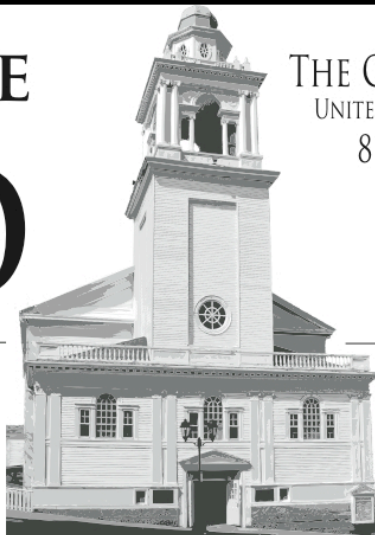

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

June 20, 2010

Dear Friends:

I suppose that there are times when we all feel lonely and even unloved. There are periods in which we feel that no matter what we do things just seem to get worse than they were. We often try to please others, even take on unwanted burdens to try to keep the peace in a volatile situation, but nothing works. Sometimes we suffer a poverty of the spirit and we feel as Robert Frost said in his poem "Bereft" that that spiritual poverty will be our doom.

I was led to these thoughts by a quotation from the seemingly ever-quotable Mother Teresa. She said, "The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved" I often have great compassion upon those who make up the seemingly ever present, homeless people who loiter or are languishing in Town Square and Burial Hill. They must feel the revolting poverty of loneliness and don't even have a inkling of how to react appropriately to simple acts of kindness, let alone expressions of love. But, there are times when we all feel bereft, that we are alone in our souls. Even the well off can feel a indigence of the spirit and probably do more than others realize.

I worry in our time that people are growing farther and farther away from the truth and essence of our faith in a loving, accepting, and forgiving God. Our's has become an impersonal world, a world which feels that our accumulated moments are all there is to life. People don't look for meaning beyond those moments. Everything must be for now or it will never be. Get what you can get while you can get it seems to be the purposeless mantra of a world peopled by bereft spirits.

I refuse to accept that life is devoid of meaning. I believe in a loving God who cares for us, wants us to know that every life is precious, a God who continues to search for us. No one is unimportant to God.

Love is never easy. As many of you know I am quite fond of a little book entitled Children's Letters to God. (As an aside, I mentioned in a sermon a few months ago that I had mislaid my copy of that charming little book. A family from Maine visiting that day sent a copy to me. Isn't that a great thing to do?) One letter in the book is this one which, I think, speaks to the theme of this letter. It reads: "Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nan."

I thank God that God does love us, wants us to live with purpose and, yes, with joy. I, like the little girl, realize that it feels good in the soul to know that I am loved even when I am not loving. It is more than okay for you to do the same.

Love (I mean it)!

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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

June 200-Father's Day: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. New Members will be received into the church during the service. There will be an informal meeting of the Interim Search Committee in the JRC Conference Room following worship.

June 21: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Gary will attend a 2020 Committee meeting.

June 22: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Advisory Board will meet at 7:00pm in the JRC Conference Room.

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

June 24: Gary will be late reporting to the office because he will conduct a graveside service in the morning.

June 25: Gary will be in the office at 9:30am.

June 26: PFC Concert, 7:30pm in the JRC Great Room.

Coming Events:

June 29-Summer Herald Deadline-Mark Your Calendar.

The deadline for articles to appear in the July issue of the Herald is noon on June 29th. The August Herald deadline is noon on July 27th.

Church Record

On June 12, 2010 Rev. Marks conducted a wedding ceremony for Elizabeth Luise and Paul Raynard in the sanctuary.

N O T E S

The flowers are in celebration of Mark Meehan and Katie Fischer's wedding. Given by their parents.

Our greeters this Sunday are Meg and John Bross.

Summer Herald Deadlines---Mark Your Calendar!

The deadline for articles to appear in the July Herald is noon on June 29. The August Herald deadline is noon on July 27.

Gary's new email address: scrooby1620@verizon.net

On June 8 Rev. Marks conducted a worship service at The Newfield House. Deacon Peter Causton attended the service with Gary. The Advisory Board hopes to keep these services in place, if interest remains, when Gary retires.

Gary and Shellie were invited to and attended the Guild Lunch on June 11th at the East Bay Grill. The lunch was terrific and the event was made delightful by being in the company of such wonderful women who are a part of The Church of the Pilgrimage. Both Gary and Shellie thank the Guild for including them. They both had a good time!

Please remember that there will be no Crib Room staffing from June 13 until September 19. Parents, though, are welcome utilize the Crib Room during worship services to entertain their youngsters.

Heartfelt thanks to our wonderful Sunday School Teachers: Your hard work, dedication, energy, and talent have made this year's Sunday school program a great success! In passing on the great stories of our faith, you have made an almost incalculable impact upon our children's lives, and you have shown our children the importance of learning about God. We deeply appreciate your efforts, and we celebrate what you have accomplished this year. Our children thank you, our parents thank you, the Christian Education Committee thanks you, and the congregation thanks you. You are indeed a valued asset to our congregation.

Sunday School Teachers

Pre-Kindergarten

Jenny Henrique

Phil Ragonetti

Jackie Williamson

Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Nancy Canducci

Dawn Durmis

Linda Brown

2nd & 3rd Grade

Nate Moore

Susan Coombs

4th & 5th Grade

Jen Bingham-Maas

Kathy Marks

Jenny Healy

6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Dave Coutts

Crib Room

Barbara Quinn

From our Membership and Evangelism Committee

If you have children or grandchildren in the military we would like to have their name, address and birthday. Thank you.

