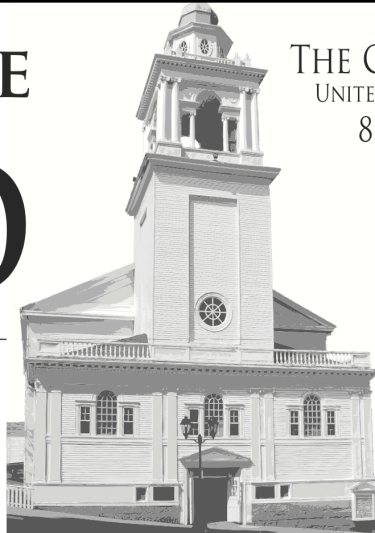


THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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. 23

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

June 5, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

At its recent meeting our Advisory Board created a new ministry to serve members and friends of our Church of the Pilgrimage.

Under the auspices of the Advisory Board, and with my ongoing help as Pastor, interested lay members of our church will be trained and commissioned as Communion Ministers to conduct services of Holy Communion, particularly for those shut-in at home or in area care facilities. This ministry will be modeled after the Communion Ministry program I developed in my Falmouth church in 1997. That Falmouth program is still going strong and continues to be much appreciated by those in it—both those who receive that sacrament and those who offer it.

Our Church of the Pilgrimage Communion Minister program will be for one year, then evaluated by the Advisory Board and continued if successful. I, for one, expect it will be very successful, based on my previous experience.

Typically, our Communion Ministers will—as their personal schedules permit—make arrangements beforehand to offer Communion to those at home or in care facilities the day of our church's communion services or sometime during the week following. Often our Communion Ministers may go out in pairs to conduct such services. The commissioning of Communion Ministers by our church will authorize them to serve Communion to our church's own members and friends, but not to care facility residents at large.

Our lay Communion Ministers in Falmouth have told me that they have felt a special calling to this ministry. And, certainly, I've found this program to be of great benefit, as it helps a church better serve its members and friends who are no longer able to be very active in the church.

Would you like to serve as a Communion Minister? To be eligible one must be a full member of our Church of the Pilgrimage. Please contact me directly for more information.

This program is an illustration of the principle known as “the priesthood of all believers,” which is so important to our Protestant understanding of our faith. In The Church of the Pilgrimage we are all essentially pastors, lay and ordained.

You might be interested to know that I began our Communion Minister program in Falmouth, with Diaconate approval, after a lay member of our church approached me and wanted to know, “Why can't our lay people officiate at communion services?” That woman was a retired nurse. She often took it upon herself to visit older members of our church and she saw a great need for our church's additional outreach to them.

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

Flowers

The flowers on the Communion table are in loving memory of Russ Axford. Given by his family.

On Our Calendar

June 5: Morning Worship at 10:00am, Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter preaching. The Junior Choir and the Cherub Choir will rehearse together in preparation for Children's Sunday.

June 8: Our sexton, Brian Gildea will be taking a vacation day. The Membership and Evangelism Committee will meet at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room. The Choir will rehearse at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

June 10: The Guild will hold their annual luncheon at East Bay Grill at noon.

June 12: Today is Confirmation Sunday. Worship begins at 10:00am. Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter, worship leader.

Children's Sunday

Sunday, June 19 is Children's Sunday this year. Sunday school teachers are gearing the children up for this end of year celebration. Don't miss it!

Confirmation 2012

Calling all 7th graders! If you are going into the eighth grade this fall and/or are turning fourteen during the next school year, the Confirmation program wants you! Please contact the Church Office 508-746-3026 or Al Hoyt at 508-224-9507 or email aphoyt@verizon.net.

Appointments by the Moderator

In accordance with the bylaws, the Moderator has appointed Elizabeth Hughes Campbell as collector.

Calling All Youth Instrumentalists

We will continue our tradition of having our youth instrumentalists provide the music for the Prelude on Children's Sunday, June 19. Students who would like to play should contact Kelley DePasqua (kdepasqua@msn.com or speak with her at church) to sign-up. All students (including high school aged players who have been playing their instruments for

at least a year and who have something appropriate to play for a church service are invited to play. The piece should be brief and could include a piano accompaniment. Students will be selected on a first come, first scheduled basis, as there is only time for about 5 players.

Pastoral Search Process Update

The Advisory Board continues to make preparations for the pastoral search process, including developing a timeline of events and gathering input from the congregation to help develop our church profile. The Profile is the document that describes our church to potential applicants, much like our resume. It gives a snapshot of the church membership demographics, and also describes our strengths, weaknesses, and our vision for our ministry moving forward. In order to include input from as many members as possible, the Board will be holding several gatherings in the coming months where you are invited to share, discuss, reflect, dream, and articulate our church's vision for the future. The first event will occur on **Sunday, June 26, 2011** during coffee hour after worship. We hope you can set aside an hour of your time to come and share your ideas with us.

