



# The Pilgrimage Herald

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The Church of the Pilgrimage  
Congregational – United Church of Christ  
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Rev. Gary L. Marks, Pastor Emeritus

Volume LXXXIV No. 1

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

January 2014

## From the Pastor

As this year concludes, I want to begin by thanking you for your kindness.

Many pastors feel odd about being “the needy one”. We have our own struggles and losses, but we aren’t suppose to speak too much about them lest our congregation get to feeling like *they* are taking care of *us*.

Yet, when our beloved canine pal Skipper died on the second Sunday of Advent, you all showed me a lot about how to support and encourage another person. A few of you sent cards. Others of you said “I heard. And I’m sorry”. Some of you offered hugs, or the acknowledgement that our pets really do become part of our families. You let me talk about how weird it is to wake up and not have a dog padding around after you, waiting for the morning meal or walk.

This particular departure was hard, coming as it did, the day after son Ben left home for his new life out west, but as you listened, you waited for me to speak about that.

The thing about being a pastor is that sometimes the congregation teaches you. Teaches you what it means to be human. Teaches you that it is okay to be needy yourself. Teaches you (again) how important listening is.

And it’s like this in the congregation too. We are called to be teachers to and for and with one another. When someone else is in need, we offer what wisdom we have. When we are in need, we are eager to glean from someone else’s experience, or at least to soak up their kindness. It goes back and forth. There is mutuality to it that we all benefit from.

In a few weeks leaders in our church will gather to reflect upon leadership, and upon what direction God might be leading our congregation. We will do this together. My role as pastor is to guide in this thing called “visioning”, but it is not my job alone. When I gather with any group, I try to remember there are things I may not be aware of, things I may not understand. I try to remember that I may be a teacher, but I can also be taught.

I’m excited for this gathering. I am excited to be moving into a new future with you.

May 2014 be a year of learning and discovery for us all – and in all things may we continue to offer each other love, support, and care.

Grace and peace,

*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

## From our Director of Christian Education

Happy New Year! First off, thank you for responding so quickly to our last minute Christmas list: that tree was stripped bare of gift ornaments in record time! Now, here's what the Board of Christian Education has in store to start off the new year:

1. Epiphany: Pastor Helen is planning a family friendly intergenerational service on Jan. 5. Cribroom coverage for the day will be expanded to cover children 1st grade and younger.
2. The first of three Parents' Potluck and Discussions on Faith will start this month on Sun., Jan. 19, from 4:30 to 6:30pm in Allerton Hall. The evening will begin with a potluck supper after which the children will be ushered off for some supervised play and the adults will have some time to talk about issues of faith. Look for a letter in the mail with more information; if you don't get one but are interested, please contact me. And feel free to bring a friend. RSVP to Jenny.
3. The whole Sunday School will be preparing the Monday Meal for MLK Day on Jan. 19 during Sunday School. Look for a notice from your child's teacher or an email with more information about how you can contribute to that.
4. Teachers' Meeting at 11:30am on Jan. 26: time to check in about our new curriculum, get some resources for augmenting it and look ahead.
5. Feb 1 Food Drive at Stop & Shop on Samoset St. in Plymouth. Keep your eyes focused on the bulletin for more information.

Looking ahead: February is Project Linus month. For those who don't know about that, our whole Sunday School participates in making blankets for needy children. Even if you don't have a child in Sunday School there are ways you can help:

1. If you have some sewing skills, offer to work with a class a Sunday or two to make a blanket.
2. No sewing skills? No worries, we are always looking for contributions of fabric (especially pieces of fleece-easiest for the little ones) or gift cards to fabric stores.

In February we will also host a Potluck and game night on Feb 8, and no, you do not have to have children to come. It is not unusual that the adults have as much fun as the kids.

Next Board of Christian Ed meeting: Jan 9th at 7:15pm at the JRC.

## Epiphany

The first Sunday of the new year, January 5<sup>th</sup>, will mark our congregation's celebration of Epiphany. We'll hear the traditional epiphany texts about the magi, about Herod trying to kill baby Jesus, and about the wisemen averting that plan, going home by another way. We'll think about the light coming into the world, what that light reveals about us and our world, and how we are called to be bearers of the light.

