

FROM OUR PASTOR

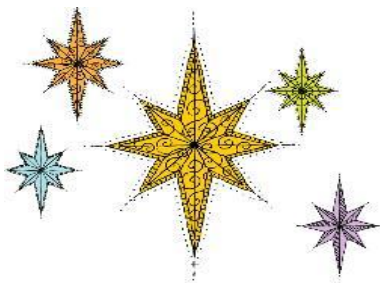


Advent is one of my favorite seasons in the church year. It's a season of expectation and wonder—of hope, peace, joy, love, and waiting for the coming of the Christ-child. We all know that year after year we'll celebrate the birth of Christ into our midst on Christmas Eve, but it somehow always feels special and full of surprises.

Perhaps this is because something new always stands out to me—did Mary really respond in fear when the Angel Gabriel gives her the news? Did John the Baptist really “leap for joy” in Elizabeth's womb in the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb? What do we make of these young parents who couldn't even get a room for the night and had to sleep out with their newborn in a manger—a feedbox for animals? I want to be like Mary and “ponder” these things in my heart—I want to let the season wash over me and I want to immerse myself in it completely, not letting the busy, frantic side of December get in the way of my musings on the deeper meanings of it all.

In this spirit, I want to share with you a poem given to me by a friend, written by Herbert H. Hines, that echoes what I've been feeling lately as we progress week after week in this Advent season to Christmas.

“A Christmas Prayer”



*We open here our treasures and our gifts,
And some of it is gold,
And some frankincense,
And some is myrrh;
For some has come from plenty,
Some from joy,
And some from deepest sorrow of the soul.
But Thou, O God, dost know the gift is love,
Our pledge of peace, our promise of good-will.
Accept the gift and all the life we bring.*

Blessings and well wishes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to you all~

Lauren



CONFIRMATION

On **December 4th** we'll start speaking more in-depth about Jesus by looking at Sessions 11 and 12 (Jesus Christ: Human and Divine and Crucified and Resurrected.)

And on **December 18th** we'll finish up with Jesus Christ: Risen Savior (Session 13.) And don't forget that you should have finished up with the Gospel of Luke by now.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

Since I've been serving Pilgrim Church, there have been two instances where I have questioned whether to have our regular church service on Sunday morning or to cancel for the day. In the case of Hurricane Irene, the Governor declared a State of Emergency and we were told to stay off the roads—so I canceled church that morning. In the case of the most recent storm the weekend of October 30th, I elected to have church since we still had power.

In the future, I will be consulting with our Moderator, Marjory German, as to whether to have church or cancel when intense weather situations arise. A decision will be made by 9 AM. If Marjory and I opt to cancel church, I will change the church voicemail to indicate that we are closed, have a message on the website, send out a church-wide e-mail, and get the word out to local TV stations. It's my hope that through all these various means of communication, the message will get out to our Pilgrim community that we will not be having church that day. Hopefully this will not be an issue, but I've learned already that you just never know what New England winters will bring!

Blessings, Lauren

REMINDER: Pilgrim's Christmas Party is Saturday, December 3rd at 5 pm. Come see a terrific puppet show by Pumpernickel Puppets and we hear Santa may make an appearance!



MINISTER OF EDUCATION

As I was discussing the meaning of stewardship with our children, I couldn't help but notice that the congregational appeal comes right around Thanksgiving. This might be convenient for Pilgrim leaders who plan the budget, but it is also very convenient for us. As Christians, we are always searching for a way to show our gratitude to God for the many blessings we have and giving to Jesus' church is a great way to do that. With thanksgiving, we make a response with our hands, our hearts and our wallets.

Just as adults look for ways to express gratitude, our children are eagerly searching for occasions to be helpful. Worship leaders offer the children opportunities to give to the congregation by singing in worship or lighting candles. Mission leaders provide them with creative activities that show their love for others such as baking for Bristol Lodge or decorating little Christmas trees for those who don't get out often. In church school, we share the world with them by telling stories of children who are not as fortunate as they are and arrange to use their offering for items such as school uniforms and books.

Now we are taking a new step! As part of a congregation-wide response to the stewardship campaign, Pilgrim's children voted to make their first-ever pledge to the church's ministries. As a group, the children will pledge \$4 a week or \$208 a year to the church budget. And this is just a start because we hope to increase our pledge every year. I think Pilgrim's children are amazing! Let them know you think so too!!

