

The Courier

Newsletter

June 12, 2009

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org



Pastoral Search Committee Selects a Candidate

If you are on the MHCC mailing list you should have received, this week, our brochure introducing the Rev. Beth Horne as our candidate for Pastor. If you haven't received it and would like to get one, please stop by or call the church office. We are excited to announce Rev. Horne as our unanimous choice! We were comforted by her warmth, impressed by her pastoral gifts, knowledge, and preparedness, and inspired by her enthusiasm for doing ministry among us. We all felt she had much relevant experience to share with us and would "hit the ground running"! We hope that all will come to meet her and join us in the special events of June 27 and 28 (see separate box).

Although we hadn't expected to come to a decision on the day that we did, the timing has worked out favorably, as we were able to announce at the Annual Meeting that we had selected a candidate, and as we will be able now to meet her and make our decision together before the start

of the summer "break". In our report at the Annual Meeting we informed the congregation that we had experienced limitations because of the compensation package we were offering, and that we didn't think the compensation offered in the annual budget was enough. We had "lost" some candidates we liked because of their concerns about compensation. A healthy conversation including many voices at the Annual Meeting ended with a vote to authorize us to offer an increased package to the candidate we had selected. In what can only be described as a faithful and inspired moment, a show of hands indicated support for individual giving of funds needed for the increase authorized – a letter outlining that special giving opportunity will go out next week. Please watch for it and respond ASAP!!!

Meanwhile, there are other details to be covered by the PSC between now and the 28th. We are working with both the Trustees and Deacons to put together the Letter of Call, (the contractual agreement between Pastor and Congregation) and we are preparing the job description/covenant for the position, both of which would be signed following a favorable vote on the 28th. As indicated in the brochure, the congregation will have a chance to meet informally

with Rev. Horne on the 27th, and then to hear her preach on the 28th. Following the worship service, Rev. Horne will be escorted to a room away from the sanctuary, and Moderator Anne Gilbert will convene the Congregational Meeting, during which a written ballot vote will be taken to support or not our selection for Pastor. If all goes as we hope it will, Rev. Horne would start with us at the beginning of October (she needs 90 days notice in her present interim position.) We hope all members will be present for this very *congregational* event on June 28. We also hope all will find this an exciting time in the life of our church!



Change is in the air with the presentation of a candidate to be our new Pastor by the Pastoral Search Committee. I look forward to working with everyone in the MHCC community in the coming year to move our Church forward in the direction(s) that we discern God is calling us to grow. Please be in touch with me about any ideas, suggestions, concerns that you have. "With God, all things are possible."

Anne Gilbert

WALK FOR HUNGER REPORT



Thank you to all who contributed to our team MHCC WALKERS for *Project Bread's Walk for Hunger* on May 3. Our team (goal was to raise \$1400, and we are pleased to report that we raised \$1425! It was a perfect day for the 20 mile walk, and your dollars made the trek worthwhile. John Egan, Anne Gilbert and Carol Rosseland.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN OUTREACH?



BOCO (short for the Board of Christian Outreach) is seeking a few more members to help us this year... we are hoping to get away from collecting donations (except for the food pantry, feeding ministry and Christmas gifts) to more hands-on outreach in the community.

We also plan to help with the creative fundraising efforts for the 2010 New Orleans mission trip (think flamingos and Mardi Gras!).

We have ideas and enthusiasm, but we could use

some help! If you feel inspired to pitch in with us, please contact any of us... Valerie Bowden, Matt Lind, Carol Rosseland, Faith Sherlock and Meg Wingerath.

Bread of Life FEEDING MINISTRY JUNE 23

Our next date to feed the hungry through the *Bread of Life* at St. Paul's Church in Malden is Tuesday, June 23. Needed are donations to pay for the food and workers to help prepare and serve the meal. Workers are mostly needed between 4:45 pm and 7:15 pm. If you can help in either capacity, or need more information, please contact this month's coordinator, Carol Rosseland, 781-665-6350 or eganross1@comcast.net.



A hearty thank-you to the members of the Congregation who made voluntary contributions toward defraying the costs of our instrumentalists' fees for the May 17 spring musical service, at which our choirs performed the Vivaldi *Gloria*. This was a satisfying and memorable project for the senior choir, soloists and *Choir Light*.

Our singers, joined by the church staff, will gather at Belmont Hill School on June 18 at 6:00 p.m. for their annual "end of season" party".

The choirs look forward to resuming their ministry in the fall

and to a new pastorate for the Church. Interested newcomers of all ages would find a warm welcome, so consider joining us to raise your voice in God's praise!

Harold Prenatt

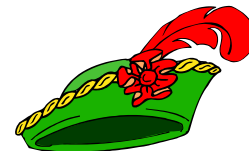


New Orleans Mission Trip

We are planning a brief informational meeting at the church on Wednesday, June 17th at 7:00 p.m.

If any adult is interested in this trip please give us a call at 781.662.8308. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you, Paul Lind & Susan Worrall

FEATHER IN YOUR CAP



Awarded to "Angels & Deacons Movers" a/k/a **Paul Lind** and **Angel** for trekking to Boston and retrieving "new" filing cabinets for the Church Office; and to **Brad Hutchinson Real Estate** for the use of their moving truck.

