Pilgrim's Progress October 1, 2012 - Volume 54, Number 8



The church year is off to a great start. It's been wonderful to see so many of you in worship on Sunday mornings. We also have a lot to look forward to in October, most notably the arrival of our pumpkins on October 6th! I hope to see many of you there to unload the truck on Saturday. It really is fun and takes a lot less time when we have all the help we can get. And please tell all your friends to buy their pumpkins at Pilgrim!

Over the summer I actually planned out a **sermon series** for the fall. For seven weeks in October and November, I'll be preaching on the **seven deadly sins.** Now before you groan inwardly and roll your eyes, thinking that this will be depressing and uncomfortable, take heart! I am basing the series on a great book by UCC minister Robin Meyers, *The Virtue in the Vice: Finding Seven Lively Virtues in the Seven Deadly Sins.* Meyers says that out of the seven deadly sins we can find seven lively virtues. What he says is, "We've tried to instill fear and shame, which has only made sin a better box office draw . . . A better approach might be to do what a street preacher who worked with runaways and prostitutes once did. To one young woman who was lost and frightened he refrained from saying, 'Shame on you.' Instead he said, simply, 'Don't you think you were made for more than this?'" 1

My approach will not be shame, guilt, we're all so evil, blah, blah. I think you've all discovered by now that it's not really my style. However, I do think that we need to wrestle with these natural inclinations we may have. When you get angry at things that should just roll off your back, when you want more stuff to keep up with the neighbors, when your pride gets hurt by something petty, when you feel jealous of your colleague or can't celebrate when someone you love is doing well. Don't we need to think about what we can do with these thoughts and behaviors we may not be proud of? Hence, finding seven lively virtues in the seven deadly sins!

Here's what I'll be preaching on in October:

- GLUTTONY—October 7 (Virtue: Communion)
- **GREED**—October 14 (Virtue: Wanting Wisely)
- **PRIDE**—October 21 (Virtue: Worthiness)
- **ANGER**—October 28 (Virtue: Righteous Indignation)

I hope that this sermon series will lead to good, honest conversations about why we do what we do and how we can improve ourselves by turning these negative attitudes or behaviors around. Instead of greed, we can distinguish between wants and needs and "want wisely." Instead of pride, we can understand our own worthiness before God and others, and recognize the worth in all we encounter. Instead of being angry, we can have righteous indignation when it's appropriate to be upset at injustice in our lives or in the world at large. But first we'll begin with gluttony—instead of gorging ourselves, we'll speak about communion—about inviting others to the table and sharing what we have with all God's children.

See you in church!



¹ Robin Meyers, The Virtue in the Vice: Finding Seven Lively Virtues in the Seven Deadly Sins, xx-xxi



WORSHIP NEWS

Interested in Becoming a Member of Pilgrim Church?

If you're interested in becoming a member of Pilgrim Church or would like to know more information, please join Lauren and members of the Membership Committee for a New Member Orientation on October 14 immediately following worship in the conference room upstairs (the table outside the balcony/office.)

For those who decide to complete the membership process, a second gathering will be held on October 21 immediately following worship in the conference room.

Joining Sunday will be October 28th!

These meetings are informal in nature and a chance for Lauren and the Membership Committee to find out more about you and your family and for you to find out more about the church. If you have any questions about the membership process or would like to speak with Lauren one-on-one at any point, please don't hesitate to call the office 781-862-0357 or e-mail pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org



PUMPKIN PATCH FUNDRAISER STARTS THIS UPCOMING WEEKEND!

Pumpkins are arriving this Saturday
October 6th at 12:00 noon! We need as
many volunteers as possible to help unload
our truck of pumpkins. If you have not
signed up already, please come to Pilgrim
Church. We also have a sign-up sheet for
volunteers to work different shifts of the
pumpkin patch. If you are able to sell
pumpkins, no experience necessary! We
will show you how to be an expert pumpkin
salesperson (they actually sell themselves).
Sign-up sheets for shifts are on the table
going into Pilgrim Hall.

Bakers needed- if you are interested in baking any items for the fundraiser, please email me at s.carabbio@comcast.net. We are looking to sell baked goods only on the weekends, if you love to cook, let me know!

Thank you so much! See you on Saturday!





