

# The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter

October 6, 2008

Melrose  
Highlands  
Congregational  
Church

[www.mhcc-ucc.org](http://www.mhcc-ucc.org)

## ELECTRONIC TITHING



Are you so busy these days that you forget to write your stewardship check? Have you ever gotten to church and realized you left it at home? Do you wish you had a personal valet to take care of these details? If so, this is the article for you...

I recently looked into having my bank pay all of my monthly, quarterly and annual bills and other financial commitments. What I discovered is that it is simple to do and I don't even have to remember to buy stamps!

If you are willing to try internet banking the steps are easy:

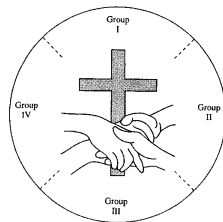
- ✓ Using the internet you will need to sign-up as an on-line user with your bank. This usually requires your account number, creating a password and setting up some security questions.
- ✓ After your access has been established you would set up your payees: name, address, account number, etc.
- ✓ Once the church is a payee on your account, you can schedule automatic payments, which can be weekly, monthly, semi-annually, etc.

✓ On the day that you chose, the bank will generate a check from your account to the church as you have indicated. The bank will mail it directly to the church. And you can worry about one less thing.

Many banks offer on-line banking free of charge. If you are interested in looking at on-line banking but need some help setting up your own automatic bill pay please let me know and I will be happy to help.

Submitted by Anne Moore

## WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS



The Women's Guild is alive and well here at MHCC! The circle groups are active, meeting at the Church for lunch or making plans to enjoy fellowship over a dinner out.

☞ Group I held their first fall meeting in the kitchen of the Church, enjoying lunch together and then sorting through all the jewelry for the Rummage Sale.

☞ Group II is planning the well know Lobster Luncheon for the October "Spooktacular" Harvest Fair.

☞ Group IV is planning a dinner out at Bertucci's on

October 9th to discuss planning the cookie table for the Fair and to just relax and chit chat.

The first large event sponsored by the Guild was the fall Rummage Sale. Although we missed getting the Sale into the Sept. Courier, there were ads in the local newspapers and flyers posted all over Melrose. It was a successful community outreach event generating \$750 plus! The proceeds of the sale go to various mission programs designated by the Guild and listed in the Guild yearbook.

The next large event sponsored by the Guild is the Fair. OOOH!!! Please call Dianne Cheney to let her know how you may help out.

If you would like to learn more about the Women's Guild or are interested in starting up your own circle group of friends, please call Joan Dunne at 781.665.5696 or find me after Church on any Sunday.

Submitted by Joan Dunne

## WHO'S NEW AT MHCC?



The Board of Christian Education would like to announce that we have a new Christian Education Director!

We welcome Patti Sevier, who will be leading our Rotation

Workshop Program. Patti lives in Stoneham and is excited about the opportunity to work with the young members of our congregation. Patti has varied work experiences to help prepare her for this new role; she has worked in the Woburn School system and as an administrative assistant. Please make a point of stopping by the Sunday School and introducing yourself, or better yet find her at coffee hour! As with all visitors or new members of our community it will take time for Patti to learn all our names, let's remember our name tags to make it easier!

**ROTATION WORKSHOP**



On October 19<sup>th</sup> the Story of Jonah & the Whale will be in the Rotation Workshop Program. Some of you may remember the whale from the first time this story was taught!

We are in need of shepherds for this rotation. All adults of the Church are encouraged to participate in this year's Rotation Workshop. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts in an area of your liking; workshops include art, drama, music, cooking, or movie. This rotation is only a 3 week rotation; typically there is a four week commitment. We will be looking for teachers and shepherds for our next story. Lesson plans are provided for this fun and rewarding experience.

Listed below are the dates and stories that we will cover this fall. Please Email me at [psevwohsaug@yahoo.com](mailto:psevwohsaug@yahoo.com) and let me know how you would like

to be a part of educating the children of our community.

Upcoming Workshops:  
 ♦ Lydia November 16, 23, 30  
 Looking forward to a great school year!

Submitted by Patti Sevier

**THANKING GOD FOR YOU!**

Dear MHCC Friends:

God has blessed you with a talent for caring about others and spreading happiness. Thank you for sharing this wonderful gift with those around you. Reginald Rasanayagam's wife, Rosalind, and their children, Edrige, Rickman, Livingstone and Emily.

NOTE: Reggie's life was remembered in a service on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Scarborough Ontario.



**MHCC IS A GREAT PLACE!**

And we want to make sure that everyone in Melrose and the surrounding communities knows it! We also want more people to visit the church. We know that they will love the way it makes them feel and that many will want to return.

So, we are forming a task force to come up with ideas for spreading the news about MHCC and making visitors feel even more welcome.

Want to help? See Anne Moore any Sunday after church. OR email her at [anne.carlson@comcast.net](mailto:anne.carlson@comcast.net) OR call her at home at 781.665.0375. And thank you for considering this important ministry of, for, and to MHCC.

**NEXT COURIER DEADLINE**  
**Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

**Roman Anthony Pecci**, son of Meredith and Matthew Pecci,



was baptized on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Roman is the grandson of Judith & Anthony Pecci and little brother

to Anna and Mason.



