
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

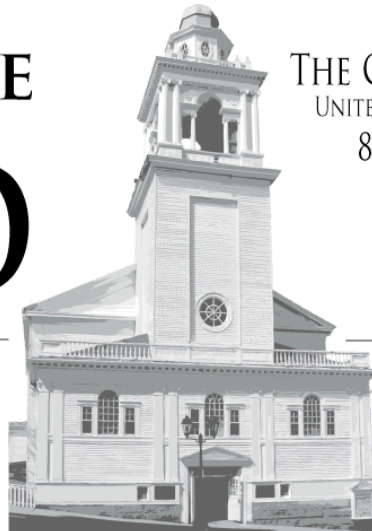
THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,
MASSACHUSETTS 02360

www.8townsquare.org



THE REVEREND GARY L. MARKS,
SENIOR PASTOR
gmarks@8townsquare.org

THE REVEREND HEATHER A. MOODY,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
hmoody@8townsquare.org



CHURCH OFFICE

PHONE: 508-746-3026

FAX: 508-746-4362

office@8townsquare.org

Volume LXXXI, No. 9

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

March 8, 2009

Dear Friends,

A little over a week ago I was reading an article in which an unreferenced quotation appeared. I had read the line before, but I couldn't recall at all from whence it came. Being a computer whiz now I Googled it. The line cited is from the great English poet John Milton (1604-1674). It is from a sonnet entitled "On His Blindness." He penned the poem when he was stricken with blindness about mid way through his life. The quotation is the last line of his poem and is this: "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Those who comment on this observation say that it means that, in Milton's view, we all have a place in this world and we all perform a function, regardless of any of our abilities or disabilities. Milton wrote from a strong faith posture and it included a view of life in which all people, despite challenges, are important to God.

Milton was spiritually born of the same Christian traditions from which we derive our roots. He was sixteen years old the year the Mayflower landed in Plymouth Harbor. He was a part of a biblical interpretation which, at its best, believed that all are created as being equal in the sight of God. Of course, there were aspects of his faith position, like our own, which belied that idea, but for now let's focus upon the tradition at its best!

They also serve who have physical or mental challenges, who have waited a long time, who have served a long time. Some have more than others, some appear to get all the breaks while others seem to get none of them. What the world counts as success is not necessarily what God counts as success. In Milton's view, as in my own when I'm at my best, all who serve are those who are the beloved of God. That service does not have to be grandiose, it doesn't have to be recognized by others, especially those who themselves seem to do everything in life to receive recognition. Service is a blessed enterprise because, at not matter what level of ability, it seeks to please God which is reward enough.

That is a lesson I hope to relearn during Lent 2009. Serving God is not a matter of worldly achievement, it is not about how learned we may be, or how much money we have or don't have. It is about honoring God by finding honor in all people.

I am very attracted to Milton's view of life and faith, at least as it is expressed in his poem, "On His Blindness." We should all dwell for a while on this insight during Lent: "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Love,

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

©The Church of the Pilgrimage in Plymouth, MA Inc., all rights reserved.

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

Mar 8-Daylight Saving Time: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Heather Moody preaching. The service today will include the Reception of New Members. Cherub Choir and Junior Choir rehearsal following worship.

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

Mar 10: Rev. Marks will conduct a worship service at The Newfield House at 10:00am.

Mar 11: Bible Study in the JRC at 10am. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Choir Practice at 7:30pm.

Mar 13: Guild Meeting at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall.

Mar 14: Confirmation Retreat. Pinewood Derby.

Coming Events –

Mar 15-The Third Sunday in Lent. There will be a joint meeting of the Advisory board, the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committee in the JRC Stewart Room.

Mar 17-The Board of Trustees will meet in the JRC Conference Room at 7:00pm.

Mar 22-The Fourth Sunday of Lent. Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received during morning worship.

Mar 24-The Advisory Board will meet at 7:00pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Office Hours for Rev. Gary L. Marks

Mar 10- Rev. Marks will be in the office after conducting a worship service at The Newfield House at 10:00am.

