



This Lent I've been reading *A Season for the Spirit* by Episcopal priest Martin L. Smith. Smith's Lenten reflections are inspiring and thought-provoking. In one reflection, Smith contemplates the story of Mary and Martha. You remember the story—Jesus visits Mary and Martha and Mary sits at Jesus' feet to listen to what he's saying. Meanwhile, Martha busies herself with tasks, distracted and worried. Martha complains to Jesus that Mary is not helping at all, but Jesus says, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."¹ Smith reflects on this story by writing, "Addiction would not be too strong a word to describe the need of many of us to be constantly productive and active . . . There are not many churches where 'the good portion' is defended and encouraged, where people are trained in ways of developing their own intimacy with Christ and knowledge of God so that they can bring others to share what they have experienced."²

This devotional made me think about how the addiction to be constantly productive and active plays out among us. All of us seem so busy all the time. It can make all of us wonder if we make enough time for silence, rest, and down time. If our commitments, activities, roles, and jobs feed our spirits—wonderful! If not, how can we improve our situation? Even if we do feel fulfilled and happy, we still need to make time for rejuvenation. Should we sometimes say *no* the next time someone asks us to take on another project or commit to serving in another capacity, to hopefully protect time for ourselves and our families? If we have a hard time saying *no*, how do we give ourselves permission to do just that? Smith's assertion that the need to be constantly productive and active is an *addiction* should give us pause! Sometimes being like Martha and busying ourselves with many tasks is spiritually fulfilling, but sometimes the tasks are a distraction to avoid listening to God's still small voice. Seems like balance matters.

Further, Smith's reflection about how the Mary and Martha story plays out in churches made me think about Pilgrim. Are we a church where people are trained to develop intimacy with Christ and knowledge of God—which then leads us to bring others on the journey of faith with us? Or are we busying ourselves with programs and tasks and committee work to the neglect of developing intimacy with Christ and knowledge of God? Again, seems like balance is important; knowing that sometimes those tasks, programs, and committees help us know God and one another better.

And this is where I put in a plug (you knew it was coming!) to attend some of our Lenten and Holy Week services to help develop the necessary intimacy with Christ and knowledge of God we so desperately need in a community like ours, addicted to being constantly productive and active. Sincerely—come, worship, and let your Mary side experience some peace this April. Our final Vespers service is tomorrow at 7:30 PM, Palm Sunday is Sunday April 13 at 10:30 AM, Maundy Thursday is Thursday April 17 at 7:30 PM, Good Friday is Friday April 18 at 7:30 PM, and Easter is Sunday April 20 at 10:30 AM. See you in church!

Grace and Peace,

Lauren



Holy Week

¹ Luke 10:41-42, *NRSV*.

² Martin L. Smith, *A Season for the Spirit: Readings for the Days of Lent*, 105.



Lenten WORSHIP SERVICES

We have a number of Lenten worship services we'll offer throughout this season. Easter Sunday is always more meaningful if we journey with Jesus and the disciples through Lent and Holy Week, and these services will help us make that spiritual journey.

Wednesday April 2nd Vespers Service—7:30 PM. Our second Lenten Vespers service to prepare us for Holy Week.



Sunday April 13th Palm Sunday—10:30 AM. Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem with folks waving palms and crying, "*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (John 12:13) We will process into the sanctuary waving our palms to begin Palm Sunday, and the service will be intergenerational.



Thursday April 17th Maundy Thursday—7:30 PM. Maundy Thursday marks the night Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment, "*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) Maundy Thursday is also the night of the Last Supper and ends with the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Communion will be served.)



Friday April 18th 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. Good Friday is also the day that the Church intercedes for the world, knowing that sin and death never have the final say in God's story.
Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Mairi Morrison asked that we pray for the family of Mary Morris on the death of her brother David.
- Betty Bradshaw asked for prayers for Nicholas recovering from shoulder surgery. Prayers that he finds a safe place to live on the Cape. For Andrew in crises. We also ask for prayers for Betty as she has knee surgery recently.
- Sylvia asked for prayers for her brother Chuck who is homeless and her brother-in-law Michael who is facing difficulties.
- Chris Reaske asked for prayers for the Boston Fire Department; for the Boston firefighters who were lost and their families.

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 27, 2014 at 11:45AM** following the Service.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect the slate of officers for the 2014-2015 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Boehm
Clerk



PILGRIM CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS:

Hello, fellow Pilgrims! We have a number of exciting events coming up, so please take a look at our calendar:

CALENDAR FOR APRIL:

Sun, April 6th: Church School (children begin in classes, then join worship service for Communion)

Sun, April 13th: Palm Sunday! Children attend worship with their families!

