

## Pilgrim's Progress November 4, 2014 – Vol. 56 No. 9

**On Sunday November 16—Consecration Sunday, we will formally conclude our 2015 Stewardship Campaign.** By then, you will have heard from Susan Bennett, Michael Scott-Morton, Mike Clark, and Suzanne Abair about why they pledge and what Pilgrim Church means to them.

In Stewardship Sermons, I tend to focus on our community, on the wonderful ministries we undertake together and the Biblical calls to give. Like many of you, I also pledge to Pilgrim Church. I do so because our congregation means a great deal to me. I see how we enact God's love and fuse our Christian faith with our lives, and I can't help but give back as a way to be grateful to God. I truly remain thankful to be your pastor three and a half years after I began this holy work with you.

Church work is always interesting. Sometimes things happen on a small scale at Pilgrim and the wider congregation may not see the diverse ways we are the church together. One of my favorite parts of ministry is teaching. Whether it's Bible Study, Adult Ed classes, or Confirmation—we debate and question and learn and laugh, a lot. Sometimes I come to visit you in your homes or in the hospital and we talk about how you're doing and sometimes we talk about God. These holy conversations in small groups and with you one-on-one are remarkable to hear. When one of us gets sick and needs a meal or a ride, our Care Angels provide support. Before Jill left as our Interim CE Director, she couldn't believe that she was able to find Church School teachers for the entire year. Meaningful mission work happens as close as here in Lexington and as far as Honduras and Zambia. Church Council and Committees are dreaming and setting goals and moving along with various projects and initiatives. Pilgrim is a special church where we grow in our Christian faiths and support one another on our spiritual journeys.

We often speak in the church world of having a balcony view. That sometimes we need to go up to the balcony to get the lay of the land, to get far enough above the fray of daily congregational life to recognize patterns. What do I see when I try to have a balcony view?

Sometimes I see individuals and families who come to church on Sundays or midweek for meetings and adult education offerings and various church events—and people seem grounded and joyful. Other times, I see individuals and families who seem overburdened, stressed, and simply seeking peace in the midst of chaos. The beauty of church is that we have a place for joy and sorrow. We follow in the Way of Jesus—from his birth to his life and ministry, to his death and resurrection. We can identify with all the ups and downs Jesus and his followers experienced because we go through it too. There is so much comfort in enduring the stages of our lives together. Inevitably, from the balcony I see all that we have accomplished and the areas where we are a work in progress as a congregation, as it should be!

I appreciate that we consecrate our pledges around Thanksgiving in the United Church of Christ. It's wonderful to seamlessly connect our gratitude in this season to our gifts to God's Church. It's inspiring to give thanks to God for Pilgrim Congregational Church United Church of Christ and for fellow Pilgrims who stand beside us in all our seasons of life.

This November, let's consider all the ways we are the Church at Pilgrim, especially the small moments we experience where we see our congregation bringing forth a little more light and love into our world. For it's often those little acts of compassion and kindness that make a real impact in the end.

Grace and Peace,

*Lauren*

**LICA THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 7:30 PM AT HANCOCK UCC**

All are invited to join the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association (LICA) in our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service to be held Tuesday, November 25th, at 7:30 pm at Hancock United Church of Christ, on the Green. Refreshments and conversation will follow the service. "Our Interfaith Service is a tradition of several decades," said Rabbi Jill Perlman of Temple Isaiah and a Co-President of LICA. "It is always inspiring to see Christians and Jews, Unitarians and Muslims, Hindus and members of other faith traditions giving thanks for the blessings of life."

The 2014 service will remember and celebrate more than fifty years of cooperation and shared service to the entire community. Service planner Rev. Paul Shupe of Hancock Church explains, "Respect and shared endeavor among gatherings of people of different faiths is not common in our world. Far too often mistrust and enmity prevail. But the faith communities of Lexington have a long and honorable history of giving thanks for the faith of others, and for working together to learn, to grow, and ease human suffering."

