



Pilgrims' Progress

*Published by Pilgrim United Church of Christ,
Durham, NC*

Shalom: A Ministry of Healing *by Dan Barco, Carla P. Gregg, and Betty Morton*

Lately, people across our church family have been asking questions about health issues. "Should we retrain our church community on how to use the defibrillator?" "What should we know about stroke prevention?" "Is there anything we can do to better support those grieving loss in our church or those dealing with depression and other mental health issues?" Our members are concerned about their own health, the health of their family members, as well as the health of others in the church. As a result of such questions and concern, several of us have begun the process of exploring a "Ministry of Healing" at Pilgrim. But what does this mean and why do this?

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we hear of both God's concern and vision for God's covenant community. It is a vision of "shalom" – of peace, security, health, wholeness and salvation for the whole people of God. As Walter Brueggemann notes, shalom is a vision of connectedness, not a vision for individuals but for a whole community - young, old, rich, poor, powerful and dependent. It is the outgrowth of a covenant in which persons are bound not only to God, but to one another. We hope for Pilgrim to be a place of "shalom" – a place where we care for the welfare of our whole community and, together, minister to whole persons, body, mind, emotions and spirit. Although we know that true "shalom" will not be realized until the fullness of time, we believe that God has given us community so that we might share in God's "shalom" even now.

Christ gave the gift of healing to the church as a source of power, to act as a channel through which God's healing may flow. When we think of Christ's healing ministry, it is hard to get past the notion of "miracles." Yet there remains the hope and conviction that the capacity for healing remains with us here and now. Each of us can be vessels of Christ's healing power.

Clearly healing is not just the territory of experts. Those of us trained in the pastoral care and in the science of medicine are regularly reminded that healing requires more than just the latest imaging technology, the newest drug, the timely surgery. We encounter regularly the need for integration of healing resources and the presence of a loving, supporting (and supported) family or circle of friends. Beyond that, we see the mysterious, unexpected intervention of faith manifest in the unexpected response to treatment, the adaptation to disability, the sudden decision to take charge of one's health. Healing in its various forms is our gift to give.

What can we do to promote "shalom" – healing, health and wholeness in our church? Can we, in all humility, find ways to emulate the healing power of Christ? Can we create a "Ministry of Healing" within our community, within our congregation? What would that mean? How can we approach such a goal? Can we be effective?

Morton Kelsey and Francis McNutt offer some

Continued on page 2

Shalom continued from page 1

practical suggestions for appropriate healing in our daily living. They urge: 1) sharing a call to a particular healing work with others, 2) seeking to know God personally, 3) praying for our own healing and that of others, and 4) offering ourselves to others for their healing. Can we build on that framework to think about how Pilgrim might be more effective at healing? Could we perhaps find a few miracles of our own? Isn't it possible?

The Board of Deacons and the Board of Christian Education have collaborated in creating a task force to address how we might promote "shalom" at Pilgrim. Our concept is a "Ministry of Healing" that is multi-faceted and will complement and support the care giving teams that are being put into place for transportation, meals, and visits. We have some preliminary ideas:

Regular, short articles in Pilgrim's Progress about health matters – such as awareness of early symptoms of stroke, resources for Seniors, diet and other strategies for prevention of diabetes, influenza self-care, etc. (the potential list is very large); Intermittent forums on larger topics, such as "Dealing with Terminal Illness", "Mental Health Issues for Children and Adults", etc.; and longer term group activities such as a grief support group.

We also need your thoughts. Who will be involved in this "Ministry of Healing?" Might it be you? We invite your support, ideas, criticisms (particularly constructive ones), assistance and knowledge. We invite experts, writers, miracle-workers, etc. At this point we're only at the beginning of planning for this ministry. We have had just one meeting, and we hope to meet again in early April.

We are looking for three people with a background or interest in health-related issues to help us plan for the future. If you are interested, please let Rev. Carla know.

We are: Dan Barco, Carla Gregg, Betty Morton, . . . and you?

Opportunities to lend a hand in Christian Education:

The Board of Christian Ed. will have a **"Spring Cleaning" and a little painting of the children's classrooms on Sat., April 16.** We

would appreciate help from anyone who is willing, able and interested. We will start at 9 am with a planned stop time of 2 pm. A few of us will also be at church the night before to do some prep work for the painting and to get a jump start on cleaning. If a Friday evening works into your schedule better than Saturday, please join us then!

We are planning a church-wide **yard sale on Sat., April 30, from 8:00 - noon.** Proceeds from the yard sale will be used to help spruce up and refurbish the classrooms in the Education Wing. Here's your opportunity to get rid of

some of that stuff you've been looking at for so long! You can bring your items to church any time before the 30th and put them in the old Youth classroom (the room with the mural). More details about the yard sale will be coming later.

If you have questions about the Spring Cleaning or the Yard Sale, contact Gloria Sanchez Lane or Susan McNair.



