

Pilgrim's Progress February 3, 2015 – Vol. 57 No. 2

FROM THE



PASTOR

On **Sunday February 15**, Pilgrim will once again participate in *Interfaith Power and Light's National Preach-In on Global Warming*. Interfaith Power and Light has the following Mission Statement: *The mission of Interfaith Power & Light is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. This campaign intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard the health of all Creation, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.*¹

It will be a great opportunity for our congregation to reflect on our role as Christians in the protection of our planet. As people of faith, we can provide the moral voice behind the movement for environmental protection and advocacy.

In fact, the United Church of Christ has pointed to unjust environmental policies having impacts on vulnerable people for quite some time. In 1987, the UCC published an important study called *Toxic Waste and Race* and formally introduced the ideas of environmental racism and justice. The UCC has stated that sometimes it is intentional that hazardous waste sites, landfills, incinerators, and polluting industries are placed in communities inhabited by racial minorities, migrant farm workers, and the working poor. Here is a partial list the UCC compiled of some of these discriminatory practices and/or their effects:

- Lead poisoning among children, asthma and other respiratory illnesses
- Unsafe, indecent, and exploitative workplace conditions
- Cancer, birth defects, and developmental illnesses
- Pesticide poisoning of farm workers and contaminated sites and properties
- Congested and decaying housing conditions
- Lack of protection of spiritual grounds and indigenous habitats
- Pollution and lack of sound economic development
- Lack of access to quality health care and unequal enforcement of environmental laws
- Inadequate community participation in the decision-making process²

As we can observe, environmental justice is not just about the future of our planet, but recognizes the detrimental impact policies can have on communities now. I find this both/and approach the UCC presents to us important—recognizing that our voices matter now and that the well-being of present and future generations is on the line when we speak about the health of the environment.

I hope to see you in church on February 15 as we pray for God's good creation and contemplate what we can do now to make our world more just for all.

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

¹ <http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/about/mission-history/>

² "Almost Everything You Need to Know about Environmental Justice," The United Church of Christ, http://www.ucc.org/justice_advocacy_resources_pdfs_environmental-justice_environmental-justice

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

We have several Lenten worship services here at Pilgrim that we'll offer throughout this meaningful season. Lent provides the time and space for self-reflection and our need for God's mercy. Though Lent tends to be solemn in tone, Easter (the highest holy day of the Christian faith), becomes even more significant if we take the time to immerse ourselves in all that comes before that joyous day. To help us walk with Jesus, we can worship together in Lent.

Wednesday February 18 Ash Wednesday—7:30 PM.

Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins, where we use ashes and Communion to observe the start of Lent in an intimate service in Pilgrim Hall. This year's service will also feature three stations to provide the space for individual, contemplative, and tactile reflection.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return."

Wednesday March 4 Vespers Service—7:30 PM.

Daniel 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 18 Vespers Service—7:30 PM.

Our second Lenten Vespers service to prepare us for Holy Week.

ADULT EDUCATION BOOK STUDY

Join us **THIS Thursday February 5 at 7 PM in the sunroom as we discuss Anne Lamott's wonderful book on prayer: *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers***. Lamott writes, "Most good, honest prayers remind me that I am not in charge, that I cannot fix anything, and that I open myself to being helped by something, some force, some friends, some *something*." (35) In our discussion, we can speak to how we understand good, honest prayers. Please come to both share and discuss Lamott's work on the spiritual practice of prayer!

WEEKLY PRAYERS

- Ed and Kim Bond and their children Thompson and Natalie
- Anita Bradley
- Betty Bradshaw

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



DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Please note that the deadline for the March issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be February 23rd. Thank you!

FROM LISA HULBERT

February is full of excitement. We are very excited to Welcome Ostin all the way from Honduras. We spent the first Sunday of the month working on a community quilt of comfort for him. We hope that our prayers and messages of hope help him during his medical journey here in the U.S.A. The Children were also able to look at pictures of Ostin. Due to his condition, his beautiful smile is physically altered. The children at Pilgrim Church are exploring lessons of judgment and acceptance to prepare to welcome Ostin into our community. If you are looking for resources at home to discuss these topics there are some great children's books that we have made available on the Children's Table in the narthex. Additionally, we are working with the Church School to help break down some of the language barrier. We will be learning some simple Spanish words so our children can welcome Ostin with open arms.

Our Youth Group has also been working hard on messages of acceptance. The group worked well with the younger children to help explain and encourage messages of hope and acceptance for Ostin. This message stems from their work with the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum. We are looking forward to our trip to the Islamic Center of Boston located in Wayland. We have been invited to take a guided tour of the center on February 22nd following worship. Work like this helps encourage Jesus' teachings of love throughout our community.

February will also bring a time of celebration. The Educational Ministries Committee and the newly formed vitality Committee are hosting a church wide Birthday bash. Join us for a special coffee our on Sunday, February 8th. It is a great time of fellowship for everyone. If you have any questions about upcoming projects please contact me at education@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Lisa Hulbert
Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry

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ALTAR FLOWER DONATION

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, there are still many dates available. The cost is \$45, made out to Pilgrim Church. Please let Ruth know what date you are thinking of, and whether or not you would like to take the flowers home after the service or you would like them to be delivered to someone via the Care Committee. Ruth can be reached at: ruthhickox@gmail.com. Thank you!

Available dates:

- February - 15 & 22
- March - 29th (Palm Sunday)
- April - Open
- May - 3, 10 (Mother's Day), 17 (Children's Sunday), 24 & 31
- June - 14, 21 (Father's Day) & 28

MUSICIANS WANTED!