SEPTEMBER

The members of Council hit the ground running after the summer. Here's a summary of our September happenings:

- New Rental Policy Acting upon a recommendation from the F&A Committee, Council approved a new rental policy for our church facilities, a copy of which is included with this issue of Pilgrim's Progress and will be posted on our church website. After many years of coordinating rentals, Jim Munkres will be transitioning his role to Kat MacDonald. If anyone is interested in using our facilities or knows someone else or a local group who may be interested in using the Sanctuary, Pilgrim Hall or Fellowship Hall, please contact Kat at katmacdonald@verizon.net.
- Revised Safe Church Policy In 2010, Pilgrim Church adopted a Safe Church Policy. Since that time, we have added both a Junior High and Senior High Youth Group. Council approved revisions to the Safe Church Policy to, among other things, address the different requirements necessary for the youth groups. A summary of the revised Safe Church Policy will be provided to all parents of Church School students and Junior and Senior High Youth Group participants. A complete copy of the policy is available in the Church office and the library. A copy will also be posted on our church website.
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) With the assistance of our own Mike Stevens, a member of the Lexington Fire Department, Pilgrim is acquiring an automated external defibrillator (AED). Mike, an American Heart Association certified Basic Life Support Instructor, will be conducting a training session for anyone interested in learning how to use the AED. Details on the training session will be announced once we have received the AED.

Aspirations – Picking up where the congregation left off after our visioning sessions during the interim period, members of Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing our aspirations for the congregation for the coming church year. Now, we want your input so the members of Council and our church committees can align their activities and goals to address the priorities of the congregation. We will be holding an open forum following the worship service on Sunday, November 4th to solicit input from you. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

Submitted by Suzanne Abair, Pilgrim Church Moderator

THE CARE COMMITTEE

The **Care Committee** is a group of your fellow Pilgrims who make sure we are remembering those among us who could use a bit of extra help or some fellowship outside the walls of our church. The mission of the Care Committee is to take care of members of our own congregation.

Assistance for most everything we do is provided by both members of the committee and members of a "virtual" group we call the **Care Angels**. These people receive requests to provide meals, rides, visits, or cards to members of our congregation and they respond as they are able. There are currently about 40 active Care Angels. We have never been unable to respond to a request for help and we usually have more help offered than is needed! We may be a small congregation but our ability to care for our members is extravagant.

Some of what we do happens regularly. Other things we do are in response to a timely need. Some of what we do is well known to our church community. Other things we do are known only by the Care Committee members and the person we help.

Care by the Numbers – October 2011-September 2012

Remembrances

- 23 Altar Flowers Delivered
- 21 Easter Baskets Created and Plants Delivered
- 21 Christmas Trees Decorated, Poinsettias, and Cookies Delivered
- 7 Pumpkins (from our Pumpkin Patch) Delivered **PLUS** An unknown number of calls, emails and cards

Assistance

- 47 Meals Prepared and Delivered
- 7 Rides Provided
- 3 Respite Care Provided

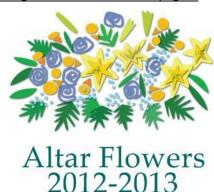
Receptions

- 5 Receptions after Funerals or Memorial Services
- 1 Farewell Luncheon for one of our Committee Members
- 1 Lexington Interfaith Clergy Luncheon
- 1 Douglas House Luncheon

As you can see, we are a busy group! The current Care Committee is Beth Kurth and Kat MacDonald (co-chairs), Gracia Dayton, Sis Dexter, Joan Greene, Sally Hutson, Martha Kimball, Kat MacDonald, Sheryl Mason, Merilee Nevins, Chris Reaske, Beth Rogers, Eleanor Smith and Susan Vega.

Anyone interested in joining the Care Committee or in being on the Care Angel List should contact Kat MacDonald at katmacdonald@verizon.net. Committee members can participate for a year, a month, or the rest of their lives. Care Angels can respond to every request for help or none at all. Regardless of the amount of time you have to give, your time and talents are wanted and appreciated by the Care Committee and, more importantly, by your fellow Pilgrims.

Submitted by Kat MacDonald, Co-Chair



Each Sunday an individual/s or family provides a flower arrangement for the altar at Pilgrim Church. These are often given to commemorate a special occasion, in memory of someone special, honor of relatives, a celebration, truly it is your choice. Donors simply sign up for a date and decide on the commemorative words which will be printed in the bulletin. The rest is taken care of. Here's how it works.

- 1. Contact me (Ruth Litchfield) to determine which Sunday you would like to provide the flowers or sign up during Coffee Hour at church. The first sign up will be 'Reunion Sunday", September 9th during coffee hour...and periodically throughout the year until the calendar is filled.
- 2. Wilson Farms of Lexington will make the arrangements and deliver them to the church. The cost is \$35 plus \$10.00 delivery. You will pay Pilgrim directly, \$45.00 by placing your check in Derek Gardner's mailbox and then Dave McClave will pay Wilson's directly each month. This will save each of you the tax.
- 3. If you have something special in mind in terms of flowers, you may Mark Messier, head of "Cut Flowers" individually and speak to him or to Nancy May, Mark's assistant directly with your personal wishes. They will be happy to work with you.