With a thankful heart,
Debra

DECEMBER PAGEANT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

December 4 Narrator, Angels, sheep, shepherds,
Innkeepers, Mary and Joseph ~ 30
minutes

December 11 Full cast ~ 45 minutes

December 18 Full cast dress rehearsal with Pizza
Lunch- ~ 1-1 ½ hours

Attendants only rehearse on Dec. 11 + 18th.

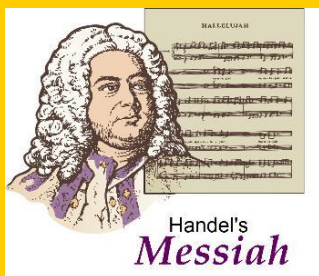
If you have questions or want to sign up, you can
call/email me at Debra Adams 781-944-8180
debra.adams@pilgrimcongregational.org.



Pilgrim Youth Group is Adopting a Family for Christmas! This holiday season pilgrim youth group will be helping two small families in need for Christmas! **On Saturday, December 10th, from 12PM-3PM** the youth group will have an outing where we'll shop for our Adopt-A-Family and then get lunch together! It should be a great time had by all!

MUSIC SUNDAY – SELECTIONS FROM MESSIAH

Handel's Messiah is among the best known choral works of all time. **Join us for Music Sunday on December 11** as the choir and guest vocalists sing some of its famous solos and choruses for Advent and Christmas, including "Comfort, Comfort My People," "For Unto Us a Child is Born," and "Glory to God."



PUMPKIN PATCH THANK YOUS!

Dave McClave, Mary Mackie, and I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped in our Pumpkin Patch fundraiser. All of you are fantastic, and we made **\$1,800** our first year out, which is wonderful. These are great results! We got involved in our community, we had people coming to see the church who had never visited us before. We had some great advertising including a large photo of the church in the Boston Globe. This was very successful, and we appreciate so much everyone's time and energy. Who knew we could unload a truck of 700 pumpkins in about an hour, and sell out!!

Two favorite comments would be; one of our visitors came to take a photo of the church, commenting how lovely the church looked! One of our customers at the wise age of 4, told us not to worry, he would take care of his pumpkin and it would be well cared for.

THANK YOU for helping, THANK YOU for spreading the word!

Susan Carabbio

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who has responded so generously to this year's Stewardship Campaign. With your financial commitment to Pilgrim Church, we are well on the way to meeting our pledge goal for 2012. However, we still have a way to go. As you know, it is only with everyone's "cheerful giving" that we are able to continue to fund the operations, programs and activities at Pilgrim that we all cherish, so if you haven't submitted a pledge for 2012 yet, please consider doing so. Pledge forms may be mailed to Pilgrim, placed in Derek Gardiner's mail slot in the hutch or placed in the collection plate on Sunday. If you prefer a paperless option, please follow the directions on the pledge form for pledging by email. If you need a pledge form or would like to speak with someone regarding the Stewardship Campaign, please contact Suzanne Abair (781.652.0166 or suzanneabair@verizon.net).

THE CARE COMMITTEE

The Care Committee is a group of your fellow Pilgrims who meet once a month to be sure that we are remembering those among us who could use a bit of extra help or some fellowship outside the walls of our church. The mission of the Care Committee is to take care of our own members.

Some of what we do happens regularly. Other things we do are in response to a timely need. Some of what we do is well known to our church community. Other things we do are known only by the Care Committee members and the person we help.

Annual Luncheon Douglas House – We prepare and serve a meal in Pilgrim Hall for our neighbors at a home for brain-injured individuals right behind Lexington Center

Women/Men's Night Out – We share coffee and treats while we take congregational donations of sample-sized items and turn them into personal care packages. These packages are then delivered to local shelters for Mother's and Father's Day gifts.

Holiday Remembrances – The Care Committee works with the Church School students to create Easter Baskets, Christmas Trees, and Thanksgiving cards. Volunteers deliver these holiday items to our members who are unable to be with us regularly.

Funeral and Memorial Receptions – The Care Committee prepares and serves food and refreshments in Pilgrim Hall to provide a time and space to spend time with loved ones after a service at Pilgrim.

