

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

March 2010



From the Senior Pastor

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3.18

PBS aired a program recently about dogs and cats rescued from homes in and around New Orleans in the wake of Katrina. It followed the stories of four or five people who had lost their dogs in the storm and the lengths they went to reunite with them.

These are cats and dogs that had been left behind when New Orleans flooded during the storm. One elderly woman named Gloria insisted on staying with her dog, but was forced to leave her behind. Others were faced with similar choices. Many people were not allowed to return to their homes for weeks following the storm, and they had no way of knowing what became of their pets.

Pets rescued after the storm were taken to temporary shelters outside the city and many were then transferred to shelters around the country and were eventually adopted by other families.

One particularly moving story involved a man from St. Bernard Parish whose dog Max had been adopted by a family living in Florida. He desperately wanted Max back, but the family insisted on keeping him. They had given him a home and had come to love him. Max had filled a hole in their lives, and they were simply unwilling to give him back.

It seemed to me that there was a cruelty in keeping a dog from his family; but I realized that God has an interesting and surprising way of working. After speaking to Max's owner on the phone and hearing his story, the woman and her family chose to return Max. It was heartbreaking to watch them struggle with what they must have known to be the right choice.

Another story involved a family that had adopted a dog and were contacted by its former owner. They did not face the same struggle, but it was painful for them to return the dog all

the same. In the end, they became good friends with the woman. When she passed away three years later, she willed her dog Murphy to them.

Paul writes to the Corinthian church that we are transformed into the image and glory of God, and I always find stories like this proof of that. God does not promise us ease and comfort, or simple choices to make. Sometimes, we are faced with agonizing decisions, but we find assurance that a measure of God's grace resides in us and that grace transforms us and transforms the way we live our lives.

Transformation can be a tricky thing, because it often requires us to step outside ourselves and to recognize that God is working through us to bring redemption and healing to others. And to participate fully in that, we may need to acknowledge our own need for healing as well. And that is never a simple or an easy thing.

As we move through Lent, perhaps one thing to reflect upon is the surprising way in which God makes our own healing possible through our participation in the lives of others and in the world beyond our doors.

Peace to you all.
Todd

On Sunday, March 14th @ 4PM, the Music Board proudly presents:



Pilgrim Potluck

*Music for Your Ears
Food for Your Soul*

Take this rare opportunity to enjoy the musical medley of your Pilgrim Choirs, performing an array of their favorites. Share in a fellowship potluck following the concert.

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



All four choirs are very busy preparing for the season of Lent. The music will be more reflective and meditative as befitting the somber mood of Lent. We are, however, also preparing for the Music Potluck to take place on March 14th. It will be a wonderful event with instrumentalists and over forty singers participating. (See the announcement in this newsletter.)

As always, there is certainly room and a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to participate in our music program. It is a wonderful way to praise our Lord and to meet new friends who share common interests: Pilgrim Church and music. Please do give this consideration.

We are currently seeking any volunteer(s) who have the ability to play hymns on piano or organ to occasionally provide accompaniment at a small service. Please contact me at the church for more information, x104.

Cathy Morrison
Music Director



The **7th & 8th grade church school class** is collecting pennies and other change for **Pennies for Peace**. This is an organization that builds and maintains schools, and offers school supplies for the children attending. Look for collection jars at the church entryways and in the vestry. Your help is very much appreciated.

EASTER LILIES



Share your Easter Joy and help decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies for our Easter services on April 4.

(Please check one) In MEMORY of _____ In HONOR of _____

NAME of HONOREE: _____

(Please check one) I Will: Donate _____ Pick Up* _____

Given By: _____

(The above names will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin)

*Lilies must be picked up directly after the 11AM service at church on April 4th.
Please send your donation (there is no specific amount – it is up to individual discretion)
with this form to: Pilgrim Church, P.O. Box 186, Duxbury, MA 02331,
or drop off at the church office.



The UCC Women Leaders of New England Celebration VIII will be held March 12-14 in Burlington, VT. This once-every-four-years event is titled “Together Building Bridges.” It welcomes all church women (approximately 1,000 women attended in 2006) to renew their spirit and celebrate their faith. To register and choose from 28 different workshops, visit www.uccwomenscelebration.org.

