

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

October 2011



From the Senior Pastor

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

Matthew 26: 26-29

The Sacrament of Communion is central to any church's worship life. In some traditions, it is known as the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist. In any event, it is that special moment in worship and in the larger life of the church when we acknowledge and celebrate the unique presence of the risen Christ in our midst.

How we understand communion depends largely on our own personal experience, our background, the religious tradition in which we were raised, and our own sense of how we know God's presence in our lives. In a broad sense, the Sacrament is a meal of thanksgiving to God for all of God's gifts on our behalf. We experience it also as a memorial meal celebrating the life, death and resurrection of Christ which goes beyond mere memory of an historical event to enact the reality of Christ in our life as a church. And finally, Communion is a shared meal with embodiments of our life as a gathered community and celebrates our shared hope in the coming kingdom of God.

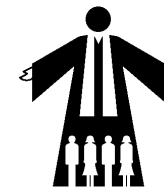
Different churches, different denominations say different things about the nature of the community that is welcomed at the Communion table. At Pilgrim Church and within the wider United Church of Christ, we come to know the Sacrament as an invitation to draw closer to the God that draws close to us. We claim the communion table, filled with symbols of God's gifts of mercy and grace, as the "welcome table of God," from which none are excluded. The grace we experience in the Sacrament is the grace we are invited to share with those who seek fellowship with us. When we claim the Sacrament as this enactment of God's gracious and extravagant welcome of us, we accept a measure of responsibility to welcome others with the same gracious hospitality.

This fall, Pilgrim Church will be inviting and welcoming our children into our worship to share with us the Sacrament of Communion. The Board of Deacons have taken this issue up a number of times in the last two years or so in conversation with myself and Eloise, and it is our sense that to fully welcome our children into our life, we begin with inviting them to share with us this central act of our worshipping community.

I recognize that this may seem strange to many people. Many traditions feel that children cannot fully comprehend the Sacrament and therefore should wait until their faith has matured some. My immediate response is to seek refuge in the words of Christ: in response to his disciples bickering over who among them is the greatest, Jesus says that unless they "change and become like children," they will never "enter the kingdom of heaven." A short time later, the disciples turn away parents bringing their children to be blessed by Jesus. Again, his response is an act of welcome and inclusion: "let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Come to me. The words of Jesus and the words etched in the wood of our communion table.

At the end of the day, children welcomed into worship and invited, at their parents' discretion, to share in the sacramental meal that seals our communion with one another and with God, will understand a simple truth: they are full partners in our common life. And that is a sufficient place to start.

Yours in Christ,
Todd



Minister's Discretionary Fund

As we all know, the economy has greatly affected a number of us, and a great number of people in the wider Plymouth area. In the past, our Minister's Discretionary Fund has provided food assistance, help with fuel, phone and electrical bills, gas for people to get back and forth from school and work, rent and mortgage payments, and any number of other concerns that come to our attention. We welcome contributions in any amount. Checks may be made out to Pilgrim Church, with MDF in the memo line. On behalf of all those who benefit from our capacity to help them through these uncertain times, you have our thanks.



Our college students

Here is the contact information for three more of our college students. An occasional email, note or care package is an excellent way to stay connected and send our love and support. If your student was not listed in last month's newsletter or here, please call or email Terri Clark in the church office (tlclark@pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org). The list will be reprinted in its entirety later on in the year.

Cameron Draper
Netherlands South, RM # 1014B (Breukelen House)
365 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY. 11549-3650

cdrap2@pride.hofstra.edu

Jessica Williams
200 DeSalle Court
Box #52
New Orleans, LA 70118

jdwilli3@loyono.edu

Riley Kerle
Dickinson Hall D-38
Westfield State University
577 Western Ave.
Westfield, MA 01086

rkerle9035@westfield.ma.edu



Looking for a hospitality volunteer for the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast

This year Pilgrim Church is hosting the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast and service sponsored by the Duxbury Interfaith Council on Monday, January 16, 2012. As in past years, the community will be invited to come enjoy breakfast in the Vestry, then attend the service in our Sanctuary. We expect there will be 100+ attendees based on previous years, and we need a hospitality volunteer to coordinate preparing and serving the breakfast. If you are interested in serving, please contact Rev. Vetter (781-934-6591 ext. 102). Thank you, and we hope everyone will make a point of attending this special service.

CONGREGATIONALISM

New 5-week course: "Our Congregational Tradition"

Roger White, our church historian, has designed a 5-week course designed to stimulate discussion and deeper appreciation of our beliefs titled "Our Congregational Tradition." It will meet on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 starting October 19 and concluding November 16. The sessions will begin with the distinguishing beliefs of our congregational tradition and proceed through the Protestant Reformation, the Pilgrims and Puritans, the Great Awakening and Unitarian reaction and conclude with the Age of Engagement and the emergence of the Social Gospel.

There is no text to buy or homework to do, so join Roger and other members on Wednesday nights this fall to learn more about what it means to be us.



The CROP Walk is almost here!

