



February 10th will be a special worship service at Pilgrim—**Seminary Sunday!** We will host **Dean of Students and Community Life Nancy Nienhuis from Andover Newton Theological School** to speak to us about the importance of theological education in the life of our United Church of Christ churches. Andover Newton has long been known as the School of the Church, and is the only UCC seminary in Massachusetts. Andover Newton is also the only UCC seminary in all of New England that has a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program, the degree one acquires to become an ordained minister and serve a local church.

Founded in 1807, Andover Newton “is the nation’s oldest theological school and its first graduate institution of any kind. From the start, it created the model for theological education followed by virtually all graduate seminaries ever since. Throughout its remarkable history, Andover Newton has continued to develop new models for ministry and has trained some of the nation’s most innovative and influential leaders. Andover Newton has always been an innovator in response to a diverse and rapidly changing world.”¹

We are privileged that Dean Nancy Nienhuis will be our guest preacher for the day. Dean Nienhuis is the Senior Vice President for Operations, Dead of Students and Community Life, and a Professor of Theology and Social Justice. She wears many hats, and wears them well. According to her brief biography on the Andover Newton website, “She teaches courses on social justice and intimate partner violence. She holds a doctorate in Religion, Gender, and Culture from Harvard University. She has a particular interest in issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, particularly as those issues are addressed in the training of clergy. Her articles have appeared in *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *The Journal of Pastoral Care*, *The Journal of Religion and Abuse*, and in *Sojourner*. She is currently working on a book comparing theological responses to domestic violence in the lives of medieval saints with contemporary responses to such violence, with Harvard Divinity School colleague Beverly Mayne Kienzle.”²

When I presented this opportunity to the Mission Committee, I was honest about the situation—Andover Newton is my alma mater and I am incredibly devoted to my seminary. We also have a member of our church on the Board of Trustees, Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, and Sylvia is also quite devoted to Andover Newton. However, I also know that most local congregations do not know much about seminary education, how important it is for local churches to have connections with seminaries, and the ways seminaries minister to laity, aspiring clergy, and clergy alike. We thought this would be a great opportunity for our congregation to learn more about seminary education in general and Andover Newton in particular.

I hope that you will find your way to church on February 10th to hear Dean Nancy Nienhuis tell us more about Andover Newton Theological School—the School of the Church since 1807.

See you in church.

Lauren

¹ About Andover Newton, <http://www.ants.edu/ants-difference/about/>

² ANTS Faculty Bio of Nancy Nienhuis, <http://www.ants.edu/faculty/bio/nienhuis-nancy>

WORSHIP NEWS:



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.

Ash Wednesday



Wednesday February 13th Ash Wednesday—7:30 PM. Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins, the day where we use ashes and communion to observe the start of Lent at an intimate service in Pilgrim Hall.
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return."

Wednesday March 6th Vespers Service—7:30 PM. David and Lauren will offer a Lenten Vespers service. Vespers is the sunset evening prayer service in our faith tradition and is celebrated by Christians throughout the world. Come to pray, hear beautiful organ pieces, and receive communion in our candlelit sanctuary.

Wednesday March 20th Vespers Service—7:30 PM. Our second Lenten Vespers service to prepare us for Holy Week.



Sunday March 24th 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 March 28th 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 March 29th 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)



Holy Week

CALL TO ANNUAL 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, February 3, 2013 11:45AM** following the Service.

Agenda

- 1) Congregational approval of minutes of prior meetings.
- 2) Presentation of written committee reports, distributed in advance of this meeting.
- 3) Presentation and adoption of the fiscal budget for 2013.
- 4) Any other pertinent matters that may arise.
- 5) Necrology, remarks, and a prayer by the pastor.

Everyone is invited to attend; only members may vote. Child care will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

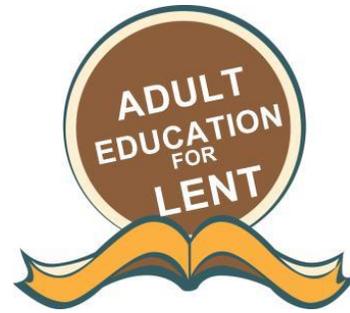
Jeff Boehm

Clerk



BALLOTS DUE

The ballot for Church Council elections were mailed out this week. Please be sure to send in your ballot by February 15th!



David and Lauren will offer an adult education course during Lent. This year, we will read *Lord, Teach Us to Pray: Six Studies on Spirituality and the Lord's Prayer*. The sessions are as follows:

- Keeping Our Distance: *How close can we come to a holy God?*
- Crossing To the Future: *What is the Kingdom and what is the Kingdom yet to come?*
- Willing Obedience: *How can we glorify God in our daily lives?*
- Feeding Ourselves: *What place does self-sufficiency have in Christian life?*
- Writing it Off: *What does the reality of our forgiveness say to our treatment of others?*
- Crying For Help: *How does a Christian respond to the enormity of evil in the world?*

David's class will be **Thursday mornings at 10 AM** (February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28) and Lauren's class will be **Sunday evenings at 7 PM** (February 17, February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17, and March 24.) Every participant needs a book (which will be \$5), so please let Lauren (pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org) know which class you'd like to join by **February 4th** to be sure we can get our books on time! Thanks!

