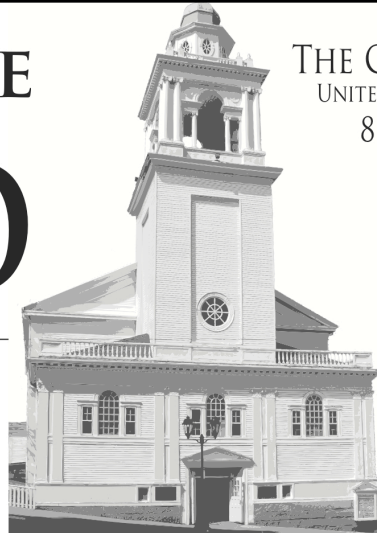


THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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



THE REV. DR. DOUGLAS K. SHOWALTER
INTERIM PASTOR
dougshowalter@8townsquare.org

REV. GARY L. MARKS, PASTOR EMERITUS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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Volume LXXXI, No. 1

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

January 2, 2011

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year! I am always amazed at how quickly the month of December seems to pass each year. It seems we were just sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner, and now here we are at the dawn of the New Year. How did that happen? It seems each year that the frantic pace of physically “getting ready” for Christmas often threatens to overshadow the time to *really* get ready: to reflect and prepare to mark the birth of Jesus with due reverence. Almost as suddenly as Christmas arrives, it is over, and we are often left with a sense of fatigue, and for many of us, an extra inch or two around the waist!

Of course, this year the Church was extra busy with planning the special service on December 5th to celebrate Gary and Kathy’s 40-year ministry at the Church, and then to recognize the end of their ministry among us on December 26th. Both services were well-attended, and both were a fitting tribute to the depth of our appreciation for all the many ways in which Gary and Kathy have touched our lives over the years. Their teaching and example have better prepared us for the future of our collective ministry. They have both left an indelible mark on our Church, and I dare say, on our souls. As they move into the next phase of their ministry, may they take comfort in the knowledge that they are both loved and appreciated by our church family.

As we turn our attention to the coming year, we have much to be thankful for. The Advisory Board was able to secure the services of the Rev. Dr. Douglas Showalter as our Interim Pastor. Dr. Showalter will begin in earnest on March 1, 2011, but he is already working behind the scenes with our church leaders to ensure a smooth transition.

As we move into the New Year, we should be very optimistic about the future of this church. We have a team of very talented and capable lay leaders who work well together, and a dedicated staff to manage the daily operations of the church. We have a strong music program. We are committed to Christian Education, and we have a very active lay-led Missions program. We are in a good financial position moving forward, and there are no major conflicts or divisive issues facing us as a congregation. As our Pilgrim ancestors observed, “All is well!”

A good friend recently asked me if I planned to make any New Year’s resolutions this year. I don’t usually partake in this tradition, because I am, admittedly, one of the 80 percent of people who fail to follow through on such resolutions beyond the month of January. Lack of time and lack of reinforcement are two reasons people fail to keep resolutions. This year, I decided that I will make just one resolution, and I invite you to join me. Let us resolve to deepen our faith through daily prayer. Let us learn (or re-learn) to pray with and for each other. For through our own regular prayer, we are drawn closer to God, and through our common prayer, we are drawn closer to one another. May our prayers give us the strength and guidance to carry on the ministry of the church for many years to come!

In His Light,
Trace Sears

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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

Jan 2: Morning Worship, 10 am. Deacon Peter Causton will be preaching.
Jan 5: Missions Committee meeting at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room.
Jan 6: Christian Education Committee meeting at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room.
Jan 9: The Church Council will meet in the Marks Conference
Jan 13: The Membership and Evangelism Committee will meet at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room.

Church Record

On December 26, 2010, Rev. Marks baptized Jacob Thomas Medeiros, son of Angela (Latimer) and Michael Medeiros.

On December 28, 2010, Rev. Marks conducted a graveside service for Carol Macomber. Carol grew up in the Church of the Pilgrimage, and was active here until she moved to West Virginia many years ago.

Flowers

Given by Barbara and Ted Simpson and family in loving memory of Barbara's Parents: Helen and John Wilson, and Aunt Marjory D. Christie.

Notes

Rev. Peter Gomes is at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

Nancy Scheid is recuperating at home.

We thank the Christian Education Committee, the many adult volunteers, and the children of the church for once again portraying the beautiful living crèche during the Christmas Eve worship service. The service is always well-attended, and this year was no exception.

We thank the Confirmation Class for serving as ushers on Christmas Eve.

