



## **The Crier**

**Pilgrim Congregational Church of Taunton  
45 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780,  
phone 508-822-1472**

**Worship Service Sunday 10:00 A.M.  
Contemporary Worship Service Saturday 6:30 P.M.**

### **The Journeys We Take**

I can remember as a child during school breaks, especially during the summer season, being fortunate to go on vacations. This was one of my favorite things to do, and incidentally, traveling to foreign places remains one of the highlights of my life. I can recall the giddy excitement that both my brother and I had when discovering a new place and another adventure. However, these trips would not always happen, and sometimes they would end before they began. While these trips were pure fun and adventure for my brother and me, my parents understood the burden it took to prepare for such excursions.

Travel for us as a family when I was a child did not mean heading off to the airport for a nice two- or three-hour plane ride. No, it meant packing up the luggage, preparing food, gassing up the car, and my brother and me stuffing ourselves in the back, and then we could finally be off. This also meant occasionally getting lost, my brother and me being bored, laughing, playing, and sometimes fighting in the back of the car.

My parents were able to appreciate not only the pleasures but also the true difficulties of traveling across the country with two young kids. At a sign of potential trouble or difficulty, my parents would often take the opportunity to avoid the hardship altogether and cancel the trip. However, I knew as a kid that if we could just get everyone in the car and outside the city limits, then, 99% of the time, the trip would not be canceled.

In our lives, this time of year is when we renew our commitments to begin personal journeys or goals, be it a weight loss journey, a journey to be more evolved with family, to work more or fewer hours at work, to spend more time with grandchildren, or to start that long-awaited project. Just like the journeys that I took as a kid, many of us often allow the slightest distractions to destroy the beginning of a wonderful journey in our lives before it even starts.

In the scriptures, a man named Elisha was preparing to make a resolution to no longer remain in the field plowing under 12 yoke of oxen. He must have known that a change was needed; you see, oxen are strong but essentially stupid. It is a sad task, not to mention frustrating and unsatisfying to plow behind something that is beneath your potential. If you are capable of more, settling for less is always unnerving. One day, a man of God, Elijah, walks by and calls Elisha to a greater purpose. Elijah asks Elisha to leave the oxen and to immediately travel with him to fulfill a higher purpose by serving God through ministry. Immediately, Elisha runs after the man of God. However, when he catches him, he hesitates, and this is where tragedy almost strikes. Elisha says in so many words, "I would like to go with you, but I have to kiss my father and my mother and say good bye. I have this to finish and that to do; it is just not the best time in my life to take this journey." Frustrated by his vacillating commitment, the prophet tells him to just go back.

Can I suggest that, if there is anything in 2012 that will get you to turn away from a journey you know is for you, then perhaps you are not really ready for it? Elisha decides instead to run back, pick up his plow and instruments of labor, break them over his knee, and burn them. He makes sure that whatever happens from that

moment forward, he will never go back to what he knew but stare his journey of success in the face and dare to travel it. And once he starts, he never turns back.

Similarly, this year, there are journeys that your heart is prompting you to take. What better time is there than the present? Many of you will make plans and get ready to take these journeys but will, unfortunately, turn back. I want to tell you that if you have enough determination and faith to begin taking the first few steps, you have already completed the hardest part. Today, make the decision to take the first necessary steps into your future and then commit to go anywhere but backward.

Have a blessed new year,  
Blessings,

Rae 

## Board of Education

Meredith Kelley, Sue Keogh, Lynne McIntyre, Jennie McNee, Beth Munroe, Danielle Nathan, Susan Orsini, Margaret Strange, Nancy Witherell

Anyone with the love of children is still able to volunteer time with our Sunday school children.

The Board of Ed is putting together its annual Italian Buffet. Tickets are on sale now. Please see someone on the Board of Ed to purchase. Scheduled Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 5:30. Tickets are: Adults \$10.00; Children ages 5-12 \$5.00 and under 5 free.

Our favorite band, Past Imperfect, will be playing background music.

They will be sold after church. We hope you join us for this wonderful event!

## Mission News

Board of Missions: Greta Ferreira, Frank Gallagher, Alton Hambly, Kris Maher, Judy Sylvester, Caroline Yidiaris

### Ongoing Collections:

Please bring in your returnable bottles and cans (no glass please) to put in the missions barrel in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from these returnables will be used towards the 2011 Relay for Life event. The recycling bin in the kitchen is for non-returnable plastic, glass and metal items **USED AT THE CHURCH ONLY!**

We continue to collect box tops for Education, Campbell's labels, Shaw's receipts, aluminum can tabs and used ink cartridges to benefit local organizations. Kindly note that 19 ink cartridges were given to the library for the museum pass program. Thank you to all who have brought in used cartridges as we are able to help the community.

Don't throw away paper and cardboard used at church!!! We have a recycling bin in the office.