PLEASE NOTE: The calendar lists the next Mission Mtg. twice. The correct date is **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4 at 7:30 pm**. Sorry for any inconvenience.



JANUARY

The following is a summary of our January Council meeting:

Treasurer's Report – Our Treasurer, Dave McClave, reported that we ended 2012 with a surplus of approximately \$13,000. It was noted that while this was primarily due to lower than budgeted expenses, it was also due in part to a 99% collection rate on our 2012 pledges which exceeded the budgeted amount.

Special Fundraising Initiative Update – Chris Reaske gave an update on our Special Fundraising Initiative for the new heating system. The total amount raised will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 3rd.

Annual Meeting – Council discussed the format and preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Beckwith Bequest – Council discussed a recent substantial bequest that was made to the Beckwith Fund.

Website Working Group – A new website working group has been formed to oversee the design and implementation of a new website as part of a broader branding and communications update for the church.

Lenten Program – Next Step Living – Acting upon a request from the Pilgrim Environmental Group, Council approved the offering of home energy audits during Lent by Next Step Living, an organization that is supported by Sustainable Lexington. Next Step Living will make a presentation at coffee hour on Sunday, March 3rd. The service is free and includes a voucher for future services although there is no obligation to purchase any such services.

Committee Reports – We ended our January meeting with each Council member giving an oral report of the activities of his or her respective committee. A listing of which committee each Council member serves on can be found on the back of our weekly bulletin.

Submitted by Suzanne Abair, Pilgrim Church Moderator



YOUTH NEWS

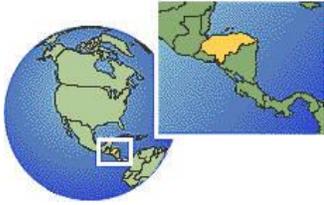
On **Sunday, February 10th**, immediately following Church please join us downstairs in Fellowship hall for a Valentine's Day themed Spaghetti Luncheon and Auction fundraiser hosted by the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups! Tickets are on sale immediately following Church during Coffee hour. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids and a \$30 dollar cap for families to attend. Please attend and show your support for the youth groups here at Pilgrim Church. If you have any questions you can talk to either Dana or Lisa Boehm after church or email Dana at Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com

Submitted by Dana Ellis,
Director of Youth Ministry



On February 17 after worship we will be holding a meeting to start planning a float for the **Patriot's Day parade**. We would love to see Pilgrim participate in the town celebration of the 300th anniversary. It has been far too long since Pilgrim was in the parade and this is the perfect time to let the community know about our fantastic church. Anyone who would like to get involved and bring their creative spirit is encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you!

Submitted by Susan Carabbio



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Tom and I recently had the opportunity to offer the monthly mission moment during church and express our gratitude to Pilgrim for its support. However, due to the holiday weekend, attendance was light and we'd like to reach out to the broader community to share our gratitude. Pilgrim's involvement with Honduras began 12 years ago. Since that time 25 of us have traveled there to volunteer and represent Pilgrim. Countless others have been directly involved by donating supplies (school items, suitcases, clothing and medicine), organizing and donating to the annual book fair, raising and allocating funds for the water project, supporting specific projects at the local schools and hospital, being a pen pal, and inviting one of the patients into your homes.

This past week we received the exciting news that Pilgrim's Equipping the Saints Fund Committee will be continuing their financial assistance in 2013. We encourage you to join us in volunteering and make it fit YOUR dreams and desire. Perhaps you want to witness Honduras first hand, and would like to join us there in March or later in the year. There are numerous ways to become involved such as opportunities for a one time project or a long term commitment. You may want to start your own collection of resources at school or work, share your talents or wisdom in a specific field, or support a particular student in school or help spearhead a project in the village of Flores. We'd be thrilled to explore these possibilities and more. Feel free to contact us at home [\(978\) 369-3255](tel:9783693255) or email: emily@esperanzahftc.com. Thank you.

Submitted by Emily Collins, Mission Committee



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

A new environmental challenge will come to Pilgrim Church during Lent. We might consider this new initiative as a good follow up to our two years of the Carbon Fast which we did during Lent in 2011 and 2012. The Carbon Fast offered many suggestions of how to reduce our home energy use.....now we may have some help in carrying out the suggestions.

The Lexington Board of Selectmen has set the ambitious goal of lowering our residential energy use 20% by 2020. To help meet the goal, the Board has appointed the **Sustainable Lexington Committee**, which has been researching ways to reach the goal. A new initiative by the **Committee** is of interest to members of Pilgrim Church and other nonprofits. The **Committee** has partnered with Next Step Living, a Mass Save certified home performance contractor, to help residents **lower their energy use, save money on their utility bills, and lower their greenhouse gas emissions.**

A representative from Next Step Living will come to Pilgrim on a Sunday during Lent to give a short presentation after the service on simple ways we can acquire these savings. The representative will also explain how we can take advantage of the rebates, incentives, and interest free loans that are available from Mass Save, NSTAR and National Grid. You will have an opportunity to sign up for a **free home energy assessment** at that time. After completing the assessment, Next Step Living will help you develop an effective plan to address any opportunities they discover for improving the efficiency of your home. The plan may include air sealing, insulation, lighting, or upgrading your heating system. You then decide whether you want to go ahead with the plan, or perhaps just part of the plan. You are under no obligation and are free to select another contractor if you wish.

