

The Pilgrimage Herald



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The Church of the Pilgrimage
Congregational – United Church of Christ
8 Town Square, Plymouth
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The Reverend Dr. Helen Nablo
Pastor

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Rev. Gary L. Marks, Pastor Emeritus

Volume LXXXIII, No. 10

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

October 2013

The Rev Says:



A few weeks back, the Plymouth area clergy started talking about Thanksgiving --how over the years the interfaith service had dwindled in attendance (to where it was basically just representative clergy and a small crowd of committed “die hards”); how current arrangements separated out the Pilgrim’s Progress people and the Wampanoag from the worship, so that it was no longer the celebration of cooperation and unity we hoped it would be.

We began to wonder how we might do things differently. What if we gathered for worship not on Thanksgiving day but earlier in the week, say the Sunday evening before the holiday? What if we chose a time that worked for both children and older people? What if we found a way to include the perspective of the Wompanoag? What if our service were enhanced by a joint children’s choir, and perhaps teenagers playing musical offerings?

The good news about all this brainstorming was that we all agreed it was time for a change. Plans will be firmed up, but at this point it looks like we will hold a interfaith worship service on either Sunday, November 24th or Monday, November 25th. It will be after the parade, and hopefully a time when people will feel more able to come to a special worship service, given that family obligations – the cooking and entertaining part of Thanksgiving -- will not yet be fully upon us.

Continued on page 2

Stewardship: Invitations & Gifts

Many of you may be asking, “Where is my pledge card?” Don’t worry; you will soon be receiving the second mailing from the Stewardship Committee. This mailing will contain your pledge card and other information that may help you determine your pledge or offering for 2014. If you did not receive our September mailing, please call the church office and ask Shellie to put you on the stewardship mailing list.

For the last several months I have often talked to you about gifts and invitations. The ones we receive in the mail are usually easy to deal with. But spiritual gifts and invitations are a whole different thing. Often, when God sends us an invitation or a gift we are not even aware of it. If you’re like me, we can look back on our lives and see countless times when God has sent us just what we needed, even though we didn’t realize it at the time. Sometimes we are so busy asking God for what we think we need that we miss out on the gifts God is trying to give us.

From a stewardship perspective I think we have to make sure we take some time to listen to God’s word and contemplate how much we have and how much we need. Doing this will make it easier to look at stewardship as something we want to do, rather than something we have to do. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver and wants us to experience the joy that comes from both our gratitude for our gifts, and our generosity in our giving. So let’s all try to be present on October 20th to celebrate our commitment to good stewardship on Chest of Joash Sunday. I’m looking forward to walking up to the chest with you.

Nancy E Reed, Stewardship Chair

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

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

Adult Education

Members of the Wednesday morning bible study have elected to study the book Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths for the next several months.

Meanwhile, several members are interested in also doing a study of What is the Bible? - a kind of Bible 101 approach created by the Massachusetts Bible Society. The intention is to meet early one weekday morning (tba). Study books need to be ordered, so let the church office know ASAP if you might welcome being part of this group. There is no need to make every class meeting, as the book is designed to be something you can work on independently as well. A first meeting of a newly forming adult education subcommittee of Christian Education took place in September. We are eager to hear your thoughts about possible future study topics! Speak to Helen Nablo, Peter Causton, Diana Budge, Doug Showalter, Jennifer Bingham-Maas, Al Hoyt , Rosemary MacKay or Lynnette Lancaster if you have ideas to share.

From the Moderator-Bob Taylor

The September Church Council meeting was full of reports from the Boards and Committees about plans for this year. Look for the details in this issue. There is a feeling of excitement: energy in the Church School and youth programs, expansion of the Overnights of Hospitality, gearing up to fix the organ, kicking off the stewardship campaign and much more. And the piggy is back!

