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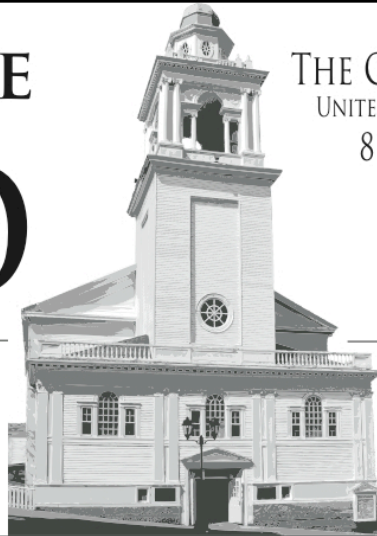
# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
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Volume LXXX, No. 7

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

February 21, 2010

Dear Friends:

I thought this to be a good time to share some facts with you about the season of Lent. In our so-called “free church” tradition the season of Lent was not given a great deal of attention until recent decades. Rather than getting into the reasons for that neglect, I’d rather spend the time here offering a brief history of the season and giving reasons why it is an aid to us in our spiritual journeys

The season of Lent originated in the fourth century. It spans 40 weekdays beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and concluding the Saturday before Easter. Since Sundays always celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as a part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is associated with many biblical events, but especially the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period as a time for introspection, self-examination, prayer and repentance. Our Wednesday evening services primarily focus upon these themes.

You may wonder what the colors on the pulpit and on minister’s stoles mean. During Lent the color is purple or violet. These colors symbolize both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus, as well as our own suffering as a race, and of the world under the domination of sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection on Easter.

Traditionally, the colors in the sanctuary on Good Friday and Holy Saturday are black. That color symbolizes the darkness brought into the world by sin. In this sense black symbolizes the hopelessness which characterize what happens when human beings try to make their own way in the world without God. In some traditions the Bible, Communion table and cross are draped in black suggesting the results of our not heeding the Word of God. Black is always replaced by white before sunrise on Easter.

This is but a small offering of what Lent means. Lent gives us a spiritual framework through which we can focus our attention upon the sublime mysteries and promises of our faith. It is a time to contemplate our lives in a gradual way so that we are better able to appreciate and celebrate the joy of Easter as the promise of renewed life for ourselves, our churches and our world.

I hope you will become engaged in the services and events of the Lenten season, and in your spiritual lives, as we progress toward hope and renewal which come to us as God’s pure grace in Jesus’ resurrection.

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

**Feb 21:** Morning worship, 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. The Junior Choir and the Cherub Choir will rehearse after morning worship. The Introduction to the Bible course will meet from 11:30am-12:30pm in the JRC Conference Room. The Confirmands will meet following morning worship.

**Feb 22:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality at 11am in Allerton Hall.

**Feb 23:** Rev. Marks will conduct a worship service at the Newfield House at 10am. He will be in the office following that service. The Advisory Board will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

**Feb 24:** Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. Soup, Salad, Bread Supper in Allerton Hall at 6:00pm to be followed by a Lenten Service in the sanctuary from 7:00-7:30pm. The Choir will rehearse at 7:30pm.

**Feb 25:** Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

**Feb 26:** Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

**Feb 27:** Blue and Gold Banquet in Allerton Hall, 6:00pm.

### Coming Events:

Feb 28: The Second Sunday of Lent. Introduction to the Bible Class in the JRC, 11:30am.

Mar 3: Soup Supper and Lenten Services in Allerton Hall, 6:00-7:30pm.

Mar 21: Time and Talent Auction/Luncheon after church.

### CHURCH RECORD

**In Memoriam:** On February 13, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Richard Sampson at The Second Church, UCC in Manomet. On February 15, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Joseph Harlow.

**Recuperating** at home following surgery, Julie Sears.

**The flowers** are in loving memory of Rae C. Walker, Marion Nickerson Walker, and Mahlon Walker. Given by the family.

### N O T E S

We thank **Peter Causton** for a fine sermon last Sunday.

**A note from Peter:** Further Reflections on Sunday's Sermon: Since Sunday I have had the nagging feeling that my sermon might have left the wrong impression. I very much believe that we should seek God's help and guidance for practical problems in our lives. I did want to emphasize that our relationship to God should be one of love and not utility. It was an honor to be asked to deliver the sermon and I am grateful for everyone's encouragement.

Our prayers are with **Cynthia Marks** whose brother passed this life recently in Florida.

We are always in need of **volunteers to provide Coffee Hour** following morning worship. It is a relatively simple undertaking and easy to follow instructions are provided. There is a sign-up sheet at the kitchen window in Allerton Hall.

**A Note from Gary:** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, of course. In addition to Sunday services which will focus on Lenten themes, there will be Wednesday evening services of one half hour following a Soup Supper in Allerton Hall. The preparation for Holy Week and Easter is spiritually best appreciated when there is a gradual build up to those faith-forming events. The simple Wednesday evening services are intended to aid us in our spiritual journey as we move through the Lenten season. The services will be varied. Some will be a focus upon Scripture and periods of silent prayer as we listen for the quiet Word of God to speak to us. There will be a healing service. There will be a service which helps to draw our attention to the cross in such a way as to draw us personally into the redemptive meaning of the cross. The services combined with fellowship gathering around a supper together are, we believe, an exercise in spiritual practices which gradually prepare us for Holy Week and Easter. Please plan to be with us as we seek to share in each other's spiritual journeys.