I have talked with friends who had this home energy assessment by Next Step Living, and were very satisfied with the results. In one case, Next Step Living discovered an area within a wall that, for some reason, had no insulation. The family wondered why their house was so drafty! Next Step Living insulated the area, which eliminated the draft. The same family learned that a small adjustment to their furnace saves them \$40 per month in heating costs.

Stay tuned for more details about this opportunity. It's important to remember that the energy assessment is free, and that there is no obligation to have any work done unless you wish to.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres
Pilgrim Environmental Group



**LEXINGTON INTERFAITH
FOOD PANTRY'S CANNED
FOOD AND ETHICAL
ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
DRIVE!**

Now there's a way to clean those piles of used electronics and canned food off your shelves, and help Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry at the same time! Why not move those forgotten computers and lonely jars of peanut butter out of the cupboard and into your vehicle, and bring them down to the parking lot at the Church of Our Redeemer between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, February 2 & 3, RAIN OR SNOW OR SHINE! The Ethical Electronics Recycling Crew will be there to accept your old or unwanted TVs, CRTs, monitors, stereo equipment, A/Cs, heaters, dehumidifiers, computers and peripherals, power tools, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners--almost anything with a battery or a plug. The recycling fee is \$1.00 per pound--less if you donate canned food. Discounts for Seniors, and Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry volunteers. Net proceeds benefit Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry. Questions? Got an old TV or other item that's too heavy or awkward for you to transport? Have a schedule conflict and need a pickup at your home or business during the week? Just contact Christopher at [617-233-4120](tel:617-233-4120), or onehealthyocean@gmail.com.

**SAVE THE DATE:
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

The second annual League of Women Voters Community Conversation will focus on "Thriving in the Face of Challenging Weather".

Tuesday February 26, at 6:45 to 9:30 pm at St. Brigids Church, 2001 Mass. Ave. in Lexington. The meeting will be held in Keilty Hall.

For details: www.lwvlexington.org

HOMELESSNESS FORUM

The Adverse Effects of Housing Insecurity on Children's Health, Mental Health and Overall Development, *Ninth Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum. Sunday, March 3, 2013, 3:00-5:00pm, First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd. Concord, MA.* Did you know that the average age of a homeless person is 8 years old? Or that it is state policy to deny teenage boys the right to join their families in shelters? Learn about state programs such as HomeBASE and the Unaccompanied Youth Bill. Keynote speaker: Christina Murphy from The National Center on Family Homelessness. Additional speakers from state government and small group discussions with area legislators will round out this program. The forum, organized by *The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness*, is free and open to all.

**PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
DEADLINE**

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published March 1st. Please send all submissions to Carol (carol.chytil@gmail.com) and Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by February 22nd. Thank you.

ROOM AT THE TABLE DINNER

The Room at the Table dinner supporting Communities Without Borders will take place on **Saturday, March 9th from 5-8** at Pilgrim Church. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can contact Sharon Lawler at slawler322@aol.com. We will also need help with cooking on Friday, March 8 and with set-up, decorating, and helping with the dinner on Sat., March 9. Thank you!

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COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2013

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	
Jun. 30		Youth	

Pilgrim Congregational Church Youth Group

Valentine's Spaghetti Luncheon And Fundraiser!



Sunday, February 10th

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! Tickets go on sale starting January 20th, and you can buy them immediately following church during Coffee Hour. If you're interested in purchasing tickets or would like more information, you can talk to either Dana or Lisa Boehm immediately following church or email Dana at Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com.

February 2013

January 2013							February 2013							March 2013							
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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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
																					31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 27 10:30am Worship/Baptism 1:00pm Rental 4:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Sr. High Youth Group	28 7:00pm Council Mtg.	29 11:00am Bible Study	30 7:30pm Worship/Music Mtg.	31 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Feb 1 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	2
3 10:30am Worship 11:45am Annual Meeting	4 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	5 NO BIBLE STUDY 8:15am PRC Mtg. 12:30pm LICA at Pilgrim; Pilgrim	6	7 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group - Bowling & Dinner
10 10:30am Worship 11:45am Spaghetti Luncheon	11 9:00am Staff Mtg. 10:00am Care Mtg. 7:30pm F&A Mtg.	12 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm PNS Mtg. 7:30pm Ed. Min. Mtg.	13 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	14 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Adult Ed Class - Lauren	18 Office Closed	19 11:00am Bible Study	20	21 10:00am Adult Ed Class - David 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Adult Ed Class - Lauren	25 7:00pm Council Mtg.	26 11:00am Bible Study	27	28 10:00am Adult Ed Class - David 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Mar 1 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	2 6:00pm Rental?