Knitting Circle – Prayer Shawls, knit by members and blessed during services, are delivered to those with new babies and anyone who might appreciate being "wrapped in prayer". Knitters also create dolls that are hand-carried to children in Zambia by Pilgrims Ruth Litchfield and Tom Murphy.

Cards, Meals, Phone Calls, Visits, Car Rides, Respite Care – We find out what our members need and we try to fill that need...regardless how big or how small.

The current Care Committee is **Martha Kimball (chair), Gracia Dayton, Sis Dexter, Chris Emery, Joan Greene, Sally Hutson, Ruth Litchfield, Kat MacDonald, Sheryl Mason, Merilee Nevins, Chris Reaske, Beth Rogers and Eleanor Smith.** In addition to our committee, we have many Care Angels who, when requested by email, offer to provide meals, rides, or respite care to Pilgrims who may need it.

Anyone interested in joining the Care Committee or in being on the Care Angel List should contact Martha Kimball at kimball_mart@yahoo.com. Committee members can participate for a year, a month, or the rest of their lives. Care Angels can respond to every request for help or none at all. Regardless of the amount of time you have to give, your time and talents are wanted and appreciated by the Care Committee and, more importantly, by your fellow Pilgrims.

CAN YOU HELP DELIVER FLOWERS FOR THE CARE COMMITTEE?

The Care Committee is looking for help delivering flowers to people after Sunday services. We are blessed to have beautiful flower arrangements on our altar weekly. Sometimes the people who have sponsored the flowers for a service take them home with them, and sometimes we are asked to donate them to someone who has been unable to attend the service. We are looking for volunteers to be on the list of people called upon to deliver these flowers. You would be given a call earlier in the week to ask if you could help that week. Then you would deliver them following the Sunday service. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in caring for Pilgrims in a way that does not require a large time commitment. Please help bring the spirit of Pilgrim to those in need. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sis Dexter at 781-862-8628, or Beth Kurth at hughzhoney@gmail.com.



EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE ITEMS FOR SALE

The United Church of Christ is a supporter of the Equal Exchange Project as a part of their Justice Ministries. Pilgrim Church has been an active supporter of this program for several years. In this way, we have supported small farmers and communities throughout the world earn a living wage and farm in an organic, sustainable fashion.

Per UCC.org:

"Coffee is one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world. Americans drink approximately 320 million cups of coffee every day 20 percent of the world's total coffee production. Some 20 million people near the equator depend on coffee for their livelihood, but for many the coffee trade keeps them trapped in poverty. With little access to markets, farmers often sell through middlemen who offer the lowest price possible. With world coffee prices in constant flux, farmers have no guarantee of how much they will receive for their crop.

Fair Trade Standards and Equal Exchange
Equal Exchange Coffee is a worker-owned fair trade company, founded in 1986, that offers consumers fairly traded gourmet coffee direct from small-scale farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Equal Exchange seeks to establish an alternative model of trade, one that benefits small farmers directly through the following fair trade standards that apply to all Equal Exchange products:

- Always pay a guaranteed minimum price to the farmer
- Work directly with democratic cooperatives of small scale farmers
- Provide vital advance credit to farmers
- Encourage ecologically sustainable farming practices

- Develop long-term trade relations based on trust and respect
- Offer consumers the finest gourmet, certified organic, shade-grown coffees.

After worship on **December 11th**, there will be a variety of fair trade Equal Exchange items available for purchase in the Sun Room. These include several kinds of organic regular coffee - Breakfast Blend; Mind, Body and Soul and French Roast as well as organic Full City Roast decaf. For the tea drinkers there will be organic Earl Grey, English Breakfast and Green tea. The chocolate lovers will be able to choose from a variety of both dark and milk chocolate bars.



NOTES FROM: PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

An interesting talk and a cautionary tale.

1. Some of you may remember the book *Diet for a Small Planet*, written in 1971 by Frances Moore Lappe. As someone who anticipated some of the problems our planet now faces, she has written many more books, including *Cultivating Our Eco-Mind -- Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want*. Founder of the Small Planet Institute, she and her daughter, Anna, are committed to understanding the relationship between food, hunger and the environment. Frances will speak on **Monday, December 5 at 7:00 pm at Belmont Hill School**. Reviews of her informative talks are excellent. If anyone would like to attend this talk, please contact Barbara at barbjim.munkres@verizon.net to carpool. By phone, 781 862-2271.

