



Spring is officially upon us! There is an honest to goodness April shower occurring as I write this—reminds me of this lovely poem “April Rain Song” by Langston Hughes.

Let the rain kiss you.
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.
The rain makes running pools in the gutter.
The rain plays a little sleep-song on our roof at night—

And I love the rain.¹

This is actually true in my case, I do love the rain. Often spring rains seem cleansing to me—yes it can mean canceled baseball games, wet dogs, rain coats and boots and wet umbrellas, and soggy commutes to work. But spring rains also bring forth new life, and we hear those lullabies Langston Hughes describes and see those beautiful still pools and running pools wherever we go as we enjoy these rains.

In the church, the Great 50 Days of Easter are upon us, often called Eastertide. Eastertide is a time of new life and the hope of the resurrection kindled in our hearts once again. We often forget that Easter is not just a day but a season—Eastertide ends on Pentecost Sunday, the birth of the Church. Seems that our ancestors in the faith must have planned it that way or something! Easter is so transformative, so spectacular, so mysterious, so baffling, so inspiring—we are lucky to have more than one Sunday to observe it. In fact, we *need* more than one Sunday to observe it and let it sink into our hearts and renew our lives once again.

Like April showers that envelop the earth, the lingering effects of Easter envelop the Church. We'll continue to sing and say our Alleluias, to hear the Good News proclaimed, to walk with the Disciples in this new post-Easter world, to discover where God is leading us as we journey in our own lives of faith. I hope that the next time you see an April shower you'll restrain from getting too cranky, and instead think about this beautiful world we inhabit—a world where new life comes, the dawn always overtakes the night, and we witness resurrections all around us in this Eastertide. I wonder what you will discover—what lullabies you will hear, what you will find in those still pools and running pools?

See you in church~

Lauren

¹ Langston Hughes, “April Rain Song,” <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/182174>

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends.

Pursuant to our Bylaws, Article VII, Paragraph 2, you are invited to a Congregational Meeting of the Church on **Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 11:45AM** following the Service.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect the slate of officers for the 2013-2014 church year. Church Council has proposed the following slate of officers:

- Moderator: Suzanne Abair
- Assistant Moderator: Lesley Morrison
- Treasurer: Dave McClave
- Clerk: Jeff Boehm

Everyone is invited to attend; only members may vote.

Submitted by Jeff Boehm, Clerk



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Our Spring session will begin on April 7th. This session is our last session before we break for summer, and it will end on June 16. During this session we will have the opportunity to hear from our youth group during an intergenerational youth mission Sunday worship service, on April 21. Children's Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, May 12. As you can read, we are busy! However, I could not do it without the generous support and participation of our volunteers. It is such a blessing to serve all of you!

Submitted by Eric Sherlock
Minister of Christian Education



YOUTH NEWS

This is a reminder that the date of the Youth Group Spaghetti Luncheon fundraiser has been set! Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 19th** immediately following church downstairs in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, comments or would like to volunteer to help with set-up or break-down please email Dana (pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com) or anyone on the youth support committee (Lisa and Jeff Boehm, Kat MacDonald, and Sharon Lawler). We would like to thank everyone for their patience as we worked to find the best date to reschedule this event to!

Submitted by Dana Ellis
Director of Youth Ministry



Please sort your books, CDs, DVDs, etc. to find your contributions for this year's **BOOK SALE**. Please leave them at the church upstairs near the elevator doors. We are looking for books in good condition for both adults and children. CDs, DVDs, records, etc. are also welcome. Text books, however, are not helpful. We would very much appreciate having your contributions by **April 20**.

You will be able to "Shop" for those special items on **Sat. May 4 from 9 to 4, Sun. May 5 during Coffee Hour, and Sat. May 11 from 9 to 4.**

Submitted by Sandy Gardiner
Mission Committee



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS



Recently, we returned from 18 days in Honduras. During our stay, we were introduced to new patients including a young woman, “Katherine”, who visited us with her foster mother. She had moved from her home because her mother suffers from severe mental illness and it was an unhealthy environment. Katherine’s symptoms included severe headaches, blurred vision and a deep fear “she was going crazy.” Tom took a medical history, did an eye exam and spoke with a neurologist we had recently met in Comayagua. He arranged for an appointment the next day, and also found a trustworthy place to perform a CT scan.