Sun, April 20th: Easter Sunday! Children attend worship with their families!

Sun, April 27th: Church School (children begin in worship)



SPECIAL PALM SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Our wonderful Director of Music, Dan Schmidt, is leading a special choir for our children (2nd grade and up); they will join the adult choir in singing an anthem on Palm Sunday. It's not too late to join us! Rehearsals are every Sunday (for 15 minutes) immediately following worship and church school; we meet downstairs by the piano. See you there!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sun, May 18th: Children's Sunday!! Your children will ALL be involved in this service, so please make every effort to attend!

Sun, June 15th: Final week of church school; fun get-together planned!



Check Out OUR BLOG

Feel free to check out Jill's weekly Church School blog at:

<http://pilgrimchurchschoolblog.wordpress.com/>

Thanks, everyone!
Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jill Olds
Interim Director of Christian Education

NEW POSITION: PILGRIM CHURCH DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upon the recommendation of a Christian Education task force, Council approved the creation of a new position at Pilgrim. This position is a combination of the Church School Director and the Youth Group Director. The task force, composed of parents and grandparents of Church School children and youth, felt that the time had come to have a more unified program. One person overseeing all the Christian education will help our church continue to have strong programs for children and youth and build momentum for the future! The job description is posted on our website.

Brooks Taylor is chairing the Search Committee, and will serve alongside Kat MacDonald, Lisa O'Brien, Mary K Reaske, and Beth Rogers. We are very thankful for their willingness to serve! Our hope is to also have the youth represented on the Search Committee. We are thankful to Dana Ellis for all her hard work in making Pilgrim's Youth program so successful. And we wish her well as she graduates with her Master's soon and moves back to Long Island this summer.

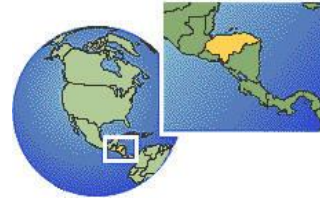


CONFIRMATION CLASS SERVICE PROJECT

On **Saturday, March 15th**, the confirmation class participated in a City Mission Society service project where they went to Pilgrim Congregational Church in Dorchester and made lunch for over 130 people. Lunch was made entirely from scratch and included a pork roast, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots, salad and a dessert. This service project was part of the confirmation lesson on witness and service, which helps the confirmation class to recognize the importance service plays in the life of the church and in enabling faith formation and spiritual reflection.



On **Thursday, April 10th** the Youth Group will be volunteering at Bristol Lodge soup kitchen! The Youth Group volunteers twice a year on average at Bristol Lodge. This service project gives youth the opportunity to make and serve a meal and work directly with at-need populations in the Greater Boston area. The youth will also be making Easter baskets for the Pilgrim Care committee on Sunday, April 13th during church and helping to distribute them afterwards!



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS



It's been a while since we returned from a three week trip to Honduras, and I'm beginning to adjust to life here. This time our return flight was cancelled, we switched airlines last minute and connected in Atlanta instead of Miami. Have to admit, it was easier entering the States this way...less chaotic, and not the same slap of reality. I wish I could have taken the time and had the energy to write while I was away, but I really do "live in the moment" while I am there, and spend little time thinking about life "back home." It's too bad because I'm often in the midst of intense feelings and perhaps I would be better at conveying it then, but here goes.

There's no way to sum up our trip in a few paragraphs but I'll re-cap one experience. My first thought is the night we had an emergency at our home. I was getting the kids ready for bed, when I heard Mita Gomez (our new Honduran coordinator) yelling my name outside our locked gate. I ran to the door and saw Mita, her husband and a young couple with a toddler in their arms. The child was in a seizure, non-responsive and they were looking for Tom (a pediatrician). As Tom checked the little girl's heart and was relieved to find her breathing, I ran next door to our neighbor, "Patricia" who is a Honduran doctor.

I will never forget the sight of this child (rigid and staring blankly) or the sheer panic of her parents, especially her step-dad who was drenched in sweat, praying his heart out, pleading to us not to let the

child die. Patricia gave her an injection (standard Honduran protocol), we tried to calm the parents down, handed Mita some money (for gas and medication), and off her husband sped to the hospital.

As they arrived at the E.R. the child's seizure continued, they had to wait in line with the mass of people and when they were eventually seen by the doctors they were informed there was no medication, they would spend the night and when they came up with the money some exams would be done. Despite the mother's offer to give us their home (pictured above) in exchange for help with medical care, we assured her it wasn't necessary. The next obstacle was finding people to donate blood...determining a match and convincing people to give. This little girl remained in the hospital for the next two weeks, and since then, moved to a hospital in the capitol. We are still following her case from a distance.

