

Pilgrim's Progress

September 1, 2013 - Volume 55 Number 7



Welcome back to church from wherever you have been this summer. I trust that you all have had time to rest and rejuvenate, to relax and reconnect, to go on new adventures or enjoy the beauty of the earth from your own backyard.

As you may have already heard, David Mislin will be leaving as our Minister of Music—his last Sunday will be October 13, and David has a farewell message in this issue of *Pilgrim's Progress*. We have been fortunate as a congregation to enjoy David's music ministry among us for ten years. I hope you will join me in wishing David well as he moves on to focus on his family and his teaching and writing. Change is never easy, but I trust that God has big things in store for David and for our congregation!

Speaking of which, this September is one of the busiest on record at Pilgrim. I'd like to outline some of what we have planned:

Sunday September 8 (Regular Worship resumes @ 10:30 AM)

We'll be back to 10:30 worship in the sanctuary—the choir and David will be back in the chancel, a liturgist will be back at the lectern, I'll be back in the pulpit, you all will be back in the pews, and we'll be taking communion. Welcome back!

Sunday September 15 (Service of Blessing and All-Church BBQ @ 10:30 AM)

You're invited to bring the water you collected from your travels to add to our holy water supply, and the children are invited to bring their backpacks to be blessed. All are invited to bring their bikes for our third annual blessing of the bicycles. Water, Backpacks, and Bikes—blessings abound! We'll also continue the Pilgrim tradition of our all-church barbeque right after worship, so we hope you can stay for food, fellowship, and fun.

Saturday September 21 (Family Movie Night @ 7 PM)

We will watch a family movie on the front lawn of the church with a great outdoor screen, speakers, and some popcorn to complete the evening. Bring your family and friends!

Saturday September 28 (Cradles to Crayons Family Day from 1-3 PM)

We are having a volunteer service day at Cradles to Crayons, and all ages are welcome! You are invited to bring donations of any gently used clothes, toys, and books with you for children up to age 12. Please RSVP to yolandataylor@mac.com if you can volunteer on the 28th.

Sunday September 29 (*Pilgrim: The Past, The Present, and the Promise* after worship)

As we begin our website redesign with Theory One Design, we would like to hear from you, **yes you!** We need everyone to come and share your thoughts, feelings, hopes, and aspirations for Pilgrim. *Our goal for this conversation is to begin work on a mission statement for our church.* Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. I should also note that there will be a professional photographer at Pilgrim on a Sunday in September and October to take pictures during and after worship for our new website. When we have the dates confirmed, we'll be sure to let you know!

As you can see, we have a lot going on at Pilgrim in September. I hope to see you at many of these wonderful church-wide events. Great things are happening in the life of our congregation, and God is moving among us in profound and inspiring ways. What a blessing to be in community together.

See you in church.

Lauren

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15 –
SERVICE OF BLESSING!**

Remember to bring your water back from your summer travels to church on September 15th when we will have the customary blessing of the water. We will also bless children's' backpacks and everyone's bicycles that day as well. **So on September 15th—bring your water, backpacks, and bikes to church to be blessed!**



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

Pilgrim Church BBQ will be on Sunday, September 15 following worship. We hope you are planning on joining in the fun!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7 PM

Join us on the church lawn Saturday evening at 7 for an outdoor screening of a family movie! We'll have popcorn and so much fun. Feel free to bring your friends and family too!



FROM DAVID MISLIN

Dear Friends --

It is with very mixed emotions that I share the news with you that I will be leaving my position of Minister of Music at Pilgrim this fall. Over the past year, I have struggled to balance work and family commitments, and it became clear to me this summer that the time had come for me to cut back on something in my life. This was not a decision that came easily, but I believe it is the right one. But I will miss you all very much!

It has been an incredible privilege to have been part of such a loving church community for the past ten years. When I arrived at Pilgrim in the fall of 2003, I was 21 years old and barely out of college. The church community enthusiastically welcomed me, and I have enjoyed our work and ministry together ever since. I have appreciated the chance to work with so many dedicated volunteers, as well as with our many excellent staff members, most recently Lauren, Eric, Dana, Diane, and Dan. Pilgrim is a truly special place, and I have no doubt that meaningful, uplifting music will continue to be a hallmark of the church's life.

I invite you all to participate in two special worship events this fall that will celebrate music at Pilgrim. On Sunday, October 6, we will have a Family Choir. Pilgrims of all ages are invited to arrive at 9:45am to learn a simple anthem that we will sing in worship that morning.

