



For many months now, a group of your fellow Pilgrims has been busy working on our new website, and we expect it to launch in early March. In this New Year, I'd like to update you on our progress! In September, we had a session after church to ask: what brought you to Pilgrim the first time?, what keeps you coming back?, who are we today?, what do you love about Pilgrim?, and what do you want Pilgrim to be in 5 years? We heard that you found a home at Pilgrim, we are open and friendly, we make a difference, we are seekers on a journey, we are vibrant, we pay attention to the world, Christ is here, and we have a heart (among other fantastic responses.)

Theory One Design has also helped us voice who we are as they translate our identity and vision for the future onto a newly designed website. Folks from Theory One worshiped with us several times in the fall, conducted some member and staff interviews, Jordan took beautiful pictures of us, and they ultimately came up with a Discovery Report that was distributed to our Website Committee and Church Council in December. Here's some of what Theory One said about us:

- "PCC is a warm, welcoming, open-minded, intergenerational Christian community where children and adults alike are invited to grow in the Christian faith, serve the local community and the wider world, and journey together toward the realm of God."
- "Members and friends are affirmed in their individual spiritual quests, and PCC provides a safe, sacred place in which to undertake or continue this journey in the company of like-minded seekers."
- "Pilgrim has an exceptionally strong church school program."
- "Pilgrim is a justice-focused church with a strong global mission and outreach program."

I'm sensing some commonalities here, how about you? Our next step will be the Website Committee finding the common threads and writing a Mission Statement that will help ground us not just now, but for years to come. We are going to write individual Mission Statements based on your feedback back in September and Theory One's Discovery Report. We'll then combine our statements to form one cohesive iteration of who we are at Pilgrim and who God is calling us to be. This is actually similar to the process the UCC undertook to write our Statement of Faith, so you know this is going to be good. I have faith that when we combine our individual insights, collective insights, and Theory One's insights about us, we will come up with something truly inspiring. So please stay tuned, as we will have something to present at our Annual Meeting on February 2nd. We'll see where the Spirit moves us, for God really is still speaking!

In the meantime, be sure to thank our Website Committee as they have worked so hard to make the work on our website and our visioning work possible thus far: Suzanne Abair, Bob Beckwith, Jeff, Boehm, Milan Chytil, and Kevin Morrison. And be sure to especially thank Jeanne DeSanto who is our Project Manager and has put in countless hours communicating with Theory One on our behalf and organizing all of us here at Pilgrim too!

Wishing you all the best in 2014.

Grace and Peace,

Lauren



NEW CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS SCHEDULE

Dear Pilgrims:

We will be making some changes regarding the schedule of our church communications (E-notes and Pilgrim's Progress.) Beginning with this 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



NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC!

The Search Committee is pleased to announce that **Daniel Schmidt** is joining us at Pilgrim as Director of Music. His first Sunday playing for us will be January 12th. Daniel grew up in Minnesota and attended Luther College for his undergraduate studies in music. He started playing the organ in 8th grade and also plays piano, trumpet and French horn and handbells. Since moving to the Boston area, Daniel has worked at Christ Church in Quincy. He took a break from church music to pursue a business degree and is now eager to re-engage with music ministry. He is especially excited to be here at Pilgrim. Please join me in welcoming Daniel to Pilgrim.

Lesley Morrison- Search Committee Chair



Once again, I would like to thank Jim Munkres, Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, Carol Chytil, David Nuss and Reverend Lauren for giving their time and talent to search for a new Music Director. I really appreciated their dedication and willingness to serve. The choir was also incredibly accommodating during the entire search process and my thanks go out to them as well.

Respectfully,
Lesley Morrison

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends. Pursuant to our Bylaws, Article VII, Paragraph 2, you are invited to a Congregational Meeting of the Church on **Sunday, February 2, 2014 at 11:45AM** following the Service.

Agenda

- 1) Congregational approval of minutes of prior meetings.
- 2) Presentation of written committee reports, distributed in advance of this meeting.
- 3) Presentation and adoption of the fiscal budget for 2014.
- 4) Any other pertinent matters that may arise.
- 5) Necrology, remarks, and a prayer by the pastor.

Everyone is invited to attend; only members may vote. Child care will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Boehm
Clerk



JANUARY CHURCH SCHOOL DATES

Sunday, January 5th – Communion Sunday. Children meet downstairs in our gathering space before worship. Our theme this morning is “Jesus the Word.” During communion, children in grade 2 and above are invited to the sanctuary. Nursery care is provided.

