
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

November 21, 2010

Dear Friends:

I think it was my friend Peter Gomes who said it first, but I've said it so often that I'm not certain of its origin. Oh, to be in Bethlehem for Christmas, in Jerusalem at Easter and in Plymouth for Thanksgiving. I do deem Thanksgiving is a great festival of faith and not merely a cultural holiday. It is a celebration of the mutual faithfulness of God and of a particular people of God. It all started with a covenant of faith in the tiny hamlet of Scrooby, England in 1606. For the four hundredth anniversary of the Scrooby Covenant I drew up a covenantal statement based upon the one first formulated and "owned" in Scrooby. It is derived from a paraphrase in Governor Bradford's Of Plimoth Plantation. My rendition reads:

"We have freely joined ourselves by a covenant of God into a church estate, into a community of the gospel, to walk in God's ways made known, or to be made known to us, according to our best efforts. We commit ourselves to generosity in service and mission, God assisting us."

The covenant is the basis of the "free church" tradition. It is a statement of the relationship between God and God's people in the Bible and it extends to the relationship which we are to maintain among ourselves as a congregation. The sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper, are "signs and seals" of the covenant of grace. The sacraments serve the covenant.

The Scrooby, Leyden, Plymouth congregation was a distinctive people of the covenant. On some occasions they called for "days of solemn humiliation" when it appeared that they were not living up to the covenant of grace. At other times they called for "days of thanksgiving" when it seemed to them that they had met the conditions of the covenant. Blessings were measured by keeping the covenant with God and with the faith community based upon it.

What we now refer to as Thanksgiving Day was one of many "days of thanksgiving" celebrated by the people we know as the Pilgrims. It was a modest harvest gathered in 1621, but it was enough. It was enough to call for a day of rejoicing because they had survived, they had made it through a horrid winter and had sowed their seeds in spring with prayers to God that conditions would prevail favorably to produce a harvest of the fruits of the earth. Conditions were favorable enough and they gave thanks to the God of the covenant for blessings of survival. They invited Native American friends to join them in their festival of thanksgiving. In doing so the people of Plimoth Plantation, without expecting the native Americans to become what they were, invited the native people to share in their own thanksgivings to the God of the covenant. The Pilgrim people did hope for peace at the outset, and that hope should be a part of our covenant experience on a global level today. Peace is what God wants and we keep covenant with God and one another when peace is our prayer and hope. Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Nov 21-Thanksgiving Sunday: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Cherub Choir will sing during the service. The Guild will hold a Bake Sale during coffee hour this morning.

Nov 22: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.

Nov 23: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Board of Trustees will meet at 7:00pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Nov 24: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.

Nov 25-Thanksgiving Day: Open House at The Church of the Pilgrimage 9:00am-1:00pm. The Pilgrim's Progress 10:00am. Ecumenical Worship Service at First Parish U.U. Church at 10:00am.

Nov 26: The Church Office is closed.

COMING EVENTS-

Nov 28-The First Sunday of Advent: There will be a special service and Hanging of the Greens at our regular service at 10:00am. PFC Concert in the sanctuary at 4pm.

Dec 3: There will be an Open House at The Church of the Pilgrimage as a part of the Tree Lighting event sponsored by the Kwanis.

Dec 5-The Second Sunday of Advent: The Celebration of Forty Years of Ministry of Rev. Gary L. Marks as Pastor of The Church of the Pilgrimage. A luncheon of Celebration at The Loring Center will be held at 1:00pm.

Church Record

On November 14, 2010 Rev. Marks baptized the following children during the worship service: Porter Jane MacElhiney, daughter of Christie (Fry) and David MacElhiney; Mary Margaret Fry, daughter of Stephanie (Leonardi) and Russell Fry IV; John William Hughan, son of Allison (Bottomley) and Peter Hughan.

Notes

Arthur Budge and Helen Belcher are both at Jordan Hospital.

We were saddened to learn that **Rich Lancaster's sister** passed this life last week in Ohio.

On November 9, **Gary conducted a worship service at The Newfield House**. He was presented with a card signed by many residents and a cherry pie thanking him for more than twenty years of

conducting monthly services there. He also received a beautiful bouquet of flowers later that day at his home from The Newfield House. He was very moved by it all. That will be his last formal service at The Newfield House as pastor of The Church of the Pilgrimage.

On November 15, **Gary attended a meeting of the 400th Anniversary Committee**. He plans to remain a part of that 2020 planning group after he retires. In ten years the Mayflower will have landed in Plymouth Harbor four hundred years ago.