Wilson Farms – 10 Pleasant Street, Lexington, MA 02421 781-862-3900 ext 223 Mark Messier -Head of cut flowers Nancy May - Mark's assistant

4. After the service is over, you can either take the flowers with you or leave them for the Care Committee to distribute. Please tell Ruth in

advance if you are taking or leaving the flowers on your Sunday.

- 5. Remember all you have to do is:
- *Select a Sunday
- *Decide on your words for the bulletin
- *Decide if you will be taking or leaving the flowers after the service
- *Let Ruth know all three and you are set other than paying Pilgrim directly.

Please think about a date, see what will work best for you and contact me. Thank you all for taking the time to consider this very generous contribution to Pilgrim this coming year.

Ruth Hickox

781-862-9565 or ruthhickox@gmail.com

CHOICES AT THE END OF LIFE FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

"Choices at the End of Life," a weeklong series, held at First Parish in Lexington, will explore the ethical and practical issues we all face. This series was stimulated by the placement of Question 2 on the Massachusetts ballot, "Prescribing Medication to End Life." The lead event will be a panel discussion, "The Pros and Cons of the 'Death with Dignity' Initiative," moderated by Richard Knox of NPR. Workshops and presentations during the week will deal with Hospice, Legal Issues at the End of Life, Helping children and Adolescents Cope with Death and The 5 Wishes. The final event will be a moderated panel of Lexington clergy of varying faiths examining death and dying from their own religious perspectives. Lauren will be on the panel to represent Pilgrim Church. This project is funded by The Elizabeth Howe Lecture Fund. All events are open to the public and free of charge. Advance registration is requested. For more information and to register, please see the link at:

http://fpc.lexington.ma.us/index.php/upcoming-events/439-choices-at-the-end-of-life



CROP WALK TEAM – PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Team Pilgrim is helping to end hunger one step at a time by participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk in Concord, MA on **Sunday, October 14, 2012.** Funds from the 32nd CROP Walk for the Hungry support community-based suppers and pantries located in Concord, Bedford, Acton, Sudbury, Maynard, Groton/Littleton and Townsend, and the Gaining Ground organization as well as world-wide hunger and disaster relief and community development through Church World Services (CWS). Please support us by making a donation ... and join us on the Walk if you are able!

Details for walking:

Obtain donor "walking papers" from Don or Claire Moir if you wish to walk

Date: Sunday, October 14, 2012

Location: begins at 1st Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road in Concord Center, Concord, Massachusetts. You can walk one or two loops, each 3.5 km.

Registration: 1:30 p.m.

Music by Concord Carlisle High School Pep Band

Walk: 2:15 p.m.

To donate:

(a) Online – go to:

http://www.churchworldservice.org/goto/Pilgrim-Lexington

(b) By check – make checks payable to CWS/CROP and give or mail them to Don or Claire Moir at 35 South St., Concord, MA 01742.

WALTHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – SEASON OPENER - SEASON 2012-2013



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012 AT 8:00 PM AT THE KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM –

655 LEXINGTON ST., WALTHAM, MA.

Beethoven and more Beethoven! The Waltham Symphony opens its season on a Romantic note with an all Beethoven concert. The program includes:

Leonore Overture

Symphony No. 2

Violin Concerto in D Major, featuring

Andrew Kohji Taylor, Violin

For more information, please see the Waltham Symphony website at:

http://www.walthamsymphony.org.

COFFEE HOUR FOR 2012 - 2013

One of the things that sets our church apart is that every Sunday we have people who, at the request of the Fellowship Committee, host coffee hour -providing hospitality and refreshments for our members and friends. However, over time, the same folks have ended up hosting coffee hours several times a year, bearing an unfair share of the responsibility. This fall, at the request of Church Council, we'll begin a new practice at Pilgrim Church for coffee hour with the goal of each family hosting just once during the year.

How will this work? The Fellowship Committee has created a schedule whereby two families, couples or individuals will be paired together and invited to host coffee hour on a specified date. Everyone will be notified of their date and their co-hosts by the Fellowship Committee. Procedures will be in place to accommodate changes to the schedule. If everyone hosts just once a year, no one will have to host twice! And remember, hosting coffee hour does not mean you have to provide elaborate refreshments – it's about the fellowship, not the desserts.

On the next page you will find the schedule for coffee hour hosting, for 2012-2013. If you have any questions or concerns about your date, or you need to change your date, please reach out to Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net.

We thank you for your continued support at Pilgrim Church.

