



FROM OUR PASTOR

A good friend of mine who is a Unitarian Universalist minister once joked that UUs don't really have one Holy Scripture they can all agree upon, but Mary Oliver's poems are about as close as they get to a UU Bible. I fell in love with her poetry in seminary, and it was my UU friend who inspired me to look more closely at her work. She expresses her thoughts on life, faith, and humanity's relationship with all of creation in ways that cause me to pause and wonder. Mary Oliver is just one of those people who has a way with words.

Every Lent, I come back to her poem "Gethsemane." At my home church, there is a beautiful stained glass scene of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The colors of the glass are various shades of blue and purple, and Jesus is depicted with his hands folded in prayer looking up to heaven. The scene captured my imagination as a child. I would wander up to the balcony and just stare at the window, wondering what it must have been like for Jesus alone in the garden that night. I've told you all before that I'm a church geek, what can I say? I wondered what Jesus was thinking, how he must have felt to come back to the disciples, only to find them sleeping, what he said to God that maybe didn't make it into the Bible. On and on I would ponder everything about that night in Gethsemane.

Every Lent, I go back to "Gethsemane" and I picture the stained glass scene in my mind. I pray and ponder to prepare me for the events we will remember together in the weeks ahead.

"Gethsemane" (Mary Oliver)

The grass never sleeps.
Or the roses.
Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,
and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe
the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move,
maybe
the lake far away, where once he walked as on a
blue pavement,
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,
so utterly human, knowing this too
must be a part of the story.¹

Grace and Peace,
Lauren

¹ Mary Oliver, "Gethsemane" in *Thirst* (2006).



CONFIRMATION

On **Sunday March 11th** at 2 PM, Dana will be leading class on **Witness and Service** (Session 18.) We will talk about why we as disciples of Jesus should be active servants in the world, and how faith is made real through our choices and our actions.

On **Sunday March 25th** at 2 PM, Lauren will be leading class on **Forgiveness and Grace and Justice and Peace** (Sessions 20 and 21.) We'll be doing a fun activity about the population of the world and food distribution. We'll also explore what the UCC and Pilgrim Church do to focus on justice.



Lenten WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday March 7th Vespers Service—7:30 PM. David and Lauren will offer a Tenebrae service. (*Tenebrae* in Latin means "shadows")

Wednesday March 28th Vespers Service—7:30 PM. Our second Lenten Tenebrae service.



Sunday April 1st Palm Sunday—10:30 AM. Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem by the people of the city with waving palms and cries of "*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (John 12:13)

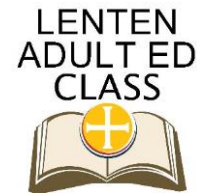


MAUNDY
Thursday

Thursday April 5th Maundy Thursday—7:30 PM. Maundy Thursday marks the night Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment and shared the Last Supper with them before his arrest. "*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*" (John 13: 34)



Friday April 6th Good Friday—7:30 PM. Jesus' journey to the cross, from the time of his arrest and trial to his crucifixion, are the events that help us observe Good Friday. "*Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.*" (Luke 23:43)



Adult Education: Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah Part 2

David and Lauren will be continuing this year's Adult Education course (exploring the Bible and Handel's *Messiah*) during Lent. David will offer his section on Thursday mornings at 11 AM in the sunroom and Lauren's section will be Sunday evenings at 7 PM at the parsonage (26 Douglas Rd.)

Lauren—SUNDAYS, 7 PM, PARSONAGE

February 26 "Behold the Lamb of God"
March 4 "He Trusted in God"
March 11 "Who is the King of Glory?"
March 18 "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth"
March 25 "Why do the Nations Rage?"
April 1 (Palm Sunday) "Worthy is the Lamb"

David—THURSDAYS, 11AM, SUNROOM

March 1 "Behold the Lamb of God"
March 8 "He Trusted in God"
March 15 "Who is the King of Glory?"
March 22 "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth"
March 29 "Why do the Nations Rage?"
April 5 (Maundy Thursday) "Worthy is the Lamb"

If you were not able to take part during Advent, but would like to attend the Lenten sessions, **YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US!** There are a few extra books (\$10 each), and we can always order more. Please let Diane know which section you will be attending and whether or not you need us to order a book for you. For more information, please speak with Lauren or David.