Boy Scout troop #62 has a project to send care packages to soldiers fighting in the Middle East. Throughout the month of March, they will be collecting tube socks, Sudoku, regular pencils and sharpeners, mechanical pencils and leads, magazines and toiletries. Contact Noah Brayer (781/934-6474) for more information or questions.

Thank You!

We want to thank everyone who participated in this year's Lasagna Youth Mission Trip fundraiser. Thanks to you, we sold 90 lasagnas, resulting in over \$1,200 that will go to help this year's mission trip!

This is only the second year for this fundraiser, but it was met with *wonderful* support from our congregation and from within our community. Thanks to all of you who placed (and even drummed up) orders, and thanks also to all the volunteers that made it possible; it's really inspiring to see all the youth and adults that work so hard together to make this a success!

With much appreciation,
Gwynne Zisko and Cathy Doughty



Pilgrim Women's Fellowship to host speaker Susan Yates

Mark your calendars for the most exciting event to date! PWF is thrilled to host international speaker and author, Susan Alexander Yates, Monday, April 12th from 7-9 PM in the sanctuary. She will speak on *Coping with Life's Transitions*. Susan Yates speaks nationally and internationally on marriage, parenting and women's issues. She was the regular Parent Columnist for *Today's Christian Woman* magazine for 11 years and is the author of 13 books and has contributed to several others. Susan has been married since 1969 and has five adult children and 15 grandchildren.

Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased in advance at Foodies, Westwinds or at the door on the night of the event. There will be refreshments and a book signing after her talk. For more information on this or other Pilgrim Women's Fellowship events please contact Sarah Beattie (sarah.beattie28@gmail.com) or Cathy Rogerson (cmrptl@aol.com).

We hope both men and women will invite a friend and join us for what promises to be the event of the year!!!



Koinonia will meet on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 PM. Jill Bostder will be our hostess, so please call her for directions.



Bookworms will meet on Tuesday, March 23 at 1:30 PM in the church library. For the current book title under discussion, contact Marion Paulson at 781-582-3738.

**Pilgrim Church
Annual Committee "Membership Drive"**

Time and Talents



At this time each year we open up opportunities for members to help further the mission of Pilgrim Church by sharing their gifts and time serving on our boards and committees. Below are descriptions of the various church committees. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the leadership of the church; it takes a variety of gifts and talents to make these ministries come alive. Our pastoral staff can serve best with willing and sincere workers joining them in service to Christ. We hope one of these ministries might be the right fit for you. Adding new people brings new life and ideas, and serving is a great way to develop meaningful relationships with other Pilgrims and enjoy great fellowship while serving as Christ's hands and feet. In April, you will have a chance to make your interests known by submitting your name or making the nominating committee aware of other talented people whom you recommend. If you have any questions about the committees or how to get involved, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Nominating Committee: Lee Tenney, Jill Bostder, Terri Clark, Bob Mustard & Roger White, Chair.

Brief Description of Boards and Committees with elected members
(normally 3 year terms – starting in May 2010)

- Board of Trustees** – legal and business agent of the church; budgets; properties; personnel.
- Board of Christian Education** – nursery care and church school; vacation bible school; youth programs; adult education.
- Board of Christian Outreach** – program of mission education and outreach for the church; disbursement of outreach funds; organizing "hands on" mission projects.
- Board of Music** – music program including music for church services, choirs, and special musical events.
- Pilgrim Child Care and Preschool Board** – direction, supervision and operation of Pilgrim Child Care and Preschool.
- Duxbury Interfaith Council Representatives** – represent church at local Interfaith Council meetings.

Denominational Affairs Committee – represents church at association and conference functions.

Memorial Committee – administers memorial funds.



Church Committee, Board Volunteer Form

I would like to serve on a Church Board/Committee below

I am submitting a name of someone who I feel would contribute well

Trustees	_____	_____
Christian Education	_____	_____
Christian Outreach	_____	_____
Music	_____	_____
PCCP	_____	_____
Flower	_____	_____
Duxbury Interfaith	_____	_____
Denominational Affairs	_____	_____
Memorial Committee	_____	_____

I am not able to serve as a regular member of a Board or Committee but would be able to help with _____

Your name _____ *ph#* _____ *email* _____

Place this form in the marked box in the workroom, or leave with the church office



The Duxbury Interfaith Council is again preparing for their Spring Basket Project which benefits 110 of our neighboring families in need of assistance. **Currently, the supplies are particularly low**, so your donations of food, money, and time to prepare the baskets **are gratefully appreciated**. You may donate:

Food:

Canned goods – yellow and green vegetables, non-frozen 100% juice concentrate
Packaged dessert mixes – quick bread, muffin, brownie, cake & frosting and cookie
Homemade or Bakery Goodies – cookies, brownies, cupcakes, quick breads, pies
(Please note: there is an enormous need for home-style baked goods for the spring baskets. Please consider baking from scratch or purchasing from a local bakery.)