2. It's great that many of you have bought compact fluorescent bulbs for your homes in order to save energy. Perhaps some of you have even had one of these bulbs break, as we have. If that happens there are steps to take to protect you from the small amount of mercury released when the bulbs break. Rather than rush to the computer (as we did!) to find out how to clean up the small hazardous waste site, why not visit www.epa.gov/cflcleanup.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Tom and I arrived safely home on November 16th and we were amazed how quickly the month went. Having a longer period of time really afforded us the opportunity to take our work to a different level. As always, we spent a good portion of our time working with some complex medical cases including three cardiac cases (the most serious being a 7 week old preemie), some orthopedic cases, a 14 year old boy with leukemia, a couple of asthmatic patients, and several needing psychological help. Tom worked with a local pediatrician in the city of Siguatepeque and had the chance to share his knowledge, as well as learn their practices. While Tom was busy in the clinic, a friend (native Honduran) and I visited a local hospital to hand out newborn clothing and blankets. It was so different from the States because we had complete access...we were in one room where the moms had delivered their babies that morning, and then we were in labor and delivery!

One of the greatest blessings of the trip was meeting a psychologist, Lourdes Pena, in nearby Comayagua. She had been recommended to us and we were immediately impressed by her knowledge, insight and compassion. We had hired her to work with some of our patients, but we ended up benefitting just as much. Lourdes taught us so much about the Honduran culture, and many of the realities people face living in the Third World.

Now that we're home, we're busy collecting supplies and packing for our next trip. We are continuing to work closely with our Honduran Coordinator, Ana Hernandez, who is assisting us with ongoing medical cases. Ana is now using Skype to show us potential patients and seek our direction...it's wonderful being able to offer "tele-medicine."

Emily Collins



MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS FEBRUARY 2012

If you are interested in joining fellow Pilgrims on this trip, kindly contact Emily Collins at: emily@esperanzahftc.com. We'd love to have you join us!



ZAMBIA CWB SUMMER 2012 TRIP

Communities Without Borders (CWB), our partner for mission activities in Zambia, has announced two travel opportunities to Lusaka Zambia this summer, Trip 1 from 26 Jun – 9 Jul, and Trip 2 from 7 Jul – 21 Jul. The goals of the trip are to: 1) make friends and build relationships with our communities in Zambia (NG'ombe and Mandevu), 2) make an impact on our partner community in the areas of health, education and economic wellbeing, 3) understand more about the Zambian culture, history, people and how AIDS has impacted the population, 4) bear witness to what you experience and make a covenant of how you would like to continue support for CWB upon return.

The expected cost of the trip is expected to be between \$3200 - \$3500 and will include airfare, lodging, in-country travel, food, and a contribution to CWB for wider work in Zambia. If you are interested in hearing more about the trip there are two chances to attend an orientation meeting for interested or first time travelers, 10 Nov and 17 Nov at the Union Church in Waban.

Contact Tom Murphy (who is co-leader for trip 2) or Ruth (Litchfield) Hickox for more information.



LEXINGTON RESIDENT BRINGS DOLLS, SMILES TO ORPHANS IN AFRICA

By Samantha Allen/Wicked Local Lexington
[Wicked Local Lexington](#) - Posted Nov 03, 2011



Lexington resident **Ruth Litchfield** never imagined she would be so moved when she traveled to Zambia four years ago. The first time she went with Communities Without Borders and since then she has been sponsored by her parish, **Pilgrim Congregational Church**.

"I had been wanting to do something for children in Africa for many years and I often said, 'I don't have a gazillion dollars and that wouldn't even help,'" said Litchfield, a teacher at Bridge Elementary School. "I figured if I could just go and hold an orphan and let them know somebody cared, that would help." But her work proved to be more involved than that. Upon her return to a small school for Zambian orphans the next year, she brought with her several hand-knitted dolls – simple rectangular dolls spun from yarn with little arms and legs wrapped in a flurry of bright colors. For an American child, perhaps they would seem old-fashioned or boring. For an orphan with little else to compare them to, Litchfield described their significance. "It's just a big treasure to them," she explained. "It's the only thing they have. They hug them like they're hugging us to say thank you. They hold out their hands waiting for one."

Litchfield said the knitting became infectious for her, but the practice began to catch on in the community as well. As she began to knit around Lexington, people began to inquire. She called the project, "Dolls for Zambia."

