



The Pilgrimage Herald

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Church
Office



The Church of the
Pilgrimage
Congregational – United Church of
Christ

The Reverend Dr. Helen Nablo
Pastor

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Rev. Gary L. Marks, Pastor Emeritus

Volume LXXXIII, No. 12

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:00pm

December 2013

The Rev Says:



Recently we had a baptism in the church where the baptismal child was as squirmy and as vocal as any child I've ever seen. The parents did their best, but there was no settling their daughter down. I shortened up the liturgy rather than shout over the baby; the congregation made their unconditional promises of love, support, and care, and the baby was swiftly baptized.

After the service, I noticed the little girl was in a different outfit. "Yeah," the mother said, "we took her downstairs after the baptism, and she immediately got sick all over her baptismal gown."

Well. How about that. My assumption was that the little girl was "a lively one". When the service began, her tummy hurt. Maybe her head hurt too. She was getting sick and, as babies do, she was telling us in the only way she knew how.

It got me thinking: So often we don't know what is really going on with people. This is as true for adults as it is for little children. We make our assumptions, but often we don't know.

The person who comes to church and weeps might be tired out. They might be moved by the music

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From Our Director of Christian Ed

Crazy how we've barely finished cooling the turkey stock and Advent is upon us. There is plenty going on this month, so get a pencil (or your smart phone) and take note!

Dec. 1) The **Greening of the Sanctuary**: All children will gather in the upper vestibule in preparation for their parts in decorating the sanctuary with the help of their Sunday School teachers. After the Children's Message, they will be dismissed to **Communion** at the JRC. **Pageant** sign-up will begin today! Look on the bulletin board in Allerton Hall near the piano. Come be a part of the multitude-there's room for everyone!

Dec. 5) **Youth Group** cookie decorating. See separate notice for details.

Dec. 15) First **pageant rehearsal** after church in the sanctuary. **Christmas Caroling** at the Newfield House at 2:00pm.

Dec. 22) **Christmas Workshop**: All children dismissed to Allerton Hall after Children's message. **Pageant rehearsal** after church.

Dec. 24) **Christmas Eve Service** at 7:00pm: All participants are asked to be there at 6:30. Last minute sheep and angels are always welcome!

Dec. 29) **Hymn Sing**: This is a very family friendly, informal service. No previous singing experience needed.

Jan. 5) **Epiphany**: We will begin the new year together as a church family in worship and communion. Please join us. Childcare will be available for children 1st grade and under in the crib room downstairs.

Next Board of CE Meeting: Wed., Dec. 4, at 7:15pm at Jenny's house.
-Jenny Healy

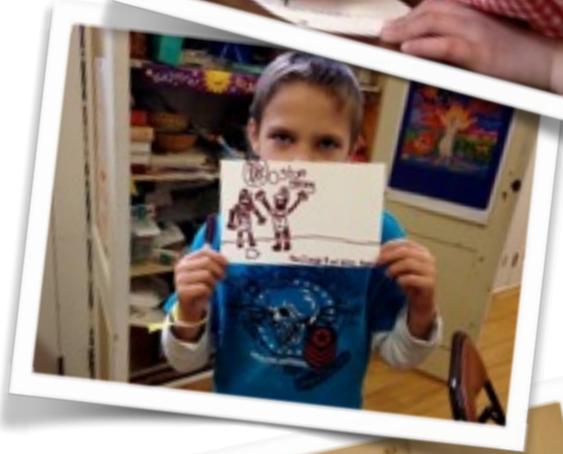
The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC is an Open and Affirming Church

Moderator - Bob Taylor
Clerk - Lois Post
Treasurer - Verna Ross-Hoyt

Music Director-Kelley DePasqua
Organist - Michael Eaton

Director of Christian Ed-Jenny Healy
Office Manager-Shellie Souza
Sexton-Brian Gildea

Top to Bottom: Youth Group Planning Session; Christmas Cards for troops; A Newly baptized baby is presented to the congregation.



Continued from Page 1 (The Rev Says)

they hear, or mourning someone who isn't with them any longer. They might be taking a medication that makes their eyes water.