It was a stark reminder of many things...living in poverty and not having the means to purchase medicine or have transportation in an emergency, life in the third world with inadequate medical care and non-existent medicine. These feelings resonate with me as I return to the U.S.A., and try to be patient when I hear people complaining about the most inconsequential things...and remember, I am the "fortunate" one for having the opportunity to experience life elsewhere and gain a different perspective. I hope others will have this chance.

Emily Collins

**GREATER BOSTON ASIAN-
AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA BENEFIT CONCERT AT
PILGRIM CHURCH**

Please see the flyer regarding the GBAAYSO Concert at Pilgrim Church on **Saturday, April 12th at 7:15 pm.** Please bring a non-perishable item or donation in the form of a check made payable to Music for Food. All donations will benefit the Lexington Food Pantry. For more info, please visit www.gbaayso.org or call 781-862-3473.



**THE ONGOING NEED FOR
TEMPORARY HOST FAMILIES**

Recently, I put out a request for someone interested in hosting 11 year old Milad Sahibi from Afghanistan. Thankfully, the Osmani family of Brookline have welcomed Milad into their home which will enable him to continue his medical care at MGH.

Children from other countries are often required to travel to the states without parents. Doctors are willing to offer free life saving/altering care for these patients who are unable to obtain this care at home. Unfortunately, many children will not be accepted for treatment due to the lack of host families.

We have been welcoming children into our home for over 10 years and I can honestly say it has been the most rewarding experience for our entire family. Nothing had a more meaningful impact on our children's lives and many of their friends embraced the opportunity, as well.

If you have any questions about hosting, or perhaps providing respite for another provider, please don't hesitate to contact me: emily@esperanzahftc.com.

Thank you.
Emily Collins

**DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS**

Please note that the deadline for the May issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be April 25th. Thank you!



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Lenten Discussions. We thank Steve Van Evera for leading a discussion on strategies to address climate change on Sunday, March 23. He spoke about lessons that the environmental movement can learn from earlier successful movements, including the U.S. effort to abolish slavery in the mid-1800s, and the U.S. Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. These movements had either a strong leader or multiple groups all proclaiming the same message and coordinating their efforts. Steve believes that if we want to persuade the public to act against climate change, the message must be clear and it must be repeated, not just now and then, but every week. This requires centralized direction or coordination among climate change action organizations—something lacking today.

Steve suggested that stronger action is needed to address the danger posed by climate change. Measures taken so far are worthy but insufficient. Tightening regulations on release of greenhouse gases, as the EPA is doing, is excellent but is not enough. Steve believes that a carbon tax would be a strong and effective additional measure. A carbon tax would ask industries that produce greenhouse gasses to pay a tax that reflects the cost they impose on the community. Such a tax would use the mechanism of the market to encourage companies and individuals to turn from carbon-based energy to green energy. It could be imposed locally but ideally should be imposed world-wide. This is the quickest way to address climate change...when it hits our pocketbooks. A carbon tax is actually happening in the province of British Columbia, and is successful. Perhaps we can learn from their example.

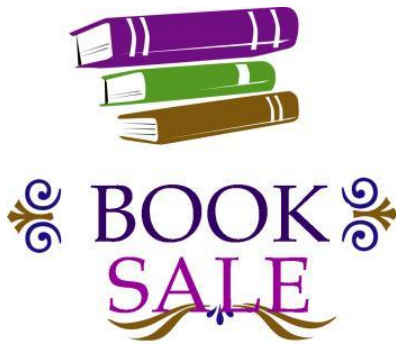
Join us on Sunday, April 6 to hear from Marty Saradjian who will share an international perspective on climate change. Marty will draw on his experiences in teaching International Environmental Law at Boston University. Again we will meet about 15 minutes after the worship service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. There will be time to collect some goodies at Coffee Hour.

INTERFAITH GARDEN

The Garden has opened in spite of a sluggish spring! The scheduled date for preparing the soil this year was March 15th, but snow still lay thick and heavy at that time. Thankfully, a few warm days amid the cold ones slowly melted the winter's accumulation and gardening began last week. For those new to the garden, volunteers work on Tuesday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00 planting, watering, and weeding. On Saturday am, the chores are the same but as the plants begin to grow and produce their fruit, harvesting is added. At first the Saturday time is 9:00 to 10:30. But as the plants produce more, the time shifts to 8:00 to 9:30 to allow us to take the fruits and vegetables to the Food Pantry. at Church of Our Redeemer. As the garden grows, it becomes quite beautiful with flowers bordering the rows. These are taken to the Pantry also, to brighten the day for people who come in need of food and other kinds of sustenance. If this sort of volunteering appeals to you, please consider joining our Pilgrim crew of workers. Email Barbara Munkres at barbjim.munkres@verizon.net. This week a crew of Cub Scouts was planning to spread the manure that will help the plants grow well. We can be grateful for such youthful enthusiasm!