A letter from Debra Adams.....

By the time you read this edition of Pilgrim's Progress, you will have received a letter from me regarding my call to be in ministry with the people at Central Congregational Church, UCC in Chelmsford. Because I will write one more article before I leave, I will save my goodbyes for then. At this time, I would like to reflect upon my time here with you.

I came to Pilgrim exactly eleven years to the day when I will say goodbye! I received a letter from Sylvia Ferrell-Jones as chair of the Educational Ministries Committee on March 25, 2001 which outlined my terms of employment. I was warmly welcomed and received the support of so many as I began my ministry here. I can still recall names and faces of many who have long since moved from this faith community, but who were instrumental in getting me started.

When I came to Pilgrim, we were a teaching parish. I met several other seminary students and was blessed to do my own field education with you. Under the tutelage of Rev. Judy Brain and the Teaching Parish Committee, I was given open and challenging feedback which still informs my preaching and ministry. I am grateful for the time and care you took to foster my pastoral identity.

Eleven years is a long time and with it came many rewarding experiences. I will carry those memories and what I learned from you with me when I go. Although some memories will come back to me as I minister in Chelmsford, these are some I am recalling now:

I remember and will not forget.....

- BBQ's and other fellowship events; especially the fun we had with the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre!
- Mission events, book sales, the Environmental Group, pumpkins, Christmas pageants and parties!
- The children and their eager generosity.
- Families of all kinds. Families here now and families from long ago.
- Confirmation students and my delight when I spotted students returning from college to visit their families and worship with us on Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Teachers and volunteers who gave untold hours of love and faith lessons to our students. Some for just one term and others for years upon years!
- Educational Ministries members past and present who have supported and encouraged me.
- Judy, Sally, Lauren, David, Dana and Diane, who share my love for all of you.
- Melissa Kelly who has been in our nursery longer than I've been here.
- Jim Munkres who has supported my ministry in ways too numerous to count. He will always hold a special place in my heart, not only for his unwavering help to me, but because his love for Pilgrim shines like gold!
- Members of Council past and present who lead this church with a strong sense of call.
- You!

Pilgrim and her people are surely something to celebrate. My memories are like gifts I will carry with me wherever I go.

Blessings,

Debra



From the Minister of Education

Every first Sunday in March, the children have delighted members with goodies and a tour of their classrooms during coffee hour. We are at it again! Lots of delicious treats will be on hand! Please join us downstairs for coffee hour on March 4th and be sure to visit all the classrooms and talk to the children you meet. Please share your appreciation with our devoted teachers for their faithfulness to our program. Their offering of teaching helps to make Pilgrim a wonderful church for families.

March is when the last transition will be for the teachers. Incoming third term teachers are:

- Nancy Cherry Brown and Adrianna Ramacciotti (preschool)
- Yolanda Taylor and Kristen Clarke (K/1)
- Barbara Yates and Lesley Morrison (2/3)
- Jeff Boehm (4/5)
- Julia Kirby with our youth class.

We say goodbye and thank you to Mary Mackie and Barbara Yates (preschool), Lisa O'Brien (K/1), Jennifer Velis (2/3), Julia Kirby (4/5) and Steve Van Evera and Beth Rogers with our youth.

On March 18th, third term teachers are invited to join second term teachers for the whole class or just a visit at the end so the children know what to expect. March 25th will be the first class day for third term teachers.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHERS**



LOOKING FOR FRESH LOCAL FOOD TO FEED YOUR FAMILY FOR DINNER?

Take a break from the kitchen and come enjoy pizza at Flatbread Company for the Pilgrim Nursery School Benefit Night!