A free week in Williamsburg, Virginia is available at a time share condominium. The dates are Saturday, July 17, 2010 to Saturday, July 24, 2010. The condominium sleeps six and has a pool. If interested please contact Dave and Sandie Moreland before June 30 at 508-746-7412.

A note from Gary: The Church School Sunday Service on June 13 was both delightful and worshipful. I have appreciated other Church School Sundays, but I think this one was the best organized and executed one in my memory. It was a charming service and one in which we can take just pride in our Christian Education program. This year's education offerings for our young people was carried out by volunteers in the absence of an associate minister. The Christian Education Committee

worked diligently to offer a quality educational experience. I thank them for that, heartily.

The music of the Youth Choir and Cherub Choir was augmented by the Sanctuary Choir. The selections for Church School Sunday were superb and beautifully performed. I stand in awe and appreciation of our total musical offerings, as I've frequently expressed. They are the best! And, who can forget Michael's stunning and stirring postlude. It had the title, "Full Organ with Thunder" by Michel Corvette. Our magnificent organ and Michael's skill in playing was able to simulate the sound of thunder. Most everyone remained in their pews for the postlude, as we should try to do each service, and spontaneous applause erupted at its conclusion.

It was a very good Sunday morning at The Church of the Pilgrimage! I thank everyone who made it happen.

Second graders received Bibles on this Church School Sunday. We have been presenting Bibles to that age group for longer than anyone can remember. It is a wonderful project and I hope it never ends.

We also recognized graduates of all sorts and spoke of their future plans. Each one of them has our prayers and best wishes as they move on in their separate journeys. Each graduate received a book entitled Forever Young. I quipped after the book presentation that after just having sorted, lugged and moved about 1,000 books of my own I didn't just then feel "forever young."

The names of Bible recipients and graduates are listed below. Congratulations and best wishes to all. Gary

Recipients of 2nd Grade Bibles

Sophia Rose Blomberg
Connor Angus MacLeod
Dan Tocco (Teen Bible)
Graciela Verdugo
Jacqueline Ann Trask
Peter Christian Haugh
Stephanie Elizabeth Northrop
Katie Elizabeth Robinson
Owen May (Teen Bible)
Colin Patrick Brown
Madeline Gallagher

Graduates

Mary Saunders will be attending Emmanuel in Boston.
Christina Saunders will be attending Southern New Hampshire University.
Kayla McNicholas will be going into the Navy.
Cathy Lindquist will be attending Lasell College in Newton.
Danielle Budge will be attending UMass-Dartmouth.
Nick Balboni will be attending Bryant University in Rhode Island.
Nicholas Peck graduated from an out of town high school.
Matthew Wezowicz will be attending the University of Delaware.

From Marna Blomberg: I am the Director of Development and Outreach for a new project called "Like a Drop of Water." This is a writing contest for young people worldwide, ages eight through seventeen, about how they, and the country they live in, can reduce climate change and worldwide pollution. Would you kindly go to www.likeadropofwater.org to read about the details of our project? We hope you will want to share our website with your family, friends, teachers, youth leaders, colleagues and clergy across the United States as well as emailing friends in other countries that may be interested. As young people learn of ways we can mitigate climate changes and create solutions for our growing pollution, they will increase the chances of future generations living on a healthy, resource abundant and not overcrowded earth. Yes, a drop of water is tiny, yet millions create a glass of water and trillions an ocean. We hope our drop will contribute to the sea change in thinking that is needed to preserve a sustainable quality of life on our planet. If you have any suggestions or would like to work with us in any way, we would appreciate hearing from you. Thank you for your time.

South Pond Chapel Summer Hymn Sing

Summer hymn sings at the South Pond Chapel are sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Plymouth. The Chapel is located on Long Pond Road, off exit 5 in Plymouth. Each Sunday in July and August a different local minister leads the service, which begins at 7:00pm.

South Pond Chapel was built in 1870 as a Union Evangelical church for residents of the village at South Pond in Plymouth; it offered them a place to worship close to their homes what at that time was a remote part of town.

The Chapel has been a mission of the First Baptist Church of Plymouth for 51 years, offering a place for people of all denominations to gather to sing their favorite old-time hymns and gospel songs together, and to hear special music.

The 2010 schedule, thus far:

July 11: The Reverend Dr. Jeff Jones
First Baptist Church of Plymouth
July 18: To Be Announced
July 25: The Reverend Gary Marks,
The Church of the Pilgrimage
August 1: The Reverend David Frederickson
Christ Church Episcopal
August 8: The Reverend Irving Beveridge, Retired
August 15: The Reverend Robert Merritt, Retired
August 22: The Reverend Robert Stott
Zion Lutheran Church
August 29: The Reverend Dr. William Fillebrowne
Chiltonville Congregational Church

Ms. Jane Costa will be the accompanist for the summer.

Craft and Story Hour Volunteers Needed

We invite you to prayerfully consider signing up for Craft and Story Hour this summer. Sign-up sheets are located in Allerton Hall on the bulletin board next to the piano. Although we do not have Church School during the summer months, we continue to provide educational opportunities for our children through story telling and activities that engage our children's creativity and imaginations. This is a wonderful and vitally important opportunity for you to be a part of the faith formation of our children, and to have fun at the same time. The Christian Education Committee is happy to provide ideas and/or supplies for activities. Feel free to contact Susan Coombs at 508-224-9319 with any questions. Thank You. CE Members



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8 TOWN SQUARE,
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
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