worship Service for Children and Youth ages 3 through 8th grade. Worship will be in the John Robinson Center and will include a Service of Communion. Parents, please bring your children to their classrooms *before* the 10am service begins in the sanctuary.

Can You Help?

The 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class would like to invite the congregation to join with them in collecting donations of underwear and toiletries for our guests in the Overnights for Hospitality. We are collecting large and extra- large packages of men's underwear, socks, and sample-sized toiletries such as shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, soap, etc. Donations can be placed in the laundry basket next to the food pantry donation boxes and will be distributed the last week of January and in March. We will be collecting these items through March. Thank you for participating with us in this opportunity to tangibly impact others' lives in a simple and meaningful way and allowing us to see another example of faith in action. In Jesus' name, thank you.

Correction: Please note the YTD ending date was 12/31/08 not 12/21/08 as published in a previous issue of the Pilgrimage Herald. Correction below:

YTD ending 12/31/08

Total Income: \$165,359.93

Total Expenses: \$191,695.54

Variance (shortfall): \$26,335.61

Pledged % against Budget: 44.3%

Pledge % Goal for YTD: 50%

Variance: 5.7% (\$10,382)

Pizza and Game Night!

Join us February 21 at 4:30 for games (everything from scrabble and monopoly to jump rope and knock hockey) and homemade pizza! Price of admission is a contribution to the pizza making (a pound of cheese, pepperoni, blue cheese and buffalo chicken, etc.); we'll let you know what we need when you sign up. Speaking of which sign ups will begin this weekend, Feb 1, and continue through the 15th. See me in Allerton Hall, call 508-747-7168 or email (poetick@verizon.net). Pure fun and fellowship! See you there!

Time and Talent Auction/Luncheon Sunday, March 1, after church

Sign-ups begin this Sunday for the delicious luncheon, only \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, max \$12. Also, please sign up for your donation(s) of time and/or talent. Forms will be available in Allerton Hall after church. What is your speciality? Someone else in the church is just longing to purchase that very thing! Don't let them down. Also, we have an immediate need for a volunteer to organize childcare for the event. Please call Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

**AS YOU GET READY TO WATCH THE SUPER BOWL, DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR
SUPER SUB**

Super Subs will be made game day morning (this Sunday, Feb. 1st),
and ready for pickup following the worship service.

Did you forget to place an order?

We'll have a few extra sandwiches available for sale this Sunday.

Cost: \$8.00.



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



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