



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. 3 Office Hours: Monday –Friday 10am-4pm March 2015

From Our Pastor

This afternoon I received an email that one of our sister churches, Old South Congregational Church in Weymouth, had a section of their roof cave in. It was in the area that houses a preschool, and fortunately everyone was home for the day, so no one was hurt.

The snow has been such a hassle. The snow has been scary dangerous. We will remember this winter for years to come: the year of the epic snow.

But driving home this evening, I saw gorgeous backlit clouds in pink and gray. In that very moment, I noticed the time on my dashboard. It was still light out, and it was quarter to six! The radio was saying a big wind chill factor tonight, but the sky looked different, the air felt different....maybe just a bit like spring.

It is coming. Really. And when it does, we will wrap our arms around it and embrace it like mad fools. Like a shepherd who searches for a lost sheep, like a woman who searches for a lost coin, like a father who welcomes the prodigal home we will rejoice and be glad.

Our faith teaches us that part of the spiritual life is waiting. Waiting for this time to lift, for a new time to come. Our faith teaches us that this present moment is not the final moment. We will not be forever achy from shoveling snow. Flowers lie beneath. We will plant vegetable gardens again. We will go barefoot again. Sit on backyard decks again.

I know the resurrection has significance beyond the coming of Spring. But this year I think that meaning will be precious to us indeed.

I want to thank you for your kindness to me during this time of my mother's death. My mother was a real rock for me, so her loss changes my world. Over the last few weeks I have received many notes and cards from all of you. I know that many of you have walked this road. And one of the things you say is that in time, the loss will feel less heavy, the memories even more precious and sweet. And I do believe you know of what you speak.

Sometimes when I would be talking with my mom about some struggle, frustration, or disappointment, she'd pause and say "Oh Well." Then she'd ask me about something coming up. Something on the horizon. She'd encourage me to lift my eyes from this present distress. She was like that -- an Easter kind of Mom.

Helen

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

Membership & Evangelism News

Bring a Friend to Church this Spring! How do we attract visitors to our church? And how do we make them feel comfortable once inside? This is an on-going challenge for all of us. Informal discussions with new members have provided us with a variety of reasons why visitors enter our doors...a child's baptism, Christmas or Easter service, a desire to "find God" after an absence from church, an attempt to establish friends after moving to a new town, but the most frequent reply is that, **someone invited them**. And, we are told that individuals return because members of our congregation are friendly, open and accepting, and our pastor and choir are terrific. It seems too easy!

So why aren't our pews overflowing with people every Sunday? This Spring, let's challenge ourselves to invite at least one neighbor or friend to experience the joy of worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage. And after worship, remember to invite your guest to coffee hour. Please make sharing our wonderful church life everyone's job.

Ellie Reinhardt, Chair of the Membership & Evangelism Committee

Stewardship & Snow by Nancy Reed

As I sit down to write this article I am surrounded by five windows, three in front of me and one on each side. I usually enjoy the view, but today all I can see is ice and snow caked on the outside of each window. It reminds me of a recent post on my daughter's Facebook page. With an eight-foot snow drift covering the entire front of her unit, she was trapped in her apartment for a day and a half before a Good Samaritan dug a path to her front door. Once she was able to get outside she posted a picture of her home and added a comment: "I wish Mother Nature and Old Man Winter would work out their relationship issues." I couldn't agree more. Enough is enough.



From a stewardship perspective I "have issues" with these two characters also. I worry that many of our members and friends may be incurring all sorts of unexpected expenses as we continue to see new snow day after day. With one Sunday service already cancelled and parking and access difficult for many of us, I am also concerned about the effect on pledges and offerings. I don't want to see us get behind so early in the year.

But then I remember who Mother Nature and Old Man Winter really are. This isn't the first time we have experienced such severe weather and it won't be the last. Looking back to the tragic loss of life during the Pilgrims' first winter we are reminded of the generations of stewards who came before us. In circumstances much harsher than we can imagine, their pilgrimage continued and so will ours.

