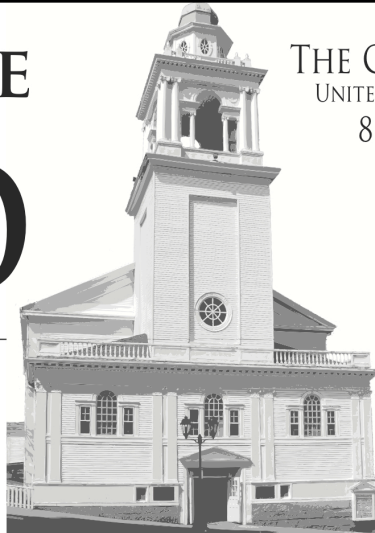

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,
MASSACHUSETTS 02360
www.8townsquare.org



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

REV. GARY L. MARKS, PASTOR EMERITUS



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-FRI: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

PHONE: 508-746-3026

FAX: 508-746-4362

office@8townsquare.org

Volume LXXXI, No. 5

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

January 30, 2011

Dear members and friends of Church of the Pilgrimage:

Thank you for the opportunity to preach this past Sunday and for your very warm welcome. The title of the sermon was *The Call to be Hospitable*. Hospitality is the relationship between guest and host, or the act or practice of being hospitable. Specifically, this includes the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, strangers, travelers or tourists. Hospitality can also mean generously providing care and kindness to whoever is in need. If you look at the Latin words from which hospitality is derived it means to have power or literally the "lord of strangers" and it means to equalize or compensate. The Greek definitions of the word hospitality are protection and guidance. So according to these ancient sources, hospitality is about compensating or equalizing a stranger to the host, making the stranger feel protected and taken care of, and at the end of the hosting - guiding the stranger to the next destination.

What is striking to me is just how deeply the message of hospitality pervades our theology. One pastor stated the New Testament is 90% about hospitality. The two sacraments recognized by the United Church of Christ, baptism and the Lord's Supper are both about hospitality. Many of Jesus' miracles are about hospitality: when feeding the multitude with the loaves and fishes or turning the water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana. Jesus even imposes hospitality when he tells Zacchaeus, the tax collector, he would be dining with him this evening. Jesus' birth speaks about hospitality, there was no room for Mary and Joseph at the Inn so they stayed in the stable and Jesus was born in very humble surroundings. Since hospitality seems to pervade the Christian story, it seems to me it's an important way to live.

So how hospitable are you? Have you had many opportunities this winter to be hospitable? Have you had dinner parties or company? During the summer do you host people on your boat or at your pool? Did you know you were doing God's work while you were doing these things?

There are many opportunities at the Church of the Pilgrimage to be hospitable. You can welcome and greet new people who attend Sunday morning worship. You can help feed the homeless or with the nights of hospitality where you provide shelter and warmth. The *Herald* is filled with many opportunities to give hospitality. I invite you to reflect on how hospitable you are – at home, at work or at church. How about when you disagree about something, or when someone has a different idea from you, or someone has new ideas; how hospitable are you then? With a new interim minister starting soon you have an opportunity to be hospitable. There are many opportunities to be hospitable in this faith community.

Hospitality means being welcoming, being open and receptive, being gracious, putting yourself out, being other oriented, entertaining, providing respite, having an attitude of service, and it usually involves food. Although we know many stories about hospitality, it is not easy to do all the time. We are called to be hospitable. We are reminded that all we need for living life is found in God. We see how God provides hospitality to us. We are promised God's consistent care and concern – always. We hear the many stories of Jesus and his hospitality. Let us rely on the Holy Spirit to help us with our hospitality. And as Paul's Letter to the Hebrews reminds us: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares".

May God bless you and guide you during this time of transition,

Rev. Dr. Rosemary MacKay

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 30: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Mike O'Brien will be preaching. The Cherub Choir will sing. The Junior Choir will rehearse after morning worship.

Jan 31: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.

Feb 2: Missions and Outreach Committee will meet at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room. Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary at 7:30pm.

Feb 3: The Christian Education Committee will meet at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room.

Feb 6: Morning Worship at 10am, Al Hoyt will be preaching. The Junior Choir will sing. There will be no Cherub Choir rehearsal. The Confirmation Group will meet after worship. The Time and Talent will be held in Allerton Hall after morning worship. The Church of the Pilgrimage begins the first week of Overnights of Hospitality today.

Flowers

In flowers are in honor of my mother, Diane Harting and in memory of my grandmother, Mary Isabella Ward. Given by Jenny and family.

Notes

We thank **Rev. Dr. Rosemary MacKay** for being our Preacher and **Hannah Woodbury** for being our Lay Leader on Sunday, January 23.

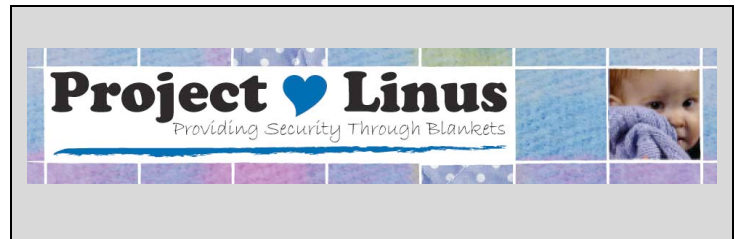
Pastoral Care

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.