Tuesday, March 13th from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Flatbread Company
213 Burlington Rd. in Bedford
(781) 275-8200**

Flatbread Co. is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from every flatbread purchased this evening to the Pilgrim Nursery School enrichment and scholarship funds. This includes take-out orders so come on by to enjoy an evening out with family and friends, or get something to go~ every order helps! While you're there, don't forget to buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win fabulous prizes! All are welcome as this event is open to the public.



**ATTENTION:
KNITTERS AND
CROCHETERS!!**

If you're looking for a project I have one or two. We are looking for knitters and crocheters to make Friendship Shawls and/or baby blankets.

If you need a pattern or yarn, I can supply it. Since everyone is so busy I thought that we should get together once a month. (No date has been set as yet.) If you are interested in this project, please contact Carolyn Beckwith by email, cnbeckwith@verizon.net, or phone 781-275-7537 or talk to me during the coffee hours after church on Sundays.

**ROOM AT THE TABLE
COMMUNITY EVENT:
FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR THE BENEFIT
OF
SUSTAINABLE HARVEST
INTERNATIONAL

SAT, MARCH 31ST, 6 – 8PM
PILGRIM CHURCH**

Room At The Table, now nearing it's 10th anniversary, is excited to announce that we will be hosting our next event on March 31st. This fundraiser will benefit Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) and their work in the rural Honduran village of Piedras Negras. SHI was founded by Florence Reed, who will be presenting at our event on March 31st. As a Peace Corp Volunteer, Florence identified the need for introducing sustainable agricultural techniques to farming communities in Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. SHI focuses on providing farming families with the training and tools to preserve tropical forests while overcoming poverty through the production of healthy food. SHI's local field trainers work together with families, individuals, and communities to teach methods of agriculture that improve nutrition, increase productivity, and prevent continued deforestation.

Room At The Table is teaming up with an outreach mission group from Lexington's Hancock United Church of Christ for this fundraiser. Hancock Church has sponsored SHI's work in Piedras Negras for the past 3 years. They have financially supported the field trainers and tools for teaching the families in the village, raising \$4000 to \$5000 dollars each year. In addition, Hancock Church members annually go to Piedras Negras in small groups to work with SHI in the community. In doing so, they stay with local families, develop deep and lasting relationships, and witness first hand the transformation of the village out of poverty. The goal of this Room At The Table fundraiser is to help the village of Piedras Negras graduate from this SHI program as a thriving agricultural community that is able to independently sustain a healthier way of life.

Room at the Table is a grassroots, multicultural organization of people of all faiths and ages who have, over the years, formed a dedicated community that shares a key mission. Our goal is simple. We raise money by serving simple meals indigenous to the people we are raising funds for, while raising cultural awareness. Our dinners include guest speakers with visual presentations, indigenous dance and music, exhibitions of photography and/or cultural artifacts, as well as the sale of hand made objects from the population being served. Proceeds go directly to improve recipients' quality of life through the provision of better housing, healthcare, water or education. We carefully select organizations that minimize waste and maximize impact.

Room at the Table's events are rooted in the firm belief that it is important to increase our local community's awareness of people in need, locally, nationally, and globally. We strive to mobilize and empower our youth, by giving their efforts a global reach, while creating multi-generational community gatherings. Our fundraisers provide a vehicle for education about those who are deprived of life's most basic needs: food, medicine, and shelter.

A donation equivalent to a nice dinner out is requested. Room at the Table is a Lexington-based non-profit. Previous events have raised funds for orphanages in Zimbabwe, Bhutan, and Cambodia; have provided relief for Katrina Victims, have helped to build tsunami-safe housing in Sri Lanka, and a girls' school in Pakistan after the earthquake. Closer to home, with your help, we have raised funds for the Greater Boston American Indian Center, for free health care for Greater Boston homeless women, and for the Lexington food pantry and the Waltham soup kitchen.

On March 31st, Room At the Table's event with Hancock Church will feature a presentation by Florence Reed, founder of SHI, a traditional Honduran dinner, and end with Salsa dancing and a short lesson by professional salsa instructor Kirsten Obermiller. We hope you will join us!



