



*O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
(From Psalm 96)*

Every Sunday, when we gather as a faith community to worship God, we are singing to God, blessing God's name, telling of God's salvation, and greatly praising our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. It's an amazing thing we're doing here.

Recently, we've had a number of special worship services--Confirmation Sunday, Children's Sunday, and Music Sunday. Every service is special in its own right, but these past few Sundays have been unique--and the more people who participate in worship, the better as far as I'm concerned! How great is our praise of God when all of us, children and youth included, are singing a new song to God, blessing God's name, and telling of God's salvation from day to day as the Psalmist says!

As we finish out the program year in June, there are a few more wonderful worship services ahead. On June 8, we will celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the Christian Church. On June 15, we will celebrate with our graduates and say goodbye to our Interim Christian Education Director, Rev. Jill Olds. And on June 22, we will say goodbye to our Youth Director, Dana Ellis.

Our weekly communal worship of God is enriched by our celebrations and by the bittersweet moments, by the moments of welcoming new sisters and brothers into our fellowship and by those moments when we say goodbye to beloved church staff members, as we will on June 15 and 22.

Jill has been a wonderful, steady staff member for us these past few months and has shared her vision of children, youth, and family ministries with our Church School teachers, Educational Ministries committee, and our CE/Youth Director Search Committee. Jill has worked hard to ensure a smooth transition for the fall, and it's been such a blessing to have her with us as we contemplate the future of our Pilgrim Church staff.

Dana has been at Pilgrim for three and a half years by now and has built a sustainable youth program out of almost nothing. Dana has taken our youth to Washington DC, Boston, and Waltham for service projects, has co-led our Confirmation program, and has led fun fellowship events like snow tubing, lock-ins, trampoline jumping, laser tag, and so much more. She has been a supportive and caring presence for our youth and families, and a fantastic member of our staff. Dana will be greatly missed!

Even though goodbyes can be difficult, there's some peace in knowing that saying goodbye is a form of blessing--God Be With You! When we say goodbye, it's a reminder that God is with us both. We can send one another on our respective journeys with love in our hearts, knowing that if God is with all of us, we are not truly as separated as it may feel sometimes. And so in June, let us say goodbye to Dana and Jill with all our best wishes, and may God be with you both.

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- We lift up the memory of Massachusetts Conference Associate Conference Minister Andy Gustafson and his family as we mourn his loss. We pray for his colleagues, friends, and Townsend Church.

WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for the following friends this week:

- Mary, Peter and Liz Mackie and Miranda Tofalo
- Jerome Mahiou and Adriana Ramacciotti-Mahiou and their children Nicole and Nadege



Church School
Early Registration

Parents, do you ever get tired of filling out those endless back-to-school forms in the early days of September? Do you ever want to get them out of the way ahead of time? Rev. Jill will be in coffee hour with Church School registration forms on Sunday, June 8. Please feel free to come by and fill out the forms. Hope to see you then!

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

The furnace room clean-up dogs that is. What at first blush appeared to be a monumental task (think, Big Dig + Hoover Dam), in the end proved to be much more manageable. When the furnace room survey group met last week, the surveying turned into moving and dumping, and before you knew it, the furnace room was clean and the dumpster was full. So the clean-up party scheduled for June 7th has been CANCELLED. Thank you to all who were thinking of coming. We may call upon you in the future.

Finance & Administration Committee

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- June 8 Pentecost and Strengthen the Church Offering
- June 15 Graduation Sunday and Rev. Jill Olds' last Sunday at Pilgrim
- June 22 Dana Ellis' last Sunday at Pilgrim
- June 29 Hymn Sing



SUMMER PREACHERS NEEDED!

It's that time of year again! We are looking for people interesting in preaching this summer. Possible themes are Sabbath and Prayer. What does Sabbath mean to you and why does it matter in our busy lives? How do you pray? Why does prayer matter and how do you think prayer really works? Or if you have a topic already you would love the chance to share, we can't wait to hear your words of wisdom! If you are interested or would like more information, please be in touch with Carolyn Beckwith at: cnbeckwith@verizon.net.



**NEW CHAIRS THIS SUMMER
FOR PILGRIM HALL**

This summer, you will notice a few new chairs in Pilgrim Hall for summer worship. These chairs with arms should be reserved for those who need some assistance in rising, standing, and sitting for various aspects of our worship service. Thanks for your help in making Pilgrim a welcoming place for all!



