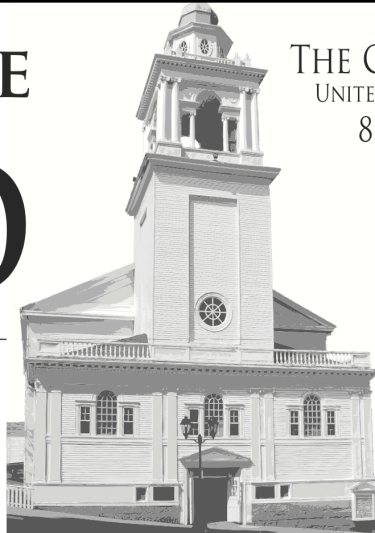

THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
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March 27, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

The Church of the Pilgrimage certainly has reason to be proud of its history because of its connection to the Pilgrims, who came to these shores in 1620. But that's not the only event in its long history to be very proud of. In fact, in the mid 19th century the Church of the Pilgrimage played a significant role in the development of American Congregationalism, a role which has largely been forgotten now. What was that role?

The Church of the Pilgrimage initiated a chain of events which quickly led American Congregationalists to form a national denomination in 1871. Before that time, and apart from missionary societies they had created, Congregationalists had only developed organizations on county and state levels. Other groups, like Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists, had organized their national denominations much earlier. In fact, some of those denominations had even split along north and south lines over the slavery issue, long before the Civil War.

Why were American Congregationalists so slow to form a national denomination? Simply put, many of them feared that a national organization would undermine the precious freedom of their local churches. "They can't tell us what to do!" was a common sentiment raised against the idea of such a denomination. But, times were changing in the mid 19th century. The country was expanding and American society was becoming more complex. More and more Congregationalists were putting aside that old fear and considering how a national denomination might be advantageous to the nurture and expansion of their Congregational faith tradition. Here's what happened.

Members of the Church of the Pilgrimage were concerned that the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims be commemorated in an appropriate way, not just by folks in Plymouth and Massachusetts, but by Congregationalists across America. Given that concern, our church invited its sister American Congregational churches to send delegates to a meeting in New York City on March 2, 1870 to plan for such a celebration. [At that time the membership in our church was smaller than today; then it only had 261 members compared to about 350 members today.]

At that New York meeting, a committee of prominent Congregationalists was formed. That committee called for Congregational churches across America to send representatives to a 250th Anniversary "Pilgrim Memorial Convention" on April 27, 1870 in Chicago. That Convention met and voted to recommend to fellow Congregationalists that a permanent national Council be instituted in America "on the principle of fellowship, excluding ecclesiastical authority."
(continued on page 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)

And so it was, after some additional planning meetings, that 276 delegates representing Congregational state and local associations from twenty-five States and Territories gathered in Oberlin, Ohio. On November 17, 1871 those delegates voted unanimously to create the "National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States." Thus, American Congregationalists finally had a national denominational structure. Rev. George A. Tewksbury, then the minister of our church, was present at that historic meeting as the delegate from our Pilgrim Association.

To continue the story, in 1931 that Congregational denomination merged with the Christian Church denomination. In 1957, that Congregational-Christian denomination merged with the Evangelical and Reformed denomination to form today's United Church of Christ.

And so, in those years following the Civil War, the spirit of the Pilgrims and the spirit of our Church of the Pilgrimage had a significant impact upon our faith tradition. May that continue to be so, both now and in the future, as this beloved congregation is led by the spirit of God to reach out beyond itself!

Yours in Christ's service,



On Our Calendar

Mar 27-Third Sunday in Lent: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter preaching. The Cherub Choir will sing this morning. The Junior Choir will not rehearse this morning.

Mar 28: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am.

Mar 30: Shellie is taking a vacation day today. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.

Apr 3: Morning Worship at 10am, Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter will be preaching. The Cherub Choir will rehearse after worship. The Junior Choir will not rehearse today. The Confirmands will meet after worship. Annual Reports are due in the office today. The Annual Meeting of the Pilgrim Association will be held in Norwell today.

Flowers

The flowers are in memory of Gordon Armstrong, from his family.

There is an opening for pulpit flowers on April 10. Please call Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959 if you wish to honor or memorialize someone with beautiful flowers in the sanctuary.

Church Record

On March 20, 2011 Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter baptized Tenley Grace Maher. Tenley is the daughter of Erin (Lavelle) and Matthew Maher.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken on Sunday, April 3. This is one of four offerings taken by the UCC each year. This money is used to aid people in more than eighty countries throughout the world. Your Missions Committee is keenly aware that these may be difficult economic times for some of you. Gifts of any size will help. Please share what you can. Thank you.

New Easter Pageant!