God Bless the good stewards of our beloved Church of the Pilgrimage.

From the Moderator-Bob Taylor

I felt this Congregation was at its best during last month's Budget Meeting. Everyone approached the Capital Campaign questions in a constructive manner. Don Reinhardt gave a clear and thorough report of the feasibility study results. The questions were clear and to the point. The unanimous vote to proceed with a capital campaign showed our commitment to our beloved church. It will be a busy but very exciting next few months. I look forward to it.

Guild News

The Guild will be returning to our schedule after Winter Break. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, March 13, 2015 at 1pm in Allerton Hall. Marianne Baird, a retired Plymouth middle school teacher will speak to us about her trip to Japan. Marianne will be concentrating on Southern Japan, speaking to us about their culture, the scenic beauty, and her longtime personal relationship with a family whom she befriended in Japan. The household head of that Japanese family is a professor who found his inspiration in Oberlin College, and he engaged himself in establishing Oberlin College in Japan. With all our harsh winter weather, a journey to Japan sounds very refreshing. As is our custom, we would like to extend an open invitation to all who would like to attend our program which will be followed by a lovely tea. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday, March 13 at 1pm.

Jane Dolan, Guild President

News from our Director of Christian Ed, Jenny Healy

This may go on record as the longest February in history. When I made a call today to make an appointment, I experienced a little internal leap for joy to see how close we are to- of all things- March! This crazy weather put us a little bit behind in the blanket making, but by the time you read this, I'm sure that we will have made up for lost time. Seeing those beautiful blankets draped around the sanctuary always fills my heart. Below are a few photos from our first annual potluck and blanket making event- a huge success, even with a small crowd. In one afternoon, we made over thirty blankets!

Lent kits: I have assembled kits for Lent, one per family, which include suggested spiritual practices and activities and a few items to help you along the way. You can find them on the table in the upper vestibule of the church or the church office throughout Lent. Don't feel as though because you missed a week or two (or more), you shouldn't bother; it is easy to pick up wherever we are. And if your schedule makes it hard for you to get to church on Sundays, swing by the church office and pick one up.

In other news, Coffee and Conversation with the teenagers has been well attended. We really have a great group of young people, don't we? Unfortunately, due to the weather related troubles of the mass transit system, we had to cancel our trip to Common Art, a program that kids were really looking forward to. Hopefully we'll be able to find another time for that.

March 1 Blanket Sunday! Join us in the sanctuary as we display and bless the blankets. Also, Coffee and Conversation for youth 8-12th grade in the youth room.

March 6-7 Confirmation Retreat at Craigville (theme of Encountering and Embodying): this is coming up quickly, get your paperwork in! See Jenny or Helen with questions or concerns.

March 8 Teachers' Meeting in 3-5 grade classroom, 11:30 -12:30.

March 14 GAME NIGHT (see insert for details!)

Look for pageant sign ups mid-March!



Capital Campaign by Don Reinhardt

As most of you know by now, on January 25th at the Annual Meeting, the congregation unanimously passed the motion to proceed with a capital campaign to fund the repair and restoration projects as outlined by the Trustees. The campaign goal is two-tiered: \$700,000 to fund the repair and restoration projects and an “ultimate goal” of \$991,000 to fund the repair and restoration projects plus install an elevator and air conditioning in the sanctuary. We know that with God’s help and as hardy and “hearty” New Englanders, we have in our genes the ability to do practically anything. I hope you’ll join us in setting our sights high to accomplish everything we need to do to take us to 2020 and beyond.

I’m delighted to announce that your Capital Campaign Committee has been formed and is eager to get started. Each of these Chairs will be building their team over the next few weeks in order to complete their tasks as outlined by our consultant, Reverend Bill VanderWyden.

