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# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
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Volume LXXX, No. 13

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

April 18, 2010

Dear Friends:

The sunrise on Cole's Hill on Easter Sunday was majestic! We met at that first burial place of the Pilgrims at 6:00am. It was definitely pre-dawn, if not dark. The service began with the clergy leaders barely able to read from fine print Bible, but we managed. It is, after all, a familiar story to us! The sun, like a giant half orange, seemed to emerge from the sea just behind Long Beach at 6:22am. It was nearly breathtaking. The forecast had been for cloudy or fogging conditions. The prognostications were correct for most surrounding areas, but for us gathered to praise the risen Christ on Cole's Hill they were not at all applicable. By the time about 200 of us were singing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" the sun was in full exposure above Long Beach. The joy, the happiness was palpable. Smiles and embraces were common. I felt happy. I don't know where I will be on Easter Sunday, 2011, but I thank God that I was at the Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill, a service I helped to preserve about thirty years ago when other leaders were set to abandon it. Alleluia seemed to be an appropriate word of response on that day in a heightened sense.

The services at our church were magnificent, as well. Easter is about the odd remaking of the Word made flesh. It calls for preaching as led by Mary in the first Easter sermon when she joyously proclaimed to Jesus' disciples, "I have seen the Lord." That calls for repeated and sustained Alleluias. The congregational singing is wondrous on Easter Day, perhaps more than at any other time. Our sanctuary choir is such a blessing to us that I find it difficult to find superlatives to describe it. Our magnificent organ with the skill of Michael Eaton at the console is inspiring, soaringly beautiful. I hope you will tell Kelley DePasqua, choir members and Michael just how special they are and how they all enhance our worship experience.

The lilies and other flowers beautify our already tranquil and understatedly pleasing place of worship. The banners which Kathy made are lovely and proclaim what is the summation of the Easter experience reading, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Alleluia is, again, the appropriate word to apply to our Easter worship. It means "God be praised."

These services mean a great deal for those who attended services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The dramatic contrast among those services and Easter services is extraordinary. The Alleluias of those who plod faithfully through Holy Week with Jesus have a special meaning and sweetness to them.

I think our Lenten season was a good one at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Maybe Lent/Easter meant something special to me because I love the Easter faith and because it will be my last as your pastor. But, so long as I have breath I shall use it to shout Alleluias, and I will be ever thankful for having shared so many of them with you.

Love,

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*The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC is an Open and Affirming Church*

Moderator – Allen Hoyt; Treasurer – Verna-Ross Hoyt; 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

**Apr 18:** Morning Worship 10am, Rev. Gary Marks preaching. The Confirmation Class will meet after worship.

**Apr 19-Patriots Day:** Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Gary will attend a 2020 meeting at 7pm. Shellie Souza has the day off.

**Apr 20:** Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Board of Trustees will meet at 7pm.

**Apr 21:** Gary will be in the office at 9:30am. The Music Committee will meet at 7pm. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.

**Apr 22-Earth Day:** Gary will be in the office at 9:30am.

**Apr 23:** Gary will be in the office at 9:30am.

**Apr 24:** Memorial Service for Jean Richter at 2pm in the sanctuary.

### Coming Events:

**Apr 25:** The Church Council will meet in the JRC at 11 am. Representatives of each board and committee are asked to be present.

**May 1:** There will be a memorial service for Elaine Sampson held in the sanctuary at 10am.

**May 2:** The Board of Trustees is sponsoring a Spring Clean-Up.

## N O T E S

Our prayers are with **Bill Richter** whose mother Jean passed this life this week. There will be a memorial service for Jean on April 24 at 2pm in the sanctuary.

On April 7, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for **Sheldon Peavey** at the Hill Crest Cemetery in Plympton. On April 10, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for **Joan Morrison** at South Pond Cemetery. Our sympathies are extended to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones.

Hospitalized at Boston Medical Center, **Bill Stearns**. Recently at Boston Medical Center, **Richard Watson**.

We thank **Jenny Healy** for the Children's Message and **Trace Sears** for being worship leader at both services on Easter Sunday. Thanks to **Diana Budge** for assisting in the pulpit and at the Communion table on April 11.

The flowers are in loving memory of **Henry, Mary & Keith Dunlap**. From Robert and Marylyn Colburn.

The **Introduction to the Bible Class** will not reconvene until the fall. Gary pretty much covered the Old Testament introduction during classes held thus far. In the fall he'll offer about three classes to introduce the New Testament and how it might be read. The April 18 class will not be held. The present scheme seems to be best suited to his own and everyone else's schedule. Gary thanks the fifteen people who attended the classes and hopes they were beneficial to participants.



## ANNUAL Meeting

Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 16. Annual report books will be available in the upper vestibule beginning May 2.

### Calling All Teen Musicians!

We need you! All students in grades 7-12 are invited to join the Confirmation Class on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to form a Teen Choir to sing during the service on Confirmation Sunday which is May 23. We will also try to add some percussion and possibly even some other instruments so join us even if you do not think you are a singer! Rehearsal will be right after church for about 1 hour. We will rehearse at least one more time in May. See Kelley DePasqua or Al Hoyt with questions.

### From Membership and Evangelism

The Pew Pads will now begin at the center aisle. You are asked to pass them to the end of the pew row and then back to the center. Please greet someone as the pads are passed along. Everyone is asked to sign the pads even if even if you are present every Sunday for worship.

