

# The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter

February 9, 2007

Melrose  
Highlands  
Congregational  
Church

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

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INPUT SOUGHT FROM ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Sunday, February 25 after worship

Realizing we have a significant repair that needs to be done to the pipe organ in the Sanctuary to the tune of \$47,000 led the Executive Council to consider how to address it. With deterioration in the mechanism that allows the keyboard to talk to the pipes, it is likely that the organ will become unplayable and it could happen at any time.

This repair has been known for over four years but a sense of urgency with failing notes makes addressing it necessary now (see next page, "Organ 101" about this instrument).

Faced with this problem, the Executive Council saw an opportunity to broaden our vision beyond raising money for this one "big ticket item." A vote was taken to proceed with plans for a Capital Campaign to address not only the needs of the organ, but other ministry and building needs.

Your voice, dreams, ideas and input are needed as we begin and continue to pray on our vision and potential. Following worship on February 25, your Capital Campaign Committee will be seeking input to potential projects that the upcoming Capital Campaign could address. A very raw list has been generated to-date by members of boards and committees, staff and

others. Be sure your voice is heard in this process. Please plan to stay and offer this vital information as we proceed.

### Projects & feedback listed by Boards:

#### From Property Management:

1. roof
2. paint outside of church
3. paint sanctuary
4. carpet for sanctuary
5. repair outside woodwork
6. drapes for sanctuary

#### From Trustees:

1. drapes
2. lighting for the stage
3. painting the Franklin Street basement door
4. organ repairs
5. roof repairs
6. establish an endowment for the Children of Note Director salary

#### From Deacons:

1. new sound system
2. eliminate a few pews at the front of the sanctuary to make more room for activities during services
3. eliminate or tie off the back pews to bring everyone closer to the front
4. eliminate/reform the railing at the pulpits to add accessibility
5. put in stained glass windows
6. new bibles
7. upgrade organ

8. pew cushions
9. add tapestries and/or artwork to add more color and ambiance to the sanctuary

#### From Christian Education:

1. paint exterior of the church
2. outside carpentry and masonry repairs
3. replace center rug and drapes in sanctuary
4. buy new choir robes
5. repair windows and update electrical in Fellowship Hall
6. stage makeover
7. install improved lighting in front entryway and hallways

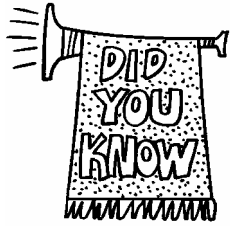
#### From other sources:

1. chapel transformation (including flexible seating and new carpet)
2. peace garden and seating area in front of church
3. choir robes for Senior Choir
4. additional hand-bell octaves
5. digital recording and video equipment for website and cable TV
6. air conditioning in Fellowship Hall
7. endowment for mission trips

#### Capital Campaign Committee:

Teri Vienot and Jeff Winey, Co-Chairpersons. Committee Members: Don Darwin, John Egan, Jim Lyles, Joe McNulty, Anne Moore, and Christine Oteri.

**“ORGAN 101”  
Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**



Have you ever wondered about the workings of the pipe organ in the Sanctuary – how does it work and how does it project such a wide range of sounds and accompaniment possibilities? Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> after worship our Music Director, Harold Prenatt will offer a tour of the organ, how it works, demonstrating different sounds and what the needed repairs are to keep this magnificent instrument part of our praise of God.

As organs go, ours is an unusually fine instrument. Plan to stay after worship for less than a half hour to hear about the Aeolian-Skinner organ.

**Volunteers Needed for  
Funeral Collations**



A funeral collation is a light meal served after a funeral or memorial service to provide the family and friends of the deceased with an opportunity for fellowship and remembrance. Offering funeral collations for the members and friends of our Church and their immediate families is a long-standing mission of the Womens' Guild at MHCC.

The Womens' Guild is now in the position that we need help from the broader church

community in order to continue this important mission. **Volunteers are needed to be on a call list.** By their very nature, collations cannot be planned more than a few days ahead. If you might be able, with two or three days' notice, to bake cookies or bars, to donate cheese and crackers or fruit, to help set-up, serve or clean-up for a funeral collation, please contact one of the people listed below. Someone would call you when we have a collation to do and you would, at that time, let us know whether you would be able to help. Collations may be scheduled for any day of the week. We welcome and encourage both men and women to volunteer.

For answers to any questions you may have or to sign up for the “call list,” please contact Lee Rosseland at 978.535.3343, Bonnie Bowden at 781.662.9671 or Anne Gilbert at 781.665.5064 or by email to [annegilbert45@comcast.net](mailto:annegilbert45@comcast.net).

