

The Courier

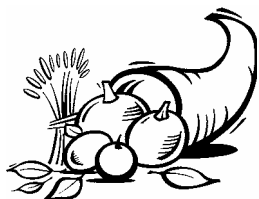
Semi-monthly Newsletter

October 29, 2007

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PLANS



Thank You, God!

November 4

Rev. Felix E. Ortiz-Cotto
Guest Preacher
Communion
Food Pantry Collection

November 11

“Budgeting: 101”
Luke 21:1-4

November 18

“New Creation”
Isaiah 65:17-25

November 25

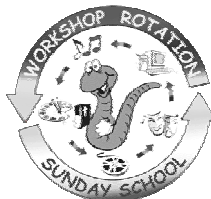
“Thank You Jesus!”
Colossians 1:11-20

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 20

The Melrose Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00PM in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church. If you would like to sing in the choir for that service please let Rev. O'Connor know by November 4th.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



Things are going strong on the Church School front! During our group time downstairs, we try to include as many parts of the worship service as we can. We collect an offering, sing the Doxology, pray, and read scripture passages.

We are so pleased at the number of volunteers we have had this fall participating in Rotation Workshop. The teachers and shepherds are what keep this program up and running. We are now seeking additional volunteers to staff our next workshop. You can help by signing up to be a teacher or a shepherd. Please contact MaryAnn @ barrissfamily@comcast.net if you are interested in helping out. You can also stop by the Church School Office too!

✠ **Teachers** are given lesson plans to follow, gather any materials needed for the lesson, and make a three week commitment to teach.

✠ **Shepherds** assist the teacher in any way needed, and make a three week

commitment, sometimes splitting the role with another shepherd.

Our next Rotation Workshop Story is:

The Parable of the Talents

November 11, 18 & 25

Teachers are needed for the following workshops

Divine Dramatics ~ leading the group in a charades type game.

Thou Art ~ making coat of arms showing each child's talents.

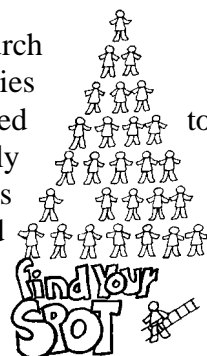
Shepherds are need for the following groups;

Pre-school & Kindergarten;
Grades 1 & 2; Grades 3, 4 & 5

Highlands Christmas Fair Food Table

The Church School families are being asked to help supply culinary treats for the Food Table at this year's Christmas Fair,

November 17. This is a great opportunity to discuss with your child how events such as the Fair and Auction support MHCC so that the Church in turn can reach out and help



others. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!

You may bake/cook whatever you fancy! Please be sure to label your contribution, especially noting "nuts or no nuts." Goods should be dropped off at the Church on Friday, November 16th. Here are some ideas:

🍎 Brownies, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, candies, muffins, breads, jams, jellies, dressings, casseroles, sauces, quiches, stews, trail mix or salads.

Other help is also needed to get the table up and going. Please contact MaryAnn Barriss via email at barrissfamily@comcast.net if you can help with any of the following tasks:

- ☞ Making phone calls to solicit food donations.
- ☞ Gather needed supplies such as baggies, lunch bags, and grocery bags.
- ☞ Price goods prior to Fair.
- ☞ Sell goods during the fair (2 hour shifts.)
- ☞ Sell leftover goods on Sunday, November 18 during coffee hour.



Alternative giving is an increasing phenomenon nationwide.

Even so, year after year of trying to come up

with meaningful and attractive gifts for friends and relatives can test the creativity of

anyone. A look at some of the alternative gifts on the market this year could be an answer to the gifting dilemma.

If it's meaning plus novelty that you're looking for, you could be the first person on your block to purchase a water buffalo or a share of one at \$200 or \$50 respectively. Here's a description of the gift from global humanitarian agency *Church World Service's* print or online "Best Gift Catalog."

"These four-legged tractors provide a struggling farm family with the power to significantly increase their food production, as well as a strong back to carry produce to market. A water buffalo translates into increased income, better health, and the chance for children to go to school. This big animal makes an even bigger difference!"

The water buffalo may be the biggest but it's not the only unusual or life-changing gift offered.

The free *Church World Service* catalog contains gifts starting at \$10, and ranging from emergency items like blankets and hygiene kits for disaster victims, to educational gifts like literacy training for rural women in Africa, or chickens to help improve the diet and income of struggling farm families, like those in Indonesia whose incomes were wiped out by the tsunami.

So, if you're already cringing at the thought of buying yet another gift that may end up tucked away in a dresser drawer, consider the buffalo, the blankets or any of the other

life-changing gifts offered as alternatives.

Best Gift catalogs and Alternative Holiday Market packets can be ordered at 1-(800) 297-1516 or viewed online at www.cwsbestgifts.org. Gifts may be ordered by mail, telephone or online. Gift cards describing the work of *Church World Service* can be printed out online, or can be provided with each gift of \$10 or more.

