

The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter

October 12, 2007

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org

Communion Class



Third grade children and parents are invited to participate in communion class, on October 28th, following worship. The children will participate in communion and be presented with their Bible on Sunday November 4th. Any child, older than grade 3, who has not participated in communion class previously, is welcome and encouraged to attend.

What are the Memorial Flowers on the Altar Every Sunday?



The flowers that grace our altar each Sunday are given in memory of a loved one by a member of the congregation. This is a special way to honor a deceased family member, remind the congregation of a departed member, or remember a special friend.

Perhaps you have a memorial you would like to make on the anniversary of the birthday of someone dear to you, or at a

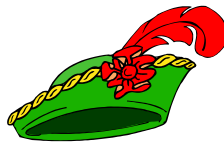
time of year that has particular meaning for you. While many of our memorial flowers are given on a perennial basis, there are Sundays available and they are listed below.

The floral arrangements cost \$40 per memorial. To sign up for an annual memorial, or to arrange a one time dedication, please contact the Deacon's Flower Committee by writing to Jim Lyles, 15 Ashland Street, Melrose MA 02176, or by calling Jim at (781)-662-0622.

Flower Memorials Sundays Available:

- ☞ October: last
- ☞ November: 3rd & last
- ☞ December: last
- ☞ January: 2nd
- ☞ February: 1st
- ☞ March: last
- ☞ April: last
- ☞ June: last

FEATHER IN YOUR CAP



Awarded to Steve Calabro, Dianne & Ron Cheney, Gail Durland, Kevin Erb, Brad Hutchinson, Alex Johnston, David Markt and Rich Olsen for spending all day Saturday, October 6th from 9:00AM until 4:30PM working on Bonnie's Memorial Garden.

Busy hands were cutting sod, preparing beds, digging soil, planting shrubs, laying soaker hoses and placing mulch. It was a lot of physical work but all left with feeling very rewarded when looking at the results.

There is lots more work to be done before the garden is dedicated in Bonnie Bowden's memory and the shrubs in David Cheney's memory but what a great start!

Property Management also thanks Joanne Paul for all her design work and continuing guidance on the landscape.

DON'T FORGET!!



The City Mission Society of Boston is collecting used books for literacy

programs and for their book store.

So clean out your bookcases and your kid's bookcases too. They will take all kinds!

Books can be dropped off at the Church through noon on Thursday October 18th.

NEXT COURIER DEADLINE

Friday, October 19th at noon.



Ken Kenworthy who has just moved to the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers.

Joyce Nixon recovering from a minor procedure.

Ann Graves recently hospitalized.

Buy A Pumpkin And Help A Sister Church!



The Second Congregational Church, UCC in Winchester has asked that we announce their 4th Annual Pumpkin Patch. They have 1500 pumpkins of all sizes, from tennis ball to BIG, as well as a variety of gourds for sale from now through Halloween.

The patch is open from 2:00-7:30 p.m. Monday – Friday; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturdays; and 12:00-5:00 p.m. on Sundays. This is the church’s main fundraiser for the year and they give portions to the Winchester Middle School for their community service program as well as Habitat for Humanity.

So drive the 12 miles from here to there, have fun walking around the patch and picking out the perfect pumpkin and help another UCC church.



It has been hard for me to believe that it was October last Sunday. The weather until then was so hot that I had to get a fan out. But Sunday brought us cooler temperatures.

When things are out of sync; not the way we think they should be; not the way we anticipated they would be; we tend to be unsure of what to make of it. I was reminded of this by the warm weather and by the advance promotion for the book *Come Be My Light*, which is a collection of letters that Mother Teresa wrote to her spiritual advisors over the years.

The founder of the Missionaries of Charity, an order of Roman Catholic nuns who served the poorest of the poor, Mother Teresa was known during her lifetime as a woman of deep and profound faith. Her order of nuns fed, cared for and buried the people who lived on the streets of Calcutta, people the rest of that society shunned. She was held up as the embodiment of Christian values. But now, with the publication of this book, we know that this woman of faith, who inspired people worldwide with her caring and love, struggled with doubts about her faith throughout her ministry.

Apparently Teresa felt close to God early in her life but after she began the Missionaries of Charity she had a sense of divine absence that only lifted occasionally. As she cared for others, giving them hope, she herself felt hopeless.

