



FROM OUR PASTOR

I have been here in Lexington for about a month, and can't even begin to describe how happy I am to be with all of you. I have found various grocery stores, the Post Office, and can even get to the church from the parsonage without my GPS—progress indeed! And how wonderful it was to be serenaded by some of the children of the church my first Sunday and be gifted with all sorts of welcome cards. I was also privileged to recognize most of Pilgrim's graduating class of 2011 and wish them success and happiness in the future. There have been so many moments where I feel blessed and indeed know that I am right where God wants me.

In my mind, I have dubbed these first months together as my "Listening Tour." I have tried (and am trying) to intentionally and carefully listen and observe and gather information about this fantastic community. I have been able to attend many committee meetings and speak one-on-one with committee chairs and am already impressed by the dedication and hard work of Pilgrim's leaders. In my short time here, there has already been an Ice Cream Social and a Progressive Dinner as well! It is just so wonderful to experience enthusiasm and passion in a church community.

But sometimes we can all plunge into new areas of our lives and overlook the little moments where God's grace shines through. We can speak too much and not listen enough. We can be so excited and enthusiastic about the big events and miss life's more subtle joys. In the spirit of being still and knowing that God is here, often as that still small voice deep within, I am doing my best to discern some of the places we can go together, to listen to your experiences and your stories and for the still small voice of God in it all.

Summer Worship will begin in July, and I look forward to taking the time to both preach and to listen to fantastic lay preaching, to relax a bit, but also to plan and look forward to the fall. And considering that the summer also brings with it comings and goings as church members everywhere tend to go hither and yon, I leave you with these lovely words from Wilfred Pelletier and Ted Poole:

"Wherever you are is home.
And the earth is paradise.
Wherever you set your feet is holy land."

Grace and Peace,
Lauren



CHURCH SCHOOL NOTES

Don't forget! Please help your children remember to bring in school supplies and books to fill our large suitcase for the school in Zambia. We will collect until mid-June!

Make plans to be a part of our June "Creation" program. Have your child invite a friend!

If your child has not yet received his/her church school directory memory book, please see Debra.

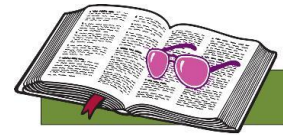


BAPTISMAL WATER

Pilgrims are invited to continue the charming practice of bringing water back from your summer travels, especially if you have been some place that is particularly meaningful to you or has provided you with spiritual refreshment.

Be sure to take a small bottle with you on vacation, and write a short paragraph telling what this location means to you, or perhaps why you find peace and renewal there.

Bring the water and the note, along with a photo if you wish, with you to church on September 11th. We will have the customary blessing of the water then, and add your contribution to the supply of baptismal water that is on hand.



Summer Worship Schedule

WORSHIP ~ JULY AND AUGUST 9:30AM

Beginning Sunday, July 3 at 9:30 am, worship services will be held in our air-conditioned Pilgrim Hall for a shorter, less formal service. Children are invited to visit the nursery where activities, games, videos and books will be available for all ages. Child care is provided by our professional Nursery Attendant, **Melissa Kelly**. Parents will be given a pager in case their child needs them during worship services.

We are fortunate that we have many talented preachers in the congregation to step into the pulpit this summer. There is nothing more meaningful to a faith community than hearing testimonials of faith from their own.



Please note: Beginning Tuesday, June 28th, Diane will be in the office on Tuesdays from 9:30 - 1:30.

REMINDER: The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will come out in September. If you have anything for inclusion, please be sure to submit it to the office by **August 22nd**.



Lesley Morrison and Betsy Morton would like to thank everyone who donated and participated in the ALS walk on May 7th. They raised over **\$8,000** to help find a cure and greatly appreciate all the support shown by Pilgrim.



2011 PILGRIM CHURCH GRADUATES

NATALIE BOND

Natalie just turned eighteen years old and she will be graduating from LHS where she played flute in Concert band and parade band all four years. She also played volleyball her freshman and sophomore year. She has held two jobs--working at Rancatore's Ice Cream and the Lexington Movie Theater "The Venue". She enjoys hanging out with friends and family, watching movies, and eating sushi. She also loves being outdoors and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall.

OLIVIA BURGER

Olivia Burger is headed to Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. She enjoyed many years in the Pilgrim Sunday School program and babysat for Judy and Joe's twin grandsons as a grandmother's helper. Her mother, Deborah, is a member of Pilgrim Church and has served on the Church Council. Olivia's nursery school teacher, Mary Mackie, was one of the people who she first knew at Pilgrim Church and another was her reading teacher from Bridge School, Ruth Litchfield.

SARA CARABBIO

Sara is amazing! To tell you we are proud of Sara would be an understatement like any parent. Sara transitioned in her junior year from one town to another. That was a lot to ask any teenager to do.

Sara had a great art teacher at her prior school who deeply influenced her. Sara has a love for the arts, and earned two art awards from the Boston Globe. She has also been involved in her community throughout high school. She received an enduring freedom flag from her service, donating clothing items to those in Afghanistan and sending supplies to the troops in Iraq. She helped to create a program at Lexington High to help those transitioning to a new school system. She was nominated in her Junior year, one of 15 students, and earned the Rotary Student Community Service Award for her work in this project.