Our service that day will also be intergenerational, designed to be more welcoming of our children and youth. The "communion meditation" will seek to include all ages. We will have communion as we did last year – with people invited to come forward to receive the elements. (Those who do not wish to receive communion in this way will be served by deacons in their seats.)

The crib room will be staffed for children grade one and younger. Please do plan to join us!

## Missions & Outreach News

The Missions Committee's biggest upcoming events are the Overnights of Hospitality. And our message to you is HELP PLEASE!! The New Year will ring in with more pleas from us for your help as an overnight host or a cook. You have two weeks to choose from—any night from January 12 - January 18 or from January 26 - February 1. You can even volunteer multiple times! The men are grateful, and you will feel good about helping out. Sign up on Sundays in Allerton Hall. Many thanks to Alice Heckman for coordinating gift bags for our homeless guests over Christmas.

December was a busy month for us. During our Missions Christmas Sunday we (you) raised over \$200 for Heifer. SERRV sales and Equal Exchange sales were also successful. You may still buy coffee, tea, chocolate and candy bars through January, until they are sold out. The cocoa for making hot chocolate is sold out!

We, the church, also sponsored Christmas gifts for 2 families with small children through our Missions giving. May both the peace and merriment of Christmas be yours; and may the New Year be bright with hope.

## Nominating Committee News

The Nominating Committee met on December 2nd. At this time we would like to thank all who have agreed to serve on boards and committees for the upcoming terms. Some vacancies still exist on the Stewardship Committee. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8th, 2014, at 8:30 am at Steve Triffletti's office.

## Pilgrim District Women's News

Pilgrim District Women will meet in Whitman at The First Congregational Church on Tuesday, January 28. We will gather at 9:30am for refreshments and conversation with a meeting and worship beginning at 10:00. At around 11:00, the program for the day will be a talk by our own Associate Conference Minister, the Rev. Don Remick, who will speak about '*That Great Cloud of Witnesses*.' Don is a wonderful speaker who will keep us entertained while informing us about our connections with the greater UCC, the Mass Conference and our own Pilgrim Association. Following Don's talk, a luncheon will be served by the women of the Whitman Church.

## Confirmation

The confirmation class will be traveling to the Islamic Center of New England in Quincy on Sunday, January 12, 2014. We will be leaving from the Church immediately following worship and will return by 4:00pm. We will be going to Bertucci's at Commerce Way after the trip. Everyone should bring money (\$20 should be plenty), and parents will be able to pick up their confirmands at Bertucci's

## Leadership Retreat

On Saturday, January 11th, from 9-2, church leaders will meet to ponder the nature of church leadership, our dreams for our congregation, and specific goals for 2014.

Members of the Board of Deacons, Trustees, and Council are all encouraged to attend, as are any interested members of any other committees or boards.

## Music Committee News

The Music Committee will be completing our selection process for new Choir robes in the next month or two. Several people have asked how much it would be to donate one robe and stole. While the exact amount will be determined by our selection, the amount will be about \$200 per set. Donations to the robe fund are still welcome.

The Church of the Pilgrimage Sanctuary Choir will be participating again in a joint Epiphany Concert to be held on Sunday, January 5th, at 3pm at the United Church of Christ in Norwell, 460 Main Street. We will join with choirs from the host church, Church Hill United Methodist Church in Norwell (where Michael used to be the organist/choir director), First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Scituate, (where Bill Richter is music director, and Pastor Helen's husband is the minister) and by the Hingham Congregational Church (UCC). Each choir will sing a few of their favorite Advent, Christmas or Epiphany anthems, and we will join forces for a combined finale. The Celestial Ringers handbell choir from UCC Norwell will also perform. They are AMAZING! Hope to see many of you there! Last year there was a good will offering that was donated to charity. That collection may be taken again.

## YGHF (Youth Group Having Fun)

A skating outing has been scheduled for Saturday, January 18th, from 2-4pm at the Armstrong Rink in Plymouth. More details to follow by way of text or e-mails. This is being coordinated by Ben Anderson and Jeff Donn.

## Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate flowers for the sanctuary during January, please contact Joyce at 508-746-1077. January 26th is already taken. Thank you!

## Monday Meals

December began as a busy month. Some 60 people came in the first Monday, and the high numbers seem to be continuing. Travis DuPuis brought in six of his students and colleagues from the Marshfield High Special Education Program to present a special collection of Christmas songs and a peek at a puppet show, inspired by one of his students. As this issue goes to press, plans are in place for the dinner on Christmas Day. We are delighted that T- Bones Restaurant has offered to provide a ham and turkey dinner, with all the fixings. The Church School is planning to again make colorful decorations, centerpieces and cards --- always a welcome touch. The Anderson family, probably assisted by our young people, are planning to handle the meal on December 30. We conclude with many, many thanks to all our volunteers, who with dedication, patience and good cheer, participated in Monday Meals throughout 2013. And, a special 'thank you' to the all the members of the congregation, who through pledge donations designated for Missions, have supported the meal program in so many ways. All of this makes it happen.

## Deacons' Notes

We hope that all of you enjoyed the holidays and, amidst the hustle and bustle, had time to participate in the various services offered at the church. Our Service of Comfort and Peace was very moving, and we thank Rev. Helen for adding it to our Advent calendar. As of this writing, we are looking forward to both the Family Service and the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. They are typically well-attended and spiritually moving.

The Deacons continue to support a Ministry of Writing, a Ministry of Meals, a Visitation Committee, and a Prayer Chain. If you know of anyone who would benefit from any of these services, please contact one of the Deacons or the church office.

Under Rev. Helen's guidance, we also have folks within the church who are trained to offer the Sacrament of Communion to those who find it difficult to attend church. You are still valued members of our church family, and we would welcome the opportunity to bring a service of communion to you. Please let the church office know if you are interested in receiving communion at home.

## Directory News

Thank you to all who participated in the recent photo sessions which will enable us to put together an updated Church Directory. We appreciated your patience and, in some instances, your creativity!!! We are moving into the next phase for the directory, putting together the data base for the directory's address roster. We do not expect the directories to be available until April or May! For those who had our "in house" photographers take their pictures, we will collect the fee for the directory when we pass them out. This \$10.00 is paid directly to Life Touch as their fee to process the picture we take, place the pictures in the ABC order with pictures they took, and print the directory for you. Those who went through Life Touch receive a free 8x10 photo and a free directory. The Directory Committee

## Thanksgiving Open House Summary

Many thanks to all who helped with our traditional Open House. It was a roaring success with over 300 visitors. (We counted the cups we used). What a great opportunity to showcase our beloved church. Many took the time to visit the sanctuary where the Petersons acted as host and hostess. We also had a reasonable showing for the talk on church history later in the morning. We had many offerings of goodies (which we really needed), and a number of members of the congregation gave their time on Thanksgiving morning to help with serving, set-up and clean-up. A great community effort. The contribution basket generated over \$200 after expenses which was added to the Kitchen Fund. Thank you again for all your support. Diana Budge and Liisa Budge-Johnson

## Congratulations to Julia Blomberg

Congratulations to Julia Blomberg who recently received her Girl Scout Silver Award. This is the highest award that can be achieved by a Cadette Girl Scout and involves completing a minimum of fifty hours of community service. Julia's project was a series of workshops entitled "Drama Days" that she offered this past summer at Pembroke Public Library to students from three Pembroke elementary schools. The workshops were well attended, and the students had a great time learning different theater techniques and performing skills.