Floating Classroom Assistant

Our classrooms are becoming wonderfully full of children! Occasionally we need an extra adult to assist in the classrooms. We are looking for three people who would be willing to leave worship after the prayers of the people and check-in with each of the three Sunday School classrooms for one month. If one of the rooms needs an extra set of hands, you will stay and assist them. If all the classes have an adequate number of teachers for the day, you may return to worship. We anticipate you needing to stay and help once during your month.

If you are interested in either one of these opportunities, please let Rev. Carla know.

Film Screening & Panel Discussion to Address LGBT Aging

On April 2, UNC's School of Social Work will host *Breaking Generation Silent: Facing the Needs and Challenges of LGBT Elders*. Go to <http://ssw.unc.edu/diversity/about/aging> for more information, including how to register.

This FREE event kicks off at 1 pm at UNC's Friday Center in Chapel Hill with a viewing of the 1-hour documentary film, "Gen Silent." This documentary highlights the realities that many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors are facing: the need to go back into the closet to avoid discrimination from aging providers and bullying from fellow seniors in long-term care settings. A panel discussion will follow the film screening to further explore the social, medical and financial needs of LGBT elders.

Don't miss this important event!

Adult Sunday School

The *Inquirers* (Adult Sunday School) will continue for 2 more Sundays viewing the last parts of Martin Doblmeier's film on **Forgiveness** in different religions, cultures, and situations and discuss the issue. All are welcome to join in at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room.

Youth News

Pilgrim Youth raised over \$800 at the Pancake Super Supper on Fat Tuesday... and we had a great time! Thank you to all those who donated and to Jennifer Marhoul for coordinating the meal. The money will benefit the youth mission fund and help cover the costs of this summer's trip to Tampa and next year's planned trip to Peru. Look for future opportunities to continue to support this wonderful ministry!

All youth are invited to join Revs. Ginger & Carla following worship on March 20th. We will head over to Duke, share lunch and then join other Pilgrims for the CROP Walk.



Conference Update

This week at the UCC Conference Center in Blowing Rock thirty plus clergy and I gathered to once again have conversation about our conference. The Rev. Dr. Steve Sterner facilitated the majority of our time and reflections. Our own Pilgrim and Intentional Interim for local congregations, Lynn Carman Bodden, facilitated a session as well.

The conversations included general practices within the UCC as well as structural changes within other conferences. These are interesting days within our denomination. We are trying to discover creative approaches to deal with a changing church world and economy. Please hold the UCC and all "church people" in your prayers as we engage a shifting culture. We in the church must ask how we will meet the faith and basic needs of people. How will we continue to reach people with the peace and love of God? How will we alter to include other/new/different ways of being church while honoring the traditions we have known?

Yours in reflection, Peace, Ginger

Children's Communion Class

Anyone, meaning children of all ages, are always welcome at the Communion table. We want children to approach the table with some understanding and appreciation for the sacrament and feel that parents are the best ones to decide when the time is right for their child. Through a communion class and special recognition at Easter we offer children an understanding of the sacrament and offer the congregation a visible sign of the integral role of children in the worshipping community. This class is most appropriate for children in the first grade and up. The class will be **9:30-10:15 on April 10 and 17**. The children who participate in this class will be specially recognized, carry the elements into worship, receive communion, and stand with us as we serve during communion on Easter. If you are interested in your child participating, please let Rev. Carla know by March 20th.

Foster Care?

There are over 9,000 children in foster care in North Carolina on a given day. This figure includes hundreds of children from our own community. Many of these children are survivors of abuse or neglect and have emotional or behavioral challenges. Many of these children have never had the unconditional support of a committed adult, and are at higher risk for future homelessness, drug abuse, criminal activity, and poverty.

There are hundreds of children in our community that need a foster home to provide a nurturing and supportive environment. Many of these children have unique needs or circumstances, requiring the specialized treatment that **KidsPeace** provides to children who have emotional or behavioral challenges. Right now, **KidsPeace** has a specific need for families in Durham County to open their homes to these deserving children and help these Kids find Peace.

Here are two concrete ways that we can become a partner:

- Hosting an interest meeting with Pilgrims that are interested in learning more about foster care.
- Allowing a KidsPeace representative to speak briefly during services about the need for foster parents and how folks can become involved.

If you have any interest in assisting Pilgrims and our community learn more about foster care, please begin conversations with:

Ashley Tyndall, MSW
Family Resource Specialist
489-8038
ashley.tyndall@kidspeace.org
www.kidspeace.org

Peace,
Ginger



Protecting the Common Good

Tuesday, April 5, 2011, 8:45 am - 3:30 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1725 N. New Hope Road, Raleigh, NC

This seminar is designed to provide information on critical issues facing the General Assembly and to equip grass-roots activists working for social justice. All interested persons are invited to attend.