Place all non-perishable food donations in the marked baskets at the side entrance of Pilgrim Church for delivery to Holy Family from **Saturday, March 27 through Monday, March 29**. Baked goods should be delivered directly to the Holy Family Church kitchen by 4:00 PM on the 29th.

Money:

Send a check payable to the Duxbury Interfaith Council, PO Box 1161, Duxbury, MA 02331. Every amount helps and is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to sort and pack food at Holy Family. Any amount of time is helpful, and parents are welcome to bring children. No need to call or sign up, just show up as you can. The schedule is as follows: sort and pack baskets **Tuesday, March 30th** from 9AM – 2 PM. **Wednesday, March 31st** sort and pack hams and baked goods from 9AM – noon; and load baskets into cars from noon – 5PM that day. Limited deliveries will begin at 2:00 PM on the 31st.



Don't forget!

Turn your clocks AHEAD one hour Saturday night, March 13.
*Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 14.***



**Taize
Worship**

Candlelight Taize Services during Lent

When John the Baptist proclaims 'Repent!' he means: 'Turn to God!' Yes, during Lent, we wish to look towards God in order to receive forgiveness. Christ has conquered evil and his constant forgiveness allows us to renew an inner life. We are invited to a conversion: not to turn towards ourselves in introspection or individual perfectionism, but to seek communion with God and also communion with others.

Taize Community

Join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for a half hour service of candlelight prayer in the tradition of the Taize community. We invite you to take a moment and share in this beautiful and simple service which consists mainly of meditative singing and a stretch of prayerful silence. Our hope is that it will help you receive forgiveness and a renewing Spirit this Lenten season. Our services will be at 7:00 PM on the remaining Wednesdays in Lent – **March 3, 10, 17 & 24.**



“Feed my Sheep” through One Great Hour of Sharing

The stories are many: providing food, clean water, and medical care in Gaza; maintaining child rehabilitation centers in Kabul and Bamyan, Afghanistan; supplying emergency food and tools to grow food in Zimbabwe; and rebuilding homes and providing livestock in Indonesia where people are still recovering from the tsunami. But it is the people whose lives are touched and changed by these programs who are at the heart of each story. The UCC carries God’s message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. Through the annual Lenten offering of **One Great Hour of Sharing** this month, we have the opportunity to share in this mission. As part of Our Church’s Wider Mission, this special offering allows the UCC to work with international partners meeting the needs of those who struggle to secure life’s basic requirements on a daily basis. This year the theme of **One Great Hour of Sharing** is taken from John 21:15-17. As Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep,” so we are called to care for others as God cares for us. Please watch for this special collection on **Sunday, March 14.**

PARISH POST

Prayers of Healing Esther Walker – Ann Carpenter – Carolyn Walsh

Prayers of Comfort and Solace

For the family and friends of Louise Sabean.
For the family and friends of David Miehl, the husband of Marlen Biffar’s cousin.
For the family and friends of Bill Reckman, Ruth’s son.

Prayers of Joy

For the baptism of Amber Elizabeth Williamson, daughter of Michelle Mayer and Bob Williamson.



Tithes & Gifts The first quarter ended March 31 contribution statements will be sent out in early April. These are sent to all households who completed a financial pledge to the church so that you can compare your giving to date with your pledge.

Help us *go green*. Contribution statements are available electronically – one less piece of paper to recycle! Simply contact Terri Clark, collector, with the email address to which your statements should be sent (tlclark@pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org or 781-934-6591 ext. 100).



Lenten and Easter Services at Pilgrim Church

Candlelight Taize Service	March 3, 10, 17 & 24	7:00 PM
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 28	10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, April 1	7:30 PM
Easter Sunrise @ Duxbury Beach	Sunday, April 4	6:15 AM
Easter	Sunday, April 4	9:00 AM
Easter	Sunday, April 4	11:00 AM

