

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

## February 2010



### *From the Senior Pastor*

As I write this, my thoughts are very much with the people of Haiti. The numbers tell a grim story: an estimated 200,000 dead to this point; an equal number hurt and over a million homeless. The images overwhelm and we cannot help but wonder about some reason, some rationale for it all.

The late British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge wrote that “suffering is a part of the experience of living, and, like all other parts, it can shed light or it can shed darkness.”

There’s great insight in that. How we choose to respond to suffering and death, whether it touches us directly or not, says a great deal about how we understand God’s redemptive power in this world. For that matter, it says a great deal about how we understand God. Imagine for a moment, if you can, a God that would allow suffering without the possibility for redemption.

In the aftermath of the Christmas Eve tsunami that devastated coastal communities around the Indian Ocean in 2004, the Orthodox theologian David Bentley Hart wrote of the radical freedom with which God creates all things. We understand ourselves as free and largely autonomous creatures, I suppose. It’s part of the joy and burden of being human, but Hart’s point was that the freedom of God extends to all of God’s creation – not simply to us.

That may not be the most satisfying explanation for devastating storms and floods and earthquakes. It may not fully account for the suffering we experience in our own lives; but I think it allows us to understand that if we cannot always see a purpose in trial and pain and grief, we can embrace the liberating idea that we are free to respond to it in a way that makes God known in the presence of suffering. We are made free to be a healing and redemptive presence in the world.

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As you read this, we will be entering February, the month in which we begin our Lenten journey towards Easter morning, the event upon which our faith and our hope is founded.

Easter is the holiest day in the life of the Church; the day in which Christ’s promise of victory over death is fulfilled. It confirms our faith and our hope that suffering and death need not have the final word in our world.

We Christians rightly think of ourselves as an Easter people, a people who live in the light of Christ’s resurrection. But we know from experience – both personal and global – that Easter cannot be reached without passing along the road to Calvary, to the Cross.

By Easter morning, word of Haiti’s plight will have left the front pages of newspapers and websites. It will cease to draw attention from cable news stations.

We may be tempted to follow the drift ourselves; but the people of Haiti will continue to struggle to rebuild their lives, and they will continue to need our prayers and rely on our support. God heals not just on a private, personal level. Our faith in Christ cannot be merely an expression of our own desire for healing. For it to have any integrity, our faith must account for God’s grace at work in the world, in the suffering of people and communities beyond the boundaries of our home and our town. Our God is always the God of the frontier. Our God always reaches beyond the narrow borders of town, state, nation, culture to make whole all of God’s creation.

Every act of healing and restoration in which we participate is a reminder to suffering people that God is present in and through his people, who determine together that there is no darkness deep enough that cannot be pierced by the faith and light of Christ.

Thank you for your prayers, your faith and your support during this time.

Peace to you,  
Todd

## Congratulations

Our heartiest *congratulations* to Rev. Peggy O’Neil Files for her recent promotion to Manager of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care at South Shore Hospital!



### *February Food Drive*

Pilgrim Church will once again participate in the **February food and footwear drive** sponsored by Boston Cares and partner agencies – the Boston Globe and Building Impact. This year the focus is on young families, so we will be collecting *canned tuna, peanut butter, baby food and formula* for the Greater Boston Food Bank. The GBFB distributes annually more than 30 million pounds of food and grocery products to nearly 600 member hunger-relief agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. We are registered as a drop-off location, so your friends and neighbors are welcome to participate. Our drive will start **Monday, February 8** and continue throughout the month. Please bring your donations to the marked bin in the office hallway and *thank you* for your participation.

*Canned tuna \* peanut butter \* baby food and formula*



### *Lasagna Youth Mission Trip Dinners*

There are still a few days left to place your order for a lasagna dinner, either for yourself or a friend or neighbor! These freshly prepared and ready-to-heat-or-freeze lasagna dinners come in meatless or with meat, and the proceeds will be used towards this year's Youth Mission Trip to Jackson, MS.

If you have already placed your order, your lasagna(s) will be ready to pick up in the vestry **on Sat., 2/6, between 12 and 2PM**, or **after worship on Sun., 2/7** (any orders that aren't picked up will be delivered that Sunday afternoon). If you haven't already placed your order, forms are available **until Wednesday, 2/3** by contacting Gwynne Zisko or Cathy Doughty.

THANK YOU for your help!



On Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 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



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

Church World Service is responding to the Haiti disaster by providing emergency aid and medical supplies with staff on the ground and in concert with longstanding local partner agencies. They are appealing for cash donations and for contributions of hygiene baby kits. If you are interested in making a donation or for information on assembling kits, go to [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

Please note . . . with the February school break and Rev. Eloise Parks' sabbatical, **Senior Youth Fellowship** will not be meeting in February.

### *Pilgrim Women's Fellowship*

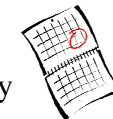


Hello Pilgrim Ladies!

As I write this letter, thirteen of us have just returned from a fabulous trip to the MFA. Sandy Dapprich gave us an informative and charismatic private tour, highlighting sculptures and paintings representing many of the world religions. We then sat down to a delicious lunch at the cafe and were home by 2:30pm. It was a wonderful trip to remember because not only did we learn new facts about art and religion, we walked and talked with women we would not otherwise have had an opportunity to do this with. I, for one, am richer for even the car ride conversations and feel closer to some of my newly found sisters. A warm thank you to Sandy for sharing your knowledge, love and excitement for all the MFA has to offer – it truly was contagious!

