



Spiritual Formation in December

ADULT EDUCATION

December 2nd, 9th and 16th. 9:30 A.M.

Soprano Inspired.

Led by Jerry McPike in the Bird Room.

This three-week class will focus on folk, opera and other inspirational melodies that cover the experiences of troubled women, transcendence, salvation and the crucifixion.

December 2nd, 9th and 16th. 9:30 A.M.

Advent Reflections on Gratitude

Led by Ashley Goff in the upstairs education room.

A recent Washington Post article cited a study that showed the more we name our gratitude, the more we can resist materialism. This three week class will focus on our gratitude during the Advent season, giving us the wisdom to resist the need to buy and focus more on the gift of giving ourselves to one another and beyond. This class will incorporate our daily experiences of gratitude, journaling, sharing and reflection.

PRAYER RETREAT

Saturday, December 8th, 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Praying out the old year—praying in the new!

Led by Margee Iddings

Margee Iddings who has recently retired for the umpteenth time, 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. ▲

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24th, 7:00 P.M.

Join us for a Candlelight Service and

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion! ▲

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

JOYFUL NEW YEAR!

From the staff of Pilgrims:

Jeff * Ashley

Jen * Marcia

Rob * Rolando

*

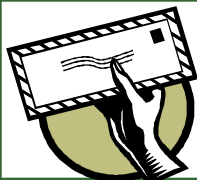
Paul



Christmas Poinsettias and Lawn Fund



There will be an array of individual pots of Poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 23rd. The cost is \$11.00 each. If you wish to contribute to this Pilgrims Christmas tradition, forms will be available December 2, 9 & 16 in the bulletins or you can email, pilgrim.mail@verizon.net, or call in your order to the church office, 202-387-6612. An alternative contribution may be made to the Lawn fund. ▲



2008 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Have you pledged yet? It's not too late. Mail it in. Call it in. E-mail it in. Fax it in. Bring it in. By whatever means you choose, please get your 2008 pledges in soon. Our pledge goal is \$210,000. We have received 82% of our pledge goal so far. ▲

Advent 2007 at Pilgrims

December 2nd: HOPE



Week One: Isaiah 2:1-5: The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. 3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Advent One: In honor of World AIDS Day, on the first Sunday in Advent we will gather items for sympathy baskets for Food & Friends. Food & Friends prepares, packages and delivers meals and groceries to more than 1,000 people each day who are living with HIV/AIDS and other life-challenging illnesses such as breast cancer, lung and colon cancer. These meals are delivered throughout the Washington DC area, including 14 counties in Maryland and Virginia. Since 1988, Food & Friends has provided food and companionship to clients plus loved ones and caregivers of those who live with a life-challenging illness. Food & Friends is in need of items to put in sympathy baskets that are sent to families after the death of a loved one. The "wish list" of items includes: nice teas and instant coffee, hot chocolate, fine candies, candles, crackers, soups, etc. □

December 9th: PEACE

You emptied yourself to enter the city, and though your coming may not make it good, it makes you cry, and there you are, in the oily streets, damp with rain and human sins, lit by a single light, I see your face reflected. O God, your incarnation's in the streets. I see the city, and I cannot help but see you.
—Walter Wangerin, Jr.,
Ragman and Other
Cries of Faith



Week Two: Isaiah 11:1-10 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's

den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Advent Two: On the second Sunday in Advent, we will gather non-perishable food plus travel size toiletries and tube socks for our own Open Table program. Open Table is our program where we serve lunch to the homeless after church on Sundays. Open Table is always in need of the following: dried onion soup packets, family-size cans of cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup, chili powder, large boxes of instant rice, one pound boxes of macaroni and rotini, cans of kidney beans, diced tomatoes, peas and corn. In addition to the food, Open Table needs travel size soaps, lotion, razors, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products and shaving crème. We will also collect tube socks of any size to help keep folk's feet warm and clean. □



