

Pilgrim's Progress October 6, 2015 – Vol. 57 No. 8

FROM THE



PASTOR

The program year has begun! Perhaps you've noticed that our Church Staff and Lay Leaders are trying new things? This year is a year of growth and exploration. By growth I mean growing in numbers, in generosity, and in discipleship. We have a special church here at Pilgrim, and when we know that in our minds and feel that in our hearts--we can't help but share our joy with our friends and neighbors.

How are we growing in numbers? We formed a small Marketing Team to help spread the word about Pilgrim in Lexington and beyond. We want to be on the radar of church shoppers and we want people to hear about all the great work we already do. For instance, this fall we were more intentional about marketing our Family Movie Night. This event has grown from 80 people our first year, to 100 people our second year, to 140 people this year! There were many new people sitting on our front lawn. If these folks drive by 55 Coolidge and think of happy memories they've had here, then what a great testimony to Pilgrim being an asset in Lexington.

How are we growing in generosity? Stay tuned as the Stewardship Committee and upcoming Witnessing Stewards in worship will share more about growing in our financial contributions that keep our church running. Yet generosity isn't just about our treasure, but our time and talents. This year we've used Sign Up Genius to streamline how we sign up to be liturgists, greeters, and coffee hour hosts. We've even created a Sign Up Genius for the Pumpkin Patch! My hope is that every single person who attends Pilgrim Church will be generous of their time and talents. We're also growing in generosity (and discipleship) by embarking on a new mission project. Pilgrim has become a Cradles to Crayons pop-up Giving Factory and people of all ages can spend a few hours volunteering right here at our church to help children in need in the greater Boston area.

How are we growing in discipleship? The church roots us in our Christian faith and then helps us go forth to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. The rootedness comes in the form of worship, teaching, fellowship, and service. Teaching our Christian faith is at the heart of my ministry. I actually come from a long line of teachers (not just my parents), going generations back on my mom's side of the family. So I believe it's vital that pastors teach our Christian sacred stories and traditions. To that end, we've begun All Church Education and Family Sundays on the first Sunday of the month. This gives us a chance to learn and grow together. And our Staff is doing our best to make Intergenerational Worship meaningful for Pilgrims of all ages. Our hope is that this new educational offering and worship service helps root us at Pilgrim, strengthening and encouraging us to go help God mend the world.

And these are just some highlights! There are many ways for you to be involved in this year of growth and exploration--so see you in church.

Onward!

Lauren

FROM LISA HULBERT

Christian Education News

Church School is off to a great start! Since rally day we have held a few sessions where children were able to talk about prayer and communion prior to the launch of all our new initiatives this year. This month we will transition into our new programs. On October 18 we will begin our church school rotation model. As you have heard many times this summer, the new model is designed in modules that last about one month. Teachers and children will be exploring the same story for about three weeks in art, science and video workshops. If you would like to sign up to teach a rotation please see Lisa.

Here are some reminders of important dates to come this fall.

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| October 10 | Pumpkin Unloading |
| October 11 | No Church School, Nursery Care available |
| October 18 | Activate Faith and Mission Kids officially begin |
| November 1 | All Church Education followed by family worship |
| November 21 | Stone Soup Night: Family dinner and entertainment provided by youth of Pilgrim Church. |
| November 29 | No Church School and the nursery will be closed as well. |

Lisa Hulbert
Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry

PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Today we pray for strength and comfort for Sylvia Ferrell-Jones. Sylvia has undergone a number of tests that revealed the lung cancer has returned. She will begin chemo this week and treatment will last 4-6 months. We will continue to lift up Sylvia in our prayers in the months ahead.
- Emily Collins has asked for prayers for Omar in Honduras who has cancer.
- We also lift up those affected by the events in Oregon this past week, and hope that our country will have important and necessary dialogue about gun violence.
- Beth Kurth asked for prayers for her friend Claire who began chemo for liver and colon cancer; for Nena who lost her best friend to cancer recently; for Vicki (Hugh's cousin) who just lost her one-year-old granddaughter; and for safe travels for her sister who will be visiting for the first time in three years.
- Kim Bond asked for prayers for her step-mother who will be having surgery for breast cancer this week.
- Mona Roy asked for prayers for her son Aloke who will be moving to a residential boarding school. Prayers that he will be healthy and safe in this new environment.

**SAVE THE DATE!
PUMPKIN UNLOADING!**

We hope you are planning on joining us to help out unloading the truck of pumpkins we will have arriving on **Saturday, October 10 (time tbd)**. Many hands make light work! Please sign up [here](#) to help out at the pumpkin patch. Thank you!



PUMPKIN CARVING!

Join us as we carve pumpkins following worship on **Sunday, October 18**. Head downstairs to Fellowship Hall where we will have a great time together carving and decorating pumpkins!

JOIN TEAM EsperRUNza!

Please consider joining Team EsperRUNza at the 20th annual Genesis Battlegreen Run in Lexington, MA on Sunday, November 1st.

Our thanks to Melissa George, who has organized a team which will benefit Esperanza-Hope for the Children, Inc.