Now celebrating 60 years of service, *Church World Service* is the relief, development and refugee assistance agency supported in part by 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations in the United States. For six decades, the global humanitarian agency has been working to help end hunger and poverty.

MHCC To Welcome Guest Preacher on November 4th

The Rev. Felix Ortiz-Cotto, Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean Office of the Common Global Ministries Board at the National Office of the UCC, will be our guest preacher. Rev. Ortiz-Cotto was appointed to this position in 2003 after serving for 18 years as a missionary in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our church was singled out and asked to host Rev. Otiz-Cotto because of our strong commitment to OCWM and doing mission work locally, nationally and globally. What an honor!

Rev. Ortiz-Cotto will be one of the two featured speakers at the MBA fall meeting that will be held at 2:00PM on the 4th at

the Eliot Congregational Church in Roxbury.

Please make a point of coming to the service on November 4 to welcome our guest preacher and to hear about the work that the UCC does through its Wider Church Ministries.



The family of Ken Kenworthy who died October 16 and whose life was celebrated here at MHCC on October 24.

The family of Virginia Graf who died on October 14 and whose memorial service will be here at MHCC at 11AM on November 3 with a collation to follow in Fellowship Hall.



This past Sunday, October 21, marked my fourth Sunday here at MHCC and I want to report to you that so far I am enjoying my time here. Thankfully your faces are becoming much more familiar to me and I am able to connect more and more names and faces.

That being said, I am very aware that there are many in the church I have yet to meet or who I have only met in passing on a Sunday morning. If this describes YOU, then please make a point of either stopping by the office during the week to say hello and get acquainted or set up another time to do so. I really do want to get to know you all.

Please know that my door is open and you are welcome to come

by anytime I am in the office. Stop by, visit for a bit, tell me what you like about the church, tell me what you wish were different, tell me the story of your faith journey...you get the idea.

You can also reach me by email. My church email address is:

peggy@mhcc-ucc.org

See you in church!

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Peggy O'Connor

LUNCH BUNCH



November 14 @ 12:30 p.m.
Danversport Yacht Club
161 Elliot Street, Danvers

Please contact Ed Vickery at 781.665.5971 regarding reservations and/or transportation. Everyone welcome!

MBA Fall Meeting



Planning on coming to the fall meeting? Members of MHCC have a very good reason to do so this year. During the worship service the Rev. Wendy Vander Hart's new ministry as the acting area minister will be celebrated and she and her ministry will be blessed by all those in attendance. Don't be left out! Come and help us celebrate Wendy and her new ministry. At the same time you can learn more about the mission opportunities through the

national UCC offices of Wider Church Ministries from its Executive Minister, Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte and our guest preacher that morning, the Rev. Felix Ortiz-Cotto. Plus, the women of the Eliot Church will be offering a traditional church supper following it all!

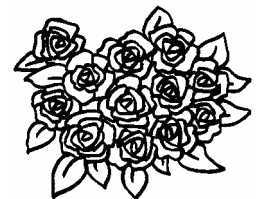
ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY OPPORTUNITIES



Bible Study every Monday at 11:00 a.m. except Church celebrated holidays.

Labyrinth Walk every second Wednesday of the month. Please note the next Labyrinth Walk has been changed to November 7th due to a scheduling conflict.

FLOWER MEMORIAL OCTOBER



The flowers that grace the altar are given

October 7 –to warmly welcome our Interim Minister, the Reverend Peggy O'Connor.

October 14 –in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Leving and Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Leving, Jr.

October 21 – in celebration of the new bountiful fall season.

October 28 – in loving memory of all those members of MHCC that have passed on before us.

NEXT COURIER DEADLINE

Friday, November 2nd at noon.

✂ - - - cut & save - - -



Rotation Workshop
Story: Parable of the Talents

Date	November 11	November 18	November 25
Thou Art	Grades 2, 3, & 4	Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8	Pre-school, Kindergarten Grade 1
Our Daily Bread	Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8	Pre-school, Kindergarten Grade 1	Grades 2, 3, & 4
Divine Dramatics	Pre-school, Kindergarten Grade 1	Grades 2, 3, & 4	Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8

STAFF

Church Office: 781-665-4200

Ministers: People of the church!

Pastor:

Rev. Peggy O'Connor 781-665-4200

Emergency 781-444-3299

E-mail: Pastor@mhcc-ucc.org

Christian Education:

MaryAnn Barriss 781-665-3594

Laura Hume 781-665-9136

Music Director:

Harold Prenatt 781-932-9375

High School Youth Leaders:

John Everett 781-665-2409

Liz Faughnan 781-438-3346

Middle School Youth Leader:

Jim Dunne 617-395-4386

Children of Note Choir Director:

Lara Ruoss 479-871-3931

Highlands Nursery School Director:

Sue McGrath 781-665-4202

Sexton: John Angel

Parish Administrator: Kelly Fung

Fax # (call first) 781-665-4201

WEB SITE: www.mhcc-ucc.org