**Nancy Chappel** is at home dealing with an infection in her knee.

**Virginia Coleman** is at home following surgery.

**Barbara Kenworthy** is recovering from a recent fall.

**Georgia Blow** who continues to cope with respiratory problems.



The UCC has begun an ad campaign to increase awareness of our

denomination. It features a little girl saying "Here's the church, here's the steeple, open it up and see all the people." It then focuses on the message: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

The point of the campaign is to bring people into our churches. My first reaction to this is: May it be so. My second one is: Are we ready? If people come, are we ready to answer their questions about the UCC?

Just in case someone is not up to snuff on UCC history, this

past Sunday I began a sermon series about the UCC. Here is a short version of the 1<sup>st</sup> sermon.

The story of the UCC begins many centuries before it was an idea. When Christianity was born it was a single entity and it stayed that way until 1054 when it split into two branches: Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox. It continued on that way for 500 years more. Then Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin started to push the Roman Catholic Ch to discontinue some of its more modern practices. They wanted it to return to a more authentic form of Christianity. Pivotal demands were that Jesus should be the head of the church, not the Pope, and the Bible should be available in secular languages.

Much to Rome's surprise these ideas spread throughout Europe, despite their efforts to squash them and the Protestant Reformation was born. Reformed churches under the leadership of Calvin, began in Switzerland and spread into Germany, Greece, Hungary, & Holland. The services were stripped of pomp & communion's bread & wine became remembrances of Christ's presence rather than the body & blood of Christ. The reformed church, in time, would become one of the 4 European arms of our denomination.

Another arm took form after the 30 Year War. Europe was a wilderness after the war. Slowly life resumed...homes, churches, and businesses were rebuilt, but there was little hope or happiness...even in churches. Then Pietism was born. A theology of the heart that emphasized the love of God and a personal relationship with Jesus, in time Pietism became the

German Evangelical Ch., another of our religious roots.

Two other roots of the UCC took form in England. After King Henry VIII broke with the Church in Rome, he established the Church of England. Reformers were ecstatic but then Henry died & Mary Tudor, a Roman Catholic, took the throne & decreed that everyone had to return to her faith or face execution. In response 800 dissenters fled to Europe where they studied under John Calvin.

Back in England, Elizabeth replaced Mary on the throne and re-established the Anglican Church. Hearing of this, the dissenters returned to England and began advocating for even more reforms in the church. Called Puritans by their adversaries, they wanted to purify the church. They saw religious ritual as idolatrous and wanted to rid services of all pomp. But no matter what changes Elizabeth or her successor James I made, many of the Puritans were not satisfied. In the end a group of them separated from the church, earning them the name, Separatists. They were persecuted and some of their leaders were executed. In response, in 1607, a group of the Separatists fled England and ended up in Holland.

The story of the Separatists should end here as they and their faith were welcomed in Holland. But after a few decades the church leaders worried that the children were no longer speaking English much and some adults were marrying Danes! So they pulled up stakes again and returned to England in hopes of finding their way to the New World. In that moment the separatists became the

Pilgrims...another arm of our ancestry.

These are the four earliest roots of our denomination... the Reformed Church, the German Evangelical Church, the Puritans, and the Pilgrims. Each was formed by people seeking to strip the church of its accumulated pomp and hierarchy and to return it to the simplicity of the early church.

I will continue this series about our roots through April. By then we should all be able to talk about our denomination with ease.

See you in church! Peace and blessings,

Rev. Peggy O'Connor



The next date for our church to provide dinner for the Bread of Life Feeding Ministry in Malden is **Tuesday, October 28**. We buy, prepare, and serve the dinner for that evening. The dinner is served at St Paul's Episcopal Parish, 26 Washington Street in Malden. Anne Gilbert is the coordinator for this dinner and she is looking for volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up. Two volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen beginning at 4:00 p.m., then an additional four volunteers are needed beginning at about 5:15 p.m.

If you are able to help out, please speak with Anne at church or contact her by phone at 781. 665.5064 or by email at [annegilbert45@comcast.net](mailto:annegilbert45@comcast.net).

Thank you.

Submitted by Anne Gilbert



**FEATHER  
IN YOUR  
CAP**

Awarded to Joan Dunne and her many helpers for all the hard work putting together the fall Rummage Sale! Calls pour in for weeks as attendees anxiously await this event. Congratulations on another successful Rummage Sale.



**PLEASE JOIN US!!**

**First Congregational Church  
October 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

For the opening reception of the exhibit: *In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families*: diversity of family life in 21<sup>st</sup> century America.

✂ - - cut - - and - - save - -

Rotation Workshop				
Story: Jonah & the Whale				
Date	October 19	October 26	November 2	November 9
<b>Thou Art</b>	Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8	Grades 2, 3 & 4	Communion Sunday Children of Note & Jonah Activity Pre-School - Grades 4	Pre-School - Grade 1
<b>Divine Dramatics</b>	Grades 2, 3 & 4	Pre-School - Grade 1		Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8
<b>Holy Word Theatre</b>	Pre-School - Grade 1	Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8	Call to Worship Grades 5-8	Grades 2, 3 & 4

All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. The photos will be exhibited for two weeks. Please contact FCC for

additional viewing times. First Congregational is located at 121 West Foster Street.

