

# The Pilgrimage Herald



The Church of the Pilgrimage  
United Church of Christ - Congregational  
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

February 2012

## The Pastor's Column



I have two items I'd like to speak about this month.

1. What do you think? Can a Christian believe in both God and in science's Theory of Evolution? In the media today one often hears about Christians who totally reject Evolution. In contrast, like many mainline Protestants, my own personal view is that belief in God and belief in Evolution are compatible. In fact, I am one of more than 12,000 American clergy, thus far, who have signed their names to The Clergy Letter Project document which affirms one's personal belief in that compatibility [[www.theclergyletterproject.org/](http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/)].

I signed that document years ago because I wanted people, and particularly young people in our society, to realize that there is another option. They don't have to make such a choice. They don't have to give up faith and involvement in a Christian church for the sake of their interest in science. And, they don't have to give up science and its insights because of their faith.

On Sunday, February 12 my sermon will be on "Genesis and Evolution." In fact, scholars have identified not one, but two different stories of Creation in Genesis [1-2:4a and 2:4b-25]. Should those stories be taken literally? Should our Holy Bible be considered an authoritative resource for modern scientific truths? I'll consider those questions.

*(continued on page 2)*

## The House Committee

Written by Gina Basler

Pictured: Betsey Randall, Hildegard Schimpf

Not pictured: Billie Courtney



We all enjoy coffee hour, don't we? Even if we only get to go downstairs after Church occasionally, it's still a comfort to be able to have a snack and a cup of coffee so we can catch up with Church friends and greet guests. How often do we think about what goes into making coffee hour happen?

The first Sunday of every month we share in Communion. There are plates of bread and stacked trays full of tiny juice cups. Do we ever wonder how all these trays get to the Communion table? Those familiar with Harry Potter may be tempted to think house elves

*(continued on page 2)*

*The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC is an Open and Affirming Church*  
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International

Moderator - Allen Hoyt  
Treasurer-Verna-Ross Hoyt  
Clerk - Lois Post

Music Director-Kelley DePasqua  
Organist - Michael Eaton  
Office Manager-Shellie Souza

Collectors - Judy Mitchell, Doug Hagen,  
Elizabeth Hughes-Campbell

## Pastor's Column (cont.)

(continued from page 1)

It's my belief that science and religion deal in different kinds of truth. Further, I believe that science and religion should respect each other's kind of truth, that neither one should try to masquerade as the other, and that we need both kinds of truths in our modern lives. Science can teach us HOW [by what mechanisms] our world was created. Religion can teach us WHY and BY WHOM [God] our world was created.

There are two documents I would commend to anyone interested in reading about the compatibility of faith and science. First, the *National Academies of Science* and the *Institute of Medicine* developed a book, *Science, Evolution, and Creationism*, which is available for free [[www.nap.edu:80/catalog.php?record\\_id=11876](http://www.nap.edu:80/catalog.php?record_id=11876)]. Second, Rev. John Thomas, former President of our United Church of Christ, issued an important pastoral letter, *A New Voice Arising: A Pastoral Letter on Faith Engaging Science and Technology* [[www.ucc.org/not-mutually-exclusive/](http://www.ucc.org/not-mutually-exclusive/)].

2. This month our church enters the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on February 22 and the first Sunday of Lent on February 26. Lent is the season of the Christian Church year which recalls the forty days Jesus spent in the Judean wilderness preparing for his ministry. During Lent we Christians are invited to reflect more deeply upon our Christian faith and discipleship and upon God's will for us. It's also a time to repent of our sins and prepare our hearts to journey in spirit with Jesus through the difficulties of Holy Week to the amazing joy of God's Easter. Here are some suggestions for your Lenten pilgrimage this year.

- Take some time to read about Jesus' life and ministry. Choose one of the Gospels and read it all the way through, perhaps a chapter a day. Mark is the most concise; John is perhaps the most profound. As you go, ask yourself what difference Jesus' life makes to your life.

- Set aside a few quiet moments at the same time every day, if you don't already, to reflect on your life and pray. You might wish to focus on each verse of The Lord's Prayer and what it really means to you. Is there some special need in your life you should take to God? Are there others who really need your prayers and concern?

