



# The Pilgrimage Herald

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The Church of the Pilgrimage  
Congregational-UCC  
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## *From Our Pastor*

It was a definite “Wow.”

This past Saturday, on Martin Luther King weekend, we had our first annual Martin Luther King Day of Service. Over one hundred and twenty people (children, youth, parents, older folks) showed up at Zion Lutheran Church to pack food, visit a nursing home, or assist at the Plymouth Food Warehouse. About twenty of the participants came from our church.

Most of us packed food and it was busy and fun. In the end we had packed 42,000 meals – boxes and boxes of food that will feed hungry people right in our local area. We ended with a fine lunch and a remembrance of King and his life’s work.

And right away, people were asking, “Are we doing this day of service next year?” To which we said, “Yes.” It was billed as “The First Annual” after all. So, we have a new Plymouth tradition. Soon the area clergy will meet to tweak the event for next year, thinking together about how we can make it bigger and better. And I hope at that meeting, we’ll celebrate a really fine group effort.

But we don’t get to stay with the “Wow” for too long. In ministry, as in life, it is on to the next thing. The next thing may be something a little less dramatic, but it is the thing that demands time and attention. Care and consideration. Walking the walk and working together isn’t so much a stringing together of events as it is paying attention to what needs attention right now, as best we are able. We may have things from the past that were important and we may look toward the future, but our call is lived out in the present.

Sometimes we can feel that capacity strained. The things we are committed to aren’t easy. This is when we need to remember we don’t walk or work alone. Sometimes there are big demands in one place – home or work – that keep us from paying attention to other things that are also important. We find ourselves seeking a better balance. Many of us come to church, to worship, hoping to find this.

On the other side of the Day of Service, I am finding myself wanting to pay more attention to the wellbeing of our church – and, to be honest, my own wellbeing. It is not good for a pastor, or anybody, to be all work and no play. All work and no time for important relationships. Next week I will be on study leave, and I shall return refreshed.

But how about you?

What are you paying attention to these days?

Is there a balance of task and pleasure in your life?

### **Newcomers Gathering**

A time to meet other newcomers and learn more about the church. Please join us on March 8<sup>th</sup> following worship in the Marks Room in the John Robinson Center.

Are the things you are paying attention to bringing you a measure of joy?  
Is there something you've attended, something you've witnessed, something you've been part of recently that has made you say, "Wow?"  
If so, have you taken the time to share that with others?

Grace and peace,  
Helen

## **Adult Education**

We have some wonderful educational opportunities. On Sunday, February 15, Peter Causton will give a talk on "Parables" during the Service. There will be an opportunity to continue the discussion with Peter at a " talk-back " event after coffee hour.

Also in February, we are launching our first book discussion of the year. We have chosen *Why? Making sense of God's will* by Adam Hamilton. It is a short book (less than 100 pages) that asks a big, important question. You can purchase a copy (\$11) at coffee hour. We will have three opportunities for you to participate in discussion groups. The first group will be at 7pm on Thursday, February 26 at the home of Dawn Durmis. The second group will meet on Wednesday, March 4 at 11am (the Wednesday Morning Bible Study time). The final discussion group will meet on Sunday, March 15 in Allerton Hall after coffee hour.

On Thursday evening, February 19, Dr. Amy Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, will give a talk at Glastonbury Abbey on *Parable of the Prodigal Son in Light of Forgiveness and Reconciliation.*" Glastonbury Abbey is located on 16 Hull Street in Hingham, and the lecture will be held in the Abbey Conference Center at 7:15am. Lectures are free.

We hope you will join us for these very special events!

## **A Stewardship Thank You**

It's a little difficult to write this article before the congregation has voted on the Capital Campaign. However, I feel very confident that by the time you are reading this our members and friends will have stepped up and agreed to proceed with the fundraising. I think we are all in agreement that the needed repairs and restorations must be done, especially with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the pilgrims only a few short years away.