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**.

Mass Conference Annual Meeting

212th Annual Meeting of the
Massachusetts Conference &
Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Campaign Kickoff
Saturday, June 18, 2011
Sturbridge, Massachusetts

The theme of this year's Annual meeting: Changing Lives "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation" based on II Corinthians 5:17. This passage encourages our deep commitment to the community of the United Church of Christ: excellence and transformational leadership in the work we do locally and collectively in the name of Jesus Christ.

Once again, this year our meeting will be one day filled with opportunity for talking together, sharing a meal together, doing business and filling our spirits with worship.

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President UCC, will be with us keynoting and leading us in communion. Pastor of Church of Christ in Millis and Stand-Up Comedian the Rev. Jennifer Munroe-Nathans will stoke our spirits with laughter. The band BFJ from West Brookfield, UCC will lead us in song. Our meals together will provide valuable time to take with each other and meet new people. A marketplace will engage the gathering in mission, education and resources for ministry.

Many of you appreciated the opportunity to be together both for business and worship. Once again, this year, we have provided this opportunity. Should you choose to travel a day ahead, the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, is providing a special rate for early reservations.

I look forward to seeing you in Sturbridge on June 18th. Grace and peace, Nancy Lawrence, Chair

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-denominational Christian organization committed to building affordable housing for families in need. Recently we had a groundbreaking ceremony for a home on South Pond Road in Plymouth which we anticipate will be completed by June 2012.

We are holding a 'Meet & Greet' event on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 6:30pm at the main

branch of the Plymouth Public Library to explain our program and to invite volunteers who are interested in helping us in the many different facets of the organization. Everyone is invited to come to see God's work in the local area.

For more information, please visit our website at www.hfhplymouth.org or call our office at 508-866-4188.

Father Bill's & Main Spring 17th Annual Food Fest and Auction

Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS), is dedicated to ending - not simply managing - homelessness in Southeastern Massachusetts. Our primary areas of focus are housing, prevention, emergency shelter and workforce development. With support from individuals, local businesses and community partners, we deliver a range of programs and services to meet the needs of every individual facing homelessness. [The Church of the Pilgrimage has supported FBMS in the past.]

This is our 17th year hosting this incredible event and our second year without one of our major founders, the late Rev. William "Father Bill" McCarthy.

FoodFest has become a premier social event of the summer on Boston's South Shore. Crowds of approximately 1,000 people enjoy food tasting from forty of the South Shore's premier restaurants and food purveyors, live and silent auctions, live music and raffles.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 6:00pm at The Ocean Club at Marina Bay, Quincy. Purchase your tickets online from www.helpfbms.org. Early bird special: \$75 per person (checks must be postmarked by July 1). After July 1: \$100 per person. Vacation Raffle! Win your choice from 3 options: Grand Canyon, New Orleans or California Wine Country.

To sponsor or donate an auction item please call 1.800.HELPEFBM.or email info@helpfbms.org. Thank you.

Help end homelessness every day...one life at a time.

Publications Workgroup

The Church is in the process of looking at how to improve the way we communicate with one another. As part of this effort, a Publications Workgroup has been formed to work with our Church Administrator, Shellie Souza, in evaluating and updating our print publications.

The process is just getting underway, but we wanted to share our initial thoughts with you.

The Sunday Bulletin has been expanded to include a calendar and some news. We see this format as being quite useful.

Ten months of the year, we write, print, and mail a weekly newsletter -- the Pilgrimage Herald. A weekly newsletter has been the major mode of communications for many churches over the years. Today we are almost the only church still spending money and time on a weekly newsletter.

At the moment, based on discussions with the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board, a single, monthly Herald is under consideration. The concern about this plan is that there may be some information that needs to be communicated more often than once a month. While the Church website and email provide very economical ways of communication (and all our current and past publications are available on the website), these means are not suitable for all members. Therefore, the following publication plan is under consideration beginning in September:

1. A monthly expanded Pilgrimage Herald, with news, pictures, and reports from Boards and Committees. It would probably include other items, such as a monthly calendar, etc. It would be more like a magazine than the current Herald format.
 2. The Sunday Bulletin would continue in its current expanded format, and would include items that need to be communicated immediately, rather than waiting for the next month's Herald. This would be mailed weekly to shut-ins, to keep them fully informed of the life of the Church.
 3. If it is found that a monthly Herald is not adequate, a second "mini" Herald might be considered for mailing mid-month.
- All publications would continue to be posted and archived to our website: www.8townsquare.org.
These plans are still tentative and under development. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us.

Shellie Souza, Joyce Ashley, Bill Harting, Doug Post, Doug Showalter



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