



The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter

August, 2008

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org

UNION SERVICES

10:00 a.m. Worship

Childcare provided.
Light refreshments served
after each service.



First Congregational
121 West Foster Street

August 17: Rev. Threet

Highlands Congregational
355 Franklin Street

August 24: Rev. Hartman

August 31: Rev. Starr

How to Grow our Membership



One of the clearest messages to come out of the Pastoral Search Survey responses is that we want to grow our membership. To that end, the Search Committee enthusiastically supports sending a team from MHCC to a workshop to be held **Saturday, October 4, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** (location to be determined).

This UCC-sponsored "*How to Get More Members for your Congregation*" workshop is "back by popular demand", and is led by Jim Griffith, President of Griffith Coaching.

Jim is one of the leading church consultants in the country working with congregations that are turning around downward membership trends, as well as coaching many new church starts. Jim brings a vast wealth

of experience, having worked with hundreds of congregations in more than 30 denominations.

This workshop is limited to teams of a pastor plus at least 3 lay leaders. This event will be open to the first 30 church teams that register. We have a couple of Search Committee members interested, but we are looking for others to join us – if you feel called to this very important effort, please let Kelly, in the church office, know as soon as possible.



AUGUST 26

Our next date to feed the hungry, through the *Bread of Life* program in Malden, will be **TUESDAY, August 26.**

We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal at St. Paul's Church. Volunteers are most needed between 5:00 and 7:15 PM -- a few can be used earlier. If you can help, please contact this month's coordinator, Carol Rosseland, at 781.665.6350.

SPQQK-tacular

Church Fair

Saturday, October 25

We plan to start the weekend off with a tour through our "Haunted House" sponsored by our Youth Groups and finish with a scary movie in our Holyword Theater.

Return Saturday and spend the day at the Fair with MHCC's famous "Lobster Luncheon" and a visit to the "Pumpkin Patch."

These are a few of the ideas that have been conjured up. We have a lot of hidden talent and just under 3 months to pull this together.

So please come to a brainstorming/planning meeting

on **Thursday, September 10th at 7PM** in the parlor.

A fair in October opens up a lot of possibilities for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas projects.

We need you! Both men and women are encouraged to get involved with this all church event.

- Dianne Cheney

PASTORAL SEARCH NEWS



Thank you to all who have responded to the Pastoral Search Survey, to date. We have been meeting throughout the summer, formulating parts of the Profile (which will go out to describe our church to prospective candidates), using survey information wherever we can. The Profile subjects for which we need more clarification will be part of our Retreat discussions. **SAVE THE DATE** – the retreat is now scheduled for **November 22** (as the MHCC Spooktacular Fair is now scheduled on October 25.)



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Have you ever read a book and wished you had someone with whom to discuss it? Maybe even someone from church? Well, here is your chance!

Six times this year we will gather in the parlor after our Sunday service, at about 11:30 a.m., to discuss a book and eat lunch together. For the first meeting, we will be talking about the best seller, "*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*" by Mitch Albom.



Please bring your lunch for this first meeting. We will decide as a group whether we want to bring brown bag lunches or make it a “pot luck” for the rest of the meetings.

The other books I have in mind are: *“Three Cups of Tea”*, *“The Memory Keeper’s Daughter”*, *“The Shack”*, *“The Worst Hard Time”*, and *“The Gift of the Red Bird”*, but bring your suggestions and we will develop our reading list together.

The dates for the discussions are: **October 5, November 6, January 4, February 22, April 5, and May 31.**

I hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

**REVIVE:
A SPA FOR THE SOUL**

REVIVE, is a mid-week gather that will be aimed at helping those who gather to refresh in both body and soul. For seven Wednesdays, beginning on October 1st, we will gather in the sanctuary for a half hour of music, meditation, poetry, prayer, reflection, and walking the labyrinth...to name just some of the possibilities.

So, stop by on your way home or before you rush off to another meeting. Come and claim a moment of peace; find your center; reconnect with God and each other.

REVIVE will begin on October 1st and be held every week through November 12th. At that time we will evaluate whether to continue through the holidays.

Come and give REVIVE a try. Guaranteed to make a difference!

There is so much happening at the church this summer! As you know, an

Assemblies of God congregation began using our sanctuary, church hall, and Thou Art a few weeks ago. They are thrilled with the church and so happy to be here. At the same time, the Temple has begun moving things into our chapel and the Narthex closet. They will begin worshipping here in October.

In addition I have also added a worship opportunity for our congregation to the church calendar. Beginning on October 5 and running weekly until November 12, there will be a mid-week time to gather, reflect, renew, and REVIVE.

MHCC has always been a house of God but with 3 congregations worshipping here it is becoming a lively house of God!

Personally I am excited about the coming church year and looking forward to it with eager anticipation. But first, I need a rest. August will be my time of vacation...time to read, rest, swim, garden and move? That last item will not be particularly restful but it will simplify by life once it is over.

If you need to contact the church in August, please remember that Kelly is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 – 11:00.

Peace and Blessings to you all.

Rev. Peggy

**SPIRITUALITY
OPPORTUNITIES
THIS FALL**

Bible Study is every Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the Library with Arnold Carlson and is expected to restart October 7.

Labyrinth Walk is held every second Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. The next Labyrinth Walk is August 13th. Please join us!

Prayer Group meets with Peggy every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. Watch for their restart date.

NEW!!! Book Group meets on six separate Sundays over the year, discussing a different book each time. First discussion will be on October 5 and will be on the book, *“The Five People You Meet in Heaven”* by Mitch Albom.

REVIVE: SPA FOR THE SOUL

A mid-week, half-hour, gathering in our sanctuary aimed at helping you to refresh body and soul. It begins October 1 and will continue through November 12. Give it a try!

FEATHER IN YOUR CAP



Awarded to our Angel!!

If you have driven by the church recently you may have noticed Angel busy at work outside and it’s not his tan he’s working on!!

With instruction from Gail Durland and under even the most extreme temperatures Angel has been diligently working to keep up with all that it takes to maintain a healthy garden and large lawn. We have been blessed not only to have Angel but to have had a season in which our plants and lawn have thrived. Thanks Angel for your devotion to this seemingly endless task!