

January

Minister's Missive

by Rev. Heather Hennessey

Our Christmas was hard and weird, beautiful and restorative, all in one. Our Las Vegas based daughter, Brooke, has been miserably sick, for the second time, with Covid 19. A flight attendant, she became ill the first time in March, then the second time just a week before Christmas. What a hard time the latter has been what with quarantining from her two young sons over the holiday. (Thank you, Prayer Chain partners, for holding her in prayer during this trying time.)

Christmas Eve found Randy and me watching the service put together by so many talented people at Pilgrim and All Saints Episcopal Churches. I could listen to Pedro Betancourt sing "O Holy Night" every evening for a year!

Randy and I did not travel, nor have anyone else at our Christmas day table for two. Weird! With the gift of Google Meet, however, we were able to see and hear beloved family members, and with our two dogs, each other, and a warm fire, we had a lovely day.

Neither Randy nor I are essential workers, but when it's our turn to receive the vaccine, we'll be in line. We've even thought about camping out on the sidewalk like crazy movie and concert fans sometimes do. We're so ready to get our mobility and social connections back!

We're welcoming Rev. Steve Kindle to the Pilgrim virtual pulpit during the first three weeks of January. He's looking forward to being with us, and he's working hard to prepare an inspiring, educational and encouraging sermon series. Thank you, Steve!

Music is such an integral part of each worship service, and I'll be trying to incorporate lots of musical offerings as the new year unfolds. Please let me know if you'd like to sing or play an instrument for your fellow Pilgrims. I'll be sure and include your gifts.

Speaking of gifts, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Peggie Linville and Kim Healey as they step away from their Serving Co-coordinator ministries. They've been invaluable in caring for members of our congregation.

The New Year will also find Glenn Hoxie stepping back from his Moderator responsibilities and Chris McNeill stepping into that position. Thank you, Glenn and Chris! We've been in good hands, and will continue to be so.

Other members of your Church Council are getting ready for our Annual Meeting on February 7, 2021. We're writing reports about the past year's ministries, and submitting thoughtful budget requests for 2021. Although our meeting will have to be on Zoom, we hope many can join us for review, reflection and anticipation of what lies ahead.

May God bless us all as we say goodbye to 2020, and welcome in 2021.

Pastor Heather

Serving

During the month of December members of the Called to Care group kept busy with usual phone calls, cards and visits. In addition we worked with Rev. Hennessey delivering poinsettia plants and Christmas cards to congregants who are in care facilities. Rev Hennessey organized small choir groups for joyful caroling to several shut-ins.

There will be an opening for the Serving Coco position next year so any of you who may want to do more serving and coordinating in this position, please contact Rev. Hennessey or Peggie Linville.

Our next Called to Care meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2021. Hurrah for 2021!

The Serving committee Co-Cos have gathered names of members who are willing to pick up groceries or necessary items during this quarantine period. For contact purpose:

Kim Healey 605-0080
Peggie Linville 515-4110
Pilgrim Church 243-3121

The Buddy System is still ongoing during this isolation period. For anyone wishing to connect with another member via phone on a regular basis, please contact Kim Healey at 605-0080, and leave a message. Those who have Buddies please continue your calls. They are appreciated.

The Serving Co-cos want to be sure all are aware of instacart.com, a nationwide service that provides home grocery delivery here in Redding. An additional internet site provides pre assembled delivered meals for 30 minute preparation. In your search bar go to every plate. Meals are reasonable and healthy.

Prayer chain requests are always available through:

Jean Cannon
227-3274 | jeancannon@frontiernet.net
Barbara Cross
221-3809 | eugjoy@gmail.com

Peggie Linville and Kim Healey, Pilgrim Serving Co-cos

Worship

Rev. Heather Hennessey will be stepping down from her Worship Co-coordinator position as of January 1, and Sara Hoxie will be stepping in. Diane Hepburn will be continuing as Worship Co-co, and she and Sara will be a great team. Thank you, Sara and Diane!

Worship Co-co's are responsible for lots of details during "normal" times. They find team leaders for liturgists, sound operators and ushers; they make sure communion is provided on a monthly basis; they decorate the sanctuary and chancel as seasons change; and they help the pastor plan and provide special services throughout the year.

All of that has been a little different this past year, but normal times will return one of these months, so Sara and Diane will be busy once again.