## Food Donations



### Food Pantry Donations Needed

Please bring in food items for the food pantry box and for the emergency food supply cabinet. Any non-perishable food item is welcome. Items specifically needed for the emergency food supply are items for children, such as cereal, kid's pasta, graham crackers, boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, applesauce and canned soups. Also, gift cards to local supermarkets are welcome.

## Micro Mission Committees

Would also at this time like to call out for volunteers to serve on our upcoming micro-mission committees. IE: Cookie Bakers, Meal Makers, Note Card Writers. These are committees that will be activated as necessary when there is a need within the church. Meal Makers will be called to come together and create a complete meal for families possibly going through a death in the family or sickness. Members of this committee could alternate courses as needed. Cookie Bakers would be called upon for the recognition of deeds done that we would like to reward. Note Card Writers is somewhat self explanatory, but each member would be called upon when there is a need reported or called to our attention. Any interested volunteer, please contact any member of Missions.

Greta: [garbo1127@gmail.com](mailto:garbo1127@gmail.com) (508) 333-6683

## COFFEE HOUR

A grateful thank you to all those who hosted a coffee hour during 2011. Particularly between June and December, when individuals rather than Boards hosted. As of January, 2012, Boards will once again host the coffee hours. However, the first Sunday will be hosted by individuals and Sylvia Cross will be responsible for signing people up to host. Please say yes.

## Board of Deacons

Debbie Cozzens, Sylvia Cross, Alton Hambly, Bob Hunt, John MacRae, Lynne McIntyre, Shirley Ragusa, Charlene Sisson, Peter Witherell

*Please note that all cash placed in the offering on Communion Sundays goes directly to our Deacons Fund. Thank you.*

## RUMMAGE SALE



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> - 8AM – 12PM

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

## CRIER DEADLINE FOR MARCH, 2012

**Kindly note that the DEADLINE for submitting information for the MARCH Crier is February 13, 2012.**

**Kindly note that the deadline for submissions to the Crier has been moved up by one week in order to provide ample time to process the Crier to be received timely.**

## Fellowship Groups

Fellowship is one of the backbones of the Christian life as well as our Congregational tradition.

You are invited to check out one of the many wonderful, warm, and inviting groups here at Pilgrim. We all have different worship and fellowship needs, so we encourage you to find a group that is right for you!



Fellowship Group	Place	Time	Contact Person / Additional Information
Christian Meditation	Chapel	Wed. 6 – 7 pm	Sylvia Thornton (508-947-3160)
Elizabeth Pole Society	Parlor	Wed. 10 – 11:30 am	Carol Ritchie (508-824-5011)
Bible Study Bible Study	Parlor Parlor	Wednesday 7 pm Thursday 10:00 am.	Rev. Rae 508-8221472 Barbara Hunt (508) 822-0683
Contemporary Worship Team	Parlor	Wed. 7 – 8:30 pm	Dan LeBrun (508-837-9482)
Pilgrim Choir	Fellowship Hall	Tues. 7-8:30 pm	Jim Moore (508-285-6699)
Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall	Wed. 8-9:00 am	Bob McIntyre, Frank Ragusa

## REMINDER

Reminder about Event Planning:

We have many different groups and activities taking place at the church each week. If you have an event (big or small) that you are planning, please remember to check first with Dawn Matthews in the church office to avoid any scheduling conflicts. Most events are also now conveniently listed on our website at

[www.PilgrimCC.net](http://www.PilgrimCC.net).

## Prayer Concerns

### *Thanksgiving for:*

Children and Youth of Our Church  
The life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
Men and women serving in the Military today and their families

### *Prayers for Healing:*

David Prado	Crystal Donnelly
Paul Frazier	Hallee Bridgeman
Martha Conde	Alice Cole

### *Prayers for Comfort:*

The family of Lyle McBride in his recent passing.  
Sandra Savadyga in the recent passing of her brother, Kenneth Perry Sr.

### *Prayers for Loving Guidance:*

Our church family, Boards, Committees, Pastor  
Prayer for our country and world peace  
Our President that God will guide him with his decisions  
Missions – local, national, and international

To list a prayer concern or joy, call the Church office at (508) 822-1472 or email us at [pilgrimcc@verizon.net](mailto:pilgrimcc@verizon.net). All prayer requests will be printed in the Sunday bulletin for one month and once in the Crier. If you need to renew a prayer request, please contact the Church office.

## Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open **Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm.**

**Phone: (508) 822-1472 Email: [pilgrimcc@verizon.net](mailto:pilgrimcc@verizon.net)**

Change of address, telephone number or email; please let us know so we can update our contact information.

## NEW WAY TO RECEIVE CRIER NEWSLETTER

**Kindly note that the matter of the Crier and its mailing preferences was discussed at the recent Annual Meeting. As such we are hoping to begin the process of emailing the monthly newsletter to all those interested in order to save money, while also going green.**

**If you are willing to receive your Crier through email kindly fill out the information below and forward this form to the church office at 45 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#1 Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#2 Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#3 Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_