The person who never raises their hand during "celebrations and concerns" may simply be feeling that life is fine, thank you very much. In their silence, they may simply be making space for others whose concerns feel greater than theirs. Or, they may have so many concerns, they would not know where to begin.

Thanksgiving is just a few days away from the start of Advent. We are entering a season that is meaningful and sometimes overly busy. It is also, for some, a particularly difficult time of the year.

Adelina and her baptism day remind me that it is best to go through this season, if not all of life, with a humble attitude towards others. It is best not to assume we know what is going on with people, whether that person is the clerk at CVS or your daughter-in-law or the person in the pew in front of you.

It is best to have compassion and, as much as possible, give others the gift of not pretending we know everything about them – because, after all, that would be God's job.

Helen

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 15th, at the Newfield House at 2:30pm. Elf reminds us that "the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." That means you! All God's children have a place in this choir. (Yes, even grown ups!) Please consider spreading the joy to some of our parishioners who find themselves in this local nursing home this year; it's a valuable lesson in the true meaning of Christmas. If you have any questions, please call Marna Blomberg at 781-826-2453 or Barbara Northrop at 781-582-2050.

Missions & Outreach News

The Missions Committee and Helen and another invited guest met at church on November 16th for a retreat. After digging into a gourmet “light” lunch, we dug our teeth into the many meaty matters of missions. Our meeting was a beginning, where we came up with lots of great thoughts and ideas of what we are, where we want to go, and how we might get there. The next step will be to organize our thoughts and communicate with the rest of the congregation. Here are some of our ideas. We want to be in conversation with ourselves and with the church, to clarify who we are as a committee, now and for the future. Does missions mean Matthew 25? Do we want to be a more missions-centered church? What could we do as a committee and as a church to encourage and facilitate missions-centric thinking? Here’s one of the possibilities we came up with. If a person/group has an idea for a giving type of activity, one role of the Missions Committee could be to facilitate and support the evolution of the idea into action, possibly with the help of other interested people from the church. For the future, our meetings are open (first Thursday) as we continue to search, define, and grow in service. Meanwhile, for anyone who might shun the idea of a “retreat,” ours was really fun!

Our SERRV sale continues. Catalogs are available at church for you to peruse or borrow. Order and pay for beautiful items in time for Christmas using the church’s special order forms, and the church will do the rest. After your items arrive, you can pick them up at church on Sunday.

Equal Exchange fairly traded delicious coffees, teas, yummy chocolate candy, hot chocolate, and baking cocoa will be on sale Sundays. All make great gifts – or treat yourself and/or your family/friends! Shellie (who doesn’t really like chocolate) bought 5 Lemon Ginger chocolate bars with black pepper...they are out of this world!

This year our Church will be hosting 4 weeks of Overnights of Hospitality for the homeless. It’s time to start recruiting. The dates for this year are December 22-28, January 12-18, January 26-February 1, and February 16-22. We need lots of volunteers willing to cook or to stay overnight. If you think you can help, please do take the step and let us know. Our fearless leader’s contact information is (Sarah Barnicle) 774-454-2185 or by emailing seasideediting@gmail.com or sign up at church!

The Christmas Fund Collection will be taken on Sunday, December 22. How are these monies used? According to the UCC website, “the generous gifts of United Church of Christ congregations and individuals to The Christmas Fund enable The Pension Board’s Ministerial Assistance team to provide the following gifts to retired UCC clergy/lay employees (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross): Christmas thank you checks, monthly pension supplementation and/or quarterly health premium supplementation for lower income retired, and emergency grants for active or retired UCC clergy/lay employees facing an unforeseen circumstance that creates a need for financial assistance.”

Nominating Committee News

The Nominating Committee met on November 5th. Pastor Helen updated us on possible members for the Board of Deacons. Discussion followed regarding the recent changes that have occurred on that board. The bylaws were reviewed regarding membership concerns. There was some discussion on the number of delegates needed for the Mass Conference, and it was confirmed that the church covers the expenses for those attending. We still need to fill vacancies on the Stewardship Committee as December is rapidly approaching and the new term begins then. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 2nd, at Steve Triffletti’s office.

