

---

# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

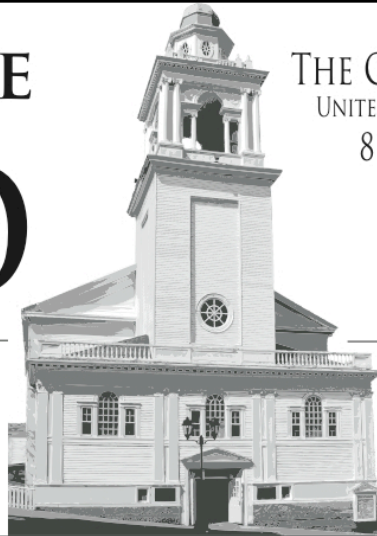
---

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,  
MASSACHUSETTS 02360

[www.8townsquare.org](http://www.8townsquare.org)



THE REVEREND GARY L. MARKS,  
SENIOR PASTOR  
[gmarks@8townsquare.org](mailto:gmarks@8townsquare.org)



CHURCH OFFICE

PHONE: 508-746-3026  
FAX: 508-746-4362

[office@8townsquare.org](mailto:office@8townsquare.org)

Volume LXXX, No. 34

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

November 7, 2010

---

Dear Friends:

At this stage in my life I've been thinking about the faith that sustains my spirit. I cast a glance backward, of course, but I also ponder what my faith means to me in the present and what it will mean to me in the future. What in my past, present and future sustains me? Where have I been that informs who I am and still hope to be? If you have been on the faith pilgrimage for a while, these same questions may occur to you from time to time, as well.

I begin as I have for a number of reasons, but the one which prompted me was an observation I read as I was preparing a sermon a couple of weeks ago but did not include in the sermon. This letter allows me the opportunity to continue thoughts I've been having about my faith formation, where it has led me, where it is leading me still.

The renowned novelist and poet John Updike died in January 2009. About a month before he passed this life, he wrote his last poem. (*Endpoint and Other Poems*, Knopf, 2009). In that poem Updike thinks back to Sunday School, Christmas programs, kids and grown-ups, sometimes interested, sometimes bored, but in church, believing, trusting, praying-trying to figure it all out. Then, as a kind of personal witness to hope, Updike calls to memory the beloved words of Psalm 23. How often I, too, have done that. I have read the Psalm over and over again; I've read it at nearly all the hundreds of funerals I've conducted. I've preached sermons on it trying to evoke from it something you or I might have missed before in previous readings. Psalm 23 has a majesty and yet a simplicity about it which renders my efforts to explain it appear needless.

John Updike said of it: "Surely-magnificent, that 'surely'-goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, my life, forever."

It is interesting to me that some familiar words that we have heard for years in subtle ways have become formative of our faith. Psalm 23 we likely heard in church, perhaps at home. I even remember it said in my public school third grade class at the start of every school day, along with the Lord's Prayer! Imagine that! The point is, though, such spiritual hallmarks come back to us, are reprocessed, as we go through the various stages of our lives. When Updike repeated the words "my life" I could feel his realization that the Psalm was about him, his life, and was not merely a part of ritual and rote performances. The Lord became his Lord, the days of life were his life's days as he faced the end of his earthly days.

I hope that our church school and services provide every new generation with spiritual truths like Psalm 23 so that they become a part of their psyches and from which they can find strength as their lives unfold. I pray that we all can say with Updike, "Surely, -magnificent, that surely—..." when early faith experiences can carry us through all the perplexities of our lives. Such learning's are so durable that they put us in the mind of God's eternity and eternal love for us. How sad it would be not to have that as our lives proceed through all their seasons.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

---

*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 7 (Remember-Daylight Saving Time Ends, turn your clocks back one hour): Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Communion is a part of today's service. No Cherub Choir rehearsal. Confirmation group will meet. Mass Conference Fall Fellowship today in Marion, MA.  
Nov 8: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.  
Nov 9: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am.  
Nov 10: The Nominating Committee will meet at Steve Triffletti's office at 8:30am. Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.  
Nov 11-Veterans' Day: The Church Office will be closed.  
Nov 12: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. The Guild will meet at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall.  
COMING EVENTS-  
Nov 15: Gary plans to attend a 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting.  
Nov 16: The Board of Trustees will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.  
Nov 21-Thanksgiving Sunday: Guild Bake Sale after worship.  
Nov 25-Thanksgiving Day: The Pilgrim's Progress starts at 10:00am. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at First Parish UU, 10:00am. There will be an Open House at The Church of the Pilgrimage from 10:00am-1:00pm. Gary will offer a talk to interested visitors.

