



One of the most striking facets of the Iona Community, which Kelsey and I visited on my sabbatical leave last spring, is that it is not just a center on the Island of Iona. It is a community of several hundred people spread across the British Isles, with friends and associates across the globe. The members are clergy and lay, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Roman Catholic and non-affiliated. Nearly all have a membership in a local congregation. People affiliate as “Members of Iona” in order to foster a community of support to help them live out in their daily lives the values of the Iona community. What binds them together is a commitment to live by a common “Rule of Life.”

The idea of a “rule” dates back to ancient monastic communities, which included such commitments as celibacy, poverty, and obedience. Iona has adapted that model to fit a dispersed community bound only by mutual accountability. Each year, each member of the community must discern if they feel called and committed to remain a member for the coming year by subscribing to their Rule of Life. Iona’s Rule has five points:

1. Daily prayer and Bible reading.
2. Sharing and accounting for the use of our money.
3. Planning and accounting for the use of our time.
4. Action for Justice and Peace in society.
5. Meeting with and accounting to each other.

For most people in the Western world, the word “rule,” like “discipline” and “accountability,” has a largely negative connotation. Yet, as Kathy Galloway, the Leader of the Iona Community, writes, the Rule “is not intended to make us perfect, make us feel guilty, place further burdens on us...or measure the strength of one’s commitment.” Rather, the Rule’s purpose is to help deepen members’ relationship with God, their relationships with each other, and their relationship with the Iona Community.

We don’t have a formal “Rule” in the Presbyterian Church or at Church of the Pilgrims, though our *Book of Order* does list nine attributes of responsible membership:

1. *proclaiming the good news,*
2. *taking part in the common life and worship of a particular church,*
3. *praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church,*
4. *supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,*
5. *participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,*
6. *demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,*
7. *responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others,*
8. *living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,*
9. *working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment.*

We also don’t require members to annually discern if they wish to remain members for the coming year. We do, however, offer an opportunity for such discernment in our annual Stewardship season. On Stewardship Sunday, November 11, each member of the congregation will be asked to make a pledge for the coming year—not just a financial pledge to support the mission and ministry of the congregation, but a pledge to practice our faith together in such ways as “honoring the Sabbath” by attending worship regularly, “welcoming the stranger” by serving as a greeter on Sunday mornings, “seeking justice” by working with the Washington Interfaith Network, and “providing healing for God’s people” by visiting the sick and supporting those in crisis. Stewardship is but one way in which we hold each other accountable as we seek to deepen our own relationships with God, with each other, and with Church of the Pilgrims. How is God calling you to live our your faith in the coming year? And how can we, as a community of faith, support one another as we seek to live out that call?

In peace,
Jeff

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**ADULT SPIRITUAL
FORMATION IN NOVEMBER**

**CONGREGATIONAL SPIRITUAL
FORMATION**

*"Radical Texts Placing Unusual Women
at the Table"*

Sundays, November 4, 11, 18
9:30 A.M., in the Upstairs Education Rooms
Led by Margee Iddings

This is not your mother's Sunday School class! We will look at some biblical women's stories with a new eye for what scripture texts actually tell us about women we've been taught to misread!

- Nov. 4th: A New Look at Lot's Wife
- Nov. 11th: Foreign Women in Jesus' Genealogy
- Nov. 18th: Mary of Nazareth - Teenage Peasant Woman in a Betrothal Arrangement and All that Means

Margee Iddings has recently retired for the umpteenth time. She loves hanging out at Pilgrims when she's not teaching/preaching/leading somewhere else. She has a D.Min in New Testament from San Francisco Theological Seminary. †

Global Economy

Sundays, November 4, 11, 18
9:30 A.M., downstairs in the Bird Room
Led by Bart Oosterveld

Income Inequalities in the U.S. and Abroad: The Growing Income Gap in the United States. This series of three classes will start with a discussion of the reasons behind the fact that an increasing percentage of wealth is being held by only a fraction of the U.S. population. There are currently no indications that there exists enough political will to change this trend - what would a policy to reverse the trend look like? Why is it important that it be pursued? What are the stances of the big denominations on these issues? Shifting to a different perspective: what does the future of the U.S. economy look like given the growth of other large economies, especially in the 'BRIC' countries: Brazil, Russia, India, and China? How do trends in those economies affect the less well off in the United States? †