Missions Corner

The Missions Committee and the Sunday School are working together to make February "Blanket Month." Missions is requesting donations of new and used blankets to be used by our guests during the overnights of hospitality Feb 6-12 and Feb 27-March 5. These blankets will be presented by the children at church on Sunday, February 6th for a blessing, then put to use that same night. The

Sunday School will be making homemade blankets in their classes to be mailed to the Linus Project, an organization that delivers blankets made with love to children in need (see elsewhere in this Herald).



Project Linus is an organization that collects homemade blankets for children who are very ill or have been through some kind of trauma and need a little extra love and security. In Sunday School, during the month of February, we will be making blankets to contribute. This past Sunday I secured a few volunteers to help in the classrooms to make this happen, but I could still use a few more. If you are willing to spend a Sunday or two during the month of February helping one of the Sunday school classes to work on this project, we would be most grateful. And if you have a sewing machine that travels, all the better (though not a requirement). If you can help us, please call me or email Jenny 508-747-7168 or fremont10@verizon.net.

Greeters for February

The following people will serve as our greeters in February. Thank you.

Feb. 6: Barbara Peavey

Feb 13: Pat and Tom Mudgett

Feb 20: Susan Healy

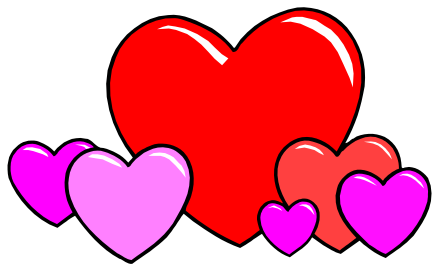
Feb 27: Rosalee and Paul Sinn

From the Office

Offering envelopes have arrived and are available in the upper vestibule for those who have requested them.

2010 Pledge/Giving statements are available from our Treasurer, Verna Ross-Hoyt. If you would like yours mailed, please call the church office at 508-746-3026.

Got the Winter Blahs?



The Guild invites all the women of the church to a Valentine Tea in Allerton Hall on Friday, February 11 at 1:00pm. Join us for fellowship and refreshments as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Come life you teacup and your spirits. Spring is just around the corner!

Cranberry Hospice & Palliative Care

Cranberry Hospice, a nonprofit organization that has provided support for people with a life-limiting illness for nearly 30 years, will begin a nine-session volunteer training in March. Hospice volunteers help by providing companionship and support to patients and their families, providing vigil visits at the time of death, as well as helping with day-to-day activities like running errands and providing local transportation. Some volunteers help with clerical tasks or fund raising activities in the Cranberry Hospice office. Cranberry Hospice is also seeking veterans to support a new Veteran's Program where we would place a veteran volunteer with our veteran patient. We also have a Pediatric Palliative Care Program, "Fragile Footprints," and are in need of volunteers for this special calling. Our team and families rely on the dedication and commitment of our volunteers to provide the extra care and open hearts that they bring with them on each visit and every phone call.

The training will be held from 6:00 to 8:30pm on nine Mondays, beginning March 21st at Cranberry Hospice, 36 Cordage Park Circle in Plymouth. Those interested need to contact Karen Foster, Volunteer Coordinator, at 508-830-2762 to register, fill out an application and make an appointment for an interview prior to the start of the training.

Massachusetts Conference
United Church of Christ
Super Saturday!
Saturday, March 5, 2011
8am-3pm
Ludlow High School
500 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA

Join hundreds of delegates, pastors and lay leaders from all over the Conference for our SECOND SUPER SATURDAY-a full day of workshops and networking around best practices for church leaders.

With 35 workshops and worship featuring several provocative Conference pastors, this day will have something for everyone in your church-educators, missions committee members, clergy, deacons, treasurers and other-so we hope you'll gather a team and make your way to Ludlow!

This is the second Super Saturday being held to supplement the 211th Annual Meeting, held in June, and as such it continues in the same theme: "Provoke One Another...to Love and Good Deeds: (Hebrews 10-24-25). However, this Super Saturday also looks forward to the 212th Annual Meeting in June of 2011, with three workshops looking at resolutions to be taken up at that gathering.

Delegates who attend the Conference Annual Meeting in June of 2010 will receive the special discounted delegate rate, or they may transfer that rate to someone in their congregation.

Pricing:

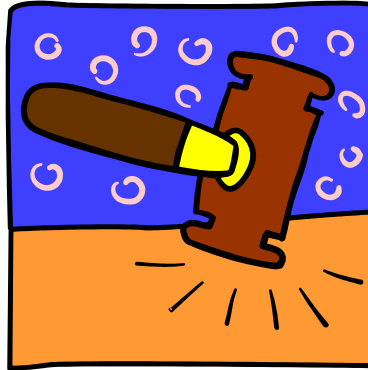
Annual Meeting Delegate rate:	\$29
Early Bird rate (register by Jan 31):	\$39
Regular rate (deadline-Feb 21):	\$49
Youth Gathering participants:	\$15

All prices include a catered lunch and materials.

Complete information and registration forms can be found online at: www.macuc.org/supersaturday.

Time & Talent Auction/Luncheon – Sunday, February 6, after church

Last chance to sign up for the delicious luncheon, only \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, Max. \$12. Also, please sign up for your donation of time or talent. Forms will be available in Allerton Hall after church. For last minute sign-up, please call Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959, or email je_mitchell@comcast.net.



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