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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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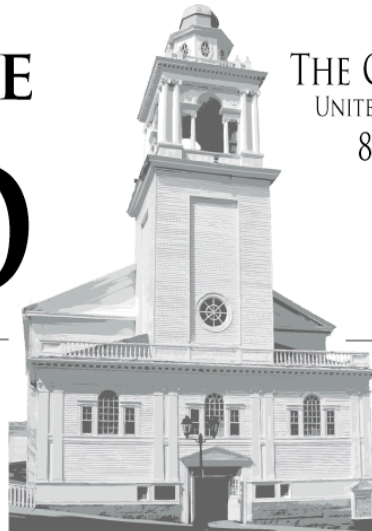


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Volume LXXXI, No. 6

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

February 15, 2009

Dear Friends,

Soon our annual stewardship initiative will be in full swing, though it may occur twice this year because we are changing the dates of our fiscal year. Instead of a July to June fiscal year we will be basing our budget on the calendar year. You'll hear more about that later and why the change is being made.

Several years ago our stewardship campaign was centered around the theme of yielding the "first fruits: of our labor to God. In Exodus 23:19 we read these words: "The first of the fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God." In other words, we are asked to think of God and the house of God first in giving and not as an afterthought which comes from what is left over. Consider this biblical principle of stewardship against the backdrop of the following true story.

The makers of Butterball brand turkeys operate something they call the "Butterball Turkey Talk Line." It is an 800-number you can call to get tips on how to cook your turkey. They get some pretty strange calls, but none so strange as the woman who called asking if it was safe to defrost and cook a Butterball turkey she'd had in her freezer for 26 years!

The answer came back that, provided the turkey had been properly wrapped and continuously frozen at a low enough temperature, it would be technically safe to eat—but its quality would not be very good. "That's what we thought," the caller replied. "We'll give it to the church."

I was struck by this simple story, but I've heard many stories just like it over the years. It, and the ones I know, is hardly in sync with the biblical injunction to give first to God and the house of God and the rest of our harvest, or money, is our's to use for our own needs, even our own excesses. God is the source of all our blessings and it is our faithful obligation to be grateful to God by returning the first portion of those blessings to God.

My grandfather, (the funny one) could be quite serious at times. He didn't consider himself poor, but he didn't have much, I can tell you. He and grandma had eight children. He told me once how demeaning and embarrassing it was to stand in a bread line during the Great Depression just to be able to keep his large family from devastating hunger. When he got work he told me this: "The first hour I work every week goes to God and the church." He never made much money, but he counted all blessings as gifts from God. He wasn't a religious zealot; he just took faith seriously.

I'm glad I have my grandpa as a role model regarding stewardship. He was a lot better person than the Butterball turkey person. I'd wager he was a lot happier, too. How do you do your stewardship planning?

Love, *Gay*.

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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. 15:** Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. New Member Classes in the JRC from 11:30am-12:30pm. Cherub and Junior Choir rehearsal.

**Feb 16:** Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am-1pm. The Church Office will be closed in observance of President's Day.

**Feb 17:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Board of Trustees will meet in the JRC Conference Room at 7:00pm.

**Feb 18:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Music Committee meeting at 6:30pm. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm. Choir Practice at 7:30pm.

**Feb 19:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Bible Study in the JRC at 10am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7pm.

**Feb 20:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.

**Feb 21:** Family Night in Allerton Hall, 4:30pm.  
*Coming Events –*

*Feb 22-Stewardship Luncheon in Allerton Hall following morning worship.*

*Feb 24-The Advisory Board Meeting, 7pm, JRC Conference Room.*

*Feb 25-Ash Wednesday. There will be an Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary at 7pm.*

*Mar 1-Time and Talent Auction/Luncheon in Allerton Hall, 11:30am-3:00pm.*

**CHURCH RECORD**

**Hospitalized:** Meredith Dornemann, Jordan Hospital. Recuperating following hospitalization, Liisa Budge-Johnson.

**In Memoriam:** On February 11, 2009 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Michael Hagan who was killed in a hit and run accident.

**Baptism:** On February 8, 2009 Rev. Marks baptized Jack William Flynn, son of Laura (Stearns) and Theodore Flynn and Mackenzie Lillian Kennedy, daughter of Ashley-Anne Kennedy.

**Flowers:** In loving memory of our dear friends Harold Govoni and Nelson Goddard and long time church members Jane Burns and Harold Clark. Given by Neil and Dottie Bottomley.

**N O T E S**

The entire **Hoyt Family** wishes to express our thanks to our Church family at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Your prayers, visits, caring expressions of concern and support during our Mom's illness, and your amazing help with her memorial service has touched us deeply. Mere words could never really express the gratitude we feel for all of your help. Thank you.