A note from Gary: Last week we celebrated Veterans' Day. I mentioned our veterans in my prayer prior to that day, but did not mention how much respect I have for those young men and women who sacrifice to serve in the military. They have been important to me and I often remember them in prayer. I paused for a time on Veterans' Day to recall the incredible sacrifice made in order to preserve the nation, but I hope that in some residual way that we all recall that our nation trusts in God. There are those who would remove "in God We Trust" from our currency and from other national remembrances. I oppose such efforts. The separation of church and state does not mean that moral and ethical suasion should not have a place in our nation's mission and destiny. This is a nation "under God" and it loses its integrity if it ever forgets it. So, thanks to all who have served and serve a nation which should never forget its purpose.

Guild Bake Sale --- November 21, 2010

This Sunday the Guild will offer a bake sale to help with your holiday plans. Cookies, bars, pies, breads and much more will be available. Plan to purchase Thanksgiving goodies on that day and help the Guild meet it's charitable goals at the same time. We are blessed with great bakers. Take advantage of their talents!

Equal Exchange Coffee (available for purchase during coffee hour): These sales of coffee, tea and chocolate help small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the US as they build a better future for themselves and their families. The project farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust. 100% of Equal Exchange's coffee, tea and chocolate products are fairly traded.



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). On November 28, December 5 and 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!

The Thanksgiving Sunday Food Collection will be accepted this Sunday, November 21. Remember to bring your bags of non-perishables to church on Sunday. Our church school children will bring their bags forward during the processional hymn and then sit with their parents. As we sit down to our Thanksgiving meal with family and friends, let us remember that "Giving" is rewarded by "Thanks" knowing we can make a difference in someone's life. God Bless, Susan Coombs

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth announces the "Spirit of the Season" Giving Program

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth is pleased to announce their "Spirit of the Season" giving program. Participants can make a donation in honor of a friend, family, or co-worker instead of giving yet another scarf or pack of Post-It Notes as a holiday gift. Businesses can give in their employees' names in honor of their efforts over the past year and to customers as a thank you for their continued business and support.

A lovely card (you have three to choose from) and commemorative Habitat for Humanity pin will be sent to the person in whose name the donation was made.

To guarantee delivery of the card and pin by Christmas, your donation must be received no later than December 10. Distribution of the packages will begin December 1, 2010. The full amount of your donation is tax deductible.

To donate or find out more, go to www.hfhplymouth.org, call the office at 508-466-4188 or email Habitat's Development Director at mconstantino@hfhplymouth.org. You can also speak to Nancy Morse, Hannah Woodbury or Tom Mudgett.

Upcoming Budget Meeting: The Board of Trustees is in the process of preparing the Budget for 2011 which will be voted upon at the December 12 Budget Meeting. The Board would like to have printed copies of the proposed budget available for your review on November 28. In order to present you with an accurate budget on that date we need all pledge forms into the office **no later than November 23**. If for some reason you have not received the Stewardship mailing, please call the church office and we will be happy to provide you with a pledge form. Thank you to those who have already submitted their pledge forms.

Save the Date! On Sunday, December 12 we are planning to go caroling once again this year to a local nursing home. We recognize that there is a budget meeting following the church service that day and we will go following the meeting. This is a church-wide event and is open to everyone-the more the merrier! Details will be forthcoming. Thank you, Marna Blomberg and Barbara Northrop



HANGING OF THE GREENS Notice to Children and Their Families

As a part of the worship service in the sanctuary Sunday November 28th, our church family will be decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Reverend Gary will be offering the sermon. It will be a service of carols and special choir music. Greens and stars will be hung. Votives will be placed around the sanctuary and the nativity pieces will be put out. The most striking will be the raising of the banners "Starry Night at Bethlehem". Children will be participating during the first part of the service and then be released to their classrooms.



Thanksgiving Open House

We are looking for baked items for our Open House on Thanksgiving morning. Cookies, cheese platters, fruit, breads, brownies etc. would be welcome. If you are free that morning, we can use the extra help serving etc. Drop-offs can be made after 8:00am Thanksgiving morning at Allerton Hall or the day before at 15 Oak Street. Call Diana Budge at 508-746-4514 if you need to make pick-up arrangements.

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beloved church and is always well received by our visitors.

We would appreciate your help. Diana Budge and Liisa Budge Johnson.



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
& TOWN SQUARE,
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP -- 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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WE ARE UNITED IN STRIVING TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD, AND TO WALK IN GOD'S WAYS, MADE KNOWN OR TO BE MADE KNOWN TO US.