From a Stewardship prospective I was concerned that the prospect of the upcoming Capital Campaign could put our recent Stewardship Campaign in jeopardy. However, despite the unavoidable loss of several pledges, I am happy to say that our pledges for 2015 were over \$2,000 more than last year. These pledges, when combined with unpledged donations, the proceeds from the Harvest Fair, and other income, should be sufficient to support the 2015 operating budget.

I want to end with a sincere thank you from our entire committee. Thank you for reading and studying our mailings this past year. Thank you for listening to our stewardship moments. Thank you for attending our Welcome Back Luncheon. And, most importantly, thank you for your companionship on this amazing pilgrimage. With so many Churches struggling to survive we are fortunate to have so many people dedicated to the future of our beloved Church of the Pilgrimage.

With joy and gratitude for your continued generosity, we offer you the heartfelt thanks of the 2014 Stewardship Committee: Nancy Reed, Laura Curtin, Jim Jamieson, Jennifer Bingham-Maas, Linda Butterfield, Tony Cotta and Joanna Albers.

### ***News from the Nominating Committee***

The Nominating Committee met on January 7. We reviewed the current vacancies. Our present focus is finding people to be on the Stewardship Committee and we need an Assistant Treasurer. Many committees have a three-year term. The Assistant Treasurer's term is for one year. We are finding that some people are willing to do a one-year term. Arrangements can be made if a problem arises and the commitment cannot be fulfilled. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11 at Steve Triffletti's office at 8:30am.

### ***Confirmation News***

The first Sunday in January we commissioned students and mentors as part of our Epiphany worship celebration. Several of the students and their mentors took part in the MLK Day of Service this past month. We have six students and six mentors taking part in this first year of a two-year process. In Lent, students and mentors will be encouraged to read the gospel of Mark together. There is also a confirmation retreat at Craigville (March 6-7) we are hoping the youth participants will attend. Look in the mail for more information about that!

### ***Ashes on Your Head...or Not***

There are two opportunities to begin the journey of Lent by joining others for reflection on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Each of these services will provide space for considering our need for God, to consider our own need for transformation and grace. Everyone is invited to that—ashes are, of course, optional.

First, there will be a morning service in the sanctuary from 7-7:30am. This service will accommodate those who will head off to work, and those who like the idea of gathering in the quiet morning light.

A second service will take place in the Marks Conference room over a bag lunch at noon, and will be wrapped up by 12:45pm, or later for those who wish to linger.

Do plan to join us!

### ***Wednesday Morning Bible Study***

We are beginning a new study on Wednesday, February 4 on the book of Ephesians. We will work with a study guide that asks participants to do some study ahead of time answering some questions, but it isn't as demanding as the amount of reading we had for the Genesis book. And it will work okay to come if your "homework" isn't done—we will read the text together and talk through the day's question.

We will begin at 11am and conclude at noon, and those who want to may stay for lunch (BYOL). Newcomers are always welcome.

### ***Snow Cancellations***

Please check Fox 25, Channel 5, WCVB.com, and Channel 7 for snow cancellations.

## News from our Director of Christian Ed, Jenny Healy

NEWSFLASH! Jenny has a new email address: [jennycotp@gmail.com](mailto:jennycotp@gmail.com).



I feel like there is so much to say, that I hardly know where to begin! First let me say that I am really enjoying youth group; we have a great bunch of kids-funny, helpful, thoughtful, did I mention funny? MLK weekend was packed with events from Saturday's food packing to Sunday School's MLK Day meal prep to showing up AGAIN to serve on Monday. I've sent along a few photos to illustrate.

Second, we are looking forward to some serious blanket making this month. In fact, I was so eager to get started that I had a few young people make a blanket over MLK weekend to send off to one of our own in need of a little extra comfort and security right now. Look elsewhere in this Herald for more information on *Blanket Making Sunday*, on February 8.