The service will include readings from many traditions attesting to the goodness of being open to others, stories of shared sacred work that has occurred over the decades, and celebration of ongoing efforts. Such efforts include an Interfaith Garden which provides organic produce for hungry families, as well as the Lift Up Lexington response to families in transition. We will also celebrate the rich community found among the clergy through their association with one another. An interfaith choir will sing, and at evening's end we'll eat and share good fellowship one with another.

All are invited to attend, whether you are participating in a faith community or not. The service can be watched live on Lexington cable television: Comcast channel 8, or RCN channel 3, or Verizon Channel 3. It will also be available over the internet via livestream: visit [www.lexmedia.com](http://www.lexmedia.com) to find the livestream link.

**ADULT EDUCATION BOOK STUDY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 7 PM  
IN THE SUNROOM –  
JESUS IS THE QUESTION, MARTIN COPENHAVER**

On Wednesday, December 10 at 7 pm, we'll meet at church to discuss Martin Copenhaver's latest book, *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 he answered*.

Jesus is often depicted as the answer to many of our questions in life and as the ultimate Answer Man to boot. But Copenhaver argues that Jesus is the ultimate Questioner and asks far more questions than he answers in the Gospels. The chapters contain questions about longing, compassion, identity, faith and doubt, worry, the reach of love, healing, abundance, who Jesus is, and the cross. Copenhaver also writes about the questions Jesus does answer and questions from the Risen Christ.

*Jesus is the Question* will provide a wonderful chance for us to explore these important, timeless questions of our Christian faith together during the holy season of Advent. I hope to see you on December 10, and happy reading in the meantime!

*Lauren*

## UPCOMING NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

- **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9: MUSIC SUNDAY**

Our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will perform special pieces of music throughout the service. This will be a Family Sunday—our children and youth will be in worship the entire service to also appreciate and celebrate our church's wonderful music ministry!

- **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16: CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

We will hear from our final Witnessing Steward, Lauren will preach the Stewardship Sermon, and our pledges will be blessed during worship to formally conclude our 2015 Stewardship Campaign.

- **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23: THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

This service will be centered on giving thanks for God's abiding presence and all the gifts we have in our lives. What are we truly grateful for this year?

- **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Advent begins on the last Sunday of November this year. Our theme for the First Sunday of Advent is Hope as we begin this holy season of waiting, watching, and hoping.

### WEEKLY PRAYERS

- Doug Shufelt
- Judy and Gary Siegel
- Lorraine Silva

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Emily Collins asked for prayers for Joswe, a patient at Shriners
- Susan Carabbio asked for prayers for her friend Matt whose mother has cancer that has spread
- We pray for our country as we vote this week, that we may be wise and discerning and our leaders will lead with compassionate insight.
- We pray for Mayor Menino's family and friends as they mourn him.

### FROM DAN SCHMIDT



**Sunday, November 9** is the first of two services we'll have this program year that focuses on music. I am extremely excited for this service as you'll be able to see and hear the hard work of our talented musicians. These wonderful individuals span all ages and musical backgrounds. They have been working very hard and without them, we'd not have the type of program and quality of music that we enjoy every Sunday! Our music is one way we here at Pilgrim praise God!

This service will highlight our bells, choir, organ and piano, as well as your voices on the hymns! I hope you will come and enjoy the service! And if you feel so inclined, you are more than welcome to be a part of these great music groups we have!

See you Sunday,  
Dan

### DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Please note that the deadline for the December issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be November 19. Thank you!

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



## FROM LISA HULBERT

Although November seems like a quiet month when I look at my calendar it seems to me to be the quiet before the storm. The end of November through December becomes a flurry of family dinners, Christmas parties and holiday shopping. It is important to stay present in the moment instead of looking towards what is next.

