



Last month I asked if anyone would like to submit some ideas for a sermon series I can preach for four to six weeks in the fall. There were some great ideas and conversations that ensued with several of you in May, and I thank you for being so thoughtful. Narrowing it down to 3 topics was actually easier than I imagined because some were related. Great minds think alike!

*Drumroll, please....*

## **POSSIBLE SERMON SERIES TOPICS FOR THE FALL:**

### **1.) Theodicy (the problem of evil)**

- The age-old theological question: if God is all good/all loving **and** all powerful/omnipotent, then why is there evil in the world?
- How do we account for bad things happening to good people too?
- And what's up with the Book of Job?

### **2.) World Religions**

- We would hear about the five major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.
- The sermon on Christianity could focus on what to do with Christian exclusivism in a multi-faith world.

### **3.) Women in Scripture**

- Women in Jesus' ministry, roles women played in famous Bible stories
- Women in Paul's letters—the authentic letters of Paul vs. letters written in Paul's name that tend to limit roles women can play in the Church
- How do we account for patriarchy in some Christian traditions, especially when they cite scripture to make their case?

No matter which topic gets the most votes, I certainly have my work cut out for me. Human beings have been discussing the problem of evil forever! I won't be able to solve this dilemma (unfortunately), but it will be interesting to explore theodicy together. Moreover, in an increasingly connected and small world, figuring out how world religions (and women and men of faith who practice them) relate to one another is imperative like never before. Some religion scholars have even made the claim that religions respecting one another and getting along is the key to world peace. And the role of women in scripture and the Church has been contested and debated for years. So much for easy, lighthearted topics, though I am excited about all of them. Great suggestions!

Send me an e-mail or let me know in person which topic you'd like to hear about for four to six weeks in October and November ([pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org)). You can vote until June 30th. **Theodicy, World Religions, or Women in Scripture—which will you choose?**

See you in church.

*Lauren*



**Summer Worship** begins on **July 7** and will end on **September 1**. The worship service begins at **9:30** and is held in air-conditioned **Pilgrim Hall**. Summer Worship is a fun way to stay connected with fellow Pilgrims throughout the summer.

Hope to see many of you in worship this summer!



Please note the church office will be open on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 1:30 beginning Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!!!**

If you have a child/grandchild or family member who is graduating this year, please let the office know so we can recognize them in worship. Thank you!

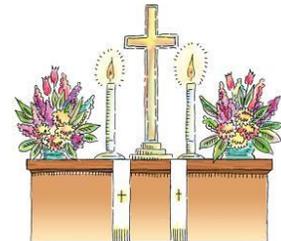
[admin@pilgrimcongregational.org](mailto:admin@pilgrimcongregational.org).



**SPECIAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITY --  
FATHER'S DAY MEN'S CHORUS**

All men of the church are invited to celebrate Father's Day by singing in a special men's chorus! This is a longstanding Pilgrim tradition, and participation is simple: just show up at 9:30 to learn a fun, easy anthem to sing in the worship service. For more information, contact David Mislin at (617) 223-1270 or [david.mislin@gmail.com](mailto:david.mislin@gmail.com)

Submitted by  
David Mislin



Altar Flowers

Each Sunday an individual/s or family provides a flower arrangement for the altar at Pilgrim Church. Donors sign up for a date and decide on the words which will be printed in the bulletin. A check for \$45 can then be given to Susan Carabbio either in the collection plate, or mailed to the church with Altar Flowers in the memo line. If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact Ruth Litchfield at [ruthhickox@gmail.com](mailto:ruthhickox@gmail.com) or 781-862-9565. We have the following dates available in September – **8, 15, 22 and 29**. Thank you!



### Summer Preachers Needed

Have you ever thought that you would like to share your thoughts with fellow Pilgrims? Are you looking for a challenge and willing to step out of your comfort zone? Every summer at Pilgrim we have a wonderful tradition of lay-preaching. This is a great opportunity to get to know each other in a more meaningful way. Services are held in Pilgrim Hall and are generally smaller in numbers. Sometimes a member will preach alone, or a couple will preach together, or even a parent and child!

We are looking for people who would be willing to share their thoughts, ideas and experiences during Sunday morning worship this July and August. The preaching theme for this summer is "Finding religious meaning in your day to day work." You do not have to follow this theme, it is intended as a guideline for those that might not have an idea readily at hand.

Over the past couple of summers, I have preached twice and have found it to be a wonderful experience! It may seem intimidating, but it is not and is truly a way to give back your talents to Pilgrim. If you have any questions or are willing to say "I can preach!!" please contact me at [carol.chytil@gmail.com](mailto:carol.chytil@gmail.com) so that we can get you your preferred date immediately!!