Third, look for an updated Sunday School calendar in classrooms and mark the dates on your own calendars. We just added another Pajama Sunday in April and a Potluck and Game Night on March 14. While you are getting your calendar, check-in with the teachers and make sure that your child's registration is up to date; extra copies will be available.

Here are a few dates of note:

February 1: Love Feast in Allerton Hall-all children in grades 5 and under; Coffee and Conversation-8<sup>th</sup> grade and up in the JRC Youth Room.

February 2: Food Drive from 10am-2pm at Stop & Shop (Standish Plaza). See Ann Motyka for sign-ups.

February 8: Blanket Making Sunday. Children begin the blanket making in their classrooms, break for potluck lunch, then everyone is invited to spend the afternoon making blankets. (See flyer.)

February 18: Youth Group trip to Common Art. Look for a snail mailing with an itinerary and permission slip.

SAVE-THE-DATE: March 14 All Church Pajama Potluck and Game Night in Allerton Hall from 5-8pm. Bring a friend!





## ***Missions Minute***

OVERNIGHTS-HELP WANTED (and needed)!

We are recruiting people to help with Overnights of Hospitality for the week of February 15-February 22. This will be the last week we host this winter.

Volunteer positions include:

Morning Helper (for about 1 hour typically beginning at 7am).

Evening Helper (typically from 5pm-7pm).

Cooks (this year's typical census each night has been about 18 people).

Overnight hosts. (Remember, there is a security guard overnight too!)

If you want to sign-up or just find out more, contact Sarah Barnicle at 774-454-2185; email [seasideediting@gmail.com](mailto:seasideediting@gmail.com).

## ***February Flowers***

Feb 1: With love and joy honoring our grandchildren, Haraden, McKenzie, John, and Emmeline.

Feb 8: In loving memory of Dorothy and Harold Strassel, Harold Tissot and Roy Seese. Given by the family.

Feb 15: If you would like to honor or memorialize someone with beautiful flowers in our sanctuary, please call Dottie Bottomley at 508-746-0167.

Feb 22: In loving memory of Jean and Hector Patenaude. Given by the family, Jeanne, David, Jennifer and Naoki.

## ***Church Record***

On January 16, Pastor Helen conducted a memorial service in our sanctuary for Laura Sampson.

## ***Notes***

A note of thanks to Bill Converse for his amazing photographs of the Christmas Eve pageant. He was able to get some beautiful shots of those very active participants, and the pictures will serve to remind many of us of that magical performance. Thanks to him for his very special contribution to our church.

## ***From Your Member in Discernment for Ministry, Al Hoyt***

As part of my final semester at Andover Newton, I will be conducting an on-line survey of young people and their parents starting in February. The survey will be online, anonymous, and will hopefully lead to better understanding of how our young people view and participate (or don't) in their faith. Some of the questions will involve personal matters, but they are anonymous and have all been approved by the "Human Subject Research subcommittee" at Andover Newton. The questions for parents will be different from the questions for young people.

The more people that participate, the stronger the findings will be. If you are willing to participate, please email Al Hoyt at [aphoyt@verizon.net](mailto:aphoyt@verizon.net). When the survey begins I will send each young person and each parent a link. I will be sharing my findings with the church at the conclusion of the project in late April or early May.

## Deacon's Notes

It's hard to believe that Advent and the Christmas season of 2014 are now part of our memories. We were blessed to have had so many opportunities to attend various church services and activities during Advent that were well-planned and so very meaningful. A huge THANKS to all who helped plan and participate in these!



