

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

www.8townsquare.org

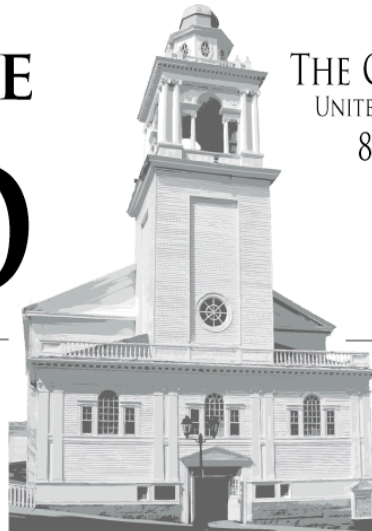


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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

February 8, 2009

Dear Friends,

Recently I read a version of a story I heard a long time ago. It is a metaphor, of course, but one which has implications worthy of consideration when we think about being members of a church.

A holy man was having a conversation with God one day and asked, “Lord, what are heaven and hell like?”

God led the man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms, and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But, because the handles were longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, “You have seen hell.” They went to the next room and opened the door. It was, exactly the same as the first one. Again, there was large table with a large pot of stew. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but in the room the people were well nourished and were laughing and talking with one another.

The holy man said, “I don’t understand.”

“It is simple,” said the Lord. “It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the other greedy ones think only of themselves.”

I was pleased to have read this variation of a story I’d heard long ago. I guess it spoke to me especially in the light of the current economic crisis in which there are many accounts of unbridled greed and an absence of concern for others. The situation in the metaphor reminded me of Jesus’ words in Matthew 16:26: “For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?” In the Bible, and in other of the world’s great religions, greed eventually destroys itself because it is an alienating force among peoples. It forces people to lose a sense of responsibility that we have to one another in the world community. The greedy never seem to figure out that none are nourished when we want the whole pot of stew for ourselves. Greed creates a kind of hell. On the other hand, learning how to feed one another leads to the well being of all of us. Let’s, as a church, learn how to feed each other. Such a way of living separates heaven and hell.

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. 8: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Heather A. Moody preaching. Junior Choir will sing. New Member Classes The Robinson Center Conference Room from 11:30am-12:30pm. Cherub Choir rehearsal. The Memorial Garden Committee will meet following worship.

Feb 9: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am-1pm.

Feb 10: Rev. Marks will conduct a worship service at The Newfield House at 10:00am. He will be in the church office following that service. The Missions Committee will meet in the JRC conference room at 7:30pm.

Feb 11: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm. Choir Practice at 7:30pm.

Feb 13: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Guild will meet at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall.

Coming Events –

Feb 15- New Member Class, 11:30-12:30, JRC.

Feb 17- Board of Trustees, 7pm, JRC

Feb 21-Family Night in Allerton Hall

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

Feb 24-The Advisory Board, &PM, JRC

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: Liisa Budge-Johnson, Jordan Hospital. Recently hospitalized, Frank Roberts.

In Memoriam: On February 7, 2009 a memorial service was conducted in the church sanctuary for Shirley Hoyt. Our sympathies are extended to Allen and all the Hoyt family.

Flowers: The flowers are in loving memory of Harold and Dorothy Strassel, Mr. Harold Tissot, Mr. Roy Seese and other family members. Given by the family.

February Greeters:

Feb. 8-Paul and Rosalee Sinn

Feb. 15-Connie and Brian Lawn

Feb. 22-Peter Causton and Sarah Barnicle

N O T E S

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.

Reminder: Items to be included in [The Pilgrimage Herald](#) must be submitted to the church office by noon on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday on which the [Herald](#) is dated.

Daffodil Days needs a Volunteer: A packet of information has arrived from the American Cancer Society. In the past, Jane Burns had coordinated our church’s participation in their Daffodil Days. Please call the church office if you are willing to do this. Orders need to be placed by March 2nd with flowers delivered the week of March 16th.

F. Steven Triffletti, Moderator, had received from the Advisory Board the **nomination of Barbara Triffletti** to fill an unexpired term on the Nominating Committee. The Moderator has approved the nomination and appoints the nominated to fill the vacancy.

The Pension Boards, and the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, write to THANK YOU for your support of the **Annual United Church of Christ Christmas Fund Offering**. The total gifts received to the Christmas Fund in 2008 totaled \$1,597,000. This sum represents the largest number of dollars ever raised for the ministry underwritten by the Fund in its 106 year history! Again, a big THANK YOU! on behalf of all those who benefit from your generosity during these economically challenging days.

Our **sympathies** are extended to the Corcoran and Balboni family on the death of Thomas Corcoran. Thomas was the uncle of Kelly Balboni.

Confirmation News

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

Junior High Youth Group Overview

This past Sunday's Super Sub sandwich making extravaganza was a huge success! About 15 Junior Highs made over 100 sandwiches. The operation went like clockwork, thanks to a huge amount of prep work done by Kara and Jeff Mallon, Megan Verdugo, Tom Healy and others. Rev. Heather wishes to express her deep appreciation and gratitude to all who invested time and effort shopping, chopping, sorting, organizing, weighing, and preparing the food. Thanks to the Youth Group Leader Brian Lawn and the other adults who helped ensure everything went smoothly Sunday morning, especially since Rev. Heather was home sick that morning. Thanks also to all who ordered sandwiches or donated money. Because of all of you, we are blessed twice—not only did we raise needed funds for our Junior High Youth Group ministry, we also had a great time doing it!

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!

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-up 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.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Dear Friends of the Overnight of Hospitality:

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteered during our three weeks of Overnights this winter. More people than ever volunteered to help, making the work of feeding and sheltering the homeless so much easier for all. You cooked, you cleaned, you hosted, and you spoke kindly to men who needed a gentle word, a hot meal, a friendly smile, and a daily dose of dignity. This service in Jesus' name is not always easy to carry out, but it is always rewarding and always the right thing to do. Thanks to those of you who donated money, videos, sheets, blankets, toiletries, and clothes. Your gifts were generous and were much appreciated.

We regret that due to scheduling issues, we will not be hosting a fourth week of overnights this year, but will aim to do so next year.

Love, Your Missions Committee

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.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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