



FROM OUR PASTOR

There is a new committee in our church that I'd like to highlight this month. A few months back, Church Council approved the formation of a **Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)** to help me (and all of you) continue to have a healthy, open relationship for our mutual ministry. A PRC is vital for ministers and congregations to have a productive, sustainable, supportive, and joyous relationship. When functioning properly, many pastors find them to be indispensable and one of the most helpful aspects of serving in a local church setting.

In a nutshell, the PRC is the place where I can go for support and guidance and for all of you to go to provide feedback and express joys and concerns, particularly if you feel that you may not be able to come directly to me. You, of course, can still come to me with feedback and concerns! However, this is the group that can help me interpret the feedback, hopes, and expectations you express when I need a little help and guidance.

So what does a PRC do? The main functions are:

1.) Serve as an advisory group

- Share ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor

2.) Serve as a support group for the pastor's leadership

- Interprets roles, functions, and needs of the pastor to the congregation

In Peter Steinke's wonderful book, Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach, he speaks about the importance of having an open system in congregations, where lots of information and new ideas are shared. In order to do that, you have to have "feedback loops," which provide the means for all of us to be on the same page and actually hear this information and the new ideas expressed.¹ Basically, PRCs are an ideal way for churches to have the space to promote healthy communication within often complex congregational systems.

Our Pilgrim Pastoral Relations Committee has three members: **Bob Beckwith (PRC chair)**, **Sylvia Ferrell-Jones**, and **Beth Kurth**. Bob, Sylvia, and Beth were chosen by me in consultation with our former Moderator Marjory German and were approved by Church Council to take on this role in the life of our church. They will serve as an advisory group to the congregation and as a support group for me. We had our first meeting at the beginning of May and will continue to meet monthly throughout the church year.

Going forward, Bob, Sylvia, and Beth will be meeting with me every month to bring your joys and concerns to me, and they will be there to help support my leadership among you. I hope you'll join me in thanking them for taking on this important role in the life of Pilgrim Church, and that you'll feel free to speak with them openly and honestly should you ever feel the need.

Grace and Peace,

¹ Peter L. Steinke, *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*, (Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2006) 46-47

Lauren



WORSHIP NEWS

Summer Worship begins on **July 1** and will end on **September 2**. 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. For those of you interested in preaching or being a liturgist, there will be many Sundays available for you to sign up to lead worship. Please see the members of the **Worship and Music Committee** (Ed Bond, Carolyn Beckwith, Stephanie Shore, Kat MacDonald, Warren Johnson, David Mislin, and Lauren Lorincz) for more information.

You are invited to **preach** this summer on your **favorite Bible story**. What's your favorite Bible story? Why? What does it mean to you? (Of course, if you have another topic in mind, feel free to preach on that as well.)

Hope to see many of you in worship this summer!



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING - SUNDAY, JUNE 3rd. This campaign is one of four special mission offerings within the United Church of Christ. STC grows the UCC's future by:

- Funding new church starts and invigorating existing congregations
- Nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
- Building youth and young adult ministries

- Supporting the God is Stillspeaking Ministry and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SEXTON – DAN CONLEY

We have a new Church Sexton who has joined our staff to help us care for our building. **Dan Conley** has many years of experience in all aspects of facilities coordination and management, most recently as Facilities Maintenance Technician at Elizabeth Peabody House, a settlement house and community center in Somerville. The Director of the Peabody House describes him as “a pleasure to work with.” Dan formerly was a licensed HVAC Technician. He, along with his wife Lesley (who we may also see helping Dan from time to time), have even run their own cleaning service in the past. We feel very fortunate that our facility maintenance needs so perfectly match Dan's experience and desire to work fewer hours so he can spend more time managing his own income properties and focusing on his new profession: doting grandfather to seven-year old Richie.

Welcome Dan (and Lesley)!

Dick Edmiston



Jennifer Velis lives in Lexington with Chris, Cole, Tyler, and Jaden and she's a stay at home mother. Jennifer enjoys dance and reading.



**Welcome
Our New
Members**

**NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED PILGRIM
ON JOINING SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2012**

Mike DeSanto lives in Lexington with his wife Jeanne and sons Peter and Charlie. Mike is an Executive with Staples, has two grown children, and enjoys golf and traveling.

Jeanne DeSanto lives in Lexington with Mike, Peter, and Charlie and is currently a stay at home mother. Jeanne enjoys reading and yoga.

Lisa Dinsmore lives in Lexington with her husband Matt and their sons Will and Luke. Lisa is a stay at home mother and enjoys skiing, she's also a hockey mom and supports Luke and Will with hockey.

