



OCTOBER 22, 2015

VOLUME 63, NO. 10

PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

It's Stewardship Season at Pilgrim Church. Here's the bad news: We have three serious problems with financial stewardship. Here's the good news: they are all very resolvable, if you so choose.

The first one is easy to fix, but important that we do so. The problem: We view our pledging and giving as being a means to meet a budget. That's a problem of framing. The solution: Remember that a budget is a tool, not an end in itself. We pledge, and we give, in order to **change lives and transform the world**. That is our purpose: ministry and mission. That's why we give.

The second problem: supporting our building requires just about a third of our overall budget. That's a little too high. The rule of thumb for a household is no more than 30% of income going to all housing costs. The solution, however, is not to reduce what we spend on our building; that would lead to greater problems. The solution: **increase our support of ministries and missions** that change lives and transform the world.

The third problem: We are relying this year upon the Pilgrim and Second Century Funds to provide \$70,000 – about 18% of our budget. That's far more than the funds are generating, even apart from this year's decline in value. A policy change approved at this spring's annual meeting provides a way for us to account clearly for income generated by the funds versus a deliberate decision to spend down the balance. Here's the real solution to the budget shortfall: **Remember what we are truly capable of – and act accordingly.**

Average giving in Protestant churches today averages about 2.6% of one's income. In the UCC, that drops to 1.9%. More conservative churches set high expectations, and members respond. Consider: During the Great Depression, the average rate of church giving was 2.9% of income! Or look at American giving in general: With the exception of persons making over \$10 million a year, *the highest rate of charitable giving in the U.S. comes from those making \$45-50,000 annually*; they give 4% of income. As income increases, *giving decreases*, to about 2.4% for those making \$200-250,000 annually, before it begins to rise again. Have we really maxed out our generosity? I firmly believe we have not!

I strongly advocate proportional giving according to the "**modern tithe**." In keeping with a long tradition of ten percent giving (pretty easy compared to Zacchaeus' giving half of what he had, or the disciples leaving everything behind), the modern tithe recognizes God's work done through various charitable venues, and advocates that Christians give 5% to the church and another 5% to those causes to which they feel called to give.

Let's assume that Pilgrim is typical in its giving pattern, averaging about 2% of income (some give much higher, some have never considered the question). *If this is so, and our average increased by 1% of personal income – just one more penny on each dollar we each earn – we would overcome our deficit and have another \$47,500 with which to change lives and transform the world.* If we reached 5%, we would have another \$282,500 with which to change lives and transform the world! Now, that does not account for anyone moving away or passing on. But it likewise does not account for those you will invite to join you in a church so alive, so committed to following Jesus and building the Reign of God in such tangible ways!

A sincere man came to Jesus, wanting his life to be fuller, to have meaning. Jesus loved him enough to challenge him to sell what he had, give away the wealth, then join him on his journey (Mark 10). Anyone who follows Jesus knows that life is found in giving life away. My loving challenge to you is that you pull out last year's tax return, compute your giving to Pilgrim Church as a percentage of your adjusted gross income, and set your goal in 2016 to be at least one percentage more. Consider it the first step in a journey that will change your life, and transform the world.

**2015 STEWARDSHIP THEME:
TRUST IN THE PROMISE**

“TRUST IN THE PROMISE” of what? In this era of political backstabbing and ultra criticism, the message and mission of our church offer a stark contrast. God says, “Trust in the promise” and face the future with hope. As we contemplate our level of giving, we should answer the questions: what makes us feel good about our church and what does our church do to make lives matter? If we add an additional \$5.00, \$50.00 or \$500.00 to our pledges, what positive action would we want Pilgrim Church to do within our church or within our community to make lives matter and to fulfill the promise of God? Now imagine if we increased by another 1% of our income! What an impact we could have fulfilling God’s promises!

You can return your pledge my mail, drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the office. There will be a celebratory lunch at the conclusion of our stewardship campaign on November 8. TRUST IN THE PROMISE and GIVE HOPE TO THE FUTURE!

