

Pilgrim's Progress

March 1, 2011 - Volume 53, Number 3

Pilgrim Congregational Church - UCC, 55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420-1899



FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you.

Ezekiel 36:26

It seems as if it has always been winter. The perpetual snow and ice have turned ragged and dirty, and who knows when we will ever see the grass again, although recently I heard a rumor of a snowdrop peeking its head out of the ground right in front of the church. What a wonderful sign as you approach this candidating weekend! A new beginning, and a new heart and new spirit. You will have a chance to meet Lauren Lorincz over breakfast on Saturday morning and attend worship with her on Sunday. Following the service, the search committee will present their report at a congregational meeting, and a vote will be taken to call Lauren as your new pastor.

As you have heard for the past year and more, United Church of Christ polity and theology assigns the pastoral search committee the responsibility of conducting exhaustive studies of the congregation and of potential candidates as they discern whom they believe God is calling to Pilgrim Church. The committee was installed and prayerfully given this sacred charge during a worship service, as opposed to during a business or congregational meeting. In the UCC, in the rare event that a vote does not support a search committee's discernment, a new search committee is formed and begins the process all over again. Your search committee has worked faithfully and diligently, always grounded in prayer, so that they might be attuned to God's calling. To me, the little snow drop in front of the building is a sure sign that your lengthy interim period has nearly reached its end.

What a perfect way to begin Lent! A friend calls Lent "the winter of the soul" before the coming of the spring of Easter. Lent is the season when Christians reflect on their lives as they prepare for the light of Christ to break forth from the darkness of the tomb. Just as a true New England winter helps us appreciate the coming of spring, so does Lent help Christians appreciate the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter.

The forty days of Lent (Sundays aren't counted) provide us with an opportunity to receive "a new heart" and "a new spirit" and grow closer to God. Perhaps you will use this Lenten time to find stillness and peace in your life, to experience the presence of God through times of quiet and prayer as well as during our gathering for communal worship on Sunday mornings. I encourage you to make every effort to get your Lent off to a good start by attending the **Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 Wednesday March 9th**. Together we will embark on a Carbon Fast to which we have been invited by our Conference Minister the Reverend Jim Antal. Be sure to see the article by the Pilgrim Environmental Group in this issue of Pilgrim's Progress which will detail how we will go about this carbon fast.

In addition, please consider joining a three-session study of Palestinians, particularly Christian Palestinians—Tuesday mornings at 11 on **April 5th, April 12th, and April 19th**. We will try to schedule evening sessions as well, if at least 3 people contact me to say you are interested.

Please join me on this Lenten journey. The gift of Lent is the promise of new life: a new heart and a new spirit in which to draw closer to God.

Peace and love,
Sally



Wednesday, March 9	Ash Wednesday
	Service 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 17th	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 21	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 22	Good Friday
Sunday, April 24th	Easter

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE:

Friday, March 4th at 7 pm
Dinner at The Carabbios' house with
Lauren Lorincz for Search Committee,
Council, Pilgrim Staff and spouses

Saturday, March 5th at 9 am Pilgrim Hall
Breakfast to welcome Lauren Lorincz.

Sunday, March 6th at 10:30 am
Lauren Lorincz will be preaching
Congregational Meeting following the
worship service at 11:45 am

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE!

March 6 th	May 15 th
March 20 th	May 29 th
April 3 rd	June 12 th
April 17 th	June 26 th
May 1 st	

**(Youth group meetings are from
4-6 pm unless otherwise specified.)**



Pilgrim Church is now a member of the Affinity Program of TD Bank. What this means is that if 50 (or more) TD Bank customers choose to "affiliate" their accounts with Pilgrim, TD Bank will make a donation to Pilgrim at the end of the year. The size of the donation will depend on the average balance of the affiliated accounts. Pilgrim's membership in this program does not cost anything – either for the church or for the affiliated customers. So if you are a TD Bank customer (or know someone who is), please consider affiliating your account with Pilgrim.