# The Pilgrimage Calendar

~ January 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> New Year's Day <b>Church Office Closed</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	<b>2</b> Missions Meeting 7:15pm Marks Room	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Epiphany Service 10am M & E Mtg 11:30 Marks Rm Confirmands meet from 11am-1pm	<b>6</b> Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am AH	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Music Comm Mtg 6:30pm Stewart Rm <b>Board of Trustees 7pm</b> Marks Rm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	<b>9</b> Directory Comm Mtg 1pm Marks Rm Board of CE Mtg 7:15pm Marks Rm	<b>10</b> Guild Mtg 1pm AH	<b>11</b> Church Council Day-Long Leadership Retreat 9-2 AH
<b>12</b> Worship 10am Confirmands to Isalmic Ctr <b>Overnights of Hospitality begins AH</b>	<b>13</b> Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am AH <b>Overnights of Hospitality AH</b>	<b>14</b> Church Council Mtg 7pm Marks Rm <b>Overnights of Hospitality AH</b>	<b>15</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm <b>Overnights of Hospitality AH</b>	<b>16</b> Overnights of Hospitality AH	<b>17</b> Overnights of Hospitality AH	<b>18</b> Youth Group Ice Skating <b>Overnights of Hospitality</b>
<b>19</b> Worship 10am <b>Confirmands meet from 11am-1pm</b> Parents Potluck & Discussion 4:30-6:30pm AH <b>Day of Service for Sunday School</b>	<b>20</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day <b>Church Office Closed</b> Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am AH	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship 10am <b>Overnights of Hospitality begins AH</b>	<b>27</b> Monday Meals of Hospitality 11am AH <b>Overnights of Hospitality AH</b>	<b>28</b> Board of Deacons Mtg 7pm Marks Rm <b>Overnights of Hospitality AH</b>	<b>29</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm <b>Overnights of Hospitality AH</b>	<b>30</b> Overnights of Hospitality AH	<b>31</b> Overnights of Hospitality AH	<b>Notes:</b>

## Church Record

On December 8, 2013, Lurene Wilson was baptized by Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo during the morning worship service.

On December 8, 2013, the following were received into membership: Linda and David Baier by reaffirmation of faith, Val Bauman and Bonnie & Joe Koehler by letter of transfer, and Lurene Wilson by affirmation of faith.

## New Members



Six new members joined our congregation on Sunday, December 8th. Please look in the February issue of the *Herald* for their bios.



Top: New members in a receiving line in Allerton Hall. Right: New members are welcomed with a cake during coffee hour.

## Stewardship—A work in progress

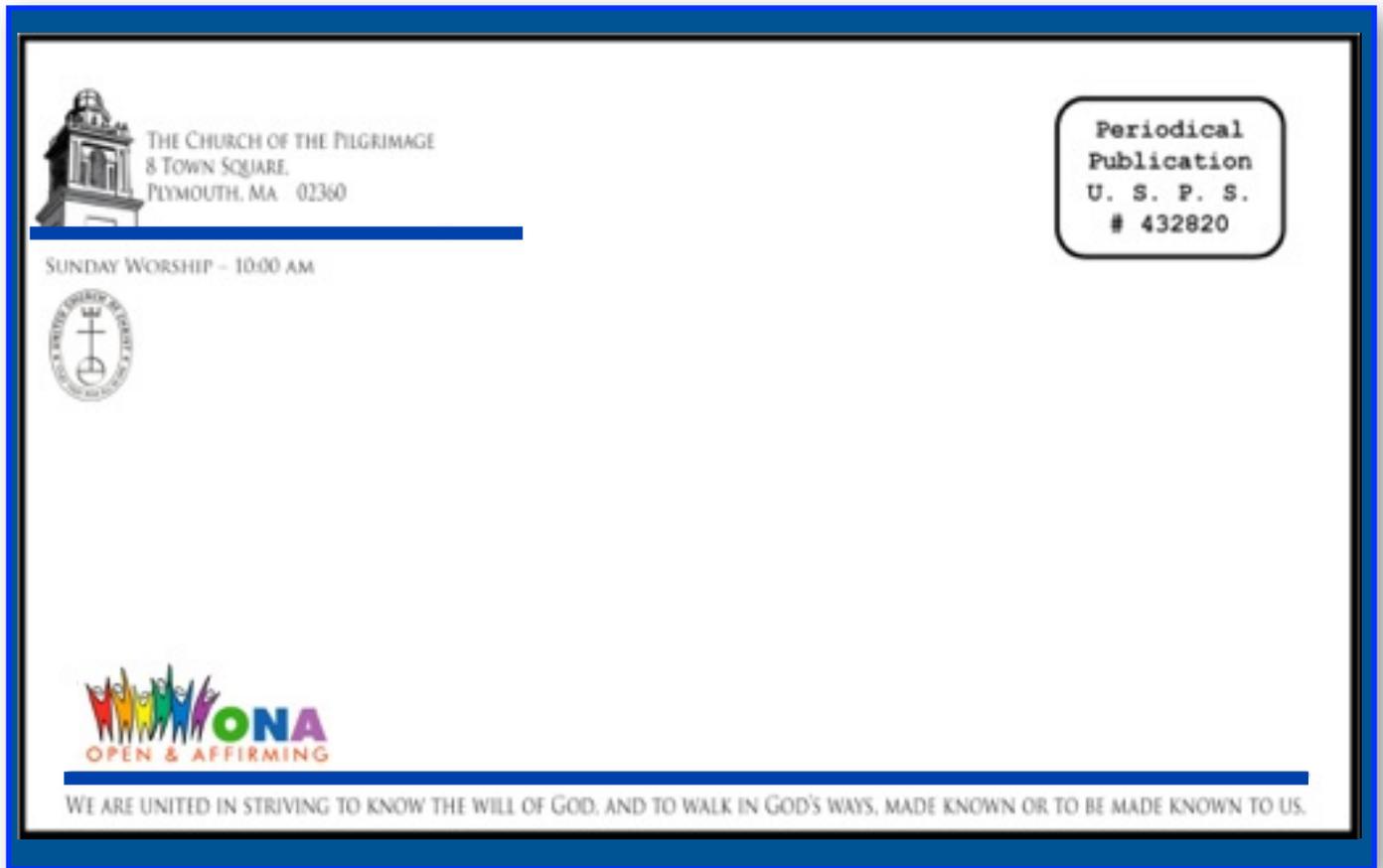
As some of you may know, I have signed on for three more years on the stewardship committee. I keep asking myself “why?”, but in many ways I guess I know the answer. I want to help finish what so many members and friends of our congregation have started. I want to be part of finding ways to bring our Church to its physical and spiritual best. I want to be able to stand with you in 2020 as we showcase our beloved Church to the world.

