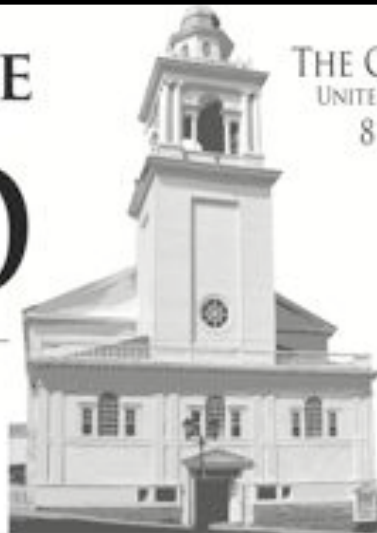

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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. 25

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

June 19, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

Suppose someone asked you what form of government churches of Congregational heritage, like our Church of the Pilgrimage, have. What would your response be?

Would you call it a democracy? I think many people would say that, but that is not entirely accurate. For, in a larger sense, the Congregational form of church government is really a monarchy. And the monarch we serve is none other than Jesus Christ, who is the head of our church.

In principle, the local autonomy of Congregational churches was never meant to enable churches to simply “do their own thing.” Rather, that autonomy was considered precious because it gave churches and their members the freedom they needed in order to seek God’s will for themselves and to do that will.

Of course, Congregational churches function democratically. That is quite true. But when they are at their best, churches of Congregational heritage use their democratic freedom to better serve God, not just themselves. It is not unlike what Jesus himself said in his prayer to God shortly before his arrest: “*Not my will, but thine be done.*” [Luke 22:42]

It is sometimes said that the democracy of the New England Town Meeting came from its Congregational churches. There likely is truth in that. But consider this. There can be a great difference between voting one’s personal views at a town meeting and joining with one’s fellow members in a Congregational church meeting to discern, through discussion and voting, the congregation’s best sense of God’s will for their church. In contrast, can it be said that modern town meetings are seeking, as their primary aim, to discern and do God’s will for their town?

You may have noticed that the meetings of Congregational heritage churches do not usually allow proxy votes from people who are not present at those meetings. There’s a reason for that. Congregational church meetings are essentially meant to be processes of spiritual discernment. In turn, such processes often lead to a group vote which seeks to discern God’s will. If someone is not present at a church’s meeting, then their vote given before that meeting cannot be informed by and reflect the important discernment process which takes place at that meeting.

As likely you know, The Church of the Pilgrimage, with its Pilgrim forbears, is squarely positioned within that Congregational heritage. That is clearly evident from even the first line of our church’s Covenant. It states:

“We are united in striving to know the will of God, and to walk in His ways, made known or to be made known to us.”

(continued on p. 2)

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

(continued from p. 1)

In this transitional period between settled pastors, God is calling The Church of the Pilgrimage to prepare for its future. Given the Congregational heritage of our church, one of its great challenges now is to discern what God wants this fine church to be and to do in the years ahead.

May God walk very closely with our church during this special time of discernment. May God guide us—from the Advisory Board’s June 26 meeting to receive parishioners’ views about our church and its future, to the time, likely a year or more from now, when church members will meet to vote upon the Pastoral Search Committee’s chosen nominee for a new settled pastor of The Church of the Pilgrimage.

Yours In Christ’s Service,



Flowers

The flowers this morning are to honor and to show our appreciation to our dedicated Sunday school teachers.

There is an opening for pulpit flowers on Sunday, July 31. Please call Susan Cotta at 508-746-9186 if you wish to honor or memorialize someone on that date with beautiful flowers in the sanctuary.

On Our Calendar

June 19-Father’s Day: Morning Worship at 10:00am, this is Children’s Sunday. The Junior Choir and the Cherub Choir will sing.

June 20: July Newsletter Deadline.

June 21: The Board of Trustees will meet at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room. The Stewardship Committee will meet at 7pm at the home of Dawn Durmis.

June 24: Meeting of the Columbarium Committee at 10:30 in the Marks Conference Room.

