
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: 508-746-3026
FAX: 508-746-4362
office@8townsquare.org



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

December 5, 2010

Dear Friends:

The season of Advent is one of preparation. It has a double meaning. The popular conception of it is that it is to make us ready and become alert to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. It also is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of history. That's why there are lectionary Scripture readings which have to do with apocalyptic themes such as the Gospel reading for last Sunday in Matthew 24:36-44.

Overwhelmingly, though, Advent has popularly come to represent the birth of Jesus and features ways for us to make ready to receive the gift of the holy birth anew. Surely that is the emphasis we place upon Advent in our services at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Last Sunday's service of the Hanging of the Greens emphasized the Christmas themes for which Advent is a preparation. Early in that service the Advent Wreath was carried into the sanctuary and assembled before the congregation. The music had to do with those forthcoming birth themes. Figures from a Nativity set were placed at various places around the sanctuary so that they may be moved to a final place of assemblage on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Culturally and spiritually Advent is the period before Christmas which readies us for the Word of God appearing in the flesh of Bethlehem's infant.

Like the Advent season itself I am personally making preparations for establishing a new rhythm for my life to begin at the end of December. I am making ready for celebrating Christ's birth while at the same time I am trying to realize what the daily, weekly and yearly rhythms of my life will be when I am no longer the pastor of The Church of the Pilgrimage. Kathy and I are both keenly aware of what a dramatic change of that rhythm will be while neither of us know with any certainty what our future lives will be like.

On the date that this issue of The Pilgrimage Herald is to appear there is what is being called a celebration of my forty years of ministry in this church and community. It is, perhaps, appropriate that the event takes place in the season of Advent and Christmas. Advent is a preparatory season and it has ancient themes of beginnings and endings. As my ministry concludes a new phase of my uncharted future opens before me. I am sure that transitions are accompanied with both remorse and anxiety for everyone who undergoes them. That certainly is true for me. I love being your minister and I savor and cherish all the gifts of love I have received from you.

It is Advent and I shall always celebrate it. God is my refuge and strength. God is your refuge and strength. We'll all be just fine when we remember that. So, through Advent let us celebrate the gift of faith we share and nurture in one another. We await the rebirth of Christ and new beginnings!

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

Dec 5-The Second Sunday of Advent: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Peter Gomes preaching. The service is a celebration of the forty-year ministry of Rev. Gary L. Marks. A reception for Gary and Kathy will be held at The Loring Center in North Plymouth at 1:00pm.

Dec 6: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.

Dec 7: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am.

Dec 8: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.

Dec 9: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Membership and Evangelism Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Dec 10: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Guild Tea in Allerton Hall at 1:00pm.

COMING EVENTS-

Dec 12: The Third Sunday of Advent. Rev. Gary will be the preacher. There will be a budget meeting immediately following the service of worship.

Following the budget meeting a group will meet to go caroling at a local nursing home "see notes."

Dec 19-The Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Sunday. Pilgrim Festival Chorus Messiah Sing, 4pm in the sanctuary.

Dec 24-Christmas Eve: Family Service with Living Nativity in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve in the sanctuary at 11:30pm.

Dec 25-Christmas Day

Dec 26: The Sunday service will be at 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks will be the preacher. This will be Gary's last Sunday of leading worship as pastor of The Church of the Pilgrimage.

Church Record

On November 21, 2010 Rev. Marks baptized Declan William Coutts, son of Courtney (Bunker) and Gregory Coutts.

On November 30, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Kathryn Stevenson. Our sympathies and prayers are extended to her family.

Flowers

On December 5 the flowers on the Communion table are in honor of Gary's 40 years of ministry to The Church of the Pilgrimage. Given with love by Kathy's sisters and their families. The flowers on the

side are in loving memory of deceased Guild Members. Given by the Guild.

The flowers last Sunday were in loving memory of Beverly Correa and Richard Correa. Given by Walter Correa, husband and father.

Notes

Arthur Budge is recuperating at home following surgery.

Helen Belcher has returned to the Newfield House following surgery.

We thank Ruth Fry and Nancy Stearns for providing us with a beautiful Thanksgiving harvest table for a Thanksgiving Sunday service on November 21, 2010.

Thanksgiving Day was cold, but sunny and bright. It was a wonderful day to be in Plymouth where it all began. **Gary thanks Diana Budge and Liisa Budge-Johnson for organizing and staffing the Open House.** It was again a big success and tourists were deeply appreciative of the church's hospitality. Gary spoke to a group of tourists (about forty) during the Open House. He played the role of the Elder Brewster in the Pilgrim's Progress. It was a great day!

Many Thanks for Thanksgiving Open House

The church's Thanksgiving Open House was its usual rousing success as we showcased our church and our hospitality to a large crowd of visitors. Our thanks to all who gave up part of their Thanksgiving Day to the effort. We appreciate all our wonderful bakers and those who joined us in preparations and service Thanksgiving morning. What a great way to begin the day. Gary's talk in the sanctuary was well received and people appreciated a place to get out of the cold and enjoy refreshments at our table. Thank you again for joining us in the spirit of the day.

