



Pilgrim's Progress April 7, 2015 – Vol. 57 No. 4



Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

Our Easter Celebration Service was wonderful this year. It was nice to see everyone gathered together to praise God for resurrection, new life, and promises fulfilled. It was wonderful to see both new and familiar faces when I looked out at all of you from the pulpit and so many children come forward for Lisa's Children's Message. Dan organized special musicians to be with us, and the music was particularly moving. I always love serving

Communion on Easter and seeing that holy line of people coming forward to receive the Sacrament. Thank you to all of you who played parts in our Holy Week Services and came to experience the journey Jesus took—from the streets of Jerusalem to the cross to the tomb to the unexpected mystery that first Easter morning. God is good.

Even though we often think of Easter as just that one Sunday, it's actually a Season in the Christian Liturgical Year (just like Lent or Advent or Ordinary Time.) It's appropriate to denote the Sundays of Eastertide as the Second Sunday of Easter, the Third Sunday of Easter, etc. The Sundays immediately following Easter are a continuation of the joy and glory and hope and wonder *of Easter*. Eastertide lasts for fifty days—stretching from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. So there's plenty more hope and joy to experience at Pilgrim Church as we now move into Eastertide this April and May!

April will also mark a change in our lay leadership as we will elect new church officers on Sunday April 12. For three years, Suzanne Abair has been our Moderator, Lesley Morrison has been our Assistant Moderator, and Jeff Boehm has been our Clerk. Dave McClave will continue on as our Treasurer though Suzanne, Lesley, and Jeff will now step aside as new leaders have come forward to take on these important roles. Jeanne DeSanto will become our new Moderator, Mike Clark will become our new Assistant Moderator, and Brooks Taylor will become our new Clerk pending the congregational vote on Sunday. Hope to see you there!

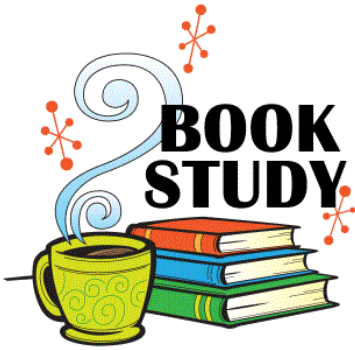
Suzanne, Lesley, and Jeff have served Pilgrim Church so faithfully and so well over the last three years. Their service to our congregation has truly been a gift. And I encourage you to thank each of them personally for their years of service and dedication. It's such a blessing that they will be staying on Church Council to ensure a smooth transition for our new church officers.

Church Council continues to envision who God is calling us to be at Pilgrim Church and continues to generate many new ideas and dreams for our congregation. We are blessed to have deep levels of commitment and dedication in our congregation. Again, I say—God is good!

See you in church!

Grace and Peace,

Lauren



**BOOK STUDY: BART EHRMAN'S HOW JESUS BECAME GOD:
THE EXALTATION OF A JEWISH PREACHER FROM GALILEE**

Lauren's final Adult Education Book Study for this program year will be held on **Thursday May 14 at 11 AM**. We'll discuss Bart Ehrman's book *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*.

Bart Ehrman is a Biblical scholar who teaches at UNC Chapel Hill. He wrote *How Jesus Became God* for secular audiences interested in the history of the early faith and for Christian believers. This book is pretty long, as it took Professor Ehrman eight years to research and write! So you may want to begin reading soon.

Ehrman asks some interesting questions about the development of the Christian faith and how Jesus' earliest followers came to understand Jesus' humanity and divinity over time. He especially engages with the religious experiences of the disciples after the Resurrection.

Much like our book study on *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, I doubt that we'll agree with everything he argues! Though my hope is that by reading this historical work from Professor Ehrman and engaging with his questions, we'll be able to go deeper in our own faiths. A display copy is on the Literature Table for those who may want to see this book in more detail.

Hope to see you on **Thursday May 14 at 11 AM!**

Lauren

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of our Bylaws, you are invited to a Congregational Meeting of the Church on **Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 11:45AM** following the service.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the slate of officers for the 2015-2016 church year. The Church Council has proposed the following slate of officers:

Moderator: Jeanne DeSanto
Assistant Moderator: Michael Clark
Treasurer: Dave McClave
Clerk: Brooks Taylor

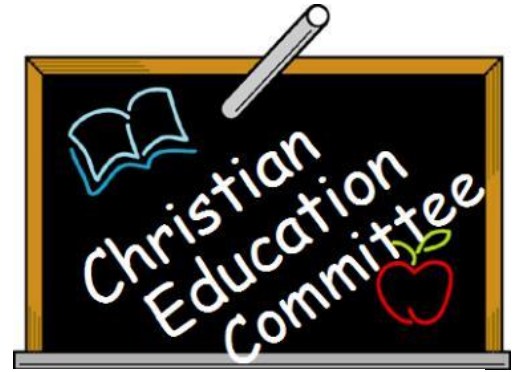
Everyone is encouraged to attend. Only members may vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Boehm
Clerk

LOOKING AHEAD

It is finally spring time! The snow is melting and the temperatures are slightly warmer. With the conclusion of Holy Week we begin to turn our focus to the next program year. The Christian Education and Youth programming here at Pilgrim relies heavily on the dedication of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the many tasks throughout Christian Education please let me know or visit me during the committee fair on **Sunday, April 12** following worship. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work"!