ORGAN WORK THIS SUMMER

We have known for some time that our organ needed a thorough-going overhaul, beyond the regular tuning and maintenance that the Andover Organ company provides twice a year. In particular, the manual

keyboards need a good deal of work, and five of the organ pipes that have been taped "temporarily" need to be resoldered. The company will be doing this work during July and August, when the organ is not in use. The work will be done in the company's workshop in Andover, so there will be no conflict with the heating system replacement, which will also take place this summer.

The Beckwith Memorial Fund, which was considerably enlarged last year with funds from El Beckwith's trust (as reported in the most recent annual report), will provide the funds to pay for this long-deferred maintenance, which comes to \$6,600. We are very happy to be in a position to bring our very fine organ back to prime condition.

Submitted by Jim Munkres,
for the Music/Worship and F&A Committees

A MESSAGE FROM MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE MINISTER AND PRESIDENT JIM ANTAL

May 22, 2014

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write with a very heavy heart. Our friend, colleague, inspiration, mentor and beloved brother in Christ, Andy Gustafson, passed away peacefully earlier today. Andy was surrounded by God's love and his family. Our ACM Ellie Richardson was also able to be at his side. Andy had been home from the hospital for a few days and attended to by hospice.

Words fail us at times such as these but God does not. So we turn to God to give thanks for Andy's life and ministry and to seek the comfort of the Holy Spirit for our hearts and souls.

Jim

Invest IN THE Vision

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, we celebrate the birth of the church. We know this story as recorded in the Book of Acts: *"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2:1-4*

Peter quotes the prophet Joel to the startled crowd: *"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:17*

What vision does God have for our church? What does God dream for the many people who are still seeking and yearning for a little love, a little hope, and a reassuring word; people who have not heard the Pentecost message of the unconditional love of our still speaking God?

Each year, we receive a special offering called Strengthen the Church, an offering that invests in the vision of the United Church of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking,"

We will receive this offering on June 8, 2014 – the birthday of the church – Pentecost Sunday. Please celebrate by giving to Strengthen the Church. Your generous gift today ensures a vibrant church tomorrow.

DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Please note that the deadline for the September issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be August 22. Thank you!

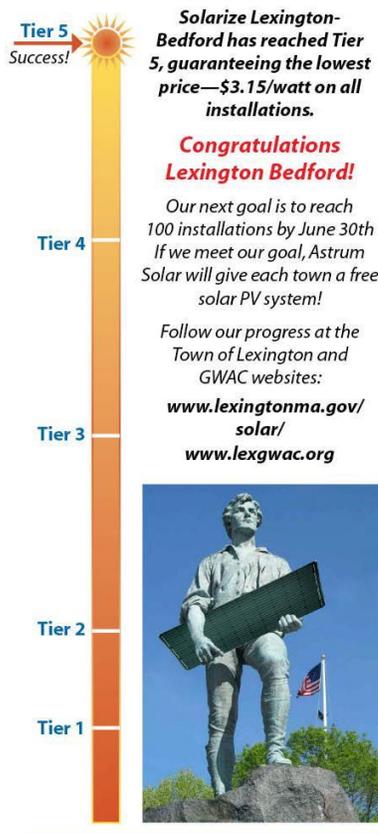


PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Solarizing Lexington and Bedford

Some of you have been actively trying to find out if solar systems can lower your energy costs for your home or business. Others may still be thinking about it. It's not too late to have an audit. The best news is that Lexington and Bedford citizens have bought enough systems to reach Tier 5, or the highest level possible under this Solarize Massachusetts program. This means that all who receive the solar systems will benefit from even more cost reductions. It's important to sign up with Solar Astrum soon as the program ends on June 30.

To request a free, no obligation solar assessment for your home or business contact Astrum Solar at <http://go.astrumsolar.com/solarizelexingtonbedford> or call 1-800-903-6130



Another challenge has been offered each town: if we reach 100 installations, by June 30, each town will be given a free solar PV system.

Submitted by:
Barbara Munkres



As most of you know at the beginning of May a book sale was held at this church. We have held many similar book sales over the last few years to raise funds NOT for this church but for the benefit of the people of the Village of Flores, Honduras.

Each year the funds are earmarked for specific projects. This year Tom and Emily Collins felt we should aim at two projects: a badly needed new roof for the Medical Center, as well as, the creation of a playground.

