

The Courier

Semi-monthly Newsletter September 28, 2007

Melrose
Highlands
Congregational
Church

www.mhcc-ucc.org

OCTOBER WORSHIP PLANS



October 7

“Remember”

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Communion

Food Pantry Collection

October 14

“Lookin’ Good”

Luke 17:11-19

October 21

Senior Youth Group

leads worship

Neighbor In Need Collection

October 28

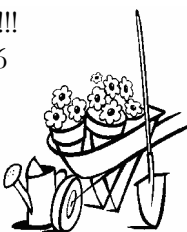
“Humble Pie”

Luke 18:9-14

PLEASE JOIN US!!!
OCTOBER 6

Property
Management will
begin Phase I of
Bonnie

Bowden’s Memorial Garden on
Saturday, October 6th and
digging will begin at 9:00 a.m.
We welcome you to join us for
however long you can and ask
that you bring a shovel with
you. It was Bonnie & Keith’s
wishes to have memorial funds
used for this purpose.



As in the past we have asked parents of children in the crib room to assist with child care during the Sunday services. We would be thrilled if we could get other people from the Church to help with this task. Most weeks there is an adult and a student volunteer. We are only looking for a small commitment, one or as many Sundays as you would like. This is a great way to meet the new people coming to the church and they get to meet the heart of MHCC. Please email Laura at blonde10@comcast.net or speak with me or Mary Ann on Sunday and get in on the fun.

Thank you,
Laura Hume & Mary Ann Barriss

Prayer Concerns

Ken Kenworthy who is in Mass General fighting an infection.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

There will be a Highlands Christmas Fair meeting on Sunday, October 14 in the Parlor after the Service (at about 11:15 a.m.). Please come for a short meeting about the Fair, if you are able to help out in any way. Thank you.
Anne Gilbert, Fair Coordinator
(781.665.5064).

BOOK DRIVE

The Prison Book Program and The City Mission Society of Boston have joined with other local non-profit groups for a huge book drive.



Donations will go to prisoners to promote literacy, sold at the City Mission bookstore, or distributed to other literacy efforts.

So gather up all those books that are just cluttering up your book-shelves. It is a way of cleaning up, clearing out, and helping promote literacy. What a deal!

The book collection will take place on Saturday October 20, 10am-4pm at the Brighton-Allston Congregational Church UCC, 404 Washington Street, Brighton, MA. You can take your books there on the 20th or drop them off here by and we will deliver them for you. How’s that for service!

FLOWER MEMORIAL SEPTEMBER



The flowers that grace the altar
are given in loving memory

September 16 – of Arlene and Allison Hayes.

September 23 –of Malcom Lacy.

September 30 – of Mr. & Mrs. Gardner W. Oakes and the basket of flowers is in loving memory of Bonnie Bowden.

On behalf
of Glenn,
Valerie and



myself, I want to express my gratitude for the tremendous outpouring of love and support given to us during Bonnie's illness and passing. From Wendy, the Women's Guild, Church School, Nursery School, staff and parents (past and present) and our many friends made through almost 30 years at MHCC, your response was overwhelming. It definitely helped to carry us.

Bonnie loved MHCC. Although she was paid for various jobs through the years, they were a labor of love for her. She faced her fate bravely as only a person of strong faith can. For her remaining days she chose quality of life over any treatment that would have briefly extended her life, but robbed her of the ability to enjoy it. She was strengthened by the many visits, cards and phone calls of her friends at MHCC. She radiated this strength almost to the very end. I was truly privileged to be her partner for 40 years.

Keith Bowden

you have stopped by to say hello and I am feeling very welcomed.

You might be wondering what my goals are for my time here with you. So here is a general overview of how I envision my ministry at MHCC. First, I plan on spending time getting to know you because being your minister is as important to me as is helping you to find your next settled pastor.

During this time of getting to know you (which I really look forward to) I will also be learning as much as I can about how MHCC works. I will attend meetings, read minutes, talk with committee members, and in general get up to speed about what the church is doing.

Once I know more about the church and have gotten to know the leaders and members of the church we will begin the second step. This involves reviewing the church's history, looking specifically at the strengths and challenges of each ministerial tenure and assessing the current strengths/challenges of the church. Once these steps have been completed we will work at discerning where the church is headed and what it will need to get there successfully.

The completion of these steps will lead to the final phase of our work together, namely the putting together of the church's profile and the formation of a search committee. Once that work has been completed the search for your next settled pastor will begin.

I know that for many the burning question is "How long will this take?" Unfortunately there is no simple formula. Every church is different and the honest answer is: "It will take as long as it takes." Rushing the process is a mistake because the success of your next pastor depends on finding the person with the right blend of skills and personality that will compliment that of the church and challenge it to grow and flourish.

For now, our task is to get to know one another and for me to get to know all that I can about the church. I invite you to come by and introduce yourself to me whenever you have a chance.

My schedule is: Monday is my day off but I will be attending meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month. I will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (please call if you want to come by in the afternoon as I may be out on pastoral visits). Fridays I will be writing my sermons at home but am available by phone. And of course I will be here on Sundays!

I look forward to getting to know each of you and to my time here at MHCC.

Peace and Blessings,
Peggy

It is my second day here at MHCC and my experience so far has been wonderful. Many of