Here’s the team:

Campaign Chair: Don Reinhardt

Lead Gifts Chair: Bob Taylor

Printed Materials Chair: Doug Post

Publicity Chair: David Baier

Pre-Decision Parties Chair: Val Baumann

Caring Callers Chair: Linn Peterson

Correspondence Chair: Rosa Cook

Continuity Chair: Frank Roberts

Pastor Helen: Ex-officio

Additionally, an adjunct team of folks will be mobilized to research and write proposals to various local and state funding organizations who may be willing to provide grants for our projects. We will keep you apprised of their progress as we proceed through the campaign.

The campaign begins on March 5th, which will be the training session for the campaign committee conducted by Pastor Bill. Following the training, a timeline will be established that will guide the committee through the process culminating with a “Decision Sunday” event to wrap up the campaign on June 21st. As was announced at the Annual Meeting, the Trustees graciously approved the first \$100,000 spent for work on the roof, electrical, heating and attic insulation which were funded from some of the proceeds from the Marjorie Belcher funds. So, thanks to your Trustees, we’re off and running on a very positive note. Stay tuned as we continue God’s work to restore our building and build our faith!

Spotlight on Wilhelmina (Billie) Courtney



Billie Courtney was born in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. She grew up in a small village of about 100 people. The land was settled by her great-great grandfather who was given the grant of land by King George III and her grandfather named it Chance Harbor. To this day, everyone there is related to Billie.

Born a Baptist, Billie became a Congregationalist when she moved to Plymouth in 1939. She joined The Church of the Pilgrimage when she was 16. She got married and was at the Chiltonville Congregational church for quite a while. At 40 years of age Billie came back to The Church of the Pilgrimage. She had 3 children, 2 of which live in Manomet and one passed away. Billie loves the church and the way it is headed. She loves the people and everything about our faith community.

Missions Minute

OVERNIGHTS OF HOSPITALITY

Our 2014-2015 commitment to the Overnights of Hospitality ended on February 21, 2015. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who helped provide food, shelter, and friendship during our most recent Overnights of Hospitality week! Many intrepid souls volunteered to keep the shelter open during the dangerous cold and driving snow. Food appeared like manna from heaven from our



angels. (You know who you are!) The Rotary Sunrise Club cheerfully provided a full turkey dinner for 15 homeless men on February 18 (see photo). Thanks to all who prepared, cooked, served and cleaned up such a delicious meal with such positive and cheery spirit. Thanks also to those who sacrificed a good night's sleep to make our shelter welcoming and safe for our homeless guests.

AND A LETTER OF THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH'S SUPPORT OF STUDENT GRACE JESCA IN KENYA

Thanks very much for the fees that you send for Grace. The money will cover everything for the year 2015. A thank you for the church committee and other friends of yours who are helping us in the village lets pray for Grace so that in 2016 after form four, she may have good results and go to college, get employed and help others in the village.

I wish you a happy new year 2015, Mama Grace Jerusa.

There will be a special collection for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** on Sunday, March 15.

Here is some information from the UCC website to explain the collection and its use:

What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in 138 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Eight Christian denominations - American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service work together. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise about \$12 million each year.

How many dollars are given to the UCC's OGHS offering?

In 2013, the OGHS offering reached \$2,478,536. An additional \$720 thousand was received to

support specific disaster relief initiatives. Nearly seventy percent of UCC congregations participate annually.

What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 91 cents is used directly for mission programming; 5 cents for interpretation materials and 4 cents for administrative costs which include program monitoring and evaluation (for accountability). Most administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support and endowment funds.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

Deacon's Notes

The season of Lent is upon us and the church has many activities and services planned which we hope will offer something for everyone regardless of where you are on your own faith journey.

The Deacons spend time at every meeting reviewing and evaluating each of our "mini-ministries." Although these ministries are alive and well, we know that, with a little more commitment from the congregation, they can surpass their current levels of success and truly become church wide ministries.