We have also begun a visioning process for the Christian Education and Youth programming. We kicked off this process with a parent forum at the end of March. If you were unable to attend but would like your voice heard please contact Committee Chair Lisa O'Brien. We are eager to begin working with the information gathered at that meeting and developing a great approach to the future. All in all, we are excited about what next year will bring.

Lisa Hulbert



PILGRIM'S 2015 VOLUNTEER AND COMMITTEE FAIR

Are you new to Pilgrim and looking for ways to get more involved? Maybe you've been coming to Pilgrim for years but you'd like to try new and different ways to engage with the church? Or is your schedule so jam packed that you can't imagine adding anything else to it but you have a great idea for a social event, volunteer opportunity or something that Pilgrim's never done before?

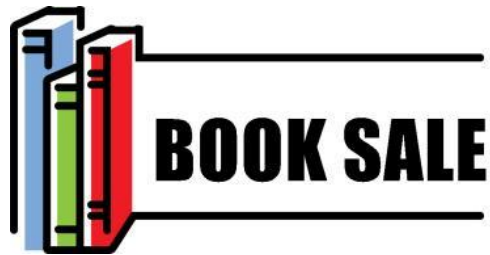
If any of these describe you, then you won't want to miss the Fair. Representatives from all of the Pilgrim Church Committees will be available to answer your questions and show you what they do throughout the year. They'll also be there to listen - to your questions, ideas, and hopes for the coming year.

You don't need to join a committee to make a difference (although committees are always looking for new members!). Volunteering an idea or at a single event is just as important.

So come. Join us. **Sunday, April 12** (immediately following worship). You can't miss us. We'll have Committee tables set up on your path to coffee hour!

Submitted by Jeanne DeSanto
Vitality Committee





IT'S TIME TO BRING YOUR BOOKS!

It is that time of year again! Save the date for Annual Pilgrim Church Book Sale!!!

This year the book sale will be open to all **Saturday May 2 and Saturday, May 9 from 9am to 4pm.** The congregation may pick out their special books during the coffee hour on **Sunday May 4.**

Every spring we collect some of our books that we can contribute to the Annual Pilgrim Book Sale. We contribute soft cover and hard cover books in good condition and DVDs to be sold to raise money which will be used to aid the people of the village of **Flores, Honduras.** In the past there have been many different projects such as:

- purchasing books in Spanish have been purchased for the school,
- building a much loved playground,
- paying for numerous improvements to the local clinic, and so much more.

Please bring your books and DVDs starting Monday, April 6 through Sunday, April 26!

You may place them on the second floor on the elevator side of the building. **Please avoid blocking the elevator!!** Please bring novels as well as non-fiction, but do avoid text books as they do not sell. **Children's books are in especially high demand!** Also popular are cook books, books focused on sports, and how-to-do books.

Please publicize the sale through any organization to which you belong. Also if people who are not associated with Pilgrim wish to contribute books that would be great. **We count on you** to help them to get the books here when the doors are unlocked. We must not have boxes of books sitting outside in the rain.

If you are available to help on **Sunday, April 26, Thursday, April 30,** or with set up on **Friday, May 1,** or if you are able to help during the sale days (**Saturday, May 2 or May 9**), please contact Sandra Gardiner at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We pray for Betty Bradshaw and her family as they grieve the loss of Betty's son Nick who died on April 2. To honor Betty's wishes, I will share that Nick died from a heroin overdose on the Cape. As we grieve with Betty and her family, we also pray for those who continue to struggle with addiction and for the heartbreak addiction causes families. O God, hear our prayer.

Grace and Peace,
Lauren

INTERFAITH GARDEN

Among the many events cancelled due to the amazing snow accumulation this winter is the opening of the Lexington Interfaith Garden! Work was to begin Saturday, March 28th, but not much could be accomplished with a thick blanket of snow still on the ground.