Mar 11-Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Mar 13-Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Office Hours for Rev. Heather Moody

Mar 10- Rev. Moody will be in the office at 10:00am.

Mar 11- Rev. Moody will be in the office at 10:00am.

Mar 12- Rev. Moody will be in the office at 10:00am.

Mar 13-Rev. Moody will be in the office at 10:00am

Flowers: In honor of our parents. Given by Laura and Cliff Sampson.

N O T E S

We could benefit from a few more people in our **Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class**. The few we have are very fond of the book we are using as a study guide. Conversations are rich and engaging. The book, The Splendor of Creation focuses upon the ecological issues which are implicit in the creation story in the Book of Genesis. Join us, if you can spare an hour on a Wednesday morning. The class meets from 10:00-11:00am.

Peggy Jewett offered a moving and heartfelt testimonial during worship on March 1st. We were

all deeply inspired by her account of her faith journey. She reminded us all of just how important faith is as we make our way through life and of what a significant role the church's role is on our continuing spiritual formation. We are pleased that Peggy has opted to proceed in her faith journey among us at The Church of the Pilgrimage!

The Guild will meet on Friday, March 13, 2009 at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall. The Program will be the "The Abolitionist in Plymouth" with Donna Curtin.

Rides to Church Program

The Advisory Board is hoping to collect a list of people who would be willing to transport other church members to and from church on an as needed basis. Often, this would be for one Sunday only. However, there are several long-standing "saints" of the church who no longer drive and desperately wish to continue participating in our weekly service. Can you help?

Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast

Once again the Advisory Board will be sponsoring a Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast on April 5, 2009. Sign ups for this will be held the weeks of March 15, 22, and 29 after church. Allerton Hall can only seat 150 people, so please sign up early to ensure your participation in the annual event of fellowship and worship.

Deacons in charge for the month of March:

March 1-Don Jennings

March 8-Don Jennings

March 15-Alice Heckman

March 22-Marylyn Colburn

March 29-Dottie Bottomley

Jenny Healy is Deacon in charge of Meals for March and April.

Greeters for March:

March 1-Rollin and Carol Johnson

March 8-Pat and Tom Mudgett

March 15-John and Meg Bross

March 22-Janice Lee and Rosa Cook

March 29-Chuck and Joen Blanton

Ushers for March 1st were Diane Keller, Pat Blackmer, Paul Sinn and Rosalee Sinn.

Confirmation News

Our next Confirmation activity will be Sat, March 14th from 9am-2pm. 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. 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

We've got some great activities lined up for the next three months! **Join us Sunday, March 22nd** following worship for Pizza and BOWLING at Alley Kat Lanes in Kingston. Bring \$8.00 for shoes and two strings of bowling. We'll take care of the pizza. Then in April, join us for a mini-mission project on Sunday, April 26th after worship. As the weather gets warmer in 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 gardening and 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 March meeting will be **Friday**, March 27th from 5:00-7:00p.m. We'll eat pizza, hang out, talk about our plans for the rest of the year, and watch & discuss a t.v. show. We welcome all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders to join us, and bring a friend!

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing has an amazing history. For sixty years, since 1949, a number of Christian denominations and Church World Service have worked together, through this offering, to be the church God calls us to be, the church working as one, to share resources and change lives.

Working with international partners, the United Church of Christ provides sources of clean water and food, education and health care, micro-credit loans, emergency relief, advocacy and resettlement for

refugees. In addition, we work to help people just like you prepare for disasters before they arise, and to rebuild following the devastating effects of disasters.

The **2009 Time & Talent Luncheon/Auction** raised **\$3721** for the operation of our beloved Church, despite a snowy day. Al Hoyt was a magnificent auctioneer, and didn't let his bad cold get in the way of driving those bids higher and higher. Jenny Healy and her crew (Sue, Tom, and Will Healy, Joyce Ashley, and Megan Verdugo) provided a wonderful warm lunch to get us started. We were ably served by a host of enthusiastic children. The auction items were outstanding. And finally the attendees outdid themselves, bidding their little hearts out, sometimes against family members, much to the delight of the crowd. Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a fun, and successful, event. It is now the responsibility of the winning bidder to contact the person offering the item or talent you purchased. If you have any questions about who that is, contact Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3949 or je_mitchell@comcast.net.

