



The Courier

Newsletter

September 25, 2009

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org



Rev. Beth Horne Sunday, October 4th

"A-MAIZE-ING"

Grace Harvest Fair
Saturday, November 14

The "A-MAIZE-ING" Grace Harvest Fair and 'amazingly' a little more than a month away and we need your help!

What can you do? Glad you asked! Here are a few suggestions to help you, help us:

☞ Items for the Holiday Table: Christmas & Thanksgiving decorations; etc.

☞ "Timeless" treasures (gently used linen, china, silver, jewelry, etc.)

☞ A new table! "The Good Book" with once-read books for all ages.

☞ Hand-made items: knitted, crocheted or sewn;

☞ Gift Baskets valued \$25.00 or less.

☞ Silent Auction Items: Home-made crafts from wood to needlework and new items valued over \$25.00;

☞ Baked goods, cookies and candy!

When thinking of baked goods think Fall Harvest and Thanksgiving: pumpkin bread & muffins; pies: pumpkin, squash, apple, pecan; apple tarts, candied apples; pickled veggies (green beans, beets, cucumbers, zucchini), leaf or pumpkin-shaped cookies (not jack-o-lantern please), a small cornucopia filled with cookies, etc. Most needed: 2 to 4 serving size, as those are the most popular!



Church Governance

AdHoc Committee

The Executive Council has decided to create an ad hoc committee to develop ideas for restructuring the way our church governs itself. Our current Board structure was developed when our church was much larger, and it is not sustainable with our current membership of 162.

The goal is for the ad hoc committee to create a new governing structure that will enable a church of our size to do the work that we consider important, while not exhausting the energy and enthusiasm of our members.

The Timothy Project did significant work on this effort, so we hope that this new committee will be able to benefit from their ideas and experience.

Some of the difficulties of our governing structure for a church of 162 members are as follows:

- 1) we are not able to fill all of the positions on most of the Boards and Committees;
- 2) we have had to suspend the By-laws for a number of years to allow individuals to stay on Committees past the time allowed for in the By-laws in order to have Boards large enough to function. In other words, we aren't adhering to the terms of our current governing structure;
- 3) some Board members feel

- 4) compelled to serve longer than they would prefer,
- 5) because they know there isn't likely to be someone to replace them. Despite the member's good intentions, this leads to diminished enthusiasm and burn-out; &
- 6) members tend to stay on the same Board where they have become comfortable, rather than switching to a new Board—but both the Boards and church members need change to stay strong and effective.

If you would like to be a member of this committee, please contact me by phone at 781.665.5064, by email at annegilbert45@comcast.net or in person. Also, members of the Executive Board would welcome your questions, comments and suggestions.

Anne Gilbert, Moderator



Come to Bible Study

Please come to the Adult Bible Study Thursday mornings beginning on October 1st at 11:00 am in the church library. We will follow the Lectionary, look at the Gospel of Mark and its relationship to other New Testament writings, learn about the mysterious "Q", and read Luke during Advent. Good information, good discussions! No experience required.

If there is interest, I will lead another session at a time that working people can support. Let me know!

Arnold Carlson



Change is in the air with the presentation of a candidate to be our new pastor by the Pastoral Search Committee. I look forward to working with everyone in the MHCC community in the coming year to move our church forward in the direction(s) that we discern God is calling us to grow. Please be in touch with me about any ideas, suggestions, concerns that you have. *“With God, all things are possible.”*

Anne Gilbert

**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



The Green Corner



Using our resources wisely to care for God's creation.

REFRIGERATOR REMOVAL

If you watched the recent movie *“Wall-E”*, you may have found the mountains of discarded appliances to be a grim image of our future.

We are pleased to share news of a better solution – at least for your largest appliances – for *National Grid* customers; the bonus is that you can *be paid* to have them hauled away, as opposed to *paying for* that service.

As part of an energy efficient effort by *National Grid*, someone will come to your home and take extra refrigerators and freezers away and hand you \$30 for the privilege.

A new JACO Environmental recycling facility in Franklin will recycle about 95 percent of the material in the units and safely dispose of any chemicals and ozone-depleting substances in them. Up to two working freezers or refrigerators in a household are eligible.

National Grid customers should call 1-877-545-4113 or go to www.coolturnin.com. The website also has information about how much it costs per year to run an old (second) refrigerator in your home.

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.



It's a Girl!

Celebrating a new Great-Granddaughter for **Dick Rowland** and new Granddaughter for **Alan Bemiss**: Porter Jane Bemiss arrived in Atlanta on 09/09/09. Her older sister, Caitlyn, was born on 07/07/07!!

The Ten Commandments in Verse

Thou shalt have no gods but me.
Before no idol bow they knee.
Take not the name of God in vain,
Nor date his Sabbath to profane.
Give both thy parents honor due,
And see that thou no murder do.
Abstain from thoughts and deeds unclean,
Nor steal, though thou be poor or mean,
Nor make a willful lie and love it.
What is thy neighbor's, never covet.