Volunteers will begin as soon as possible to spread compost and manure, under the direction of Carla Fortmann, our head gardener. Tom Fortmann will rototill the soil in preparation for the first seeds. Then the 15 congregations will send volunteers according to a schedule already in place. Would you like to be part of this mission? Consider talking to any of our Pilgrim volunteers to learn more about the garden: Suzanne Abair, Son-Mey Chiu, Jeanne DeSanto, Derek Gardiner, Sandy Gardiner, Kat MacDonald, Mary Mackie, Christina Sym, or Duncan Todd. Here is the website [Lexington Interfaith Garden](#) where you can view a photo gallery and see volunteers in action. We are beginning our sixth season of growing healthful food for our neighbors in need. If you are interested in volunteering, even just one time, contact Barbara at barbjim.munkres@verizon.net.



A VISION OF THE BELOVED: BUILDING SOLIDARITY IN THE AGE OF FERGUSON

Please join us on **April 12** at Hope Central Church in Jamaica Plain, MA at 4:30 PM for a critical conversation with **Rev. Traci Blackmon**, Pastor of Christ the King, UCC in the Ferguson area. As people of faith we are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. What does this mean for the church in the 21st century when the problem of American democracy is still the color line? In the wake of the recent flash-point events of Ferguson, we recognize the need for faithful response, and to bear witness to the justice and love of Christ against violence, dehumanization, and racialized social inequality. For more info, click [here](#).



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

UPDATE ON OSTIN: Ostin recently had his 2nd operation which took about 5 1/2 hours, and the doctors explained it was called “a face lift incision” (a surgical line starting from above his ear to below his chin). They were able to successfully remove the lymphatic debris. Preserving the facial nerve was especially difficult due to the lymphatic matter being “cemented” around the nerve.

Both surgeons were pleased with the results and explained he will return home with a drainage tube (which will remain for up to 4 weeks), his stitches will be removed in 10 days and he will have another procedure in 4 weeks. Ostin is recovering at home, in Concord.



Emily Collins

THANK YOU TO THE DESANTO FAMILY



We recently arrived early to church to meet the DeSanto family. Jeanne had been in communication with me about purchasing a gift for Ostin. The pre-arranged meeting was a personal request on their behalf.

Five years ago, their son Peter was treated for cancer. Jeanne and Mike have vivid memories of the long days spent in the hospital, and during one surgery, a friend sat with them and handed his iPad to them and said, “keep it.” Jeanne recalls leaving ICU, landing on the oncology floor and the surgical team arriving on rounds...”rather than looking at Peter, they were staring at the iPad”. The doctors were in awe of these newly developed instruments, and it became the DeSanto’s “life line.”

There’s nothing like having the support of others who have gone through similar experiences and can truly understand and be helpful. Jeanne has shared her son’s reactions to being poked and prodded by doctors, and can empathize with Ostin and some of the behaviors he’s exhibiting. She knows he’s sensing a loss of control, and can only imagine it’s more difficult with the language barrier and cultural differences.

Recently, Peter, his brother Charlie and their parents presented their family “fun pack” to Ostin... a backpack filled with coloring books, crayons, games and yes, an iPad! The family was quite excited to have the opportunity to “pay it forward” to another patient who is facing many more hospitalizations. Peter and Charlie shared their expertise and began showing Ostin how to navigate the iPad. It was pure “magic” for Ostin as he watched Bob the Builder appear on his own private screen, and gleefully yelled “construccion” (construction)!

We’re grateful to the DeSanto family and know this will provide hours of entertainment and also a great educational tool for Ostin, his family and most likely their village.

Emily Collins



**Pilgrim Nursery School is currently enrolling for
the 2015-2016 school year!**

**Pilgrim Nursery School encourages children to be inventive,
curious & self-confident.**

**We offer warm, professional teachers, small classroom sizes,
creative & innovative curriculum including Yoga, large indoor
gross motor room & a safe, well-equipped playground in a
quiet residential neighborhood.**

**Come in for a visit to see our classrooms and meet our
amazing teachers!**

**Call Leslie Beatrice, our Director, for more information:
781-861-8853**

www.pilgrimnurseyschool.org



**DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS**

Please note that the deadline for the May issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be April 27. Thank you!

To access the calendar for Pilgrim Church, please click [here](#). Thank you.



April 5	Communion	Reaske	Rogers/Van Evera
April 12		Roy	Council/S. Abair
April 19		Saradjian	Carabbio
April 26		Honduras Coffee Hour	Mission
May 3	Communion	Mission	R Litchfield
May 10		Stevens	Taylor
May 17		All-Church Brunch	Vitality Committee
May 24		Council	
May 31		Rammacciotti-Mahiou	
June 7	Communion	DeSanto	LoBuglio/Royer
June 14			
June 21			
June 28			