Sunday, January 12th – Children begin in the sanctuary. Church school classes for children in grades PreK – 5 meet downstairs after the “Time with the Children.” Our theme this morning is “Jesus’ Baptism.” Nursery care is provided.

Sunday, January 19th – Children begin in the sanctuary. Church school classes for children in grades PreK – 5 meet downstairs after the “Time with the Children.” Our theme this morning is “The Lamb of God.” Nursery care is provided.

Sunday, January 26th – Children begin in the sanctuary. Church school classes for children in grades PreK – 5 meet downstairs after the “Time with the Children.” Our theme this morning is “The Disciples.” Nursery care is provided.

Submitted by Eric Sherlock

PILGRIM’S PROGRESS DEADLINE

The February issue of Pilgrim’s Progress will be published February 4th so please send all submissions to Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by January 24th. Thank you.



PILGRIM CHURCH YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS



The Youth Group decorating Christmas trees for members of the Pilgrim congregation during youth group on December 22nd.



The Youth Group Christmas party on December 22nd was a big success!! New games were played and fun prizes were won by Pilgrim youth and their friends. Overall it was a fun time had by all!

Finally in January the Youth Group will be going to Nashoba Valley for some snow tubing! This event will be on **January 25th**. Youth are encouraged to invite their friends, dinner will be provided.



CHILI AND CORNBREAD LUNCHEON

CALLING ALL PILGRIM CHEFS!

We are looking to have a chili and cornbread luncheon at church right after the service on **January 19th**. What a fantastic way to celebrate winter, with a nice hot meal! We are looking for folks that love to cook, that would be willing to share their favorite recipe. If you are interesting in helping to cook for this luncheon please call or email Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net, 781 862-7633. We look forward to hearing from you!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Our 2014 Stewardship Pledge Drive has concluded! 79 people/families, including four new pledgers, have pledged a total of \$200,630 or 96% of our original pledge goal for 2014.

The Stewardship Committee sends it sincere thanks for the generosity of those who have pledged their support for the people, programs, and ministries of Pilgrim Church.

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee
Suzanne Abair
Derek Gardiner
David Nuss



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

SHARING GOOD NEWS!

Do you ever wonder whether our efforts at reducing energy use in our homes or in our workplaces are having any effect? A recent report by the Natural Resources Defense Council says YES! This group claims there has been much progress in our nation toward a reduction in energy use in the past 40 years.

The NRDC has compiled their First Annual Energy and Environment Report and the results are positive. They believe that credit should be given to a "huge and inexpensive energy resource that deserves far more attention: energy efficiency". Our vehicles run further on less gas; factories and businesses are producing more products and value with less energy. Because increasing efficiency is less expensive than adding other energy resources such as fossil fuels, many billions of dollars are being saved annually. Here is the link to the report: <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/energy-environment-report/>

Does this mean that we can reduce our efforts to conserve? The NRDC Report says these positive trends must continue and even accelerate if we are to offset the damaging effects of climate change. To me, the progress report is helpful in that it offers hope: hope that some of our efforts are truly making a difference. The energy saving projects of Pilgrim's Finance and Administration Committee, our two Carbon Fasts during Lent and last year's Energy Audit opportunity were all part of these efforts; we can be pleased.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres



MORE GOOD NEWS!

Folks in Bedford and Lexington recently worked together to apply for a grant from Solarize Massachusetts, and their application was accepted for this year.

Basically the program provides a short term opportunity for residents of the two communities to install solar energy systems at prices well below market price. This program has been very successful in many neighboring towns. The most recent and nearby success story was Arlington, where 715 kW of solar energy systems were installed on 157 homes.

The program will launch in January after vendors are selected. Residents of Lexington and Bedford will have until June 30th to sign up for solar for their homes.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

This Christmas season we have just received the greatest gift...the gift of "hope." Two years ago we were introduced to a 40 day old baby boy named "Ostin" who was born with a lymphatic malformation in his face/neck. Tom was quite concerned that without medical intervention, he would suffocate. We began searching for help from doctors in Boston and were advised to obtain an experimental drug which was available in Japan. The drug was shipped to Honduras and Ostin received several injections and his condition seemed to improve. However, after more than a year of treatment, the doctors reached their limits

and told us that he would need to go to the U.S. for further treatment.