As I look back on these three years, I realize that our committee was definitely guided by something besides our attempts to put stewardship in a different context. In many ways it seems that, like the wise men, we have our own guiding star. What made Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter decide to put his retirement plans on hold and take the position of interim pastor? What led our search committee to pick Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo as their unanimous choice? What made me pick John Robinson’s book on stewardship from the multitude of choices on the web? What prompted the other members to join our committee?

In the next few years, as the questions become more difficult, we are all going to need to look for our guiding star. As we said in one of our recent letters, we have not only been given a rich history, we have also been given all the gifts we need to bring this Church to its full physical and spiritual potential. We are the stewards of The Church of the Pilgrimage, and we all know, that with God’s help, all things are possible.

Today is a good day to start walking by the guiding star of faith.

Nancy E Reed, Stewardship Chair



## Guild News

December weather got in the way of our planned trip to the Christmas Tree exhibit at Island Terrace, forcing us to cancel for this year. We were disappointed, but there is always another year. Our Guild Christmas luncheon was well attended and enjoyed by all. We had a good time listening to favorite Christmas stories from past holidays offered by our members. Some funny and some touching, but all offered to enrich our Christmas experience. As is our custom, we collected gift items to be contributed to the local Salvation Army for distribution, concentrating on presents for teenagers who are often overlooked. A financial contribution was made as well.

The total profit from the November bake sale was over \$500 which will be put to good use this year as we support our various charities. My thanks to all who made it a success, both the bakers and the buyers.

The Robinson Kitchen fund is still growing, and we would like to acknowledge a contribution of \$500 from Guild member, Lillian Knowles. This is not Lillian's first generous gift of financial support, and we are indeed grateful. We have now collected \$18,300. Our goal is in sight, and we may be ready to proceed with work by the spring. Here's hoping.

Please join us on the second Friday of January for a very interesting program presented by Rev. Macfarlane as he talks about a famous Civil War General from New England. **We would like to invite any of our gentlemen members of the congregation** who may be interested in this topic, to join us for the program and the tea to follow. You can become honorary members for the day. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate. January can be unpredictable. Diana Budge, President