Esperanza has been providing medical, educational and financial assistance to the impoverished people in Honduras since 2001.

Here are 4 things you can do:

- 1. Run a 5K with Team EsperRUNza**
- 2. Run with Team EsperRUNza AND set up a donation page**
- 3. Invite your friends to join the team**
- 4. Select not to run but make a donation**

Register at: <http://battlegreenrunfoundation.org> entering Team EspeRUNza when prompted

Donate at: <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/300967> *Select Join Team or Donate*

Learn more about Esperanza at <http://esperanzahftc.com>

All registration fees and donations go directly to Esperanza.

Thank you for your support.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

On June 24th, Noel (13 years old) and Astrid (10 years old) returned to our home for nine weeks. In 2006, Noel received life-saving cardiac surgery, and two and half years later Astrid arrived for neurosurgery to correct her "tethered" spinal cord and orthopedic surgery for her "cavus" foot. Both children were here for their annual check-ups at Tufts Medical Center and Shriners Hospital for Children (Springfield). Adjustments were made to Astrid's AFO (ankle foot orthosis) which she is required to wear throughout the day. Noel underwent an electrocardiogram, ultrasound and stress test. Doctor's determined his heart is in worse condition, and he will need another surgery in the near future. We're grateful for the free care provided by Dr. David Dvaric and Shriners Hospital, and the token amount paid to Tufts for the services of Dr. Michael deMoore and others. Once again, we received complimentary flights from American Airline's Miles for Kids in Need program who have helped enable Esperanza to bring many patients from Honduras to Boston.

Although the primary purpose for the visit is medical, it has developed into so much more. Astrid and Noel have become integral parts of our family and we have journeyed with them as they have grown from a toddler and a pre-schooler to a pre-teen and teenager. We have shared our values, goals and traditions, and they have taught us about their beliefs, customs, and the realities of living in the third world. It continues to amaze us how they are able to adjust back and forth between two families, two languages, and two cultures.

Not only do they have the good fortune of coming to the U.S. for medical care, they have been welcomed into the homes of many families. These kind and generous people have afforded them the opportunity to travel to new places, experience different adventures and provide financial assistance for their housing and education. Noel and Astrid certainly are blessed, but with it comes expectations and a sense of obligation to their own families. During the school year, they travel to receive a better education and work long hours to complete their extensive homework. While they are here, they want to earn money to help provide necessities for their families. They have their own inner struggles knowing they have plenty of food to eat, are living in a safer environment and aren't there to help with chores and their younger siblings.

We enjoy having the chance to shower them with love and attention, encourage them to pursue their dreams, support them through their struggles...and then it's time to let them go...and return to their other homes.

Tom & Emily Collins



ANNUAL COLLECTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES, BLACK SHOES AND FLIP FLOPS!

Once again we'll be collecting these items. Please consider donating items so that students can attend school and that we can help prevent injuries. We will be traveling to Honduras in November and will hand deliver.

Thank you for your support! ~Tom and Emily Collins

**LEXINGTON COMMUNITY COALITION – YOUTH INITIATIVE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Take Action for Lexington Youth!

stress • academic pressure • depression • anxiety • suicide
peer pressure • social media • bullying • alcohol • substance abuse
sleep deprivation • identity issues • unhealthy habits

Are you concerned about Lexington youth? There has been a lot of community discussion and concern about stress and risks to our youth, including forums, written reports, and existing services. Building on this, it's time for us to unite as a community to take action.

On October 7, Lexington will come together as a Community Coalition to address what we can do collectively to improve the well-being of our youth.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 7, 7:00-9:00pm

WHERE: St Brigid's Keilty Hall, 2001 Mass. Ave., Lexington

TOPIC: Goals you have for Lexington's youth that you cannot achieve alone

The Lexington Community Coalition is a new partnership that will bring together town government, schools, community organizations, and community members. We hope you will join the Superintendent, members of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee, staff, clergy, police, health professionals, parents, and other community members at the first Coalition meeting.

As part of the Youth Initiative, Coalition participants will identify shared concerns, set actionable goals, and establish plans to work together toward achieving the goals. The Coalition needs your input. Here's your chance to voice your concerns and participate in setting goals. What goals do you have for Lexington's youth that a community coalition could help achieve? Whether you're a parent, student, teacher, administrator, staff, coach, youth leader, health professional or community member, you have a role to play in the health and well-being of our youth. Come to the meeting, bring your ideas, and join the Coalition.

For information or to join the Lexington Community Coalition – Youth Initiative, contact lexcoalition@gmail.com

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LEX EAT UPDATE 2015

- Renovations are complete at our host location The Church of Our Redeemer.
- Our dedicated refrigerator has been installed.
- Basic food supplies are stored in dedicated cabinets.
- Lex Eat has been incorporated.
- The IRS has granted tax exempt status so all donations are tax exempt.
- All those who have signed up as volunteers will be receiving an email invitation to sign up on Sign-Up-Genius an online website that organizes volunteers. If you find that your specific day is taken please select a different Wednesday.
- If you are interested in ways to help other than to help with the weekly meal please email us at lexeattogether@gmail.com
- Chelmsford began their meals with only 7 guests at the first dinner. There are now about 80. It is expected that the first few meals may be sparsely attended.
- Spread the word, that starting on **Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 5:15pm**, Lex Eat Together will be serving a weekly meal at 65 Merriam St. in Lexington Center!



