



I am pleased to report that our congregation adopted the following Mission Statement at our Annual Meeting on February 2, 2014.

**Pilgrim Church Mission Statement**

A welcoming home to all spiritual seekers  
Making a difference in our world,  
By fusing our Christian faith with everyday life and  
Serving God by serving others.

We also shared that this is our new Pilgrim Church logo designed by Theory One Design. When we unveil this on our new website (and for future letterhead, bulletins, e-notes, etc.) it will also have our United Church of Christ logo underneath or on the other side. Diane and I are still trying to figure out what looks best! But how wonderful to have our very own church logo at Pilgrim Church!



As I reflected on our Mission Statement some more, I think that it does indeed highlight our best traits as a faith community. Here at Pilgrim Church, we do provide a welcoming home for all people. We are Open and Affirming and we live into this identity. We are seekers on this journey of faith together--seeking meaning in our lives, seeking authentic relationships with one another and with God, seeking how to best use our gifts to further Christ's message of compassion for all God's people. I like the concept of spiritual seekers, it implies that our journeys of faith are ongoing and that we are not in the same place on our individual faith journeys but are seeking and growing together.

Mission and service is one of the hallmarks of our church. We are a congregation on the move, paying attention to the world and making a real difference. We know that when we serve our sisters and brothers, we are serving God. Pilgrims reach outside our church to minister to people as far away as Honduras and Zambia and as close as Lexington, Waltham, and Boston. At our church, we know that caring for the least of these is what Jesus calls us to do.

We also believe that our Christian faith needs to be connected to how we live today. As our United Church of Christ often relates, "Our faith is 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not." At Pilgrim Church, we fuse our faith with our everyday lives and integrate what we experience on Sunday morning throughout the rest of our weeks. My hope is that with better communication and an updated website, it will be even easier to fuse our faith with our daily lives. In the middle of the week, we can read some Pilgrim news and events, reflect on a devotional, catch up on a sermon, or participate in all the activities we have going on. This Visioning work has been about so much more than our website, it's about how we can better connect within our walls and to those outside them. Knowing who we are at Pilgrim and what makes us unique and special--logo and mission statement and all, helps us spread the Good News just a little easier. For this, I am thankful.

See you in church,

*Lauren*

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Mary M. asked for prayers for her friend Steven, as he begins treatment for cancer

Stephanie S. asked for prayers for Fiona's safe trip home from Costa Rica.

Emily C. asked for prayers for Milad's surgery and treatment.

Lizzie C. asked for prayers as her friend's mother-in-law, Antoinette, died recently.

We celebrate with Sylvia F. as she received a Pinnacle Award from the Boston Chamber of Commerce this week for Achievement in Management, Non-Profit. Way to go!

### **WEEKLY PRAYERS**

We pray for the following families this week:

- The Cowans
- Ruth Dalrymple
- The Davies Family



### **NEW CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS SCHEDULE**

Dear Pilgrims:

Just a reminder that we have made some changes regarding the schedule of our church communications (E-notes and Pilgrim's Progress.) Beginning with the January issue, Pilgrim's Progress will come out on the first Tuesday of the month. The remaining Tuesdays of the month, you will receive E-Notes as usual. Please note on the Pilgrim's Progress Tuesday (the first Tuesday of the month), there will be no E-notes. Thank you.

Submitted by:  
Lauren Lorincz and Diane Blair



### **INTERIM CE DIRECTOR**

Dear Pilgrim Church Members and Friends,

As you know by now, our Christian Education Director, Eric Sherlock, has been called to be a full-time Associate Pastor in Newington, Connecticut, entering ordained ministry in our United Church of Christ very soon! We wish him all the best.

In the meantime, we have hired an Interim CE Director to be at Pilgrim from February-June. Rev. Jill Olds is a friend of mine and member of my New Clergy Group through the Massachusetts Conference UCC. Rev. Jill graduated from Princeton Seminary in 2009 with both an M.Div. and an M.A. in Youth Ministry and was the Associate Pastor for 2 1/2 years at Old North Church in Marblehead. Rev. Jill will be a wonderful addition to our church staff for the next five months and began at Pilgrim on Sunday February 2nd!