Next time you are at church, take some time to walk around the outside of the church and look at its condition. I think you'll agree that work is going to be necessary. The Board of Trustees has been looking in detail at what will need to be done and how much it will cost. They will be preparing a detailed report that will be shared with the congregation in the future. It is my hope that by 2020, our church will be in pristine condition for the 400th year anniversary.

Continued from Page 1 (The Rev Says)

That particular Sunday will still be a special morning in the life of our congregation – but now there will be this additional opportunity to gather with folks in the Greater Plymouth area and celebrate with them.

This week the deacons will meet, and part of our meeting will be a brainstorming session about another worship service – a celebration of All Saints. While technically that date falls on a Friday, November 1st, we will celebrate it this year on Sunday, November 3rd. As has likely been the practice in other years, our worship that day will remember people who have made a contribution to the life of our congregation by offering brief vignettes or remembrances of them. The new piece is that after worship we will gather for a potluck lunch in Allerton Hall, during which more stories about the history of our church will be shared.

I realize, in planning this, that as your still relatively new pastor I am eager to learn more of the church's history, and more about the beloved saints of this place. I suspect there are newcomers to our church who are similarly eager. Hopefully it will be a lovely intergenerational event, meaningful to us all.

It is good to have a life that is rich with tradition – good too to have the freedom and possibility for the re-working of tradition. This is what makes our worship and our ministry vital and what keeps both our worship and our ministry “the work of the people.”

Grace and peace,

Global Harvest Festival-Overlook Farm

The Global Harvest Festival at Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA, our local site for Heifer International, will take place October 5 & 6 from 10am-4pm. Tour international homesteads, sample foreign cuisine, meet the animals and try your hand at roasting coffee and digging potatoes. Kids can hop a hayride to the pumpkin patch, get their faces painted and go for the gold in a potato sack race. There is a \$10 charge for each car.

Guild News

Our fall luncheon was well attended and Pastor Helen helped us to kick off our year. It was announced that we have received a very generous donation to the Robinson Kitchen Fund which boosts our total to over \$16,000. The piggy is back from vacation and asks you to remember to save your coins. Polka Dot Piggy has lost weight over the summer and needs sustenance.

Our October program will be a talk about the history of Burial Hill, our near neighbor, by Donna Curtin. It will be followed by an informative tour of the cemetery itself (weather permitting) for those who would like to attend. If you have mobility problems, Burial Hill can be accessed from the parking lot at the top of the hill with only a few steps up. The meeting and program will be held in Allerton Hall on Friday, October 11, at 1:00pm. At that meeting, we will also hold our third annual cookie sale. We encourage you to bake one dozen cookies and include the recipe if you are willing. You will then have the opportunity (by a drawing) to sample someone else's favorite for three dollars. The funds generated will be added to our treasury for future programs and contributions to the charities that we support.

We welcome all the women of the congregation to our meetings. We encourage, particularly, new members as this is a great opportunity for fellowship and service as well as a chance to get to know other members of our church family better. Hope to see you there. Note: We will probably have our tea, business meeting and cookie sale before our speaker to facilitate the tour of Burial Hill.

Diana Budge President

Pilgrim District Women

The Pilgrim District Women will meet on October 22nd at Christ Congregational Church in Brockton. Coffee and fellowship at 9:30am with worship at 10am. Rev. Dr. Douglas Showalter will be the guest speaker. Please inform Carol Johnson by October 18 if you plan to attend.

Flowers

- Oct. 6 The flowers on the Communion Table are in loving memory of the Savery Family. Given by Helen & Jack Laine. The flowers on the side table are in honor of Audrey Birnstein's 94th birthday which will be celebrated on October 11th.
- Oct. 13 In loving memory of our parents, Ned & Lucy Flood. Given by Diane and Gay Flood.
- Oct. 20 In loving memory of our parents, Ethel & Phil Dow and Betty & Ken Porter. Given by Jon & Debby Porter.
- Oct. 27 The flowers on the Communion Table are in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Knight Jr., and Phillip S. Cronin. Given by the Phillip Cronin family. The side flowers are in loving memory of Clarence & Mary Delano and Clarence Delano Jr. Given by Catherine Delano and family.