The **Missions & Outreach Committee** would like to thank **Sarah Barnicle and Diane Flood** and the teams that work with them, for their outstanding leadership in providing "Overnights for the Homeless" and "Monday Meals of Hospitality." It is an exceptional ministry of caring.

**Yoga with Kim Saunders for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders** on February 21<sup>st</sup> during Sunday School. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat or a beach towel. For questions see Jenny Healy.

### A visit to El Salvador

Paul Sinn recently traveled to El Salvador to visit ASAPROSAR, the Salvadorian Association for Rural Health. This was Paul's fourth trip to El Salvador. In 1985 Paul, Eloise Clawson and Rick Weir from the Southeast Area UCC churches traveled to El Salvador at the invitation of Leonel Gomez to visit with Dr. Vicky Guzman and to observe the needs of this poor country in the midst of a civil war. These conversations led to the legal establishment of Dr. Guzman's work in August 1995 as ASAPROSAR. The Missions and Outreach Committee has contributed \$500 to assist with the ongoing program that works with community Health, a Rural Preschool Program, An Urban Youth Program, Microcredit loans and an Eye Clinic that provides eye exams, glasses and surgery. Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and nurses from the Boston area were in El Salvador in February to give their services to the eye clinic. In the rural sector ASAPROSAR has been the beneficiary of Heifer goats and chickens and this program is continuing.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

You have received the brochure and envelope with the Herald. Our offering for OGHS will be taken on Sunday, March 14. On Sunday March 7, Judy Donn will share some of the exciting ways that this offering assists people in need. Additional materials will be available then.

## Haiti Earthquake Relief

Thanks to everyone who has helped by contributing generously. Our dollar gifts now total more than \$2500. In addition the church school and other members of the church have prepared Hygiene and Baby Kits. A Church World Service truck will be coming toward the end of February to pick up the kits. More than 500 Hygiene kits and 33 Baby kits were assembled in Stoughton at the UCC church last week. The offering basket will remain at the entrance to the sanctuary through February 28.

## Two Ladies from Chile

On March 8<sup>th</sup> the Missions Committee is hosting two ladies from Chile, Pastora Susana Sepulveda and Pastora Hada Chavez. The ladies are the guests of the MAUCC Women's Fellowship. We will be showing them some of our sites in Plymouth and feeding them at the end of Monday Meals. If anyone speaks Spanish and would like to join us, please call Carol Johnson at 508-746-9701.

On Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> you may join Pastora Susana Sepulveda and Pastora Hada Chavez for a Pot Luck Supper at Christ Congregational Church UCC in Brockton. Reception at 4:30 with a chance to talk and learn more about our partnership with the Pentecostal Church of Chile. Supper is at 5:30pm. Please see Carol Johnson by March 1<sup>st</sup> if you plan to attend.

## Church World Service—Haitian Medevac Cases

The United Church of Christ has received a request from Church World Service for volunteers to assist in hosting injured Haitians and accompanying family, who are being medically evacuated to the United States. This is a wonderful opportunity for UCC members and congregations to extend hospitality to our Haitian sisters and brothers. Faith communities and volunteers who are interested in supporting Haitian Medevac cases should call Church World Service (212) 870-3300.

## Daffodils: It's that time of the year again!

The American Cancer Society annual daffodil drive will be held during coffee hour on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Please donate to this long time church supported fundraiser by purchasing a bouquet or a pot of daffodils. The flowers will be available for pick up after church on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

## News from the Music Committee

Italian Organist Luca Massaglia will give an ORGAN RECITAL on our Roche Organ on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM. He will be joined by classical saxophonist Isabella Stabio. The two are making their first trip to the United States and have included a stop at The Church of the Pilgrimage on their tour. They will also be playing Trinity Church in Boston later in the week.

The performers are hoping that a generous and friendly member of the Church of the Pilgrimage would be willing to host them on their visit to Plymouth. They would need accommodations on Monday evening, March 22 (they are rehearsing at the church that day) and following the concert on Tuesday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. They would head to their next performance early Wednesday morning. They say that they could stay in the same room and seem quite enjoyable. You can Google them for more information.

Please contact Kelley DePasqua if you would be willing to host our Italian visitors. [kdepasqua@msn.com](mailto:kdepasqua@msn.com) or 508-801-3491.

## Welcoming Visitors

The Membership and Evangelism Committee is asking the cooperation of all the members to help us identify and welcome visitors to our services. We have tried to do this by personally asking visitors to sign our Guest Book at the front door each Sunday, but still miss many people. Therefore, we are returning to Pew Attendance Pads so we will have the necessary information to send letters of welcome to our new visitors. As you pass these pads, please note visitors' names and give them a special welcome.

## Lent/Easter dates to remember

March 28, 2010 **Palm Sunday**- The Deacons will be hosting the annual Palm Sunday Breakfast at 8 a.m.

April 1, 2010 **Maundy Thursday** – There will be a service in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.

April 2, 2010 **Good Friday** – *Walk with Christ*: A service of remembrance will take place. Time TBD.

April 4, 2010 **Easter Sunday**- Sunrise Service at Cole's Hill.

April 4, 2010 **Easter Sunday**- Worship Services at 9am and 11am.

# Time and Talent Auction/Luncheon Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, after church

Signups begin this Sunday for the delicious luncheon.

Only \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, max. \$12

Also, please sign up for your donation(s) of time and/or talent. Forms will be available in Allerton Hall after church. Baking or boating, tours or tortellini, poetry or pies, tickets or tea, weeding or window washing, babysitting or brownies, weekend getaways or watercolors. Don't hide your light under a bushel! Your church needs YOU!

For more information, please contact Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959.



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PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM  
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