Matt Dinsmore lives in Lexington with Lisa, Will, and Luke and is a Management Consultant. Matt enjoys golf and is a fairly good handyman with home repairs.

Doug Shufelt lives in Lexington and has three grown children, Laura, Bill, and Whit. Doug is an Executive Recruiter and enjoys skiing, hiking, and golf.

Chris Velis lives in Lexington with his wife Jennifer and sons Cole, Tyler, and Jaden. Chris is an Investment Banker and enjoys many sports.



Everyone is invited to join the choir for the last Special Music Sunday of the church year! Plan to arrive at **9:45** to learn a simple, fun American folk hymn to sing in worship that morning. Contact David Mislin for more details.



June marks the conclusion of Pilgrim Youth Group for the summer! To wrap things up for the year, Pilgrim Youth are going to SkyZone indoor trampoline park on Saturday, June 16th and then the final Youth Group will be held the following Sunday, June 24th, where there will be a party to conclude the year! The Youth Program is also currently working towards expanding for next year by including a Senior High Youth Group in addition to the Junior High Youth Group for the 2012 - 2013 year. We are always looking for input and ways to better the

SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD



Rancatore's ice cream, hot fudge, and sprinkles will be served after church. All are welcome!

program, if you have any thoughts, suggestions or ideas for either the current Junior High program or the future Senior High program please email Dana at

Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com.



WHERE DO PILGRIM'S MISSION DOLLARS GO?

Pilgrim Church has always had a great commitment to mission projects. Members of the Mission Committee meet monthly to plan fund disbursements, monthly Mission Moments, and mission-related events.

The money Pilgrim contributes to mission work comes from 5 main sources:

1. Direct appeals to our congregation through specific collections (including the 5 annual UCC Special Collections)
2. Income from the cell phone tower in our steeple- a percentage is allocated to mission work (about \$225/month)
3. Fundraisers for a specific project – for example, the Book Sale, whose proceeds are used to support projects in Flores, Honduras
4. Pilgrim's Operating Budget funds a portion of the mission work
5. Capital Campaigns –a portion of past capital campaigns have been earmarked for mission

The Mission Committee wants you to know how we have distributed mission funds for the last seven years (the years for which we have easily-accessible, detailed data).

**Total Distributed 2005-2011 is \$181,558
or an average of \$25,937 Annually**

International - \$76,622 or 42% of Total Giving
\$48,537 – International Aid (Honduras, Zambia, Heifer International, Balm of Gilead Minstry,

Mercy Corps, SERRV Fair Trade Crafts, Grass Roots International, Iraq Humanitarian Appeal, Guatemala Partnership)

\$21,853 – Disaster Relief (Church World Services, Prajnopaya Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Islamic Relief, East African Famine Aid, Hygiene Kits)

\$5,459 – Water/Hygiene (Honduras)

\$773 – Medical (Free Wheelchair Mission)

Local - \$55,228 or 30% of Total Giving

\$35,991 – Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness (Habitat for Humanity, The Outdoor Church, Women of Means, Bristol Lodge, East End House, City Mission Society, Lexington Food Pantry, Common Cathedral, Hispanic Community Church, Women's Lunch Place, Church World Services, Mary's House, Casa Myrna Vasquez)

\$5,248 – Medical (Shriner's Hospital, VNA Hospice in Woburn)

\$3,921 – Interfaith Efforts (Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association, East Boston Ecumenical Council)

\$3,150 – Seniors (Lexington FISH)

\$2,751 – Christian Outreach (Mass Bible Society, Boston Seafarer's Friends)

\$1,750 – UCC Education (Andover Newton Theological Seminary)

\$720 – Mission Awareness (Pilgrim Tote Bags)

\$600 – Social Justice/Racism (Concord Prison)

\$550 – Veterans Services (Veteran Business Owners' Initiative, Pennies for Peace)

\$467 – UCC Congregational Development (Metropolitan Boston Association)

\$80 – Animals (Buddy Dog)

National - \$35,574 or 20% of Total Giving

\$13,927 – Social Justice/Racism (UCC Neighbors in Need, LEAD Agency Tar Creek, St. Stephen's AME Church, Respecting Differences, Tar Creek Books, UCC LGBT Concerns, Philosophy Foundation)

\$8,037 – UCC Congregational Development (UCC Tell Our Story Fund)

\$5,672 – Disaster Relief (Hope Shall Bloom/Hurricane Katrina Relief, Bridge Ministries)

\$5,245 – Medical (AIDS Ally, Children & Adult Mobility, Compassionate Care ALS)

