

# The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter

March 15, 2007

Melrose  
Highlands  
Congregational  
Church

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



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK OFF

Sunday, March 18

You are invited to kick off the "*Raise the Roof - Raise the Spirit*" Capital Campaign this Sunday, March 18!

We will enjoy lunch, briefly hear about the Campaign and send you home with goodies! Please plan to be here and join in the excitement!

Your Capital Campaign Committee: Teri Vienot & Jeff Winey, Co-Chairs; Don Darwin, John Egan, Jim Lyles, Joe McNulty, Anne Moore, and Christine Oteri

**NEXT COURIER DEADLINE**  
Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## PRETTY POTTY FUNDRAISER

Help flush out the  
storm damage in  
New Orleans!



To-date we have eighteen participants signed up for the July New Orleans trip -- a mix of adults, college and high school students. These participants, along with the Board of Christian Outreach, will be working through various measures to raise funds to offset the cost of the trip. Bearing in mind that many homes ravaged by Katrina were left with little more than (or not even) a toilet, our first effort will be a **Pretty Potty Fundraiser**. The damage in New Orleans is a serious matter, but we think raising money to get us there to help doesn't have to be serious!

### How Does It Work?

Beginning soon, you can "toilet" a friend (up to three friends, per donation) for a minimum suggested donation of \$20. Upon receipt of the order form and your donation, a team from the above group will secretly place one of our "*pretty potties*" in the "victim's" front yard. The toilet will be delivered after dusk and will adorn the lawn for no more than 24 hours. A notice will also be placed on the front door explaining the removal and forward ordering information. As

an extra bonus, photo ops on the "throne" (complete with crown and scepter) will be made available by appointment.

### Potty Removal

If you are the lucky recipient of one of our potties, the special lawn ornament will be removed from your yard by the Potty Patrol within 24 hours of its placement, whether you choose to make a donation or not. You can forward them to another unsuspecting "victim" for a \$20 donation. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Carol Rosseland at 781-665-6350.

### How To Avoid Being Toileted

If you would like to prevent the Potty from landing in your yard, "Potty Protection Insurance" is available for the very low price of \$15.00. This insurance will guarantee that the potty will not grace your lawn during the 2007 season.

### Intentions

**To make this fundraiser successful, we must have willing participants.** The removal does not require payment, but a donation to benefit the Mission Trip to New Orleans would be greatly appreciated. When choosing a people to "toilet", be wary of their temperament and sense of humor. Do not choose someone who would either abuse the potty or be greatly offended by it. We hope

you'll help us keep the toilets running, and not let the cause become clogged!

Potty order and/or insurance forms are available at the Church Office, after Sunday worship in Fellowship Hall, or by leaving a message for Carol at 781-665-6350.

### SPRING GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION



**Saturday, March 24**

6:00PM Dinner & Silent Auction  
7:00PM LIVE Auction

Our annual Goods & Services Auction is only two weeks away!

YES, we still need donated items. Please get them to us no later than Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

YES, we can still use extra volunteers to help with the even that night.

Most importantly, we need YOU! The Auction is a great take – great food, great bargains and great entertainment – all at the “great price” of \$7 per person.

This year we have a number of new and unique items please plenty of your old favorites. Come and watch our renowned auctioneer, Brad Hutchinson, strut his stuff. Bring your friends and neighbors (they will thank you for a great evening.)

See you there!  
Keith Bowden, Auction Committee

The MHCC Women's Guild cordially invites all the women of MHCC to the **Guest Day Tea**



**Tuesday, April 3, 2007**

12:00 pm Sandwiches & Sweets  
1:00 pm Entertainment

featuring the  
**New Bostonians**  
A Barbershop Harmony Group

R.S.V.P. by April 1<sup>st</sup> to the Church Office at 781.665.4200

Childcare provided. Please let us know if you need childcare when you RSVP.



**The Family of Libby Lovejoy** who died and whose life was celebrated in a service on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**The family of Emma Glover** who died and whose life will be celebrated on March 16.

**Diane Bucknill** recovering from surgery.

**George Maidrand** recovering from surgery.

**Jim Lyles and family** as they tend to Jim's mom.

### HOLY WEEK INFORMATION



**April 1 (note change of time)**

∞ Palm Sunday ∞

8:30 a.m. breakfast & Palm Parade beginning at First Baptist Church, 561 Main Street  
10:30 a.m. worship at MHCC “Voices from the Crowd”

**April 5 - Maundy Thursday**  
Supper & Footwashing at 6:00 p.m.

**April 6 - Good Friday**  
Noon – 7:00 p.m. Labyrinth open for walking  
7:30 p.m. Worship service “The Crux of the Matter”

**April 8 - Easter!**  
Sunrise service at 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Hood  
“Hole in One”  
John 20: 1 - 18  
*Children of Note*

### ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY OPPORTUNITIES



**Discovery Group** – first and third Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m. – The Gospel According to The Simpsons.

