



The Pilgrimage Herald

www.8townsquare.org
office@8townsquare.org

Church Office
Phone: 508-746-3026
FAX 508-746-4362



The Church of the Pilgrimage
Congregational-UCC
8 Town Square
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

The Rev Dr. Helen Nablo, Pastor
helennablo@8townsquare.org

Rev. Gary L. Marks
Pastor Emeritus

Volume LXXXIV No. 1 Office Hours: Monday –Friday 10am-4pm January 2015

From Our Pastor

A new year!

I haven't yet thought of a "resolution," though I have a few for the other side of Christmas. I am planning to relish those end-of-the-year quieter days. Staying in PJs for a whole morning. Making a big event out of breakfast. Taking a little more time to look my loved ones in the eye. A nap or two!

It doesn't sound very ambitious, but it is. I am planning on changing the pace.

For the new year, the idea that comes to me is listening. I want to be about (and I want our church to be about) listening for the Spirit moving in our midst.

Scripture testifies that the Spirit comes often as disturbance. Agitation. Not for the sake just of stirring up, but for the sake of change. In Advent this year, a few of my sermons got, shall we say, a stronger reaction than usual. Those sermons touched upon the prophetic, matters of social justice. They touched upon events of late that people have strong feelings about.

There have been many thoughtful e-mails. It has taken a while to respond to them, each one a little different. I guess I am like most ministers who are glad to know people aren't sleeping through their sermons. I am probably also like most ministers who don't like to think about people being upset. It's been an exciting and demanding time.

I am hoping, however, we can take it a little deeper --that we can be in conversation with one another. We have a model for this in the conversations we had after church this Fall. Simple circles where each person has a turn to speak. We sit, and we listen. There isn't as much conversation, as in back and forth, as there is space to hear each other. Because we all have different experiences that shape our different perspectives.

This kind of discourse, a deep listening kind of communication, is something that is badly needed in our society. We have to find ways to get beyond the polarization, and the unfair categorization of one another. To do so is itself a faith statement, a way to live out our belief "that whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

I was once at a church where someone described church as people who pretty much think alike. "Like minded people" she said. I don't want or need to be part of a church like that.

From Our Moderator, Bob Taylor

On January 10, 2015, we will be holding our annual Church Retreat. It will start at 9am and finish at 1pm. A simple lunch will be served. We will be celebrating the accomplishments of 2014 and discussing our plans for 2015. We expect many Council, Board and Committee members to attend, but everyone is invited. Look for more information in the weekly bulletin as the date approaches.

In fact, it seems decidedly unrealistic, and un-gospel-like to me.

As you will see in an article on Adult Education in this Herald, we are moving towards having more “sermon talk backs” as part of our adult education offerings. On the 11th, we will have one that concerns parables and their meanings. Another day that makes sense for such a “sermon talk back” is the very next Sunday, Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. In my sermon that day I will be wrestling with what King’s message for today might be. Then I will ask you to “continue the sermon” by hearing each other reflect and respond in a post-worship gathering.

We are just finishing up a season of waiting. A season where Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the magi all listened, listened for God. May we do the same in this New Year. May we learn to listen well – with humble hearts - and so witness to God’s lively presence in our midst.

Grace and peace,
Helen

Adult Education group planning for the new year!

The adult education group is busy planning new offerings for 2015. On January 11th, Peter Causton will give an interesting talk on “Parables” during the Service. There will be an opportunity for a “talk back” discussion with Peter after coffee hour. We are also busy choosing a book for our next Book Discussion, which will start in the next few weeks. More information will be coming very soon!

Plans are also underway for two very special offerings this Spring—a presentation on “The UCC: Its Basic Tenents and History” and another Church Retreat! Stay tuned for details! We are always interested in learning the educational offerings you would most like; please let us know your thoughts and ideas!

Val Baumann, Chair of Adult Education Group.