Nominating Committee News

The Nominating Committee met on September 4th. We reviewed the list of vacancies and presently are working on filling terms to 2017.

Larry Foster suggested contacting the chairperson of each committee get their input on their members' commitment for future terms. We will be calling members to inquire about being reappointed.

We thank Nancy Reed for her continuing dedication to Stewardship. Vacancies need to be filled by December 2013.

Our next meeting will be at 8:30am on October 2nd at Steve Triffletti's office.

Deacons' Notes

Summer is over, school has started, and the church has resumed its very busy schedule. Although we enjoyed and were spiritually nourished by our guest preacher, (it was wonderful to have Rev. Gary Marks return to the pulpit over Labor Day weekend), it is great to have Pastor Helen back in the pulpit and resuming all of the activities she so skillfully manages throughout the year.

The Deacons have been discussing various ways to expand our spiritual leadership and keep our growing congregation filled with a sense of family, both during our time together and as we return to the wider communities in which we live.

To that end, we have re-established our Ministry of Meals program and instituted a Ministry of Writing program and a Prayer Chain (cotpprayers@gmail.com). Although these "ministries" are relatively new, they have been well received, and many of you have contacted us to offer your services or request a bit of support for those in need.

The Deacons will be gathering on Saturday, October 5th, to begin drafting a mission statement specific to our role in the church. We will also spend time discussing the Sacrament of Baptism and how we may be able to assist Pastor Helen in preparing families who are seeking this rite for their children.

Please put a big circle around Sunday, November 3rd. We will celebrate All Saints Day with a wonderful service of remembrance and stories. The service will be followed by a luncheon in Allerton Hall. During this time, more memories and some interesting history will be shared with our ever growing church family. We look forward to seeing you there!

Church Directory Committee

The Church Directory Committee is in the process of gathering information from publishers for the compilation of the 2014 Church Directory. Please watch for upcoming events which will be printed in the bulletin and *The Herald*.

Debby & Jon Porter, Co-Chairs

Christian Education News

A light turn out for Sunday School registration and Rally Day was not reflective of the energy of the group we had who busily put themselves to work making school kits to send abroad, assembling sandwiches for Monday Meals and baking cupcakes for Monday Meals as well. The kids were excited to be there and happy to be using their hands to help. If you missed registration, no worries. Each Sunday School teacher has extra forms and calendars to give you when you are able to get here, so you can sign up at any time.

Thank you to our teachers, new and returning, for your commitment this year, and a thank you as well to the ones who retired after considerable years of dedication and service.

Just a reminder that on World Communion Sunday, October 6th, children in grades 5 and under will kick off a year of communion education in the JRC. These children can be brought directly over to their Sunday School classes (instead of going to the sanctuary first). From there, their teachers will bring them to the communion service upstairs. They can be picked up as usual in their classrooms. For our young people in grade 6 and older, this is a special month. They will join the rest of the congregation for the whole service. In the months to follow they will begin in Allerton Hall with their Sunday School class and come upstairs for communion at the end of the service.

Keep an eye out in the bulletin for any updates to the calendars that you received when you registered your children for Sunday School.

Ann Motyka is getting the youth group up and running! If you have a high school student in your house who you think might like to join us, drop me a line at jennyhealy@8townsquare.org.

As an offering, our Sunday School children are encouraged to bring in non-perishable items for the food pantry. They can bring the food right to their Sunday School classrooms.

We're looking forward to another great year!

Jenny

Monday Meals

Our ninth year of serving Monday Meals kicked off on September 9, with 44 people attending. It was good to welcome back many familiar faces and greet some new people. It was also encouraging to learn that two men, who had been homeless and attended our lunches over the years, have moved into their own apartments and have, at least, part time jobs.

