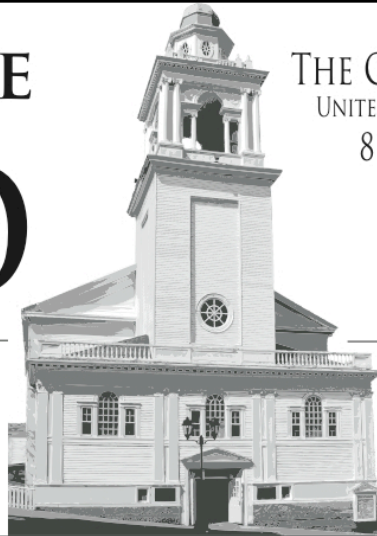

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,
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Volume LXXX, No. 8

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

February 28, 2010

Dear Friends:

Over the years I've tried to emphasize the importance of Lent as a proper preparation for the celebration of Easter. We love Easter! I love Easter. It may be my favorite of all holidays; surely it is the most important Christian holy day. It is a happy time, with flowers, perhaps new clothes, chocolate eggs, etc. Easter is wonderful and can be enjoyed at some level even without the Lenten preparations which I so much encourage.

But the celebration of Easter alone can't mean all that it should unless we walk with Jesus through the betrayal of Maundy Thursday, and the darkness of Good Friday, a journey that begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a way to place ourselves before God humbled and bringing in our hands no price whereby we can try to purchase redemption. It is a way to recognize that we are inadequate before God. It is a time to lay aside all our pretenses of righteousness, to come before God as Jesus did in his desert temptation (Luke 4:1-13). It is a way to empty ourselves of false pride, of our rationalizations which often prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures.

During Lent we seek to minimize our self-importance so as to be open before God, and to hear anew, or for the first time, the loving call of God to faith and fullness. In Lent we seek to recognize and respond afresh to God's presence in our lives and in our world. It is a time to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God's hands.

The pilgrimage begins with ashes. It journeys through darkness. It is a pilgrimage of spirituality which we are invited to make, if we genuinely want to experience spiritual renewal. Before we can feel the full impact of the hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" we also should learn the impact of the hymn, "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended?" Easter is the joyous other side of the pain and shame of Good Friday.

I invite you and encourage you to join us on the Lenten pilgrimage. Ash Wednesday has passed, of course, but we offer Wednesday evening services and soup suppers as a means of approaching the communal expression of our faith. There are, of course, Sunday services, and Holy Week services beginning with Palm Sunday, progressing toward our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The end of the journey is Sunrise services and bright songs of Easter hope bedecked with flowers and joyous music in our beloved sanctuary.

Come along for the rest of the Lenten journey.

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 28: Morning worship, 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. The Cherub Choir will sing. The Junior Choir will rehearse after morning worship. The Introduction to the Bible Class will meet from 11:30am-12:30pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Mar 1: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality at 11am in Allerton Hall.

Mar 2: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am.

Mar 3: 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 Missions Committee will meet at 7:30pm. The Choir will rehearse at 7:30pm.

Mar 4: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. The CE Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Mar 5: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Coming Events:

Mar 7: The Second Sunday in Lent.

Mar 10: Lenten Supper and Service in Allerton Hall and the sanctuary, 6-7:30pm.

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

CHURCH RECORD

In Memoriam: On February 24, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Rose Molino.

On February 27, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a funeral service for Sheldon Peavey. Our sympathies are with Barbara and his family. Sheldon's faith has carried him to victory.

The flowers are in loving memory of Miriam L. and Henry Barnes. Given by Tom Barnes.

Last week the side flowers were in honor of Cliff and Laura Sampson. Given by the Walker family.

N O T E S

We thank **Alice Hyslop** for being worship leader and **Hannah Woodbury** for her Children's Message on February 21st.

Al Hoyt gave an excellent presentation last Friday night. Al recently visited Mexico as a part of his degree program in Christian Education at Andover Newton Theological School. He will soon receive a master's degree from that institution.

Our congratulations to **Tom and Pat Mudgett** who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were treated to a successful surprise party on February 20th. It was a fabulous event!

If you are aware of someone being hospitalized, please call the church office or let Gary know.

A Note from Gary: We hope that many of you will want to attend our Lenten Soup Suppers and services on Wednesday during Lent. It is a terrific opportunity to join as a church family for a delicious simple supper and a half hour worship service. The services are a half hour in length and are varied in nature. Please join us.

Mark your Calendar... for a Church Council meeting on April 25th following morning worship.

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

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 8th 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 7th 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 1st 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 for the last time on Sunday, February 28th. 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 28th. Thanks!

News from the Music Committee

Italian Organist Luca Massaglia will give an ORGAN RECITAL on our Roche Organ on Tuesday, March 23rd 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 23rd. 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 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.

The Pilgrim Association Spring Fellowship Meeting

Thursday, April 29th at the First Congregational Church in Randolph. Fellowship will begin at 3:30pm with our OPEN program scheduled to start at 4:00pm. The theme is *Integrating New Members into the Life of the Church*.

Registration for our meeting and dinner will start at 5:30pm with dinner being served at 6:00pm. Our business meeting will start at 6:45pm. Note the program format is at the beginning and is open to ANYONE wishing to attend. The cost for dinner is not yet known but generally has not exceeded \$ 8.00/person. Dinner reservations may be made either by email or telephone 508-746-9186.

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra: Sousa 'Premiere' celebrates Boy Scouts' centennial at Plymouth Phil Family Concert.

Steven Karidoyanes conducts the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra in the 4th annual "Rising Stars Showcase!" a family concert bursting with youthful talent and energy. The program includes the world orchestral premiere of John Philip Sousa's *Boy Scouts of America March* to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Boy Scouts and features members from Plymouth Boy Scout Troop 47, Leigh McKenney, scoutmaster. Also joining the orchestra is the 120-voice Plymouth Children's Chorus, Kathy McMinn director, and sixteen-year-old South Shore Conservatory concerto competition winner Alexandra Nelson. She performs music from Vivaldi's *Bassoon Concerto in A Minor*. The concert is also part of the nation food drive, Orchestras Feeding America. This family-friendly event is being held in Plymouth's Memorial Hall on Sunday afternoon, March 7th. The concert begins at 3pm. The very popular hands-on instrument demonstrations precede the concert, 2pm-2:40pm. Tickets are now on sale. Audience members are encouraged to bring and contribute non-perishable food items to benefit the Food Warehouse of Greater Plymouth. Memorial Hall is fully accessible.

Time and Talent Auction/Luncheon Sunday, March 21st, 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.



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