If you have not already done so, it is not too late to sign up to walk in our third annual CROP Walk for Hunger. Simply visit the CROP table in the vestry after worship and register to walk or sponsor a walker.

The walk will be held on Sunday, October 16 starting at noon. There are many new features to this year's walk. We will be joined by our friends from St. John's with check-in registration on the Pilgrim front lawn. Our course will take us up Washington Street, to St. George St., and on to the library. We'll loop back to Pilgrim for a 3-mile walk. After the walk, a lunch on our front lawn will be provided. And, walkers will receive a CROP t-shirt the day of the walk!

Our goal is to have 100 walkers raising \$10,000 for Church World Service and their worldwide hunger programs. CWS has a network of partnerships that work to eradicate hunger and poverty. They create sustainable programs that provide clean water and food sources, improved health and self-reliance. Remember that 25% of the funds we raise will come back to us for local food programs.

Your participation and support are greatly appreciated.



*From the Deacons – Home Communion, a Retreat, and
First Friday Dinners*

The Deacons want to ensure that all who would like to receive communion are able to do so. If you, or someone you know, is unable to come to church on Communion Sunday for whatever reason and you would like to receive communion at home, please let Todd or Eloise know, and a Deacon will be there to serve you.

The Deacons will be holding their annual Deacons Retreat on October 15 & 16. We will discuss the book, Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith by Diana Butler Bass. We will use this hopeful book to help us develop practical steps to proclaim a message of Christianity that strives for greater spiritual depth here at Pilgrim Church and takes into account the needs of the world.

Also, please look for sign-ups in the vestry for October, November, and December's First Fridays Dinners! They will be held on Friday, October 7th, November 4th and December 2nd. We'll gather in the vestry at 6:00 PM; dinner will be provided and there is no cost to attend. All ages are welcome; and we will be happy to provide a ride for anyone who needs one. We hope this will provide a great way to gather in smaller groups (each dinner will be between 12 and 15 people) and to connect with new and old friends. Sign up sheets are on clipboards in the vestry following worship; outside the church offices during the week, or you may simply call the church office. After December, we'll take a second look at First Friday Dinners to see if they will continue in January.



Our work with the Uganda Rural Fund

In mid September, Dan Hall and Chris Blake left for a mission trip to Uganda Rural Fund's Hope Academy in the village of Kyetume and the Nazareth Home for Children in Nyendo, Uganda. They return this month and will bring news of the progress and needs at both the home and school. Pilgrim Church and the Duxbury community played a key role in construction of Nazareth Home which provides housing for children, many of whom are orphaned due to AIDS. We thank Dan and Chris for their efforts to be the hands and feet of our church as they work to improve the lives of poor, rural Ugandan children. Godspeed as you return, and we look forward to hearing from you and the Board of Outreach



Attention Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) 7th and 8th Graders

JYF will begin the year with a study based on the movie "Soul Surfer," the true story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton. Bethany lost an arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again through her sheer determination and unwavering faith.

We will meet for dinner and discussion on Fridays, Nov. 4th, Nov. 18th and Dec. 16th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at Sue Horton's home. Please mark your calendars and email Sue if you will be attending (sph7451@aol.com). We will provide pizza and drinks for each meeting.

On Friday, Oct. 7th, JYF will be heading to the Topsfield Fair in Topsfield, MA. We will meet at 10:00 AM in the church parking lot and return at 8-8:30 PM (depending on traffic). This event will cost \$25.00 (scholarships available) which includes transportation, admission, 11 rides, and dinner (please bring a bag lunch). You will also need to preregister by emailing Sue Horton and have a release form signed to attend this event.

JYF is open to all 7th and 8th graders and you are encouraged and welcome to bring a friend, even if they are not a member of Pilgrim Church!

Remember that your **Pilgrims Progress** newsletter **and** church calendar are also available online; just go to www.pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org.



For High Schoolers only

The high school church school class continues this year on the *second Sunday* of each month in the Youth Room during the worship service. It is led by Rev. Vetter and Rev. Eloise, and feel free to ask them any questions you may have. The class meets on Sunday, October 9 this month.

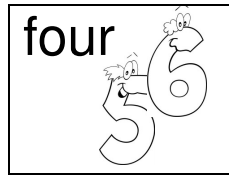


October Church School News

Church School is off to a fabulous start. I am so grateful for Marianne Almeida, Rose Brewer and Michelle Kelley in the nursery. The children were thrilled to have Ms. Nancy (Cobb) back in the Pre-K room. I would like to thank the following people for teaching the K-6th rotation on The Lord's Supper: Elizabeth Barrett, Ann Marie DeWolf, Valri Fountain and Kate Wonkka. I would also like to thank the four people who were shepherds – Brenda Alexander, Colleen Brayer, Robin Elliott and Leigh Sobran for aiding the rotation teachers.

Many thanks to Karen Barry, Doug Backlund and Janna Guinen for teaching the 7th and 8th grade class this year. They are going to join K-6th grades in the Vestry once a month when we meet with the Outreach Board. The 7th and 8th grade class will be watching the NOOMA video series by Rob Bell in the library. The 9-12th grade Church School class meets the second Sunday of each month in the youth room during the worship service with Rev. Todd or Rev. Eloise.