Rev. Dr. Showalter is sharing with us a pageant that he put together for his church in Falmouth. It tells the story of the events leading to and ending with Easter told by two narrators, himself and a young person. The parts of Mary Magdelene, Jesus, his disciples and others, are played by young people who walk through the story as it is being told. This service will take place at 9:30am on Easter morning and will be followed by the traditional service at 11am. There is a sign-up sheet posted in Allerton Hall. All participants are required to come to a single rehearsal on Palm Sunday following the service and to arrive 30 minutes before the Easter Pageant begins. Please direct any questions, concerns or suggestions to Jenny: fremont10@verizon.net or 508-747-7168.

Japan Earthquake Relief

Donations can be made to the UCC's International Disaster Fund through the link on our church's website or by making a check out to The Church of the Pilgrimage. In either case earmark it "Pacific earthquake/tsunami."

Coming Attractions From the Guild

→On April 20 at 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.

→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. 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 a year dedicated to this purpose. If there are members of the congregation who 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.

→Friday, May 13 at 1pm the Guild will hold it's monthly meeting in Allerton Hall. This month we will hold our annual auction. Come and join us for tea and bidding. You are invited to bring an item to be auctioned off and also bring your enthusiasm for this annual fund raiser which benefits our charitable contributions over the year as well as our operating costs. Come and join the fun!

From the Christian Education Committee

In support of our troops this month we will be collecting homemade cards, origami paper cranes, and paper doves to send to our troops. In Allerton Hall, there will be a box with origami paper, card stock and dove templates if you would like to use them. The same box will also be where you put completed work. Our troops can use all the love and support and prayers that we can send them. Thanks for your help. See Jenny with any questions.

Welcome Scrapbook

Please add your family's page to our "Welcome Scrapbook" for Doug and Chris Showalter! Look for the scrapbook table in Allerton Hall during coffee hour. There is scrapbook paper available to take home and design your page. If you prefer, bring materials with you (family photos, stickers, business cards, etc.) that will help you to introduce your family and their activities, and someone will be at the table to help you to make your page. Shellie will have scrapbook paper in the office if you would like to pick it up there. Judy Foster can answer questions about this project.

Pilgrim District Women Spring Gathering

Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the spring meeting of Pilgrim District Women, to be held on April 26 at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Our program will be "Beyond America the Beautiful," presented by retired educator Leonard Miele, who will discuss the patriotic and historical impact of this great anthem and tell us how Massachusetts native Katharine Lee Bates came to write the original poem. Join us for coffee fellowship at 9:30, enjoy the program and stay for luncheon at noon. All church women are welcome to come and bring a guest, whether or not your church has an active women's group. Contact Carol Johnson 508-746-9701 for reservations and further information.

Filling Your Cup; Drawing From the Well

A Christian Spiritual Formation Adult Retreat. Friday, April 8 at 7pm-Saturday April 9 at 4:30pm at Idlewild on the waterfront in Manomet, MA. This 2-day long retreat is intended for people in all stages on the spiritual path. Whether you feel like a beginner, or a long-time traveler, you will find nourishment here for your soul.

Annual Meeting of the Mass. Conference

The 212th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ will be held Saturday, June 18, 2011 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA.

Memorial Garden/Columbarium

When our current church building was constructed, Burial Hill ran unbroken down to its side. Years later, when the road was cut through, the little piece of land on the hillside of the church became derelict, overgrown with weeds and trash trees. Kathy Marks and Linn Peterson had a vision of restoring the space, reconnecting it to the Hill and creating a sacred place to serve as an eternal resting place for Church of the Pilgrimage members and their families.

We are halfway there. The garden has been installed, and is about to show off its spring finery. There are benches inviting quiet contemplation and prayer. River stones carry our private memorials and prayers. What we are awaiting are the three columbaria which will hold our ashes for eternity.

I recognize that I am broaching two difficult subjects in one, namely money and mortality. A niche in the columbarium can contain two urns. The cost for the niche in the first columbarium is \$1,200. We need to sell ten niches before we can construct the first columbarium. The price for future niches will undoubtedly increase, as the cost of granite and labor rises. Three freestanding columbaria are planned for the space, each with their back to the stone wall, and rising gradually in height with the wall. We are selling niches in the middle columbarium.

Now we get into mortality. No one wants to think of their own, but this is a chance to ensure that our final resting place exists in an historic, sacred and beautiful spot. It is comforting for our loved ones to have a special place to come to remember us, and where better than next to our beloved church.

We need commitments (i.e. checks) immediately for at least six more niches in order to begin construction on the first columbarium. Contact committee member or Shellie in the church office for the enrollment form to accompany your check. Don't delay.

Judy Mitchell 508-746-3959 (je_mitchell@comcast.net) / Linn Peterson 508-586-7415 (dusteryip@hotmail.com) / Pat Mudgett 508-224-7296 / Shellie Souza 508-746-3026 (office@8townsquare.org)



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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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WE ARE UNITED IN STRIVING TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD, AND TO WALK IN GOD'S WAYS, MADE KNOWN OR TO BE MADE KNOWN TO US.