Submitted by Carol Chytil  
Worship and Music Committee

### PILGRIM'S PROGRESS DEADLINE

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send all submissions to Diane ([admin@pilgrimcongregational.org](mailto:admin@pilgrimcongregational.org)) by August 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



### A NEW WALKWAY

One of the results of the annual visit of the Lexington Building Inspector last year was the information that the

handicapped access ramp leading to the entrance of Pilgrim Hall no longer meets the code requirements. Among other problems, the height differential between the landing and the door jamb is too great for a wheelchair to navigate readily. By law we must meet these requirements.

Many possible solutions were discussed and found wanting. Eventually, it became clear that the old ramp needed to be replaced. But instead of another ramp, larger and with taller side rails, we are going to have a curving sidewalk instead! The walkway will begin next to the lower end of the main sidewalk, then curve around in front of the small maple tree near the Sun Room, and eventually end at a landing in front of the doors to Pilgrim Hall. Because the slope will be very gradual, hand rails will not be required.

The walkway will be more attractive and less expensive than a new ramp would be--a win-win solution to a sticky problem. Plans are in the works to have construction begin this summer.

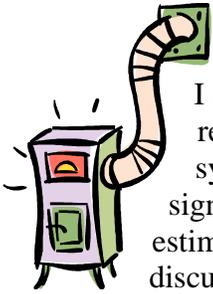
Submitted by Jim Munkres

### A NOTE FROM MARTHA KIMBALL

To my fellow Pilgrims:

Looking back over the past year, it's amazing to reflect on all the love and support Pilgrim's members have given to my family and me while Dick was in the hospital, after he died, and at the celebration of his life in the fall. The cards and notes, the wonderful meals, and eventually visits were so appreciated. We are also grateful for the caring and understanding which continued after the death of my sister Anne in the spring and makes us realize even more what a special place Pilgrim is.

Martha Kimball and family



### HEATING SYSTEM UPDATE

I am disheartened to report that we received only one bid on the heating system replacement project, and it was significantly greater than our pre-bid estimate of \$130K. The matter was discussed at F&A and the decision was made not to accept the bid. A new project team was put in place consisting of Derek Gardiner (lead), Jim Munkres, and Duncan Todd, with me acting as a consultant. The plan is for the team to meet with the bidder to figure out why the bid was so much greater than our professional cost estimate. The information gleaned from this meeting will determine the course moving forward. The goal remains the same - a new heating system. The cost and timing are the variables.

Submitted by  
Dave McClave

buildings. They asked several people how this could be done and then they began their own research. Each of the girls wrote her own statement of why it was important to save energy, and stop polluting. Steve drove them to Town Meeting on the evening that "their" Warrant Article was to be discussed, and introduced them to the Town Meeting Moderator, Deborah Brown. She showed them where they would stand when it was time to speak. At the appointed time they each read their pieces into the microphone in the balcony. When they had finished, they quoted together from The Lorax, a book by Dr. Seuss. It reads:

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

After that, the Town Meeting burst into applause and gave them a standing ovation (normally not allowed). The warrant article passed unanimously.

### MORE PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

**FREE ENERGY ASSESSMENTS:** Thanks to all of you who arranged to have Next Step Living assessments for your homes during Lent this year. For those who would still like to have a free assessment, John Massie has explained that you can contact Next Step Living at any time. Alert the company that you are a member of Pilgrim Church in Lexington.

**THE INTERFAITH GARDEN:** It grows and grows.....through hot dry spells and cold rainy spells. If you are planning to take part in the Lexington Field and Garden Club's Garden Tour, the Interfaith Garden is one of the gardens on the tour this year. It is certainly worth a visit. Volunteers have been making neat paths through the various vegetable plots, and a special "Gardening Angel" will be in place by Saturday, June 8, the date of the Tour.



### PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Did You Know?...

That in March at Lexington's Town Meeting, three 3rd graders spoke up to support one of the warrant articles? Alice Van Evera and two of her friends had been wondering how they could do something to help protect our planet from pollution and global warming. They discussed their plans with Alice's dad, Steve. He suggested they consider supporting one of the Town Warrant Articles, the one that would allow the town to place solar panels on town





### SUPPLY LIST FOR ZAMBIA TRIP

We are working very hard at collecting supplies to bring with us to Zambia in June. The mission of Communities Without Borders is to educate AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children, primarily in Africa, in order to nourish hope for a better future for them, society and the world. Our approach fosters building ongoing community to community relationships at the grassroots level in order to increase the quality educational opportunities for these children.

We are collecting the following supplies until **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ruth Litchfield or Tom Murphy. We will have an empty suitcase or box in the narthex for donations. We need:



**School Supplies:**  
pencils, crayons, chalk,  
lined paper and pencil sharpeners,



We are also collecting manipulatives like legos, blocks, Lincoln Logs, puzzles (50 pieces or less), deck of cards, soccer balls (soccer pumps too), jump ropes and tennis balls. Lightly used items are gladly accepted too!



**Alexis (Guim) Mannarino**, daughter of Connie Guim, niece of Stephanie Shore and David McClave, and herself a former member of Pilgrim Church, gave birth on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> to a 6 pound 11 ounce baby boy, Eric Mannarino, Jr. in Charlotte, NC. Mother and son are at home getting used to each other and doing well.