Pastoral Care

For the months of January and February, we have a Minister available on an as-needed basis for church member emergencies, funerals, etc. The Deacons are also available for visits to at-home and hospitalized members. If you are in need of a Pastoral visit or know of someone who is, please contact the church office.

Women's Guild

An Invitation

The Pilgrimage Women's Guild invites the women of the church to attend the January 14 meeting of the Guild at 1:00pm pm in Allerton Hall. January's speaker will be Karen Goldstein who will present a program recalling the Summer Street Redevelopment that took place in the 1960's. It should be of particular interest to those who remember the Summer Street of years past. Tea and refreshments will follow the program and business meeting. We hope to see you there.

Diana Budge, Vice-President of the Guild

Monday Meals

Thank you to the many individuals who contribute time and/or food to serve our guests each Monday. This is an important mission of our church. If you are interested in helping by providing food or assistance, please contact Gay and Diane Flood through the Church office. If you are unable to prepare food or volunteer your time to this cause, you could consider donating cash or a grocery store gift card to the program.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday	Preaching	Worship Leader
January 2 <i>Communion</i>	Deacon Peter Causton	Trace Sears & Rev. Rollin Johnson
January 9	Al Hoyt	Diana Budge
January 16	Deacon Trace Sears	Jenny Healy
January 23	TBA	
January 30	TBA	

*If you are interested in preaching serving as a worship leader, Please contact the church office.

Missions Corner

One of our ongoing efforts is to collect non-perishable food products for the Plymouth area Food Warehouse. There is a large basket at the bottom of the right staircase in the church. We urge you to bring your donations to that basket at any time. Thank you for your generous contributions!

Thank you from the Staff

We were overwhelmed by your generosity in the form of Christmas Bonuses this year! Thank you for thinking of us and making our Christmases extra special!

–Shellie (Office Manager) and Brian (Sexton)

Times of Transition: Understanding the Role of the Interim Pastor

The following description of the purpose and role of an interim minister was prepared by the UCC and is used with permission:

In the United Church of Christ, **interim ministry** is the ministry provided to a local church during a pastoral vacancy. No matter why a pastor leaves a church, there are swirling emotions related to the departure. For some it may be “good riddance.” For others, there is the question of “what did we do wrong that he would want to leave us?” Whether pain and grief or relief or guilt, emotions must be dealt with. The pastor may go, but the church members are left with the joys and problems, the needs and concerns of the church with no pastoral leadership. Nobody knows what will happen in the future, which makes everyone anxious and confused, at least to some extent.

The sense of loss is like any loss, such as divorce or death. If you don't take time to deal with the feelings about the loss, they likely will interfere with the next pastorate. Churches can be like people who remarry hastily before resolving feelings and fears and end up marrying a person similar to the one they have lost rather than the best person for them.

Interim pastors are ordained ministers with special training and experience to minister to the needs and challenges of the time between pastors. They fulfill the usual pastoral duties of preaching, teaching, calling and administering the sacraments. They also help the church explore and reclaim its past and sort out and understand feelings. They help the church discover its mission before the church prepares a profile to use in the search process for a pastor.

Because the interim is time-limited (usually 12 to 24 months) church members are usually willing to experience various forms of leadership and to risk changes because they won't be committed forever. Because the interim minister is not available as a candidate for the settled position, she or he can help the congregation examine the role of pastor and discover what attributes are really needed or desired.

A **transition (intentional interim) minister** provides for the worship life of the congregation, supplies basic pastoral care and leadership, and helps guide a church through the unique complexities, challenges and opportunities inherent in the interim time, by working to create an atmosphere that brings about and/or sustains congregational health while allowing time for the search and call process to unfold in a non-anxious and intentional manner.

Bringing about successful transition ministry during the interim time requires clearly developed understandings and statements outlining mutual expectations, purpose, and direction, between the congregation, the conference/ association staff and the transition minister.

Transition Ministry is a specialized ministry that brings specific skills and experience to help a congregation deal with instances such as an unusually long pastorate, or when the previously called minister remains part of the community after retirement.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Showalter will begin an interim ministry at The Church of the Pilgrimage on March 1, 2011. He is expected to be with us for 18-24 months. By mutual agreement of the Church and the Interim Pastor, the Interim cannot be considered a candidate for the permanent position of Senior Pastor following his interim ministry. Once we are ready to begin the search for a permanent, also known as a “settled” pastor, we will form a search committee consisting of 7-9 members of the church to begin the process. We anticipate forming the search committee sometime in the late spring or early summer.

We are very much looking forward to working with Rev. Showalter in the coming year. More biographical information will be forthcoming closer to his arrival in March.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
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