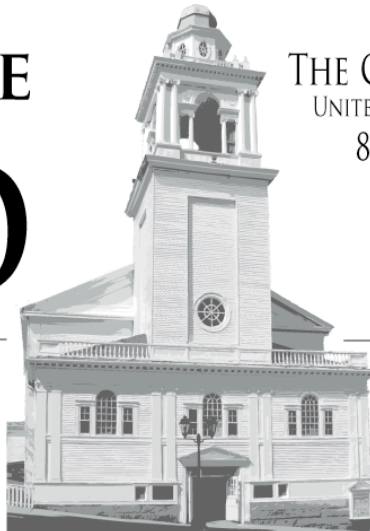

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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Volume LXXXI, No. 19

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

May 31, 2009

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on Memorial Day evening. This day commemorates and honors those who have given their lives in service to the country, of course. It is also the unofficial onset of the summer season and for a couple of weeks that introduces celebrations of high school and college graduations. It is a celebrating time of year and I extend my personal blessings and best wishes upon all those who are about to reach significant markers along life's way.

This coming Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, as well. Pentecost is the day upon which we celebrate the founding of the Christian Church. You can read about the events which occurred on the first Pentecost in Acts 2. It is a time of the outpouring of the Spirit upon those who were to continue the Easter faith in the name of the risen Christ. In unbroken line the church has continued to be the agency through which God seeks to bless the world with the power of our Resurrection faith. That is one reason that we confirm our young people on this date.

I've always been a little sad that mainline churches, generally speaking, have not made as much of Pentecost as they should. After all, in the absence of Jesus in bodily form the church is called to be his body in all that ages. There is a real sense, that we are those institutions through which resurrection hope is to be kept alive for the sake of the world which God so loves. That is something to recall, rehearse and celebrate!

Pentecost arrives this year when our beloved congregation is in a period of transition. By this time you are all aware that because of economic reasons we are forced to eliminate the position of associate pastor. That means, of course, that Rev. Heather will be leaving us and, I hope, to even greener pastures for her. I will very much miss sharing the pastoral office with her. I also lament that her position will be eliminated for the foreseeable future. That is a great loss to our congregation.

Yet, as we celebrate Pentecost we should be encouraged by the story of the church's founding. We should recognize and bask in the light of the Spirit which came to rest upon ordinary people to empower them to act in the place of the risen Christ until the end of the ages. It behooves us to renew our faith and to move steadfastly into the future with determination, hope and joy. We are a congregation of many blessings and we have many dedicated people who will now be called upon to provide a shared ministry in what can be new and exciting ways.

So, let's celebrate Pentecost with vigor and hope! The Spirit will bless and empower us!

Love,

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On Our Calendar

May 31: Morning worship 10am, Rev. Heather Moody preaching. Confirmation Service. There will be a morning Coffee Hour in Allerton Hall following the service.

Jun 4: The Christian Education Committee will meet at 7:00pm in the JRC. The Stewardship Committee will hold a meeting in the JRC Stewart Room.

Jun 6: High School Graduation

Coming Events –

June 12-The Guild Annual Luncheon

June 14-Church School Sunday/Graduating Seniors

June 21-Father's Day/Music Appreciation Sunday

There will be a special Coffee Hour recognizing Rev. Heather's ministry among us.

Office Hours for Rev. Gary L. Marks

June 2-5: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Office Hours for Rev. Heather Moody

June 2 & 5: Rev. Moody will be in the office at 10am.

June 3-4: Rev. Moody will be at Boundary Awareness Training

Church Record

Hospitalized: Tom Mudgett, Billie Fry and Bernie Holmes at the Jordan Hospital.

Baptisms: On May 24, 2009 Isabella Linh Medeiros, daughter of Minh (Nguyen) and Randall Medeiros, was baptized during the Sunday service.

Flowers: The flowers are in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Bolger. Given by William and Nancy Stearns and family.

N O T E S

Since the 9/11 tragedy Rev. Marks has led a service of directed silent prayer on most Wednesday evenings from fall through spring. Those who participate in the service have found meaning and spiritual formation in these gatherings. The number of people participating has always been small, but there are enough to keep the services going. There will be no **Wednesday Evening Prayer Service** during the summer months, but they will resume in the fall.

A note of thanks for Eileen Ganem: I am finally back home from rehab after hip surgery and wish to thank everyone who called, visited, or sent cards to cheer me up. I feel blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. Your prayers and good wishes meant so much to me and I know I owe my recovery to all of you.

Sincerely, Eileen Ganem

Craft and Story Hour-Please sign-up to do a craft/story hour during the summer! Our curriculum for church school does not continue during the summer months. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall at the back of Allerton Hall. Any questions? Call Sue Coombs 508-224-9319

Important Dates to Remember

May 31: **Confirmation Sunday.**

June 14: **Church School and Graduating Seniors Sunday.**

Our children will provide some of the leadership for our regular worship service. We will have a service of recognition and blessing for our graduating high school seniors. We will also recognize the adults who serve as Sunday School Teachers. Church picnic at Pinewood Lodge to follow the worship service.

June 21: **Rev. Heather's** last Sunday at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Worship will be a celebration of our ministry together over the past 3½ years. This is also Music Appreciation Sunday. Following worship, there will be a reception in Allerton Hall.

Confirmation News

Confirmation Sunday is May 31st. Meet in Allerton Hall at 9:30am.

2nd Grade Bibles!