HALLOWEEN EVENTS AT PILGRIM

Pumpkin Carving

Saturday, October 24 9:00 am– Noon

Carve jack-o-lanterns to decorate the Hogwarts party, then take it home Sunday evening in time for Halloween! If anyone wants a larger or specially shaped pumpkin they should bring their own.

Hogwarts Halloween Party

Sunday, October 25 5:30- 8:00 pm

Pilgrim Church is the site of a community-wide Harry Potter themed Halloween party. The party is FREE and open to the public!

Spooktacular! A Halloween Organ Recital!

Friday, October 30 7:00 pm

Here the terrifying cry of the organ as it rumbles, groans and growls. A candlelit evening of organ classics performed by Rachael Kresha, Marissa Faerber and Jason Branham. Free will donation.

PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST

Pilgrim’s regular broadcasts on Channel 180 are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:00 am and 8:30-9:30 pm.

Oct. 28 and 29-”Jesus Family Values” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from Oct. 4, 2015

Nov. 4 and 5-”The Next Step” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from Oct. 4, 2015

Nov. 11 and 12-”Social Mobility” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from Oct. 18, 2015.



WORSHIP NOTES

On **November 1**, we observe **All Saints Day** with remembrance of those dear to us who have died in the past calendar year, and all who have gone before us. Holy Communion is shared.

Our **Stewardship Season wraps up on November 8**. We ask that you bring in your pledge for 2016 to be dedicated on that day, and stay for a celebration lunch following worship.

Rev. Cynthia Coffin-Langdon and students share with us about the power of **United Campus Ministries** at UMD on **November 15**.

November 22 draws our liturgical year to a close with an eye on the present in light of the past and future. **November 29** leads us into the season of **Advent** with both visual and invisible “signs of the times,” including **Hanging of the Greens**.

AND THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH...

Some wise women here at Pilgrim have identified a need for small group gatherings for relationship building among women of this church.

On Sunday, November 15th at 11:30 am a light lunch will be served and time spent planning. Please join us to share ideas and refreshments.

There is a sign-up sheet in Salter Hall. This is an invitation to all the women of Pilgrim Church.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 25

Guest Preacher:
Dr. Monica Liddle,

Global Ministries missionary to East Timor
(Genesis 28:10-22; Mark 10:46-52)
10:00 am Worship and Sunday School
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:20 am-2nd Hour-East Timor

November 1

"All Saints Day"

(Ruth 1:1-18; Mark 12:28-34)

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
and Sunday School
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:20 am-2nd Hour-New Beginnings

November 8

"Trust in the Promise"

(Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Mark 12:38-44)

Stewardship Celebration

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

11:00 am Coffee Hour and Stewardship
Celebration Meal

November 15

United Campus Ministries

Rev. Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

and students from UCM at UMD

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:20 am-2nd-Hour-Ladies Group

November 22

"Alpha, Omega, and Everything In-Between"

(Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37)

Reign of Christ Sunday

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am-2nd Hour-OWL/Our Whole Lives

November 29

"Signs of the Times"

(Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36)

1st Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

11:00 am Coffee Hour

SPECIAL 2ND HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

November 1 – "New Beginnings": Why and How

Pilgrim leadership has committed funds above and beyond their usual giving to provide Pilgrim with this opportunity to step back, understand ourselves and our setting, and begin to set a fresh vision for the new season coinciding with calling a new pastor. See a presentation on how New Beginnings works. Persons attending the "Come and See" overview event for New Beginnings on the previous day will be available to describe the process further and answer questions.

November 8 – "Stewardship Celebration Meal"

Stay for lunch together (free will offering) to celebrate God's goodness to us and our hope as we "Trust in the Promise" of the future to which we commit ourselves!

November 22 – "Our Whole Lives" Human Sexuality Education

The United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association joined together a couple decades ago to produce a lifelong program for healthy sexuality. Several years ago, some Pilgrim youth completed the program for their age level. OWL is being revived with trained facilitators from Peace UCC and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth; the middle school program is currently in progress. Certified OWL facilitator Dianne Johnson will present this progressive, faith-based program, answer questions, and help us explore re-engaging in it with UUCD and Peace UCC.