## Flowers

The flowers are in honor of all the soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and in memory of Linda Prentice Cadorette. Given by her family.

## Notes

**Audrey Birnstein** is at Jordan Hospital.  
**Rick and Lynnette Lancaster's** newborn granddaughter, Isabel, is at Children's Hospital in Boston.  
**Gail Mason** continues recuperation at RHCI in Sandwich following surgery.  
**Cynthia Marks** at home following hospitalization.  
**Photographs of the 2011 Harvest Fair** can be found on our website.

**Open Invitation from The Guild:** You are invited to join the Guild for tea and an important program on Friday, November 12 at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall. Liisa Budge-Johnson, Outreach Coordinator for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department will speak on Charitable Giving-Pitfalls and Positive Choices. Join us as we learn how to make informed choices for our charitable giving and avoid scams as we make those decisions. We invite all women in the congregation to join us for an enjoyable and informative afternoon.

Remember that you are invited and encouraged to add the **names of Saints** to the others displayed in our sanctuary windows. Please phone the church office with names you'd like to see added. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the idea. Thank you! The names will remain in place for some time to come.

**Food Pantry News:** Thanks to your efforts our baskets runneth over! Your response was overwhelming! Let's keep them filled. Consider adding food pantry to your weekly shopping list, and see how easy it can be to make a difference right here in our own community. Together we can help to stock those shelves and keep them stocked. Thank you, Jenny

**Request:** If anyone has knowledge of a studio or small one bedroom apartment in the Plymouth/Kingston/Halifax area, could they please call the Peterson's at 508-586-7415. They are trying to help locate housing for a single Mom and her five-year-old daughter. Thanks.

**ADULT volunteers** are needed for *Plymouth's Thanksgiving Day Parade*. The South Shore Community Action Council will have a new float in the parade. The volunteers will help collect the food donations along the parade route to be added to the float. All foods collected will benefit the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse. If interested please call Beth Thompson at S.S.C.A.C. (508)747-7575 Ext. 251. Thank you, Barbara Quinn

## 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.

Your donation will help build a home for a deserving family and help support Habitat's mission of providing a hand up to those less fortunate by constructing simple, affordable housing, and then selling the home to the family at cost with a no interest mortgage. A family will be able to say you helped them have a home for the holidays.

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](http://www.hfhplymouth.org), call the office at 508-466-4188 or email Habitat's Development Director at [mconstantino@hfhplymouth.org](mailto:mconstantino@hfhplymouth.org). You can also speak to Nancy Morse, Hannah Woodbury or Tom Mudgett.

**From the Stewardship Committee:** If you plan on pledging or even if for some reason you have no intention of pledging please return your forms to the Church office. It will save printing and postage costs on follow-up letters. Our stewardship campaign is now finished and we need to have all your pledge sheets returned so we can help the Board of Trustees plan next year's budget.

Thank you to those who have already submitted their pledge forms.

## Stewardship Message

*(taken from the UCC website)*

### Treasure

*For where your treasure is....Matthew 6:21*

My grandfather was a farmer most of his life, and he had a tremendous love of soil. As children, my brothers and I would laugh as he looked out a car window at a field and would say, "That's beautiful dirt!" As suburban kids, for whom dirt was something that got us in trouble with our mother, we didn't really get it. But what Grandpa saw in the dirt was the promise of seeds sprouting and crops producing a hundred-fold. It was just dirt to us, but to him it was gold.

It's all how you define treasure, I guess. Our churches are like that soil my grandfather loved. They are places where seeds get planted and nurtured. If the soil is strong, if we see it as treasure, then what grows in our churches are strong disciples, equipped to go into the world and live Christ. The treasure where our hearts are could refer to our individual bank accounts, or it could refer to the treasure that is Christian community which needs our work of tilling and planting and fertilizing and weeding and praying for a good crop.

Just as my Grandpa's heart was in the soil, so mine is in the congregation I call my home, and in the wider church others call home. Treasures, gifts from God, gardens ready to grow.