News from the Membership and Evangelism Committee

Our sanctuary magically transformed into a beautiful display of nativities on the evening of December 5th. Coupled with Plymouth’s annual tree lighting in front of our church, we hosted hundreds of families who viewed 36 special nativities artistically presented throughout the sanctuary, then enjoyed hot dogs, hot chocolate and a plethora of cookies donated by our church members.

The Membership and Evangelism Committee members worked tirelessly to design, advertise, collect nativities, set up, label, greet, cook, serve, and repackage nativities at the end of the evening. I’d like to especially thank the following fabulous workers (many who are not even on the committee):

- Peggy Jewett who coordinated and cataloged the nativities, established a computerized system, and printed cards describing the significance of each nativity;
- Pat & Tom Mudgett and Gloria Souza for shopping, cooking and serving food in Allerton Hall;
- Bill and Diane Harting for setting up display boards and nativities and staying throughout the evening to greet visitors;
- Frank Roberts for helping as needed in both the morning and evening;
- Nancy Reed for greeting visitors in the sanctuary and telling them a little about our church;

- Diane Keller, Zebbie Mathis, Genie Roberts, and Julia Blomberg who helped as needed throughout;
- Our church members who donated delicious cookies and brownies for our guests; and
- Everyone who lent us their precious nativity for the evening.

Thank you to all who helped make this evening a success. We look forward to an even larger display next year. Since the town tree lighting is always early in December, you might want to store your nativity where it is easily accessible. It would be great to display at least 50 nativities in 2015!

Stewardship: Coming Together in His Name

It's hard to believe I'm beginning my fifth year on the Stewardship Committee. The past four years have seen many changes not only in the life of our Church, but in my personal life also. Though I often feel overwhelmed, I truly believe that my stewardship work has helped to fill the void left after Mert's illness and death.

We are all so fortunate to have this wonderful Church in our lives and there is definitely something to be said for the feeling we get when we turn to greet each other every Sunday morning. I'm always amazed at how many people have arrived since I first sat down. I love the sound of all the joy filled voices and I think

it's an excellent way to start our service. As we return to our seats I'm always reminded of Christ's words telling us that whenever we come together in His name, He is there with us. He's in the faces and voices of the choir, in the eyes of the children, in the sacred words from the pulpit. He's in the voices of our joys and concerns and in the private prayers we silently offer. I can even feel His presence when we head down to coffee hour. Maybe that's why some of us linger longer than we anticipated. We want to fill ourselves with God's grace before we head back out into the imperfect world we all live in.

Though I am writing this the week before Christmas I am confident that by the time you are reading it the remaining pledges I have been expecting will have come in and we will be on our way to funding the 2015 operating budget. If you want to pledge but have not yet done so please see me, call the Church office or pick up a pledge card on the small table in the upper vestibule.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, a Business Meeting will be held on January 25, 2015, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To approve, subject to amendment, the 2015 Budget of the Church
2. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take any action thereto
3. To hear the results of the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study
4. To vote on whether to proceed with a Capital Campaign

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



Clerk

Thank you for your past and present dedication to our beloved Church of the Pilgrimage,

Nancy E Reed, Stewardship Chair

News from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met on December 3rd. We reviewed the vacancies on various boards and committees. Presently, there are openings on all committees with the exception of Membership & Evangelism. We thank those who have served on a board or committee and have completed their terms. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at Steve Triffletti's office at 8:30am.

It's a New Year...and confirmation class begins!

Our new two-year process is officially starting on Sunday, January 4th. That morning confirmation class will start with a breakfast in the Mark's conference room from 8:45 am to 9:45 am. Both confirmands and their mentors are invited. This will be a time to get to know each other, hear a bit more about class, and converse – each student with their mentor. In worship that day the confirmands will receive bibles, and we'll have a blessing for the class.

Students are Ryan Anderson, Katrina Bingham- Maas, Hannah Blais, Will Healy, and James Richards. Mentors are Trace Sears, Janet Synnott, Marylyn Colburn, Tony Cotta and Lynnette Lancaster.