Advent 2007 at Pilgrims



December 16th: JOY

Week 3: Isaiah 35:1-10: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the

blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Advent Three: On the third Sunday of Advent, we will gather wrapped gifts for the Shoebox Gift Project at So Others Might Eat (SOME). SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital. SOME meets the immediate, daily needs of the people they serve with food, clothing and mental health and health care. During the holiday season, SOME distributes decorated shoebox gifts to homeless and poor children, women and men who eat breakfast and lunch in SOME's dining room. This project is designed to present a festively wrapped holiday gift filled with personal items for adults and children. Items could include: NEW socks, mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, or in the case of a child the addition of a small toy or game. Please wrap the lid and box separately. This allows SOME to ensure that each package is equitable. Fill the shoebox with appropriate items and label the outside of the box MAN, WOMAN or CHILD. □



December 23rd: LOVE

Week Four: Isaiah 7:10-16: Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. 13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Advent Four: On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will collect a financial offering for the Save Darfur Coalition, at savedarfur.org, which funds awareness and advocacy programs that play a critical role in building the political pressure needed to end the crisis in Darfur. The Darfur Interfaith Network that we have partnered with in the monthly vigils at the Sudanese Embassy participates with the Save Darfur Coalition. □

New Ways to Be Church Celebration, Service, and Community

Reaching a milestone on your life's journey? Want to celebrate it with something more meaningful than dinner and a movie? How about celebrating by serving your low income neighbors in community with other Pilgrims? Here's how two Pilgrims recently combined their celebrations of personal milestones with service and community.

On October 6 Pilgrim Karen Garrett (right) and husband Sam Garrett celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary by serving with other Pilgrims at DC Central Kitchen as part of the Pilgrimage Service Day. The couple met in DC and it has been important to their relationship. Karen says "we have always shared a mutual concern for the impoverished in our city, and it made our celebration of our lives together more meaningful to give back in a particularly meaningful way to the city...We intend to incorporate some kind of service into our anniversary celebrations in the future."



Pilgrim Carol Huls (left) invited friends from Pilgrims to celebrate her "39 Forever" birthday party by spending November 10 working on a Habitat for Humanity home in Northeast DC. Carol says, "My friends were pushing for a "to-do"-- dressing up, going out to a bar, or dancing or what not. I figured I don't usually do those things... why shouldn't I do something that I like to do? Cultivating community and volunteering are part of my identity... it seemed like a 'Carol' thing to do." Pilgrims' participation in the build was coordinated by Zach Wilks and Mary Lib Pate. ▲



"Belly dancing--what kind of church is this?"

The rain *finally* ended and the sun came out for the 10 AM, October 27, opening of Pilgrims' fifth annual Fall Fine Arts and Crafts festival. By the 4 PM closing, Pilgrims had provided hospitality to more than 1,000 community residents. About 70 vendors were inside and outside the church selling wearable art, jewelry, toys, paintings, photographs and more. In Fellowship Hall, a P St. café sold Greek food, and there was a performance by belly dancers! (One visitor was heard to ask, "Belly dancing--what kind of church is this?") Out front, adoptable dogs from the

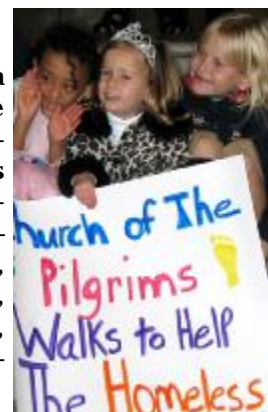


Humane Society wagged their tails happily in response to enthusiastic petting. More than 200 hardy visitors climbed the tower for a great view of the Dupont Circle neighborhood. A balloon artist crafted crowns, dinosaurs, and other critters. Jonathan Mertz, and Melissa Rosenblatt organized the event, Pastor Jeff Krehbiel navigated the bureaucratic maze to get the necessary permits, and many other Pilgrim volunteers helped to make the day a success. ▲



