

# The Courier

Newsletter

October, 2009

Melrose  
Highlands  
Congregational  
Church

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



## WORSHIP PLANS

### October 11

*"Is It Possible?"*

Job 23:1-9; 16-17;

Mark 10:17-31

### October 18

**Reformation Sunday**

*"Out Of The Whirlwind"*

Job 38:1-7; Mark 10:35-41

Confirmation Class begins

### October 25

*"The Ten Best Ways"*

Job 41:1-6; 10-17;

Mark 10:46-52

Confirmation gives young people some of the tools they need to be disciples in today's world. Christianity is caught rather than taught and each youth has a mentor to walk with them in this year of discovery. At the close of the year, youth will decide whether they want to be confirmed-affirm their baptism-and join the Highlands Church.

The youth meet monthly with their mentor as well as attending monthly classes with the pastor and a co-leader. They also are engaged in community service, worship, a committee meeting and at least one overnight retreat. Youth are expected to meet with their mentors 6 times, attend all 7 classes, worship on Sundays at least 2 times per month, assist in worship and engage in at least 6 hours of approved community service.

Confirmation will meet monthly on Sundays from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. on weeks when there is no Youth Group. Dates for Confirmation are:

- ✠ October 18<sup>th</sup>, "The Church." Parents and mentors join us at 5:30 p.m. for a conversation.
- ✠ November 22<sup>nd</sup>, "The Sacraments."
- ✠ December, No meeting but participation in a worship service is required.
- ✠ January 24<sup>th</sup>, "Jesus Christ and Ministry"

- ✠ February 21<sup>st</sup>, "God and the Holy Spirit."
- ✠ March 19-20, Overnight "City Reach" Boston.
- ✠ March 21<sup>st</sup>, "Prayer and Our Spiritual Life."

Participate in worship during Holy Week:

- ✠ March 28<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday,
- ✠ Maundy Thursday is April 1<sup>st</sup> and
- ✠ Easter is April 4<sup>th</sup>
- ✠ April 25<sup>th</sup>- "The Christian Life/Worship"
- ✠ May 9<sup>th</sup>, Celebration and prep for the Confirmation service
- ✠ May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday morning practice
- ✠ CONFIRMATION during 10 a.m. service, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Please contact the church office by October 14<sup>th</sup> and let us know if your son or daughter would like to participate. Please contact Rev. Beth with any questions about the program.



## Confirmation begins October 18

Confirmation is a program open to any youth in Grades 9 and

10 or older that is at least 14 years in age.

The primary goal of our Confirmation Program is discipleship-people who more closely resemble in lifestyle, beliefs and values disciples or followers of Christ. Christianity is a way of life and the total person is engaged in the process.





### Heartfelt thanks from Peggy O'Connor

To all the members, friends, and staff of MHCC,

Thank you all for a wonderful last Sunday at MHCC. The luncheon after the service was fantastic and the cake was beautiful. But more than anything else, the words you shared that day, whether spoken or in writing, were touching and moved me deeply.

I will always remember my time at MHCC warmly and will look forward to hearing about the wonderful things that you are doing in the coming years.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Peggy

### From the Pastor



*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Isaiah 43:18-21*

This past Sunday, we began our time together as we step boldly into the next chapter of the Highlands Church. I begin with excitement and joy, but also with some nervousness. I have so many names and faces to connect and stories to hear and remember. I also need to learn and understand just how you have done some things in the past so that we can begin some new things together. Please be patient with me as I learn your names and stories, as well as, the traditions and programs of the church!

You also must be wondering about me, and how I do things and what our future together holds. We both can be sure that this is a new beginning. The Spirit that formed the Highlands Church and has kept it alive throughout the years is not a spirit of restoration. It will not return us to how things used to be, but will be with us awakening us in this time of new beginning to something new. We will watch and listen carefully over the coming weeks and months for where we hear God's Spirit stirring in our midst. Seeds that were planted during your transition time will start to grow, and we will plant new seeds together.

I have some goals for the coming months that you can help me wrap my arms around. Please help me to:

- Get to know you and your stories
- Learn the way you do things as you learn the way I do things
- Celebrate our new beginning

- Learn about Melrose both its gifts and needs
- Listen for where the Spirit is stirring
- Support staff
- Pray for guidance

Please do let me know of any pastoral concerns. I will be in the office Monday through Thursday with Friday being my day off. You are very welcome to drop in. I will be learning the community, making visits and scheduling appointments. If you want to be sure to catch me, let me know, and we can schedule an appointment. I look forward to getting to know each one of you.