*Innovative Worship at Pilgrims
Worldwide Communion Sunday*

On Sunday, October 7, 2007, the Church of the Pilgrims joined Christian communities around



the globe to celebrate the Lord's Supper on Worldwide Communion Sunday. Pastor Jeff Krehbiel led worship dressed in a traditional Ghanaian shirt, a gift that Pilgrim John Afedu brought back from a recent visit to his native country. Communion bread and juice were offered by four pairs of servers standing at the communion table, each facing a different point of the compass, recalling Jesus's prophecy that "People will come from east and west, north and south; they will sit at the feast in God's Kingdom (Luke 13: 29). The stoles worn by the servers, the bread they served, and the serving utensils came from China, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Mexico, Ghana, Guatemala, Cuba, Holland, Scotland, France and the West Bank (photo). After taking communion, worshipers joined the choir in singing "Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world. Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in the Lord." In the Prayer after Communion, the leader asked God to "send us forth to serve you with all that we have and all that we are," and the people responded, "In Jesus's name, so let it be." †



During coffee hour after church, Pilgrims is proud to offer fairly traded coffee. Fairly traded coffee means that fair trade provides the means for small coffee farmers to make enough money to support themselves while using the premiums to improve their standard of living. Fair Trade is not a charity or handout; it is simply a process of giving a

fair exchange.

Pilgrims participates in the Presbyterian Coffee Project through Equal Exchange, a company that offers fairly traded coffee, tea, and chocolates. In 2006, the community of Presbyterian churches that participate in the PCUSA coffee project, purchased 70 tons of fairly traded products from Equal Exchange. For every pound of fairly traded products that Presbyterians purchase, Equal Exchange donates \$0.15 to PCUSA. For 2006, that amount totaled \$21,011. This year, PCUSA used the funds to support a reforestation and environmental sustainability project with a coffee cooperative that Equal Exchange trades with in Nicaragua. †

A Celebration of the Lives of Charles and Elinor Dynes

Friends and relatives of Charles and Elinor Dynes gathered at Pilgrims on October 15, 2007 for a Service of Witness to the Resurrection. Chuck died on October 1 at age 88 in George Washington University Hospital, and Elinor died on October 11 at age 89 in her home at Thomas House in DC. They were members of Pilgrims for more than 40 years, and were active in the life of the church until recent years. The service was led by Pastor Jeff Krehbiel, and included scripture, prayer, hymns, a solo sung by former Pilgrim Karen Kinney, and the sharing of memories of Elinor and Chuck by family members and friends. Current and former Pilgrims who shared memories included Bill Moye, Tamara Duggleby, and Chris Bridgeman. After the benediction, a bagpiper (Paula Glendinning, a friend of the family) played and led the worshipers to the Bird Room, where they were greeted by the Dynes' daughters, Ann and Elaine, and other family members. A third daughter, Susan, died in 1998. On display were many photos of the Dynes family and some of Elinor's oil paintings, including portraits of Elaine and Susan. Members of Pilgrims prepared and served the food for the reception, led by Nancy Daugherty, Elder for Nurture. †



A NOTE OF THANKS

—FROM THE DYNES' DAUGHTERS

Dear [Pilgrims]:

We wanted to thank you and Jeff, the church staff and the entire pilgrims' community, for the perfect service on Monday, and for the love and support you've shown for our parents in the last few months especially, and for so many years.

When we decided to stop by on Sunday to drop off mom's artwork and the memorial leaflets, we found Pat [Goeldner] and Nancy [Daugherty] hard at work arranging flowers, decorating tables, and preparing food [for the memorial service of our parents the following Monday]. Paul [Reuther] helped us carry in the easels and paintings—in fact so did the "food committee." ...And when we struggled with one of Anne's easels, Paul suggested that some of Pilgrims' easels were available, in the storage closet.

We left the leaflets, not expecting that by Monday morning, another Pilgrims angel would stuff them into the order of service for us.

Helen Cope, so perceptive and compassionate on the phone when I clumsily ordered flowers for what was then my father's service, introduced herself. And the flowers were perfect!