Also awarded to **Keren Hummer** and **Arnold Carlson** for the beautiful cranberry, swivel chairs that are now located around the building. We are so lucky to be the beneficiaries of such generosity and thoughtfulness.

Thank to all for taking such good care of our needs!

FROM THE PASTOR

Your new moderator, Anne Gilbert, has written in her column that “*change is in the air*” and truer words were never written. The Search Committee is ready to present to you their unanimous choice for the next settled Pastor of this Church. You should have received a mailing to that effect and of course the front page of this newsletter is dedicated to this news.

Please read the brochure the Search Committee sent to you as well as the materials that the Stewardship Committee will be sending out very soon. Then, be sure to come to church on June 28th to see Rev. Horne, hear her preach and experience the worship service that she will put together for you.

At the conclusion of the service all the members of the church who are present will have the opportunity to vote on whether to extend a call to Rev. Horne. This is a time honored way of calling a pastor in Congregational churches. It is also one of the most important moments in the life of a church. So please make every effort to be here. The more members who are present the more the decision represents the entire church. Don't be left out! Come and be a part of the history of this church!

Also of note, we are fast approaching the Melrose Union Services. The last scheduled service at MHCC will be the candidating Sunday, June 28th. For the following ten Sundays a

union service will be held in one of the participating churches and all are invited to attend. The schedule for these services is elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope to see you at Green Street on July 12 and the Methodist Church on July 26.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Peggy



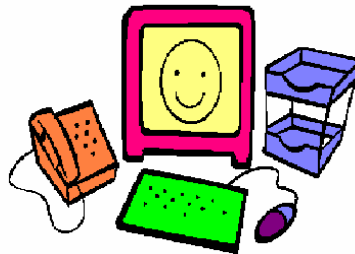
ARIANA MARY FAJARDO

was baptized on May 31st, daughter of Wendy & Hans Fajardo; grandchild of Alan and Maryann Leach and Ruben and Lia Fajardo

CAMERON ROBERT LEBLANC

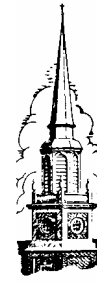
was baptized on May 31st, son of Brianna Bryson and Corey LeBlanc, Jr. and grandchild of Robert and Donna Bryson.

We welcome these children and share in their joy!



SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS JUNE 29th – SEPTEMBER 8th

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



STEEPLE AND CHIMES

The Steeple will be lit and the Chimes will be played the week of June 14 in loving memory of **Laura and Philip Greene.**



Arnold Carlson...dealing with a cancer diagnosis and arthritis in his knees.

Vi Vienot...recuperating from surgery at home and dealing with her cancer diagnosis.

Yvonne Kittredge...struggling to quit smoking.

MAY MEMORIAL



The flowers that grace the altar are given in loving memory of

May 3 – Jovina Banda, mother of Michele Tivnan and all other mothers who have passed away, donated by the Tivnan Family.

May 10 – Julia & Al Ward.

May 17 – Henry and Vera Cheney, parents of David, Ronnie and Gail.

May 24 – Ellen Duggan in honor of her birthday, from the Wingeraths.

May 31 - Joan Ann Lyles and in loving memory of Mary and Alfred Tonks, and Robert L. Tonks.



Summer Worship Schedule

Green Street Baptist

July 5 - Rev. Charles Hartman
July 12 - Rev. Peggy O'Connor

First United Methodist

July 19 - Rev. Lawrence Starr
July 26 - Rev. Peggy O'Connor

First Congregational

Aug. 2 - Rev. Barbara Threet
Aug. 9 - Rev. Barbara Threet

Unitarian Universalist-

Aug. 16 - Rev. Barbara Threet
Aug. 23 - Rev. Charles Hartman

Highlands Congregational-

Aug. 30 - Rev. Barbara Threet
Sept. 6 - Rev. Lawrence Starr

Remember the date!

MHCC CANDIDATING
WEEKEND
JUNE 27-28



Saturday June 27

Reception to meet
Rev. Beth Horne
10 am ~ 12 noon

Sunday, June 28

Worship 10 am

Congregational meeting to follow.

Decluttering



Living
Better
with Less
Stuff

The Melrose Council on Aging will sponsor a free seminar for those considering downsizing to a smaller living space or those who simply want to make their current living spaces more comfortable.

“Decluttering: Living Better with Less Stuff” will be held on June 23, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Milano Senior Center, 201 West Foster St., Melrose.

Registration is free, but participants need to register prior to the session. Attendance is limited to space available. To enroll, please call the Milano Senior Center at 781-662-6886.

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL MEETING

To the Legal Voters of the Melrose Highlands Congregational Church:

You are hereby notified that a Special Meeting of the Melrose Highlands Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary to transact the following business:

1. To vote on the call of a new Senior Minister as proposed by the Pastoral Search Committee.
2. To discuss and vote on a revised balanced budget for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Lois Mackey, Clerk
June 10, 2009