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*

**November 2010**

God is still speaking,



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

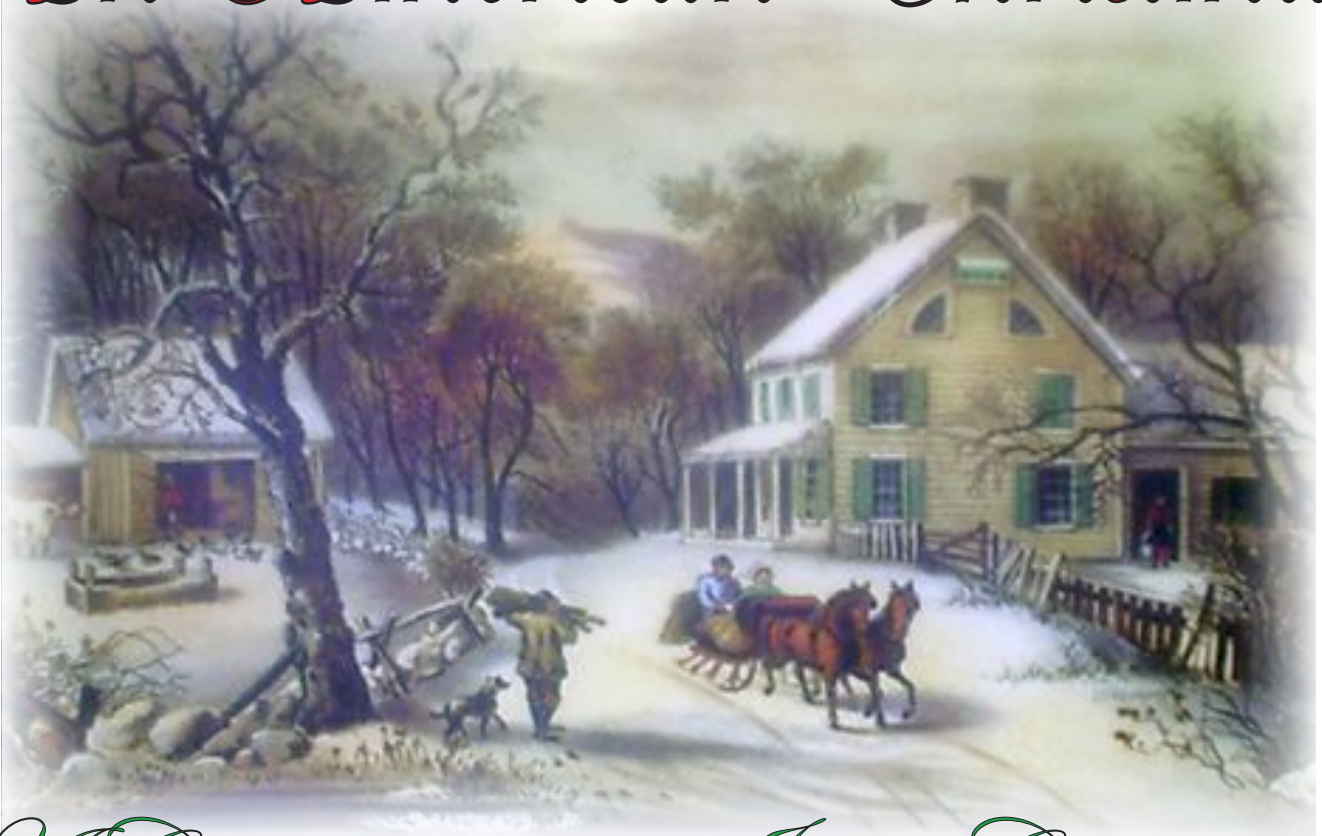
*The Pilgrim Festival Chorus*

*William B. Richter, Director*

*Elizabeth Chapman Reilly,*

*Accompanist*

*presents*  
*An American Christmas*



*A Celebration of the Joy of Christmas*

*4:00 pm - Sunday, November 28, 2010*

*The Church of the Pilgrimage, Town Square, Plymouth*

Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$18 at the door ~ Tickets are available at:  
The Golden Gull Studios, 17 South Park Avenue, Plymouth, 508-746-8091;  
Plymouth Center for the Arts, 11 North Street, Plymouth 508-746-7222;  
The Studio of Duxbury, 25 Depot Street, Duxbury, 781-934-2121;  
The Market, in the Pinehills, 6 Purchase St. Plymouth, 508-209-0000;  
and from PFC members. Tickets can also be purchased by calling  
508-746-5314, 508-866-7895, or ordered online at [www.pilgrimfestival.org](http://www.pilgrimfestival.org) .

The Pilgrim Festival Chorus is funded in part by a grant from **Entergy**,  
as well as grants from many of the region's Cultural Councils, local agencies  
supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



## Guild Bake Sale November 21, 2010



The Sunday before Thanksgiving 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!



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM  
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Periodical  
Publication  
U. S. P. S.  
# 432820