Grace and Peace,  
Lauren

### **A NOTE FROM EMILY COLLINS**

We are currently hosting an 11 year old boy from Afghanistan who is seeking treatment at MGH for Klippel Trenaunay Weber Syndrome, which has affected his right leg. "Milad" was brought to the U.S. by a group called Solace. He speaks English (and 4 other languages), is very outgoing and interested in trying/seeing anything new! We are wondering if other Pilgrim families, particularly with middle and H.S. students, would be interested in having Milad visit your home or join you in an activity. Please feel free to email me: [emily@esperanzahftc.com](mailto:emily@esperanzahftc.com) or call/text me: (978) 808-8967. Thanks!

Emily Collins



## **PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

### **Connecting with Interfaith Power and Light on February 16**

In celebrating Valentine's Day, we will have an opportunity to share our love not only for friends and family, but also for the Earth itself. The theme of Worship on February 16 will be "Doing our Part." Lauren will offer a sermon on caring for the Earth and will share our United Church of Christ's environmental efforts. Our event is inspired by the national office of Interfaith Power and Light, founded by the Reverend Sally Bingham, an Episcopal Priest in California. This organization has chapters in many states, and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts chapter is Vincent Maraventano, a former seminarian at Pilgrim. This organization works to help congregations upgrade their energy efficiency and also monitors legislation to help us let our legislators know what matters to us.

While we will continue to reduce our energy use in our church and homes as we did during Lent 2011 and 2012, we can also ask our government leaders to "do their part."

Last year on Valentine's Day, Interfaith Power and Light asked members of churches, synagogues, and mosques to send post cards to President Obama asking him to act boldly on climate change. Over 30,000 post cards were sent. Perhaps the postcards were effective, as during the summer he issued his Climate Action Plans.

The action chosen for this year's Valentine's Day Event deals with the carbon pollution standards for power plants proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. For those who wish to take part, we will send a message to our Senators in Washington to ask their cooperation in supporting the Agency's Carbon Pollution Standards for new and existing Power Plants. Postcards to sign will

be available in Pilgrim Hall and in the narthex, and our Church Council approved this activity at their monthly meeting on January 27. For action on a more local scale, there will also be opportunities in Pilgrim Hall to learn more about Bedford and Lexington's Solarize program. This six month program will offer special group pricing for rooftop solar electricity systems. We hope to see you in Worship on February 16!

Submitted by Barbara Munkres



### **EQUAL EXCHANGE CHOCOLATE**

Please remember to purchase Equal Exchange chocolate candy bars in the Sun Room after worship **Sunday, February 9th**. These are perfect for Valentine's Day, small gifts for friends, or just to satisfy your own sweet tooth cravings! Also, remember that when you buy Equal Exchange products, you are helping to support the farmers who grow the cocoa beans by using environmentally sustainable farming practices. Buy some treats for others and yourself!





# Family Spaghetti Dinner

Fundraiser to support **Communities Without Borders**, a registered Boston-based non-profit to fund schooling for orphans & vulnerable children in Lusaka, Zambia



The AIDS epidemic and lack of health care has effected hundreds of thousands of children in Zambia. The remaining caregivers cannot afford school fees. Children through grade 6 must buy uniforms, approved shoes, books and pay fees. If they don't have those fees they don't go to school. There is also pressure by the caregivers to have the children work in the markets, caring for younger children, in a quarry or worse.

Education is the key to their survival, as well as to the country's stability. Girls' education is especially critical. CWB supports 1500 children in elementary and secondary school.

Your donations will help provide the required school uniform and shoes.

\$100 sends a child to elementary school for a year

\$300 allows a child to attend grades 7-12 for a year

Please join us for an evening of food and fellowship. **Displays, crafts, and activities for kids.** Bring the whole family, friends and neighbors!