- Attend as many worship services as possible in this Lenten season. But before you come to church, be sure to prepare your heart and mind to receive some special inspiration from the service. Those who seek, usually find!

Yours in Christ's Service,



(continued from page 1) House Committee

magically make them appear and disappear after worship.

Both of these events central to our worship come under the auspices of the House Committee, a small group of very dedicated but devoted women. It takes a lot of coordinating and year-round work to make these events happen. The committee relies on volunteers to help with coffee hour, particularly on Communion weeks. Without volunteers it would be totally up to the committee alone every week to provide and serve the goodies we enjoy.

Lately there have been fewer and fewer volunteers signing up to help out with coffee hour, and the volunteers always seem to be the same group of people. The first time volunteering can be a bit intimidating if you aren't familiar with the kitchen. I know this from experience, but having now volunteered several times I can say it's a lot of fun and a great way to see everyone and get involved. There is always a sign-up sheet on the counter; please consider volunteering.

Also, currently there are 3 vacancies on the House Committee.

## Stewardship...Can I relax now?

As most of you know, Church members voted to pay off the JRC mortgage with \$300,000 from the sale of the parsonage and approximately \$225,000 from the Church's invested funds. If you look at the budget for 2012 and eliminate the expected investment income, the JRC mortgage expense, and the projected deficit, you will see that we now have a balanced budget. So yes, we can take a deep breath and relax a little, but only for a moment. We still have so much more to do. We have to make sure we keep our pledges up to date. We have to support all our fundraising efforts. We have to continue to serve on boards and committees. We need to give serious thought to finding ways to increase our investments. We need to build our membership. But remember, it is not as difficult as it sounds. When you hear "God Calling You," just remember to say, "Here I am Lord!"

Thanks for being good Stewards, Nancy Reed

## Christian Education News

Feb. 4 (10 am to 2pm): Food drive with Ann Motyka and Deb Cheney at Stop & Shop on Samoset Street in Plymouth. This will be our third year, and we are hoping to grow the number of kids participating. Last year we floored the folks at the food warehouse when we delivered 1270 pounds of food from that one food drive! Let's do it again!

February is blanket month! As we did last year, this February in Sunday school we will make blankets for Project Linus, an organization that distributes security blankets to children who are terminally or chronically ill. We are seeking volunteers to pair up with a classroom to help make this happen. Not much with a needle and thread? We are accepting donations of new fabric which can be used to make these blankets; fleece is always great as it is very easy for the little ones to make blankets with this material. If you can offer your time for any of the Sundays (minus Communion Sunday) in February, please see Jenny Healy to get matched up with a classroom.

## Guild News

The Guild has started taking orders for the Pastor's Pasta Dinners scheduled for pick-up on Sunday, February 19. Be sure to reserve yours on the next few Sundays after the service. It's a great way to escape cooking one meal and help the JRC kitchen fund at the same time. See details elsewhere in the Herald.

Contributions to the polka dot piggy fund in the month of December totaled \$205. Through your efforts, we are making good progress. Our kitchen fund is now over \$3600, a very good increase from where we started.

The monthly Guild meeting will be held on Friday, February 10 at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall and all are welcome to hear our speaker, Donna Curtin. Her topic for the afternoon will be "The American Regency, How People Lived During the War of 1812." Donna's talks are always well received and this will be no exception. We will follow with our bountiful tea as always. Please come join us for an enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

## Monday Meals News

We thank the entire Anderson family--Benjamin, Matthew, Ryan and their parents, Suzanne and Sherm--for preparing and serving the complete dinner the Monday following New Year's Day. Their super chili, biscuits, Greek salad, and dessert made a big hit with the 57 men and women who came for lunch. It was a great day!

Marna and Julia Blomberg and Nora Healy came in to help on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and did a great job. We especially appreciate that these young people, and their parents, took time from vacations to help out in January.