Lent will be quickly upon us this year. Ash Wednesday is on February 18 and there will be many opportunities for worship and fellowship between then and the celebration of Easter on April 5-

- February 18: Ash Wednesday Service, 7-7:30am in sanctuary and at 12 noon a "Bring a Bag Luncheon" informal service in The Marks Room at the John Robinson Center.
- February 26: Thursday, 7pm- First of three discussion opportunities on the book *Why? Making Sense of God's Will* by Adam Hamilton at the home of Dawn Durmis.
- March 4: Wednesday, 11am- Second opportunity for book discussion during the weekly Bible study group held in the JRC.
- March 11: Wednesday, 6pm- Simple supper and informal worship service in Allerton Hall.
- March 8 & 15: "Saints in Service Sundays"- A chance to sign up as a volunteer in the Deacon sponsored Ministry of Meals, Prayer Chain, and Visitation Committee outreach ministries.
- March 15: Sunday, following the worship service, third opportunity for book discussion.
- March 29: 8am, Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast in Allerton Hall.
- April 2: 7pm, Maundy Thursday Service with Communion in sanctuary.
- April 3: Good Friday - The Sanctuary open from 12pm-3pm for personal reflection and prayer.
- April 5: EASTER SUNDAY - 3 services
  - Sunrise Service - Cole's Hill
  - Family oriented pageant service in the Sanctuary - 9am
  - Traditional Easter Service in the Sanctuary- 11am

The Deacons continue to actively support our outreach ministries including a Ministry of Writing, a Ministry of Meals, the Visitation Committee, a Prayer Chain ([cotpprayers@gmail.com](mailto:cotpprayers@gmail.com)), and a Communion Ministry team who would be honored to serve communion to those of you who now find it difficult to attend church. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from any of these ministries, please let a deacon or the church office know.

We also want to remind our congregants that there are several hearing devices available from the Deacon-in-charge on Sunday mornings that may benefit those who are hearing impaired.

Hope you can find time to join us for all or some of our Lenten program and service offerings.

### ***Pancakes at the Farm-Heifer International***



On March 7, 8, 14 and 15 from 9am-1pm you are invited to tour the farm, visit the sugar house and enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast at the Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA. Admission for adults is \$12, children ages 3-10 is \$6 and children age two and under are free. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 508-886-2221. For more information go to [www.heifer.org/farm](http://www.heifer.org/farm) or [www.facebook.com/heifercenters](http://www.facebook.com/heifercenters).

***New Member Profiles***-Please say hello to our some of our newer members.

**Jackie Tauber** has lived in the Plymouth area for four years. She and her husband, Stu, moved here from Westwood, Massachusetts. Jackie is a life-long resident of Massachusetts having grown up in Mansfield. During her years in Mansfield, she attended the Congregational church.

Jackie has many hobbies, one of which is gardening. In this capacity she has enjoyed doing some work in the Memorial Garden. Wanting to get involved with the church, Jackie has volunteered with Monday Meals of Hospitality.

Jackie visited the Church of the Pilgrimage after being told about Pastor Helen, the marvelous choir, and the friendly congregation. Also important to Jackie was the strong historical aspect of the church.

For the future, Jackie hopes the church stands forever as a symbol of the Christian faith.



**Linda and Frank Montague** moved to Plymouth from Meriden, Connecticut upon retiring from their jobs. Linda was an executive secretary for Aetna, and Frank worked in telecommunications for AT&T. Frank comes from a Catholic background, and Linda comes from a UCC background. Linda and Frank have three children, Jason, Tyler and Kimberly and five grandchildren. Frank is into woodworking and is a handyman. Linda enjoys bird-watching, nurturing her many houseplants, the computer and her volunteer work.

Linda and Frank were invited to church by Diane Keller, and listed Pastor Helen and the choir as what they liked best about our church. When asked what hopes they have for our congregation, they expressed the hope that our church would continue to grow and interface with the larger community.

***Food Drive***

The date for our annual FOOD DRIVE will be Saturday, February 7 at the Stop & Shop (Standish Plaza) from 10am-2pm. As has been done the past 4 food drives, we set our tables outside and hope that the weather is more seasonable! We have collected tons of goods over the years and that adds up to several hundred meals for those in need. Drivers with pick-up trucks or mini-vans are requested to help bring the food up to the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse, located in the industrial park, immediately after the food drive. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Ann Motyka, at [plyrock47@comcast.net](mailto:plyrock47@comcast.net).