June 26: Morning Worship at 10:00am, Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter, preaching. Today is Music Appreciation Sunday. There will be a meeting after worship regarding the search process. A light lunch will be served. Please plan to attend.

Church Record



The following confirmands were received into membership on Sunday, June 12, 2011:

Benjamin Anderson, Cuyler Campbell, Katherine Canducci, Isabel Mallon, Matthew Moore, Naomi Moore, Dylan Oxsen, Michael Podielsky, Samantha Podielsky, and Gabrielle Sears.

Congratulations to all of you!

Notes

Our sympathies are extended to Bob and Marylyn Colburn on the recent death of Bob’s mother, Marion Colburn.

A Message from Missions

Last week, the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC suggested taking a special collection this past Sunday to aid victims of the recent tornadoes in the western part of our state. It was felt that to ask our congregation to donate to the previously scheduled “Strengthen the Church” offering and the conferences tornado relief fund on the same day would be a bit much.

Since rebuilding is a long and costly process, we have decided to collect donations for tornado relief during the next several weeks. There will be a basket in the upper vestibule for your gifts, or you may send them to the church office at 8 Town Square, Plymouth, MA 02360. Please make the check payable to The Church of the Pilgrimage, writing “tornado relief” on the memo line.

As always, we greatly appreciate your support in our efforts to aid people in need.

Pastoral Search Process Update

THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 19 There will be a special meeting after Church on June 26 in Allerton Hall to kick off the search process for a new settled pastor. A light lunch will be served. We hope that everyone can make it.

Search Committee Appointments

The Search Committee will be an Ad Hoc team appointed by the Advisory Board, and will be expected to be available to meet weekly or as needed beginning in September. To give the team time to get acquainted and ready to work, the Advisory Board intends to appoint the members of the committee at its June 28 meeting. If you are interested in being considered to serve, please make yourself known to a member of the Advisory Board **before June 20**.

Children's Sunday

The Christian Education Committee is asking that all participants in the June 19 Children's Sunday service arrive by 9:15 for a run through. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Adult Education Opportunity

Al Hoyt will be offering a course in July called "How to read your Bible." It will cover the history of scripture up to modern times and various theories of the creation and meaning of our Bible. This course is the kick-off for the Christian Education Committee's plans for adult education in the fall. The course will be held from 11:30-12:30 each Sunday in July beginning on July 10. If there is enough interest, a second session may be offered during the week. Please see Al Hoyt if you are interested.

Tours

Once again this year we would like to open our Church to the public. In order to do this we need 4-6 volunteers to lead tours. Training and a question and answer sheet are provided. Tours in the past have run from Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 3:00pm. It is a huge amount of fun as we get to meet people from all over the world and show off our wonderful Church. If you are interested, please see Al Hoyt or Diana Budge.

Newsletter Deadlines

It is almost the time of year when we move from a weekly Herald to a monthly Herald. With that in mind, please mark your calendar with the following deadlines:

- Monday, June 20 for the July Herald
- Wednesday, July 20 for the August Herald
- Saturday, August 20 for the September Herald (*this issue will be the new and improved format*)

Thank you in advance for your attention to these important deadlines.

Communion Ministers

Would you like to serve as a Communion Minister of our church, to provide that sacrament to members and friends of our church who are unable to attend our worship services?

This lay ministry is open to full members of our church. Please speak to Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter if you are interested.

Memorial Garden/Columbarium Update

The Memorial Garden/ Columbarium committee is pleased to announce that seven niches have been purchased. As soon as three more niches are bought, the first columbarium can be built. The footing will be installed in the next few weeks (some planting will be moved temporarily), so visitors will be able to see exactly where the structure will be set in the garden. Once we receive payment for three more niches the special granite can be ordered and building of the columbarium will begin. This will take about 8-10 weeks.

Even if you do not plan to buy a niche, you can be 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. Donations can be credited toward a niche purchased in the future.

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

Judy Mitchell 508-746-3959 / je_mitchell@comast.net

Pat Mudgett 508-224-7296

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

Shellie Souza 508-746-3026 / office@8townsquare.org



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP -- 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820