"Just by my knitting them and people seeing them it sort of spread ... I always have pictures, [too], so it brings about conversation," Litchfield said. She said once someone even wanted to buy one. "I'm very possessive ... I say, 'Sorry, they're not for sale.' I know exactly where they're going," she said.

This year, Litchfield said she will have hundreds of dolls to bring as people continue to volunteer to help out, including the participation of a local Girl Scout troop. Marita Hartshorn, who volunteers with the Lexington Girl Scouts and has lived in town for 35 years, said she is proud to have her kids helping out, creating the bodies for the dolls. Then some of her local friends knit the finishing touches. "I'm running it sort of like an assembly line," she said, adding she plans to have 60 by the time Litchfield takes off. "When I'm knitting, I think of the kids, and how they might have some comfort."

Eleanor Smith, who found out about Dolls for Zambia through Pilgrim Congregational, said she is filled with happiness to know her knitting is helping others. "It's good to know my yarn is going some place useful," she said. "It makes me feel good. I just wish we could do enough for our own country."

Litchfield said she is incredibly humbled by the generosity of her community. Last year, the Girl Scouts surprised her with a special 50-doll delivery just days before her flight. This year, she is anxiously anticipating visiting the country, knowing she has enough for everyone of the school children this time. "It's such a small thing we're doing and they have so little, their smiles, their joy, their dance, just blows you away," she said. "Once you've been around these orphans and you've seen their unbelievable smiles and happy faces, it just grabs your heart."

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all Pilgrims who donated a knit doll to be sent to the orphans of AIDS or purchased a calendar or notecards from the Zambian travelers and Communities Without Borders group. If you would like to donate in the future or need a special gift from Pilgrim, see Christie Murphy or Ruth Litchfield Hickox. We hope to see you monthly or you can visit us at the Multicultural Fair sponsored by the Lexington Education Foundation on Dec 8, 2:30-7pm at the Lexington Depot (see below).

LEXINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S FIRST MULTICULTURAL BAZAAR DECEMBER 8 AT LEXINGTON DEPOT!

Lexington Education Foundation will hold its first annual Global Treasures Multicultural Bazaar on **Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the Lexington Depot, 13 Depot Square, Lexington, from 2:30-7:30 PM.** Admission is free. This event will celebrate Lexington's diverse student population and promote awareness of LEF's work supporting teacher initiatives in our schools. Global Treasures will feature global gifts created by talented local artisans and designers. It will also include live music and dance performances by children, highlighting a variety of world traditions. Families will enjoy art and history presentations by LEF grant recipients who were awarded study programs in Africa, China, and India. Our own **Tom and Christie Murphy and Ruth Litchfield** will be there staffing a Community without Borders table. Stop by to say hello! Clarke Middle School Visual Arts Teacher, Althea Roy, and LHS World History teachers Julia Kuo and Brooke Forrelli will demonstrate how their study tours of China and India enhance their teaching. A full list of vendors and schedule of performers will be available on the LEF website at www.lexedfoundation.org. Join us for this multi-faceted and colorful new event!

Founded in 1989, Lexington Education Foundation (LEF), an independent, charitable organization, is dedicated to funding grants to bring 21st century technologies, training and innovative instruction into Lexington Public School classrooms. LEF is not affiliated with the Lexington Public Schools.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, notes and delicious food that you provided upon learning of my mother's death. It was such a comfort to know the love and support of all my fellow Pilgrims during this difficult time. I will be leaving for Georgia for the holidays, as that is where my brother and sister in-law live, and then I will be back to figure out what comes next!