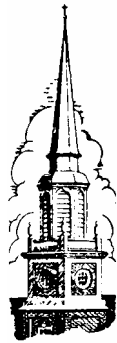
**Bible Study** – Mondays @ 11:00 a.m. studying Judges – Kings.

**Labyrinth Walk** April 11 @ 7:30 p.m.

**STEEPLE  
AND  
CHIMES**

The Steeple will be lit and the Chimes will be played this week in loving memory of:

**March 18 - 24:**  
Richard M. Greene



Please notify the church office if you are interested in having the steeple lit and/or the chimes played in memory of a loved one.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S  
REPORT**



**May 1, 2006 - January 31, 2007  
(9 Months)**

INCOME	
Plate	\$7,026.58
Pledges	\$81,949.68
Individual Contributions	\$9,180.75
Invested Funds (5%)	\$17,721.00
Miscellaneous	\$32,071.35
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$147,949.36</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$184,988.69</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>&lt;\$37,039.33&gt;</b>

As of January 31<sup>st</sup>:

- ✓ Pledge Payments DUE: \$87,750.00
- ✓ Pledge Payments RECEIVED: \$81,949.80
- ✓ Pledge Payments BEHIND: \$5,800.20

**NEW AT THE  
FITCH HOME**

The Fitch Home on Lake Street in Melrose is now offering respite care available by the week. For more information contact Administrator Joyce Lamb at 781-665-0521 or [www.fitchhome.org](http://www.fitchhome.org)

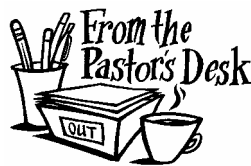


**IN OUR  
MAIL**

Wendy,

Thank you so much for your prayers & support during this time. Thank you also for the altar flowers on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The love and support of this Church family means so much in times like this.

**Bob, Lynn, Rob, Jillian & Ashley Cunningham**



Sometimes crossing the crosswalk from the parking lot into the Church is like taking your life into your hands. It is best to step into that crosswalk with a prayer on your lips and your eyes wide open.

As I entered Church for Confirmation class this past Tuesday evening our Church building and parking lot were being well used. Joan Dunne was cooking supper for the Confirmation class, people were arriving for country western dance, downstairs in the chapel there was a seminar on divorce and its impact on children. At the end of the Nursery wing was a spiritual group known as "A Course on Miracles," and in Our Daily Bread a boy scout troop was cleaning up after a meeting.

Our building and parking lot are often this busy and it is a sign of a healthy stewardship of our resources. We are here to be used!

An interesting use of our parking lot from time to time is as a turn around place. People pull in the lot in order to simply change direction.

A colleague writing in her newsletter noted that central to Jesus' message, especially in these forty days leading up to Easter, is the word 'metanoia.' Usually it is translated

into English as 'repent,' a word that probably makes many of us uncomfortable. It sounds way too medieval.

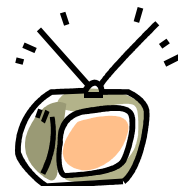
But 'metanoia' actually means 'to turn around,' to change direction and get back on track. That's what John the Baptists and Jesus challenged people to do.

I believe that continues to be our reason for existence and it is a fundamental piece of our mission. When we gather for worship, God gives us the opportunity to stop for awhile, get our bearings, and renew our sense of direction. Worship can be a time for true *metanoia*, to turn our lives around and get back on track with God and with ourselves.

The people who use the parking lot as a turnaround know they're lost and need some direction. My hunch is that most of us who actually park and come in know the same. Make time on Sunday mornings for *metanoia*. Give God an hour of your week and let God help you find your true direction.

--Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

**THANK YOU**






Our gratitude to Don and Maribeth Darwin for the donation of a television which will be used on the first floor and replaces a TV that had no remote.



**Remember to support a fundraiser for MHCC – recycle your printer cartridges here! MHCC receives money for each cartridge and we contribute to a cleaner environment. A collection box or mailers are available through the church office.**



# Rotation Workshop Schedule

Date	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22
Workshop	 <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>Enrichment Preschool-Grade 2</p>	 <p>EASTER BLESSINGS</p> <p>Enrichment Preschool-Grade 2</p>	<p>Enrichment All Grades</p>  <p>School Vacation</p> <p>April 14 - 22</p>	