From Team Leaders: Meg Bross, Rosa Cook and Lynnette Lancaster, Pat Mudgett and Gloria Souza, Gay and Diane Flood.

from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees continues its efforts to bring the Church from the red into the black. Final arrangements are being made to pay off the mortgage on the John Robinson Center and this transaction should be completed soon. Also, a painting of the parsonage has been sold to the new owner of the property for \$1000. The Church will get a digital copy of this painting as part of the deal. The Board of Trustees would like to thank the parishioner that donated \$3000 toward the mortgage in 2011. This person has made several donations of this amount over the years and it is greatly appreciated.

We will be having an energy audit done on the Church building and the John Robinson Center during February. The company will be making recommendations on how we can become more energy efficient by changing light bulbs and winterizing doors and windows. The audit is free and there are subsidies available from NSTAR to help defray the cost of these changes. First Parish Church has had a good experience with this company. We may consider putting solar panels on the JRC which would save us money and bring us closer to becoming a "green" church.

Changes around the Church that you will notice include a push bar that was installed on the door leading to Allerton Hall. Also, we are in the process of repairing the speakers in the crib room. Once again you will be able to hear the service downstairs if you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason.

from the Advisory Board

On February 26th there will be a quick informal meeting in Allerton Hall after Church to discuss the progress of the Bylaw Review Committee. The main purpose of the meeting will be to outline the structure of the new Church Council form of government that the committee plans to propose to the congregation. We hope that everyone can make it.

Pastor's Pasta

If it is new to you, a treat is in store. On Sunday, February 19 after the service you can pick up a pre-ordered, ready-made meal for your family. Each dinner bag will contain 1 quart of homemade pasta sauce (either meat or mushroom marinara), 1 pound of pasta, 1 loaf of homemade Jenny Bread, and 8 homemade cookies. All this for \$20 to benefit the JRC Kitchen Fund. This dinner bag will feed a family of four, but we will also offer a half size version for smaller families for \$10. There will be a limited amount of extra sauce for sale as well. Reservations will be taken on Sundays prior to February 19, so see Diana Budge in Allerton Hall. Payment can be made ahead or on the day of pick-up. Even though we had to explain to Rev. Dr. Doug what this was all about, he agreed to let us give him credit on our labels. This is a great buy and a great cause, so we hope that you will consider it. If anyone has quart or pint canning jars that they would like to contribute, they would be welcome. If they are not regular canning jars, they must hold one quart or one pint please.

Church Record

On January 18, 2012 Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter, assisted by Rev. Gary Marks, conducted a funeral service for Dorothy Fry at Cartmell Funeral Home.

Golf Tournament



Early "birdy" special is \$180 for both tournaments if paid by April 15 (\$45 savings) Tournament dates are June 22 and September 23 - See Jon Porter or Larry Foster after church in Allerton Hall any Sunday. Check the Church's Website for additional information!



Organ pipes.

## Pastoral Search Committee

The Search Committee is in the midst of conducting interviews. We are nearly halfway through the first round list and hope to have the first round completed by the end of March. After that, we will form a “short list” and have more extensive interviews with the “finalists.” Our goal is to propose a new settled pastor, to be approved by vote of the congregation, by the end of June.

## February Flower Schedule

- Feb. 5 In memory of their parents and John Bottomley, Jr.  
Given by Neil and Dottie Bottomley
- Feb. 12 In loving memory of Dorothy and Harold Strassel,  
Harold Tissot and Roy Seese.  
Given by the family.
- Feb. 19 In loving memory of Rae C. Walker, Marion  
Nickerson Walker, and Mahlon Walker.  
Given by the family.
- Feb. 26 open

## American Cancer Society Daffodil Days

Once again, The Church of the Pilgrimage has agreed to support this very important cause. Your past generosity allowed us to donate close to \$700 to the American Cancer Society. We would love to surpass \$700 this year. Volunteers will be at a table in Allerton Hall during coffee hour on February 5, 19, and 26. They will help you place your order for daffodils which will be available in bunches or in pots. A donation without the purchase of the flowers is also an option. March 26 will be Daffodil Sunday and all flowers can be picked up after church at that time. Thanks in advance!