The following Sunday, October 13, will be my last day with you. It will be a Special Music Sunday, featuring James Whitbourn's *Son of God Mass* for choir, organ, and soprano saxophone. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends for the performance of this incredibly beautiful musical work. I also invite you to sing with us that day -- rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 12, at 7:30pm.

With deepest gratitude for our ten years together—

David

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC SEARCH UPDATE

Carol Chytil, Jim Munkres, David Nuss and Sylvia Ferrell-Jones have graciously agreed to join me on the search committee for a new Director of Music. The ad has been posted and we are beginning to receive applications. We will keep everyone updated as we move along the search process. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak to one of us.

Lesley Morrison- Chair



Dear Pilgrim Church Families,

Welcome back to an exciting church school year! Our theme and focus for the year is "Journeying *Together* Through the Liturgical Year." The church school curriculum for the 2013-2014-program year will once again be from *Spark!* This year, however, we will use the lectionary-based curriculum from *Spark!* in order to provide connection between the bible stories being preached upstairs with the bible stories being learned downstairs.

On Sunday, September 8 we will begin downstairs at 10:30 AM to kick-off the Pilgrim Church School year! Children in grades preK-5 will gather downstairs to design nametags, listen to a special lesson introducing the theme and focus for the year, and then go off into their classrooms. When it's time for Communion, children in grades 2 and above will be invited upstairs to participate in the sacrament. For the fall session our teachers are:

PreK/K: Ms. Jeanne and Mr. Mike DeSanto
Grade 1: Ms. Beth Kurth
Grade 2: Ms. Sandy Schwartz
Grade 3: Ms. Kristen Clarke
Grade 4/5: Ms. Lesley Morrison

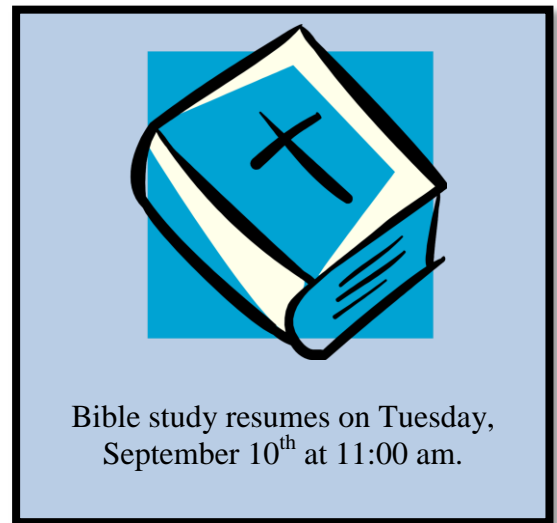
This fall, we have many special services and opportunities planned for all families:

- Friday, September 21: Family Movie Night on the front lawn of Pilgrim Church
- Sunday, September 15: Service of Blessing – Blessing of the Water, Backpacks, and Bicycles
(*Please bring water from your summer travels, backpacks, and bicycles to be blessed.*)
- Saturday, September 28: Family Service Project with Cradles to Crayons, 1-3pm
- Sunday, October 6: World Communion Sunday and Intergenerational Worship Service

This year promises to be an eventful and fun year in church school. I hope to see all of you at church, so that we may embark on another year of spiritual exploration and formation!

Blessings,

Eric



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS DEADLINE

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published October 1st. Please send all submissions to Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by September 20th. Thank you.



PILGRIM'S NEW WEBSITE – SAVE THE DATE FOR SEPTEMBER 29!

After months of research, interviews and benchmarking, Church Council has approved the construction of a new church website in partnership with Theory One Design, a leader in creating modern, easy-to-navigate websites for faith-based organizations. Theory One Design (TOD) is a local design firm with a national reputation. They have worked with not-for-profit organizations like Harvard University, Children's Hospital Boston, Cradles to Crayons, and MIT. They are also a leader in designing websites for faith-based organizations of all sizes with past clients including Old South Church in Boston and First Church in Cambridge. While completion of the new site is not expected until the spring of 2014, our work has already begun! We have assembled a Website Committee including Suzanne Abair, Bob Beckwith, Jeff Boehm, Milan Chytil, Jeanne DeSanto and Rev. Lauren Lorincz. During the summer, a smaller working group began the task of assembling an inventory of pages and organizing existing material that can either be re-used or re-purposed on the new website.

