

The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter August 21, 2007

www.mhcc-ucc.org

Mark Your Calendar

September 16, 2007

A celebration is being planned for Wendy on Sunday, September 16th after worship in Fellowship Hall.

If you have any thoughts, ideas or something you would like to do for this celebration, feel free to drop an email to Steve Calabro at steve.calabro@stantec.com 781-665-3516 or Paul Lind at plind@comcast.net 781-662-8308 or Barbara Bemiss at barbarabemiss@comcast.net 781-665-6996.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Since June 25, the console of the church's pipe organ has been being treated to its first rejuvenation in 50 years of service. On that date it left the sanctuary to spend the summer in Charlestown at the factory of the Bishop Organ Company, leaving the pipes in the chambers to fall silent for want of a playing mechanism. They will sing again, though, at summer's end, when

the console returns, energized with a new solid state switching system that will have reactivated its long-atrophied muscles and that offers the organist increased flexibility in stop selection.

Like the eager guest at a summer spa, it also has been receiving cosmetic attention and will return with its keyboards, pedals and stop knobs thoroughly cleaned and regulated as well as sporting a fresh coat of paint. In all respects, it will be poised to meet the demands made upon it for at least another half century.

We're looking forward to a Sunday service this fall devoted to a rededication and celebration of the organ.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR PARENTS

Wednesday, August 29
7:00 p.m.

You may have heard by now that our dear Co-Director of Christian Education, Bonnie Bowden, is seriously ill and in the care of hospice. Many of our children and youth have built a relationship with Bonnie and explaining what is happening to her may be difficult.



We are offering an opportunity for parents to gather before church school begins to engage in conversation and resource one another around issues of death and dying. You are invited to join in this exchange on **Wednesday, August 29 @ 7:00 p.m.** in the Church Library. We have also made copies of a helpful story and you may pick one up in the church office during office hours, or call to have one sent to your home.

Bonnie formally resigned her position last week and we have since identified Laura Hume to assist MaryAnn Barriss as she picks up more of the load of our church school program. *Your participation and leadership this year will be especially needed and welcomed!*

TRANSITION UPDATE



As the By-Laws require, the Deacons have taken the lead in the process to identify an Interim Pastor to begin serving in September. Five people, with support from the Deacons, are serving on a Committee that is charged with creating a profile of MHCC, receiving resumes of

Interim candidates and interviewing and recommending a candidate to fill the position. The committee is underway in this work and is chaired by Paul Lind, Senior Deacon. Other members on the Committee are Gail Durland, Marylen Leving, Kent Vienot and Adrienne Wood.

CHOIR NOTES

Carola Emrich-Fisher, soloist and alto section leader in our adult choir for the last four years, resigned her position in July, to our great regret but also with our deep thanks for her artistry, dedication and spirited contribution to worship at the church. Next month she will be joining the professional choir of *First and Second Church Unitarian-Universalist* in Boston, a fine opportunity for her and a much easier commute from her home.

When sharing the news, Carola wrote feelingly of her gratitude to our members, fellow singers, and the church staff for their warm support and response to her work at the Highlands Church since her appointment in 2003 and wanted to wish everyone well. Candidates for her position are currently being auditioned.

The adult choir will gather again on Sunday, September 9, and its first rehearsal will be September 23 after the morning service. *Children of Note* and *Choir Light* will resume their programs shortly thereafter (stay tuned for announcements!) Interested new members of all three choirs will be assured of a warm welcome and the truth of the familiar old dictum, "He or she who sings prays twice."

Harold Prenatt



Winter Wonderland Fair

As you enjoy the last weeks of summer, keep in mind that the **Highlands Christmas Fair: A Winter Wonderland** is coming up on November 17. (It seems far away now, but will be here before we know it!) If you like to craft, troll yard sales or do canning, please consider contributing craft items for the Christmas Room and "Knit" Goods Table, or vintage items and better "white elephant" items for the Timeless Treasures Table, or canned goods for the Bake Table. Don't forget our new table "Around New England" Mystery Gifts: new gift items from New England that will be wrapped, so it is a surprise to the purchaser (the gifts should be marked with their value.)

If you have any questions, please call Anne Gilbert, the Fair Coordinator, at 781.665.5064.

MHCC Church School Begins
Sunday, September 9th



You are invited to join us for a
**WELCOME BACK TO
CHURCH SCHOOL**
Breakfast & Registration

Continental Breakfast &
School Registration
Begins at 9:15 a.m.

Worship & Church School
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.