\$2,150 – Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness (Kids in Need, Oklahoma Indian Reservation, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation)

\$543 – Christian Outreach (Micah Project, UCC Campus Ministry)

Johnston. Current members are Suzanne Abair, Emily Collins, Tom Collins, Sandy Gardiner, Ruth

**Combined National & International Projects -
\$14,134 or 8% of Total Giving**

\$10,859 – Disaster Relief (UCC One Great Hour of Sharing)

\$2,355 – Medical (Healing the Children, Ray Tye Medical Aid Foundation, One Shoe Crew)

\$800 – Social Justice/Racism (Just Peace Ministry)

\$120 – Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness (UCC Mission 11/11)

**OTHER WAYS IN WHICH PILGRIMS
SUPPORT MISSION WORK**

In-kind Donations - Our members make MANY in-kind donations (such as clothing, medical supplies and school supplies to Zambia and Honduras; White Socks and Canned Goods to East End House; Winter Coats to Cradles to Crayons; Christmas "Wish List" gifts to Shriners' patients; and Baked Goods and other food to Bristol Lodge).

Mission Trips and Service Projects – Our congregants participate in service projects (Cradles to Crayons, Walk for Hunger); prepare and serve a monthly meal at Bristol Lodge in Waltham; and make mission trips to Zambia and Honduras.

Room at the Table – Although not a project of Pilgrim Church, many church members help coordinate the twice-yearly Room at the Table (RATT) fundraising events to support various worthy causes. Pilgrim provides the venue as well as many of the volunteers and participants.

Equipping the Saints – A generous donor established a fund that provides mission and outreach funds for congregants. While these funds do not go through the Mission Committee budget, they are available through grants which may be applied for by any member of Pilgrim Church. This generous gift has enabled many Pilgrims to participate in mission trips and projects.

The Mission Committee is open to any member of the Pilgrim Congregation who is interested.

Our Committee is currently chaired by Doug

Hickox, Martha Kimball, Sharon Lawler, Kat MacDonald, Claire Moir, Mona Roy and Steve Van Evera. Please contact Doug at dmj@alum.mit.edu to find out the date of our next meeting or to give feedback on our work.

Submitted by Kat MacDonald



We are working very hard at collecting supplies to bring with us to Zambia in July. The mission of Communities Without Borders is to educate AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children, primarily in Africa, in order to nourish hope for a better future for them, society and the world. Our approach fosters building ongoing community to community relationships at the grassroots level in order to increase the quality educational opportunities for these children.

We are collecting the following supplies until mid-June. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom Murphy, Ruth Litchfield, Lisa & Douglas McIlrath, Jeff & Chloe Boehm and Lauren Lorincz. Empty suitcases are waiting to be filled!

School Supplies: pencils, chalk, crayons, white computer paper (8 ½ x 11), erasers, and glue sticks.

We are also collecting manipulatives like legos, blocks, gears, puzzles (50 pieces or less), decks of cards, beach balls, jump ropes and tennis balls. (Dexter Whittinghill has already spoken to us and is

delivering once again - **thank you, Dex!**) Lightly used items are gladly accepted too!



HONDURAS WATER PROJECT UPDATE PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 30, 2012

As you may know, Pilgrim has partnered with Plan International USA to oversee and implement our water project in Flores, Honduras. Phase I, a technical study of the existing water infrastructure, was completed in March. Based on that study, Plan recommended and our Mission Committee approved funding Phase II of the project which will restore potable water to Flores. The primary work to be done in Phase II includes the following:

- Rehabilitation and improvement of the filtration system
- Construction of a hydro chlorinator
- Reconstruction of the electrical system
- Rehabilitation of the pumping equipment, testing and calibration
- Replacement of sections of the existing piping system
- Flushing the lines and water testing

The cost of the Phase II work is approximately \$11,770. The work is currently expected to be completed by June 30, 2012 and that will bring this project to completion. At a total project cost of approximately \$16,125, Pilgrim Church has made a significant contribution to the people of Flores that will have an immediate and lasting impact on their quality of life.

Submitted by Suzanne Abair



PILGRIM BOOK SALE 2012 RESULTS

With the help of many people the 2012 Pilgrim Book Sale was a great success!

Whether you donated books, OR purchased books,
OR sorted books,
OR made signs and put signs up around town,
OR made treats we could sell,
OR helped to set up the sale,
OR helped to take down the sale,

**YOU CAN FEEL A CERTAIN SATISFACTION
THAT WE EARNED \$1,267.20.**

This will go a long way to improving the condition of the Labor and Delivery Room at The hospital Santa Teresa in Comayagua, Honduras! This is the nearest hospital to the town of Flores with which we at Pilgrim have a long term relationship.



