

## Pilgrim's Progress May 3, 2015 – Vol. 57 No. 5



### FROM THE PASTOR

Sunday May 15 is **Confirmation Sunday**--an important and exciting day in the life of Pilgrim Church. *So what exactly is Confirmation?* A person is incorporated into the Christian Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. When we baptize an infant/young child, adults assume responsibility for their Christian nurture. The congregation (all of us!) promises to provide a supportive Christian community where the child may grow in faith. As young people approach adulthood, the local church offers the opportunity to learn our Christian faith more in-depth and gives them the chance to make a public witness to those baptismal vows once taken on their behalves. Confirmation is when we *affirm* our baptisms and *confirm* our desire to be adult members of the church. (And for those young people who haven't been baptized yet, this is the day when they are invited to become baptized as adult members of the church.)<sup>1</sup> It's such a great moment for local churches to celebrate!

On Sunday May 15, there will be seven students who will be confirmed here at Pilgrim Church: Sam, Taylor, Julia, Ted, Izzy, Fiona, and Eleanor. These students have been working hard since September (meeting twice a month and sometimes even more) to go through the UCC's *Affirming Faith* curriculum.

Here's some highlights of what they've been up to:

- Worshiped at Grace Chapel and Temple Emunah to experience another expression of Christianity and the Jewish faith, respectively
- Attended worship with us at Pilgrim Church (obviously!) to reflect on how we worship God
- Volunteered at Bristol Lodge and Lex Eat Together to serve those in need
- Unloaded pumpkins
- Lit an Advent Candle and helped to lead our Ash Wednesday service to begin Lent
- Read the Gospel of Luke (and were quizzed on its contents!)
- Wrote a "What Do I Believe?" paper to explore what they truly believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Christian life
- Attended an Opening Retreat at the parsonage
- Will be attending a Closing Retreat at Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center this weekend. (At Grotonwood, we'll finish the *Affirming Faith* workbook and make Confirmation Stoles to depict where they are on their faith journeys using meaningful Christian symbols.)

To say that Lisa and I are proud of these Confirmands seems like an understatement, but we are *incredibly* proud of them! This group of young men and women have been a pleasure to journey with these past nine months. They are insightful, kind, and funny. Sam, Taylor, Julia, Ted, Izzy, Fiona, and Eleanor have asked many questions and explored complicated religious subjects with curious minds and open hearts. Honestly, Confirmation remains a favorite aspect of my ministry, thanks in large part to wonderful groups of young adults like these Pilgrims. We *all* will be blessed to see them in action on May 15. See you in church!

Grace and Peace,

*Lauren*

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<sup>1</sup> "Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism" in the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*, 145-146.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study class continues to meet on **Tuesdays from 10:30-12** (at the latest). Our group is open to everyone--and that means you! We discuss the Bible in its historical context and contemplate how we can use scripture to make meaning in our everyday lives. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to attend. You don't have to have all the answers. All that's really required is a willingness to learn and grow in your Christian faith!

Our final class for this program year will be Tuesday May 31, and then we'll take a break until Rev. Lauren returns from her Sabbatical by October. Here's a look at what we've explored this year:

- Finished Genesis
- *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words have lost their Meaning and Power--and how they can be Restored*, Marcus Borg
- James
- Ephesians
- 1 Thessalonians
- Philippians
- Philemon
- Galatians
- We'll finish by the end of May with: 2 Thessalonians, Colossians, and Titus

## PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- We pray for the people of Flores as the new police station has been completed, the well in Mira Flores is being drilled, and more children can go to school with the proceeds of the book sale.
- We also pray for Angel Rodriguez who will be having an operation on Wednesday and hospitalized for 3 weeks at Shriners.
- Rev. Lauren asked for prayers for her friend Kelly and Kelly's family (in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative with Lauren) as her parents got into a bad car accident. Kelly's father died and her mother has been badly injured.
- Kim Bond shared the celebration as Ed retires from the company he has been with for 30 years.
- Jeff Boehm asked for prayers for family friend Debra who recently lost her mom Carol.
- Elena Zorn asked for prayers for the family of her friend Tracy who died of breast cancer, and leaves behind twin daughters.
- Diane Blair asked for prayers for her family as her Aunt Catherine passed away on Saturday

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pilgrim's new Council has been elected and we are happy to report that everyone who has been elected (and re-elected) has agreed to serve once again. As a result, your Council remains almost unchanged from last year with the exception of Joe Carabbio, who will be ending his Council term after six years of valuable service and Mary Mackie, who will be coming back onto Council to serve once again. A big thanks to Joe for his dedication and hard work, and a warm welcome to Mary! Congratulations and thank you to the following:

Jeanne DeSanto – Moderator  
Dave McClave – Treasurer  
Brooks Taylor – Clerk

Mike Clark - Assistant Moderator  
Joan Greene – Assistant Treasurer

**FROM LISA HULBERT**

Dear Pilgrims,

I wanted to take a moment to share with you that I will be leaving Pilgrim at the end of this program year. My last Sunday will be **June 19, 2016**. As many of you know, I began my Christian Education work about seven years ago at my beloved home church in Brockton, MA. I have recently been asked to return to my home church to continue building their Christian education program that is near and dear to my heart.