- 8:45 Registration (coffee, juice and pastries)
- 9:30 Opening Session: Worship led by the Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly, Pastor, St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Greensboro.
- 10:05 Workshops - Session 1
Narratives of Hope in Discouraging Times
Messaging
The Budget Crisis
Good Government
Climate Change
Farms and Farm workers
- 11:15 Annual Assembly & Awards Presentations
- 11:45 Lunch and Networking Time
- 12:45 Workshops - Session 2
The Common Good
Grassroots Lobbying
Social Networking for Social Justice
Immigration
Children
Preventive Health
Mental Health, Development Disabilities, & Substance Abuse
- 2:00 Workshops - Session 3
Legislative Process
Jobs & Wages
Public Education
Preserving Health Care Reform
GLBT Issues
Death Penalty
- 3:15 Closing Session: Worship led by the Rev. Lorraine Ljunggren, Pastor, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh
- 3:30 Adjourn

Living into Blessedness

Observing Lent at Pilgrim through the Beatitudes

Lent Dinner and Program begins Wed. March 16th, 5:45 – 7:00 pm.

Please join us for a simple dinner and a Lenten study on the Beatitudes every Wednesday during Lent beginning **tonight**, March 16th, and continuing through April 13th . Register on the board in the foyer so we will know how many to expect and please volunteer to help with dinner. We will be using the book, *The Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights* written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Tim Ladwig. This is a wonderful time to get to know your fellow Pilgrims in a small group setting and to explore a part of your faith! Childcare is provided for younger children and older children are welcome to participate in the program.

Saturday Lenten Study - March 26, April 2, April 9th, 9-11am

Milton Brasher-Cunningham will lead Pilgrims in a study of the Beatitudes. Childcare is provided.

A Dictionary of the Days of Lent

Ash Wednesday - The first day of Lent whose name comes from the traditional marking of ashes on Christians' foreheads during worship as a sign of repentance.

Palm Sunday – On the Sunday that begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week, we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem where he was greeted with "Hosannas" and the waving of Palm branches.

Maundy Thursday - Maundy comes from Latin and means commandment. This name reflects Jesus giving his disciples the command to love one another during their final meal together.

Help Pilgrim Keep the Golden Sneaker! CROP Walk update

The Durham CROP walk is **this Sunday, March 20th at 2:30 pm**. This important event supports people who are hungry both in Durham and worldwide.

One week left until the CROP Walk! Here are a few key pieces of info that I wanted to pass on to you:

- If you are planning on walking, please meet at the steps of Duke Chapel at 2 pm next Sunday. The walk starts at 2:30, but we need to allow time for gathering, registration, and taking our group photo.
- Please wear your CROP shirts on Sunday to worship - whether you're walking in person or just in spirit!
- If you are walking and did not register online, you'll need to fill out the liability waiver and bring it with you. I'll have these on Sunday if you have not picked one up already.
- Last call for t-shirts - if you'd like to purchase one, please let me know by Friday. I will pick them up Saturday morning and can bring to church on Sunday. \$3

Please consider making a donation if you haven't already - and even better - ask your friends, family, co-workers to support the cause, too! Checks should be made payable to CWS/CROP or you can donate on the secure website: www.tinyurl.com/pilgrimcrop To date, we've raised approximately \$3700!

Questions? Let us know!

Lindsey Kearns & Shannon Mølhave





Pilgrim United Church of Christ

3011 Academy Road
Durham, NC 27707
Worship Service - 10:30 am

Church Office Hours
Mon.—Thur. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm



Office and Staff Information:

Telephone: (919) 489-1381
E-mail: pilgrimucc@frontier.com
Web: www.pilgrimucc-durham.org

Mr. Marty Powell staffs the Pilgrim office. He can be contacted at the Pilgrim office phone and email.

Ms. Eden Badgett, our music director, is at Pilgrim on Sundays. She also comes in on Wednesday evenings except for summer when the choir is off. She can be contacted at eden.badgett@gmail.com

Mr. Jeremy Harris is Pilgrim's accompanist and can be reached through the office.

The Rev. Carla P. Gregg, Minister of Christian Education, is in the office Sunday mornings, and Tuesday - Thursdays from 9 - 2 pm. You can reach Carla at the office or carlapgregg@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, our Senior Pastor, has a schedule of being in the office and out for visitation, meetings, etc. Sunday - Thursday her schedule is flexible, often meeting with people in the evenings. She can be reached at the office or at Gigibc@aol.com. **For pastoral emergencies** in late hours or Friday or Saturday please call 919-408-6947.

In-care students Ms. Nancy Chew (NCHEW@ranallc.com) and **Mr. Stuart Harrell** (stuart.harrell@gmail.com) are seeking ordination / commissioning in the UCC.

All staff have mailboxes in the office (Marty's is his desk!) or can be reached at 919-489-1381.



Do I smell
birthday
cake?

Pilgrim Birthdays in April!

3	Isabella Lane
8	Scott Thomas
12	Ag Langston Mark Rutledge
13	Mark Chaves
14	Ann Davis
20	Kaci Bishop Nicolas Galvez
21	Tom Harris
27	Christian Ferney
28	Sara Beale