

# The Courier

*Semi-monthly Newsletter*

*September 12, 2007*

**Melrose  
Highlands  
Congregational  
Church**

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

## **MEET PEGGY O'CONNOR** **Interim Pastor** **to start on September 26**

Hello Melrose Highlands Congregational Church. I am looking forward to beginning my time with you as your Interim Minister. Paul Lind and Wendy Vander Hart suggested that I write a brief 'bio' in order to give you an idea of who it is that you have just engaged to minister and guide you as you prepare to look for a new settled minister. So here it is:

I received my MDiv degree from the Boston University School of Theology and have spent the past four years as the Minister of the Second Congregational Church in Winchester. Prior to that I was a psychotherapist in York Maine, where I was a part of a group practice that I helped to form. My MSW is from the University of New England and my undergraduate degree, in theatre, is from the University of Denver in Colorado.

In addition to my work at the Church in Winchester I serve on the Mission and Justice Commission of the Mass. Conference and on the MBA Council. Previously I served on the ONA Task Force for three years and still am connected to

it as one of the two coordinators of the Provincetown Project.

Things that I like to do include: bicycling, hiking (most frequently with my partner and dog in the Fells) and gardening. This summer I learned to boogie board during my vacation and I had so much fun that it may have to move to the top of my list.

My first day at the Church will be Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and I will be with you for worship from the 30<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you in the coming months.

Peace,

Rev. Peggy O'Connor

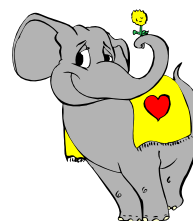
## **MHCC Women's Guild Fall Fellowship Meeting**



All women of the Church are cordially invited to the Fall Fellowship Meeting of the Women's Guild on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The program for the meeting is Crafts and Fellowship.

We will have the opportunity to reconnect after the summer,

as well as to work on crafts for the Highland Christmas Fair. Crafts (and instruction!) will be provided. Also, you are welcome to bring your own craft to work on at the meeting. Non-crafters are encouraged to come and visit. If you have any questions please contact Anne Gilbert by phone at 781.665.5064 or via email at [annegilbert45@comcast.net](mailto:annegilbert45@comcast.net)



## **FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

Friday, September 28

6:00 PM-8:00PM

Saturday, September 29

9:00AM-1:00PM

Set up will be Tuesday & Wednesday 9AM-2PM; Thursday 9AM- 7PM and Friday 9AM – 12 noon.

Volunteers needed to set up and work the sale. For pick up or questions please call Joan Dunne 781.665.5696.

Donations can be dropped off at Church West Highland Avenue entrance beginning on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> (no sooner please.)

Fall Fundraisers  
**Bread of Life**



*Bread of Life* helps feed the hungry and homeless in Malden, Medford, Everett, Melrose, and surrounding towns. Please help support their cause by participating in one or both of these upcoming fundraisers. Invite your friends and neighbors to participate, too.

**Monday, September 24 at 8:00 a.m. The Bread of Life Golf Tournament** tees off at Mount Hood. Cost is \$100 per golfer including green fees, cart, continental breakfast, sit-down luncheon (provided by *Marty's Caterers*) and a gift. Lunch for a non-golfer is \$25. Register by mailing in your check with your address and telephone number to:

Golf Tournament  
 Bread of Life  
 511 Main Street  
 Malden, MA 02148.

For more information call the *Bread of Life* at 781-3870-0404.

**Sunday, October 17th: The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Bread and 5K Run at Pine Banks Park.**

Registration at Noon; Start at 1:00 p.m. Come enjoy food, snacks, live music, face painting and balloons. Bring your kids, bring the dog - enjoy the day! For more information on walking/running, to pledge online or to download a pledge form, please go to [www.thebreadoflifeonline.org/walkforbread.htm](http://www.thebreadoflifeonline.org/walkforbread.htm), or call Gabriella at *Bread of Life* at 781.397.0404.

**LIBRARY NEWS**



We hope you had a good summer and we wish to welcome your back to the library.

You will find many interesting and current books. Recent arrivals include Nicholas Spark's new book titled Dear John as well as Secrets, an inspirational book recommended on the Oprah show. The center post is a place to find the latest editions. We thank the anonymous donors who continue to share their books with us.

**Baptism Celebration**

Christa Mary Thi Van Ardito, daughter of Holly Ardito, was baptized here on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations and blessings!



**LUNCH BUNCH**



**Wednesday, October 10  
 12:30 p.m.**

**CONTINENTAL RESTAURANT**  
 Route 1North  
 Saugus

Please contact Ginny Howe at 781.665.4644 for reservations and/or a ride. Everyone welcome!



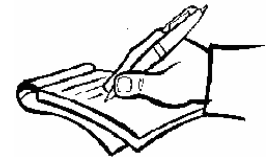
**The family of Bonnie Bowden** who died August 21 and whose life was celebrated here at MHCC on August 28.