When news of the content of these letters broke the news media predicted Teresa’s following would

fall apart and that it would doom the effort to have her made a saint. But just the opposite has happened.

Teresa’s struggle with faith makes her just like most of us, I suspect. We aspire to a deep faith and a close connection with God but our lives, families, jobs, the traffic on 128, and so many other things work at keeping us focused on more temporal matters. And so, I find Teresa’s life to be truly inspirational.

Believing when things don’t seem to be right is hard. For Teresa to remain faithful in the face of her doubts makes her life and her faith all the more miraculous in my book. And it makes her an inspiration that we can all admire.

As we head into shorter days and longer nights, perhaps Teresa can become a guiding light for us. Helping us to be faithful in our lives despite all the pressures that would pull us away from faith.

Peace and Blessings,
Peggy

BAPTISM

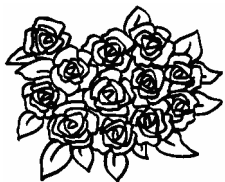
Addison Mia Carvill, daughter of

Lynemarie and Michael Carvill, was baptized on September 30th. Addison is the granddaughter



of Diane Bucknill, Derek Bucknill and Doris and Wesley Carvill. Big sister is Caleigh Jean and great-grandparents are Ken and Polly Walker. Congratulations and blessings!

**FLOWER MEMORIAL
SEPTEMBER**



The flowers that grace the altar
are given

September 9 - in celebration for the start of a new MHCC year. A warm 'Welcome Back' to all!

September 16 - in loving memory of all those members of MHCC that have passed on before us.

September 23 - in loving memory of Malcom Lacy.

September 30 - Mr. & Mrs. Gardner W. Oakes

LIBRARY



Now that fall is here, welcome back to the Library. We have a diverse collection of books including fiction, travel, biography and a great selection of children's books.

The latest books, including "Einstein" by Walter Isaacson, are located on the center post.

Check out the Library soon.

**ADULT EDUCATION
AND SPIRITUALITY
OPPORTUNITIES**



Bible Study - Every Monday at 11:00 a.m. (except holidays.)

LabyrinthWalk - @ 7:30 p.m.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED:
Special Mission Offering**

This Sunday, October 14, we will have a collection for *Neighbors in Need* (NIN). What is NIN? Through *Neighbors in Need*, the UCC expresses a commitment to justice and compassion in the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of the offering undergirds the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), including much-needed financial support for 20 American Indian congregations in the UCC. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice advocacy and direct service projects such as just-peace programs and community grants.

How are *Neighbors in Need* funds shared with others? Two-thirds of *Neighbors in Need* supports program initiatives and direct grants offered by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Small but essential grants are made to congregations and organizations engaged in community organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct service. Although grants are made to address a wide range of justice priorities, a significant portion of these grants are made to address issues of hunger and poverty.

One-third of *Neighbors in Need* supports the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), which is the voice for American Indians in the UCC. CAIM supports the work of local churches and their pastors; encourages youth and young adults; supports persons preparing for Christian ministry; empowers American Indians who are members of non-Indian congregations; and advocates for

justice on issues affecting American Indian life.


What American Indian tribes or nations are supported? Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches with the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Ho-Cak in the Dakotas, Wisconsin, and Northern Nebraska. Today, there are 19 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban inter-tribal congregation in MN. In addition, there are more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations scattered in nearly every conference in the UCC. Your contributions to *Neighbors in Need* directly impact the UCC's ability to support American Indian ministries & congregations.

STAFF

Church Office: 781-665-4200
Ministers: People of the church!
Pastor:
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 Emergency 781-444-3299
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 MaryAnn Barriss 781-665-3594
 Laura Hume 781-665-9136
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 Harold Prenatt 781-932-9375
High School Youth Leaders:
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 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

Rotation Workshop Schedule

Story: Joseph In Egypt

	October 14	October 21	October 28	November 4
Thou Art	Middle School	PreSchool Kindergarten	Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3, 4 & 5
Our Daily Bread	Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3, 4 & 5	PreSchool Kindergarten	Middle School
Holy Word Theatre	PreSchool Kindergarten	Middle School	Grades 3, 4 & 5	Grades 1 & 2
Divine Dramatics	Grades 3, 4 & 5	Grades 1 & 2	<i>Middle School will attend worship</i>	PreSchool Kindergarten

We make a living by what we get and make a life by what we give.