



Not all of us grew up in a happy home, but we all have an image of what home should be like. For me, it should be a warm and inviting place where we are accepted as we are with unconditional love. Someone once said that home is the place where, when you have no place else to go, they have to take you in. That's OK as far as it goes. But a true home will be more than simply a place that, perhaps grudgingly, takes you in. It will be a place where you are known and nurtured, where there is a place set for you at the table, where your presence is celebrated, and your absence grieved. In the best of homes, we are not just accepted as we are, but also gently nurtured to become our best selves. Not only is love practiced, but also accountability.

Few of our families practice such love and accountability with perfection. For some, such a home is nothing more than a deep longing. No matter who we are, or what our family of origin was like, we yearn for that place where we are known, welcomed, accepted, nurtured, loved, and challenged.

The Christian practice of hospitality extends the idea of home beyond family members to strangers. We are called by the gospel to welcome strangers as we would welcome Christ himself. Jesus modeled hospitality in his own life, eating with "sinners and outcasts," even as he graciously accepted the hospi-

ality of others. He frequently broke the boundaries between guest and host, sitting as a guest at another's table, and then challenging his host to extend his hospitality to the left out and forgotten.

Through out the Fall season at Church of the Pilgrims we will focus on the theme of

"Homecoming: Finding Our Place at the Table." How can we be that place of unconditional welcome, where there is always room at the table for one more, where all are invited to "come as they are," without limit or precondition—while

at the same time, nurturing and challenging each one to discover their "place," their sense of calling or vocation within the Christian community, where we strive together to live out the gospel values that Jesus modeled.

Our start will be Homecoming Sunday, September 9. Whether you have been a Pilgrim for many years, or are just starting your "pilgrim journey," I hope you will join us for worship on Homecoming Sunday, and plan to stay following for our buffet lunch. This you can count on: your presence will be celebrated, and your absence will be grieved.

In peace,
Jeff

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Homecoming Schedule
Sunday, September 9

10:25-10:50 AM

Taizé "Preparation for the Lord's Day"

In the spirit of Taizé, we will gather in the sanctuary for twenty-five minutes of singing and silence, an opportunity for meditative prayer and preparation for morning worship.

11:00 AM
Worship

Including Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Following Worship:
Potluck Buffet Lunch
in the Fellowship Hall.
Bring a dish to share! ☩

**“Making Room:
Recovering Hospitality
as a
Christian Tradition”
September 16, 23, 30**

Downstairs in the Bird Room

Led by Jeff Krehbiel
and Jonathan Mertz

Over three weeks we will explore the ancient Biblical and Middle Eastern practice of “hospitality,” and discover what it means for us to revive this practice within our own lives, especially within the community of the church. Special attention will be paid to how we welcome strangers into our midst and help each one “find their place at the table.”



**ADULT SPIRITUAL
FORMATION IN SEPTEMBER**

**Theology on Tap
Tuesdays
September 18-October 16
6:30-7:30 PM
At the Brickskeller
“Stories of Call and Vocation”**

Tuesday, September 18 Jeff will kick off another “round” of Theology on Tap at the Brickskeller Tavern across the street from the church. We will gather in the downstairs back room at 6:30 for food and fellowship, followed by Bible study at 7:30. Planned with young adults in mind, all ages are welcome. The focus for this series will be “stories of call and vocation,” related to our Homecoming theme of “Finding Our Place at the Table.” Parking is available at the church. See Jeff for more information. †

**Finding your Place
at the Table:
September 16, 23, 30 &
October 7**

Upstairs in the Education Room
Led by Ashley Goff

This adult education class will focus on our homecoming theme and explore our sense of passion, focus and voice and how we are called to live out our faith. How do we live out our faith in the most authentic ways? What am I passionate about? What is shaping and driving my beliefs right now? Come to explore, name and clarify how the Spirit is forming and shaping your life. †

**Confirmation of
Martinique Elsa Duran Gigax**

On June 17, in a ceremony that was at once solemn and joyful, thirteen-year-old Martinique Elsa Duran Gigax confirmed the baptismal vows made on her behalf by Dick and Alice Gigax. Ashley Goff’s sermon celebrated



strong women who were willing to take risks for what they believed, beginning with the “sinful” woman in Luke’s gospel who risked public humiliation by entering the home of a Pharisee and bathing Jesus’ feet with ointment; followed by the Dixie Chicks, the Country Rock group whose public criticism of the war in Iraq led to their being blacklisted; and ending with Martinique’s own act of solidarity with a new Orthodox Jewish school friend—when the new girl was teased for

wearing the long skirts required by her tradition, Martinique wore her own long skirts!

The sermon ended with the playing of the Dixie Chicks’ defiant comeback song, “The Long Way Around,” and the worshippers gathered around the rose-petal-strewn baptismal font where Martinique renewed her baptismal

vows to renounce evil and follow Jesus. After the laying on of hands and a blessing, the ceremony concluded with the sharing of donuts from The Fractured Prune, the store on P St. where Mary Ester (a confirmation teacher) and Martinique held some of her confirmation classes. The donuts gave Martinique both incentive and energy for her studies! †