Come to Church School
**Teachers & Shepherds
Needed!**

All adults of the Church are encouraged to participate in the 2007-2008 Rotation Workshop school year. You may choose to be a Teacher or assist as a Shepherd. Share your time in an area of your liking; workshops include art, drama, music, cooking or movie. A four week commitment is all that is needed. Lesson plans are provided for this fun and rewarding experience.

Listed below are the tentative dates and stories that will be covered this fall. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to reserve your spot or email me at BarrissFamily@comcast.net to let me know how you would like to be a part of educating the children of our community.

- ✠ Joseph & His Coat of Many Colors: September 9, 16, 23 & 30
- ✠ Naomi & Ruth: October 15, 21, 28 & November 4
- ✠ Talents: November 11, 18 & 25

Maryann Barriss
Co-Director



Celebrate with us

Good wishes for a strong and loving marriage go to:

Jarrod Hermance and Ellen Diep married here at MHCC on July 21st.

Heather Mangan and John Macone married by Wendy at Boston College on August 10th.



Bonnie Bowden – seriously ill and in the care of hospice at home.

Nancy Watts – at Salem Hospital.

Ken Kenworthy – at home (in Maine.)

Arthur McKean – recovering from kidney transplant surgery.

Phyllis Greene – making good progress at home.

LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, September 12
12:30 p.m.

HILLTOP STEAK HOUSE
Route 1 South, Saugus

Please call Jean Beers at 781.665.4315 for a ride or reservation. Everyone welcome!

LABYRINTH WALK



Labyrinth Walk – Second Wednesday each month @ 7:30 p.m. Next walk is September 12

NEXT COURIER DEADLINE

Friday, September 7th at noon.



As I was clearing my desk in preparation for some packing of boxes, I came across some sage advice from a colleague's newsletter whose congregation has experienced change and loss in the past year. She writes that the Psalmist's words, "wait upon the Lord," may be the hardest and yet most fruitful counsel in times such as these.

Indeed, these past few months have brought many changes in the future and on the near horizon. It is still sinking in that come September 19, I will be in a whole new office answering to an entirely different call. We are searching for a new alto soloist. We are walking with our dear Co-director of Christian Education, Bonnie Bowden, and her family in a most trying time. This does not even take into account the myriad ways each and every one of you is dealing with some form of change, grief or loss in your own life.

It is tempting in anxious times to move ahead quickly to fill the sense of loss or uncertainty. Yet our faith calls us to something else – to "wait upon the Lord" individually and as a community.

That's why even though there will be a time of transition the Timothy Project team will press on with discernment for MHCC's organizational life. In the time ahead and with an Interim Minister skills to assist, you will take time to "wait upon the Lord," with prayer and hope, and in a variety of gatherings to dream a direction for the future. As with all faithful waiting, it is not wasting time or avoiding decisions. Instead, it is intentionally gathering the

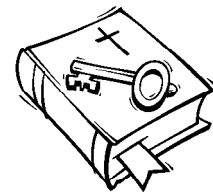
resources – insight, imagination, and courage – to be the people God calls you to be, now and in the future.

So I ask you in this next month to take time each day, to "wait upon the Lord," however you do that. Wait for guidance and courage in your own life, and pray for that same guidance, courage and commitment in the life of MHCC.

While we "wait upon the Lord" I look forward to seeing you in September and engaging in a faithful good bye. My heart has been and will be full of gratitude for each and every one of you and the ministry we have engaged together.

Peace to you,
Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

BIBLE STUDY TO KICK-OFF IN SEPTEMBER



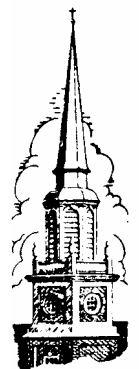
Unlock the Scriptures

Arnold Carlson will graciously lend his leadership to provide Bible Study on Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. beginning September 24th. The Gospel of Matthew will be the focus. Give it a try!

STEEPLE AND CHIMES

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

July 8 – Mary & John Buxton.



✂ **Cut & Save** - - - - -

Rotation Workshop Schedule				
Story: Joseph & His Coat of Many Colors				
DATE	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
<i>Thou Art</i>	<i>Grades 1 & 2</i>	<i>Preschool Kindergarten</i>	<i>Grades 3, 4 & 5</i>	<i>Middle School</i>
Divine Dramatics	<i>Grades 3, 4 & 5</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Preschool Kindergarten</i>	<i>Grades 1 & 2</i>
Holy Word Theatre	<i>Preschool Kindergarten</i>	<i>Grades 1 & 2</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Grades 3, 4 & 5</i>
Glorious Games	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Grades 3, 4 & 5</i>	<i>Grades 1 & 2</i>	<i>Preschool Kindergarten</i>

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
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	