Sara is also a dancer, and although she has been forced due to an injury to take some time off, she is the most graceful dancer on pointe. Sara will attend Lesley University in the fall, majoring in Art Therapy. We know she will be successful at anything she does.

FIONA DAVIES

Fiona Davies is a beautiful girl who worked extremely hard during her four years at Lexington High School. She is very musical – she plays the flute and piano. She's also very athletic, and was captain of the LHS varsity volleyball team last season. Together with her teammates and the community, she helped raise \$20,000 last fall by organizing "Volley for Molly," an exhibition match to raise funds for ovarian cancer research in honor of former teammate Molly Eisenberg. For the past few years, she has worked part-time at Wilson Farms

Fiona will be spreading her wings and attending UCLA in the fall. Her interests lean towards psychology and languages, but she's currently undecided as to her major. Her parents are very proud of all her accomplishments and will miss her terribly, but empathize with her future room-mates who will have to wade through her legendary mess to find anything!

ROSA VEGA

Rosa has attended Minuteman Career and Technical High School for 4yrs. Her major is Early Education and Care. She has worked as an assistant teacher at LINCC in Lexington for 3yrs after school and on vacations. She found her love

working with children at Pilgrim Church in the nursery. She was a nursery caregiver at pilgrim for 4yrs. Rosa also got involved with the Walk for Hunger and Light Night, a walk for Leukemia. She was honored for achievements at Minuteman by state representative Jay Kaufman. Rosa will be attending Bridgewater State University in the fall.

In addition, **Bobby Lania** (Emily Collins' son) will be graduating from Concord-Carlisle High School on June 11th. Also, **TJ Murphy** will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Project Management from Wentworth Institute of Technology in August. Congrats to Bobby and TJ - well done!

PILGRIM CHURCH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Pilgrim Church Youth Fellowship has had quite a successful start this year! Beginning in January the program has had a regular attendance by many of the Youth at the church. With a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of growing and maintaining an active youth community within the church, Pilgrim Youth fellowship has kept in mind three important tenets essential to growing and maintaining a strong youth presence in the church and with one another. With an emphasis on fellowship and creating a strong bond, worship and spiritual reflection, and giving back to our community through service, Pilgrim Youth Fellowship has been able to cultivate a strong presence at the Church this year. Meeting biweekly, Pilgrim Youth Group has also held many successful events. Some highlights include:

A Lock-In – In April, Pilgrim Church hosted a Lock-In for Junior High youth. At the Lock-In over eleven teens attended and nine teens slept over at the church. We played many games (such as Sardines and the all-time favorite 'Murder in the Dark'), followed by cupcake decorating, prayerful reflection, and finally a movie. That Sunday at the Lock-In the youth hosted coffee hour at the church which featured an array of brightly decorated baked goods decorated from the night before!

Two Fellowship Events – In February Pilgrim Youth went snow tubing at Nashoba Valley! With fourteen

teens in attendance, it was our first and most popular event to date. The second fellowship event, Laser Tag, will be held on June 18th, and promises to be just as exciting!

Volunteering – In late April the Youth at Pilgrim went to the Boston Convention Center to assist in the preparation efforts for Project Bread's Walk for Hunger that was held on Sunday, May 1st. At the convention center seven youth, two chaperones, and myself packed snack bags for the walk, helping to prepare for the walk we packed just some of the 25,000 bags that were needed. Afterwards we walked over to the bakery and café 'Flour' for lunch!

Overall, the Youth Program has received so much generous support from the congregation. Whether it was donating snacks, donating your time through chaperoning, or providing encouragement to the youth regarding all the activities we were doing, feeling the outpouring of enthusiasm and excitement from the congregation for the work I've done here has been nothing short of a blessing and I am excited for all the great things in store for the youth at Pilgrim.

Blessings,
Dana





SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR N'GOMBE

Dear Friends,

Pilgrim is returning to Zambia to once again teach the children in N'gombe and begin our Partnership with Mondavo. We will also be teaching teachers of the Community Schools (K-1st Grades) and to help in ways not yet even determined. We, Tom Murphy, and Ruth Litchfield leave June 28th and return July 14th and it takes us a full two days to make the trip. Through your generosity we were able to take and leave a good deal last summer and now we are asking for your support once again.

We are looking for your help for we are able to take things directly to the teachers and children. We have put a donation box at the front door along with a listing of suggested needs. Please do not feel pushed, however, we promise your donations will make the trip with us to these communities. We will need to collect these things before the end of June 13th, for we leave on the 28th. Our thanks to Equipping The Saints and each of you.
Tom Murphy and Ruth L.

Please look through our list below and if you can, feel free to contribute and we promise to get these things to the schools:

Pencils and pencil sharpeners (individual)
crayons - new small boxes or gently used
chalk **packets of paper**
Alphabet books



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Currently, we have three Honduran patients being treated at Shriners Hospital in Boston. Let me "introduce" you to 13 year old, "Dania." She is here without family, being treated for significant burns. Dania has also endured the traumatic loss of having her long, beautiful hair shaved so that the doctors could use some of that skin for grafting.