Rolando did a masterful job, not only of making parking look easy, but of making all the cars and stragglers disappear by two o'clock!

And Karen Kinney, I'm sure, was exactly what Dad had hoped for when he requested the "Ave Maria" solo.

I know that a lot of work went in to making the service so lovely. We think it seemed "simple" enough for our mother, and it was certainly memorable enough for our father. Lots of people put in a lot of effort to make it easy for us, and we very much appreciate that.

Thank you Pilgrims for your good work.

Elaine Dynes & Ann Schaefer †



Former Pilgrims Doug & Kristen Wiley announce the birth of their first baby boy!

Brooks Beckworth Wiley joined the world at 6:17 am on October 8, weighing 7 lbs 15 oz and measuring 21 inches. He is sure to be loved by his older sisters Carley, Cameron, and Ansley. The Wiley's address is 5021 E 17th Avenue, Denver CO 80220. †

Pilgrim Justin George Featured in Washington Post Story



In an October 16 Washington Post story on health care coverage, Pilgrim Justin George was one of several DC area residents who rated health care coverage they chose last year. Justin found a health care policy on-line that is inexpensive for young people without health problems, and gave it a "B."

Finding Our Place at the Table: Update on "Open Table" *An interview with Delania Hardy*

Pilgrims' theme for fall 2007 is "Homecoming: Finding our place at the table." Following that theme, Pastor Jeff Krehbiel and Elder Jonathan Mertz led an adult education series on "Hospitality." We learned that the Bible consistently teaches that we should be hospitable--especially to those who are outsiders. But, as Pastor Jeff Krehbiel reminded us in a recent sermon, offering hospitality, as Jesus did, can place us at risk.

That became clear in an interview with Delania Hardy (photo), the Pilgrim who coordinates Pilgrims' 25 year-old Sunday lunch program for street people called "Open Table (OT)." Each Sunday 40-50 people receive a meal of a hot item, sandwich,



fruit, and a dessert, prepared and served by Pilgrims and other volunteers. Delania has good memories of many OT regulars, including "a Latino fellow, who across my not so great Spanish and his worse English pointed and pointed to his work boots. I finally figured out that he laid drywall but didn't make enough to live on. He wanted me to know that he worked, though—that was hugely important to him."

But Delania also remembers Charlie: "He was so lovely to the volunteers but not to the other

guests. He was always very drunk from heaven only knows what—he often smelled of lighter fluid. He would fall asleep standing in line and think someone shoved him when he actually was passing out. Long and short, he



would normally try to fight with whoever was around him." Delania tells us: "While I think there are lots of great folks that we help and things normally go smoothly, it is important to remember that we still have trouble at OT

"I recently had to tell someone to hit the road."

and sometimes it gets ugly. I recently had to tell someone to hit the road or I was calling the cops after a near fistfight broke out over a basketball. The guy who was causing the problem was so drunk that I am certain that he didn't know better."

Volunteering at Open Table is something newcomers to Pilgrims often do, as did Cameron Dezfulian on a recent Sunday (photo).

Many Pilgrims support OT as food providers, preparers, or servers: Peggy Harwood, Pat Goeldner, the Goff-Glennon family, the Wagner-Grund family, Jeff Pittman, Jeff Francisco, Kathy Keler, Mary Judy and Chuck, Tari Gregory, Shelly Ver Ploeg, Nancy Daugherty, Betty Rudolph, Tsehai Gemaneh, and Mitch Fulton. (Apologies to those disciples whose names we missed!) †

Pilgrimage Service Day, 2007

At 8 AM on Saturday, October 6, about thirty Pilgrims and Friends gathered in the parking lot for



*Photo of Pilgrims volunteers
by Gerry Hendershot*

donuts, juice, song, and prayer. They traveled in groups of 7-8 to four service locations: DC Central Kitchen, Capital Area Food Bank, Washington Parks and People, and Christian Community Group Homes. There they worked for about 3 hours, preparing food to be served in soup kitchens, packing donated groceries for distribution to poor people, caring for a park area, and cleaning the yard of a woman who is old, ill, and poor. Returning to Pilgrims, they shared their experiences and enjoyed a lunch prepared by New Courses Catering, a catering firm that trains and employs homeless people. A panel of formerly homeless persons shared their stories, saying that the causes of homelessness are many, the stereotypes of homeless people are usually untrue, and that homeless people, like everyone, want to be welcomed and respected as the persons they are. Thanks to Pastor Ashley Goff and Pilgrimage Manager Jen McClurg for organizing this wonderful opportunity to serve and learn.