Thankfully, the neurologist agreed with Tom’s initial assessment, Katherine was suffering from migraines and although they can be incapacitating, it isn’t what she truly feared, or anything life threatening. The day after Katherine’s medical exams were completed, we received the letter below which was kindly translated by Ursula Millard.

Dear Doctor and his Wife,

I am very grateful for what you have done for me. I cannot pay for it, but I know that God will bless you wherever you go because you do something very special. Thank you, thank you, and thank you very much. I know that God brought you to my life, and you have been such a blessing. I wish you the best always. I will always remember you. You are

people with a great heart and I know that God will always be with you and will make you stronger. With the blood of Christ bless you always. Thank you.

I appreciate it with all my heart. I love you very much.

If God is with you nothing can harm you.

Do not be afraid nor give up because The Lord is with you.

I love you a lot. I love you a lot.

Katherine Ramos

As we celebrate the Easter season, we are reminded of the many blessings in our lives. Receiving Katherine’s letter was quite humbling and once again we realize the gifts we receive from others far outweighs the efforts we make. Thanks you for your continued involvement in the community of Flores, and beyond.

Submitted by Emily Collins
Mission Committee



UPDATE ON MANDEVU, OUR PARTNER COMMUNITY IN ZAMBIA

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you all for your support for our partner community, Mandevu, in Zambia. We are all so fortunate to have these wonderful ladies working so very hard to support their children and provide them with a better life than they have experienced and doing it all with such great joy against such great odds.

As I have shared with you, they demanded to meet with me last summer simply due to having seen me before and over 30 ladies arrived sat on the floor and waiting to share their concerns and their hopes for their children or the orphan children they are caring for due to the AIDS epidemic. Their requests were simple, so very basic and I promised them answers even if it were not to be what they truly wanted. I then talked with our Pilgrim delegation and they emptied their pockets to purchase a peanut machine for the ladies, one of their ten requests that was manageable and we all felt would hopefully show them good faith. The machine allowed them to begin to make their own peanut butter from the peanuts they raise, sort and roast without going to town and paying for this service.

We are all now determined with YOUR HELP to respond to their three initial requests of the ten made in terms of safety for the children attending school in this community, our community.

1. toilet – 1 urgently needed, this was promised but never delivered
2. electricity – to be connected, has already been installed
3. front gate and wall – about to fall down and gate has dangerously ragged metal by children



The good news is that we now have a total of \$3,500.00, so we are over halfway there. I would like to ask you all one more time to help make this possible for this community and these children. For me an unforgettable memory of this past summer was walking to the area behind the school only to find a wet spot on the ground as a little girl ran around the corner of the building. There was nothing else she could do for there is no toilet. Each time we entered the school yard we all passed through the broken ragged metal gate and truly feared for the children. We were charmed by the

children peeking through the holes in the wall and then told it was dangerously fragile and would crumble if anything was done, again, we all thought of the children.



Finally everything in terms of electricity is ready to go, things simply need to be connected and then for the first time this school will have electricity for the children in the classes and the women to sew uniforms, one of their money making endeavors along with the peanut butter to help support their children.

Please if you possibly can and are able to find any funds, PLEASE make your check payable to Pilgrim and on the subject line please note "Mandevu". I know we can do this and am counting on each and every one of you. Many thanks and blessings to all!

Submitted by Ruth Litchfield



PATRIOTS' DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS!

The town of Lexington will be changing things up this year, with the Patriot's Day parade being held on **Sunday April 14th at 2:00pm**. Pilgrim Church will be participating in this event, and we are looking for families or individuals who would be willing to walk! We have a banner we are carrying and it is a great opportunity to show the community what a fantastic, thriving congregation we are. All are welcome! Please see Susan Carabbio, Eric Sherlock or Dana Ellis for more information.