Throughout September and October, our efforts will become more visible as we undertake the first phase of the project called "*The Discovery Phase*:". During this time, TOD will immerse themselves in both who we are as a church today and what our goals and aspirations are for tomorrow. A professional photographer and representatives from TOD will visit and photograph our church. Their goal will be to capture - in both images and text - Pilgrim's unique personality, character and spirit.

But none of this can happen without your help. Great websites are built not by many pages but with many voices. We need all of you (members

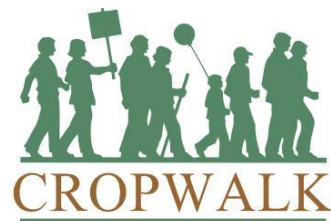
and friends alike) to come and share your thoughts, feelings, hopes and aspirations for Pilgrim. In that spirit, so that all voices may be heard, we encourage you to attend our mission statement ideation session called *Pilgrim: The Past, The Present and The Promise* immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 29th**. Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. We expect the session to run for no longer than 90 minutes.

If you have any questions please contact Jeanne DeSanto at jeannedesanto@verizon.net.



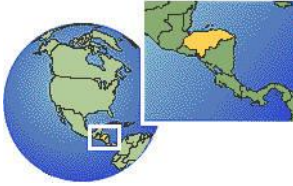
THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING, THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING...

Please save the date of **October 5th**, when our truck of pumpkins is arriving. A sign up sheet will be available in September in Pilgrim Hall to help with unloading of the pumpkins as well as the sale during the weeks from **October 5th through October 31st**. We are excited about our 3rd Annual Pilgrim Pumpkin Patch. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Susan Carabbio** at 781 862-7633 or s.carabbio@comcast.net



SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 – CROP WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

Save the date for the 2013 Concord Area CROP Walk for the Hungry on **Sunday, October 20**, starting at First Parish in Concord at 2:15PM with registration and music beginning at 1:30PM. More details to follow.



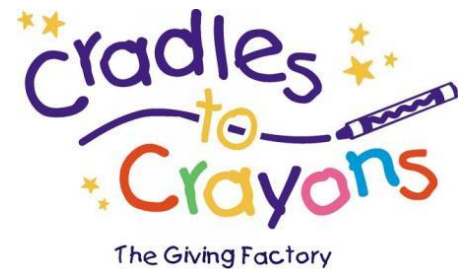
HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

This summer our family hosted two children from Honduras, 11 year old Noel and 8 year old Astrid. There is a great deal of coordination and efforts made by many people to allow these children to receive their ongoing medical care.

The first step is arranging their medical appointments with Tufts Medical Center in Boston and Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield. For the past 7 years, The Ray Tye Medical Aid Foundation has generously provided financial support which paid for Noel's open heart surgery and all the follow up care and evaluations. He is currently living without a valve and is closely monitored for change in symptoms which would indicate the need for another operation. Astrid has been receiving free care from Shriners Hospital since she was 2 years old. She was born with "lipomenigocele" which is a condition involving the spinal cord that required an operation to resect and detether it. She has also been operated on multiple times on her left "cavus" foot. This summer, she was suffering from pain on the dorsom of her right foot and was fit for an "ankle-foot orthosis" (brace) which she will need to wear every day, and it is recommended she be seen in 6 months.

We're thankful for the ongoing support from Pilgrim Church and Nancy and Charlie Morrison of Concord, MA. They paid for the airline tickets to make this trip possible and volunteers from American Airlines Ambassador Program who escorted the children from Honduras to Boston. Lastly, to all our family and friends who have welcomed Noel and Astrid into your own lives, we are forever grateful for your love, involvement and support.

Tom and Emily Collins



CRADLES TO CRAYONS SERVICE DAY – SAVE THE DATE!!

Pilgrim is doing a volunteer service day at Cradles to Crayons on **Saturday, September 28 from 1-3** - all ages are welcome and there are many ways kids as young as age 3 can participate and help to clean donated toys, organize donations, and put together packages for those in need. Please bring donations of any gently used clothes, toys, and books with you for children up to ages 12 as well that day. Please RSVP to yolandataylor@mac.com if you can come.



ALTAR FLOWERS – 2013-2014

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.

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 8th during coffee hour... and periodically throughout the year until the calendar is filled.

Wilson Farms of Lexington will make the arrangements and deliver them to the church. The cost is \$45 (\$35 plus \$10.00 delivery). You will pay Pilgrim directly by placing your check for \$45 in Susan Carabbio's mailbox and then Dave McClave will pay Wilson's directly each month. This will save each of you the tax you would be charged if you were to pay Wilson's directly ... every penny counts these days!