Where Your Treasure Is: A Reflection on Matthew 6:16-21

This reflection was written by the Rev. Martin B. Copenhaver, senior pastor at Wellesley Congregational Church, UCC. I hope you find it useful and illuminating as we all prayerfully consider our stewardship of the many gifts God has given us. —Rev. Heather

If we are not careful we might read what Jesus says with a kind of scriptural dyslexia. We might remember him saying, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also." That would make ready sense to us because, after all, much of the time our dollars follow our heart's lead. We give to what matters to us. But that is not what Jesus said.

Jesus says something more profound and more hopeful than that, affirming that wherever you put your treasure, that is where your heart *will end up*. To be sure, how we spend our money does reveal something about the kind of people we are. But Jesus seems to affirm that how we spend our money determines the sort of people we become. "Give from the heart," people say. But Jesus speaks of a different dynamic: Give where you want your heart to be, and then let your heart catch up. If you want to care more about the kind of car you drive, buy an expensive one. If you want to care more about property values, remodel your house. If you want to grow in your relationship with God, bring an offering to God.

Wherever your treasure is, your heart is bound to follow.

Prayer: Dear God, help me hold on to you so closely that I do not hold on to anything else too closely. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MEALS

This program was started a few years ago to provide a hot meal for an individual or family within our church family who is in need of assistance, often for medical reasons. Though the reason may begin as something physical the meals may be extended for the spiritual and emotional support that that extension of kindness provides. Taking the time for visiting when delivering a meal is at least as nourishing and important as the food itself; any of the past recipients would testify to that. Sometimes a person may feel awkward, uncomfortable or even embarrassed by their need; in these cases they may be assured that this is not an act of charity but is an act of love in Christ's name. As the old hymn goes, "Let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you". These words have been successfully reassuring.

That said, the Advisory Board owes the congregation an apology for having dropped the ball on this service over the last few months. We regret very much having failed to serve several of our members who we should have served over recent months had this program been up and running as it should have been. We would like to pick up the ball and run with an updated list of meal makers and renewed energy to serve one another. Below is list of people who have lovingly volunteered to provide meals as needed (with a long enough list, this is not very frequent). You could be of great help to us in one of four ways.

1. If your name appears below and you would like it to remain there, you don't need to do anything unless you'd like to add your email address to the list for efficiency purposes.
2. If your name is on the list and you are unable to continue to help for any reason, please let us know and we will take you off the list.
3. If you'd like to add your name to the list please call Jenny Healy (508-747-7168) or email (poetick@verizon.net)
4. If you know someone who needs a meal (even if it is you), please let the ministers, Shellie or a deacon know.

Alice Heckman

Janice Lee

Kathy Marks

Susan Miller

Dave & Sandy Moreland

Barbara Northrop

Bobbi Preston

Debby Richters

Glenda Richards

Marie Robinson

Julie and Trace Sears

Megan Verdugo

Marna Blomberg

Shirley Axon

Suzanne Anderson

Dottie Bottomley

Meg Bross

Barbara Quinn

Laura Curtin

Linda Brown

Amy Simpson

Charlene Moore

Al and Verna Hoyt

A deacon will contact you about when and what is needed. Don't worry if you can't do it when called the first time; that's why we have a list. Thank you for being a part of this very important ministry.

Jenny

Lenten Services and Events

March 8-The Second Sunday of Lent

March 11-Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm

March 15-The Third Sunday of Lent

March 18-Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7:00pm

March 22- The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 25-Taize Healing Service in the sanctuary, 7:00pm

March 29-The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lenten Reflection on The Isenheim Altarpiece, 7:00pm in Allerton Hall

April 5-Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast in Allerton Hall at 8:00am

April 9-Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary, 7:00pm

April 10-Good Friday Service in the sanctuary, 7:00pm

April 12-Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill, 6:00am

Service at The Church of the Pilgrimage, 9am

All Church Family Service at The Church of the Pilgrimage, 11am



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
8 TOWN SQUARE,
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820