Chris Emery

REMINDER: The deadline for the January issue of Pilgrim's Progress will

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00 a Adult Ed - David 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	2	3 10:00 a Special Musicians 5:00 p Pilgrim Christmas Party
4 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Communion 11:45 a Pageant Rehearsal 2:00 p Confirmation 4:00 p Youth Group 7:00 p Adult Ed Advent 2 - Lauren	5	6 11:00 a Bible Study	7	8 11:00 a Adult Ed - David 4:00 p Pilgrim Serves Bristol Lodge 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	9	10 10:00 a Special Musicians
11 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Music Sunday/Mitten Tree 11:45 a Equal Exchange Sale 11:45 a Pageant Rehearsal 7:00 p Adult Ed Advent 3 - Lauren	12 Deadline for Poinsettia Orders 7:30 p F&A Mtg.	13 11:00 a Bible Study	14	15 11:00 a Adult Ed - David 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	16	17 10:00 a Special Musicians
18 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship 11:45 a Pageant Rehearsal 2:00 p Confirmation 4:00 p Youth Group 7:00 p Adult Ed Advent 4 - Lauren	19 10:00 a Care Mtg. 7:00 p Council Mtg.	20 11:00 a Bible Study	21 7:00 p Longest Night Service	22 11:00 a Adult Ed - David 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	23	24 6:00 p Pageant
25 Christmas Day 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship	26 Office Closed All Week	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will decorate the church on two Sundays, December 18 and December 25. They will be from Wilson Farms, and are especially beautiful and full this year. We are lucky to be getting them for almost 25% below retail cost. If you wish to order a poinsettia plant, fill in the form below and send it to the church office by **Monday, December 12** with a check made payable to Pilgrim Congregational Church. Poinsettias are **\$8.00** per plant for a 6 1/2" pot.

I/We would like to order _____ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services.

Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$ _____.

Name _____
(please print)

Optional: "In memory of

"

"In celebration of, In honor of, etc.

"

Please check one:

_____ I would like my plant(s) to be delivered to a shut-in by The Care Committee
(this takes place following the service on the 18th and over the next few days).

_____ I will take my plant(s) after the service either December 18th _____ or
December 25th _____.





The Advent and Christmas Season at Pilgrim

DECEMBER 3 SATURDAY 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Fun for all - Santa and singing!
Puppet show too!

DECEMBER 4 SUNDAY 10:30 AM

COMMUNION

Service on theme of Peace

DECEMBER 11 SUNDAY 10:30 AM

**MITTEN TREE AND MUSIC
SUNDAY**

Bring mittens for East End families;
the choir will perform selections from
Handel's *Messiah*

DECEMBER 18 SUNDAY 10:30 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service on theme of Love

DECEMBER 20 WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm - Organ Concert

7:30 pm - Service

LONGEST NIGHT

A peaceful candlelight service

DECEMBER 24 SATURDAY 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Intergenerational Christmas
Pageant

DECEMBER 25 SUNDAY 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Lessons, Carols and Communion

**THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WE OFFER GIVING
OPPORTUNITIES.**

During the holiday times, we are often motivated to share with others. Pilgrim makes it easy by connecting you to groups and agencies that do good work in faithful and responsible ways. See the Mission giving memo on the reverse of this page for great ideas.

We wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas.

*Lauren * Debra * David * Dana * Diane*

❄️ ❄️ ❄️
NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year
❄️ ❄️ ❄️

2011 MISSION HOLIDAY GIVING

Here are some of the projects that Pilgrim Church is supporting this Holiday Season. This list might inspire you and your family to find an outreach that touches your hearts.



Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree- Gifts must be NEW and not gift-wrapped.

We are dedicating our **Giving Tree** (located in the Sun Room) to the children at Shriners Hospital in Boston. Shriners is a 30-bed pediatric burn hospital providing acute, reconstructive, and rehabilitative care. Shriners Hospital specializes in pediatric care at no charge for children up to 18 years of age. Gift tags with children's requests will be hanging on the giving tree. Take the tag and return it with your gift and place it under the tree.

NOTE: Stuffed animals are no longer used or collected by hospital. Items will be collected from Sunday December 4 through the 18.

Mitten Tree Sunday, Dec. 11

This has become an annual celebration for us! Please bring mittens, hats, and scarves; they will be donated, to **East End House** in Cambridge. During the service you will place your items on one of the Christmas trees located in the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer to make a cash donation you can write a check to Pilgrim with **East End House** noted in the memo line.

YOU could also lend us a TREE for this event! Please contact Assistant Moderator **Susan Carabbio**.



Offerings from the Special Worship Services during the Holidays as follows:

Longest Night, December 20 – To support our Honduran efforts

Christmas Eve, December 24 – Shriner's and Communities without Borders. CWB educates AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children primarily in Africa (our Zambia mission is through CWB).

Christmas Sunday, December 25 – UCC Christmas Fund

The UCC Christmas Fund – This fund provides support to UCC retired ministers who are without a pension and other pastors whose compensations do not meet pressing needs.



Thank You for your generous support!
The Mission Committee