**Donations of any amount graciously accepted!**

**Please support this wonderful program!**

**Feb. 8, Sat, 5:30-7:30pm**

Continuous seating

**First Baptist Church**

**1580 Mass. Ave.**

**Lexington, MA**

**\$7 adults, \$4 children, \$20 family**

Includes: meat or meatless spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, beverage & dessert

**For more information and to make reservations, please call**

**781-862-9050 or email**

**[fbc1580@rcn.com](mailto:fbc1580@rcn.com).**

**Walk-ins also welcome!**





***With a Record Number of Homeless Families in Motels and a Housing Shortage, What Can We Do?***

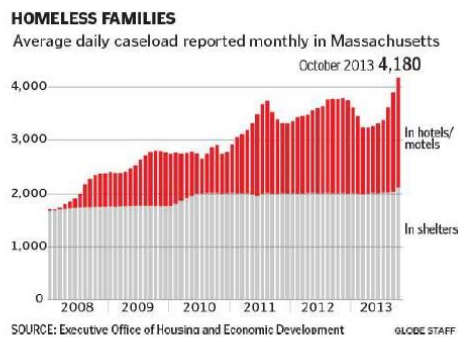
Tenth Annual Forum on Family Homelessness

**Sunday, March 2, 2014, 3:00-5:00 PM**

**Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord.**

**Sponsors:** Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness & Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. **Co-sponsors:** Episcopal City Mission, Citizens Housing & Planning Association (CHAPA), Mass Coalition for the Homeless, Promise the Children, & UU Mass Action Network

Family homelessness has reached record levels in Mass. due to the continued economic recession for low-income families, federal budget cuts, and the shortage of low-income housing. Over 2000 families are in shelters and 2100 more families are in motels each night, with great risk to health and development of children.



**Keynote Speaker:** Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development: *Meeting the Challenges of the Family Homelessness Crisis in Mass.*



***Additional Speakers:***

- Kelly Turley, Director of Legislative Advocacy, Mass Coalition for the Homeless, *Looking Ahead, Working Together: A Holistic Response to the Commonwealth's Family Homelessness Crisis*
- Sen. Jamie Eldridge will discuss low income housing initiatives of the legislature
- Rep. Ken Gordon: *Homelessness visits suburbia: Effects on communities where motels provide relief*
- Area State legislators will give their responses to the forum talks.

Sixteen homelessness prevention organizations will also attend: browse their information and displays.

**For more information** about the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, contact Carl Miller, Coordinator, at [NormanCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:NormanCMiller@comcast.net) or 978-369-3755; visit [www.endfamilyhomelessness.net](http://www.endfamilyhomelessness.net).





***Dana's Contact Information:*** [Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com)

\*\* Youth Group this year will be held every Sunday during Church services. Youth will come downstairs with the Sunday school after time with the children and head to the Youth room. Youth Group this year will be primarily be a mixture of fellowship and spiritual reflection. For weekly lessons we will primarily be using the re:form curriculum from Spark House and we will often follow along with Sunday School lessons or Lauren's Sermon (depending on the topics and relevancy to the youth). Lessons will often utilize multimedia or incorporate a hands-on component (such as a game or craft) to keep the youth actively engaged and reflecting on their spirituality in unique ways.

<b>Saturday, March 22</b>	Youth Group Spring Game Night
<b>Thursday, April 10</b>	Youth Volunteer at Bristol Lodge
<b>Sunday, April 13</b>	During Church - Make Easter Baskets for Pilgrim Care committee (Family and youth will deliver baskets on Saturday April 19)
<b>Sunday, May 18</b>	Youth make sandwiches for the Outdoor Church in Cambridge (during Church)
<b>May Date</b>	(Tentative) Fellowship or service project with neighboring church (discuss with parents potential possibilities at January meeting)
<b>Saturday, June 7</b>	Final Fellowship Event!
<b>Sunday, June 15</b>	4PM to 6PM Final Youth Group Party!!



February 2014							January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1			
10:30am Worship	7:00pm Council Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal					
11:45am Youth Group Parents Mtg.		5:30pm Lexington Chamber Music							
2:00pm Confirmation		7:30pm Personnel Mtg.							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
10:30am Worship	7:30pm Mission Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12:00pm Website Training (staff)	5:30pm CWB Spaghetti Supper - First Baptist			
11:45am Annual Mtg.						8:30pm Greater Boston Asian American Youth Symphony Orchestra; Pilgrim Hall			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
10:30am Worship	10:00am Care Mtg.	NO BIBLE STUDY		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal					
2:00pm Confirmation		12:30pm LICA Luncheon @ Pilgrim							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
10:30am Worship	Office Closed	11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal					
23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1			
10:30am Worship	7:00pm Council Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal					
2:00pm Confirmation									