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2012-2013	3	Host	Host Families		
Sept. 9	Communion	Carabbio			
Sept. 16		Mackie			
Sept. 23		NONE - BBQ			
Sept. 30	Zambian Service	Boehm			
Oct. 7	Communion & Eleanor Clark Baptism	Abair/MacDonald			
Oct. 14		Beckwith	Bond		
Oct. 21		Carothers/Todd	Byrd		
Oct. 28		Botti/McIlrath	Breiby		
Nov. 4	Communion	Burger	Chen/Edmiston		
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day	German	Hopkins		
Nov. 18		Cherry/Brown	Childs		
Nov. 25		Ferrell-Jones	Gardiner		
Dec. 2	Communion & Week 1 of Advent	Costello	Cowan		
Dec. 9	Week 2 of Advent	Dayton	DeSanto		
Dec. 16	Week 3 of Advent	Dinsmore	Fagerstrom/Johnston		
Dec. 23	Week 4 of Advent	Collins	Kimball		
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve				
Dec. 30	Hymn Sing				
Jan. 6	Communion	Bennett	Johnston (Fred)		
Jan. 13		Kirby	Kurth		
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day	Labbe/Clarke	Lawler		
Jan. 27		Carabbio	LoBuglio/Royer		
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Feb. 3	Communion	Logan	Mahiou/Ramacciotti		
Feb. 10		Mason	McClave/Shore		
Feb. 13	Ash Wednesday	McKinney	Mitchell		
Feb. 17	Feb School Vaca begins & 1st Week of Lent	Moeller	Moffitt/Clark		
Feb. 24	Feb School Vaca ends & 2nd Week of Lent	Moir	Morrison		
Mar. 3	Communion & 3rd Week of Lent	Munkres	Murphy		
Mar. 10	4th Week of Lent	Nuss	O'Brien		
Mar. 17	5th Week of Lent	Porter	Reaske		
Mar. 24	Palm Sunday	Rogers/VanEvera	Saradjian		
Mar. 31	Easter	Greene	Vega		
Apr. 7	Communion	Smith (Eleanor)	Snipe		
Apr. 14	April School Vaca begins	Stevens	Sym		
Apr. 21	April School Vaca ends	Velis	Williams		
Apr. 28		Pilgrim Nursery School			
May. 5	Communion	Wood	Hutson		
May. 12	Mother's Day	Taylor	Velis		
May. 19		Williams	Wood		
May. 26	Memorial Day	Yates	Babson		
Jun. 2	Communion	Schwartz	Smith (Burton)		
Jun. 9	LHS Graduation	Ruth Litchfield			
Jun. 16	Father's Day	Mission Committee			
Jun.23		Religious Ed			

Pilgrim Congregational Church Senior High Youth Group Mission and Service

City Mission Society Boston Urban Outreach Overnighter in Boston!



\$aturday, October 20th thru \$unday, October 21th
Cost: \$45.00 (cost covers food, speakers, and overnight
accomodations)

Drop off Saturday, October 20th at 12PM Pick up Sunday, October 21st at 12PM

City Mission Society is a great nonprofit which works with the homeless in Boston. During this overnighter we will be staying overnight at a church in Charlestown and working at a soup kitchen located near downtown crossing. After we cook and help serve food we will eat dinner back and also have two formerly homeless speakers talk to us about their experience and the trials and difficulties they faced.

Please RSVP at <u>pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com</u> no later than Monday, October 15th, or let Dana know in person you'll be attending before then. Please note that <u>all youth</u> will have to have parents sign and return a permission slip in order to attend. Please bring sleeping/overnight gear and a change of clothes for church attendance on Sunday.

Octobe	r 2012	F S S M T 1 1 2 7 8 7 8 9 4 15 14 15 16	W T F S S 3 4 5 6 10 11 12 13 4 17 18 19 20 11 24 25 26 27 18	November 2012 M T W T F S 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 15 16 17 19 20 21 22 23 24 26 27 28 29 30		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 30 10:30am Worship/Zambia Service 11:45am Parent YG Mtg. 4:00pm JH Youth Group 6:00pm HS Youth Group	Oct 1 8:15am Pastoral Relations Committee 7:30pm Bridge School 5th Gr. Activities Committee 7:30pm Worship/Music	11:00am Bible Study	3	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5	Pumpkin Delivery 8:00pm Waltham Symphony Orchestra - Kennedy Middle School
7 10:30am Worship/Commu nion/NIN Offering	8 Office Closed	9 11:00am Bible Study	7:30pm Membership Mtg.	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13
10:30am Worship 11:45am Joining Mtg.	9:30am Staff Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Lexington Historical Society Lecture	17 10:00am Care Mtg.	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:30am Worship 11:45am Joining Mtg. 3:00pm Lexington 300th Committee Mtg PH; Pilgrim Hall	22	LHS Fall Choral Concert Rehearsal 11:00am Bible Study	7:30pm LHS Fall Choral Concert	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:30am Worship/Joining Sunday	29	30 11:00am No Bible Study	31	Nov 1 All Saints Day 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2	10:00am PNS Open House 1:00pm Service for Dick Kimball