
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

January 24, 2010

Dear Friends:

Once again the Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast was a successful and moving event. It doesn't seem possible but this was the 17th Plymouth celebration of the birth of Rev. King. The event is sponsored by The Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Association, Plymouth No Place for Hate Committee and Plymouth Public Schools. The Breakfast was held at Plymouth South High School.

We can be very proud that one of our church school youngsters won the sixth grade Essay Prize. Rachel Pereira was awarded a book and recognized by the assembly. I congratulate Rachel for her fine work.

I am always moved when I consider the monumental work of Martin Luther King. Without his work so much of the progress we have made in racial justice would not have yet occurred. He put his life on the line for racial equality and, unfortunately, evil forces exacted his life from him. I very much doubt that we would have elected an African American president of the United States if it were not for the trail blazing achievements of Rev. King.

Martin also opened our eyes to many inequities in our society and world beside his assault on racism. His principles of non-violent protest extended to the plight of the poor, for instance, and helped to create an atmosphere in which other human inequities are being challenged and will one day be overcome. Martin King was a giant among us and I thank God for his insights and persistence in freedom struggles.

I concluded the Prayer Breakfast with a prayer which included these eloquent words of Rev. King:

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral begetting the very thing it hopes to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. You may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. You may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate, nor establish love. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

We are blessed to have had Martin Luther King among us. He will be an example of the power of love to change systems of evil for generations yet to come. He has taught us that good does, indeed, overcome systems of evil sometimes and that all of God's children are equally loved before God. May we all strive to aid all who are abused and see to it that they are as equal in society as they already are before God.

Love,

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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

Jan 24: Morning worship, 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Cherub Choir will sing. Junior Choir will rehearse. A Congregational Meeting will follow morning worship in the sanctuary. Please see Notice which appears elsewhere in this issue of The Herald. The Overnights of Hospitality begins today. We will be hosting homeless men through January 31st.

Jan 25: Shellie Souza will be taking a vacation day. Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality at 11am in Allerton Hall. Gary will attend a meeting of the 400th Anniversary Committee.

Jan 26: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. The Advisory Board will meet at 7pm.

Jan 27: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am. The Choir will rehearse at 7:30pm.

Jan 28: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Jan 29: Rev. Marks will be in the office at 9:30am.

Coming Events:

Jan 31: The Introduction to the Bible class will be held from 11:30am-12:30pm in the JRC Conference Room. There was not a class on January 24th because of the Congregational Meeting. See "Notes" for more information.

Feb 7: Boy Scout Sunday

CHURCH RECORD

In Memoriam: On January 20, 2010 Rev. Marks conduced a funeral service for Patricia Bouchard.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Elaine Sampson last week. Our prayers and sympathies are with her husband Mel and their children. A memorial service for Elaine will be held at the church on May 1, 2010 at 10:00am.

N O T E S

Offering envelopes are available in the upper vestibule of the church for those who requested them.

Please see Verna Ross-Hoyt for 2009 financial statements. She will be handing them out during coffee hour on January 24th.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Ethel Creasy. Ethel was an active member of The Church of the Pilgrimage all her life until she and her husband Earl moved to Tennessee several years ago.

We thank Jenny Healy, Nora and Will for being lay worship leaders on January 17th. We thank Hannah Woodbury for her children's message on that date.

On January 12th Rev. Marks conducted a service of worship at The Newfield House.

Gary thanks those who provided a birthday cake shared during the Coffee Hour in honor of his birthday which is January 19th. It was a nice surprise and he appreciated the Happy Birthday serenade. He especially appreciated the comment, "You don't look like you could possibly be 48 years old!"

Please plan to be present for the Congregational Meeting this coming Sunday, January 24th. The sole purpose of the meeting will be to receive the recommendations of the Advisory Board regarding the adoption of an Open and Affirming policy for The Church of the Pilgrimage and to act upon the recommendation. Your attendance is important and very much appreciated.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, a Special Business Meeting will be held on January 24, 2010, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive the recommendations of the Advisory Board regarding adopting an Open and Affirming policy, and take any action thereto.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post

 Clerk

The Haiti Relief Box will again be in the upper vestibule to receive your gifts. All monies will be filtered through United Church of Christ agencies or other respected relief agencies. Monies donated to One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings in the UCC are already being put to use in Haiti. We thank you for your generosity.

Gary thanks Augusta Moore for her presentation on Haiti last Sunday. Augusta had been doing volunteer work there as recently as a week before the earthquake which basically destroyed an already impoverished nation. In fact, Haiti was the poorest country in the western hemisphere before the earthquake. Our hearts break for those poor and now devastated people. Experts are calling the Haitian earthquake one of the most natural disasters ever. Gary thanks Augusta for her sensitive remarks. Augusta makes him proud to be the pastor of a church which has within it young people like her. He also apologizes for saying she is a Wellesley student since he knew, God knows, she is a Mount Holyoke student! Augusta is so poised and kind that she didn't even correct him before the congregation. Seriously, though, The Church of the Pilgrimage is honored to have had some small part to play in her spiritual formation. God bless you!

Missions and Outreach Committee: Change of Meeting Date

The Committee will now meet the first Wednesday of every month at the John Robinson Center at 7pm.

Monday Meals Update

- During the month of December we served 298 meals, including second helpings and bagged lunches. This number includes the lovely Christmas dinner donated by T-Bones restaurant.
- We had 168 visitors.
- We seem to be holding our costs down to about \$2 a meal. This is pretty amazing when you consider that coffee and snacks are provided before the meal, and the meal always includes hot home-cooked meat, vegetables, potatoes, rolls, salad, and dessert. Such a deal!

Thank you for your support in this very important outreach project. Your donations to the Missions Committee and the Mahlon Walker Fund for the Homeless have helped to relieve the financial burden on some of our hard working volunteers. We welcome all cooking and serving assistance as well as financial contributions; the more the merrier! You may contact one of the following people if you would like us to call you for assistance:

Diane Flood
Rosa Cook

Meg Bross
Lynette Lancaster

Help for Haiti: Over \$600 was received on Sunday, January 17. A basket will be available for donations for Haiti for the next three weeks. Checks should be made out to "The Church of the Pilgrimage" and clearly marked "For Haiti." Our donations will be sent to the United Church of Christ for distribution to the various agencies.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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