We are happy to report that **Linda Kegel** has agreed to coordinate **The Daffodil Days** program on behalf of The American Cancer Society. Orders need to be placed by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The flowers will be delivered the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>. Orders may be placed during upcoming Coffee Hours.

The **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** begins a new book as its primary resource. The book is entitled, [A Biblical Ecology: The Splendor of Creation](#), by Ellen Bernstein. This is a timely study in these times in which we face growing concerns regarding the environment and danger to our eco-system. The book is a reflection on the biblical story of creation in Genesis and what its implications for us in the case of the "good earth." Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of the acclaimed book, [When Bad Things Happen to Good People](#), says of Bernstein's work: "It is writer like Bernstein who make it possible to find answers in the Bible to questions no previous generation has had to ask. A book rich in valuable insights." Please join us if you can for an engaging study of our responsibilities to the earth which sustains us.

**Reduce, reuse, RECYCLE!** In an effort to reduce trash costs (which saves us money) and save the Earth (which saves us), please carry out all recyclable materials that your bring in for any and all events. This includes paper and paperboard (like cereal and cracker boxes), rinsed plastic (everything from sour cream containers to milk jugs, 1-7), rinsed metal (cans as well as aluminum foil, disposable pie plates, etc), and cardboard. The boxes under the metal table are there for your convenience while you are working. Please make it a part of cleanup to empty them when you are done and bring the items to the dump to recycle. I know this means a little extra work for many who are putting in extraordinary service already, but consider this a part of your stewardship

of the Earth with we have been charged by God. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

**Calling all crafty kids!** Join us Thursday, Feb. 19, 10 to 12 noon in Allerton Hall for a morning of candle-, card-, quilt-making and more as we get an early start on the kids table for the Harvest Fair. No experience necessary, just a pair of willing hands. Any and all ideas are welcome as well. Call Laura (508-746-7761) or Jenny (508-747-7168) to sign up. Or catch up with us at coffee hour.

**Kitchen Clean Out!** Please be advised that the corner of accumulated dishes in the kitchen will be purged this weekend (Feb. 15). I am sure we were grateful for whatever you brought in said dishes, and we'll be just as grateful if you would take your now empty dishes home. All that is left will either be disposed of or added to the permanent collection in the kitchen. Thank you for your help.

## Time & Talent Auction/Luncheon Sun., March 1, after church

Only **TWO** weeks left to sign up for the delicious luncheon, only \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, Max. \$12. You don't want to miss this really fun event.

Also, please hand in your donation forms of time and/or talent. Some suggestions: *A ride in your canoe or boat; a weekend get-a-way; a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant; babysitting; training in computer, photography, dance, tennis, golf; a round of golf; meals hosted or delivered; a truckload of trash to the dump; bread, cakes, cookies or pies delivered once a month.*

Please call Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959 with questions.

### Confirmation News

The next Confirmation meeting will be Sunday, February 15th.

### Junior High Youth Group Overview

Stay tuned for more information on March's Youth Group activity.

### Senior High Youth Group Overview

Our February meeting will take place this Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> (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 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will join us and bring a friend!

### 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 15<sup>th</sup>. See me in Allerton Hall, call 508-747-7168 or email ([poetick@verizon.net](mailto:poetick@verizon.net)). Pure fun and fellowship! See you there!

### Coffee Hour this Sunday

Come talk to the Missions and Outreach Committee about our projects as we serve you coffee and treats this Sunday after the service. Equal Exchange (only decaf left), chocolate bars, and cocoa will be sold during the Coffee Hour as well. Hope to see you on Sunday!

### Plymouth Food Warehouse

Please continue to bring canned or boxed non-perishable food each Sunday in donation to the Plymouth Food Warehouse. Place your donations in the red bins in the foyer or in the boxes in the JRC classrooms. Your food is delivered to the Warehouse on Wednesdays. If you have time to pick up and deliver food between 10:30am and 12:00 on Wednesday mornings once a month, please call Sarah Barnicle at 508-747-5531 to sign up. Thanks!

### Pilgrim Association News

At the request of Central Square Congregational Church, Bridgewater, MA the Pilgrim Association will gather for an Installation Service of The Rev. Ms. Kristy Coburn as the Associate Pastor on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 2:00pm. Following the Installation Service there will be a reception in the Church Hall.

*Kick off Stewardship Luncheon*

*February 22, 2009*

*Following Church*

*Join us for Good Food and Fellowship*

*Learn about Financial Aspects of your Church*

*Leave Enlightened and Energized*



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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM  
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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