From the Moderator-Bob Taylor

"A dream is a wish your heart makes..." You probably recognize this lyric from Disney's *Cinderella*. We'll be doing some dreaming soon. On January 11, the Church Council along with other church leaders will hold a retreat where we'll be sharing the dreams that we have for our church. We won't just be dreaming, however. We'll talk about more modest, achievable goals that allow us to be part of "God's Project," as Pastor Helen was speaking of in a recent sermon. I'm sure you'll hear more about it in the next month.

There's another, more recent movie with a famous line. It's a fairy tale of sorts. The line is, "What's your dream?...Always time to dream." I hope you'll be thinking too about our church's future. Feel free to share your thoughts with the Trustees, Deacons or committee members.

Memorial Poinsettias

Christmas is fast approaching. By your loving purchase of poinsettias, we can enhance the beauty of our church for the Christmas services. Sign up in the lower vestibule following the service for the next several Sundays. An insert listing the donors and those memorialized or honored will be included in the December 22nd Sunday bulletin. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$15, although a donation of any amount is welcome. The flowers may be designated for shut-ins, or picked up **after** the Christmas Eve services or the following Sunday. Volunteers are needed to take flowers to shut-ins following the December 22nd Sunday service.

Typhoon Haiyan

For those who have asked, you can help the UCC effort for relief by going to http://www.ucc.org/disaster/philippines_typhoon_appeal.html.

Notes

The church's recyclables (paper/plastic) are picked up weekly or bi-weekly in Allerton Hall and the JRC thanks to the efforts of Mike Harrington.

Pat Mudgett thanks the following people for greeting in October: Linda & David Baier, Genie & Frank Roberts and Paul & Robin Damon.

From Laura Sampson: "I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the lovely All Saints Service on November 3rd. It brought back happy memories of church friends and activities. Most of our family life has been happiest serving The Church of the Pilgrimage."

From Nancy Morse: "On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, I would like to thank the Mission Committee and the congregation for the continuing support of our work in providing affordable housing and critical home repairs in the local area. The testimony of Cynthia Candlen at our service on November 10 was an inspiration to all of us and the donation to help us continue our work is much appreciated."

From Pat Mudgett: "I want to thank all who participated in providing for the bake table at the Harvest Fair. All who made baked goodies, made monetary donations and participated in any way, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. It was all of you that made the bake table such a grand success. We made almost \$800."

Adult Education

On Sunday, December 1st, join us for an Adult Education Presentation by Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter. "The Nativity of Jesus, c. 7-4 B.C." is a PowerPoint presentation and talk which explores the Nativity accounts in the Gospels according to Luke and Matthew and views Nazareth and Bethlehem sites.

Deacons' Notes

November is generally a busy month, and this year is no exception. Our All Saint's Day service and luncheon were memorable, and Thanksgiving is always special as we reflect on the Pilgrims of the past and our own journeys in faith here at The Church of the Pilgrimage.

December is also full of activities, and we never seem to have enough time to complete all of the tasks we set as goals for ourselves. However, we should never forget that December is busy because we have entered the season of Advent. To help us keep our focus on "the reason for the season," there will be several special services offered here at the church. For some folks, the joy of Christmas is mingled with sadness as they remember loved ones who have passed this life. Last year, Pastor Helen introduced a Service of Comfort and Peace providing those who attended an opportunity to quietly reflect on their feelings in a loving environment. This service was well received and will be offered again on Wednesday, December 11th from 7:00-7:40pm.

We have a long tradition of enjoying two very different services on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Family service (starting at 7:00pm) will once again be filled with the excitement of children as they participate in the pageant. The Candlelight Service will begin at 11:00pm and include communion before we join in song and raise our candles upward in unison to welcome the birth of Christ.

The Deacons would like to remind folks that there are hearing devices available from the Deacon-in-Charge for those who might benefit from a little help with the volume of the service.

Please plan on joining us for any or all of these services and let the Spirit that is Christmas fill your hearts for the holidays.

Guild Notes

The program on the cranberry industry, originally scheduled for November, had to be rescheduled for May - our speaker was still harvesting! In its place, Gail Mason spoke about the Plymouth Fragment Society, one of the oldest charities in the U.S. The society was founded here in 1818 to help the town's needy. Gail mentioned that an anonymous donor will be matching donations made by year's end (up to \$1000).