Dan Schmidt and the Worship & Music Committee would like to invite any and all young (or old!) musicians in our congregation to share their talents during worship services. Many people in our congregation enjoy hearing our children grow on their path musically and love to provide words of encouragement. Children learning an instrument (or voice) often master a piece and then move on, never having the opportunity to share what they have worked so hard on. We would love to see our youth be more involved in the preludes, postludes and offertories on any Sunday, not just a Sunday dedicated for our children. The pieces do not have to be long or advanced, we welcome all children and youth on all stages of their musical journey. Please talk with Dan or Carol if your child (or you!) would be interested.

Carol Chytil
Chair Worship & Music Committee



**BELL CHOIR MEMBERS
NEEDED –
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!!**

So now you have heard Pilgrim's Revived Bell Choir 3 or 4 times since this past fall. Did you know that Dan is trying to put together a Bell Choir to play on a monthly basis? We need you!! Playing bells does not require any musical talent at all - in order to play bells, you need to be able to wear a pair of cotton gloves, hold the bell, count to 4 repeated times and ring the bell when it is your turn! It is that easy! You do not need to read music - the music is actually marked with a blue or red circle around your note. As you are counting 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4, you will see a blue note circled, maybe on the number 3. That means you play your left bell on the 3rd count. When you see a red note circled (red means "right hand") on, for example, beat 2, then you play your right hand bell. The incredible beauty of the bells is that when everyone plays on their beat, a beautiful song emerges! We would love to have some more older youth or adults join our inter-generational bell choir. Rehearsals are generally right after church on Sundays (after you have gotten a quick cup of coffee) and then at 9:30 on the morning of the Sunday that Bells are performing. The next few

Sundays that Bells are playing are **February 22, March 29, April 26, and May 31.** Please contact Dan (daniel.schmidt@pilgrimcongregational.org) or Carol (carol.chytil@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions. I promise you, we need you and anyone can play!

Carol Chytil
Chair Worship & Music Committee



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Ostin Varela and his mom, Karla Zavala recently received their visas from the American Embassy! Breathing a sigh of relief here and thankful we can stay on schedule. They will be coming on February 8th.

You may be interested in checking out: www.vbiny.org. Ostin's primary physician is Milton Waner...there are photos shown of some of his patients and the transformation is amazing. Hopefully, Ostin's surgeries will go well. They'll arrive too late for church on the 8th and I assume we'll be in NYC on the 15th but I will keep the church up to date.

Thank you to the Pilgrim community for all the prayers...please keep Ostin and Karla on the prayer request....it is going to be a long haul!

Emily Collins





Long-time Pilgrim Church Member **Harold Page** recently passed away. Hal and his wife Barbara, who died last year, were very active in Pilgrim Church when they lived in Lexington. Hal served as Moderator from 1978 – 1980. They moved to the Cape in the early 90's. A plaque in their memory will be placed in the Pilgrim Memorial Garden.



2015 ANNUAL HOMELESSNESS FORUM

Homeless Family in Massachusetts, 2015
Communities Reaching Out to Support Homeless Families

Eleventh Annual Forum on Family Homelessness

Sunday, March 1, 2015, 2:30-4:30 PM

First Parish in Bedford, 75 Great Rd., Rt. 62, Bedford Center.

Sponsors: Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness & Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.

Co-sponsors: Episcopal City Mission, Citizens Housing & Planning Association (CHAPA), Mass Coalition for the Homeless, UU Mass Action Network

Never have there been more homeless families in Mass. Each night, nearly 3,100 families are in shelters and 1,850 more families are in motels, with serious long-term effects on the social, psychological and physical health and development of children.

Doors open at 2:00PM with light refreshments. View exhibits and chat with representatives from sixteen participating homelessness prevention and service programs and housing organizations. Program begins at 2:30PM. Come learn how others in our communities are helping struggling families who have no place to call home.

Program:

Homelessness Comes to Bedford: How a Community Responds:

Ann Guay, Volunteer Coordinator, Bedford Housing Task Force, and Sue Baldauf, Director, Bedford Youth & Family Services

Secure Jobs Partnership: Providing families with resources to obtain and maintain employment. **Sher Omerovic**, Manager, Secure Jobs Partnership, Jewish Vocational Services, Greater Boston

Eliminating Barriers to Employment: **Jessica Cohen**, Director, Secure Jobs Program, **Connie Martin**, Associate Executive Director for Energy & Community Resources, Community Teamwork, Inc., Greater Lowell

CHALLENGES OF MASS HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS AND Key 2015 Advocacy Issues:

Exa Mendez, Community Organizer/Legislative Advocate, Coalition for the Homeless

How State Government Can Help: Comments from area lawmakers.

For more information about the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, go to www.endfamilyhomelessness.net. You can also contact Carl Miller, Coordinator, at NormanCMiller@comcast.net or 978-369-3755. The free forum, organized by The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is open to all.

All Church Birthday



It is nearly impossible to celebrate all the birthdays of everyone who attends Pilgrim Church.

This year we are having one big bash!

Join us on February 8th for a special coffee hour in honor of your Birthday. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and celebration.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

55 Coolidge Ave, Lexington MA

UPDATED COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2015

February 1	Communion	Lawler	
February 8		Birthday Sunday	Lisa H
February 15		Saradjian	
February 22		Mason	McClave/Shore
March 1	Communion	Carabbio	Mitchell
March 8		Moir	Morrison
March 15		Munkres	Murphy
March 22		Nuss	O'Brien
March 29		Porter	Ramacciotti-Mahiou
April 5	Communion	Reaske	Rogers/Van Evera
April 12		Roy	Council
April 19		Saradjian	Carabbio
April 26		Velis	Schwartz
May 3	Communion	Mission	R Litchfield
May 10		Stevens	Taylor
May 17		Snipe	Carabbio
May 24		Council	
May 31		Rammacciotti-Mahiou	
June 7	Communion	DeSanto	LoBuglio/Royer
June 14			