For more information, please contact Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net or susan.carabbio@TDBankNorth.com or 781-862-7633.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS



INTRODUCING BERENICE ELIZABETH MIRANDA GARCIA

Berenice Elizabeth Miranda Garcia (1 year old on March 10th) arrived in Boston in the early hours of February 26th. She will have a heart catheterization at Tufts Medical Center. Berenice suffers from pulmonary stenosis and will be having open heart surgery in March.



A MESSAGE FROM PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

"Many faith communities now see the release of heat-trapping gases from power plants and vehicles as the destruction of a precious gift from God. Others see global warming intersecting with a fundamental calling: helping the poor. Because climate change will disproportionately hurt the most vulnerable, religious leaders are embracing emissions reductions as their duty." Beth Daley's article in the Boston Globe in March, 2008 explains the reasons for Pilgrim's embrace of a Carbon Fast during Lent this year. Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, urges us all to join the many faith communities that will try to become more conscious of their use of carbon, by reducing its use during this 40 day period. Individually, our efforts may seem trivial, but with millions of people making small efforts, we can make a difference, and educate ourselves at the same time.

Here is how we plan to do this:

Starting with March 10, the day after Ash Wednesday, two or three carbon reducing tips will be found in Pilgrim E-notes, along with a link to our Pilgrim website <http://www.pilgrimcongregational.org> for more information. The tips will also be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Throughout Lent, the tips will be different each week. You may choose from the list, or try some of your own energy or carbon reducing ideas that you may have been putting off, as many of us do.

During the Lenten period, there will be three opportunities to gather together to share our experiences and encourage each other. These will be on March 20, April 3, and April 17 (Palm Sunday). They will be in the form of a Sunday Sidebar, meeting in the sanctuary, shortly after the worship service. If there is enough interest we can have an evening gathering as well.

Finally, if you are feeling very enthusiastic about this project, you may choose to receive a tip every day by email during Lent from our Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. Simply click below this message from The Reverend Jim Antal.

"God is calling us to be the change we long to see. Let us engage this spiritual discipline, grateful for all God has entrusted to us, and trusting that with God all things are possible."

[Click Here](#)

The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal,
Conference Minister and President
Massachusetts Conference, UCC

We are excited about this project and hope you will join us in renewing our commitment to preserve God's Creation and to share the earth's resources more equally with others. Why not involve your family in this project? You may be surprised how much the young ones know about reducing our carbon usage! If you have questions you may email barbjim.munkres@verizon.net or phone 781 862-2271.



NEWS FROM N'GOMBE

Dear Pilgrim Friends,

This is the letter I was given by **Nina Sakala** on our last day there last summer and I have been remiss in not getting this to all of you sooner. I have written this exactly as she did for all of you. Please remember that English is her second language, but I still think the meaning comes through very clearly. She had additionally decorated it with the glitter pens we took and hearts of love.

You have all touched this dear woman's heart and thus 66 plus children just this last year. Please know and trust the wonderful things you all have made possible for her and this community. Bless you all,

Ruth and Tom

"July 2010

Dear Ruth and Friends in America,

Me too, I don't know where to start from because of the things you have done and still doing for me.

Am very grateful for everything and I pray to God that he should continue blessing you and increase the days of you life on this earth that you will continue wiping the tears of the orphans on this earth and at the end God will reward you for every thing you are doing on this earth.

I had great time being with you. I will really miss you a lot, hope to see you again next yeas. I really enjoy being with you because I leaned a lot of things from you, anyway, I don't know what to do or what to say but I only have to say good buy through it's a sad word to say. I will miss your presence but what can I do, only thinking of the beautiful moment we have spent together.

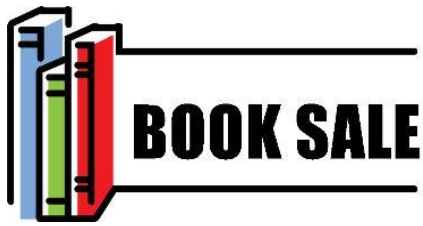
Thanks you very much for the things you have done for me and for the things you have given me. They will help me a lot, I will continue teaching these children will all my heart. Thanks you very much and wishing you a safe journey.