On December 10, we will be going to the Island Terrace Nursing Home in Lakeville to see their beautiful display of Christmas trees and enjoy a lovely tea. We have a few openings, so if you are interested, please call me at 508-746-4514. We will car pool, meeting at the church at 12:30pm. There is a \$10 fee, payable at the door.

December's Guild program will feature memories from Christmases past and a lovely tea. As is our custom, we will collect gifts for teenagers to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Do join us in Allerton Hall at 1pm, on Friday, December 13.

The Robinson Kitchen Fund Update
Correction: The anonymous donation reported last month was \$1000, not \$100. We are very grateful. The piggy generated \$140+, bringing our total to over \$17,500. I have met with an appliance supplier and have some figures to work with. I will meet with the Trustees this month to ask questions and get input. If the numbers add up, and approvals are forthcoming, the basic appliances could be installed around February, giving us a workable although not complete kitchen.

Here's hoping, Diana

Toy Drive Collection: On December 15, everyone is asked to bring an unwrapped toy for children in need. And remember, some of those children are teenagers. Children will assemble in the upper vestibule on that day and follow the choir with the toys which will be placed under the tree up front. Children will then join their parents in the pews until the Children's Message.

The Pilgrimage Calendar

~ December 2013 ~						
◀ November						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Greening of the Sanctuary 10am Adult Ed Class Confirmation Meeting 11-1 Cherubs Reh	2 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am Nominating Com Mtg 8:30am	3 Board of Deacons Mtg 7pm Directory Pics 2:30-9pm AH	4 Directory Pics 2:30-9pm AH Choir Reh 7:30-9pm	5 Board of CE Mtg 7:15pm @ Jenny's Missions Mtg 7:15pm	6 Tree Lighting Open House 5-8pm	7 PFC Concert 7:30pm
8 Worship 10am New Member Sunday Budget Mtg Cherubs Reh PFC Concert 4pm	9 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	10 Church Council 7pm	11 Service of Comfort & Peace 7-7:40pm Board of Trustees Mtg Choir Reh 7:45pm	12	13 Guild Mtg 1pm AH	14
15 Worship 10am CE toy drive collection Pageant Reh Caroling 2:30 Cherub Reh	16 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	17	18 Choir Reh 7:30pm	19	20 Herald Deadline	21
22 Worship 10am Pageant Reh Overnights of Hospitality Cherubs Reh	23 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am Overnights of Hospitality	24 Office Closed 7pm Pageant 11pm Candles and Communion	25 Office Closed Christmas Day Overnights of Hospitality	26 Overnights of Hospitality	27 Overnights of Hospitality	28 Overnights of Hospitality
29 Hymn Sing 10am No Sunday School	30 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	31 Office Closed New Year's Eve	Notes:			

Church Record

On October 27, 2013, Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo baptized Morgan and Addison Breen, daughters of Melissa & Christopher Breen; and Beelyn and Rebecca Quigley, daughters of Sue & Kyle Quigley.

On November 16, 2013, Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo conducted a wedding ceremony for Allison Behning and Anthony Caramello.

On November 17, 2013, Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo conducted a baptism for Adelina Lather, daughter of Victoria & Christopher Lather; and Douglas Williams, daughter of Sherree & Keith Williams.

Monday Meals

During November we were blessed with unexpected and very welcome generosity. We are delighted to report that the Lions Club of Plymouth has generously donated \$1000 to the Monday Meals Program. Our thanks to Diana Budge for informing members of the Club of the breadth of our program and attending their meeting, all of which resulted in our receiving the gift.

Through the efforts of Jenny Healy, we were the happy recipients of a grand supply of eggplants and butternut squash from Frank Albani of the Golden Rule Farm in Middleboro, who participates in the Plymouth Farmers Market at the Plantation. The eggplant was transformed into Parmesan for one meal and the squash found its way into menus at two additional meals. We also thank Jenny and the Fourth / Fifth grade class for preparing sandwiches and cookies for one of our meals.

On November 18 Travis DuPuis, grandson of Rosalee and Paul Sinn, brought members of his Marshfield High Special Education class to help serve. Their music and enthusiasm was welcomed by all. We look forward to seeing them again in December.

