

September 2009 Hancock Herald

Sunday, September 13

Special Celebration Service -- Homecoming 2009



As you know, Hancock Church has called Paul Shupe to be our 11th settled Senior Pastor. Paul officially joined Associate Minister Dana Allen Walsh on our clergy team in August of this year. Just prior to this, **Hancock also brought Mark Morgan on as our new Director of Music.** To celebrate these new senior additions to our ministry team,



Hancock is hosting a special celebration service on September 13 – **HOME COMING 2009. This is an event you will not want to miss.** Homecoming 2009 will feature a message by Rev. Shupe and special music by the Church's Chancel Choir, Bell Choirs, and High School ensembles and is geared towards persons of all ages --- newcomers and members alike. A lively church fair will be held after the service highlighting the many activities and ministries of the church. Child care will be provided and transportation for those needing assistance.



In addition to coming yourself, we are asking you to consider inviting a friend. We are all very excited about the beginning of **this new era in the Church's history** and want to share this with as many of our friends and neighbors as possible.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the preparation for this event, please contact John Foster, Faith Fenske or Jim Hamilton (or get word to the Church office who will pass it on to us).

From the Minister

Dear Friends,

With the passage of nothing more than time, the fall will be upon us. The hot summer air will give way to crisp, cool autumn evenings. The tree branches and trunks will recall the from the leaves the green chlorophyll for safe keeping, letting the natural yellows and browns, reds and oranges put on a show for everyone with eyes. The schoolyards, now silent, will soon enough be jammed with students. And, even if, as we hope, the Red Sox will survive to play into October, still we know that summer will soon be over. In some ways, fall feels like an ending.

Except at church, and school of course, where the coming of fall means the return of those who have been scattered by summer. Fall is the beginning of the church year, the renewal of the community of faith that we call Hancock United Church of Christ. And I am anticipating it eagerly, as perhaps are you.

Make no mistake: this fall is a new beginning. Oh many things will remain the same; you won't have any trouble recognizing it as Hancock. But a new leadership team is now in place, a pastoral team to work with vibrant new music leaders, and enough changes to make it clear to everyone with eyes: things are not as they have been. There is real excitement in the air, possibility and opportunity abound. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Hancock community. I feel that in my heart and mind, and hope that you do as well.

But with excitement about change comes anxiety about what it will mean. With the joy of new possibility comes the worry that that which is precious might be lost. With focus on solving persistent problems comes the possibility that some of the cherished strengths of the church will be lost as we try to repair our weaker elements. Change and anxiety, newness and worry, these things go hand in hand.

It is important that we be mindful of this fact. Some of us respond more eagerly to change than do others. And the time of transition that began several years ago will continue for a while yet. We will need to strive to balance continuity and change, honoring the past without being enslaved to it, being open to new possibility without losing everything that is precious to us now. It is a delicate balancing act, an intricate dance. It is pivotal work, essential for the future of our beloved congregation. But it is not neither simple nor easy, and it will require strength and commitment from each of us.

We will need first of all to listen to one another. You and I will need time to learn to trust one another, and that trust will be built upon patient listening. I am committed to this process, and hope that you will be, too. But you will need to listen to one another also. Being aware of each other's hopes and fears and dreams and worries. We will need to remain calm, not leaping to judge one another or each other's motives, but seeking first to trust and to care for each other.

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From the Minister, continued from previous page

I first sought and then accepted your call to be your Senior Pastor because I believed that the potential of this congregation is virtually unlimited. In the months of process that have led us to this moment together, nothing has occurred to diminish that belief. God has been active at Hancock for a very long time indeed, and because God is good, we can expect that this will continue. As we begin our walk together as pastor and people, let us commit ourselves not only to caring for each other, but also remaining open to those who have not yet heard the Good News, who have not yet found their way to us. God is still speaking, and if we will continue to listen, there is no end to the possibilities of ministry and service and worship before us. I am honored to be your new Senior Minister, and I can't wait to get to work!

