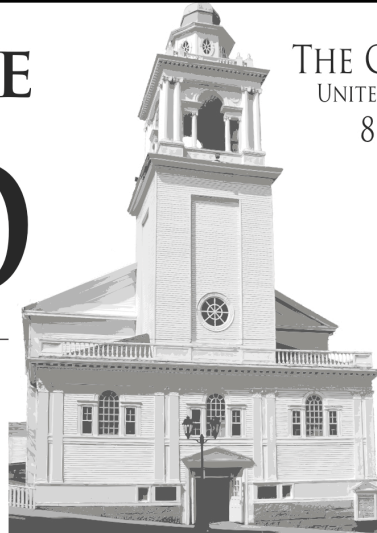

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,
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www.8townsquare.org



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Volume LXXXI, No. 17

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

Easter - April 24, 2011

Dear Members and Friends:

A husband was bragging to some male friends that whenever he and his wife had a disagreement, he always had the last word. Just then, his wife entered the room.

Overhearing her husband's comment, she interjected, *"That's true, my husband always has the last word."* That brought a great smile to her husband's face. But as she went on to say, *"Of course, his last word is always 'Yes, dear.'"*

At this time of year, the Christian Church basks in the radiance and joy of God's great Easter miracle. There are many ways to understand the significance of that great miracle. One of those ways is this. God's Easter miracle teaches us that it is God—not anything or anyone else—who always has the last word in our lives. And that last word from God is always a jubilant word of Love, Justice, Healing, and Peace.

On Good Friday, human evil, betrayal, violence, suffering, and death seemed to rule supreme. Jesus hung from a cruel executioner's cross and his disciples were scattered in shock and despair. All the disciples' dreams and hopes were now shattered beyond repair—or so they assumed.

But then on the first Easter, God "turned the tables" completely. Through the resurrection of Jesus, God demonstrated that God, and God alone, has the last word on all the tragedies, injustices, and pains of our world. And God's last word is good!

From time to time, all of us lose heart. We give in to despair, disappointment, and defeat. We sink into feeling that things in our lives can never get any better. Personal setbacks lead us, like the disciples on Good Friday, to assume that all our dreams and hopes are shattered.

Yet, it is precisely at such moments that we should remember God's Easter victory. For, as that victory so amply demonstrates, our earthly troubles and suffering are never ultimate. What is ultimate, is God's goodness and love for us.

The first Good Friday was a terrible day. But God transformed it. So it is with all the days of our lives. For God is ever at work in our lives to overcome evil with good. And we can believe, and implicitly trust, that God will always have the last word!

May this season of God's great Easter victory be also one of special blessing for you.

Yours in Christ's Service,

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

Apr 24-Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at Cole's Hill 6am. Family Easter Pageant Service, 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Traditional Easter Service, 11:00am in the Sanctuary. The Junior Choir will sing at the 9:30 service. The Cherub Choir will not rehearse.

Apr 25: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.

Apr 26: The Pilgrim District Women's Meeting will be held in Allerton Hall today.

Apr 27: The Choir will rehearse at 7:30am in the Sanctuary.

Apr 28: The Membership and Evangelism Committee will host a Meet and Greet Meeting at 7pm in the John Robinson Center (diagonally across from the Church Building).

May 1: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter preaching. The Cherub Choir will rehearse in the JRC Great Room. Pilgrim Festival Chorus performance of *The Armed Man* at 4pm in the Sanctuary. Yom Ha Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), 7pm at the Beth Jacob Community Center (Court St. at Brewster, in Plymouth).

Christian Ed Notes

It's almost time for another **youth fellowship gathering!** Friday, April 29, 7 to 9pm, at the Unitarian church next door. Bring a friend and a snack and plan on joining other 6-12 graders for an evening of fun. Ann Motyka will be there so it's sure to be a blast!

Thursday, May 5 at 7pm Sunday school teachers will be meeting in the Marks Conference Room in the JRC to discuss **Children's Sunday and the rotational model for teaching Sunday school.** For more information about this model, you may want to take a look at rotation.org and cstones.com before the meeting. We encourage all current teachers and any who think they might like to teach in the fall to attend. Contact Jenny with any questions 508-747-7168.

Christian Education Committee meeting changes:

The next CE meeting will be held in the Marks Conference Room in the JRC at 6pm on May 5.

Pilgrim District Women's Meeting

The spring meeting of Pilgrim District Women will be held on April 26 at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Cost is \$5.00. Contact Carol Johnson at 508-746-9701 for reservations and further information.