Pastor Helen came to give a blessing for a new season of working together and to lead a moment of silence for one of our regular attendees who had recently passed away.

We especially want to thank the Church School classes who, as part of their Rally Day activities, prepared sandwiches and made chocolate cupcakes for the bag lunch take-outs. They were a hit!

It was a good “new beginning.”

Volunteers are always welcome -- especially to help with cooking and supplying food. If you would like to help, please contact any of the team leaders or Diane Flood at 508-209-0266.

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

Confirmation News

The Confirmation Class will start its regular year on October 6, right after worship. This year we started with a get-to-know-each-other “lock-in”. We spent the time making up stories about people buried on Burial Hill and acted out a favorite Bible story. The overnight was completed by a visit from the Plymouth Fire Department when our cooking of breakfast set off the fire alarm! It was a grand time.

Just a reminder to any young person in the eighth grade or older who wants to be part of this year’s Confirmation Program, there is still time. Contact the church office or see Al Hoyt.

Notes

From Diana Budge: I would like to thank all of those who made the special day for Rosemary McKay & Janet Synott a rousing success. Many contributed goodies for the reception in Allerton Hall, and we needed all of it to serve the very large crowd of witnesses at their wedding. My special thanks to Jenny Healy who added to her load by agreeing to work with me for this event. Hildegard Schimpf, as usual, came to my rescue both setting up on Saturday and organizing on Sunday. I couldn’t have done it without her. A special thank you to Susan Cotta who brightened up the ladies room and filled in wherever she was needed. There were many other hands at work, baking, serving and cleaning up, that helped make the day a success. My thanks to you all, but a sincere thanks to Rosemary & Janet who provided a very special opportunity for joy in our sanctuary on that wonderful afternoon that the Lord’s sun shone i[pm.

From a member of Congregation Beth Jacob: “Thank you for welcoming us to your church for our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. I enjoy being in your church and wanted to make a donation. The symbol “Chi” means 18 and also life. Again, Thank you, Sherri Sore” (Sherri sent an \$18.00 donation.)

Our sympathy is extended to Heather Sinn Russell and Bethany Sinn at the death of their grandmother, Marge Carter, on September 1, 2013. The service was held at Christ Church Episcopal on September 6. Heather and

Newcomers’ Gathering

There will be a newcomers’ gathering held on Sunday, October 27th, after morning worship. This will be a time to meet one another, learn a little bit about each other’s backgrounds, and receive materials about the church and its ministries. Members of the Membership and Evangelism Committee will lead the gathering together with Pastor Helen. We will gather in the Marks Conference Room in the John Robinson Center and meet for no longer than an hour.

Letters of invitation will be sent out shortly. In the meantime, save the date!