**The family of Nancy Watts** who died August 31 and whose life was celebrated in a memorial service at Brooksby Village Chapel.

**Ken Kenworthy** – at the Life Care Center in Stoneham.

**Joyce Nixon** – facing surgery on September 27.

**100,000 SIGNATURES FOR PEACE**



**An invitation from the United Church of Christ Minister and President**

This October, the Rev. John H. Thomas -- the UCC's General Minister and President -- will travel to Washington, DC, along with other church leaders, to call on the US government to end the war in Iraq. He hopes to carry with him the names of 100,000 people for peace, those who stand in solidarity with the UCC's Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War.

If this is of interest to you, you can see the text of the letter on the bulletin board just past the church office or go on-line to [www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/](http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/)

**NEXT COURIER DEADLINE**

**Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at noon.**

**ADULT EDUCATION  
AND SPIRITUALITY  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**Bible Study** – Starting Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> and continuing every Monday @ 11:00 a.m. studying the Gospel of Matthew.

**Labyrinth Walk:** Each second Wednesday monthly @ 7:30 p.m.



What parting words does a Pastor leave?

That would seem to be my task for a final *Courier* column...

I could write about grief – the stages we go through when we grieve a loss. This doubly applies to the MHCC community not only upon my leaving but still feeling the sadness of the death of Bonnie Bowden. The five stages of grief described by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance and everyone engages these stages in a different manner and at a different time. It is important to acknowledge the losses.

I could offer some advice for the future, but the future is yours to move into and God's to lead you through. Even so, the Holy Spirit has well-equipped you with gifts too numerous to mention in this space. Build on your strengths and all will be well.

I can assure you that the leadership of the church and the guidance of the MA Conference will sustain you and reveal new opportunities for growth and health.

I would celebrate what we have shared, ask your forgiveness for mistakes I have made and I will carry with me all I have learned about ministry among you. Any wisdom I take with me as I serve United Church of Christ congregations was planted and nurtured here at MHCC.

I should remind you of three challenges I made in my sermon on September 9: consider the Open and Affirming Process as part of your work during the interim time, read your Bible and listen for the still speaking God, embrace this new thing and discern what God is calling you to.

But mostly, my parting word to you is – **thank you.**

Thank you to our leaders who step forward and welcome “opportunities!” Thank you to the staff who so ably enact the ministry of this church. Thank you to children and youth who make the church the unique community it is in its intergenerational character. Thank you to caretakers, pray-ers, singers, ringers, servers, chaperones, labyrinth-keepers, teachers, visitors, thinkers, workers, ministers, givers, doers, readers, seekers, and believers. You will find it abundantly true that the ministers of the church are the people of the church. For all the ways you have ministered together with me – thank you.

You have my fervent hopes and prayers for continued fruitfulness. May God bless us all.

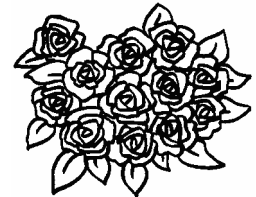
Peace,  
Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

**MA CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL MEETING  
PART TWO: September 29**

The second part of the Massachusetts Conference Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, September 29, 2007, in Worcester. This meeting will

include a business session, 25 workshops, a luncheon with Keynote Speaker Lillian Daniel and the Service of Installation of Conference Minister and President Jim Antal, with UCC General Minister and President John Thomas preaching. To register go to [www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org)

**FLOWER MEMORIAL  
SEPTEMBER**



The flowers that grace the altar are given:

**September 9** - in celebration of 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 Malcolm Lacey

**September 30** – in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gardner W. Oakes

**Children of Note Start Up & Musical Notes**

We welcome Sally Powers as our new alto soloist and section leader in the adult choir. A resident of Everett, Sally studied at Wheaton College for several years, earned a degree in computer science from UMass Boston, and was a voice student of Robert Honeysucker at New England Conservatory, where she performed with the NEC Opera Company. After work at MIT, she became a freelance website designer in 1999, and she has served as a section leader of

the choir at Quincy Point Congregational Church and as cantor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Quincy. We look forward to her musical contribution to the worship life of our Church.

The *Children of Note* will raise their young voices in song again at their first weekly rehearsal on Sunday, September 30 at 9:00 am with their returning director Lara Ruoss, as they prepare to participate in worship services this fall.

New members are most welcome to join, and parents of interested children should contact Lara at 479.871.3931 or by email at lruoss1@yahoo.com



**Pledge envelopes are ready for pick up!**



Celebration in honor of Wendy Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> Following worship

**STAFF**

**Church Office:** 781-665-4200

**Ministers:** People of the church!

**Pastor:**

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart 781-665-4200

Emergency 781-643-6163

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