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# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

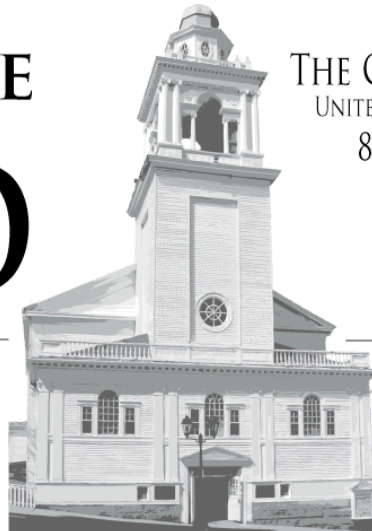
THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,  
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Volume LXXXI, No. 7

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

February 22, 2009

Dear Friends,

I hope that as many of you who can will attend our Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon on Sunday, February 22. Our dedicated Stewardship Committee wants to share with you the challenges and opportunities which lie before us in 2009 and beyond. Last Sunday I asked members of our board's and committee's to speak to the New Member Class. As speaker after speaker spoke about a board's or committee's work I was struck by the love each had for our congregation. There was an honesty and sincerity in each person's voice which resonated with me and, I think, with those assembled in The Robinson Center Conference Room.

Sometime later I came across an insight by Rick Warren, a person I don't think I've quoted before, but in this observation I found him to be right on target about how the church should be viewed. It was Rick Warren, you may recall, who gave the invocation at President Obama's inauguration. Of the nature of the church Warren says: "The church is a body, not a business. It is an organism, not an organization. It is alive... The task of church leadership is to discover and remove growth-restricting diseases and barriers so that natural, normal growth can occur."

Very often we do think of the church as a business and an organization. And, there will always be aspects of our congregational life together that are business-like and church order requires that we think organizationally. The primary purpose of the church, however, is to be the body of Christ and, therefore, alive and energized by his ministry and mission. The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 12:13 taught this: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews and Greeks, slaves and free-all were made to drink of one Spirit." In Colossians 1:18 the Apostle said: "He is the head of the body, the church,..."

The church is a body, not a business, an organism, not an organization ultimately. We are ordered as a church under a covenant to serve as Christ's body, not as Christ's organization. Even the organizational aspects of our congregation are meant to serve in Christ's name and to be a part of a discernment process through which we seek guidance, inspiration and direction from our spiritual nerve center.

So, I hope you'll be in attendance at our Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon as we try to meet the challenges and opportunities which will enable us to function as the body of Christ. We need always to remember that we are all on a faith journey which requires of us to be wise stewards of our resources as the body of Christ.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary L. Marks".

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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. 22:** Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon following worship in Allerton Hall. Cherub Choir will sing. Junior Choir rehearsal.

**Feb 23:** Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am-1pm.

**Feb 24:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Advisory Board will meet in the JRC Conference Room at 7:00pm.

**Feb 25:** Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins). Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Bible Study in the JRC at 10am. Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Choir Practice at 7:30pm.

**Feb 27:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.

**Feb 28:** Blue and Gold Banquet in Allerton Hall.

*Coming Events –*

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

*Mar 8-Reception of New Members during morning worship.*

**CHURCH RECORD**

**Hospitalized:** Recuperating at The Radius Center, Meredith Dornemann.

**Baptism:** On February 15, 2009 Patrick Dwyer Daily, son of Ryan and Cecilia (Vautrain) Daily was baptized during the morning worship service.

**Flowers:** In loving memory of Miriam L. and Henry Barnes. Given by Tom Barnes. The side flowers are in loving memory of Roland Shuart. Given by his wife Audrey.

**NOTES**

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.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Gary plans to attend the first in what will be a long series of meetings leading up to the **four hundredth anniversary** of the landing of the Mayflower. Gary is gratified to have been selected to serve on that committee.

There are many things that get done at the church which are very important to us, but which often are simply taken for granted. Once such detail important to our congregational lives are the **baptismal crosses** which we present whenever there are baptisms. **Bill Harting** makes those lovely little crosses. He just brought a new batch of them to church last Sunday. Thank you, Bill!

Speaking of congregational details, we thank **Diane Keller** for taking on the responsibility of updating church activities in local newspapers like The Old Colony Memorial. She is doing a great job!

**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.

**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

**LAST CHANCE** 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. You'll get the chance to bid on some really cool stuff. Shs-s-s-s, don't tell anyone but Red Sox tickets are going to be auctioned off!!

Don't forget to hand in your donation forms of time and/or talent. And then, plan to attend. This is a major fundraiser for the church. We need everyone's support to make it successful.

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

### Confirmation News

Confirmation will NOT meet March 1<sup>st</sup>, due to the Time & Talent auction following worship. Our next Confirmation activity will be Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00a.m. to about 2p.m. We'll travel to Quincy to learn about the Prison Book Program and offer our help with this invaluable ministry. For more information, go to [www.prisonbookprogram.org](http://www.prisonbookprogram.org). The cost of this trip is \$20 per person, plus money for lunch. In preparation for this experience, please read Matthew 25:31-45.

### Junior High Youth Group Overview

Save the date for our next Jr. High Youth Group activity: Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We've got a couple of different ideas we're working on...stay tuned to future issues of the Herald for more information.

### Senior High Youth Group Overview

Our February meeting was a grand success! Six Senior Highs gathered together on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30a.m. in the Allerton Hall kitchen (on a school vacation day!) to prepare the Monday Meal of Hospitality. According to our guests, our American-style chop suey was absolutely delicious. Bread, cheesy broccoli, and pudding pie with whipped cream rounded out the menu. This was both a fulfilling and much needed labor of love for our Plymouth neighbors in need. Congratulations on a job well done!

### 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!

### 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!

### SPECIAL INFORMATION FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE (UCC):

#### Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline

1-800-645-8333      TTY: 1-800-377-1292

With the high cost of living in the Commonwealth and more than 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, chances are that a friend or neighbor of yours is having difficulty making ends meet this winter. Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline can help.

The FoodSource Hotline is the only comprehensive information and referral service for the hungry in Massachusetts. Counselors can provide information and screen callers for food stamp eligibility, connect them to school meal programs, and direct them to emergency food resources right in their neighborhood. Counselors can assist callers in 160 languages and the calls are both personalized and confidential. Extend your goodwill and reach out to those in need.

A call to Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline may be all it takes to provide comfort to someone who is struggling. In response to the increased demand for help, Project Bread's Food Source Hotline has extended its hours to: Monday - Friday: 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. - Saturday: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

### Pilgrim Association News

At the request of Pilgrim Church of Duxbury, 404 Washington St., Duxbury the Pilgrim Association is invited to gather for an Installation Service of The Rev. Ms. Eloise A. Parks as the Associate Pastor on Sunday, March 1, 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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