Pilgrims Weddings, Summer 2007

Four weddings of Pilgrims members or friends were held this summer, three of them multicultural. On June 16 **Joanne Leong and Amir Venegas** were married at Pilgrims in a ceremony officiated by Ashley Goff. Joanne is Chinese-American and Amir is of Middle-Eastern and South American ancestry. On June 23 Ashley traveled to Watsontown Pennsylvania to co-officiate (with a Jewish Rabbi) at the interfaith wedding of **Shannon Smythe and Michael Fleischman**. Pilgrim **Erin Malick** was one of Shannon’s attendants. **Chelsy Knight and Jeff Weber** were wed at Pilgrims on August 11, with Jeff Krehbiel officiating. Chelsy is the niece of **Pat Schleuter Harris** and worshiped at Pilgrims when she was an undergraduate at George Washington University. She recently passed the DC bar exams, and her husband is a DC police officer—a law and order couple! Finally, **Angela Oetama**, of Indonesian ancestry, and **Jacob Paul**, of Indian ancestry (photo), were married at Pilgrims on August 18 in a wedding officiated by Jeff Krehbiel and a chaplain from the University of Michigan, where Jacob earned his law degree, and Angela studied at the School of Social Work. †



From the Pilgrimage

The summer of 2007 has drawn to a close and once again we have had a great few months! Starting from the last week in May, we had 476 volunteers come through our doors and give more than 6700 hours of service. We had 21 groups that broke down to roughly 25% Junior High, 50% Senior High, and 25% mixed Junior/Senior. We had all religiously affiliated groups this summer, with more than half of them from Presbyterian churches and the others an even split between UCC and Episcopal churches. There were a total of 11 states represented and our top states were (as usual!) North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Massachusetts. We also had churches from Texas, Kentucky and Missouri.

Our volunteers went to 14 different service projects this year, with DC Central Kitchen, the NCH Faces of Homelessness Panel, the Capital Area Food Bank and the Breakfast Program of the Dinner Program for Homeless Women being the most visited. Despite several service projects working out of temporary space, things went rather smoothly!

We were again blessed with an amazing intern, Rob Heppenstall, who did a great job with Orientations, going to service projects with groups, working at NCH, and leading our latest summer venture: a letter writing campaign. Twelve of our groups took an hour out of their time to sit with Rob or Jen and write letters to their Representatives or Senators urging action on either homelessness or hunger and poverty issues. This was inspired by a visit from Bread for the World, who told us that it only takes eight handwritten letters for a legislative aide to sit up and take notice of issues and bring them to a congressperson's attention. This was a great way to show the volunteers how justice and charity go hand-in-hand.

As you can see, it's been a great summer here at The Pilgrimage! You can see all of our details on the bulletin board across from the front office. We're looking forward to having you all join us for our Service Day on Saturday, October 6! †

MISSION NEWS

Pilgrims' Cuba Connection

Osvaldo Monteagudo, a member of Luyano Presbyterian Church in Havana, Cuba, visited DC in August, and was hosted by Pilgrims and New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC). Osvaldo was the guide and translator for missions from Pilgrims and NYAPC that visited Havana in 2005 and 2006. **Mitch Fulton** met Osvaldo and his traveling companion, **Andres Garcia**, at National Airport and was their guide for a full day of sightseeing on the 12th.



On the 16th, **Jeff Krehbiel** hosted a potluck dinner at the manse to honor the visitors, attended by most of the Pilgrims who have traveled to Havana—**Tari Gregory, Gerry Hendershot, Stan Lou, Stacy Perval, Betty Rudolph, and Anne Womeldorf** (Mitch Fulton, **Mary Ester**, and **Michael Rudolph** were out of town).

One of Osvaldo's jobs in Havana (many Cubans work multiple jobs) is teaching English to young professionals. His lessons are based on contemporary American life; he said this trip, his first to the U.S., will greatly enrich his curriculum. He also noted that his work contributes to the U.S. economy because some of his students migrate here.

Another trip to Havana for members and friends of Pilgrims and NYAPC is being organized for December 3-10 at a cost of about \$1500 (which includes all transportation, lodging, and meals). The deadline is **NOW**. Contact Betty Rudolph at vstbee-hive@verizon.net or 202-625-2940.

Photo by Betty Rudolph, 2005. †



Darfur Vigil Continues

The Washington area interfaith community continues to conduct vigils on the sidewalk outside the Embassy of Sudan to call attention to the continuing violence in Darfur. Under the auspices of the Peacemaking Committee of National Capital Presbytery, Presbyterians lead the vigil on the third Sunday of each month. The group gathers at the Church of the Pilgrims at 1:00 p.m., prays, and walks one block to the Embassy of Sudan with placards and banners, where they stay for an hour. Pictured are some of the vigil participants on August 19, including members of four congregations—National, John Calvin, Bradley Hills, and Pilgrims (Gerry Hendershot, Tari Gregory, Mary Lib Pate, and Betty Rudolph are shown; Anne Womeldorf also participated). †

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"Where all are Pilgrims, but none is a stranger."

www.churchofthepilgrims.org

*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please e-mail,
fax or call in your request to the church office.*

Join us on Sundays
Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 A.M.



Update on Pilgrims' Campaign for the Future

In September 2006, Pilgrims' Capital Campaign for the Future reached its pledge goal of \$400,000, enough to fund the projects that had been identified as highest priority: stewardship of the historic building and hospitality to persons with disabilities. Rolando Quintanilla, Building Engineer, who is acting as general contractor for the projects, reports that masonry repairs have been completed on the Old Manse and the brick chimney above the sanctuary, and work is now underway to remove and replace the steel smokestack outside the Bird Room and Music Room (see the accompanying photograph). The bids on these projects came in below the costs estimated before the pledge campaign, and they are reaching completion earlier than had been anticipated. Congratulations to Rolando for keeping the projects under budget and ahead of schedule! †