And, as always, we thank all the volunteers who cooked, donated food, or served during the last month. It was a busy time. Attendance ranged between 45 and 55 each week and included children as well as young adults and seniors. Please contact any of the team leaders listed below, if you would like to help.

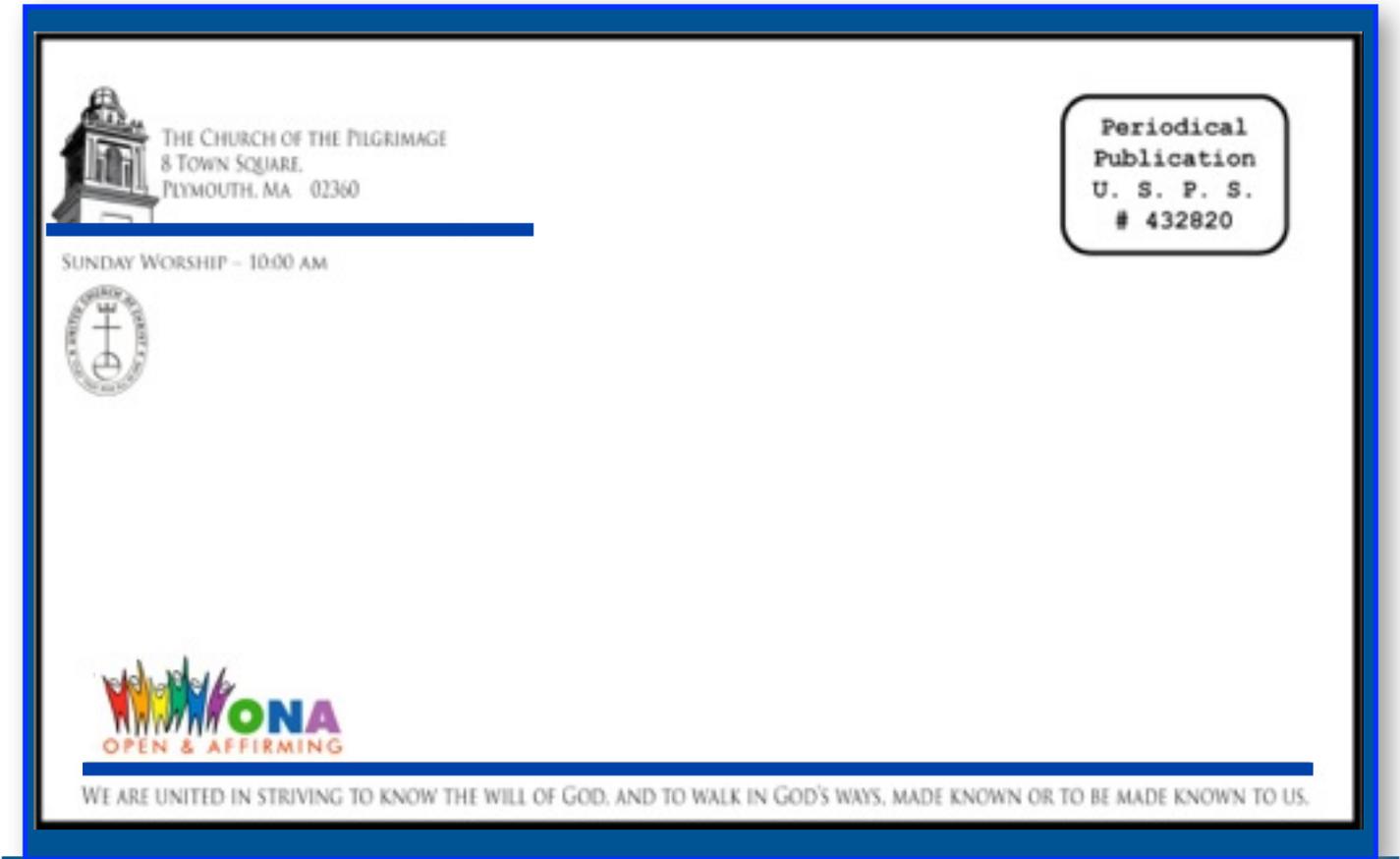
Team Leaders: Diane & Gay Flood, 1st Monday of the month; Rosa Cook & Lynnette Lancaster, 2nd; Pat Mudgett & Gloria Souza, 3rd; and Meg Bross, 4th.