WHOLE CHURCH

# BLANKET MAKING SUNDAY



For those of you who are new to Blanket Month, every February for the past several years, the Sunday School has spent the month making blankets for Project Linus, a non-profit group that collects homemade blankets to distribute to children in need, some with chronic or life threatening illness, some with heavy hearts following natural disasters, some being taken out of difficult home situations.

Inspired by a teenager in the Midwest who organized her church to spend an entire Saturday making blankets, this year we are kicking off Blanket Month with a potluck lunch and an afternoon of blanket making for the whole church. Come join the fun! Here's the important info:

1. Sunday February 8, 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
2. Join Debby Porter's Potluck team: consider making a pot of soup (for 10) or a plate of sandwiches (10 please). Call 774-283-3373 or debp\_50@yahoo.com
3. Bring a yard or two of fleece for simple tied blankets or a few yards of flannels for quilts. We make blankets for premies through adolescents, boys and girls so keep that in mind when choosing fabrics. New fabric only.
4. Are you quilter or a sew-er? Bring your machine and any other equipment you have that will help us in our work. Fabric scissors are especially welcome!
5. RSVP so we have a head count for lunch. jennycotp@gmail or 508-747-7168

NO SEWING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



## *The Church of the Pilgrimage February 2015 Calendar Events*

- Feb 1: Worship, 10am.  
Children's Communion and Love Feast in Allerton Hall after Children's Blessing.  
Youth Coffee and Conversation, after worship, youth room.
- Feb 2: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Feb 4: Bible Study, 11am, Marks Room.  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Feb 5: Board of Christian Ed. Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Feb 7: Food Drive, 10am-2pm, Stop & Shop (Standish Plaza).
- Feb 8: Worship, 10am/Boy Scout Sunday.  
Blanket Making Sunday: An Intergenerational Potluck, 11:30am-3:30pm, Allerton Hall.  
Membership & Evangelism Committee Meeting, after worship, Marks Room.
- Feb 9: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Feb 10: Church Council Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Feb 11: Nominating Committee Meeting, 8:30am, Steve Triffletti's Office.  
Bible Study, 11am, Marks Room.  
Music Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Stewart Room.  
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Feb 12: Missions Committee Meeting, 7:15pm, Marks Room.
- Feb 14: Happy Valentine's Day ♥
- Feb 15: Worship, 10am with a baptism.  
Adult Ed. presents a "talk-back" on Parables in Allerton Hall after coffee hour.  
*Overnights of Hospitality* starts today and ends the morning of February 22.
- Feb 16: Presidents' Day, Church Office Closed.  
Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Feb 18: Ash Wednesday, morning service 7-7:30am, sanctuary.  
Ash Wednesday, afternoon opportunity, noon, Marks Room.  
Youth Group Trip to Common Art, Boston.
- Feb 22: First Sunday in Lent, Worship 10am.
- Feb 23: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Feb 24: Board of Deacons Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Feb 25: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Feb 26: Adult Ed. Book Discussion on *Why*, 7pm  
at the home of Dawn Durmis.





THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
8 TOWN SQUARE,  
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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.

## Super Saturday registration now open!

**March 21, 8:00 AM - 3:45 PM - Ludlow High School, Ludlow, MA**

Super Saturdays have been held twice a year since fall, 2009, making this the tenth Super Saturday. This spring's event will be the biggest yet, with more workshops than have ever been offered before. Register early to reserve your spot!

The day will feature The Rev. Ruben Duran, Program Director for New Congregations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who will speak in the morning on Church for the Life of the World. He is responsible for promoting the development of area strategies, local initiatives and emerging models for the multiplication of new communities of faith in the USA and the Caribbean.

**Cost: \$54 per person, or \$44 per person in church groups of 5 or more who register at the same time.**