Submitted by Susan Carabbio
Fellowship Committee



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



INTERFAITH GARDEN

Though the weather has not been springlike lately, the plans for the **fourth year** of the Interfaith Garden are under way. Work on last year's garden began on March 20th. But on March 20th this year, we had just been inundated with yet another snow storm! However, gardeners have to learn patience and we know that eventually the snow will stop and spring flowers will bloom, signaling another planting season. So what are the plans? As soon as the soil is dry enough, mulch will be spread over the garden, followed by soil nutrients. After that planting will begin and volunteers will be needed for short periods on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Twelve or thirteen religious congregations provide one or two or more volunteers. Would you enjoy being one of them? The benefits are many: good companionship, a short period of exercise (or not, if you sort tomatoes), and some good laughs as one of us almost steps on a seedling coming up. When the garden starts producing, the food is taken by wheel barrow over to the Lexington Food Pantry which is nearby. Pilgrim has 8 to 10 volunteers; some work only once during the summer, others more often. Every contribution is welcome. You choose when and how often to go to the garden. If you would like to know more about the garden, email Barbara at: barbjim.munkres@verizon.net.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres
Pilgrim Environmental Group

SATURDAY – APRIL 6TH FAMILY SPAGHETTI DINNER TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS

Saturday, April 6th from 5:30 – 7:30 at First Baptist Church in Lexington. \$7 for adults, \$4 for children, or \$20/family. Please join us for an evening of food and fellowship. Displays, crafts, and activities for the kids. Bring the whole family, friends and neighbors! Donations of any amount graciously accepted. For reservations or more information, please call 781-862-9050 or fbcl580@rcn.com. Walk-ins also welcome!

MONDAY, APRIL 8TH DINNER TO BENEFIT COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS

Monday, April 8 at 6:30 pm at the Elephant Walk, 663 Main St., Waltham, MA. ElephantWalk.com. Come and enjoy award-winning Cambodian and French cuisine at this highly-rated restaurant. There will be passed hors d'oeuvres, followed by a 3-course dinner with coffee/tea service, for \$40 per person, including tax and tip. Other beverages are available for an additional charge. The Elephant Walk *will donate half* of all food, drink, and gift certificate purchases to Communities without Borders. This incredibly generous donation is part of their serious ongoing commitment to support many causes as a [Benefit Restaurant](#). Your family and friends are welcome. The restaurant requires advance registration and payment. For more information, contact: Debra Minard, 617-244-4045. Debby@FreshPowder.net or www.CommunitiesWithoutBorders.org



**COMMUNITIES
WITHOUT BORDERS**
Making hope happen, one child at a time

LEGISLATORS, SOCIAL AGENCIES AND MEMBERS OF THE FAITH-COMMUNITY MEET TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Concerned about the detrimental effects of homelessness on children and unaccompanied youth, state legislators, officials, social agency staff and members of the faith-community gathered at First Parish in Concord Sunday afternoon, March 3 to gain greater insight into the situation, share information and learn how advocacy can help to alleviate it.

Christina Murphy, keynote speaker at the Ninth Annual Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness Forum, wasted no time in citing the critical points at which homeless children are most vulnerable. It is during the two times when the brain undergoes the greatest periods of development: the first five years of age and again during the early teen-age years. Murphy, who is the director of policy and communications for The National Center of Family Homelessness, went on to state that currently one in forty-five children in the United States are homeless for some period of time each year.

So called unaccompanied youth, typically those in their late teens have it almost as bad and possibly worse. Kelly Turley, director of legislative advocacy at the Massachusetts Coalition for the homeless, introduced Norberto. Currently receiving support at the Home for Little Wanderers' Young Adults Resource Network, he recounted from first hand knowledge the trauma experienced by youth who are without family support and also homeless. It is thought that upwards of 6000 older teenage girls and boys in the Commonwealth are in this predicament.

