
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



CHURCH OFFICE

PHONE: 508-746-3020
FAX: 508-746-4362

office@8townsquare.org

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

November 15, 2009

Dear Friends:

It seems that I've been finding a lot of quotations about money since I preached a sermon on the "Widow's Mite." The story which was the basis of last Sunday's sermon is written in Mark 12:38-44. The following lengthy quotation first appeared in a book entitled Prayers of Life in 1965. The piece I am about to cite bears the title "Prayer Before a Five-Pound Note."

"Lord, see this note, it frightens me.

You know its secrets, you know its history.

How heavy it is!

It scares me, for it cannot speak.

It will never tell all it hides in its creases.

It will never reveal all the struggles and efforts it represents,
all the disillusionment and slighted dignity.

It is stained with sweat and blood.

It is laden with all the weight of human toil which makes it worth...

O Lord, I offer you this note with its joyous mysteries,
and its sorrowful mysteries.

I thank you for all the life and joy it has given.

I ask forgiveness for the harm it has done.

But above all, Lord, I offer it to you as
a symbol of all the labors of people,

Undestructible money, which tomorrow will be changed into your eternal life." Amen.

Prayer is often like poetry. It is able to carry deep meaning in fewer words than prose is able to do. This prayer is a profound reflection upon the meaning we derive from the money we have. It can often have less than honorable uses. It can even be destructive in the way it is spent. It can do great good for things like our church's ministry and mission, or for the way we seek, in other ways, to be helpful to those less fortunate than we are.

It was good for me to read a simple prayer over what we'd call a five-dollar bill. Where was it, and what did it buy, before I got it as change in a convenience store, a gas station, or in some other way?

The larger question, of course, is, what will I do with that five-dollar bill? I'll think about that. I know my money can't buy eternity for me or anyone else, but it can be put to sacred use as a means of praise to God and by helping someone who may not have any money over which to pray.

Please consider the prayer and my humble reflections upon it when giving to the church's mission.

Love,

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Moderator – Allen Hoyt; Treasurer – Elizabeth Hughes Campbell; Clerk – Lois Post; Collector – Tom Mudgett;
Music Director – Kelley DePasqua; Organist – Michael Eaton; Office Manager – Shellie Souza;
World Mission Emphasis – Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone – 508-747-1341

On Our Calendar

Nov 15: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary Marks preaching. Junior Choir will sing. Cherub Choir will rehearse. New Members will be received into the church during the service. The Missions and Outreach Committee will sponsor a SERRV Sale during Coffee Hour.

Nov 16: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.

Nov 17: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. The Stewardship Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Nov 18: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. The Music Committee will meet at 6:30 pm. Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.

Nov 19: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Nov 20: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Coming Events:

Nov 22: Thanksgiving Sunday.

-The Service of The Chest of Joash will be a part of the regular Sunday Worship Service.

-The Board of Trustees will meet following worship.

-The Pilgrim Canticle will be presented at 2pm in the sanctuary.

Nov 24: The Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Association will meet in the JRC at noon. The Advisory Board will meet in the JRC Conference Room at 7pm.

Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day. The Church Office will be closed.

-Pilgrim's Progress, 10am

-Ecumenical Service at First Parish Church, UU at 10:30am.

-Open House at The Church of the Pilgrimage, 10am-1pm.

Nov 27: The Church office will be closed.

Nov 29: The First Sunday of Advent. The Pilgrim Festival Chorus will perform at 4pm in the sanctuary.

CHURCH RECORD

Baptisms: On November 7, 2009 William Diego Alejandro Eaton, son of Michael and Katherine (Steen) Eaton was baptized in a private service.

On November 8, 2009 the following children were baptized during the Sunday service:

Amelia Hope Chapman and Jeremy Sheldon Chapman, daughter and son of Kieran and Jill (Peavey) Chapman; Karrigan Michele Dorsey, daughter of Liam and Melissa (Boyd) Dorsey; Samuel Paul Gabriel, son of Benjamin and Sharon (Catino) Gabriel; Cora Elizabeth Tedeschi, daughter of Adam and Laura (Raynard) Tedeschi.

What a spectacular event these baptisms were in the life of The Church of the Pilgrimage! It was beautiful! It was also special to have Sheldon Peavey present for the baptisms of his grandchildren Amelia and Jeremy.