### A Note form Gary

Gary thanks all who made our Holy Week and Easter services such wonderful events. It takes the work of many people to prepare for and execute our services. Gary thanks Shellie Souza, office administrator, for producing fine bulletins from Palm Sunday to Easter! He also thanks Kathy Marks for the beautiful banners in the sanctuary. The banners read, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Kathy hopes the banners will be displayed in future Easter/Easter-tide seasons. He also thanks all those who helped to decorate and rearrange the sanctuary several times during the Holy Week/Easter. He further thanks the quiet good works of the Flower Committee for taking orders for the fabulous Easter lily/floral displays for Easter. The sanctuary sparkled on Easter Sunday thanks to their work. Thank you to all who volunteered to bring lilies to our shut-ins.

**Jenny Healy and Trace Sears** would like to thank the myriad people who helped to make hot cross buns, set and decorate the table, and helped to make the Palm Sunday Breakfast happen. And thanks to Brian Gildea for all of his behind the scenes help.

### Earth Day Celebration (Spring Clean Up Day)

Come one, come all and celebrate Earth Day at church. We will be cleaning up and maintaining our little corner of the earth on May 2<sup>nd</sup> after church. There are many jobs to do for all ages and abilities. This was a big success last fall and hundreds if not thousands of dollars were saved by using all the skills of the congregation instead of contracting out the work. So lets keep a good thing going and spruce up the church for spring. Pizza and soda will be provided.

## Overnights of Hospitality News—LATE NOTICE!

On Saturday, April 17 at the Loring Center (384 Court Street at 9am), the Taskforce for the Homeless and its many volunteers will gather to celebrate our volunteers for the Overnights of Hospitality program. A wonderful buffet breakfast will be provided! If you added to the success of this season's Overnights program and plan on attending, please RSVP with Sarah Barnicle at [seasideediting@gmail.com](mailto:seasideediting@gmail.com) or 774-454-2185. See you there!

## Christian Education Committee News

### 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 13th). However, we want to be sure no one is left



out—so parents, please either e-mail me at [scmacoombs@netscape.net](mailto:scmacoombs@netscape.net) or there will be a sign up in your child's classroom. Please indicate the spelling of your child's name as you would have it appear on her or his Bible.

Also, if for some reason your child already completed 2nd grade but never received a 2nd Grade Bible from our church and would like one, please let me know.

Thank You. Susan Coombs, Co-chair CE

### Food Drive

The Christian Education Committee held a food drive for the Greater Plymouth Warehouse at Stop & Shop in Plymouth on March 27 from 9am-1pm. **511 pounds of food plus \$247** was collected and delivered to the warehouse the following Monday. We wish to thank the following people for their time and effort on this mission project: Marilyn Borsari, Ann Motyka, & Barbara Quinn (CE Committee Members) and Madeline Gallagher, Nora Healy, & Will Healy (Church School Children)

**Spiritual practices group is cancelled:** Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in the Spiritual Practices group (and there were many of you!). Due to other commitments I have as a Candidate in Discernment, I will not be able to devote the time and attention to this group that would be appropriate, so with a heavy heart I have decided to cancel this group. I am sure there will be many opportunities in the future at The Church of the Pilgrimage to deepen your relationship with God in both new and familiar ways, and urge all of you to remain open to the moving of the holy spirit in your hearts so you are able to respond when that time comes. If anyone simply wants to chat briefly about enhancing their spiritual practices, please let me know and I am happy to meet with you. In the love of Christ—Jess

**From the Moderator:** Marylyn Colburn has resigned as Assistant Moderator. Bob Taylor has accepted the office of Assistant Moderator.

**Wanted-Party Planners:** We are looking for a few people who would like the fun job of planning a proper celebration of Rev Marks' ministry with us. Please contact Jenny if you are interested in being a party to this. [Fremont10@verizon.net](mailto:Fremont10@verizon.net) or 508-747-7168.



April 18, 2010 -Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Integrity of Creation Sunday

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Story: Let All Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Ah, Spring! Fresh breezes, a new palette of colors, the earth changing daily before our eyes—a time so full of promise it's easy to "Praise with Joy the World's Creator," as the hymn goes. And a time to remember we are entrusted with God's marvelous handiwork. We hold it in common so that all may enjoy and praise in this generation and in years to come. As communities across the U.S. celebrate Earth Day on April 22, we can look back in history and discover yet another UCC first. Twenty years ago, on the eve of Earth Day 1987, the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice published a landmark report, "Toxic Waste and Race." For the first time in history, the disproportionate burden borne by African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian American communities as the "dumping grounds" for our nation's waste and pollution was documented.

The study looked at every zip code in the United States and identified where toxic waste sites were located. It found that race was the most significant factor, even more significant than poverty. "Toxic Waste and Race" led to the coining of the term "environmental racism" and helped to jump start the environmental justice movement.

Thanks to Our Church's Wider Mission, the UCC has continued to speak truth to power and nurture grassroots movements in communities at risk so that all may realize the promise and blessings of God's good creation.

### God is still speaking, Prayer:

God of victory over death, your Son revealed himself again and again, and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection. Grant that we may know his risen presence, in love obediently feed his sheep, and care for the lambs of his flock, until we join the hosts of heaven in worshipping you and praising him who is worthy of blessing and honor, glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Sunday  
Worship,  
10:00am



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM  
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Periodical  
Publication  
U. S. P. S.  
# 432820