ADVENT READINGS

Advent Daily Devotional booklets will be available in Salter Hall in November, to enrich your observance of this sacred season beginning Sunday, November 29.

Children / Family devotional materials for Advent will also be available. Brief daily activities teach children and deepen adults in the meaning of Advent and Christmas.

FALL BACK!

Turn clocks back on Saturday night, October 31.



PARISH POSTS

October 4,
Hello all! Greetings, best wishes & prayers on World Communion Sunday from your friends at First United Methodist Church, Duluth! What an awesome day in the Northland! Hope you have a great Sunday...and way more to come!

T & D

Dear Pastor Jennifer,
Than you for your congregational gift of \$512.50. Since January we have helped house 182 individuals and 17 families. The CHUM Food Shelf served 2% more individuals than last year.
Thanks for your support, Mary Schmitz, CHUM

PILGRIM HISTORIAN

In recent years, Mike Zlonis has continued the work of others to organize and preserve historical materials related to Pilgrim Church, present historical information about Pilgrim to the congregation in short papers, and answer historical questions about Pilgrim and its members.

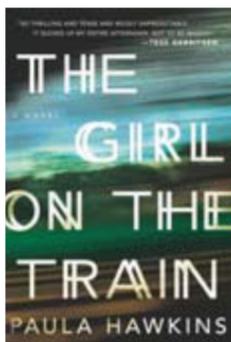
Unfortunately, Mike can no longer do this. The three of us working with the Church Staff and Church Council have volunteered to attempt to find an appropriate structure to continue these historical activities. Mike notes that "Aside from the nature of the work involving the discovery of interesting information, the position is attractive because much of the work is discretionary and there are few deadlines. The work is on-going and cumulative, requiring modest amounts of activity during available time."

If you might be interested in learning more about opportunities to work in this area, get in touch with any one of us.

- Clyde Johnson
- Jack Kemp
- Dave Zentner

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting will be November 16 2015. Our selection is The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins



SPIRITUAL READING

More recommendations from Pilgrims:

Swim, Ride, Breathe, by Jennifer Garrison Brownell, 2015. Brownell reflects on how training for a sprint triathlon, as a dedicated non-athlete in midlife, changes her spiritually as well as physically. Humorous, touching, wise. Suggested by Gail Trowbridge.

The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg, 2003. The world-renowned Jesus scholar shows how breaking ties with fundamentalism frees us to live as ardent Christians in today's world. Easily readable: told from his own experiences as world traveler. His many years of interactions with students at Oregon State University is evident in his contemporary thinking. One review referred to him as today's C.S. Lewis. Suggested by Mary Jo Gould.

For daily reflection, consider:

Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you...?" The simple words of this passage remind us every day that "God is still speaking" with new insights into traditional truths. Suggested by Mary Jo Gould.

Fragments of Your Ancient Name, by Joyce Rupp, 2011. Rupp presents a simple but lovely poem/prayer for each day of the year based upon a different name or image of the Divine drawn from scripture, world religions, poetry, philosophy.

Keep turning in titles of what has fed your spirit, both within and beyond a daily format: title & author, publisher and year if available, and 1-3 sentence description (may be edited for length). Leave in office or send to jennifer-ad@pilgrimduluth.org.

ALL MINISTRY NIGHT

November 10

Check the time of your Ministry meeting.

"It's easy to make a buck.
It's a lot tougher to make a difference."
-Tom Brokaw
www.instituteforcivility.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

We will be announcing VERY SOON our new Children & Family Ministries Coordinator! Thank you, Katie Hanlon, for filling the position temporarily and helping to get the new candidate on board!

Our new format has children engaging the day's scriptures in a learning activity while older youth and adults engage the sermon. The children then rejoin us for the remainder of worship.

Rachael Kresha has expanded musical opportunities for the children this year as well. It's a rich program; thank you, Rachael!

Our middle school youth are eager to expand their programming beyond Sunday morning. These kids want to serve in the community and in the church!

For their dreams to come true, and for all our children to be nurtured in faith, we need both their parents and other adults - even if you never raised children, or yours are long grown up - to become teachers, leaders, and helpers. Our Coordinator keeps things running smoothly, but can't do that and teach three classes at the same time! Remember that the teaching session is short - one or two activities is all that can be done - and that the curriculum is easy to use, with many options to select from. Training is also provided.