HOW HOMELESSNESS HURTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

***Eighth Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum
Sunday, March 11, 2012, 3:00-5:00pm, Trinity
Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St., Concord***

Family homelessness remains a severe problem in Massachusetts. Please consider attending this worthwhile event. There will be fascinating speakers, including Dr. Megan Sandel, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at Boston Medical Center. The forum, organized by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is free and open to all. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

As I write this update, I have been here for 12 days and am anxiously awaiting the arrival of Tom, Claire and Don Moir. I don't feel as though I have accomplished that much since my arrival, but I have learned so much during the experience. Although we are forced to go at a slower (Honduran) pace when we are here, our drive to make the greatest impact is constantly inspiring us. During the past two weeks, I have spent more time "being", and therefore have gained a deeper sense of the reality of people's lives here. No longer was I rushing past the people, I was feeling their exhaustion and boredom, and it spreads.

Things will change this afternoon when I head to the airport...once again, I will return to action. We will take Don and Claire on a tour of Flores, and tomorrow patients will be arriving to see Tom. On

Monday, we will be meeting with representatives from the water project, and Tuesday we will meet with administrators of the hospital. We will visit the schools in Flores, the health center and the

community building...all projects which have been supported by Pilgrim. Don and Claire look forward to visiting with Vanessa, a former patient who received funding from Equipping the Saints Fund and became a friend of the Moir family.

This certainly is a growth experience each visit, and being here for an extended period of time has truly opened my eyes. Thank you for your continued support as we mark our 10-year involvement with Honduras.

Emily



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Thank you to all who are participating in the Lenten Carbon Fast. Last year some of you chose to receive the carbon tips every day. For those who wish to do that, go to www.macucc.org/carbonfast to sign up.

Here is another possibility: some week during Lent, sign out one of our films or DVDs, which cover a number of environmental topics. During Lent the films will be kept on the Environmental Book Shelf just inside the main front door of the church. Here is a list of films that are available:

The Great Warming, 2006, a serious but optimistic look at our changing climate.

Renewal, 2007, a film about people of diverse faiths building a sustainable future.

Food, Inc., 2008, A broad look at how most food is grown in our country and the resulting health and environmental problems.

Plan B, Mobilizing to Save Civilization, 2011, Lester Brown describes his solutions to the many environmental issues we face, some of which are rarely discussed, such as "eradicating poverty". This film was shown on the TV Series "Journey to Planet Earth".

The View and The Vision, 2005, two short videos on Wind Energy, Cape Wind, and Denmark Tour.



Pilgrim Church

Book Sale 2012!!

The 2012 Pilgrim Book Sale will be on two weekends. On **Saturday April 28th and Saturday May 5th** we will be welcoming the community in for the book sale. On **Sunday April 29th and Sunday May 6th** we will be offering books for sale to the congregation during Coffee Hour.

We will be accepting new or slightly used Books, DVDs, and CDs. We will be grateful to receive non-fiction books **other than text books**, novels, children's books, recipe books, travel books less than 5 years old, hobby books, reference books, etc.

From March 1st through Sun. April 22nd you may leave them on the 2nd level near the elevator.

The proceeds of this year's sale will be dedicated to creating improvements in the Labor and Delivery/ Gynecology room of the Hospital Santa Teresa in Comayagua, Honduras the nearest hospital to Flores.

In just that department (which is essentially one room) of the hospital there are falling ceiling tiles, exposed wires, blood stained floors, crowded conditions with no privacy, and virtually no medical equipment. For example, what passes for an incubator is a tiny bed with a desk lamp over it to provide heat. With your help, a big difference can be created in this one room of one hospital!

If you have any questions please contact Sandy Gardiner at sandra.gardiner@verizon.net.

REMINDER: We hope you are planning on joining us for the **Fellowship Dinner** on **March 3rd at 5:30 pm**. We will be having a wonderful sit-down dinner and great entertainment by the **Lexington HS Madrigal Chorus!** For info or reservations, please contact **Susan Carabbio** at s.carabbio@comcast.net.