Submitted by Barbara Munkres





GETTING READY FOR THE BOOK SALE

We are looking forward to the Annual Pilgrims Book Sale!

The proceeds this year will be used to fund a playground and a new roof for the medical clinic in the Town of Flores, Honduras.

Our dates for the Book Sale this year are:

Sat. May 3rd from 9 to 4
Sun. May 4th during coffee hour after church
Sat. May 10th from 9 to 4

If you have items to donate, please bring them **between April 21st and April 30th** and put them **on the second floor** near the elevator. Try not to block access to the elevator.

We would be most grateful for donations of:

Books in good condition
CDs
DVDs

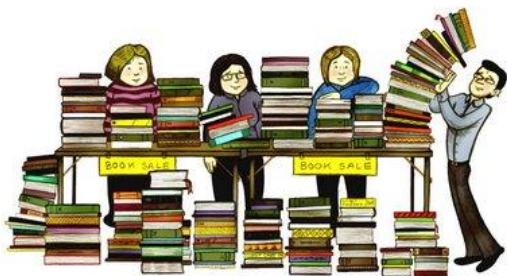
We welcome both items for children and adults, novels, non-fiction, reference books and cookbooks.

Textbooks are not particularly good for this sale. If you have any questions please contact Sandy at **Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.**



Many of us describe Pilgrim Church as a caring community. I've done so myself at various times, but I had no true understanding of the depth of Pilgrims' caring until after my cancer diagnosis. You have held me in prayer, sent cards, notes and gifts, delivered many delicious meals for my family, phoned, and visited. The level of caring has been so deep that I could not have imagined it. I am profoundly moved and blessed to be a part of Pilgrim Church. Thank you all for your love and kindness.

Sylvia Ferrell-Jones



Fight hunger through the nourishing power of classical music



gba² yso Greater Boston
Asian-American Youth Symphony
ORCHESTRA

PRESENTS:

Music for

Featuring Young Talented Musicians Works By Schubert, Saint Saens, Haydn and Mendelssohn



Sophia Xie, Piano/Violin



Sarah Fu, Violin



Christine Hong, Violin



Kens Lui, Conductor



Briosio Trio

TIME: April 12, 2014 Saturday 7:15PM to 8:30PM

PLACE: Pilgrim congregational church, 55 Coolidge Ave, Lexington, MA 02420

FREE ADMISSION: Audience bring in dried/non perishable items or checks make payable to Music For Food. All donations will be delivered to support the Lexington Food Pantry.

Contact: Greater Boston Asian American Youth Symphony Orchestra, www.gbaayso.org or 781-862 3473
Asian Cultural Center at 617-225-2888 www.asiancc.net for more information

April 2014

March 2014							April 2014							May 2014							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31																				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
10:30am Worship	5:30pm CBT Class for 12- Olds	11:00am Bible Study	7:30pm Vespers Service	7:00pm Rehearsal for "In Their Own Words"		4:00pm Lexington Chamber Music Classes
11:30am Handbell Rehearsal	7:00pm Rehearsal for "In Their Own Words"	7:30pm Youth Support Mtg.		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
11:45am Pilgrim Environmental Group Discussion						
2:00pm Lexington Chamber Music Classes						
5:45pm						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30am Worship		11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00am Memorial Service
11:30am Handbell Rehearsal		6:00pm Lex. High Womens Chorus				7:15pm Greater boston Asian-American Youth Symphony Concert
2:00pm Confirmation						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday	10:00am Care Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study	6:00pm Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	7:30pm Good Friday Service	6:00pm Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:30am Worship	6:00pm Rehearsal - Sanctuary	6:00pm Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00pm Council Mtg. (Officer Sel./Maundy Th Rehearsal)			
11:30am Handbell Rehearsal						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:30am Worship	Patriot's Day - Office Closed	11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
6:00pm In Their Own Words - Sanctuary						
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
10:30am Worship	7:00pm Council Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study	Set up Book Sale	Set up Book Sale	Set up Book Sale	Confirmation Retreat - Craigville
11:30am Handbell Rehearsal				7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		9:00am Book Sale
11:45am Congregational Meeting						