If you have something special in mind in terms of flowers, you may contact 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

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.

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 Litchfield
781-862-9565 or ruthhickox@gmail.com.





A NEW WALKWAY

One of the results of the annual visit of the Lexington Building Inspector last year was the information that the handicapped access ramp leading to the entrance of Pilgrim Hall no longer meets the code requirements. Among other problems, the height differential between the landing and the door jamb is too great for a wheelchair to navigate readily. By law we must meet these requirements.

Many possible solutions were discussed and found wanting. Eventually, it became clear that the old ramp needed to be replaced. But instead of another ramp, larger and with taller side rails, we are going to have a curving sidewalk instead! The walkway will begin next to the lower end of the main sidewalk, then curve around in front of the small maple tree near the Sun Room, and eventually end at a landing in front of the doors to Pilgrim Hall. Because the slope will be very gradual, hand rails will not be required.

The walkway will be more attractive and less expensive than a new ramp would be--a win-win solution to a sticky problem. Plans are in the works to have construction begin this summer.

Submitted by Jim Munkres



COFFEE HOUR FOR 2013 - 2014

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. Please see the schedule for the 2013 – 1014 Church year below.

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. Remember, hosting coffee hour does not mean you have to provide elaborate refreshments – it's about the fellowship, not the desserts. 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.

2013-2014 Coffee Hour

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1-Sep | | Labor Day | |
| 8-Sep | | Carabbio | |
| 15-Sep BBQ | | None- BBQ | |
| 22-Sep | | Mackie | |
| 29-Sep | | Abair/Macdonald | Bond |
| 6-Oct | | Bradshaw | Bennett |
| 13-Oct | | Youth | |
| 20-Oct | | Breiby | Cherry-Brown |
| 27-Oct | | Church School | |
| 3-Nov | | Burger | Todd/Carothers |
| 10-Nov | | Chen/Edminston | Chiu |
| 17-Nov | | Chytil | Clark/Moffitt |
| 24-Nov | | Clarke | Kurth |
| 1-Dec | | Costello | Dayton |
| 8-Dec | | DeSanto | Dinsmore |
| 15-Dec | | Johnston/Fagerstrom | Ferrell-Jones |
| 22-Dec | | Gardiner | German |
| 29-Dec singalong | | | |
| 5-Jan | | Greene | Vega |
| 12-Jan | | Hopkins | Hutson |
| 19-Jan | | Johnston | Kirby |
| 26-Jan | | Kimball | Collins |
| 2-Feb | | Labbe/Clark | Lawler |
| 9-Feb | | Carabbio | |
| 16-Feb | | LoBuglio/Royer | Logan |
| 23-Feb | | Mason | McClave |
| 2-Mar | | Carabbio | Mitchell |
| 9-Mar | | Moir | Morrison |
| 16-Mar | | Munkres | Murphy |
| 23-Mar | | Nuss | O'Brien |
| 30-Mar | | Porter | Ramacciotti-Mahiou |
| 6-Apr | | Reaske | Rogers |
| 13-Apr Palm | Sunday | Roy | Council |
| 20-Apr Easter | | Saradjian | Carabbio |
| 27-Apr | | Velis | Schwartz |
| 4-May | | Snipe | Council |
| 11-May Mothers | Day | Council | |
| 18-May | | Stevens | Taylor |
| 25-May Memorial | Day wknd | Pilgrim Nursery School | |
| 1-Jun | | Fellowship | |
| 8-Jun | | Mission | |
| 15-Jun Father's | Day | Council | |
| 22-Jun | | | |

September 2013

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Sep 1 9:30am Worship | 2 | 3 9:30am Regular Office Hours Resume | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 10:30am Worship - Homecoming | 9 8:00am PRC 7:00pm Mission Mtg. | 10 11:00am Bible Study | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 3:00pm Fellowship Hall Breakdown |
| 15 10:30am Worship 11:45am Church BBQ 2:00pm Confirmation - Opening Retreat and Session 1 | 16 10:00am Care Mtg., 7:00pm Council Mtg. | 17 11:00am Bible Study | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 7:00pm Family Movie Night |
| 22 10:30am Worship | 23 | 24 11:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Youth Group at Interfaith Garden | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 1:00pm Event at Cradles to Crayons |
| 29 10:30am Worship 11:45am Visioning Event 2:00pm Confirmation | 30 | Oct 1 11:00am Bible Study | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Pumpkins Arrive |