



CHRISTIAN VOCATION

There are many ways to measure the vitality of a congregation: membership, worship attendance, finances, local mission. I would like to highlight one you might not think of: The number of members who decide to enter seminary.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, Church of the Pilgrims now has the happy circumstance of having two seminarians “under care” of the Session: Karen Kinney and Hannah Nutt. Both intentionally chose to go through this process with us when each had other options. Karen transferred her membership back to Church of the Pilgrims because, even after living in West Virginia for three years, she considers Pilgrims “home.”

Hannah joined the church two years ago when she lived in DC briefly during her first year after college. She knew she would be leaving soon, and wondered if it would be appropriate for her to join the church under such circumstances. She asked to do so, so that Pilgrims could be her church home while she attended seminary.

Our responsibility as a congregation is to support and encourage Karen and Hannah as they continue to discern how God might be calling them to serve the church. Their responsibility is to remain open to the church’s guidance in that discernment process. It is a



“In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives.”

Presbyterian conviction that the call to ministry must be confirmed by the community of faith. Hannah and Karen’s journey provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect more deeply on our own call to serve God in the church and in the world. Another Presbyterian conviction is this: We are all called, through our baptism, to a life of full-time Christian service. That is true whatever our vocation. As our *Brief Statement of Faith* puts it, “in gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives.”

In peace,
Jeff

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SUMMER AT PILGRIMS

While summer is not yet officially here, Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the summer hiatus for our Sunday morning Christian Education programs. While the church calendar is lighter in the months of June, July and August, there will be many opportunities to discern the work of the Spirit in our lives and in the world:

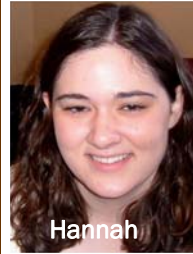
Several **Covenant Groups** are in the process of formation-- small, intentional groups for prayer and support. Three groups have already been announced, and more may be announced soon:

- **Stan Lou** is forming a group for prayer and mutual support that will focus on *life transitions*. For more information, contact stan-goblue@yahoo.com.
- **Jean Stewart**, working with Parish Associate **Margee Iddings**, is convening a group to focus on *different modes of prayer*, meeting the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the church. The first meeting is scheduled for June 24th. If you would be interested in being part of this group, contact Jean at jean.stewart@rcn.com.
- **Carol Huls** is also forming a group that will explore service as a spiritual practice. Participants will gather one Saturday morning a month share in a joint service project (such as April's Habitat build), with time for sharing, prayer, and reflection. If this sounds compelling to you, contact Carol at janey1168@yahoo.com.

Are you interested in starting your own Covenant Group, or being a part of one? If so, contact to Jeff at jeff.krehbiel@verizon.net or Ashley at ashley.goff@verizon.net †

Pilgrims Takes Two New Seminarians under Its Care

On two consecutive Sundays in May, Pilgrims took under its care two women who are beginning Seminary this fall: **Karen Kinney** and **Hannah Nutt**. Karen will attend Union Seminary in Richmond, and Hannah will attend McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Presbyterian



Hannah

rules require that seminarians who are in the process of discerning if they are called by God to be Ministers of Word and Sacrament must be "under the care" a local congregation for support and guidance.

Karen was re-admitted to membership at Pilgrims and taken under its care on May 18. She had been a member until she moved to Shepherdstown WV a few years ago. Hannah became a member of Pilgrims in

2006 and was accepted by McCormick in 2007, but deferred enrollment for a year to work as a community organizer in Cleveland. She was taken under the care of Pilgrims on May 25. Hannah's mother is Pastor of a Presbyterian congregation in St. Louis.

Before Karen and Hannah, the most recent seminarian to be under the care of Pilgrims was Carolyn Winters-Hazelton, who was graduated from Wesley Seminary in DC and subsequently ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. She is now a Parish Associate Minister at the First Presbyterian Church of Lawrence (Kansas), where her husband, Kent Winters-Hazelton, is Pastor. †



Karen

I had a lot of fun in 1998 when a group of

Travel to Java and Bali with Pilgrims

Note from Tari Gregory

six Pilgrims and two guests went to Indonesia. Due to the monetary crisis in the late nineties, travel was inexpensive and we had a good deal for a two-week stay in Java, Bali, and Singapore.

After the trip I told myself that someday I would take another group to Indonesia. Now, I've decided, that "someday" will be this coming November. I picked November because it is not high season yet. High seasons are Christmas, New Year and Easter holidays and summertime. Also the rainy season has usually not yet started in full force.

This is an open invitation to all Pilgrims: join me in November for a two week trip to Java and Bali. We will do

tourist stuff and visit some Christian Foundations, like the orphanage that we have been supporting, the "Reksa Putra", and others that help and empower marginalized people, and also (maybe) visit one or two churches.



