

The Courier

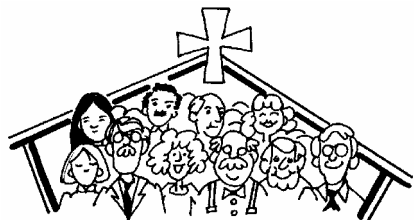
Semi-monthly Newsletter

April 27, 2007

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org

MAY WORSHIP PLANS



May 6

Guest Preacher, Gary Brinn
(Wendy will be with her mother
and sisters in NYC)

May 13

**Mother's Day
Confirmation Sunday**

Choir Light
Communion

May 20

Music Sunday
Annual Meeting & Lunch
follows worship

May 27

Pentecost
"The Power of the Tongue"
Acts 2: 1 - 21

**Mark
Your
Calendar**

**MHCC Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 20 @ 11:15 am**

Over lunch, we will celebrate the Raise the Roof, Raise the Spirit Capital Campaign, hear from the Timothy Project and more! Child care will be provided.

Women's Guild Annual Meeting & Dinner May 2nd



All the women of the Church are cordially invited to attend the Women's Guild Annual Meeting and Dinner on Wednesday, May 2nd.

The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and be held in the Library at MHCC. The dinner will be in a private room at the *Duck Walk*, 397A Main Street in Wakefield. Dinner will begin with appetizers at 6:30 p.m. followed by a family-style buffet. The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person and may be paid in advance or the night of the dinner to Anne Gilbert. There will be a cash bar. Please make checks payable to "Women's Guild-MHCC" and call or email Anne Gilbert (781.665.5064; annegilbert45@comcast.net) by April 30th.

NEW RECRUITS NEEDED Volunteers Sought To Assist Financial Secretary

Do you like to count money? The Trustees are seeking assistants to the Financial Secretary to lighten the load of counting and recording gifts and offerings. If this is of interest to you, please contact Keith Bowden (781-662-9671)

NEW OPTIONS TO RECEIVE THE COURIER

In an effort to communicate quickly, more efficiently and less costly, we are considering sending The Courier mostly via e-mail.

We also recognize that some prefer to receive The Courier in the mail. It has always been our practice to welcome subscriptions (payable to MHCC for \$20.00) to receive The Courier in first class mail.

Now we are trying to streamline this effort and ask:

☞ If you do not already receive The Courier on-line and wish to, please send your e-mail address to office@mhcc-ucc.org with a subject line: Courier Subscription.

☞ If you do receive The Courier on-line and still wish to receive it in the mail as well, please notify the office and consider a subscription.

☞ If you have no access to e-mail or wish to receive The Courier via first class mail, please notify the office and consider a subscription.

We want everyone who wishes to receive The Courier to do so regardless of ability to contribute a subscription. However, if you can fulfill this request, it is most welcome.

**Have You Been A Member Of
MHCC For Fifty Years
Or More?**

Please be in touch with Wendy as a special recognition is being planned. Save the date of Sunday, June 3rd as we mark numerous milestones.

**MALDEN-MELROSE RIM*
Mother's Day Flower Sale!**

*RIM: Refugee Immigration Ministry



For our spring flower fundraiser, we offer a selection of beautiful and easy to grow Impatiens in time for Mother's Day!

IMPATIENS

- Six Packs: \$3.25
 - Flats: \$20.00
 - 10" Hanging basket: \$18.00
- Available in white, red, pink, rose, coral, salmon, and violet.
- Porch basket (mixed flowers): \$24.00

Order forms available on the Outreach bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or to order flowers contact Anne Gilbert by telephone at 781-665-5064 or annegilbert45@comcast.net by email and by Friday, May 4.

Flowers are available for pick-up at MHCC on Sunday, May 13th 2007 after the Service.

The sale continues on May 13, 2007 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at First Congregational Church at 121 West Foster Street, Melrose

All profits go toward supporting the most vulnerable immigrants in our community.

Enjoy the flowers!

**A NOTE OF THANKS
FROM**



*(This was a note received recently
from Joan Dean, of
A Servant's Heart Food Pantry):*

Dear Highlands Church Family,

Thank you for your great donation of food to *A Servant's Heart Food Pantry* this past week. Almost every 3 weeks our shelves seem to be empty.

As of December 2006, we had 185 families and we are now close to 200 families. We have had one family burnt out of their home, and several families laid off in the last month, one gentleman working 2-3 part time jobs. We have one senior to be evicted, who lives outside of Melrose, whom we are trying to help out with food and housing referral into a senior housing spot, if any are available in Melrose. We are busy, busy all the time.

Thank you for your support – it is greatly appreciated.

A Servant's Heart,
Joan and Shirley

MORE THANKS...

Keep those inkjet cartridges coming! We received our first check for \$29.00. Let's aim to double that in the coming month. We not only benefit from the money received, the environment has one less trash item to endure. A collection box can be found just outside of the church office or you may ask for a mailer envelope. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER DINNER



The *Bread of Life* Feeding Ministry in Malden hosts a Volunteer Recognition Night each year to thank every BOL volunteer who participates in any capacity. This is a chance for all who have worked to serve dinners on those Tuesday nights to enjoy dinner together and BE served, to learn more about the whole BOL program, and to get a sense of how many other area churches are involved in this program.