As Heather continues to serve as your Bridge Pastor, she looks forward to working with Sara and Diane to bring Pilgrims the best possible worship services during and beyond the pandemic. By the time a new, Settled Pastor joins us, we should all be getting back to more familiar ways to be together and to worship a loving and ever present God.

— Heather Hennessey & Diane Hepburn, Pilgrim Worship Co-Cos

Connecting

THANK YOU to all Pilgrims and friends who assisted with Connecting efforts in 2020. Even though this was indeed an odd year, Pilgrims still managed to reach out to our community through SEACM, FaithWorks, Hope Van breakfasts, our 5 for 5 special offerings (OCWM, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund), and our French Country Soup for the Soul sale. We are going to try something dangerous here and list all who helped this year. If—heaven forbid—we leave someone out, let us know, and we will give you special billing next month. So with a gulp and a prayer, here are the helpers we have from our lists:

Alice Beier	Jorianna Egolf-Gibbens	Nancy Milton
Ed Beier	Liam Egolf-Gibbens	Brian Mock
John Cerro	Karen Foss	Stephanie Mock
Elizabeth Cifu Shuster	Teri Hartley	Eliam Mock
Tyler Cifu Shuster	Kit Harvey	Dave Modesto
George Cole	Randy Haynes	Diane Modesto
Sue Crandell	Kim Healey	Donna Nelson
Barbara Cross	Heather Hennessey	Allen O'Brien
Bob Cross	Diane Hepburn	Astrid Rainsford
John Crowe	Glenn Hoxie	Kara Rainsford
Pam Crowe	Bill Justice	Kevin Rainsford
Sheri Curtis	Paula Kahler	Lucia Rainsford

Andrea Egolf-Gibbens
Amielle Egolf -Gibbens
John Egolf-Gibbens

Karen Lawrence
Peggie Linville
Lori McNeill

Tyler Rainsford
Victor Sokolow
Larry Solberg
Tara Swanson

Thanks also to all who completed their 2021 Time & Talent sheets. We are putting together the teams for all the Co-cos covering the various areas of church life. If you did not fill one out, there is still time—there is always time—to let us know how you would like to express your faith. There is an opportunity for everyone – no matter what your level of comfort is. If you have to stay at home or if you are raring to paint the church or anything in between, there is a place for you. Extra Time & Talent sheets are available at church, or you can call one of us, and we can send you one.

2021 looks like a year when we will be resuming efforts that became side-tracked last March. We plan to look at ways to address climate change on our micro-level that will feed into greater positive change. We plan to continue with projects we have been doing and planning, and we are open to new ideas.

Thank you for all you've done and here's to a new year of reaching out.

Happy New Year!
Pam Crowe and Sue Crandell

Learning

Pilgrims are always blessed by the insights and inspiration we receive from Sunday morning worship services organized by our Bridge Minister, Heather, and our Worship CoCos. Our children (and adults) are particularly spoken to by Kaarin. We thank her for her stories and lessons.

Pilgrim's Book Club enjoyed rereading "The Little Prince" in December and we thank Nancy Milton for leading that discussion. The book club also read and discussed our UCC Advent-Christmastide Devotional, "Draw Near". We will begin Bishop Michael Curry's book "Love is the Way" in January. Please join us on zoom, Thursdays at 3pm.



Pilgrim Youth and chaperones had an excellent outdoor learning experience with Kit Harvey in late December. Kit, our resident Eagle expert, led the group on a hike around Turtle Bay/ Hwy44 to view Liberty and Guardian's nest on a beautiful winter afternoon. We were able to see the nest from several vantage points, and as luck would have it, we did spot Guardian high atop a Cypress Tree (a new perch according to Kit!). Besides seeing this majestic bird, the kids just revelled in seeing each other in person! Thanks again to Kit for this great learning adventure. We welcome ideas for other learning opportunities so please contact us.

Scott Hepburn & Paula Kahler, Pilgrim Learning CoCos

Landscape

The thermometer is dropping and the Crepe Myrtles are calling! It's time to prune all 28 of those pretty shrubs around the church. Come help if you can on Saturday, January 9th. We'll work from 9 until noon (or earlier if we have a good crew). I have it on good authority that donuts and coffee will be provided, and maybe even milk for the kids. Bring your own clippers and/or loppers. We'll provide the green bins!