Burglar Alarms

The Board of Trustees is putting out an appeal to please be diligent when alarming either the church building or the John Robinson Center. Before setting the alarm, please check ALL doors to make sure they are secure and locked. We have had several alarms lately and each one is now costing us \$75. This will be charged to your committee if it is a direct result of a function or meeting by your committee. Instructions for setting the alarm are posted by the alarm. If you have additional questions, please call the church office.

Guild News

Our Christmas Tea was a lively success, and as is our custom, gifts were abundantly collected for The Salvation Army Teenagers. Diane Flood delivered them, and they were gratefully received by the Salvation Army Lieutenants. We then welcomed our program speaker, Reverend Rosemary Peters, who passionately studies and projects the personas of women in the Bible. Reverend Peters presented an illuminating contrast to the personality, attitude, and perspective of Mary and Martha, inspiring us all to attain a balance in our own lives. Reverend Peters enjoyable enactments enriched our Christmas experience.

Our November Bake Sale was a huge success with a profit over six hundred dollars which will be put to good use as we support our various charities. My thanks to all who made it successful, both bakers and buyers. Also, our cookbook has been a popular hit with 200 copies sold. We have profited well with more available to sell throughout the New Year.

Robinson Kitchen News Flash! Diana Budge delivered exciting news that we are finally ready to proceed with the installation of an oven! HURRAY! Many thanks to all who have helped us exceed our initial fundraising goal of \$20,000. We are grateful for everyone's support and encouragement. We would also like to acknowledge two recent contributions for \$100. donated by Arlene Axford for Janie Chapman's collation, and \$100 in donations from our Thanksgiving Day Open house.

We will be taking a winter break in January and February due to the unpredictability of Mother Nature during these months. We would rather be safe than sorry, and avoid any potential mishaps. We will convene on Friday, March 13, 2015 for a "Journey to Japan." I am looking forward to seeing all of you then.

Jane Dolan, Guild President

Robinson Kitchen News

We have met with a contractor for his recommendations on equipment price and placement in the space we have. Tom Mudgett has been our contact person and will continue to keep us updated as we go along. I think we are finally on our way. Diana Budge

Martin Luther King Day of Service

Registrations are beginning now for the first annual Martin Luther King Jr Day of service, when youth and adults will join together to offer helping hands in honor of King, who said life's meaning was to be found in service.

Here's the details: The day goes from 9:30 am to 1 pm. We meet at Zion Lutheran church in North Plymouth. There are various options for service, with the majority of people taking part in a food packaging effort. We hope to package as many as 48,000 meals that are nutritionally sound and will feed local families on the south shore. After the service component, we gather for a simple lunch. We will remember King by listening to his words and by offering reflections on the day.

There is a registration form available both on the Facebook page "Plymouth Youth in Action" and also on our own church website. There is a nominal cost of five dollars to offset the food to be packaged and the lunch.

Coming together....Serving...Remembering....Young and old together. Don't miss it!

Notes

From Mellicent Drake's daughter: I want to thank all who made my mother's memorial service so special. The outpouring of love was so evident by all. Thank you to the choir members and kitchen workers who gave of their time on a busy Saturday. The refreshments were plentiful and delicious! I feel blessed to have been surrounded with such love and support by such good people. Sincerely, Cynthia Drake Walsh

From Carol Johnson: Thank you to all who provided cards, food and prayers. I am doing much better and hope to be back to church soon.

From the Budge Family: Many thanks to all who helped out with the Thanksgiving Open House at the church. It was much appreciated by our many visitors. A great opportunity to showcase our wonderful church and meet people from all over the world. Thanks to the helpers, the greeters and the bakers. We could not make it happen without you.

From Diana Budge: My thanks to those who stepped up to make the collation for Janie Chapman possible. It went very well and we were honored to be able to make it a reality for her family and friends. Arlene Axford very generously made a contribution to the kitchen fund in her memory which we appreciate.