YGHF - aka Youth Group

On Thursday evening, December 5th at 7pm, there will be cookie decorating at Jenny Healy's house. These will be handed out to visitors to the Church during the town of Plymouth's annual tree lighting celebration to be held the next evening; Friday, December 6th. The kids will be bringing a cookie of their choice and decorate it with all of the fabulous ingredients found in the Healy kitchen! The next event after that is a skating party, on January 18th, coordinated by Ben Anderson. The group has been to the Sauchuk Corn Maze in October and has had a few extremely beneficial get-togethers planning for the upcoming several months. Feel free to email Ann Motyka at plyrock47@gmail.com for an updated event calendar or any other questions.

Safe Church

The committee would like to personally thank Tom Healy for his invaluable contribution to the development of the church's Safe Church document. Tom met faithfully with Rev. Dr. Showalter, Peter Causton and Deborah Porter for about 3 1/2 months pouring over documents and developing all the policies and forms that are in place and being used today. At this time, Tom has decided to step down from the committee. After holding a discussion with Bob Taylor, and Rev. Helen, Norman Bingham-Maas has prayerfully agreed to continue the work that Tom started. The Safe Church Committee members, Anne Motyka and Debby Porter, welcome Norm. As a reminder, all those individuals who are or expect to work with children and young adults need to file a CORI with the Safe Church Committee.



ADVENT ACTIVITIES & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

INVITE A FRIEND!

Along with our regular worship, pageant practices and the Sunday afternoon caroling on December 15th, there are two events that you might wish to invite friends and neighbors to:

OPEN HOUSE WITH NATIVITY DISPLAY: Friday evening, December 6th, 5-8pm. Free food in Allerton Hall, music and creche scenes from around the world in the sanctuary.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND PEACE: Wednesday evening, December 11th, 7-7:40pm. A simple service making space for the varied feelings of the season, particularly helpful for those who may be struggling with loss or other changes.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES take place at 7pm (Family Service with Pageant) and 11pm (Candlelight Communion Service).

HYMN SING ON DECEMBER 29: Do you feel that we never get enough time in church to sing the Christmas Carols? Do you love a good hymn sing? Come to worship on the Sunday after Christmas and join in a Christmas hymn sing. A Time for Children - for all God's children - will also be part of the service.

Directory News

At our 1st Photography session with Lifetouch, 50 photography appointments were held!!! Thank you to all who waited! During the next 4 sessions, we expect to see at least that many more people! The Directory committee has scheduled another photography session with Lifetouch. This session will be on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013, from 2:30 pm to 8:40 pm in Allerton Hall. We are adding wait spaces in the schedule so that the flow will be more manageable. As of Nov. 12, 2013, there are currently 11 more spots. Please contact the office or the Porters to schedule a time on Tuesday. The committee is also looking for volunteers to staff the sign-in table between the hours of 2:30 and 9:00pm. Please stop by the directory table to sign up for this unique adventure!!!! If need be, we can add more days to our schedule! We want everyone be included in the directory.

Confirmation

Al Hoyt now serving North Community Church in Marshfield Hills, he will still participate in the confirmation program with assistance from Jen Bingham-Maas, Mark Coombs and Rev. Helen.

The Confirmands will be participating in the Budget meeting December 8th right after worship. They will be serving as "microphone runners."

The confirmation program will be participating in the Christmas Pageant which is the early service on Christmas eve. They should plan on arriving at the church by 6pm for the 7pm service.

Confirmation will also be assisting the Monday Meals and Overnights of Hospitality during winter vacation Please keep an eye on your emails for dates and times.

The group will be visiting the Islamic Center of New England on Sunday, January 12, immediately following worship. Following the visit we are planning to go to Bertucci's. We may be joined by the Confirmation class from North Community Church in Marshfield Hills.