Grace and Peace,

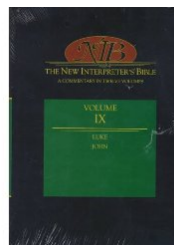
Paul

Sunday Morning Pastor's Class – 8:30 am

In the great Congregational tradition, ordained ministers are called to congregations to be both Pastor and Teacher. I take my teaching ministry as seriously as I do my pastoral caring. To that end, it is my intent to offer a Pastor's Class each Sunday from 8:30-9:30 am. We'll begin with what I call "Christian Faith 101." This class is for anyone who would like to know more about our faith. It is open to beginners, and hopefully will be challenging enough for those who've been church members for a long time. We'll talk about the Bible (what it is, what it isn't), about faith (what it is, what it isn't) this guy Jesus (what he taught, what he brings), we'll look at some knotty theological problems (why is there suffering? what about sin? Salvation?). And we'll do these things in a fun, and hopefully interesting way. There will be no required reading. Each Sunday morning class session stands on its own, so if you can only attend one, you should, and if you can attend them all, you'll be welcome! If you're unsure about whether it'll be worth your while, the only way to find out is to give one a try.

The class will start Sunday, September 20, and will continue throughout the fall, and will be held in the Kathie Stuart room. Questions? Give me a call 781-862-4220, or send me an email: paul.shupe@hancockchurch.org.

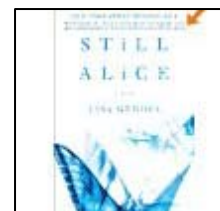
NOTES FROM POTTER LIBRARY



The Library Committee is continuing to give our membership a collection of books that add to your joy of reading. We now have a full set of the

New Interpreter's Bible to help in your personal study of the books of the Bible. Come to the library and browse the shelves for subjects that interest you for your personal reading as well as to find resources for organizational devotions. Look for the Library cart during coffee hour in the dining room and peruse our most recent books. We suggest the following:

Lisa Genova wrote a book to honor her grandmother, and it became a best selling novel about Alzheimer's disease.



Still Alice is told from the perspective of a Harvard professor diagnosed with Alzheimer's at age 50. Alice's struggles with loss of memory and independence are heart-rending.



Leaving Church: a Memoir of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor. An Episcopal priest, well known for her preaching, Taylor writes of her spiritual journey.

The most recent book by Stonehill College's Professor Emeritus Chet Raymo is When God is Gone, Everything is Holy: The Making of a Religious Naturalist. One reviewer writes – "Whether exploring the connection of the human body to the stars or the meaning of prayer of the heart, these challenging reflections will cause believers and agnostics alike to pause and pay attention."

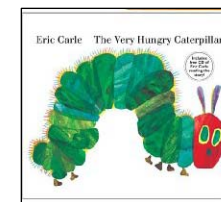


People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks is a fascinating historical novel that follows the story of a real book – the Sarajevo Haggadah – a famous Hebrew illuminated manuscript. Brooks has imagined the story of the travels of the rare manuscript from 1480 in Seville to the present day.



With Supreme Court membership currently in the news, take time to read Livia Baker's extensive biography of Oliver Wendell Holmes – The Life and Times of Oliver Wendell Holmes, a recent donation to Potter Library.

For the little ones we have a board book of Eric Carle's delightful The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Have you taken your children to the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst yet??



The eighth annual "Al Filipov Peace & Justice Forum" will be held on Saturday, September 26th at 7:00 pm. It is hosted by the Trinitarian Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 54 Walden Street, Concord, MA. Al Filipov was an active member of this church who was killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. It is open to the public and free of charge.

The speaker will be:

Jessica Jackley
Co-founder, Kiva.org

Jessica Jackley is the co-founder of Kiva.org, the world's first peer-to-peer online microlending website. Kiva's mission is to connect people, through lending, for the sake of alleviating poverty. Kiva lets Internet users lend as little as \$25 to individual developing world entrepreneurs, providing affordable capital to help them start or expand a small business.

Kiva has been one of the fastest-growing social benefit websites. Founded in 2005 with \$3,000 in loans to seven entrepreneurs in Uganda, Kiva now serves over 172,000 entrepreneurs in 44 countries, with funds from 490,500 lenders. The total value of all loans made through Kiva as of May 2009 was over \$70 million, with a 98% payback rate.

Jessica Jackley first saw the power, beauty, and dignity of microfinancing while working in rural East Africa. She has worked for public, nonprofit, and private organizations, including the Stanford Center for Social Innovation, Amazon.com, Potentia Media, the International Foundation, World Vision.

Jessica's work with Kiva has been featured in a wide array of media and press including Oprah, the Today Show, CNN, BBC, NBC, ABC, PBS, NPR, the WSJ, NYTimes, the Economist, and more. Jessica Jackley holds an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business with Certificates in Global Management and Public Management, and a BA in Philosophy and Political Science from Bucknell University.