Liisa Budge- Johnson and Diana Budge

We thank Bill Converse for providing us with a host of photographs of recent services of worship, including some magnificent portraits of baptisms, participants in worship, the Cherub and Sanctuary Choirs. He has taken hundreds of photos of church activities and the most recent ones are on display in Allerton Hall. He presented Gary with a wonderful photograph of the 2010 Thanksgiving Day Pilgrims Progress. Bill made some lovely photographs of the Easter Sunrise Service and of our Easter Services at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Thank you, Bill!

The Hanging of the Greens Service on the First



Sunday of Advent was lovely and very well received. We thank the Christian Education Committee for providing the service. We thank Kathy Marks, Susan

Coombs and many others for making it such a meaningful service. The choir did overtime duty to add musical beauty and charm to the service for the First Sunday of Advent. It was a grand way to begin Advent. Thank you one and all!

We thank the Anderson family for conducting the Advent Candle Lighting Service on November 2.

We also thank John Blomberg for making video tapes of our worship services which are aired on PACTV. They are greatly appreciated. Gary hears comments all the time about what those airings mean to people.

New address for Kayla McNicholas (until the end of Jan except for Dec 17-30 when she will be home):

McNicholas, Kayla E. 1284
Dewey Ave.
BEQ 838 Rm 211
Great Lakes, IL 60088

Memorial Poinsettias-Christmas is fast approaching. By your loving purchase of poinsettias, we can enhance the beauty of our church for the Christmas services. Sign up in the lower vestibule following the service for the next two Sundays. There will be an insert listing the donors and those memorialized or honored in the Christmas week Herald. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$15, although a donation of any amount is welcome. The flowers may be given to shut-ins, or picked up after the Christmas Eve services or the following Sunday. Volunteers will be welcomed to take flowers to shut-ins following the Christmas Sunday service.

Christmas Pageant Dates

Dec 5 and 12: Sign-up in Allerton Hall.

Dec 12: Costumes will be distributed after church.

Dec 19: Pageant Rehearsal

Dec 24: Pageant at 7:00pm

Any questions, please call Susan Coombs at 508-224-9319. To make this work we are asking for adult participation. We need coordinators who will prompt the children to appropriate entrances and exits during the pageant. Please sign up in Allerton Hall.

An invitation to a Christmas Tea: The Guild invites all the women of the church to join us for a Christmas tea to be held at Allerton Hall on Friday, December 10 at 1pm. We ask that all who can bring a new unwrapped toy which will be donated to the Salvation Army for distribution. Come and join us as we celebrate the season.

Save the Date! Sunday, December 12 join us for caroling at a local nursing home, following worship and the scheduled budget meeting. Bring a bag lunch, carol, and then all are invited to join us, no matter what your singing ability. Experience the joy of singing carols together and sharing that joy with those unable to get to church. More details to follow. Any questions contact Barbara Northrop 781-582-2050, bmnorthrop@comcast.net or Marna Blomberg 781-826-2543, marna@blomb.org



Christmas Gift Donation to the Salvation Army Please bring a gift to the church on Dec 5 or 12.

Give to the people who need your help! Anything is appreciated, but they especially need items for teens between 12-15 years old.

Ideas for boys and/or girls:

- T-shirts and Sweatshirts: Sizes large, x-large, xx-large (boys like sports, dirt biking and snowboarding logos).
- Bananagrams-They now come in apples and pears as well (great educational games).
- Popcorn tins, coloring books, crayons, art/sketch books and markers are in heavy demand.
- MP3 players (Phillips brand at Benny's are \$15).
- Pillow pets.
- Game Stop gift cards and movie theater gift cards.
- Fishing poles and related fishing gear.
- Arts and crafts sets, jewelry making sets, jewelry boxes,.
- Silly bands, Zhu Zhu pets, Squinkies, Zoobles.

DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS!

The gifts will be delivered to the Salvation Army after the church service on Sunday, December 12.

There are also opportunities for donors to choose a family to supply all of their gift needs. Interested people should contact The Salvation Army directly.

Thank You, Christian Education Committee

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, a Business Meeting will be held on December 12, 2010, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To act upon the 2011 Budget of the Church.
2. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take any action thereto.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



Clerk

The Board of Trustees would like to remind everyone to attend the **budget meeting on December 12, 2010**. Printed copies of the proposed budget are available in the upper vestibule of the church.

Christmas Bonuses: It's a secret (we're sure they don't read the Herald)! As in past years, the Board of Trustees will be collecting your contributions to our salaried staff (this year just Shellie, our office manager and Brian, our sexton). Today and again on December 12, Barbara and Ray Quinn and Verna Ross-Hoyt will be accepting your contributions (either cash or checks made payable to The Church of the Pilgrimage with a memo note "bonuses"). Thank you kindly!



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8 TOWN SQUARE
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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