Pilgrim Congregational Church of Lexington has blessed me with so many gifts, including this incredible Pilgrim family. I have learned so much from all of you and most of all, I have learned countless lessons from the children.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity and support over my last two years here, and I look forward to spending my remaining time preparing Pilgrim for its next adventure.

Blessings,

Lisa Hulbert

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**SABBATICAL COVERAGE FOR REV. LAUREN**

Please note that Rev. Lauren will be on sabbatical for the months of July, August, and September.

The word “sabbatical” has its roots in the biblical concept of *Sabbath*. Sabbath keeping is setting aside time that God consecrates and makes holy. Sabbatical leave is a time for our pastor to shift gears in order to rest, disengage, study, reflect, and travel in order to return to minister among us refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. This special time will also be a season of growth for the entire congregation.

We are fortunate that Rev. Jill Olds is able to serve as our interim Sabbatical Pastor for this period. Jill will be available for any pastoral needs and concerns. Contact details and additional information will be forthcoming over the next several months.

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**A NOTE FROM DAN SCHMIDT**

As we head into the final two months of this program year, there seems to be quite a bit going on in the life of the church! One event that I would like to highlight is the upcoming **Music Sunday that will be on Sunday, June 5th**. At this service we will hear from our bell group, our choir and special musicians. The choir will be sharing 5 pieces at this service, 3 of those were performed at the Lexington Choral Festival on April 10 and we are so excited to be able to share that music with you! I hope you are able to make this special service and as a treat, there will be ice cream when it is over!

Thanks.  
Dan Schmidt

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The last All-Church Education will be held on **Sunday, June 12**.



## SUGGESTIONS NEEDED!



Astrid Ordonez (11 years) will be returning from Honduras in June to have a check-up at Shriners Hospital and to spend her summer vacation with us. She would like to take lessons in Korean and guitar. If you have any suggestions, please contact me at: [emily@esperanzahftc.com](mailto:emily@esperanzahftc.com). Thank you! ~Emily Collins

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## COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS & ZAMBIA

Please know that I will be traveling with CWB, Communities Without Borders again this summer, Pilgrim's seventh trip to support orphans and vulnerable children in communities outside Lusaka, the capitol of Zambia.

I have hesitated to make this public due to the changes within CWB in the last two years and yet feel I must see our friends there and do what little I possibly can for our two communities of the past, Ng'Ombe and Mandevu. Many of you who have traveled with us and supported our mission there will remember stories of Nina in Ng'Ombe as well as all the work we did there and in Mandevu through Mrs. Teresa Banda including electricity, new latrine, new exterior fencing/wall to say nothing of the teaching done by travelers of the past and participation in their graduation ceremonies. Pilgrim has a great deal to be proud of in both of these communities. You have all helped hundreds of children through these years.

This summer I will be traveling with CWB June 28<sup>th</sup> and returning on July 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be working and representing Pilgrim at the Garden Community and at a new school through CWB, Living Hope which is walking distance from our Guesthouse. We will be working/teaching in the schools and perhaps I will be involved in teacher workshops while there. When the other travelers go south to Livingston Falls, I will happily stay back to have extra time with the Ng'Ombe and Mandevu communities of the past that we have worked with and supported so strongly. I have been in touch with Nina on Ng'Ombe (She has a 'notebook' I sent her two years ago.) and have learned that she has not been paid this entire school year. The Mission Committee has kindly committed fund to support her work there and I will bring stories to you all upon my return. I will also spend time at Mandevu as well and Simon Kapeuta Middle School, also walking distance from the Guesthouse.

Please understand and know that I would have been more forthcoming about this Mission work except I really have not fully understood the particulars or felt I could safely assure others travel of clear and accurate information. I will be fine for I have been six other years and know my way around. Hopefully another year other Pilgrims will be able to make this trip once again.

I will be putting a box to collect mainly chalk, pencils and crayons at church with Council's permission later this month. I really do not have a great deal of room for things for I also have dolls to take to orphanages knit again my Pilgrims, the Girl Scouts, students at Bridge school and myself.

My blessings to you all and deepest thanks for your continued support of this Mission Work.