In Memoriam: On November 8, 2009 Rev. Marks conducted a memorial service for Mark Keene. On November 13, 2009 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Mary Cook.

N O T E S

The flowers are in loving memory of Danielle McNeeley.

Given by Mom, Darryl, Holly and Kevin.

Gary attended a **Pilgrim Association Boundaries Seminar** on November 5th and 12th in West Bridgewater.

On November 7th Gary attended a meeting of the **2020 Anniversary Committee** at Memorial Hall. The gathering included many historical and civic organizations.

We have had to delay our **Overnights of Hospitality** program because of issues of safety brought forward by the town. All the participating host churches and the synagogue are awaiting a meeting on November 18th in the good hope that we once again can provide shelter for homeless men of Plymouth whose lives are otherwise in peril.

Children in Worship: The CE committee would like to extend a welcome to children of kindergarten age and younger to use the crib room during communion Sundays and other family services. While children of all ages are always welcome to remain with their families for worship, we understand that the needs of our littlest ones makes it challenging for them to sit through an entire service. Children may be brought to the crib room at any time during the service and the parents may bring them back up for communion if they wish.

Apple Pies still available! There are a few frozen apple pies left over from the fair awaiting a good home. Thanksgiving is coming; save yourself some time and energy and put one of these beauties away for the dessert table. They are \$12 each. Contact Jenny to get one. (fremont10@verizon.net or 508-747-7168)

Christmas Pageant Dates: On November 22, 29 and December 6th sign-ups for the pageant will be posted in Allerton Hall. December 13 costumes will be fitted. December 20 and December 27th will be pageant rehearsal. Any questions, please call Jenny Henrique at 508-747-4208.

The Church of the Pilgrimage will, once again, be hosting their **Thanksgiving Open House** on Thanksgiving morning. Guests will enjoy snacks, coffee and hot chocolate, and Diana Budge will be offering some of our craft fair "leftovers" for sale in Allerton Hall. Reverend Marks will be presenting a talk about the Pilgrims at 11:00 in the sanctuary. Donations of food for the open house are always welcome and appreciated, and volunteers to help with the event are also welcome to join us for the entire morning, or for whatever time they can spare. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call Liisa Budge-Johnson at 774-454-8268 or Diana Budge at 508-746-4514. Donations of food can be brought to the church on Thanksgiving morning, or contact Diana or Liisa to make other arrangements.

Attention Senior High Youth!!! Due to a scheduling conflict, our November 21st activity at the Plymouth Food Warehouse has been cancelled. Our next scheduled activity will be Christmas caroling on Sunday December 20th. All students grades 9-12 are encouraged to attend.

To all who stayed, and contributed to Sunday afternoon's cleanup and chores, provided snacks and drinks, or helped in any way at all, from the Sexton, and chair of the Trustees...**THANK YOU, THANK**

YOU, THANK YOU! Almost all of the chores were accomplished, a couple of new ones to be done, created and discovered, and, many hands made the work light, fun, and bearable. See you all soon!
Yours in the Lord, Geoff and Ed

Thanksgiving Sunday Food Collection 11/22/2009

Last Sunday children were given a bag to put non-perishable food items in. The hope is that on Thanksgiving Sunday we can collect the food and furnish it to the food pantry. The Congregation is also invited to participate. There will be bags available in the red bins on the landings in the church foyer. The children will meet in Allerton Hall prior to the start of the service. During the processional hymn the children will bring their bags forward and then sit with their parents. As we sit down to our Thanksgiving meal with family and friend, let us remember that "Giving" is rewarded by "Thanks" knowing we can make a difference in someone's life. The Plymouth Food Warehouse is in need of the following: canned fruit, canned tuna, chicken and ham, macaroni and cheese, pasta and sauce, rice, beans, canned vegetables, baby food and formula, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, peanut butter and jelly, hearty soups, chili, crackers, cereal, juice, coffee, tea. Thank you. Susan Coombs, Co-Chair CE

From Our Stewardship Chair--

My Dear Fellow Members:

By now hopefully you are all aware that the stewardship campaign is in full swing. I realize this is a very different campaign from years past. As a committee, we were put into an unusual situation this year. Our Church has changed its fiscal year to align with the calendar year. A very knowledgeable and experienced Stewardship Committee ran an excellent full on campaign this past spring that covered the six months from July through December. Lastly, we are a very small committee, just four members, who are all relatively new to stewardship.