Your, Nina Sakala"



With the donations from Pilgrim Church, First Parish Church, and leadership from Community Without Borders and the Society of Women A AIDS in Zambia (SWAAZ), a wall fence around the school property, a classroom, a kitchen and two toilets were constructed at the N,gombe Family Support Home. Nina and some of her students are pictured in the new classroom.





This year the Book Sale will be on **Sunday, April 3rd**, and **Sunday April 10th**, with a day to welcome the community to our church for the Book Sale on **Saturday, April 9th**.

We need to have your donations by March 27th so they may be sorted prior to the day of the sale. When you bring books please bring them to the upper level hallway near the elevator.

If you know of people who are moving please suggest to them that they contribute books to Pilgrim now. We welcome many types of books but we are especially happy to provide a good selection of children's books.

If you have any questions, or if you can help to sort the books, please e-mail sandra.gardiner@verizon.net or call her at (781) 862-7198.

CALL TO SPECIAL MEETING

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends. Pursuant to our Bylaws, Article VII, Paragraph 3, you are invited to a special Congregational Meeting of the Church on Sunday, March 6, 2011 11:45 a.m. following the Service.

Agenda:

1) Receive the report of the Pastoral Search Committee.

2) Congregational vote to call a new Pastor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Edmiston
Clerk



Special Invitation to Join the Choir

To everyone who has ever thought about being part of Pilgrim's Chancel Choir: this is your chance to join us in time to learn a very special choral work for our next Music Sunday on March 20. Since its initial performance in 2000, James Whitbourn's *Son of God Mass* for choir, organ, and soprano saxophone has been universally heralded by critics and musicians alike. The piece is stunning, yet it is simple enough to remain accessible to enthusiastic singers who lack formal vocal training.

The choir enthusiastically invites everyone in the Pilgrim community to join in by attending the weekly rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. If you would like to sing in the choir, but are unable to attend on Thursday, please speak with **David Mislin** about attending the early Sunday morning rehearsal. For more information about Pilgrim's choir, feel free to contact David at (617) 223-1270 or david.mislin@gmail.com.



SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Pilgrim is going to be hopping this summer. **Sal Jones** will be leasing space from us to hold a youth theatre workshop over several weeks, as he did last summer, beginning on June 27. Get in touch with Sal if you are interested. And The Children's Technology Workshop will have two one-week programs in August, called **icamp**, "a creative technology workshop for kids." You can check it out at www.icampMA.com or call Allyson Palmer at (617) 395-7527. Allyson says that they will offer a 5% discount to Pilgrim children.

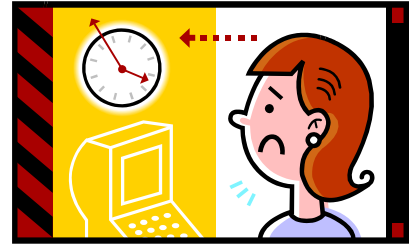


PLANNING AHEAD FOR EQUAL EXCHANGE SALE

Many **Equal Exchange** items will be on sale in the Sun Room after worship some Sunday in March – date to be determined and announced. In addition to several kinds of coffee and tea, there will be other items available as treats for your spouse, your kids, your friends – and why not yourself? These will include a rich variety of chocolate bars, packs of almonds and dried cranberries.

The Interfaith Program at Equal Exchange, in partnership with ten different faith groups, maintains a strong commitment to furthering both Fair Trade and environmental justice. This provides Pilgrim with a chance to continue supporting these programs while helping to insure that the small-scale farmers who grow the products receive a fair wage.

Please remember that every time you purchase Equal Exchange products you'll also be helping to support Pilgrim's coffee hour as well as all the other times when coffee and tea are served at our church.