Blessings, Rev. Beth

### Flower Memorials



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

**September 13** - Arlene & Allison Hayes.

**September 20** - the parents of James & Kathy Lacey.

**September 27** - Mr. & Mrs. Gardner W. Oakes.

**Massachusetts Conference  
United Church of Christ  
210th Annual Meeting**

**October 16 & 17, 2009  
DCU Center &  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Worcester, MA**

**"Take hold of the life that is really life."**

**-1 Timothy 6**



***Generosity as a Way of Life***

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is "Generosity as a Way of Life." In a turbulent economic time what unique witness does the church have to offer in these days?

The Christian Century magazine pointed to a recent study which shows that people grounded in faith plan to maintain their giving in spite of the downturn. On average, people of faith give considerably more than other donors surveyed. We know that members in our Massachusetts Conference churches are not only generous with their money, but with their expertise, their passion and their energy. The Commonwealth – even the world – needs us to build our generosity in such a time as this. Your Annual Meeting Planning Committee is creating a gathering whose purpose is "to consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds. Let

us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

We will be led in this purpose by our keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Jones, Dean of Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. Dynamite worship is being planned for Friday evening featuring preacher Rev. Susan Smith, Pastor of Advent United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio. [Seminars](#) will be offered to resource delegates around numerous facets of generosity and the business of the Conference will be engaged. ([Read more about the Speakers, below.](#))

We listened to evaluations from last year's Annual Meeting which placed a great emphasis on meeting together in one place. We trust you will enjoy the networking opportunities of gathering at the DCU Center in Worcester. The Hilton Garden Inn, adjacent to the DCU Center, is providing a special rate for attendees.

Ten years ago over 10,000 people gathered for the 200th anniversary of the MA Conference in Worcester. We return to the site of that gathering and celebrate the vitality and covenant of our churches. In recognition of that memorable event, we ask each church to bring the banner that was created for that anniversary celebration (fabric with the year the church was founded in 10" letters on the top). They will encircle our meeting space and focus us on the rich history and tradition we share.

Please note a discount is available for first time delegates and youth. We want to broaden the experience of the wider

church and its blessings for as many people in our congregations as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in Worcester!

Grace and peace,  
Patricia Gnazzo Pepper  
Chairperson, Annual Meeting  
Planning Committee

***A Feather In Your Cap***



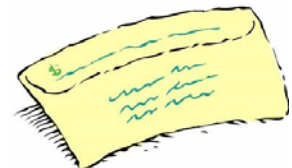
Awarded to Dianne & Rich Olsen, Michelle Tivnan and the numerous other 'worker bees' for their help in making Peggy's last Sunday so special. Also a huge thanks to everyone who brought a dish!



**Michelle Tivnan** who recently had surgery.

**Paula Emelock** who is making great progress following surgery.

***I AM YOUR CHURCH  
ENVELOPE***



I would like to talk with you, for I am part of your church life. I may be a complete stranger to you, but I can help you be a better Christian.

I like to go to worship on Sunday, for  
I help you to be Christ's partner.  
I am very small, but  
I am the keystone of your church program.  
I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.  
I dare you to be as good to God as he has been to you.  
I am only paper, but  
I carry the full gift of a generous heart.  
I am the only pocketbook you need on Sunday, and  
I promise not to be a burden.  
I am your chance to preach, for  
I am a silent sermon of your devotion.



### SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

*At Home In Melrose, Inc.* (AHIM) is a developing grassroots, non-profit organization. Our goal is to provide a wide array of resources and services that will help

Melrose residents, age 50 and over, remain in their homes as they grow older.

The resources and services we anticipate offering are based on the enthusiastic response to a survey AHIM sent last fall to Melrose residents over the age of 50. That response showed a great need for, and interest in, such an organization.

In order to reach our goal of being fully operational by March 2010, we need volunteers to help us with interesting tasks in marketing, human resources, programs, administration and finance, etc. Adult volunteers of all ages are welcome.

Under-50 volunteers might think of it this way: help to build a great organization that will benefit your parents now, and will be ready and waiting for you when you reach 50 or 60 or 70.

If you have some free time to offer or have questions, please call us at 781.662.4100 or email us at [info@athomeinmelrose.org](mailto:info@athomeinmelrose.org). And thank you!

Submitted by Mary Edwards



The next date for our church to provide dinner for the *Bread of Life* Feeding Ministry in Malden is Tuesday, October 27.

We buy, prepare, and serve the dinner, then clean up afterward that evening. The dinner is served at St Paul's Episcopal Parish, 26 Washington Street in Malden.

Donations of money and time are needed. Two volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen beginning at 4:00 p.m., then an additional six volunteers are needed beginning at 5:15 p.m.

The coordinator for this dinner is Anne Gilbert. If you are able to help out with time and/or money, please speak with Anne at church or give her a call at 781.665.5064. Thank you.