Since that time, we have been actively advocating on his behalf. It has been a rather frustrating process with many dead ends. This week, we received word that two local hospitals could work together and provide the necessary care. Our next step is to obtain the funding, and then the process of obtaining a passport and medical visa may begin!

Please continue to hold Ostin (and all involved with his care) in your prayers.

Tom and Emily





First Annual

Lexington MLK Day of Service

Monday, January 20, 2014

The Town of Lexington will commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a Day of Service, honoring Dr. King's legacy by committing our community to take part in assisting those less fortunate.

Multiple Programs to choose from...

- 11:00am **Unity Walk** from the Battle Green to Cary Hall
Bring your friends, banners and warm clothes!
- 11:15-11:45 **Welcome and Musical Presentation** Cary Hall
- 1 - 3:30pm **YMCA Community Day, Waltham YMCA**
Homeless children and adults will be invited to participate in games, sports, activities, etc. led by YMCA staff and aided by Lexington volunteers! We need you!! Over 30 volunteer roles!
- 12 - 2:30pm **Lunch with Seniors at Lexington Villages:**
Greeley • Vynebrooke • Countryside
Youth and adult volunteers will be invited to serve lunch and sit with resident seniors to reflect on the legacy of Dr. King. 6-10 volunteers needed at each village (middle school aged + up)
- 12 – 3:30pm **Card Making and Donation Drive, Cary Hall**
Make cards for Valentine's Day for hospitalized, veteran and elderly citizens. Drop off donations for **COMPASS for Kids** to support homeless families. Please donate: children's books and quiet toys, healthy food baskets, gift cards for groceries, clothing, medicine, public transportation. Open to everyone!!
- 4:00pm **Program Conclusion, Cary Hall**
Reflection on the day, and information sharing on regional philanthropic organizations to provide ongoing participation for volunteers throughout the year. Light refreshments.

Sign up to Volunteer online: <http://vols.pt/hvRvKD>

For more information, contact Sam Zales: szales@gmail.com



Dana's Contact Information: 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.

Saturday, January 25	Fellowship event – Tubing at Nashoba Valley (4:30 – 8:10)
Sunday, January 26	Parents meeting immediately following Church to discuss spring schedule and sign up to chaperone Spring events
Sunday, February 9	Youth Group Valentines Luncheon Fundraiser (raising money for nonprofits in need)
Saturday, March 22	Youth Group Spring Game Night
Thursday, April 10	Youth Volunteer at Bristol Lodge
Sunday, April 13	During Church - Make Easter Baskets for Pilgrim Care committee (Family and youth will deliver baskets on Saturday April 19)
Sunday, May 18	Youth make sandwiches for the Outdoor Church in Cambridge (during Church)
May Date	(Tentative) Fellowship or service project with neighboring church (discuss with parents potential possibilities at January meeting)
Saturday, June 7	Final Fellowship Event!
Sunday, June 15	4PM to 6PM Final Youth Group Party!!



**Pilgrim Congregational Church
Youth Group Fellowship fun!**

Snow Tubing at Nashoba Valley!!



Saturday, January 25th
Cost: \$15 Youth Group members
\$24 Non-members

Drop off at 4:30PM

At Pilgrim Church

Pick up at 8:10PM

At Pilgrim Church

****Dinner will be provided before we leave at Pilgrim Church, and we'll have some snacks while we're there too!**

Please RSVP at pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com no later than Weds, January 16th, 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 a permission slip in order to attend.

Bring a Friend!! 😊

January 2014

December 2013							January 2014							February 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7														1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 29 10:30am Worship/Hymn Sing	30	31	Jan 1, 14	2 Office Reopens 12:00am Lex. Pops Practice - Sanctuary	3	4
5 10:30am Worship/Communi on	6 7:30pm Mission	7 11:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Web Committee	8	9 12:00am Lex. Pops Practice - Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Confirmation	13 8:00am PRC 10:00am Care Mtg. 7:30pm F&A Mtg.	14 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Web Committee	15	16 12:00am Lex. Pops Practice - Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30pm Lex. Chamber Music (PH & Sanc.)	18
19 10:30am Worship 11:45am Chili and Cornbread Lunch	20 Office Closed	21 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lexington Chamber Music	22	23 7:30pm Ed. Min Mtg. (sun room) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25 4:30pm Youth Group to Nashoba Valley (Tubing)
26 10:30am Worship 11:45am Youth Group Parents Mtg. 2:00pm Confirmation	27 7:00pm Council Mtg.	28 11:00am Bible Study	29	30 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	31	Feb 1