For many folks, Lent is a period of time when "giving up" something is an important part of their Lenten experience. Perhaps "giving of" yourself and a few minutes of your time throughout the entire year would be a wonderful extension of Christ's ministry.

Two of our mini-ministries in particular would blossom and greatly benefit from your added support. The Ministry of Meals and the Visitation Ministry are both dependent on the "giving to others" attitude for which our church is known.

Those involved in the Visitation Ministry try to visit our church family members who cannot physically get to our services on a regular basis. This ministry is usually a once a month commitment of time and those who participate often feel that they are the ones receiving a blessing.

The Ministry of Meals can involve your entire family. Simply prepare a little extra at mealtime or involve your children in a cookie baking session. These gifts of love and sustenance can be delivered fresh or they can be frozen and dropped off at the church office to be offered during someone's time of need.

In order to give you an opportunity to volunteer for either the Visitation Ministry or the Ministry of Meals, the Deacons will have two "Saints in Service" sign up Sundays this year -March 8 and March 15th. Please reflect on your ability to help others year round and sign up to keep the "giving" Spirit alive.

Thanks for taking the time to reflect on your commitment to God and God's work done here at The Church of the Pilgrimage.

Other Lenten offerings include:

- 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 and 15 – “Saints in Service” sign up after church in Allerton Hall.
- 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 Maunday Thursday Service with Communion in sanctuary
- April 3 – Good Friday – The sanctuary will be open from Noon – 3pm for personal reflection and prayer.
- April 5 – EASTER SUNDAY – 3 services
 - Sunrise Service on Cole’s Hill – 6am
 - Family oriented pageant service in the sanctuary – 9:30am
 - Traditional Easter Service in the sanctuary – 11am

On Sunday, March 15th and Sunday March, 22nd , we will also be taking names for the Palm Sunday Breakfast at 8am on March 29th. The breakfast is free and will include a service of Communion.

March Flowers

March 1: The flowers are in loving memory of Cliff and Laura Sampson. Given by Cliff and Catherine Sampson and family.

March 8: The flowers are given in loving memory of my mother, Rose L. MacKay in remembrance of her birthday. Given by Rosemary MacKay.

March 15: The flowers are given in loving memory of Gordon Armstrong from his wife, Bea.

March 23: The flowers are given in celebration of our family’s birthdays. Given by the Bingham-Maas family.

March 30: The plants are given in celebration of our congregations and our ministries.

Memorial Lilies

The joyous Easter season is fast approaching. As is our tradition, the beauty of our church will be enhanced on Easter morning with a multitude of lilies. Through your loving donation of \$15, your name and those honored or memorialized will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Sign up in the lower vestibule following Sunday services or call the church office. Flowers can be picked up, and volunteers will be welcomed to take flowers to shut-ins, after the second Easter service.

Notes

A HUGE thank you to all who donated luncheon food for the Project Linus blanket making event. We had a wonderful time of fellowship eating soup and sandwiches. We had enough food to serve lunch to everyone who came to church! Certainly put a new slant on “coffee hour.”

From Al Hoyt-Student in Discernment

Al Hoyt's teen/youth research program has finally begun. As part of his final studies, Al is surveying teens and young adults regarding their faith practices and beliefs. The questionnaire is completely anonymous and voluntary. As part of the research, Parents are also asked to participate in a similar questionnaire. Copies of the questionnaire will be available in the vestibule each Sunday in March.

We will send out an all-church email inviting you to participate, the email will include an attachment which is the Questionnaire. Please choose the appropriate questionnaire, print it out and answer the questions. When you have finished, please bring the printed sheet to church and drop it in the box in the upper vestibule. If you want a copy mailed to you with a prepaid return envelope, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Al at aphoyt@verizon.net or 508-224-9507. This project is only for Teens/ Young adults and their parents. Please do not take a survey unless you are in one of those groups.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth was recently awarded the bid from the Town of Plymouth to build veterans housing on town-owned land. Designated for veterans housing by Town Meeting, the land is located off Long Pond Road in Plymouth and has enough room to build three homes. Two of those homes will be designated for veterans and their families.