Opiate Support Group

If you have a son, daughter or grandchild that is struggling with opiate addiction, there is a weekly support group that is beginning in January at the hospital. Contact Emily Davern (508) 746-8590 ext. 5216.

Snow Cancellations

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

Missions Not Impossible

Missions Growing Pains

- Overnights of Hospitality attendance--Winter 2013/2014 often saw a **43% increase** in attendance over the previous year (from 14 – 20 men) at our Overnights of Hospitality. It is too soon to predict what the 2014/2015 season will bring, but we want to be prepared.
- A security guard for the Overnights--After a first week trial, it was decided to continue using a security guard during our Overnights. The whole church seems to feel more comfortable with this arrangement. The Missions Committee will consider funding feasibility for this in January.

Realignment of Missions spending

UCC's "Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)". Presently Missions contributes 50% of Missions collected money to OCWM. Beginning in January, we'll keep contributing 25% to OCWM, but the other 25% will now be used for local needs, such as the Overnights and Monday meals.

Financial Picture

Missions Contributions

- to Pastor Helen for use in the Martin Luther Day of Service in January.
- to ASAPROSAR*** in January
- has been wired to help fund the education of Grace Jesca in Kenya.
- to Habitat for Humanity.

Missions Receipts

It was noted that the Alternative Christmas Fair is not a great source of funding for the Missions Committee, but the intent is really to benefit others, such as Heifer, SERRV artisans, etc.

Future

2015 Missions meetings will be held in the evening of the second Thursday of each month. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining the committee, please speak up! We'll welcome your participation.

Overnights of Hospitality: A separate committee is being formed to handle administration of the specialized and complex needs of the Overnights. This committee will be apart from, but will liaison with, the Missions Committee. The need for Overnights volunteers will remain the same, but this committee will work to streamline Overnights, making it easy and comfortable for all who volunteer.

Prisons: Sarah Barnicle is investigating the future possibility of outreach to prisons.

***** From the ASAPROSAR website:** The mission of ASAPROSAR is to "Improve the quality of life for the neediest families of El Salvador through integration and linking of programs to meet the fundamental needs of sanitation, environment, education, culture, economics and health. Priority is given to children, youth and women of the rural areas and marginalized urban settings."

ASAPROSAR is dedicated to empowering the poor. We listen to each community's needs, identify leaders, and train these leaders... The leaders then educate their communities.

December and January Flowers

December 7: In loving memory of deceased Guild Members. Given by the Guild.

December 14: Communion table flowers in loving memory of Ernie Santos, Esther Surrey and loved ones. Given by Sandi Mann Santos and family. The flowers on the right side in loving memory of John Robinson. Given by Marie Robinson.

December 21: Christmas Poinsettias in memory of loved ones.

December 28: Christmas Poinsettias in memory of loved ones.

January 4: In loving memory of Mahlon and Rae Walker and Marion Nickerson Walker. Given by the family.

January 11: In loving memory of John Robinson. Given by his wife, Marie.

January 18: In loving memory of Howard F. Livingstone. Given by his daughters, Jean Douglas and Ann Fontes.

January 25: Open Date-Call Joyce at 508-746-1077.

Feasibility Study

The Feasibility Study for our potential capital campaign has been completed and as I write this update our consultant, Reverend Bill VanderWyden, is writing our final report. Pastor Helen, Bob Taylor (our Moderator) and I have had a conference call with Bill to review the highlights of what will appear in the report. In early January, the chairs of the Board of Trustees and several members of the Church Council will meet to review the report in order to make a recommendation to the church members for a vote on whether to proceed with a capital campaign. A letter will then be sent to all church members which will provide the recommendation being voted on at the annual budget meeting to be held on Sunday, January 25th, 2015 after worship. Please mark this date on your calendar and make every effort to be present to hear our plea for the major work that is necessary to restore our sanctuary. In the meantime, Tom Mudgett will continue to offer brief tours of the sanctuary after Sunday worship so that you can see first hand the tremendous amount of work that is needed. Please find Tom in Allerton Hall during coffee hour. There are also two poster boards in Allerton Hall with pictures and descriptions of just some of the major areas that have been damaged. Have a healthy and happy New Year! Don Reinhardt, Feasibility Study Chair.