Overnights of Hospitality Appreciation Breakfast

The Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless cordially invites all volunteers in the Overnights of Hospitality Program to the annual Breakfast of Appreciation, to be held at Zion Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 9am. To accept this invitation, please email Connie Melahoures at Conmel@aol.com.

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

For the month of April, the Missions committee, on behalf of Church World Service, will be collecting Hygiene Kits. These Kits are shipped to people around the world. They are especially needed at this time in Haiti and Japan. In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. We are asking each church family, be it one person or many, to consider contributing one kit.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Bins for placing completed Kits will be found on the stairways leading up to the sanctuary. On April 26, all completed kits will be picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support for what has become an annual mission's project at our church.

Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi

Pilgrim Church of Duxbury would love to have you join them this May for their annual adult Mission Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. Back Bay is a community ministry of the United Church of Christ that has worked with the poor and marginalized of Biloxi's Back Bay for nearly a century. The trip is scheduled from May 15-May 21. Please contact Todd Vetter, Senior Minister at Pilgrim Church at 781-934-6591 ext 102 or via email at tcvetter@gmail.com. For more information see www.thebackbaymission.org.

From the Guild

Attention Members of the Guild: The bake sale will be held on Sunday May 8 (Mother's Day).

→The Guild has agreed to sponsor a project to outfit the kitchen at the John Robinson Center. By doing so, we hope to increase the number and types of events that can be held there. A savings account begun by the Women's Fellowship was dedicated to this purpose and has given us a start. As a first fundraiser, the Guild will offer a Bake Sale on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8. We hope that the congregation will plan on making a purchase of delicious baked items on that day and helps us to begin this campaign. There will be several events each year dedicated to this purpose. If members of the congregation would like to make a financial contribution or hold a fund raising event to add to the fund, we would welcome any additional funds to be added to this special bank account. We estimate that it will take approximately \$20,000 to complete this project. Let's make a beginning.

→On May 20 2:30pm the Guild will provide a tea with entertainment at the Newfield House (nursing home) to honor those residents past and presently residing there that have connections to our church. We invite members of the congregation to join us as we entertain the residents of the Newfield House. It would be nice to have a good representation from the church. It should be a fun afternoon.

Town-Wide Clean-Up Week/ April 30-May 8, 2011

Join us for Town-Wide Clean-Up Week. Contact Patrick Farah at pfarah@townhall.plymouth.ma.us or 508-746-1620 x204.

Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day 2011)

An Interfaith observance commemorating the destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis and giving recognition to the significance of the Holocaust for people of all faiths.

Sunday, May 1, 7:00pm

*At Beth Jacob Community Center
(Court St. at Brewster, in Plymouth)*

Special Guest: Alice Eichenbaum, who was in Bulgaria during the Holocaust and whose family suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazis, will speak on the importance for us all of remembering the Holocaust.

*Preceding our Community Center observance, at 6:00pm, we gather briefly (weather permitting) at the Holocaust Memorial Monument, in Beth Jacob Cemetery. This event is sponsored by Congregation Beth Jacob, the Plymouth-area Interfaith Clergy Association and the Town of Plymouth's "No Place for Hate" Committee. Special singing by the Plymouth High Schools' Vocal Point Ensemble. All are welcome!

Memorial Garden/Columbarium Update

Since our appeal last month for sales of niches, we now have four sold, with a promise of two more (when tax refunds are received). We need to sell four more niches in order to have the money to build the first columbarium.

Even if you do not plan to buy a niche, you can be a part of this effort by making a donation toward the building of the columbarium. The name of anyone memorialized by a donation of \$200 or more will be added to the Memorial Garden plaque. Names of those memorialized by a donation of less than \$200 will be painted on a riverstone to be placed in the garden.

For more information about purchasing a niche, or making a donation, contact anyone from the committee:

Judy Mitchell 508-746-3959
je_mitchell@comcast.net

Pat Mudgett 508-224-7296

Linn Peterson 508-586-7415
dusteryip@hotmail.com



Meet and Greet Meeting

Are you interested in the possibility of becoming a member of our church? If so, our church's Membership and Evangelism Committee invites you to a special Meet and Greet Meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 7:00pm in the Robinson Center across from the church. There is no obligation. But it is an opportunity to learn more about our church and those in it. Please call our church office if you would like to attend (508-746-3026). All are welcome with no obligation to join.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
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