On **February 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will be hosting an evening event called, *“Daring to Trust God”* featuring our own Cathy Rogerson who will give her personal testimony as she shares why we can dare to trust God even when life presents what seem like insurmountable challenges. Cathy will share a biblical perspective of how God wants to lift the burdens we carry and help us live the promised abundant life day by day in the care of His loving arms. Please join us in the Pilgrim Church Vestry from 7pm to 8:30pm for refreshments, worship and enrichment. If you have any questions, please call Susie Bates or Sarah Beattie.

Sadly, we have had to cancel our March Luncheon *“Physically and Spiritually Unclutter your ‘Home’.”* We were unable to work out the logistics of having this event at this time and are trusting that this is the Lord's leading. This topic has been on our hearts for some time and so it has been placed on the back burner while we prayerfully consider its feasibility, possibly in the Fall...God willing so stay tuned!



As we are in the throws of defining and re-defining our committee roles to become a more efficient and effective ministry it is important to remember that the mission of PWF remains constant. Our mission statement reads, “As women who seek to live as Jesus taught, the mission of Pilgrim Women's Fellowship is to equip women to build lasting relationship with God through Christ and with each other.” Our goal as we move through the year is to offer events that will disciple you in your walk with Christ and bring fellowship opportunities to draw you closer into the body of Christ...our Church.

We look forward to getting to know you better and coming along side you in your journey with Christ, wherever you are!

With joy,

Sarah Beattie and Cathy Rogerson



**Koinonia** will meet on Monday, February 8 at 7:00 PM at the home of Elaine Guilfoyle. Please call her (781-934-9648) for further information.

### Candlelight Taize Services during Lent



**Taize  
Worship**

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.  
Brother Alois, 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 Wednesdays in Lent – **February 24 and March 3, 10, 17 & 24.**

Remember that your **Pilgrims Progress** newsletter is also available online; just go to [www.pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org](http://www.pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org).

Mark your calendars! On **Saturday, February 20** at 7:00 PM the Reverend Bert Marshall will present a one-man dramatic reading of the **Gospel of Mark**. Hear the story of Mark from beginning to end as it may have been told in the early years of the Jesus Movement, before the rise of institutional Christianity. There is more information – including reviews – on Rev. Marshall's website: [www.gospelofmarkalive.com](http://www.gospelofmarkalive.com). We hope you will join us to hear the "good news!"



### Souper Bowl of Caring

What would happen if every American that celebrates the Super Bowl donated one can of food or \$1 to fight hunger and poverty in their local community? The result would be an astounding \$90 million in cash and cans to help feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless, and help our neighbors in need. In the current economy, many of our neighbors are without food or homes. Please join the **Souper Bowl of Caring** to help those in need in our own community. Our teens will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations at church on **February 7**. The canned goods will be delivered to the Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless. Monetary donations will be added to the pastor's discretionary fund for those in need locally. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

### PARISH POST

**Prayers of Healing** Esther Walker – Ann Carpenter – Heidi MacLaren – Diana Hamilton – Betts McGill – Elise Gardner – John Stanton



### Prayers of Support

For Patrick, Kim and Soloman Bentrott, UCC Missionaries in Haiti, and prayers for all the people in Haiti affected by the devastation of the recent earthquake.

For the friends and members of The West Cummington Congregational Church in Northhampton, MA, whose church was destroyed in a massive fire.

### Prayers of Comfort and Solace

For the family and friends of Franklin (Jim) Hoyt, Lorrie Hall's father.

For the family and friends of Mary Marconi.

For the family and friends of Richard Emery, Carol Cybulska's uncle.



### Lenten Services at Pilgrim Church

<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>	Wednesday, February 17	7:30 PM
<b>Candlelight Taize Service</b>	Wednesday, Feb. 24 & March 3, 10, 17 & 24	7:00 PM
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday, March 28	10:00 AM
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Thursday, April 1	7:30 PM

### Adult Fellowship

This year's Progressive Dinner was *once again* a wonderful success. It offered the chance for us to connect with people from the church that we already know, and to get acquainted with people we haven't yet had a chance to meet – all while enjoying wonderful food and a large share of Pilgrim hospitality! It reminds us how good it is to get together as a church community, and have a chance to learn more about each other. This year 8 families opened their homes to 44 "travelers" as they progressed from appetizers... to an *incredible* meal (at each of 5 homes that hosted!)... to desserts for everyone at the DeHarts.

As always, everyone who came enjoyed good food and good company... and no one left as a stranger. To all who helped make this happen – thank you; and to anyone who did not sign up this year – we hope to see you at next year's dinner! All are welcome!



### ***Weather Alerts***

Pilgrim Church's intention is to always be open for worship. In the event of extreme weather conditions, however, delays may occur. At such times, we hope that each person will use their discretion about coming as we do not want anyone to risk their safety. With a fair amount of winter weather ahead of us, we'd like to remind everyone that any change to the worship schedule is immediately posted to our church voicemail (781-934-6591) and on our website's home page ([pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org](http://pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org)), as well as by tuning in to WATD (95.9) or to WBZ's (channel 4) storm center.