How can we say we love our children and then take no responsibility with them (see James 2:15-16)? Can you step in from time to time? Let us know; our children will welcome you, too!

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has been meeting almost weekly this fall. They have completed the draft of the Church Profile and will be presenting it to the Church Council on October 29.

A few weeks after that the Profile will be available to the congregation to review.

If you haven't completed a "Leadership Expectations for a Minister" please fill one out and return it to the box in Salter Hall as soon as you can. This form will help guide the Search Committee in their search for Pilgrim's new minister.

Deadline for the form is Friday, October 30.

HEARING AIDS

We offer hearing aids for use during worship and other events here at Pilgrim. Have you had any difficulty in securing one at worship? Please let the office know if there has not been a hearing aid for your use.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Thank you for the generous offering to Neighbors in Need, Pilgrims contributed \$698.00.

SPEAK YOUR PEACE THE CIVILITY PROJECT

A series of free workshops on ensuring civility in our community and understanding how each of us can make a difference.

- Civility Starts with Me-9:00 am-noon, Saturday, October 31. Learn about the importance of civility in society.
- But you're Not Listening!-4 pm Thursday, November 12. Listening is not a weak strategy. It's the first step in ensuring success.
- What Hurt Was How You Said It-6:30 Wednesday, December 2. It's not just what you say but also how you say it.

Sessions are at First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth. For questions or to register, please call 218-726-0232 or email info@dsacomcommunityfoundation.com.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 2015	Year to Date
Income \$ 20,022	241,999
Expenses \$ <u>27,010</u>	<u>288,035</u>
Difference 6,988	(46,036)



CHUM Job Openings

Fulltime: Children’s Program Coordinator at the Steve O’Neil Apartments.

5 Hours/Week: Early Childhood Assistant at Steve O’Neil Apartments, off-hours. May be combined with other positions and duties.

See full descriptions at chumduluth.org.

CHUM Fall Assembly

Featuring Sojourner’s "Uncommon Tour"
Glen Avon Presbyterian Church
2105 Woodland Avenue

Tuesday, November 10th

Fellowship 6:30 - 7 PM

Assembly: "Peace, Poverty & Race" 7 - 8:30 PM
Peace, Poverty & Race

Lisa Sharon Harper lays the foundations for the biblical concept of shalom in Genesis 1-3 and mines its implications on public policy and human flourishing. Examining God’s governance of the people of Israel and Jesus’ declaration in Luke 4, Harper gleans core principles of just economic policy.

Wednesday, November 11th at 10:00am

Faith in Action Mobilizing Training

Sojourners’ Faith in Action Mobilizing training draws from deep wells of wisdom offered by biblical and historic heroes of the faith. Participants will gain the basic tools and insights needed to analyze their community, strategize, build collaborative networks, and take action, all in a way that draws from the roots of biblical faith.

Wednesday, November 11th at 11:30am

Lunch Time Discussion

Wednesday, November 11th at 1:00pm

The Budget and Your Neighbor

Dive deeply into the story of the Good Samaritan to examine the critical question: "How do we love the neighbor we’ll never know?" Drawing from family stories, U.S. history, and current economic data, Harper illuminates the connections between peace, poverty, race, and the national budget and ultimately challenges us to believe economic peace is possible with God.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Greetings friends!

We are very excited to announce that we made over \$1200 at the 50 cent sale this year! We couldn't have done this without your help! You provided volunteers to help us set up and work the sale, and you donated lots and lots of stuff to be sold! Thank you so much for caring about the ministry at UMD. You really do make a huge difference with all the small things you do!

We welcome Sara Holst, from Peace UCC, to the UCM board. We are excited to have Sara on the board!

We are also thrilled with our dinners on Monday night. Most Mondays we have over 25 students join us for dinner. Thank you to Hope UMC, Pilgrim Congregational, Peace UCC, and the UCM Board for providing meals this fall. Students really appreciated food! We will end the semester with our annual Thanksgiving meal on November 23rd at 5:00 pm. All meals are held in the fellowship hall at Hope UMC.