Note: A risk of discipleship: Jack Womeldorf got a horrible case of poison ivy after working with Christian Community Group Homes. †

Report from the October Session Meeting

At its regular meeting on October 17, the Session took the following actions:

- Revised the job description and changed the job title of the Rev. Ashley Goff, from “Director of Christian Education” to “Minister for Spiritual Formation.” This change reflects and affirms the growth in Ashley’s role within the congregation over the past eight years. She will continue as Director of the Pilgrimage.
- Concurred with an overture from the session of Clarendon Presbyterian Church to National Capital Presbytery to overture the General Assembly to remove G-6.0106.b from the *Book of Order*, the clause that limits church office to those living in “chastity in singleness or marriage between a man and a woman.”
- Authorized the Trustees to engage the architectural services of the Kerns Group to design a handicapped accessible entrance and bathroom on the first floor, and renovate the first floor women’s bathroom.
- Approved a 3% Cost of Living adjustment for all church staff for 2008.

The Session of Church of the Pilgrims: *The Session is the governing body of the church. Its members are elected by the congregation. Each elder serves a three-year term. The Session meets the third Wednesday of each month.*

Jeff Krehbiel, moderator

Charles Briggs ‘08, Clerk of session: The clerk is responsible for recording the minutes of the Session meeting, and maintaining the Church rolls. The remaining Elders are responsible for coordinating a team with a particular responsibility within the life of the congregation.

Mitch Fulton* ‘09, Building: The building Team helps keep this big, beautiful building working well and looking good! They coordinate clean-up days, and help make decisions about building priorities.

Melissa Rosenblatt, ‘08, Leadership Development: The Elder for Leadership Development chairs the Officer Nominating Committee; helps identify and recruit new leaders, and works to insure that all the leaders in the church have the training they need to accomplish their various tasks.

Betty Rudolph ‘07, Outreach: The Outreach Team coordinates all of the congregation’s local mission programs, including Open Table and WIN, along with other initiatives that arise from the needs of the community or the interests of the congregation.

Jean Stewart ‘08, Spiritual Development: The Worship & Spiritual Development team is responsible for the planning of worship, including special services and offering opportunities for spiritual development outside Sunday morning.

Jonathan Mertz ‘09, Membership Development: The Membership Development Team works to make our community of faith more inviting and welcoming, and helps newcomers find a place in our community of faith.

Calva Leonard* ‘09, Stewardship/Finance; Trustee: The Elder for Administration serves as treasurer and works with the Trustees and Church Administrator to manage the finances of the congregation.

Bart Osterveld ‘07, Christian Education: The Education Team is responsible for Sunday morning Christian Education for both children and adults.

Nancy Daugherty ‘07, Congregational Care: The Congregational Care Team works to provide support to members of the congregation, such as coffee hour and buffet.

Trustee, Mary Ester

*These also serve as Trustees.

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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.



Schedule for Celebration of All Saints Day
Sunday, November 4

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, celebration of the "saints" of the church, and a remembrance of those who have died in the past year.

Following Worship:

Buffet Lunch

in the Fellowship Hall

Provided by "Cluster B" (upper northwest DC) †

The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) will hold its next city-wide Action with Mayor Fenty on Tuesday, November 13, 7-8:30 p.m. at First Rock Baptist Church, 4630 Alabama Ave SE. WIN will Hold Mayor Fenty accountable to Commitments Made During 2006 Elections, including a city-wide strategy to build 2,500 permanent supportive housing units for the chronically homeless as well as build/preserve 18,000 affordable rental units, and build 5,000 Nehemiah homeownership units for first time homebuyers earning \$25,000--\$75,000—all over the next 4 years as well as implement the Neighborhood Investment Fund Plans. †