Habitat of Greater Plymouth is the latest locally based Habitat for Humanity affiliate to participate in Veterans Build, Habitat's nationwide effort to engage veterans and current military members. The Veterans Build program focuses on developing housing solutions and both volunteer and employment opportunities for U.S. veterans, military service members and their families.

In partnership with numerous veteran-focused organizations, Habitat seeks to offer veterans volunteer and employment opportunities in addition to improved access to services such as housing assistance, financial literacy, homeownership education programs and post-service transition programs. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth is actively seeking to be connected with the veteran community to help identify individuals and families that might qualify for the housing when it is eventually built.

For information on services provided locally through Veterans' Build, please contact our Veterans Build Coordinator, Krista Vichich at (508) 866-4188 or hfhplymouth1@verizon.net.

Annual Gala celebrating veterans...

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth announces its Annual Gala, scheduled for Friday, May 1 at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth. The event begins at 7pm and tickets are \$50 per person if purchased before April 1, and \$65 per person after April 1. To purchase a full table, the price is \$450 and a full table seats 10 people.

The theme is "Spring Fling-Building for America's Hometown Heroes," and features dinner and music, silent and live auctions and raffles.

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 or www.facebook.com/heifercenters.

Super Saturday! March 21, 8am - 3:45pm - Ludlow High School, MA

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. **Cost: \$54 per person, or \$44 per person in church groups of 5 or more who**

register at the

The Church of the Pilgrimage *March 2015 Calendar Events*

- Mar 1: Second Sunday in Lent, Worship, 10am. Rev. Bill McCoy, Guest Preacher.
This is *Blanket Sunday*.
Membership & Evangelism Committee Meeting, after worship, Marks Room.
Youth Coffee and Conversation, after worship, Youth Room.
- Mar 2: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Mar 4: Bible Study/Book Discussion (*Why?*), 11am, Marks Room.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Mar 5: Board of Christian Ed. Meeting, 7pm, Stewart Room.
Capital Campaign Committee Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Mar 6-7: Confirmation Retreat, Craigville.
- Mar 8: Third Sunday in Lent, Worship, 10am-Saints in Service Sunday.
Newcomers Gathering Part 1, after worship, Marks Room.
- Mar 9: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Mar 10: Church Council Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- Mar 11: Nominating Committee Meeting, 8:30am, Steve Triffletti's Office.
Bible Study, 11am, Marks Room.
Lenten Soup Supper, 6-7:30pm, Allerton Hall.
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Marks Room.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Mar 12: Missions Committee Meeting, 7:15pm, Marks Room.
- Mar 13: Guild Meeting, 1pm, Marks Room.
- Mar 14: Game Night and Potluck,
- Mar 15: Fourth Sunday in Lent, Worship, 10am-Saints in Service Sunday.
One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received.
Adult Ed Book Discussion on *Why?* After coffee hour in Allerton Hall..
- Mar 16: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Mar 18: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Mar 21: Mass Conference *Super Saturday*, 8am-3:45pm, Ludlow, MA
- Mar 22: Fifth Sunday in Lent, Worship 10am.
Newcomers Gathering Part 2, after worship, Marks Room.
- Mar 23: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Mar 25: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.
- Mar 29: Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8am, Allerton Hall.
Palm Sunday Worship, 10am.
- Mar 30: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
- Mar 31: Board of Deacons Meeting/Maundy Thursday rehearsal, 7pm, Sanctuary.



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

Periodical
Publication
U. S. P. S.
432820

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.

IT'S BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT



Fun for all ages! Bring a dish to share and your favorite game.

Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Here are the details:

Saturday March 14

5pm -8pm

Allerton Hall

RSVP to Jenny Healy with what you are bringing and how many are coming.

jennycotp@gmail.com or 508-747-7168