Joys & Concerns

What a joy for Pilgrims to have had Karen Stanley, a retired Disciple pastor from Eureka preach for the 4 Sundays of Advent. Thanks to Heather and Karen for organizing this.

We are grateful to Daniel Hill, Ken's son, who has been hired to film the online worship services. Having this weekly worship helps all of us during these times of isolation.

Glenn Hoxie gave an inspiring talk about the importance of stewardship through pledging. Glenn chose to give his talk outdoors on a lovely day at their property.

During Advent Kaarin Brooke read meaningful stories of the Christmas Season. As our children's teacher, she has a gift of knowing how to communicate with Pilgrim Children. THANK YOU, Kaarin!

Kit Harvey, our resident eagle consultant, shared her time with the children of Pilgrim by taking them on a tour at Turtle Bay to see the nest and sightings of the eagle pair who made their home in Redding.

Our caroling singers (John and Pam Crowe, Donna Nelson, Nancy Milton, and Heather Hennessey) made spirits bright for our homebound Pilgrims. We appreciate their time and talent.

Donna and Donald Herrick have become regulars for our coffee hour. After searching for a church, they found Pilgrim online and wish to become part of the church family. They have 3 children: Hannah, 17; Justice, 15; and Jericho, 10. The past two weeks we have been introduced to an adorable ball of black and white fur, a new puppy giving joy to their household.

Scott Hepburn is delighted to learn that his grandson and a great granddaughter will be moving to Anderson from Tennessee. Good news for 2021.

Nancy Milton and her daughter, Megan Owens from Murrietta, CA joined the Dumbarton Methodist Church choir of Wash. D.C. in remotely singing the absolutely beautiful anthem, "I Believe". We were able to hear and see it on the Dec. 20th online worship service.

What birds are getting a lot of attention in December? Answer: The Snow Geese at the Colusa Wild Life Refuge. Karin and Robb Lightfoot, Kit Harvey, and Bob and Barbara Cross were among some from Redding to “oh and ah” at the abundance of Snow Geese and other waterfowl in December.

Dan Scollon’s brother, Doug, resides at the Lorenz Hotel in downtown Redding. He recently took on some leadership roles there. He chose to place the poinsettia given to him from Pilgrim Church in the lobby for all the residents to enjoy.

Chico State University’s December “Pinning of the Nurses” ceremony made Karin Lightfoot, head of the Nursing dept., very proud as several were pinned and many received their MA degrees.

Tara and Warren Swanson enjoyed zoom time with their daughter Danika’s family in Montreal Canada. A recent visit found them making almond bark together via zoom. A video from Canada was a highlight for Christmas when their granddaughters were interviewed about each other and spoke about fun times with their grandparents.

Voted “Golfer of the year” by Kit Harvey’s Women’s golf group, Kit was all smiles as she was telling of her status and receipt of many trophies.

The McNeills have been hiding their talents but a recent worship revealed the musical skills of Cora (age 8), who opened a recent worship service with the playing of Jingle Bells on the grand piano in the sanctuary. To close the service, Lori’s sister Rheba (in Barstow), sang and accompanied herself with “We Three Kings,” a lovely rendition. We also learned that Lori is practicing to sing for a future worship time.

The Christmas Eve service at Pilgrim featured Nancy Dutton Hill and Deborah Devine singing as well as several from Pilgrim and All Saints Episcopal Church reading scriptures. “Lessons and Carols,” which were sung by choir members from both churches, was also available online. Both services were inspirational for the Christmas Season.

It is with much sadness that we share the news that our Jim Carr has passed away in Dec. after being hospitalized with the COVID virus. Jim has been a longtime member of Pilgrim. One of his joys—and ours—was having him sing in the choir. This kind man always was ready to volunteer whenever there was a need. Our prayers are with Mary, his wife, and his family as they cope with their grief.

Mary Hammer is now recovering from back surgery at Marquis Assisted Living. While there, she tested positive for COVID and had to be isolated. Prayers are with her as she copes with her husband, Mel's, death in November and while she recovers from her health challenges.

Claudine Cupples is back at her residence at St. Lorenz Assisted Living after being hospitalized with COVID. She was able to join in the Zoom time with the Book Study group on Dec. 17th and 31st.

After a short illness Pete Anderson, a member of Pilgrim for several years passed away on Dec. 18th. Pete was active in the Redding Community and will be missed. Before his first wife, Frances, died, she was a well known fiddle player in Northern California. Our prayers go out to his family.

Brooke, Heather Hennessey's daughter, an airline flight attendant and single mother of two sons, is quite ill with the COVID virus in Las Vegas. She is not hospitalized, so Heather took the week after Christmas to go to Las Vegas to help the family.

Prayers for Peggie Linville who is in Sacramento as this is being written for medical tests at Sutter Medical Center to determine the best treatment for her heart problems.

Concerns are with Rachel and Aaron Hatch while Aaron's grandfather, Ray Ollila, is in hospice care. Ray is at the end of his 96-year old life.

Micki Forell's daughter, Dora Swanson, has been released from the hospital in Redding after having tests to diagnose an illness. She is now at home with family helping with care.

Sue Crandell's sister, who lives in Alamo, has been severely ill. She is now home after 2 weeks in the hospital. The situation is of great concern to Sue. The Serving Cocos, Peggie Linville and Kim Healey, would like to hear from you if you know of someone who may need extra help. This COVID time could be finding many pilgrims in need of extra care but are hesitant to ask.

There are several in our midst who may feel isolated due to their living conditions and would appreciate cards or calls. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers: Deanie Coon, Claudine Cupples, Paul Frye, Caroline Kennedy.

Submitted by Barbara Cross

Building & Finance Report

Our newly resurfaced upper parking lot was put to good use in early December as the Shasta High School Madrigal group hosted a drive-through Madrigal Dinner over four nights, Dec. 9-12. It was obviously different from other years, but we're sure those who attended enjoyed the event and we are pleased that our church could help the students have a madrigal experience, 2020 style.

With the help of Nick Andersen, a burned-out light bulb was replaced on the light standard at the corner of the education wing, thereby fully illuminating the stairs leading down to the back entrance to the church.

We are getting quotes from two companies for the church's liability insurance which is due for renewal in January.

Our sharp-eyed custodian, Randy Haynes, continues to spot minor things in need of repair or touch-up.

On the financial side, Bob Cross, our financial secretary, reports that 64 pledges have come in for 2021 totaling \$125,912. The finance team will be meeting this month to work out a budget for presentation to the congregation at a (virtual) annual meeting in February.

John Crowe & Bill Justice, Pilgrim Building & Finance Co-Cos

Pastor Search Team

The Pastor Search Team started up again two months ago. It's been exciting and humbling to get back together. On the team now are Kaarin Brooke, Diane Campbell, Pam Crowe, Sue Crandell, Andrea Gibbens, Kit Harvey, Sara Hoxie, Rob Lightfoot, Chris McNeill, and Tara Swanson. Because we completed the last search process so recently we were able to update the Local Church Profile over the past two months. It was submitted to the conference for approval and they have posted it to the UCC National Opportunities website. We hope to start receiving pastor profiles next month. Please feel free to contact anyone on the team with any questions or concerns. We look forward to sharing good news of our progress soon.

Financial Secretary's Report

Description	Budget	Projected Income 11 Months	Actual Income 11 Months	Income Variance 11 Months
Pledges	135,000	123,750	122,310	-1,440
Loose Plate	13,000	11,913	13,979	2,066
Sub-Total	148,000	135,663	136,289	626
Building Use	15,000	13,750	6,160	-7,590
Other	5,100	0	0	
Lot Rent	*5,100	5,100	5,100	0
TOTAL	168,100	154,513	147,549	-6,964

* Other Income: * \$5,100 for the Parking Lot Rental was received on Oct 16

The income for the first 11 months for Pledges, Loose Plate & Building use was \$147,549 compared to our projected 11 months income of \$154,513 shows a variance to the negative side of \$-6,964.

Income from Pledges and Loose Plate are actually slightly above our projected income for the first 11 months by \$626. The loss of income from building use is the reason for the total deficit of \$-6,964 even though we did receive \$2,000 from the Shasta H.S. Madrigal use of the church building in Nov and Dec.

With an income total for 11 months (\$147,549 plus an estimated income for December of \$9,000) we estimate the our year end total income will be around \$156,549. Our Budgeted income for 2020 was \$168,100, so it appears we may have a year end variance of- \$11,551.

Robert Cross, Financial Secretary