Dania is one of 12 children in her family and has never had the opportunity to attend school. She cannot read, write or name colors. What struck me the harshest is hearing others describe, "she's never had the chance to play." Such a shocking reality of life for many growing up in Honduras. Pre-schoolers are active contributors around the house. Older children often work outside the home, doing hard manual labor in order to earn a few "lempiras" (money) for their families. Dania has missed the chance for a childhood because she has been the one in her family who is responsible for cooking.

Dania lives in a very remote part of Honduras. Her father lives hours away because that is the only place he can find work. After Dania was burned, it took him two days to sell his crops and save enough money to hire two men to walk the hour distance on the off beaten path to Dania's home. They carried her in a hammock to an "ambulance" (an empty truck where she had to lay on the metal floor).

Dania was in a public hospital for three months before she deteriorated so badly, the doctors finally gave up, and her only chance for survival was being transferred to the states. In Honduras, when they would do her dressing changes, she would lose so much blood, it would fill a bucket each day.

Upon arrival to Boston, she received several blood transfusions, has gained weight and is making incredible progress. We are grateful to all the staff at Shriners Hospital.



EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Have a hankering for some organic chocolate during your next camping trip? How about some nice homemade iced tea or coffee in the warm weather that is bound to come at some point? Well you can have these plus support small farmers worldwide, environmental, agricultural practices and a UCC endorsed program all at once! Impossible you say? It is not if you buy Equal Exchange products after service. In the sun room you may have noticed a basket of coffee and tea bags. There are just a small offering of products that are available for sale through the Equal Exchange program. This UCC endorsed program supports local farmers worldwide in their small farms.

Per the Equal Exchange co-op website:

Equal Exchange currently works with small farmer organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States. Our trading partners are small farmer co-operatives — businesses owned and governed democratically by the farmers themselves. Decisions are made within the co-op, on their terms.
<http://www.equalexchange.coop/contact-info-6>

This program is supported by the UCC under the Justice and Witness Ministries. What is more the proceeds support our coffee hour refreshments. What more can you ask for?

You are totally excited and want to support this wonderful program and stock up on items for the summer? What a coincidence, I will be in the sun room offering chocolate tea and coffee for sale following service of the last two weeks of June. If you have to have your java fix before then there are blue envelopes on the table with the sample basket.

Coming up in the next few months I will be highlighting specific items that are available. Further information can be found on www.ucc.org under Justice then “Coffee Project”.



Members of Pilgrim Church share their ENERGY SAVING TIPS:

We had many suggestions from the UCC and from other churches to help us with the Carbon Fast this spring. Now you can hear from people at Pilgrim:

Deborah Burger now bikes from Lexington to her work in Arlington along the Minuteman Bike Path. She says it is peaceful and refreshing, especially in springtime when the meadows come to life with birds and fresh greenery.

When **Anne Cowan** goes out to eat, she carries a small casserole in a tote bag. Often the portion of food is too large for one meal. When Anne hands her casserole to the waiter, he or she is always happy to use the casserole and avoid using yet another styrofoam container for the leftovers. And Anne has a meal for another day, all set to go in the microwave.

When **David Mislin** goes to meetings at Pilgrim, he takes his iPad along. In it he's stored the minutes of the last meetings and any agenda items that will come up. He can review these before taking notes on the present meeting. No paper, no waste, and everything is in the same place.

Mary Mackie loves to be outdoors, so on laundry day, all her laundry goes on the line outside. When winter comes and the clothes are likely to freeze, she hangs them inside, saving a lot of energy all year by not using a dryer.

If you would like to share an energy saving tip, please do at barbjim.munkres@verizon.net.

Pilgrim's Progress

June 1, 2011 - Volume 53, Number 6

<h2>June 2011</h2>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 p Worship Mtg.	2 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	3	4 10:00 a Arts Program
5 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Com munion 11:30 a Ed. Ministries Mtg.	6 11:00 a Staff Mtg.	7 7:00 p PNS Committee Mtg.	8 7:30 p Membership Mtg.	9 4:00 p Pilgrim Serves Bristol Lodge 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10:00 a Arts Program
12 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship 11:45 a Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser Mtg. 4:00 p Youth Group	13 10:00 a Care Mtg. 7:30 p F&A Mtg.	14	15 7:00 p Fellowship Mtg.	16 12:00 p FISH Board Mtg.	17	18
19 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship	20 7:00 p Council Mtg.	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 a Arts Program
26 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship	27	28 Office Hours 9:30 - 1:30	29	30		

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
9:30 a Summer Worship - Pilgrim Hall	Labor Day	Office Reopens	7:30 p Worship Mtg.	8	9	10
9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship	7:30 p F&A Mtg.		7:30 p Membership Mtg.	15	16	Council Retreat (?)
9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship 11:45 a Pilgrim Church Barbeque	10:00 a Care Mtg.		7:00 p Fellowship Mtg.	22	Deadline for PP Articles	
9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship				29	30	