## Missions and Outreach News

It is that time of the year again for the Missions Committee. The Church is hosting the homeless community of Plymouth overnight now through Saturday, February 4. This program provides a quality and much needed service, but takes a lot of work. Luckily, the church has been helped by some very dedicated volunteers, but we still need more people to help with hosting the overnights. All overnight volunteers will be expected to split the watch duty with another person. We will be hosting the homeless again February 26-March 3. There is a new sign-up board in Allerton Hall and any help would be greatly appreciated.

Blankets are also still needed for the overnights. At the end of the week the men take the donated blankets with them, which are really important to keep them warm on the nights they do not have shelter.

On February 5 and 12 there will be a collection for the Mahlon Walker Fund. This fund helps keep the programs we have been running for the homeless possible. We thank those who have given in the past. Your contributions make a difference.

The Massachusetts Conference of the UCC has asked member churches to participate in its 2012 Ecumenical Carbon Fast. This program will take place during Lent, February 22-April 8. Basically, it asks that churches commit to “fasting from carbon during Lent,” both as congregations and as individuals, in order that we may reduce our carbon footprint. As the Conference website explains, “Participants will receive a daily email with the day’s suggested carbon-reducing activity... We don’t expect everyone to be able to do everything suggested, but serious consideration of each day’s activity can raise people’s awareness, inviting them to think more carefully about how their day-to-day living impacts the environment and make the changes they can.” To see what you can do to help in this effort please visit [www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org). Click on Environmental Ministries, then Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast.

The Missions Committee wishes you a great February and thanks you for all your support.

## From the Church Office

Pledge statements for 2011 are ready! They are available in Allerton Hall and will remain available until April 15, at which time they will be destroyed. If you would like your statement mailed, please call the office. Statements will not be automatically mailed out.

## Mass Conference Super Saturday!

Saturday, March 3, 2012 / 8am - 3 pm / Ludlow, MA  
The event will feature excellent worship led by Patrick Evean, Assistant Professor of Sacred Music at Yale Divinity School. The day will also include 33 workshops on a variety of subjects impacting the local church, a bookstore, a marketplace, lunch and opportunities for networking. Register at [www.macucc.org/supersaturday](http://www.macucc.org/supersaturday) before February 22.

## Pilgrim Association Spring Meeting

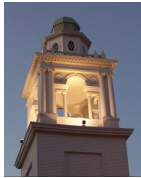
Sunday, May 6, 2012 / 2:00pm Registration / Hanover  
The program: EXPERIENCING NEW WAYS (to us) TO WORSHIP GOD. It is open to all. A great learning opportunity for Lay Leaders, Deacons, Delegates, Worship Team members and Clergy; offering hands-on experience in several effective modes of worship.

The Pilgrim Association Spring Meeting will follow after the program.

Though primarily for Clergy and Delegates, attending Lay Leaders are welcome. It would be a good opportunity to learn something about their Pilgrim Association.

## Boston Gay Mens Chorus

The Boston Gay Mens Chorus will perform March 11 at the First Congregational Church in Rockland. The performance is part of the group’s outreach program. Approximately 50 members of the group will sing. This is a great opportunity to hear this nationally recognized group in a local setting. Tickets are \$15. Please call Janet Cann at 781-878-0060 for tickets.