We're working on gathering a comprehensive list of this year's 2nd graders who will be receiving a Bible on Church School Sunday (June 14th). However, we want to be sure no one is left out—so parents, please call the church office (508-746-3026) with the spelling of your child's name as you would have it appear on her or his Bible.

Attention Graduating Seniors and Parents

We want to honor our graduating high school seniors during worship on **June 14th** and we would like to publish your name and any information you have about your future plans in an upcoming issue of the Herald. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be able to be present on **June 14th** and to share what's next for you.

Has Anyone Seen My Bible?

Rev. Heather is missing the Bible she received at her ordination service. It has a black "leather-like" cover and is the New Revised Standard Version. It has a gift inscription on an inside page with her name and the date of her ordination. If you have seen it (or borrowed it not knowing what it was or to whom it belonged) please call the church office (508-746-3026). Rev. Heather would really appreciate any help you can provide in recovering this very important book!

Golf Tournament Hole Sponsorship: The Annual Church of the Pilgrimage September Golf Tournament will be held Saturday morning, September 19, 2009 at Southers Marsh Golf Club in West Plymouth. We welcome corporate and individual hole sponsors (\$100) to make this fundraiser a success. Call Mike Harrington 508-747-2060 or Judy Mitchell 508-746-3959 for more information.

Ministry of Meals

If you know of anyone who might be in need of a meal or a visit from someone in our church please contact the church office (508-746-3026). Trace Sears is the Deacon in charge of the Ministry of Meals for the months of May and June.

The Rhubarb is in! **Time to start making and freezing pies for the Harvest Fair.** Our goal is to have as many frozen pies prepared as possible well ahead of the October rush. By spreading out the work over the next several months, it also gives us an opportunity to make a greater variety of pies using what is in season or what is on sale. To assure a uniform product, all pies should be put into the disposable pie plates that I will provide (look for the box in Allerton Hall next week), and all pies should be made using the following piecrust recipe (but may be filled with your choice of fruit- custards don't freeze well). Be sure to wrap the pies in a large plastic bag and label what kind of pie it is (permanent marker written right on the bag is the best way-tags can get lost and tape often doesn't stick). If you do not have room in your freezer for all your pies, contact me and I will see to it that they get into a big freezer. Any number of pies will be well received; the traditional apple, blueberry and strawberry-rhubarb are the best sellers. The pies will be sold frozen (and unbaked!). Piecrust coaching is available upon request. Thank you very much for your participation. Contact me with any questions: Jenny 508-747-7168 or poetick@verizon.net

Piecrust recipe for frozen pies

2 sticks unsalted butter, chilled and cut into cubes

2 cups all purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon sugar

1/4 cup ice water

Mix dry ingredients well. Work in butter using two knives or a pastry blender (not your hands as they will warm the butter too much). Once butter has been well incorporated (reduced to peas sized pieces) add ice water and toss with fork to moisten dough. Turn dough out onto counter and rub dough into the counter several times with the heel of your hand. Form the dough into two discs, wrap in waxed paper or plastic and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

All Committees and Boards are reminded that they should meet within 30 days of the annual meeting for the purpose of organization and election of officers. Please provide the office with an updated list of members including contact information, and the Chair, Co-chair if appropriate, and secretary of your committee. Secretaries are reminded to provide the church office with the minutes following each board or committee meeting. Ad Hoc committees (Memorial Garden, By-Law review) should also forward their information to the office. This will enable us to publish the guide/directory in a timely fashion.

Al Hoyt is organizing open house/tours at The Church of the Pilgrimage for the months of June, July and August. We need volunteers who would like to tell visitors about our church. If enough folks volunteer, each person will only have to be at the church one day each week. The plan is for open house/tours Wednesday through Saturday from 11am-3:30-4:00pm. Thursdays and Fridays have already been filled but days are flexible. A brief class on the history will be given to all volunteers.

TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES

Look for new CONNECTIONS at the Women Leaders of New England CELEBRATION VIII, to be held in Burlington, VT on March 12-14, 2010. Women 14 years and up will learn to Build Bridges Together in a new workshop which will feature intergenerational, participatory time. Leaders will be Valerie Tutson, a renowned storyteller from Rhode Island, and Whendi Cooke, singer, songwriter, musician and visual artist from Connecticut. Together they will lead women 14 and up in creating expression of the journey as sisters of spirit. Experience CONNECTIONS through art, music, dance, faith and fun! For more information, check out the website: uccwomenscelebration.org.

Pastoral Leadership Transition Team: The Advisory Board has already begun planning for the shift in responsibilities made necessary by the elimination of the Associate Pastor position. We recognize some of the challenges we face in the coming months as we seek to maintain and grow our vital ministries with reduced staff. The Board has appointed a transition team to work with both Rev. Heather and Rev. Gary to identify critical functions currently served by the Associate Pastor, and ways in which Lay leaders may assume some of the responsibilities of the Associate Pastor on her departure, such as Youth Fellowship, Church School Programs, Confirmation, and visitation. We also hope to find ways to support the work of the Senior Pastor as he continues to lead the congregation during this time of transition. In short, we will be looking to identify the gifts for ministry God has given people in our congregation, and helping people put those gifts into action through increased opportunities for service in the church. We welcome your thoughts, concerns, and most importantly, your prayers in our work. Your transition team: Jenny Healy, Trace Sears, and Christina Borel.



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
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WE ARE UNITED IN STRIVING TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD, AND TO WALK IN GOD'S WAYS, MADE KNOWN OR TO BE MADE KNOWN TO US.