LEXINGTON INTERFAITH GARDEN

Pilgrim's next scheduled date at the Garden is **Saturday, June 9 from 8:30 to 10 am.** If you are interested in working with members of other faith communities at this beautiful site near the Battle Green, email barbjim.munkres@verizon.net for further details. Phone: 781 862-2271.

When a church community works together they can be wonderfully successful!



A NOTE FROM THE BABSON FAMILY

We are so grateful for everyone's thoughts, prayers, and support over the past 10 years. Hard to believe our first Lexington walk was held in 2002 and the start/finish was right in the parking lot of Pilgrim! Over the past 10 years we have had over 500 walkers come out each year and have raised over \$1.6 million for CF research. These fundraising dollars have brought forth new drugs and treatments that have dramatically helped Maggie and others battling CF. We are so, so grateful and we continue to hold out hope that CF will soon stand "Cure Found" and "Certain Future" for all children and young adults struggling with Cystic Fibrosis.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
Aly & Ossie Babson.



STAND AGAINST RACISM

Attached to Pilgrim's Progress is an article by our own **Sylvia Ferrell-Jones** which appeared in the **May 4, 2012 edition of the Boston Business Journal** regarding the YWCA's annual Stand Against Racism event. It is my hope that Pilgrim will support the YWCA's racial justice programs and participate in the Stand Against Racism event

Look forward to being involved next year!

in 2013. [Click Here](#) (try right-clicking and *open hyperlink*).

Submitted by Suzanne Abair

LEXINGTON'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY OPENING EVENTS: SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

Lexington, Massachusetts is pleased to announce that the kick-off for the town's 300th Anniversary will take place on **Saturday, September 22, 2012**. Saturday morning will begin with a formal Opening Ceremony at Cary Hall and Lexington High School. Participants will enjoy a showcase of Lexington's talented musicians, singers, poets, performers, and a few surprises. Audience members from Cary Hall will join a procession to Lexington High School where the entire community will sing happy birthday to Lexington.

Just a reminder that if you want to attend the opening ceremonies on September 22, you need to request tickets. Our Opening Ceremony will take place Saturday September 22, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. and will be lots of fun! You may request tickets through the official 300th website, www.lexington300.org, or go into Town Hall during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

If you have friends or neighbors who might appreciate an in-person update on the Ticket Week process, please share this information with them. If you know someone who might need assistance, please help them submit a request!



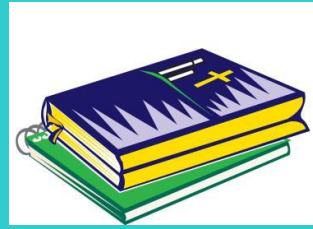
Encourage people to submit requests as soon as possible. There are limited seats and we expect they will go quickly. Tickets will be given on a first-come first-served basis, with priority given to Lexington residents and employees of the Town of Lexington. Confirmation for requests will be sent AFTER June 4th and the printed tickets will be held until September!

**REMINDER:
SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD**

Ice Cream Social

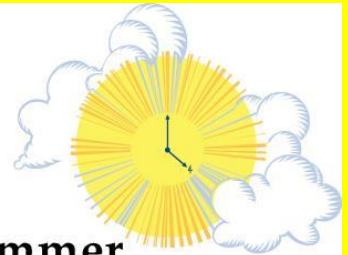


SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD - Rancatore's ice cream, hot fudge, and sprinkles will be served after church. All are welcome!



**FINAL BIBLE STUDY
UNTIL FALL**

Please note that **Tuesday, June 5** will be the last Bible Study until we resume in the Fall. We are in the middle of Matthew but will pick up with the second half of this Gospel in September.



**Summer
Office Hours**

Please note that the church office will be open on **Tuesdays from 9:30 - 1:30**, beginning on **Tuesday, July 3rd**.



**Church
BBQ!**

SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH AT 11:45 following worship. Annual Pilgrim Church barbeque. Put it on your calendar now! More details to follow.

Enjoy Your Summer!



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

Indoor Trampoline Fun at Sky Zone!



Saturday June. 16th

**Cost: \$8 Youth Group members
\$12 Non-members**

Drop off at 12:00PM

At Pilgrim Church

Pick up at 4:00PM

At Pilgrim Church

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

*Please RSVP at pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com no later than Saturday June 9th, 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 A Friend!!! ☺