This year's dinner is on Monday, May 14, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 441 Fellsway West, Medford. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner commences at 6:30 p.m. We'd love to have a full table from our Church this year! If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol Rosseland at 781-665-6350, or Anne Gilbert at 781-665-5064.

**ADULT EDUCATION
AND SPIRITUALITY
OPPORTUNITIES**



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

Bible Study – Mondays @ 11:00 a.m. studying Judges – Kings through May 14.

Labyrinth Walk – Second Wednesdays (except June) @ 7:30 p.m.



Carol Trout – recovering from surgery

Phyllis Greene – anticipating surgery

Charlotte Swan – recovering from surgery

Jeff Barriss – recovering from a work injury

BAPTISM



Baptized on April 15: Jamey Bergeron, born on November 12, 2006, son of Kevin and Lisa Bergeron and

big brother to Oliver. Grandparents are Paul & Brenda Bergeron and Thomas and Anne Matey. We rejoice with this family!

LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, May 9th

12:30 PM

SPUD'S RESTAURANT & PUB

(formerly Heck Allen's)

22 Lincoln Street, Saugus

Please call Jean Corliss for reservations at 781.665.7864.

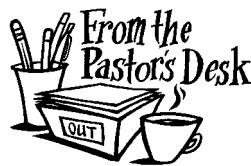
NEXT COURIER DEADLINE

Friday, May 4th at noon.

GENERAL SYNOD IN NEW ENGLAND! Consider coming to Synod in the City – Saturday, June 23

The National meeting of the United Church of Christ known as General Synod happens every two years. This year it is close to home in Hartford, CT.

It is a special year as the United Church of Christ turns fifty and a huge party is being planned. You can find our more at http://www.ucc.org/50/synod_in_the_city.htm Think about being a part of it!



As I write this today I am also preparing a session for the Confirmation class. It is Christian History night. 2000 years of the story of Jesus and the church in one hour and a half session. It is a daunting task!

But church history is all the rage in the United Church of Christ today on the eve of its 50th anniversary celebration. I am planning to be there and would welcome any MHCC company!

We have gone to a big thing together before and on buses. In 1999 the Massachusetts Conference turned 200 and MHCC folk joined about 10,000 (that's right 10,000!) people in celebration and worship. I can still feel a tingle recalling that 1000 voice choir.

Our heritage is rich for celebration and the planners have pulled together an awesome array of speakers, performers and preachers. Barack Obama was just confirmed as a participant. He belongs to Trinity UCC in Chicago.

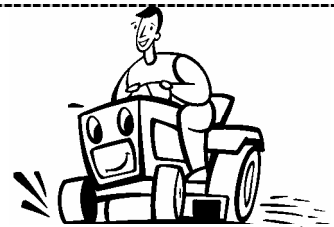
It often happens while recalling the past that you begin to wonder about the future.

The Confirmation class of today – how will they be connected to church? What will the church look like when they, like me, reach their forties? Could any of you who have been a member at MHCC fifty years have foreseen who we have become today? What fruit will be born from the seeds we are sowing through the Raise the Roof, Raise the Spirit Capital Campaign?

The Confirmation class of today lives in a different world than the one I grew up in right now. Last week 32 college students were killed by a gunman at Virginia Tech University. The church is a place that shapes people who live in a broken world to be a people of faith and hope. How much do we need that shaping now?

The church of the future may achieve that shaping and teaching and molding in different ways than we experience today. But I believe that because we are the church of Jesus Christ one thing will remain constant - faith and hope will carry us forward. I have hope that the Confirmation class of 2007 will be around and connected to the church and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the UCC. Can you imagine?

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart



Saturday, May 12th

Church Clean-Up

9AM – 2PM

Please consider donating one hour of your time to aid in clean-up and spruce up of our lovely Church grounds and building.

Rotation Workshop Schedule
Story: Abraham & Sarah

<i>Dates</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>May 6</i>	<i>May 13</i>	<i>May 20</i>
Thou Art	Middle School	Grades 3, 4, & 5	Preschool Kindergarten	Grades 1 & 2
Divine Dramatics	Grades 3, 4, & 5	Middle School	Grades 1 & 2	Preschool Kindergarten
Holy Word Theatre	Preschool Kindergarten	Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3, 4, & 5	Middle School
Our Daily Bread	Grades 1 & 2	Preschool Kindergarten	Middle School	Grades 3, 4, & 5

Abraham & Sarah Overview:

In this Old Testament story, a covenant is made between God and Abraham. God calls Abraham to leave his home and go on a journey - a journey to a place Abraham knows nothing about. God promises Abraham that he will have many descendants - as many as the stars. God says to Abraham, "I will be your God". God gives Abraham and Sarah a baby even though they are both well beyond child-bearing years. "Is anything too difficult for God?"

Our Daily Bread – The students will make star cookies to remind them of God’s promise to Abraham: “you will have many descendants - as many as the stars.”

Holyword Theater – The Students will watch & discuss the video: *Abraham the Forefather*.

Thou Art – Students will create covenant stoles.

Divine Dramatics - The students will retell the story of Abraham & Sarah through drama.

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

Co-Directors Christian Education:

MaryAnn Barriss 781-665-3594

Bonnie Bowden 781-662-9671

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