Holiday Creches

When the church is open for the annual town Christmas tree lighting this year on Dec. 6, we will be displaying a collection of loaned creches in the Sanctuary from 5-8pm (while snacks are being offered to visitors in Allerton Hall) Please, if you have a family creche, perhaps one with a story behind it, consider loaning it to the church for this event. You may drop off your nativity and handwritten note (if you wish to add that) Monday-Thursday, December 2nd to December 5th in the church office.

On that Friday evening, several of us will be in the Sanctuary greeting visitors. Creches will be arranged on platforms, and we will print up any stories given to us to help illuminate the importance of the creche to you.

Church members are asked to help with donations of easy-to-eat baked goods.

The display will be taken down after 8pm. If you have loaned a creche, you may pick it up then. Nativities not picked up will be packed and held in the pastor's office for pickup. Please call the church office at 508-746-3026 or Bill Harting for information at 508-746-4097 or you may email him at wharting@verizon.net.

Gift of a Hymnal Dedication

Since the church purchased new hymnals more than ten years ago, we have offered the opportunity to sponsor bookplates in honor of or in memory of loved ones. There remain perhaps two dozen hymnals without bookplates, so opportunities still exist. Bookplates are \$25 (make check payable to the Church). The bookplates will be affixed into hymnals and recognition of gratitude will be made in the bulletin on December 21, the Sunday before Christmas. Look inside a hymnal for the approximate form we use, and bring your information to Bill Harting, or call 508-746-4097, or email wharting@verizon.net.

New Member Sunday, Dec. 8th

We will receive new members during worship on Sunday, December 8th. There will be a coffee hour (with cake!) followed by the Budget meeting upstairs in the sanctuary.

If you are interested in joining the church that day, but have not yet spoken to Pastor Helen, please do so as soon as possible.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, a Business Meeting will be held on December 8, 2013, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take any action thereto.
2. To receive a report from the Moderator on a Bylaw revision and take any action thereto.
3. To act upon the 2014 Budget of the Church.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



Clerk

Stewardship Timeline

9:30 am, Sunday, Oct. 20th: Finally, it's Chest of Joash Sunday. I can't wait to see everyone come forward to the chest as we sing "This is a Day of New Beginnings" and "Here I am Lord". With all the information we have sent out and our weekly emphasis on the spiritual joy of giving, I am convinced everyone will have their pledge cards with them today and our singing of this year's signature hymn, "What Gift Can We Bring" will signal the end of a successful stewardship campaign.

2 pm, Thursday, Oct. 24th: I'm at the Church office going over the pledges with Shellie. "Are you sure only 80 pledge cards came in?"

10 am, Sunday, Oct. 27th: I'm at my daughter's Church in Hingham. I wanted to be here because she is becoming a member today. We are enjoying a nice day together, and she has convinced me to give everyone a little more time before I check on the pledge total again. She has assured me that all those people who forgot about Chest of Joash Sunday have probably mailed their pledges in or are dropping them in the offering plate today.

11:15 am, Sunday, Nov. 3rd: I'm passing on some gentle "pledge" reminders during the Deacons' luncheon.

10 am, Sunday, Nov. 10th: I'm trying the "good news", "bad news" approach as a way to emphasize the importance of getting all the pledge cards in ASAP! When factoring in the 16 first time pledges, I estimate there are at least 43 more pledge cards waiting to be returned. Now I'm getting nervous.

10 am, Sunday, Nov. 17th: While reminding everyone about the budget meeting next week, I almost "beg" for the remaining pledges to be returned.

11:30 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 19th: I am at the Church office to pick up a print out of the latest pledge figures.

6 pm Tuesday, Nov. 19th: Since I spent most of the afternoon compiling the latest pledge figures for tonight's stewardship meeting, I almost forgot that my *Herald* article is due tomorrow morning. After a couple of false starts I decide on this "time line" approach. We are now up to 127 pledges and waiting on about 30 more. I am really hoping a lot more come in before the end of the week. We really need an accurate figure for the 2014 budget meeting next Sunday.

6:30 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 19th: I decide I will eat after the meeting and finish this article in the morning.

7 am, Wednesday, Nov. 20th: *Herald* deadline. I really wish I could finish this time line. But I can't. I need those pledge cards. "Oh, look! Isn't that one on the side table near your front door?" "Thank God!"

Nancy E Reed, Stewardship Chair