REMINDER: The next deadline
for Pilgrim's Progress will be
Friday, March 25th.



Son-Mey Chiu shared these thoughts with us on Sunday, January 16th.

Thoughts on Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior Sunday

On this joyous day of celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, I would like to share two of my thoughts as an immigrant, an outsider who had never experienced the Civil Rights Movement.

The first thought I have is that although this country has a Black President and although people of color now are enjoying more rights and privileges, Dr. King's dream has not been fully fulfilled. His desire for freedom, equality and justice extends beyond race. In the last paragraph of his famous speech, "I have A Dream," he said that he had a vision of "that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'" So, to honor his memory, we need to continue his long, strenuous yet non-violent battle against not only overt and covert racism, but also against discriminations of all kinds: religion, class, gender, and etc. In short, we are challenged to fight against the oppression imposed by the powerful on the powerless. We are called to fight against all kinds of prejudices, social injustices and inequalities until we can all live in peace and harmony.

My second thought is that today not only do we celebrate the triumph of Dr. King's sacrifice for freedom, but also the American championship of freedom. America's noble ideal of freedom came from the scriptures. For example, in Isaiah Chapter 61: Verse 1, Isaiah said that God had "sent him to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound . . ." So, ironically, when Dr. King was fighting for freedom of the oppressed, he was honoring his freedom of an American citizen "peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" as written in the First Amendment of the Constitution. And, as a minister, he was responding to God's calling to set his people free. We might think that racism and discriminations of all kinds only happened in America as such injustices were publicized all over the world.

However, these wrong doings happened in all cultures and in all nations. They were not known to us because they were just swept under the carpet and not dealt with. Americans, on the other hand, because of our supreme value on freedom and democracy, have the courage to put all these problems

out in the open, talk, discuss, debate about them and then find ways to resolve the conflicts. For example, just last fall, after Tyler Clementi, a gay student from Rutgers University, killed himself by jumping off the George Washington Bridge because of cyber bullying, President Obama took the lead in making an "It Gets Better Message" for the Trevor Project which is the leading national organization focused on crisis intervention and suicide prevention efforts among LGBTQ youth.

In contrast, in my hometown, Hong Kong, no such appeal to social justice was ignited after the award-winning actor Leslie Cheung committed suicide in 2003 because he was exposed as a gay man in tabloids. He starred in the Chinese film, "Farewell My Concubine", which won the Best Foreign Language Film award in the Golden Globe Awards, 1993. As far as I know, in Hong Kong, there are still laws barring gay people from certain jobs. When I visited Tibet in 2005, I witnessed a subtle kind of racial discrimination. There I was embarrassed by finding myself being treated royally by the local Tibetan people simply because I spoke Mandarin and belonged to the race of the Chinese ruling class. The Chinese government seemed to have accepted the idea that the majority of Tibetans should just play the role of being servants to the Chinese in their own land.

In midst of the fear of terrorism after 9/11, the woes of war, and the economic downfall, Americans should still feel proud today, because its quest for freedom was being honored and practiced by Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior. For this reason, I love my adopted country very much. I sincerely hope that America will depart from its bitter political divisiveness of the past decade, and unite once again to build up the America according to the Pledge of Allegiance as "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Son-Mey Chiu

**Ending Homelessness:
Recent Successes and the Next Steps...
Despite the Growing Problem**



**Sunday, March 6, 2011
3:00 to 5:00pm,
Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord**

Seventh Annual Forum sponsored by the Advocacy Network To End Family Homelessness

Do You Know the Disturbing Statistics About Family Homelessness?

Family homelessness remains a severe crisis in Mass. due, in part, to the continued economic crisis, including record foreclosures. Over 33,000 families applied for emergency shelter in the year ending July 2010, a significant increase over the previous year. Thus the number of homeless families far exceeds the 3000 families that are currently in emergency shelters nightly.

Learn what we can do to sustain homelessness prevention programs at risk due to upcoming State Budget Cuts.