MINI-WALK FOR THE HOMELESS, OCTOBER 27

About 20 Pilgrims, led by children in Halloween costume, participated in a Mini-Walk for the Homeless. The walk was part of a citywide effort to raise funds for homeless-related organizations. Pilgrims' mini-walk benefited the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place. The walkers carried signs identifying them as Pilgrims on their route from the church, around Sheridan Circle, and back. Pictured are some of the walkers: Princess Tatiana Gigax, Princess Siri Grund, and Lydia Grund. Other Pilgrims walkers were Lynn Wagner, Dick Gigax, Pat Goeldner, Jeff Francisco, Alice Gigax, Sam Goff-Glennon, Helen Cope, Martinique Duran Gigax, Ryan Goff-Glennon, Bob Glennon, Jerry McPike, Marilyn Lutter, Melissa Rosenblatt, Jean Stewart, Martin Benton, and Tsage Asmeran. (Apologies to anyone whose name we missed.) ●



Building Housing, Building Community

On Saturday, November 10, ten Pilgrims joined another fourteen Presbyterians from National Capital Presbytery for a day of work on a new Habitat for Humanity house in Southeast DC. Pilgrim-builders were Jeanne



Mayer, Pat Goeldner, Jeff Krehbiel, Jeff Francisco, Stan Lou, Shelly Ver Ploeg, Carol Huls, Mary Judy, Chuck Liswell and Mary Lib Pate. Thanks to Pilgrim Zach Wilks, who recruited the Pilgrims crew. (Zach was ill and couldn't come to the build.) Other churches represented were New York Avenue, Sargent Memorial, and Georgetown.

Here are excerpts from a report filed to *The Pilgrim* by Carol Huls:

"It was a dark and stormy morning. Cold. Really cold. Nancy, our crew leader, spoke about the local chapter and how they are in the process of completing the 100th house [the one we worked on] in the District since their formation in 1988 and are now on pace to complete an average of 8 per year. Jeff [Krehbiel] and 'the boys' worked outside putting on the second floor of a house. Theirs was the most visible progress at the end of the day -- their house really took on some shape.

"Mary Judy [pictured] worked on another outdoor project -- stories of her enthusiasm and energy sound like they will become the stuff of legend. Two groups worked inside -- one painting closets, the other working on door and window frame trim. Who knew that much caulk was used to seal up all those boards? I can personally testify that house #100 is sturdy and airtight. It was a full and very fun day. Several of us expressed interest in doing another day in the future." ▲

Pilgrims Celebrate WIN Victory on Affordable Housing

On November 13 the Washington Interfaith Network held an Action at First Rock Baptist Church in Southeast DC to hold Mayor Fenty accountable for his earlier promises to make improvements in affordable housing. Pilgrims had pledged to have 15 people there, and during the "rounds" that begin every Action, Pilgrim Mary Judy announced to the meeting that 17 Pilgrims were present! Altogether, about 500 people representing more than 45 congregations from every corner of the city packed the sanctuary.



The Washington Post reported the next day that "Mayor Adrian M. Fenty announced last night a wide-ranging plan to provide permanent housing for the city's chronically homeless, to preserve affordable housing by making it harder for landlords to convert buildings into high-priced condos and to help fund 500 townhouses affordable to low- and moderate-income workers." Fenty was quoted as saying "We are here to make all these commitments for the residents of the District of Columbia who deserve them."

Representing Pilgrims at the Action were Betty Rudolph, Gerry Hendershot, Margee Iddings, Jeffrey Fox, Kathy Keler, Jeanne Mayer, Mary Judy, Betty Rudolph, Aaron Dorfman, Ashley Goff, Mary Lib Pate, Jeff Francisco, Mary Ellen R. Player, Geneen Massey, Jerry McPike, and Andrea Hailey. ▲



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“Where all are Pilgrims, but none is a stranger.”

WISHING YOU
PEACE
 FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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During the season of Advent, Pilgrims will be collecting offerings on each Sunday of Advent. It is our hope in giving to others that we remember the struggles of living in poverty and homelessness as we await the birth of the Christ child. (See details on pages 2 & 3 of this issue.) ▲