The children will start every Sunday in church and then be dismissed to the Vestry. We will then have a prayer together, take up an offering and dismiss to our rotations. The rotations for each class are noted on the bulletin boards leading up to the sanctuary and are listed in the worship bulletin. Starting next month in November, the children will come back into the service for communion with their families.



We have renamed “Kids Club” to “Four 56.” It is for kids in grades 4th, 5th, and 6th! Kate Wonkka and Ann Marie DeWolf have graciously agreed to lead it the first Sunday of each month from 3 – 4:15 PM in the Vestry. Four 56 is all about FUN . . .the children will play games, learn a lesson and enjoy fellowship together.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about Church School please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for entrusting your children to us! I look forward to a fabulous year with the children of Pilgrim Church!

Peace,
Emily J. Kellar
Church School Superintendant (Skellars@verizon.net; 781-934-6591 ext. 142)



Calling former Deacons of Pilgrim Church

In September, the Board of Deacons discussed the possibility of establishing a ministry at Pilgrim Church that would build on the Deacons' current practice of taking communion to share with those who for any number of reasons cannot make it to church on Sundays. If there are any **former** Deacons of Pilgrim Church who would interested in discussing the idea of establishing a relationship with one person with whom you would visit on the first Sunday of the month and share the Sacrament of Communion, please speak with either Eloise or Angelique Kania, Chair of Deacons.

The idea would be for a former Deacon to collect a home communion set after church on the first Sunday of the month and arrange a time to visit. Each Deacon would visit the same person each month. The arrangement would be flexible, allowing for travel schedules and times away from Duxbury.



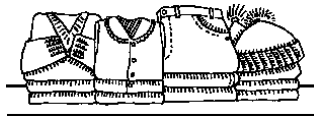
Mission Trip to Back Bay in Biloxi

Looking for Sun and Fun in January? Join us for a week of inspired work in the warmth of Biloxi, Mississippi, on our annual trip to Back Bay Mission. We will be traveling to Biloxi on Sunday, January 8th and returning Saturday, January 14th. During the week, we will be engaged in many different tasks, from home building to working in a local soup kitchen and staffing a drop-in center for Biloxi's homeless community. There are 15 spots available for this trip, so if you are interested or have any questions, please speak to Todd Vetter. *No experience is necessary* and all are welcome.

Back Bay Mission is a community ministry of the United Church of Christ that works to restore and rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina and to rehabilitate homes for low and medium income families living in Biloxi's Back Bay. You can find out more about Back Bay at www.thebackbaymission.org.

***Pilgrim District Women Fall Gathering
Tuesday, October 25th at First Congregational Church in Sharon***

Now that summer is over, Pilgrim District Women look forward to beginning the fall season on October 25th at the First Congregational Church on North Main Street in Sharon. Our guest speaker will be Sister Linda Bessom, Greater Boston Outreach Coordinator to Faith Communities at the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. Sister Linda also serves with Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle as a member of the MACUCC Homeless Task Team. Plan to join us for coffee and fellowship at 9:30, enjoy the program and stay for luncheon at noon. All church women are welcome to come and bring a friend, whether or not your church has an active women's group. Contact Elaine Henriksen at 781-344-0789 for reservations and further information.



Clothing for Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless

We continue to collect *clean, gently used* clothing for Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless. The armoire where donations can be placed has been moved from its former location outside the church library further down the hallway across from Todd's office. If you need assistance finding the armoire, just ask any staff member.



The Duxbury Interfaith Council Thanksgiving baskets

The time is approaching for the annual DIC Thanksgiving basket project. We will be collecting non-perishable food items in November for the baskets. Watch for your November newsletter and Sunday worship bulletins for a list of needed goods and details on cash donations, turkeys and baked goods, and packing/sorting opportunities. Nearly 150 local families in need look forward to this offering from our faith community. Any assistance you can offer is much appreciated.

PARISH POST

Prayers of Healing

Mary Kennedy Salvas

Prayers of Comfort and Solace

For the family and friends of Ruth Whitcomb.



Even though the second Monday of October is Columbus Day, Koinonia is meeting on Monday, October 10 at 7:00 PM. Ginny Hunt will be our hostess. You may call her for directions if needed. You're invited to bring a "Spiritual Show and Tell" – a "treasure" from your home that is a personal reminder of God's presence. Questions? Call Polly Hare at 774-413-5268.



Happy Birthday wishes this month to:

Esther Walker – October 1 Sally Cauthen – October 1 Carol Cybulska – October 7
Mitchell & Trevor Barrington – October 7 Holly Vetter – October 11
Riley Kerle – October 13 Sam Doughty – October 15 Bob Jewell – October 20
Sarah Vetter – October 20 Lee Tenney – October 28

Our warmest wishes for a very happy birthday! Do you have a name to add? Email Terri Clark at tlclark@pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org or call 781-934-6591 ext. 100. We'd love to include you.