Ruth Hickox Litchfield

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **“LOVE THE STRANGER” - “WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?” PRESENTATION**

**TONIGHT - May 3 at 7:30 pm** in Sacred Heart Parish Center, (Follen Road) there will be a presentation and discussion about two Biblical references, first the Hebrew Scripture’s admonishment to “Love the stranger” and then the Christian Scripture’s pressing question “Who is my neighbor?” The presenters will be Deborah K. Rambo, President of Boston Catholic Charities and Marjean A. Perhot, Director of Refugee Services, also from Catholic Charities. This is the fourth annual event of the “O’Donohoe Lecture Series,” a memorial to honor the late Fr. James A. O’Donohoe, a longtime priest of Sacred Heart Parish, professor of Moral Theology and Canon Law at Boston College and well known medical ethicist in the Boston medical community.

The topic is a timely one in terms of present world conditions. Debates and discussions about about the international response to this world-wide tragedy involving the immigration crisis and the plight of refugees around the world. Both groups have been thrust from their homes in their search for hope, safety and life throughout the world. Our own country is also struggling about our awareness of, and response to these moral tragedies regarding the plight of immigrants and refugees.

Deborah Rambo and Marjean Perhot are longtime social work professionals, working at Boston Catholic Charities. The agency is part of nation-wide network of Catholic Charities comprising the largest private network working with the U.S. State Department in the resettlement of refugees in the country. Catholic Charities also provides a range of services to support immigrants in their search for stability in their new environment.

While donations are accepted, there is no admission charge for the evening’s activities. All are welcome to learn, question and participate in the discussions, which will be followed by a period of fellowship and hospitality.

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### **MONTE CARLO NIGHT TO SUPPORT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT NETWORK**

Come support the Domestic Violence Support Network at the First Annual Monte Carlo Night on **Saturday, May 7 from 6:30 - 10:30 pm**, at the Knights of Columbus, 177 Bedford St., Lexington. Visit them at [www.dvsn.org](http://www.dvsn.org). For more information, call 978-318-3421. Registrations required, suggested donation \$50/ticket. Buffet, raffle, cash bar, disc jockey, and more!

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### **BENEFIT CONCERT TO SUPPORT LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FARM**

Good music for a good cause: Lexington Community Farm will sponsor a Benefit Concert featuring Darol Anger and Amy Phelps. The opening act will be Fiddlin’ Quinn and his Big Folks Band. The date: **Sunday May 22, at 3 pm**. The location: First Parish Church, the tall white church across from Lexington Green. Tickets \$31 adults. All proceeds will support the education and food access programs of LCF, a nonprofit working farm that connects our community to local food and sustainable practices while preserving historic farmland.

## ON THE LINE: WHERE SACRIFICE BEGINS

*A documentary examining the METCO-Lexington experience through the lens of Boston students in the METCO program along with counter-responses from the suburban community.*

**Sunday, May 15 at 3 pm**

Lexington Venue

1794 Mass Ave.

Reception to follow at Lexington Depot

[https://fromtheheartproductions.givecorps.com/projects/6032-documentaries-on-the-line-where-sacrifice-begins?entity\\_id=fromtheheartproductions](https://fromtheheartproductions.givecorps.com/projects/6032-documentaries-on-the-line-where-sacrifice-begins?entity_id=fromtheheartproductions)

**On The Line** looks back at the conflict of racial segregation in Boston's public schools in the 1960s and 1970s. The context and decisions that resulted in court-ordered busing, rather than the violence and tension that followed busing. Investigating the years prior to court-ordered busing helps to better understand current debates about segregation in public schools. As the United States becomes an increasingly diverse nation, it is particularly relevant for students to think about how people from different backgrounds build relationships based on mutual respect and shared understandings, and the role of schools in the endeavor.

**OTL** makes use of photo-montage recreations, interviews, original field footage and recordings, to examine the **METCO** integration experience through the lens of native Boston minority students who attended public school in the affluent suburb of Lexington, MA, along with counter-responses from suburban students and faculty directly impacted by the program long after the bus ride ended. Capturing historical context of its', founders, polarizing activists, teachers, parents and champions of the movement.

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### THE TOAST TO FILL THE BBCF!

Bond-Bardes College Fund

**Saturday June 10th, 7-11pm**

Knights of Columbus 177 Bedford Street, Lexington Ma

We are planning a gathering of friends to toast John Bardes and to raise money for John Henry, Cary and Kerna's college funds. There will be food, cash bar, auction items, pictures, music and stories. (Please send musical requests ahead of time)

Please spend the evening or an hour in support of friends. \$20 entrance

All proceeds go to the school fund.

RSVP by May 27th

Please forward this email to anyone you know that loves a member of the Bond-Bardes Family, John, Cindy, John Henry, Cary or Kerna.



### THOUGHTS FROM FRITZ.....

Psst...hey, Pilgrims: Could you please help me out by purchasing as many books as possible from the book sale? The more you buy, the less my mother can buy, and she already has way too many. She spends a crazy amount of time reading, and I would prefer that she take me for a walk, or throw a toy for me to fetch, or simply give me belly rubs. So, please do what you can. Thanks guys. Woof!

Love, Fritz



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