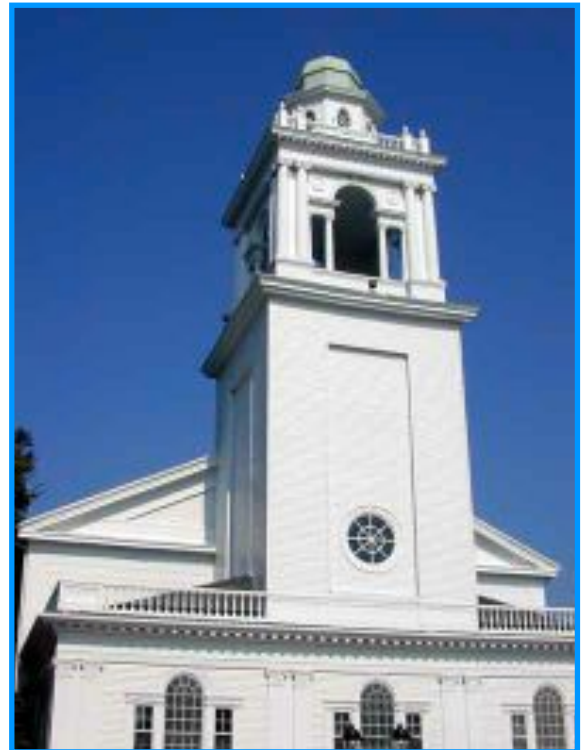


# The Pilgrimage Calendar

◀ January		~ February 2012 ~					March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			<b>1</b> Missions Com Mtg 7pm Allerton Hall Crib Room <b>Sanctuary Choir Reh 7:30pm</b> Overnights of Hospitality	<b>2</b> Christian Ed Com Mtg 7pm Marks Rm <b>Overnights of Hospitality</b>	<b>3</b> Overnights of Hospitality	<b>4</b> Christian Ed Com Food Drive at Stop & Shop 10am-2pm <b>Overnights of Hospitality</b>	
<b>5</b> Morning Worship w/ Communion 10am w/ Rev. Dr. Showalter and Jr. Choir singing <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> Cherub Choir Reh after worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Search Com Mtg 7pm Marks Rm	<b>8</b> Board of Trustees Mtg 7pm Marks Rm <b>Sanctuary Choir Reh 7:30pm</b>	<b>9</b> Membership Com Mtg 7pm Mark Rm	<b>10</b> Guild Mtg 1pm Allerton Hall	<b>11</b> Boy Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet Allerton Hall	
<b>12</b> Morning Worship 10am w/Rev. Dr. Showalter <b>Jr Choir and Cherub Choir Reh after worship</b> Time and Talent Auction after worship in Allerton Hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Search Com Mtg 7pm Marks Rm 	<b>15</b> Music Com Mtg 6:30pm Mrk Rm <b>Sanctuary Choir Reh 7:30pm</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>19</b> Morning Worship 10am w/Deacon Peter Causton Rev. Dr. Showalter worship leader <b>Jr Choir and Cherub Choir Reh after worship</b> Pastor's Pasta Pick-Up in Allerton Hall	<b>20</b> March Herald Deadline	<b>21</b> Search Com Mtg 7pm Mark Rm <b>Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm</b> 	<b>22</b> Sanctuary Choir Reh 7:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> First Sunday in Lent Morning Worship 10am w/ Rev. Dr. Showalter, Cherub Choir singing <b>Jr Choir Reh</b> Bylaw Review Informational Mtg in Allerton Hall after worship <b>Overnights of Hospitality begin</b>	<b>27</b> Overnights of Hospitality	<b>28</b> Advisory Board Mtg 7pm Marks Rm <b>Search Com Mtg 7pm Marks Rm</b> Overnights of Hospitality	<b>29</b> Sanctuary Choir Reh 7:30pm <b>Overnights of Hospitality</b>	The Christian Education Committee will be working on blankets for Project Linus through the month of February. The Missions and Outreach Committee will be accepting donations to the Mahlon Walker Fund for the Homeless this month. Thank you for supporting these worthwhile causes.			

Time and Talent Auction/Luncheon

**Don't miss it--time is running out to sign-up!--Time & Talent Auction/Luncheon--Sunday, February 2, after church.** Sign-up in Allerton Hall for the delicious luncheon, only \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, max. \$12. Also, be thinking about your donation(s) of time and/or talent. Forms will be available in Allerton Hall after church. *Baking or boating, tours or tortellini, poetry or pies, tickets or tea, weeding or window washing, babysitting or brownies, weekend getaways or watercolors.* Or for something new: Request a service, such as being taught to knit, having a basement or yard in need of cleaning, having a porch swing that needs sanding, needing a ride to and from Sunday services, having a pile of wood in need of splitting. Don't hide your light under a bushel! Your church needs YOU! For more information, speak to Glenda Richards, Al Hoyt or Judy Mitchell (508-746-3959).



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