REMINDER: The deadline for the April issue of Pilgrim's Progress is **March 23rd**.

Pilgrim calendar

Mar 2012 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:15am - Choir 10:30am - Wor 2pm - Confirm 7pm - Adult Ed	27 10am - Care 7pm - Council	28 11am - Bible	29	1 11am - Adult 7:30pm - Choir 7:30pm - CWB	2	3 10:30am - Dou 5:30pm - Fello
4 9:15am - Choir 10:30am - Wor 11:30am - Ed. 1pm - Merriam 7pm - Adult Ed	5 7:30pm - Wors	6 11am - Bible 7pm - PNS	7 9am - Pilgrim 7:30pm - Vesp	8 11am - Adult 7:30pm - Choir	9	10 10:30am - Sno
11 9:15am - Choir 10:30am - Wor 2pm - Confirm 4pm - Youth 7pm - Adult Ed	12 7:30pm - F&A	13 11am - Bible	14 7:30pm - Mem	15 11am - Adult 7:30pm - Choir	16	17
18 Music Sunday 9:15am - Choir 10:30am - Wor 7pm - Adult Ed	19 7pm - Council	20 11am - Bible	21 10am - Staff	22 11am - Adult 7:30pm - Choir	23 Deadline for	24 6:30pm - Yout
25 9:15am - Choir 10:30am - Wor 2pm - Confirm 7pm - Adult Ed	26	27 11am - Bible	28 7:30pm - Vesp	29 11am - Adult 7:30pm - Choir	30 Cooking for	31 6pm - RATT

A **Room at the Table** Dinner for
Sustainable Harvest International and their work in the rural Honduran village of Piedras Negras



Honduran Cuisine & Crafts
Salsa Dancing
Guest Speaker:
Florence Reed, founder of
Sustainable Harvest Int.

Providing families
with the training
and tools to
preserve tropical
forests while
overcoming
poverty through the
cultivation of
nutritious foods



Sat. March 31st, 6-8 pm
Pilgrim Church
55 Coolidge Ave
Lexington, MA



For more info contact: 781.862.0357

Donations equivalent to the price of a restaurant meal are suggested.

Need a change of pace
for dinner?

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



Tuesday, March 13th

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FLATBREAD COMPANY

213 Burlington Rd. in Bedford



How Homelessness Hurts Children's Health and How You Can Help

Eighth Annual Forum on Family Homelessness

Sunday, March 11, 2012, 3:00-5:00 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St., Concord.

Sponsors: Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), and Horizons for Homeless Children.

Co-sponsors: Episcopal City Mission and UU Mass Action Network

Family homelessness remains at very high levels in Mass. due to the continued difficult economy, including record foreclosures. Over 42,000 families sought state housing assistance in the year ending July 2011 - 30% more than in 2010. Currently, over 2000 families are in shelters nightly plus more than 1300 families are still in motels, placing at great risk the health of families and children.

This year's Forum focuses on the impact of homelessness on children's health.

- Expectant women experiencing homelessness are 30% more likely to have pre-term deliveries, and 50% more likely to deliver low weight infants.
- Children in housing insecurity are 50% more likely to be in poor health, and 70% more at risk of developmental problems.

Learn How We Can Advocate to Protect Children's Health by Sustaining the state's Successful Homelessness Prevention Program, NOW AT RISK due to limits on State Funding

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Megan Sandel, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at Boston Medical Center *and* a nationally recognized expert on housing and child health



SPEAKERS:

- **Robert Pulster**, Associate Director, Department of Housing Stabilization, Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development
- *A formerly homeless woman who experienced health problems for herself and her children.*
- *State legislators from our area districts will comment on the issues in a panel discussion.*

Dr. Megan Sandel will speak on the effects of homelessness and severe housing insecurity on the health, nutrition, and early childhood development of homeless children.

Robert Pulster will tell us of the progress and needs of the state's shelter reform program.

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 or 978-369-3755; visit the Advocacy Network & CMM on line www.coopmet.org.