## The Lexington Players / Centre Stage Theatre present...



**School Edition**

by **Jonathan Larson**

Directed by **Sal Jones**  
and **Harriet Friedman**

Music Direction by **Tyler St. Clare**

The Cotting School, 453 Concord Ave., Lexington

Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00pm  
**May 31, June 1, 8, 14 & 15**

Tickets \$20 and \$18

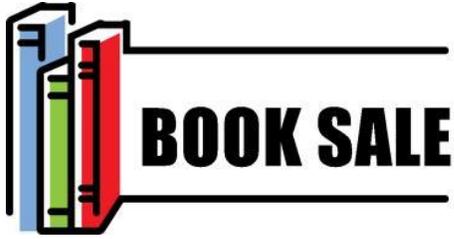
Available at The Crafty Yankee  
& The Wales Copy Center, Lexington Center,  
online at [www.lexingtonplayers.org](http://www.lexingtonplayers.org) (Ticketstage)

Questions or more information,  
please call **(978) 427-4551**



### WALTHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT – SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 8:00 PM

The Waltham Symphony Orchestra will play a concert benefiting Communities Without Borders on June 1st at 8 pm at the First Unitarian Society of Newton. Conducted by our own Patrick Botti and featuring piano soloist Lois Shapiro, the orchestra will play music by Bach, Mozart, and Sarasate as well as a piece composed by the conductor as a tribute to our friends and work in Zambia. This is sure to be a wonderful night of music and community! Tickets are available for \$25 per person. If you are interested in purchasing tickets contact Tom Murphy at [murphy13672@gmail.com](mailto:murphy13672@gmail.com) or at 781 861 6954. [www.walthamsymphony.org](http://www.walthamsymphony.org).



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED  
TO THE SUCCESS OF THE  
2013 BOOK SALE**

We collected about 7,000 books not only from our congregation. At least 60% came from Tom and Emily Collins who had been being given books by their contacts over the year. This was at least twice the amount of books that we had even gotten before and the quality of the books was generally very good.

We were grateful for the new sign in front of the Church that went up 5 weeks early. About 50 signs were put up on poles around town a day before the first Saturday. Our sale information was also put up on social media and Craig's List of Events.

We had a lot of helpers to do a quick set up late on Sun. Apr. 28 after the Open House. This gave us a limited amount of time during the week to sort that huge number of books.

We had a great many customers on both Sat. May 4<sup>th</sup> and Sat May 11<sup>th</sup>. Books were also sold during Coffee Hour on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>.

At the end of the day on Sat. May 11<sup>th</sup> we helped the people from MORE THAN WORDS pack up over 2,000 books into their truck. MORE THAN WORDS is located at 376 Moody Street, Waltham. See the website at [www.mtwyouth.org](http://www.mtwyouth.org). Their hours are Tues. through Thurs. 11:30-9, Friday 11:30-10 and Sat. 11:30-6. This organization trains "at risk youth" to run businesses. The "business" on Moody St. is a bookshop/coffee shop. Stop in if you are in the vicinity!

Also about 600 preschool and early elementary books for went to the organization called Aklatan, a Philippine literacy program.

**The Important Bottom Line!**

We attracted many new people to the church building. We hope some come back.

We gave away just under 3,000 books to good causes.

And we collected \$1,907.86 to buy books in Spanish for the village of Flores!

# June 2013

May 2013							June 2013							July 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	17	18	19	20	21	22	
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26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29								
							30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May 26</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>27</b> Office Closed <div style="border: 2px solid blue; width: 100px; height: 30px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<b>28</b> 11:00am Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:00am PNS Graduation Party/PH & FH	<b>Jun 1</b> 10:00am Special Musicians 12:30pm Jr. & Sr. High YG - SkyZone Trampoline Outing
<b>2</b> 10:30am Worship/Commu nion 4:00pm Jr. High Youth Group	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	<b>4</b> 11:00am Bible Study	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Gun Violence Event - First Parish	<b>6</b> 12:00pm FISH Party	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am Special Musicians 12:00pm Roussard Party - Pilgrim Hall
<b>9</b> 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Recital	<b>10</b> 8:15am PRC 7:00pm Council Mtg.	<b>11</b> 11:00am Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Lexington Chamber Music (Sanctuary and PH)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00pm Recital
<b>16</b> 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>17</b> 10:00am Care Mtg. 7:30pm F&A Mtg.	<b>18</b> 11:00am Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:30am Worship 11:45am Ice Cream Social	<b>24</b> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; width: 100px; height: 30px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Lauren at Synod;	<b>28</b> Office Closes End of Regular Office Hours	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:30am Worship/Hymn Sing	<b>Jul 1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30am Summer Office Hours Begin - Tuesdays	<b>3</b> Lauren Returns from Synod	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>