We very quickly and unanimously decided on "Counting Our Blessings" as our central theme. We all feel very blessed to be members of The Church of the Pilgrimage, and blessed to share our worship experience with all of you. It's so important in the hustle and bustle of our over-packed everyday lives to stop and take time to appreciate the abundance of God's blessings in our lives. Stop and think of where The Church of the Pilgrimage fits into that list.

All of you who were at service last Sunday can see how serious the need is for an Associate Pastor. We are a large enough congregation that we truly need one. There is also a list of repair work both for the Church and for the parsonage. We need to work together with prayer and dedication to solve our Church's problems. That is why the special meeting to vote on the 2010 budget on December 6th is so important. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

When I came to this church, after being raised Catholic all my life, I assumed that the UCC played the same role that the Archdiocese does for the Catholic churches, total control. Being nominated to the Stewardship Committee was quite an eye opener for me. What an amazing opportunity and responsibility comes with membership here. We are each equally responsible for the maintenance, up-keep and

daily operations of this truly historic place. We also all have an equal voice in the governing, the direction, and the ministry of this wonderful place of worship. We need only to participate. I urge you to participate, take responsibility and revel in the blessing of being a member of the Church of the Pilgrimage.

Sincerely, Gina Basler

OPEN AND AFFIRMING UPDATE

As most of you are aware, last year the Advisory Board appointed a five-member Discernment Committee to study whether the Church of the Pilgrimage should join the UCC's initiative and become an "Open and Affirming" congregation. **This would have us declare openly what we presently practice:**

Regardless of differences in gender, age, race, sexual orientation (including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons), ethnic and socioeconomic background, physical and mental ability, we welcome all people of faith to fully participate in every aspect of our Church life. After a year-long series of meetings and opportunities to listen to members of our Church family, the Committee submitted their final report and recommendations to the Board.

The Advisory Board, after much discussion, voted to present the question to a Meeting of the Church, scheduled for January of next year. Prior to that meeting there will be opportunities to ask questions, offer opinions, and listen for Jesus to help us along the way. The members of the Church will receive a copy of the Committee's final report and the Advisory Board's recommendations in advance of a "refresher" informational meeting which will be held after worship on January 10, 2010 in Allerton Hall. There will be a formal Church Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2010 to formally vote on this issue.

Because we are aware that some of our members winter out of state, we would like to provide an opportunity for them to be part of the dialogue and to make their opinions known. The above-mentioned report and recommendations will be available from the members of the Advisory Board listed below or the Church office. Your thoughts and observations can be mailed or Emailed to the Church office (office@8townsquare.org), or to the individuals listed below. This important issue requires everyone's thoughtful consideration, and we want to provide an opportunity for all our members to be heard.

A decision on this matter has long been delayed, and we need to reach a consensus on this issue. We all will approach this with open minds and hearts, and respect for everyone's opinion as we struggle to know God's will.


The Advisory Board

For information, please contact:

Diana Budge (508) 746-4514

Doug Post (508) 224-7294 E-mail: doug@mayflowerweb.com

The Church of the Pilgrimage
presents



A Pilgrim Canticle

The story of the Pilgrims
in words and music

Sunday, November 22, 2009
2:00 pm

Town Square, Plymouth, Mass.

A Note from Gary: By the time you receive this issue of The Herald, the Pilgrim Canticle performance will be only one week away. I realize that I am really pushing The Canticle, but I am so close to it that I can't help myself. I not only want you to attend, but I honestly believe that you will be greatly inspired by it's performance. I hope you bring a friend with you. Our fabulous choir, our gifted organist and our splendid sanctuary provide the ideal setting for a commemoration of our Pilgrim origins and the contributions they have made to our founding as a nation. The Church of the Pilgrimage is built on the approximate site of the first Pilgrim meetinghouse which was constructed in 1648. They had originally worshiped in the Fort on what is now Burial Hill. To recall and celebrate the positive legacy of the Pilgrims on this sacred spot is awe-inspiring! Please be with me on **November 22nd at 2:00pm.**



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& TOWN SQUARE
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP -- 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Periodical
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