Monday Meals of Hospitality

We thank all of the volunteers who came together to help in so many ways during the month of December. On December 15th, we again welcomed students from the Marshfield High POST program (Providing Opportunity for Student Transition), led by Travis DuPris, grandson of Rosalee and Paul Sinn, who presented a delightful program of Christmas songs. The students also pitched in to help serve.

As this issue of the Herald goes to press, preparations are underway for our dinner on Christmas Day. T-Bones Roadhouse Restaurant is again planning to provide a turkey and ham dinner. We thank Collin Wilcox (Owner), Elliot Botsolis (Chef), and Kevin Radke (Manager), for their generosity of time and spirit. Elliot and his team, including his son, will go in at 7:00am to prepare and then deliver two heavy containers of hot scrumptious food up the hill to Allerton Hall. What a wonderful gift.

We are also looking forward to seeing all the decorations and cards now being prepared by the Church School. Their creativity always adds the perfect touch to the spirit of the occasion. Last year, some 60 or so guests came to the meal, along with 19 volunteers. We'll see what happens this year. Volunteers from our church, the Salvation Army, and other towns, including Marshfield, Sagamore, and Duxbury, are on board to help out, and several are bringing in their special family dishes.

Al Hoyt will bring his homemade, magical turkey soup on the last Monday of the month. And, Debbie Porter is concocting a special pasta, turkey, cheesy, mystery ----- sounds delicious ---- casserole to accompany it; -----so, we expect to keep our guests well fed right up to the end of the year. We'll be ready for 2015 when it comes.

News from our Director of Christian Ed, Jenny Healy

Happy New Year! What a trip we had to see Black Nativity! The music and singing was uplifting, Mary's dance was powerful (I haven't the words to describe it, just go see it next year!) And then to get to walk around downtown crossing looking in the windows under a gentle snowfall. An unanticipated highlight of the whole trip came in pointing out the places we worked or visited these past two summers for Local Youth, Local Mission: the fountain at the Park Street station where we handed out sandwiches, the store that donated them, the street where Boston Rescue Mission is located, places we saw with Carl MacDonald who runs the program, our stop on the red line in Wollaston. We are building something here, something good and healthy and strong. Thank you to the families who sent their young people (against their will or otherwise), and thank you to Doug Trask, Hannah Woodbury and Kelly Danner for being our chaperones. Takes a village!

You'll have to wait until next month to see pageant pictures, but here are a few from practice. A last minute casting change for the role of Mary went smoothly, the sheep were heavily into character and Pastor Helen provided much good advice and some needed comic relief in her overtired state! Our parents were patient as were the entire cast, a much-appreciated trait on rehearsal day when we are figuring out some new parts. And thank you God for Trace, my detail man!

Here are a few events to put on your calendars this month:

January 4: Mentors and confirmands meet for breakfast before church then go to church together afterwards.

January 4: Coffee and Conversation for youth, after church.

January 17: MLK, Jr. Day of Service at the Lutheran Church.

January 18: Sunday School prepares a meal for Monday Meals of Hospitality.



Memorial Garden Repairs

In October, the Board of Trustees became aware that a portion of the Memorial Garden fencing (located along the driveway at the rear of the Sanctuary) had been destroyed or damaged. Since inclusion of the fencing is included in the restoration and repair plan, Roy Mathis and Tom Mudgett were tasked with temporary repairs. For safety reasons a temporary fencing has been installed at the damaged area (photo below). During the process attention was also made to the damaged (cracks in asphalt covered walkway—see under fencing).