Providing the essentials for childhood.

Pilgrim is partnering with Cradles to Crayons to host a family engagement volunteer opportunity the last Sunday of every month at Pilgrim Church from 2-4 pm. Join us as a family on **Sunday, October 25** from 2-4 pm to sort and create packets of hats and gloves in an effort to help Cradles serve the 32.5K kids ages 0-12 this winter with hats, gloves, coats, and boots. We will sort, pack, and then add a handmade "well wish" note we will make that day into the packet. Cradles to Crayons is a local non-profit that serves over 100K children ages 0-12 in the MA area with essential items such as clothes, shoes, books, and toys. All ages are welcome - adults and children alike. For more information please contact Jeanne DeSanto at jeannedesanto@verizon.net or Yolanda Taylor at yolandataylor@mac.com. More information on Cradles to Crayons can be found at <http://www.cradlestocrayons.org>.



CROP Walk Team: Pilgrim Congregational - Lexington

Our team is helping to end hunger one step at a time by participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk in Concord, MA on **Sunday, October 25, 2015**. Funds from the 35th CROP Walk for the Hungry support community-based suppers and pantries located locally as well as world-wide hunger and disaster relief (including staff in Hungary, Serbia and Egypt assisting Syrian refugees) and community development through Church World Services (CWS). Please support us by making a donation ... and join us on the Walk if you are able!

If you wish to walk with us, see "details for walking" below.

If you also wish to recruit donors, obtain "walking papers" from Don or Claire Moir

If you wish to donate, see "details for donating" below.

Details for walking:

Date: Sunday, October 25, 2015

Location: 1st Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road in Concord Center, Concord, MA

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with music by the Concord Carlisle High School Pep Band

Walk begins at 2:15 p.m.

Details for donating:

(a) Online – go to: <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/Pilgrim-Lex>

(b) By check – make checks payable to CWS/CROP and give or mail them to Don or Claire Moir at 35 South St., Concord, MA 01742.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP INFORMATION - UPDATE:

A big thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer thus far!

As you know, there is no "right way" to volunteer. Some of us prefer to do everything all on one day several times a year. They will sign up to greet, be a liturgist and host coffee hour on the same day. Others prefer to do one activity multiple times throughout the year (e.g., host Coffee Hour every other month). You decide what works best for you.



Did we mention that there is no experience necessary? Instructions are available for three opportunities and there is always someone available on Sundays to help answer any questions you may have. Sign-ups for Greeters, Liturgists and Coffee Hour Hosts will be available online through SignUp Genius using the link provided in this email. Please note that altar flower donations are being handled offline so please contact Beth Kurth (hughzhoney@gmail.com) or Diane Blair (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) directly. Additionally, you can now sign up to help with the Pumpkin Patch online.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Pilgrim Church community.

Warmly,

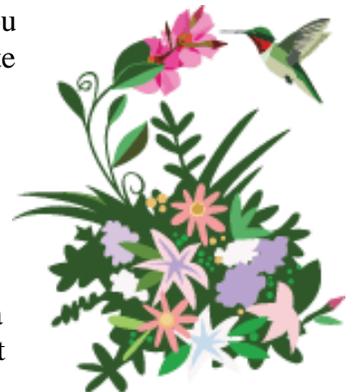
Worship and Music Committee and Vitality Committee

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO GREET, BE A LITURGIST, OR HOST COFFEE HOUR](#)

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE PUMPKIN PATCH](#)

A CALL FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Each week, a member of the congregation supplies altar flowers for Sunday's church service. This year, either our church secretary, Diane Blair, or Beth Kurth will be keeping the list of donors and making arrangements with the florist for the delivery of the flowers. Please let Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) or Beth (hughzhoney@gmail.com) know if you would like to give the flowers and what date you prefer. Many people choose a date that is a special time of celebration or remembrance. The flowers will be delivered to the church by Wilson's. The donors may take the flowers after church, or if they prefer, the flowers can be left to be delivered to someone who cannot attend the service by the Care Committee. You can let Diane or Beth know whether you are taking or leaving the flowers, and what the dedication of the flowers should be.



The cost of the flowers this year is a very reasonable \$40. To pay for them, make a check out to Pilgrim Church with "altar flowers" on the memo line, and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Giving flowers is a wonderful way to contribute to the beauty of our church service.

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THANK YOU!

The beautiful chrysanthemums at the front and back entrances to the church are a gift from Pat Dooley. Thank you, Pat!



DO YOU HAVE A COLLEGE STUDENT?

Pilgrim Church would like to send a care package to our college students this year.

We want to know the name and address of your student so we can send them a few treats and good wishes.

Please send this information to Kat MacDonald at katmacdonald@verizon.net.

DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Please note that the deadline for the November issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be **October 26**. Thank you!

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