**MHCC AUCTION  
March 24 @ 6:00 p.m.**



Invite your friends, neighbors, relatives, barbers and anyone you can think of to the MHCC Auction. Not only will they have a good time, they will find some great deals and items of interest.

It is also the best way to assure the success of the Auction. Donated items are another insurance of success, so don't hesitate to let Keith Bowden (662-9671) know what you would like to contribute to the cause.

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE?**



**Wednesday, February 21  
6:00 p.m.  
Childcare provided  
Fellowship Hall**

The Deacons are your hosts and will provide supper. The service will feature the distribution of ashes, singing, walking the Labyrinth and Communion. You can participate however it feels right for you. Hope to see you there!

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, FAITH!**

**First Movie – Forrest Gump**



**Sunday Evenings beginning  
February 25 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Building on the success of “Chocolate for Lent” series from 2006, a new film-based discussion opportunity will be offered during Lent 2007.

Meeting on the Sunday evenings leading up to Palm Sunday we will watch clips of a movie and discuss the faith connections or issues that are raised by the story.

We meet in the Holyword Theater on the third floor and chocolate will again be served! You can show up for one or all of the series. Please indicate your interest with Wendy and view the movie ahead of time.

## Back to School – Almost!!



**The Highlands Nursery School** is getting ready for the fall of 2007. If you are thinking about a preschool experience for your child or know of someone who would be interested in our school, now is the time to gather information.

Come see us anytime in to register. March 1<sup>st</sup> begins registration to the public. For more information call the school at 781.665.4202.



**Louise Cook**- recovering from surgery.

**Philip Coleman** – recently hospitalized.

**Polly Harlow** – at home.

## LIBRARY NEWS

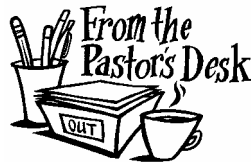


As we try to keep our library current, we have acquired some recent best sellers including [Inez of My Soul](#) by Isabel Allende, and [Dear John](#) by Nicholas Sparks.

Check the center post for our latest additions. Thanks for three beautiful Christmas books received as a donation.

If you have any special requests for books, please speak to someone on the Library Committee. The books are there for your enjoyment, so feel free to check them out.

See you in the Library!!!



“Where do you want to be?” This was one of the questions addressed in a recent Listening Process with the MA Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Holly Ardito, Steve Calabro and I attended the session in Lexington and this question was our starting point for reflection and discussion.

In five areas of vitality we were to respond to where we want to be in five years in those different areas.

Here is an example of one thing from among many that I jotted down in each category:

- **Worship Attendance** – 75% of the congregation attends worship 75% of the time!
- **Mission Outreach** – Send two Mission Trip groups a year –mix of adults and youth.
- **Faith Formation of all ages** – Lay led small group ministry is created with three to five groups meeting.
- **Stewardship** – Individual strengths are identified and utilized to build on congregation’s strengths.
- **Connection to the Wider United Church of Christ** - A busload of MHCC folk attend General Synod in June!

The Conference was asking these questions in a desire to be of the best use to the congregations in MA.

In addition, I appreciated the time to take to look five years down the line and imagine where I/we would like MHCC to be in that time span.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease they say and indeed every day there are plenty of squeaky wheels calling for grease often to the detriment of this longer vision setting.

I trust as we move through two processes currently set in motion: The Capital Campaign and the work of the Timothy Project, that this look five years down the road will be vital to their fruitfulness.

When Moses traveled with the people of Israel in the wilderness for forty years it was a challenge to keep the people looking forward into an unknown future. They much preferred looking back at where they had been and what they were lacking in the present.

What kept them moving forward was not only Moses prodding but God’s presence found in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Would that God’s leading and guiding could be as vivid in our day! But I do not doubt God’s presence moving among us and from behind us encouraging us to keep our eyes looking forward even five years down the road.

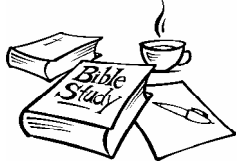
You could engage this same exercise of asking, “where do you want MHCC to be in five years?” When you do, tell me what you see, hope and envision for our ministry together.

Any work we do together through the Timothy Project and the Capital Campaign are meant not only to fulfill our Vision Statement, but also a sense of where we want to be as Christ’s body in the highlands of Melrose and in the world.

In the meanwhile, please add/continue your prayers for our community as we embark on this journey together.

–Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

**ADULT EDUCATION  
AND SPIRITUALITY  
OPPORTUNITIES**



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

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

**Labyrinth Walk** – Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**NEXT COURIER DEADLINE**

Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

**Two simple and easy on-  
going fundraisers for  
MHCC**

For your internet searches, use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), enter MHCC as the charity you wish to benefit and the church receives a penny for every search you do!



**Empties4Cash**

Your Recycling And Fund Raising Partner

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.