Hear how congregations and individuals can play a pivotal role in helping end family homelessness.

Listen to an urgent call to action to support the regional network and shelter programs.

Speakers:

Tina Brooks, Keynote Speaker, Co-Leader, Mass Commission to End Homelessness, **“The State’s New Successful Homelessness Prevention Initiatives. Accomplishments and Innovations of Regional Network Pilot Programs & the Importance of Continuing Their Funding”**

Tina Close, Co-convener of the MetroWest Regional Program. **“Our Region’s Achievements in Homelessness Prevention, Diversion, and Rapid Re-housing & the Benefits of Continuing These Family Programs”**.

Also, **First-hand Accounts By Persons** who Avoided Homelessness Through the Diversion and Prevention Programs.

State House Lawmakers from our Area in a Panel Discussion, moderated by Miriam Stein, MSW, advocacy consultant.

The forum is free and open to all. It is also sponsored by *Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries*. Forum co-sponsors include Episcopal City Mission and the UU Mass Action Network. *Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries* is an interfaith coalition of over 80 congregations, in the city of Boston and surrounding communities, which brings people together across religious, racial and socioeconomic lines to work jointly for social justice. For more information, contact Carl Miller at 978-369-3755 or at NormanCMiller@comcast.net

Need a change of pace
for dinner?

Please come by Flatbread Co. for the
Pilgrim Nursery School Benefit Night:



Tuesday, March 8th
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FLATBREAD COMPANY
213 Burlington Rd. in Bedford
(781) 275-8200

Flatbread Co. is generously donating proceeds from every flatbread purchased this evening to the Pilgrim Nursery School enrichment and Scholarship Funds. Flatbread Co. is very family-friendly, uses organic ingredients and supports local farmers, and can accommodate most allergies.

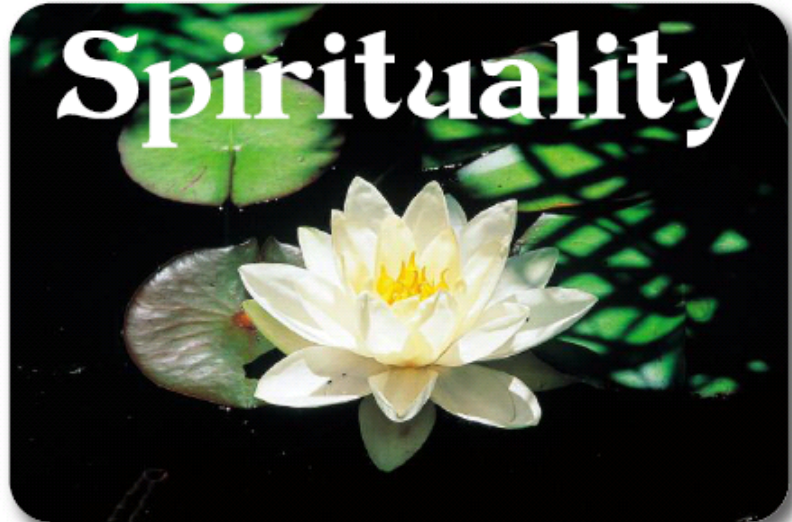
Don't have time to eat out? Flatbread will also donate proceeds from all flatbread take-out orders too. (781) 275-8200 for take-out. Tell all of your friends - this event is open to all, not just the preschool community.

ECOLOGY *e3*

*a retreat for people concerned
about healing the Earth and
our relationship with it*

*Led by Yvonne Prowse
Spiritual Director*

*The fullness of joy
is to behold God in everything.
– Julian of Norwich*



Saturday March 19

9 AM-2 PM

**Sacred Heart Parish Center
21 Follen Rd., Lexington MA 02421**

Cost \$25 includes a simple lunch

This retreat is rooted in developing a deeper relationship with Creation, as a part of our relationship with God, and healing the Earth by healing our relationship with Creation. We will consider the rich Christian tradition that tells us the natural world and everything in it is an expression of and reflection of the Creator. We reflect in gratitude upon Creation and pray with the natural world, listening to what it can teach us. We address healing the Earth in practical terms – from reducing our personal use of resources to advocating for legislation – **approaching all of this through hope.**

Participants have found this retreat expanded their horizons, opened their hearts and deepened their relationship with the natural world; helped them become more conscious of their part in the societal structures that are causing harm to Creation; inspired them to make changes in their day-to-day lives; brought them to a deeper appreciation of the Resurrection, and helped them see Creation in a new light.