Here at Pilgrim we are doing just that. The Sunday School is running smoothly. Our team has been working hard to remind kids of exactly where they can see, feel and learn about God work. The youth are begging a new program this month entitled *Building Bridges*. The curriculum is a world religions program designed to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. The exploration of multiple religions often encourages youth to explore their own beliefs. Aside from studying religions like Buddhism, Islam and Judaism through a series of lessons we will also be visiting different places of worship and inviting guests to join our conversations.

In addition to the new curriculum, Pilgrim Church School has also launched a Pinterest page. The page is designed to help parents both volunteering in our Church School and at home. It contains great ideas for Bible crafts, creative prayer and articles to encourage faith formation at home. You can find our Pinterest page at [www.pinterest.com/pilgrimCS](http://www.pinterest.com/pilgrimCS). This page is a one stop shop for resources on many different topics.

As we focus on the present I wanted to take a moment to reflect on October. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Lorincz, myself and three of Pilgrim's youth walked along side Don and Claire Moir. Our team was able to raise over \$1000 in the fight against hunger. October also played host to the first Spooktacular here at Pilgrim Congregational Church. We had a great night of crafts, games and great Halloween costumes. All in all, October was full of fun and I'm excited to begin November!

Blessings,  
Lisa

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### DONATIONS NEEDED FOR EAST END HOUSE THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY

We need your help to make the Holidays festive for everyone! Each Thanksgiving, our friends at **East End House** provide hundreds of individuals and families with Thanksgiving Baskets that include turkeys and all of the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. To help out, Pilgrim is having a food drive. Please bring items to Pilgrim by **Sunday, November 16**. A donation of \$35 will supply a family with a turkey and all the ingredients and recipes for their Thanksgiving meal! Here is a list of requested items:

- Stuffing**
- Gravy**
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables**
- Cranberry Sauce**
- Canned Pumpkin**
- Desserts**
- Baby Food and Formula**
- \$15 gift cards to Shaw's or Market Basket as Turkey Vouchers**



For more information on the Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway, please contact Tim Severyn, Senior Director of Community Programs at [timothy@eastendhouse.org](mailto:timothy@eastendhouse.org) or 617-876-4444.



For some time, there has been talk that our narthex needs attention. Well, I am pleased to tell you that your Membership Committee has begun actively working on this. I am also pleased to announce that the F&A committee recently voted \$8,000.00 from our church's Memorial Funds to help get this project off the ground. Below is a sneak preview of our thinking.

First and foremost, the narthex really sets the tone of who we are as a church. When people open our front doors on Sunday morning, this is the space that helps form first impressions. Therefore, the area needs to be bright, open, and friendly—a place where people can meet and greet one another, a place where they can obtain information as to who we are, and a place where they can easily learn about upcoming events. There should be comfortable seating, and the area should always look neat and organized to be as welcoming as possible.

Above all, Pilgrim needs to send the message that we are up to date and with the times. Thus, we are investigating the use of a flat screen monitor as one device to tell our story and announce upcoming events. New lighting is being researched as well as methods to hang framed pictures that can be easily changed throughout the year. This will provide the opportunity to display updated artwork from our children and youth and some of the beautiful photos from our website.

Times have changed—and they will continue to do so. The younger generation has less interest in attending traditional, old style churches that their grandparents worshiped in. Young people have been well schooled that they either stay abreast of new technology and practices, or they will be replaced by those who have. Vibrant churches must reach people where they are and be relevant in today's world. As a Founding Member of Pilgrim Church, I welcome change because it speaks directly to the first line in our church Mission Statement which says, "A welcoming home to all spiritual seekers." Stay tuned—our Committee will be sharing more information as we develop it.

Bob Beckwith  
Mission Committee

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### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Come help decorate the church for the advent/Christmas season on **Saturday, November 29 at 8.30am**. The work usually only takes 1.5-2 hours at the most. Coffee will be provided!!

Lesley Morrison



### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PILGRIM CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The annual Pilgrim Church Christmas party will take place on **Sunday, December 14** following worship. More details to follow.

## HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

### OUR THANKS TO PILGRIM

On September 22nd, seven year old Eduin Johan Doblado Martinez returned to Boston for follow up medical treatment at Shriners Hospital. He was admitted for surgery on the 26th and spent six and half hours in the operating room while the plastic surgeon successfully repaired his left arm which had become enlarged due to a lymphatic malformation.

"Johan" spent the following five weeks recovering at our home in Concord. We would like to thank the Pilgrim community for their continual prayers which we certainly relied on. Also, we'd like to acknowledge the Boehm family who provided his clothes, Nicole and Nadege Mahiou who invited him over to play, and Lily Kurth who gave her soccer ball as a gift, and he proudly took it home to Honduras.



Lastly, we'd like to acknowledge Lisa Hulbert who warmly greeted Johan each Sunday morning, handing him crayons and practicing her Spanish. As you can see, he loved his first Halloween party!

Emily and Tom Collins





## LEXINGTON INTERFAITH GARDEN

A Ton of Food.....Really

There was great excitement at the Interfaith Garden on Saturday, October 25th. This summer we raised ONE TON of food for the Lexington Food Pantry...2006 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits, to be more exact. To put that in perspective, in our first year we raised 995 pounds. Thanks to the Equipping the Saints Fund and willing volunteers, Pilgrim is part of that success. This summer Pilgrim sent volunteers to the garden on 14 days. Each of the twelve congregations contributes to the expense of the seeds, water, and equipment. Carla Fortmann, our very able head gardener, teaches us and oversees the planting, tending, and harvesting of the crops. She is the ultimate volunteer.

Thanks to this year's volunteers, we only needed to call on substitutes from other congregations a few times to fill our quota of two volunteers for each day. Pilgrim volunteers for this summer were **Christina Sym, Mary Mackie, Sandy Gardiner, Duncan Todd, Son-Mey Chiu, Jeanne DeSanto, Peter DeSanto, and Barbara Munkres.** An interesting story from the garden this year: a substitute, Matthew Pronchick, enjoyed the garden so much that he invited a few friends to come. Before long he had his own "congregation" called Matthew's Circle of Friends.

If all this sounds like fun, it is, though perhaps not so much on a drizzly Saturday morning in October with the temperature in the 40's. Even then, there are no complaints and work continues. The garden closes for the year on Saturday, November 1 and perhaps a few more pounds will be added to our harvest.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres





### Updated Coffee Hour Schedule 2014 – 2015

<b>2014 – 2015</b>		<b>Hosts</b>	<b>Hosts</b>
<b>November 2</b>	Communion/All Saints Day	Burger	Todd/Carothers
<b>November 9</b>	Special Music Sunday	Chytil	Kurth
<b>November 16</b>		Chen/Edmiston	Clark/Moffitt
<b>November 23</b>		Johnston/Fagerstrom	Council
<b>November 30</b>		Clarke	Dayton
<b>December 7</b>	Communion/Advent I	Gardiner	German
<b>December 14</b>		Fellowship	
<b>December 21</b>		F. Johnston	Ferrell-Jones
<b>December 28</b>	Hymn Sing	Munkres	
<b>January 4</b>	Communion	Greene	Vega
<b>January 11</b>		Hopkins	Huston
<b>January 18</b>		Mission	
<b>January 25</b>		Kimball	Collins
<b>February 1</b>	Communion	Labbe/Clark	Lawler
<b>February 8</b>		Birthday Sunday	Lisa H
<b>February 15</b>		LoBuglio/Royer	
<b>February 22</b>		Mason	McClave/Shore
<b>March 1</b>	Communion	Carabbio	Mitchell
<b>March 8</b>		Moir	Morrison
<b>March 15</b>		Munkres	Murphy
<b>March 22</b>		Nuss	O'Brien
<b>March 29</b>		Porter	Ramacciotti- Mahiou
<b>April 5</b>	Communion	Reaske	Rogers
<b>April 12</b>		Roy	Council
<b>April 19</b>		Saradjian	Carabbio
<b>April 26</b>		Velis	Schwartz