If you are interested in going, please let me know by mid-July (tarigregory@verizon.net, or 301-490-3836), so I can make the arrangements. As of now, I don't know the costs but I'll have that information by July. †

What's Going On at the Pilgrimage?

Matt Boote, Pilgrimage Program Manager

Pilgrimage Groups: Our groups in the past couple of months have put in hard work at DC Central Kitchen, Parks and People, Christian Community Group Homes, and many other sites. In April, a group from New Hampshire connected with cooks at the soup kitchen of the Dinner Program for Homeless Women. The cooks said the group, “reenergized us and really connected with other people in the program.” The group from New Hampshire left changed. As they explained to me, the week helped them break down stereotypes, inspired them to do work at home, and forced them to deeply reflect. However, just as the busy spring break season is in our rearview mirror, the onslaught of summer groups is approaching. Between June and the end of August we have only two days without any groups! We are working hard to integrate new workshops into summer programs, providing a more complete experience from beginning to end for participants.

Mission and Vision Work: With the help of Margee Iddings, the Pilgrimage Board has done a lot of hard work in revisiting The Pilgrimage’s mission and vision statements. Last worked on in the early 1990’s, the mission and vision statements were in need of refreshing and refinement. It has been a very fruitful and exciting process. We are excited about how it will help The Pilgrimage continue to grow while maintaining a strong foundation in our history. We will use our mission and vision statement as a guide post and evaluation tool for the summer.

Interns: Our first summer intern, Lydia Boote, finished up at the end of May. She was an incredible asset; she developed an important presentation for our summer groups that helps educate about and illuminate hunger, homelessness and poverty in the context of Washington, D.C. Quillen Fava is our intern for the rest of the summer and we are very excited to have her with us.

Facility Work: We continue to upgrade the facility. The entire Pilgrimage received a fresh coat of paint, we built a new wall to protect the ventilation system we installed last winter, our intern apartment now features new blinds, and we installed a set of lockers for groups to store valuables. †

Pilgrims’ Distinctive Stone Arches Reprieved!

The free standing stone arches that face 22nd Street at the northeast corner of Pilgrims’ education wing will continue to stand. (The accompanying photo shows Pastor Jeff Krehbiel leading a worship service beneath the arches on Pilgrimage Service Day, 2007.)



Because the arches had deteriorated to an unsafe condition, it had been decided, tentatively, to have them removed. Such an architectural change must be approved by DC’s Historic Commission, which set two conditions: Pilgrims must demonstrate that successful repairs would be prohibitively expensive; and, if the arches were removed, landscaping must be done to disguise the entrance to the education wing behind the arches.

Test drillings indicated that the arches could be repaired and preserved by extending their foundations down to bed rock, estimated to be 25’ below the surface, and re-pointing the masonry. Building Engineer Rolando Quintanilla obtained a bid on the work, which, given the alternative expense of landscaping and the below-estimate costs of other capital campaign projects to date, was affordable. The work was successfully completed in late May. Thanks to the Historic Commission, Rolando, and the Holy Spirit for this unexpected blessing! †

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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 Sundays:
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

PLACE LABEL HERE



All Sunday School classes are on break until September. Watch for our Homecoming issue of *The Pilgrim* in September for new classes.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR MYANMAR (BURMA) AND CHINA How [PCUSA] is Helping and How You Can Too

The PCUSA is assisting the people of Myanmar and China with offerings given through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, which is also supported through our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings. \$100,000 has already been designated for Myanmar through PDA and \$50,000 to China. PDA is responding in Myanmar as a member of and in partnership with Action by Churches Together (ACT) International and Church World Service. Both entities have local partners in Myanmar and will have representatives to help in the provision of relief items to cyclone survivors.

PDA is supporting our local and long-time mission partner, Amity Foundation. Amity Foundation, which has previous experience in disaster response, immediately provided food and drinking water for thousands in heavily damaged areas in China. Amity, also a fellow member of Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, is taking the lead in the ACT response. They have deployed staff to the affected region and are focusing assistance in the severely affected provinces of Gansu, Sha'anxi and Sichuan. You can read more about PCUSA's response to China at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/china-earthquake051908.htm> and Burma at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/myanmarburma-index.htm>

Here are three ways in which you can send your financial support to the PDA for Myanmar and China:

- Send a check to Pilgrims (write PDA-China or PDA-Myanmar in the memo line)
- Send the check to National Capital Presbytery at 8401 Connecticut Avenue, #805, Chevy Chase MD 20815 (mark check for PDA-China or PDA-Myanmar)
- or contribute directly online at

<https://www.pcusa.org/give/online/projectSelectAction.do?numberString=DR000138>

or <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/myanmarburma-index.htm> ☩