We are working towards another student panel as well. The Muslim student organization is back this year and excited to join us on this adventure. We call ourselves the Interfaith Task Force at UMD. We hope to also plan activities our different student groups can do together to show the campus and others that even though we have different belief systems and traditions, we still can live together and work together for the common good. We learn to appreciate and celebrate our differences and at the same time capitalize on our similarities and use those for the good of all.

Blessings,

Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

PILGRIM CHURCH STAFF

- Jennifer Amy-Dressler, Pastor
- Mary Sopoci, Business Manager
- Jim Brower, Administrative Assistant
- Rachael Kresha, Director of Music
- Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Music
- Katie Hanlon, Children and Family Ministries Coordinator
- Annika Nielsen, Childcare Assistant

OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 19

Saturday, Oct. 24	9:00 am	Pumpkin Carving
Sunday, Oct. 25	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion And Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour-East Timor
Friday, Oct. 30	7:00 pm	Spooktacular Organ Recital
Sunday, Nov. 1	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour New Beginnings
Tuesday, Nov. 3	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wednesday, Nov. 4	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Nov. 5	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Nov. 8	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee and Stewardship Celebration
Tuesday, Nov. 10		All Ministry Night
	6:30 pm	CHUM Fall Assembly
Wednesday, Nov. 11	10:00 am	CHUM Fall Assembly
	3:00 pm	Communications Ministry
	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Nov. 12	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Nov. 15	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am	Ladies Group Luncheon
Monday, Nov. 16		Newsletter Deadline
	6:00 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, Nov. 17	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wed., Nov. 18	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Nov. 19	1:00 pm	Newsletter Assembly
	1:00 pm	Hospitality
	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise

Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, November 16

Need more information on happenings, or a boost in the arm about how God has been working in and through Pilgrim Church? Remember to visit our website, pilgrimduluth.org, and our Facebook page!

When you visit the Pilgrim Church Facebook page, please click the "LIKE" button as well as the "SHARE" button. Also, you may "INVITE" your FRIENDS to any current "event" listed. Help us promote the viewing of our FB page!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

November 1-Ushers

Stacey Achterhoff, Tucker Hanlon and Gene Shull

Greeters/coffee

Bob Hensley and Cindy Grindy

Readers

Don Bjoralt and Brooke Hanlon

Counters

Mardi Bagley and Greg Gilbert

November 8-Ushers

Charles Walters and Denny Falk

Greeters/coffee

Jenny Ballew and Cindy Grindy

Reader

Patty Polasky

Counters

Jack Setterlund and Denny Falk

November 15-Ushers

Jane and Gene Shull

Greeters/coffee

Len and Bobbi Edwards

Reader

Jenny Ballew

Counters

Denny Falk and Steve Grindy

November 22-Ushers

Stacey Achterhoff and Charles Walters

Greeters/coffee

Margo and Dave Zentner

Reader

Joseph Grant

Counters

Mardi Bagley and Steve Grindy

November 29-Ushers

Bob Hensley and Bob Heller

Greeters/coffee

Tucker Hanlon and Denny Falk

Reader

Lois Heller

Counters

Greg Gilbert and Steve Grindy

Please arrive at church between 9:15 and 9:30 to allow enough time to get ready for worship. Thank you!

pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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For Sundays**

**Office hours are 9-4, Monday
through Friday. You can reach us
at:
office@pilgrimduluth.org 218-724-
8503 or www.pilgrimduluth.org**

Upcoming Events

**October 24 Pumpkin Carving
October 25 Worship and Sunday School
Hogwarts's Halloween Party
October 29 Church Council
October 30 Spooktacular Organ Recital
October 31 New Beginnings
November 1 Worship with Holy Communion and
Sunday School
2nd Hour-New Beginnings
November 3 Leadership Team
November 8 Worship and Sunday School
Stewardship Celebration
November 10 All Ministries Night
November 15 Worship and Sunday School
Ladies Group Luncheon
November 16 Women's Book Group
November 17 BeFriends**



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST