



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I trust you will find time for relaxation and renewal during these days of Christmastide. As the song goes, there are indeed twelve days in the liturgical celebration of Christmas . . . so don't take the tree down too early! Savor the joy that Christ's Spirit brings to your life.*

*On New Year's morning we have a guest preacher . . . our very own Candy Shoop! Candy has worked in Florida for the past six months, organizing and managing hurricane relief mission trips. In fact she works for the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ! Her message is entitled "Disaster, Consider, Compassion" and she has given it to several churches in Florida. Our worship service that morning will be at 9:00 am.*

*As we venture into 2006 our congregation is strong and healthy. We have a full slate of committee volunteers and an approved (and well supported) budget. Please know that whatever comes in your life, our ministry will be hear to offer you support, comfort and guidance.*

*Many Blessings!*

### **Regular Schedules Resume**

#### **Sunday, January 8th (Communion)**

8:00 & 10:30 Worship (nursery)

1st-6th Graders -9:00

Adult Choir & Classes -9:15

Nursery 8 - 11:30

Preschool (2 yr-K) classes - follow

Children's Time during the 10:30 service

#### **Confirmation Returns**

**Wednesday, January 4th - 6:30-8:00**



### **"Season Of Epiphany" Begins January 6th**

**A**fter the 12 days of Christmas, we move into the Church season called Epiphany.

Epiphany signifies a transition from the birth of Jesus to the manifestation of Christ in our lives. Epiphany day (January 6th) marks the adoration of the Magi who visited the Christ child in Bethlehem so many years ago. Throughout the season of Epiphany, we will study the teachings of Jesus and the calling of his disciples as we seek to deepen our faith journey by allowing the light of Christ to shine in us.

#### **ATTENTION CHAIRPERSONS AND DEACONS! ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**

Annual Reports for year 2005 will be due in the church office **Friday, January 6th**. Committee chair people are asked to provide a summary of 2005 accomplishments and an outline of goals for 2006. Annual Reports will be available in January. Thanks!

### **2006 Envelopes and 2005 Offerings**

Please pick up your new stewardship envelopes next time you are at church. They are expensive to mail, so if you can drop a friend's off – that would be helpful too!

2006 envelopes are for the operating budget only. Building Fund reminder notices (other than weekly), will include a return envelope, and will be mailed out on whatever schedule you have requested.

**Finally, the Finance team appreciates your efforts to submit 2005 offerings before December 31st, but will credit all gifts with 2005 postmarks to your 2005 statement. Thanks for your generous support of our ministries.**



## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

# "Jesus - Death Destroyer"

Wednesday Evenings

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>

6:45 - 7:45 P.M.

Ages 4 Year Old - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Look for the Sign-up in the Coming Weeks

Volunteers to staff "Jesus - Death Destroyer." We have openings in the following areas: the depot opening and closing, drama center, games center, storytelling center, art center, and travel guides. Even though the program is five weeks long, you only have to prepare one lesson that might have to be repeated depending on how many children sign up. The depot leader, however, has to prepare a different lesson for each. Please contact Tracey Van Ryzin if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

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## Children's Offering Envelopes

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will no longer be using children's offering envelopes. Instead, we will have the children place their offering in the basket in their classrooms. We are making this change partly to save money and because not many children are using the envelopes. Please feel free to contact Tracey Van Ryzin or a member of the Children's Ministry Committee if you have any questions.



## YOUTH CORNER

### PCY News

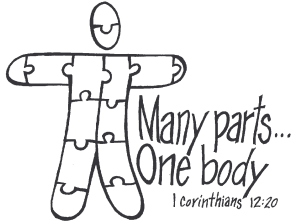
On Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> PCY members will be meeting at church from 6:30-8:00 for a Pizza Party. Among other topics, more details regarding the Dinner and Talent Show will be hammered out!

The Annual PCY talent show is scheduled for Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> with dinner at 5:00 and the show beginning at 6:00. Remember, student participation is mandatory for those planning to be a part of the mission trip. Parents...this is an opportunity to fulfill your commitment to help out with one of the meal fund raisers. Please contact Kris Sauer or Jeff Holmes if you're available to help out or sign up on the sheet on the Youth bulletin board at church.

**THANKS!** The cookie sale was a big success! A big thank-you to all those who helped out with baking and decorating, those who donated cookies, and all of you who bought our finished product! We made over \$900, a cookie sale record, which will all go toward the summer mission trip.

### Confirmation News

Confirmation classes will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Wednesday in January.



## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Your Church Council, Committee Chairpersons and Deacons will participate in an overnight Leadership Retreat **January 13-14** at Pilgrim Center at Green Lake.

Our goal is to affirm our congregation's core values, share strategies for effective leadership and set vision for 2006. We plan to depart on the **Friday, January 13 at 5:30**. Donation of \$25 each requested.



## Men's Breakfast Group to Begin in January

Attention all men of the church. Our first breakfast of the New Year is scheduled for **January 21, 2006, at 7:30 am**.

The Men's Breakfast Group generally meets on the second Saturday of each month from September through May. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex for the January meeting. We are asking that you bring along an object that you can share a story with the group. It can be something from your work, hobby, family history, etc. We did this program last year and it turned out to be very interesting for everyone.

## Mission News



### Stamps for the Sisters

The Order of St. Francis (OSF) Sisters collect used postage stamps. The money that the sisters receive helps the retirement fund for the Sisters. Here is how you can help: Cut stamps from your letters OR bring the entire envelope. You can place stamps or envelopes in the box marked "Stamps for the Sisters" which will be located by the Missions bulletin board through January. We can help recycle AND contribute to the Sisters. Thank you for helping with this project. Contact Mary Beuscher if you have questions.

### Hygiene Kits for Afghanistan

Thanks to all who donated hygiene items for the kits that will be assembled and delivered by U.S. military volunteers to orphans in Afghanistan. Thanks also to Linda Utz who made the beautiful quilt. The lucky winner of the quilt was Dorothy Overbye. We are fortunate to have some very generous dentists, dental assistants and enthusiastic shoppers who contributed "bulk" items. We collected \$245 and items for MANY kits. Thanks also to Sandra Destrampe for coordinating the project and Mary Beuscher for all her hard work.

### Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting – January 5

There will be an informational meeting for those going to Costa Rica on **January 5 at 7 p.m.** at church. Contact Heidi Jenkins if you have questions.

## Congregational Care News

### Hope Ministers

Hope Ministers training will be **Sunday, January 8 and Sunday, January 15**. Sandwiches will be available at 11:30 and our training session will begin at 12 noon. We hope to be finished both days by 2:00 or 2:30 p.m. Contact Heidi Jenkins if you have questions.



## **ACTIVITIES - COMMUNITY - ENTERTAINMENT NEWS**

### **BINGO Night – January 27**

Mark your calendars! A sign up and more information will be posted on the bulletin board soon! Contact Peggy Mayer if you have questions.

### **Fun Setters**

We are planning a trip to see the Wisconsin Singers at the Cedarburg PAC on March 3. In late April we will offer a “behind the scenes” tour of Miller Park. Sign ups will be posted soon.

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**DINNER WITH FRIENDS....and more!** The lovely holiday meal provided by Karen Maihofer provided a group of older adults with a fun chance to enjoy each other’s company at church. Several participants commented that they would enjoy meeting as a group again. Let’s do it! If you are retired and would like a chance to join with your friends at Pilgrim on a monthly basis please consider coming to an initial meeting of this new group on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Narthex. We will have refreshments and a brief devotional and talk about how members would like to see this group take shape. Playing cards or other games? Bible study? Come with your ideas for activities (and a name) for this group! If you have a friend or neighbor from outside the church who might enjoy coming, please bring them along. If you have questions please talk to Ellen Knier.

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## **WOMEN’S JOURNEY**

The Women’s Journey will meet on **Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00pm at the home of Rachel Gutridge. All women of the church are invited to join in the fellowship.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

“**THE HUMOR OF JESUS**” – Please join us for a compelling 4 week examination of “*The Humor of Jesus*” beginning **January 8<sup>th</sup>** during education hour. Rev. Mary Davies will lead this discussion of how we sometimes tend to miss the full meaning of scriptural passages because we forget that Jesus sometimes spoke with humor. In fact, there are over 30 examples in the scriptures of Jesus’ use of humor! The class will meet in the Conference Room/Library. Hope to see you there!

### **Tackling the Tough Issues...Same Sex Relationships**

An ongoing controversy in American society today revolves around same-sex partnerships. Questions regarding equal rights and sacred blessing are common topics of debate. On Sunday evening, **February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**, Pastor Franz will lead a discussion on this ever-evolving topic. Participants will consider various perspectives and have the opportunity to share insights. This conversation is NOT about policy-making for our congregation, rather an opportunity to express thoughts and feeling related to this issue. Historically the UCC has shown openness toward gay and lesbian people, advocating for equality and acceptance, but we recognize this is a complicated issue and that people within our tradition have various opinions. Please come to the discussion with an open heart.

If this conversational format works well and there is sufficient interest future “Tackling the Tough Issues” topics might include war, salvation, or end-of-life questions.

**PILGRIM BOOKCLUB?** . . Like to read? Enjoy lively discussion? Would you be interested in joining a monthly book club? Pilgrim book club members could read books (chosen by the group) that challenge us with new ideas, ethical/moral issues, different faiths or beliefs, and spiritual growth. If you think you might like to participate (and being a scholar certainly isn’t required!), please sign up in the Narthex. If there is sufficient interest we’ll plan an initial meeting to determine the direction we’d like to see this group go! Talk to Ellen if you have any questions or ideas.

### **Adult Bible Study Group to begin New 6-Week Series in February**

This short series will focus on "Commitment" and developing a deeper devotion to our faith. We'll revisit the Sermon on the Mount to discover practical ways for assessing our present level of faith commitment and setting goals for growth. The study will identify events in our lives that act as barriers to commitments we seek to achieve. This study session will begin on **Sunday, February 12**, and is held between the two services. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

### ***Pilgrim Thanks ...***

- ... Karen Maihofer, for the splendid “*Dinner with Friends*” she generously provided for a number of our seniors. Also to Sue Harvey, Kathy Ellenbecker, Jenifer Schulz, Mary Lou & Lyle Fries, Barry Guttridge and Pastor Franz for helping with the evening.
- ... Kris Sauer, Jeff Holmes & all others who helped this year’s Christmas Cookie Sale – the biggest ever!
- ... Fred & Linda Yopps, who purchased a new wireless mic for our music program. Many thanks!
- ... to the Voyager class, Colette Gergens, Mike Pfeiffer, church school teachers, Children’s Ministries, staff, parents & congregation, for a wonderful Christmas program.
- ... the Carolers who spread Christmas cheer and treats to some special Pilgrim members and to Alice Eickstedt for providing refreshments.
- ... Linda Utz, who crafted the beautiful Afghanistan raffle quilt.

### ***In Our Prayers ...***

- ... Russ Selbo, who had successful surgery and is already out and about.
- ... Florence Hammen, who has moved in with her daughter LaVerne (and Don) Johnson.
- ... Marc, friend of the Schowalter’s and Christopher, friend of the Meinecke’s both of whom are recovering from heart attacks.
- ... the brother of Bert Faase, Tom, who suffered a massive heart attack.
- ... Steve Schafer, recovering from a nasty case of the Shingles.
- ... Dianna Ogburn, who is recovering from a work injury.
- ... Rachel Goldberg, who underwent gall bladder surgery.
- ... Jane, sister-in-law of the Eick’s, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- ... Toby Steckel, who cut his hand and needed 18 stitches.
- ... Ellen Jackson, who had a successful lumpectomy and is now following up with radiation treatments.
- ... Jim Kaumheimer, who is awaiting test results and is also mourning the loss of a dear friend, Dick.
- ... Kristen Monroe, who is recovering from a severely burned arm.
- ... Joe McCaughey, father of Sue Meinecke, who had successful lung surgery.
- ... Dave Harvey’s Mom, who had recently been hospitalized
- ... Paul Kanios, who continues with radiation.
- ... Marilynn Martin, who finished a round of chemotherapy and is done for now!
- ... Dale Schroeder, son of Darrel & Dorothy, had a successful angioplasty – twenty years after bypass surgery and all looks well!
- ... Becky Fries’ grandmother Dorothy, recovering at Cedar Springs.
- ... Mary Beuscher’s Aunt Alice, also convalescing at Cedar Springs.
- ... Ellen Knier’s grandfather, Lawrence, who is quite ill.
- ... John TeStrake, who had cataract surgery and Phyllis, who landed in the hospital for half-a-day due to an acute allergic reaction.
- ... Sam Bauereis, who had surgery in November and anticipates shoulder surgery in the near future. (Continued)
- ... Betty Ferris, who resides at Cedar Springs ... just down the hall from their home

in Cedar Gardens.

... the mother of Jane Bachman (a new friend to Pilgrim), who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

... Chris Kline’s grandma Audrey, who will undergo heart valve surgery.

### ***Our Prayers and Sympathies are extend to ...***

- ... the Welzien, Mursch and Francek families., following the death of their mother and grandmother, Yvonne Welzien.
- ... Cory Fries, Jacob Godejohn and Alex Goldberg, whose schoolmate tragically drowned after falling through the ice.
- ... Sam Bauereis, whose grandmother died.
- ... the Harvey family following the death of Sue’s dad, Thomas Blake.

### ***Congratulations and God’s Blessings to:***

- ... Dave & Tabby Meier, who celebrate the birth of their second son, Joshua David, born December 9<sup>th</sup>. He measured 20 inches and weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz.
- ... Carol Wessels, new to our congregation, along with her son, Ken, who was recently featured on the Dr. Phil show.
- ... John & Sue Menecke, who are expecting!
- ... Diane Weber, who is now a great-grandmother!
- ... Noel Charpentier & Mark Destrampe, who were recently engaged!
- ... Marianne & Jeremy Stilb, who are expecting!

## ***Thank You***

*Dear Pilgrim Family,*

*We would like to thank everyone for the cards, well wishes, warm and comfy blanket that Pastor Franz brought to Mom, and the carolers that came to the house with delicious cookies. It brought so much joy to Mom, Donnie and I. It was comforting to know we have so many friends praying for us.*

*God Bless,*

*Donny, LaVerne & Mom*

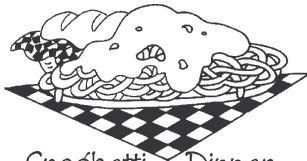
*Dear Karen and all of the wonderful people who helped with the wonderful meal served tonight.*

*You all made me feel so special. The food – fabulous; the Wait Staff – supper; the entertainment – absolutely fantastic.*

*What a lovely way to spend an evening. I know we all went home with Joy in our hearts!*

*Thanks again, Hugs to all,*

*Joyce Hannemann*



Spaghetti ~ Dinner

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AN EVENING OF FUN  
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!**

**PCY Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show!**

**Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 Dinner - 6:00 Show**

**\$7 per adult, \$5 for children under 12.**

**Maximum \$25 per family.**

**Tickets can be purchased at the door.**

**All proceeds will go towards the summer mission trip.**



**Kids smile in  
the same language  
... God's**

*Dear Pastor Rigert,*

*Thank you very much for allowing us to use the beautiful hall at Pilgrim for our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Many of our volunteers commented on how nice and roomy it was, and how beautiful Pilgrim Church is.*

*I truly appreciate your generosity to Interfaith Caregivers.*

*Thank you,*

*Valerie Lacey*

### **PARENTS OF RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!**

Pilgrim Church would like to make occasional contact with our recent graduates but, in many cases, we don't have current addresses. Please drop of your young adult's current mailing address in Ellen's box at church, or email to [eknier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eknier@sbcglobal.net). Thanks!

### **Energy Saving Ideas**

If every family changed one daily used light bulb to "energy saving fluorescent," we could save 50 billion dollars in energy use.

Jan Svoboda, Environmental Coordinator

**RECYCLE**





## Council Highlights December 13, 2005

Warner led us in a worship moment. Our three new council members joined us tonight so we all told a little about ourselves.

Leslie reported that revenues were \$30,713.18 and expenses were \$26,273.88. There were no unusual expenses this month.

Franz met with Heidi and Ellen to plan the Leadership Retreat on January 13, 2006 at Pilgrim Center. The Annual Meeting went well. A loan has been secured with Ozaukee Bank at 7.25% for seven years. This is a very good offer considering the rising rates, and will give us much flexibility. Geoff Nauth is doing the paperwork. The copy machine broke but has been fixed. Because of the age of the machine and difficulty getting parts, the Council will look into the lease or purchase of a new machine. Koehler Insurance Company came up with a good policy to provide our church's hazard insurance. There are still a few details to work out and Franz will have Dale Nauta and Al Pfeiffer go over the policy before we sign. The policy has built-in replacement cost and inflation value.

The Council will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 7pm.

### THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE



Thanks to all who have completed service in our ministry areas!

Doug Bader	Sue Harvey	Kris Sauer
Leslie Chapman	Julie Jozowski	Randy Schulz
Linda Eakin	Larry Metcalf	Jenifer Schulz
Lyle Fries	Ed Proctor	Bill Sinner
Mary Lou Fries	Kathy Roberts	Jean Weber
Ray Goldberg		

## Christmas Poinsettias

### Family:

Laura Bloedorn  
 Scott, Sue., Anna & Mitchell Bartlein  
 Donald Deetjen  
 Mark Destrampe & Noelle Charpentier  
 Tim Dearth/Marilyn Hadler  
 Alice Eickstedt  
 Mike & Ellen Fischer  
 Hackett family  
 Brian & Sue Heniadis  
 Hilkert & Thompson families  
 Jack & Mary Hockinson

Diane & Bob Jenkins  
 Jim, Pat, Laura & Lindsey Klatt  
 Chris Kline  
 Diane Kornetzke & family  
 Cornell & Janet Kunz  
 Larry & Barry Lange and Jill Timmerman  
 Deb Lushine  
 Karen & Glenn Maihofer  
 Matter Family  
 Monroe Family

Dale & Diane Nauta  
 Geoff Nauth family  
 Vern & Dorthy Overbye  
 Paegelow/Sutinen Families  
 Butch & Nola Paegelow  
 Sheldon & Penny Papenfus

Ed & Carol Proctor

John & Karen Reiter  
 Dale & Linda Rudd  
 Dale, Linda Rudd's family

Scott, Julie, Shannon, Brent, Amber Schowalter  
 Great Grandma Arlene Schlenvogt

Chad & Jenny Schlenvogt  
 Shannon & Stephenie Streiff- Process

Candy Shoop  
 John & Phyllis TeStrake  
 Kirk Torian  
 Pat Tumanic  
 The Steckel family

Jeff & Debbie Wimmer

### In Honor or Memory Of:

In memory of *Shirley Klippel*; mother.  
 In memory of *Tom Hennings*; Sue's brother.

In memory of *Judith Rust Deetjen*; mother.  
 In honor of *the Destrampe and Charpentier families*.

In honor of *their five grandchildren and one on the way!*  
 In memory of *Eva Jane Eickstedt*; daughter.

In honor of *our five daughters & our parents*.  
 In honor of *treasured family and friends*.

In honor of *Mahala and Dave*; their children.  
 In memory of *Rudy Hilkert*; husband and father.

In memory of *Anthony & Edna Lindemann, John & Dorothy Hockinson*; parents.

In memory of *Felipe Gonzalez*; Heidi Jenkin's father.  
 In memory of *Tom Henning*; Pat's brother.

In memory of *Nancy Dean, Jordan Lepgold & Joseph Lepgold*  
 In memory of *Ray*; husband, father & grandpa.

In memory of *Julie Allen*; friend.

In memory of *Lillian Lange*; mother, grandmother and special friend.

In honor of *Chris, Jenny & Ben*; her children.

In memory of *their deceased parents*.

In memory of *Roman Matter*; father/grandfather/father-in-law.

In honor of *Henry & Mildred Wickert & Donald Engle*; parents & grandparents.

In memory of *Henry & Ruth Nauta and, Lyman Diercks*; parents.

In honor of *Randy Pekoll*; brother, uncle.

In honor of *their children and grandchildren*.

In honor of *their mother, Mildred Wegner, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 12/20*.

In honor of *Kate, Erin, Amanda & Emily*; granddaughters.

In memory of *Alex & Vi Gease and Earl & Marcelite Papenfus*; parents.

In memory of *John & Caroline Slies, Edwin & Elsie Proctor*; parents.

In honor of *Sept. marriage of daughter Jodi to Jody Schubert*.

In memory of *Earl Schlenvogt & Murray Rudd*; fathers & grandfather.

In memory of *June C. Schowalter*; mother, grandmother.

In honor of *Alena Beth Schlenvogt, born 8/17/05*

In honor of *Alena Beth*; their precious baby girl.

In memory of *our family and friends who have gone on to eternal life*.

In memory of *her special angels, Hazel Selbo and Helen Vogt*.

In honor of *their family*.

In memory of *her parents*.

In honor of *Nicholas, Jacob & Hunter*; grandchildren.

In memory of *Bob Slaymaker & Vivian Steckel*; father of Sue, mother of Bob.

In memory of *Joey Ellerbrock*; Debbie's mom

**Scripture Readers for January**

<b><u>8:00</u></b>		<b><u>10:30</u></b>	
1	Mary Beuscher	1	Joel Schowalter
8	Al Pfeiffer	8	Donna Van Ryzin
15	Ed Proctor	15	Scott Lone
22	-----	22	Chris Kline
29	Al Pfeiffer	29	-----

**January Sunday Treats**

- 1 OPEN
- 8 OPEN
- 15 OPEN
- 22 Vern & Dorothy Overbye
- 29 OPEN



- For:** Ruth Stange      **From:** Beth Hembel
- For:** Shirley Klippel      **From:** Wayne VerVelde
- For:** Elroy Wessel      **From:** Eric & Louise Lusty

**Flowers and Bulletins for January**

<b><u>Flowers</u></b>		<b><u>Bulletins</u></b>	
<b>1</b>	Ron & Donna Van Ryzin	<b>1</b>	Maihofer's
<b>8</b>	Mary Johnson	<b>8</b>	Maihofer's
<b>15</b>	-----	<b>15</b>	Maihofer's
<b>22</b>	Vern & Dorothy Overbye	<b>22</b>	Maihofer's
<b>29</b>	Randy & Debra Neu	<b>29</b>	Maihofer's

**Please call the office to indicate what you would like printed in the bulletin**



**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Nov</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Cash Balance - Begin. of Period	\$ 24,279	\$ 45,042
General Fund Cash Receipts	23,802	232,728
Building Fund Cash Receipts	6,978	105,893
Cash Disbursements	(26,164)	(262,767)
Loan Payments	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(97,000)</u>
Cash Balance - Nov, 30, 2005	\$23,895	\$ 23,895

**OFFICE HOURS**

Franz Rigert - 8:30 - 5:00 Tuesday - Friday  
 Saturday mornings and Evenings by appointment  
Diane Weber - 8:30 -12:00 Tuesday-Friday  
Heidi Jenkins - 9:00 -12:30 Tuesday & Thursday  
Ellen Knier - 9:30-1:30 Tuesday & Friday  
 Office Phone 377-2640 - FAX 377-4187  
 e-mail -- pilgrim ucc@sbcglobal.net  
 WEB page - www.pilgrimuccgrafton.org

**Please submit February articles by January 23rd**