Yvonne Prowse is a spiritual director with an MA from Fordham University in spirituality and spiritual direction. She is an adjunct staff of St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, NY.



Sponsored by **Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light**. Register by March 12, 2011 by mailing a check made out to MIP&L to: RETREAT, Mass. Interfaith P&L, 197 Herrick Rd., Suite 22, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

You may also register online at www.mipandl.org. Click on the link to the online registration on our homepage.

Fee is \$25 in advance; \$30 at door. For more information email vince@MIPandL.org or call 617-244-0755.

From Spirituality to Activism

(Without Choosing One Over the Other)

March 19, 2011

Christ Church, UCC, Brockton

A major conference, not just on **what** we need to be doing, but also **why**. What our spiritual heritage drives us to do to bring justice and healing to a broken world. And not just **why** we do it, but **how**. How you and your church can become more engaged in ministry and action in and with that world.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. James Forbes,

Pastor Emeritus Riverside Church, NYC; director of Healing of the Nations Foundation.

Preacher: Mary Luti,

Dean of Chapel and Professor of Preaching and Worship at Andover Newton Theological School

Music: Earth Harmony

Gospel, Bluegrass, and Traditional Folk

Workshops:

1. Homelessness and your Church
2. Political Advocacy for Hungry People
3. How to do Mission When you Don't have Any Money
4. "Let your fingers do the walking!" Hand-held finger labyrinths as tools for focus, meditation, prayer.
5. "How Faith Communities can Work for Immigrant Rights"
6. Advocacy for Fair Trade Over Free Trade in the Developing World.
7. Guiding Your Church Through "Opening and Affirming" Without Getting Your Pastor Fired.
8. Planet At Risk: The Hidden Casualties of Wars and Militarism
9. Seafarers Friend



Mark your calendars and watch for more information to come to register or for more information write Ruth Poole, rtpoole@netzero.net

March 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:00 a Bible Study	2 7:30 p Worship Committee Mtg.	3	4 7:00 p Welcoming Dinner Lauren L (Search Cte, Council, staff and spouses)	5 9:00 a Pilgrim Hall - Breakfast to Welcome Lauren Lorincz 9:00 a Arts Program
6 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship Service led by Lauren Lorincz 11:45 a Cong. Vote to Approve New Pastor 4:00 p Youth Group	7 7:30 p Membership Mtg.	8 11:00 a Bible Study 5:00 p Fundraiser for PNS At Flatbread Co.	9 Ash Wednesday 1:00 p Staff Mtg. 7:30 p Ash Wednesday Service	10 4:00 p Pilgrim Serves Bristol Lodge	11	12 9:00 a Arts Program
13 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Communion	14 7:30 p F&A Mtg.	15 11:00 a Bible Study	16 10:00 a Care Mtg.	17 7:00 p Lex. Hist. Soc. (Pilgrim Hall)	18	19 9:00 a Arts Program
20 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Music Sunday 4:00 p Youth Group	21 7:00 p Joint Council Mtg.	22 11:00 a Bible Study	23	24 7:00 p Lex. Hist. Soc. (Sanctuary)	25 <u>Deadline for PP Articles</u>	26 9:00 a Arts Program
27 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship	28 7:00 p PNS Committee Mtg. 7:30 p Mission Mtg.	29 11:00 a Bible Study	30	31 7:00 p Lex. Hist. Soc. (Sanctuary)		