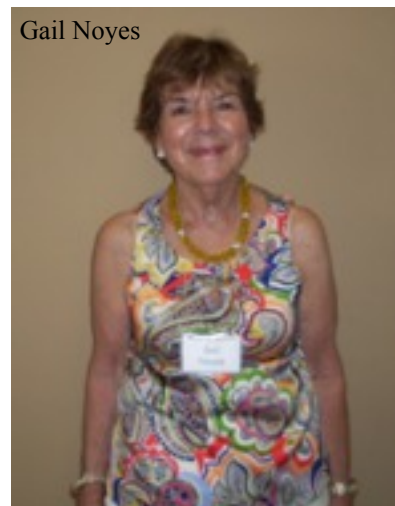
The Pilgrimage Calendar

◀ September	~ October 2013 ~						November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 Budget Deadline Church Directory Meeting 2pm Marks Room	2 Nominating Committee Mtg 8:30am Triffletti's Office	3 Christian Ed Mtg 7:15pm Marks Rm Missions Mtg 7:15pm Stewart Rm	4	5 Deacons' Retreat 9:00am-11:30am Allerton Hall	
6 Worship w/ Communion 10am World Communion Sunday Confirmation Mtg 11-1 Stewart Rm Cherub Choir & Junoir Choir Reh	7 Membership Mtg 9:30am Marks Rm Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	8 Church Council 7pm Marks Rm	9 Music Com Mtg 6:30pm Stewart Rm Board of Trustees 7pm Marks Rm	10	11	12	
13 Worship 10am Jr Choir Reh No Cheub Choir Reh	14 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	15 Stewardship Com Mtg 7pm Marks Rm	16	17	18	19	
20 Worship 10am w/Chest of Joash Jr Choir Singing Cherub Choir Reh Herald Deadline	21 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	22 Pilgrim District Womens Mtg 9:30am Brockton Board of Deacons Mtg 7pm Marks Rm	23	24	25	26 Harvest Fair 9:30am-2pm Youth Group Trip Flashlight Corn Maze 7pm Sauchuck Farm, Plympton	
27 Worship 10am with 2 baptisms Newcomers Gathering after worship in Marks Rm Cherub Choir & Junior Choir Reh	28 Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am	29	30	31	Committee Chairs: The November Herald Deadline is Sunday, October 20		

New Members

On May 5, 2013, we welcomed 18 new members into our church family. On June 23 we welcomed 5 more. Each month in the *Herald* we will include a photo and a brief bio of some of these new members to help you get to know them. Please introduce yourself, if you haven't already!

Gail Noyes



Gail Noyes comes to The Church of the Pilgrimage from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. It was there that Gail and her now deceased husband, Charles, raised their three children and attended a Presbyterian church. Encouraged by her two brothers and a son who live in Plymouth, Gail moved to The Pinehills section of town about nine years ago. However, she still travels to visit family – especially her 3 grandsons.

A realtor in her pre-retirement days, Gail remains active in many areas – playing golf, volunteering at Jordan Hospital, socializing with friends, and serving on the board of The Pinehills Womande group (a charitable organization dedicated to helping the needy through the schools in town).

It was the wonderful music and the weekly sermons and ministry of Pastor Helen that prompted Gail to become a member here. She had been active in her previous church, serving as a Deacon and helping out in numerous ways. Gail is anxious to see The Church of the Pilgrimage grow in membership with some emphasis on providing fellowship for the older youth in our church. She finds the congregation to be warm and friendly and is willing to serve where she is needed.


Church Record

On September 8, Cheyanne Lynn Wilson, daughter of Rebecca & Rich Wilson, was baptized by Pastor Helen.

On September 14, Pastor Helen officiated at the wedding of Natalie Pearson and Christopher Fischer in our sanctuary. Christopher is the son of Cynthia & Jeff Fisher.

On September 15, Pastor Helen officiated at the wedding of Janet Synnott and Rosemary MacKay in our sanctuary. (See photo to the right.)







THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM



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.

Missions News

Missions is happy to report that on Rally Day the Sunday School was able to make 29 school kits for Church World Service. CWS works with partners, including the UCC, to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Thanks to everyone who contributed supplies and to the Sunday School for assembling them.

A thank you for our donation of \$700 was received from the South Shore Community Action Council on behalf of the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse. SSCAC includes the food resources program, an early education program, fuel assistance, transportation for the elderly and disabled and a training program to prepare unemployed participants for jobs. 94% of all funds received is spent on these programs for people in need.

Augusta Moore sent a note of thanks to the Missions Committee for its donation to Saint Rock Haiti Foundation. She was able to purchase much needed medical supplies for the clinic and also pay for emergency ultrasounds for two pregnant women. The generous donations she received during her church presentation were mailed directly to the foundation.

October is our month for the Neighbors in Need offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Thank you to everyone who makes a contribution of nonperishable food items to benefit the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse. Collection bins are located on the steps going up to the sanctuary. Most needed items are canned fruit, cereal, juice, pb&j, baked beans, spaghetti sauce, condiments, mac & cheese, soup, canned tuna & chicken, canned vegetables, diapers and toilet paper.