The rationale for the playground was to encourage the children to play somewhere other than in the polluted stream. That aim appears to have been successful. I will get photo up on the web as soon as possible to show you the playground.

The Village of Flores is not the only one that benefits from having an Annual Book Sale to which we invite the public. By holding the Sale and advertising it widely on the web we attract many people to the church. They learn how to find us. They learn about our interest in doing good for others. And hopefully they like what they see. Quite a few of those who came to the book sale contributed more money than simply the cost of the books they were buying.

All of the money that was collected will go for the benefit of the Village of Flores. This year we netted \$1,121.50. That amount of money will buy a lot more in Honduras than it does in Massachusetts.

At the end of the book sale over 1,500 books were donated to the charity More Than Words.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BOOK SALE NEXT YEAR!

Next year with your help we hope to run a similar sale. We again plan to collect books during the last 2 weeks of April and hold the Sale in early May. We look forward to your participation. Please not only put it on your calendars, but also make a serious commitment to help to plan, to sort books, to set up the sale, to make signs and post them, to be here to sell books and to greet the public, and of course to contribute books, DVDs, CDs etc. Oh! You may also purchase books!

Lastly, let's give sincere thanks for all those who helped with the book sale this year

Submitted by Sandy Gardiner



WE'RE THE CREAM OF THE CROP!

Our local Concord CROP Walk was honored recently with two awards: the highest total donations (\$55,512) and the highest on-line donations (\$17,975) among walks in the New England Region. Our congregation participated in the walk and raised \$350. This accomplishment is providing much needed support to our local community suppers and food pantries and to global hunger relief. Thank you for your support. This year's CROP Walk will be on October 19th, again at First Parish in Concord at 1:30 p.m. We hope you'll participate again!



Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Faiths Uniting in Social Action Since 1966

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

AN INTERFAITH FORUM ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Wednesday, June 4, 6-9 PM

All Saints Parish

1773 Beacon Street, Brookline

Featuring:

Jobs NOT Jails,

Raise Up Massachusetts (invited),

United for a Fair Economy,

Social Action Massachusetts, and

Boston Faith and Justice Network (invited)

FREE EVENT! Dinner will be served! Space is limited, so register early. Join CMM and friends for dinner, discussion, and to hear moving personal stories about the importance of economic justice. Come to exchange ideas and leave with ways to get involved, a full belly, and an even fuller heart!

Register at:

<http://cmmeconjustforum.eventbrite.com>



Summer Worship begins on **July 6** and will end on **August 31**. The worship service begins at **9:30** and is held in air-conditioned **Pilgrim Hall**. Summer Worship is a fun way to stay connected with fellow Pilgrims throughout the summer. Hope to see many of you in worship this summer!

Also, just a reminder that the church office will be open on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 1:30 in July and August. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

**Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC
Youth Group Fellowship Fun Presents...**

LaserTag!!



Saturday June. 14th

**Cost: \$15 Youth Group members
\$22 Non-members**

Drop off at 12:30PM

At Pilgrim Church

Pick up at 4PM

At Pilgrim Church

**(Lunch will be provided at the
Church before heading off to LaserCraze!!)**

*Please RSVP at pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com no later than Tuesday, June 10th, or let Dana know in person you'll be attending before then. Please note that all underage attendees will have to have parents sign and return permission slips in order to attend.

Bring your friends!!! 😊

June 2014

May 2014							June 2014							July 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 1 Special Music Sunday 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Recital	2 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	3 12:00pm Bible Study Luncheon	4 9:00am Staff Mtg. 5:30pm Lexington Chamber Music Recital 6:00pm Forum on Economic Justice at All Saints Brookline	5 12:00pm FISH Luncheon	6	7
8 10:30am Worship/Pentecost /Strengthen the Church Offering 11:45am Worship & Music Mtg. 3:30pm Recital	9 7:30pm F&A Mtg.	10	11	12	13	14 12:30pm Youth Group to Laser Tag
15 10:30am Worship/Graduation Sunday/Rev. Jill Olds' Last Day 12:00pm Senior High Outing 1:00pm Private Recital	16 10:00am Care Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg.	17	18	19	20	21 10:45am Private Party PH 7:00pm GBAAYSO Studio Workshop
22 10:30am Worship/Dana Ellis' Last Day	23	24	25	26	27 Church Office Closes	28
29 10:30am Worship/Hymn Sing	30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5