Upon closer inspection of the garden section, serious damage to the embankment retaining wall (mostly stacked large rocks) was discovered. Further extensive damage exist was noted along the length of the Memorial Garden (along School Street).

Roy and Tom worked with the Plymouth Department of Public Works to determine cause(s) of the embankment damages. Town Engineering felt recent severe water damage along School Street was the cause. The Town agreed to make appropriate repairs as part of the total planned School Street repairs project. Accordingly, the Town Highway Department installed a temporary retaining wall (also shown below) with further repairs as part of next year.



New retaining wall.



Damaged fencing.



Repaired walkway.



Top of retaining wall.

Church Record

On November 29, Pastor Helen conducted a funeral service in our sanctuary for Janie Chapman.

On November 29, Pastor Helen performed a wedding ceremony in our sanctuary for Shannon Carlson and Scott Sorenson.

On December 2, Rev. Dr. Rosemary MacKay conducted a funeral service in our sanctuary for Sandra Corbett.

On December 8, Pastor Helen conducted a memorial service in our sanctuary for Mary Harris.

On December 13, Pastor Helen conducted a memorial service in our sanctuary for Mellicent Drake.

On December 20, Pastor Helen conducted a memorial service in our sanctuary for Douglas Edwards.

On December 21, Pastor Helen baptized Liam Michael Lindsay, son of Susan (Gedutis) & Stephen Lindsay and Adeline Marie Whipple, daughter of Heidi (Robinson) & Jason Whipple, and great-granddaughter of Marie Robinson.

The Church of the Pilgrimage January 2015 Calendar Events

- Jan 1: Happy New Year!
- Jan 4: Intergenerational Epiphany Celebration with Blessing of Confirmands.
Coffee and Conversations, after worship, youth room.
- Jan 5: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Jan 7: Nominating Committee Meeting, 8:30am, Steve Triffletti's office.
Bible Study, 11am, Marks Room.
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Sanctuary.
- Jan 8: Missions Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Jan 10: Leadership Retreat, 9-1, Allerton Hall.
- Jan 11: Worship, 10am, Sanctuary.
Membership and Evangelism Committee Meeting, after worship, Marks Room.
- Jan 12: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Jan 13: Church Council Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Jan 14: Bible Study, 11am, Marks Room.
Music Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Marks Room.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
- Jan 16: Memorial Service for Laura Sampson, 11am, Sanctuary.
- Jan 17: MLK Jr. Day of Service, Zion Lutheran.
- Jan 18-25: Overnights of Hospitality, Allerton Hall.
- Jan 18: Worship, 10am, Sanctuary.
Sunday School prepares Monday Meal.
- Jan 19: MLK Jr. Day, Office Closed.
MLK Worship Service, Bethel AME, 4pm.
- Jan 19: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Jan 20: Board of Deacons Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Jan 21: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
- Jan 25: Worship, 10am, Sanctuary.
BUDGET MEETING, following worship, Sanctuary.
- Jan 26: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Jan 28: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.



PLYMOUTH YOUTH IN ACTION

and the PLYMOUTH AREA INTERFAITH CLERGY ASSOCIATION invite you to

THE 1st ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH
9:30am to 1:00pm Zion Lutheran Church**

Come and join us for a day of addressing food scarcity in our local area. Participants will pack nutrition dense meals for families in need, and then share a meal and remembrance of the work and vision of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

How do I sign up? Find a registration form on our Facebook Page, *Plymouth Youth in Action* OR ask for a registration form to be sent to you by calling the number below. There is a \$5 fee for the event, which includes lunch. Scholarships are available for families with more than one participant.

Questions? Call 508-746-3026

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for other?’” MLK Jr.



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
8 TOWN SQUARE,
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

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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.

EPIPHANY CONCERT

...with church choirs from across the South Shore!

Sunday, January 4th

1:00 pm

A United Church of Christ, Norwell
and North Street, Norwell
www.uccnorwell.org



Creating
just for all!

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