Carl Miller of the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord said "Family homelessness is a complex and difficult problem both in the Commonwealth and nationally, but it is not intractable." "Good program design, judicious funding and the efforts of both the legislative and executive branch in careful management of resources to help unaccompanied youth and families in need make a huge difference. "We are particularly heartened by the attention of those who

wish to make a difference through their efforts as advocates for the homeless."

Members of Pilgrim who attended were **Sandy Gardiner, Martha Kimball, Don Moir and Claire Moir**, a member of the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness. If you are willing to contact your state legislators about this issue, you can email Claire at themoirs2@gmail.com and she will give you the info that you need for a quick phone call or email that can make a difference, particularly in the amount that the state budgets of Homelessness prevention.

Submitted by Don Moir

**PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
DEADLINE**

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published May 1st. Please send all submissions to Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by April 22nd. Thank you.



COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2013:

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	
Jun. 30		Youth	



April 2013		March 2013							April 2013							May 2013						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4				
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		31																				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																
Mar 31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6																
EASTER 10:30am Worship	Church Office Closed 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	NO BIBLE STUDY	7:00pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the Taylor home)	10:00am Adult Ed Class - David 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal																		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																
10:30am Worship 4:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Sr. High Mtg. w/Parents Re Mission Trip (Time TBD)	7:30pm F&A Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Ed. Min. Mtg.	7:00pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the Taylor home)	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00am Special Musicians																
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																
Youth Group Trip to DC						10:00am Special Musicians																
10:30am Worship	Patriot's Day - Church Office Closed	NO BIBLE STUDY																				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																
10:30am Worship/DC Mission Trip/Intergenera- tional Sunday	10:00am Care Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg. 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study	7:00pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the Taylor home)	6:30pm Worship/Music Mtg.	Stand Against Racism Event	10:00am Special Musicians																
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4																
10:30am Worship 1:00pm Lex Open Doors Day		11:00am Bible Study	7:00pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the Taylor home)		Set up for Book Sale	9:00am Book Sale 10:00am Special Musicians																



Family Spaghetti Dinner

Fundraiser to support **Communities Without Borders**, a registered Boston-based non-profit to fund schooling for orphans & vulnerable children in Lusaka, Zambia



The AIDS epidemic and lack of health care has effected hundreds of thousands of children in Zambia. The remaining caregivers cannot afford school fees. Children through grade 6 must buy uniforms, approved shoes, books and pay fees. If they don't have those fees they don't go to school. There is also pressure by the caregivers to have the children work in the markets, caring for younger children, in a quarry or worse.

Education is the key to their survival, as well as to the country's stability. Girls' education is especially critical. CWB supports 1500 children in elementary and secondary school.

Your donations at work:

\$10 buys a pair of shoes

\$25 feeds a child for a month

\$105 pays a preschool teacher

\$100 sends a child to elementary school for a year

\$300 allows a child to attend grades 7-12 for a year

Please join us for an evening of food and fellowship. **Displays, crafts, and activities for kids.** Bring the whole family, friends and neighbors!

**Donations of any amount graciously accepted!
Please support this wonderful program!**

April 6, Sat, 5:30-7:30pm

Continuous seating

First Baptist Church

1580 Mass. Ave.

Lexington, MA

\$7 adults, \$4 children, \$20 family

Includes: meat or meatless spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, beverage & dessert

For more information and to make reservations, please call 781-862-9050 or email fbc1580@rcn.com.

Walk-ins also welcome!



Pilgrim Congregational Church Youth Group

Spaghetti Luncheon and Fundraiser!



Sunday, May 19th

Right after Church in Fellowship Hall!

Cost: \$10 for adults

\$5 for Kids (\$30 cap for families)

Help the youth group raise money for our mission trip and all the cool things we're doing this year! If you're interested in purchasing tickets or would like more information, you can contact Dana at Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com or Lisa Boehm at lisapboehm@gmail.com.