Inquirers' Gathering and Reception of New Members

An Inquirers' Gathering will be held on **October 4th** immediately after Sunday's service in the Wilson Room. All perspective members or anyone interested in learning more about what membership at Hancock is all about is welcome to attend. Join church staff and members of the membership committee for coffee and light snacks. Childcare will be available. Please send an email to:

membership-hucc@googlegroups.com speak to someone in the membership committee or call the church office at (781)-862-4220 if you are interested in attending the meeting or would like more information. Membership committee members: Robin DiGiammarino, Jim Hamilton, Julia Potter, Rob Cunningham, Faith Fenske, Sean Walsh, Mary Beth Whiteside, Carol Caravana.

New members will be received into our congregation during the regular worship service on **Sunday October 18th**. A celebration will follow during fellowship hour to greet our new members.

Congregational and Pastoral Care

With a new church year beginning and new clergy on our staff, we are again looking at pastoral care and how we can better care for each other at Hancock.

First, both the deacons and the clergy would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their caring for one another. This has done by everyone in large and small ways – visiting friends, phone calls, driving someone to an appointment, delivering a meal, delivering flowers and even in conversations at coffee hour. All of these efforts are appreciated and need to continue.

Second, we are not mind readers. Please call the church office and let Norma or Debra know if you become ill, go into the hospital, or are in crisis. Call if you know of a church member who becomes ill, goes into the hospital, is in crisis, or needs some sort of care from the church. Don't assume we already know. It is better to hear from 10 people than not to hear at all. We may not be able to provide exactly what is needed at the moment, but we will try our best.

Third, come to a meeting and give us your thoughts. What are we doing right? What do we need to improve? Are there services, groups or information you think we might be able to provide? Are you willing to help in some small or large way? Our clergy have some thoughts on where we go from here, but we want to hear from you. Join Paul Shupe and Carol Bukys at one of the following times:

Sunday September 20 at 11:15 in Pearson Room
Wednesday September 30 at 10:30 in Pearson Room

If you can't make either of these times, call me (Carol Bukys) at 781-674-0339. I would love to have your thoughts on this matter.

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU—for anyone who would like to explore, expand, and to share their musical gifts as we lead the congregation in worship. No matter what age you are—we have a place for you. If you sing, play an instrument, play bells—we have a place for you. In short, we are blessed with a vibrant, varied music program and we want **YOU** to be a part of it!



THE MUSIC
PROGRAM
OF
HANCOCK
CHURCH

High School Vocal Ensemble

Directed Mark Morgan, this new group for students in grades 8-12 will sing 3-4 times for worship through the year. Rather than weekly rehearsals, there will be 3-5 rehearsals specifically for each “performance.” Music will vary widely, but will primarily be drawn from contemporary a cappella and gospel. This group will sing for Homecoming on September 13th!

Rehearsals: Varies

Directed By: Mark Morgan

Instrumentalists

We like to incorporate many different instruments into our worship. From advanced youth players to adult amateurs and professionals, we can tailor our material to your level to allow you to share your gifts. If you play brass, woodwinds, strings, guitar, or world music instruments, we want to know you’re out there! Contact Director of Music, Mark Morgan at 781-862-6845 ext 212 or musicdirector@hancockchurch.org

The Chancel Choir

The primary ensemble of the church, the Chancel Choir sings each Sunday. Rooted in the western classical sacred tradition, the choir performs a wide range of music to enliven our worship. Beginners and advance singers alike are welcome to join—no audition required!

Come join us for our **Fall Kick-Off Dinner** on Thursday, September 3rd (e-mail Mark Morgan for more details.)
Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30 starting September 10th
Location: Choir Room
Directed By: Mark Morgan

The Hancock Choristers

Children’s Choir for grades 1-7

Our new children’s choir, the Hancock Choristers, is open to all kids in grade 1 through 7. In addition to leading us in worship, the kids will learn basic music skills, singing skills, and will also learn about the music of the church. A fun, challenging, and fast paced experience.

Rehearsals: Sunday morning at 11:00 starting October 18th

Location:

Kathie Stuart Room

Directed By:

Mark Morgan

The Bell Choirs

Pizza Dinner and Bell Cleaning Party- Calling all bell ringers and potential bell recruits! We will start out the year with our annual family pizza dinner, then clean and polish the bells, on Wed, Sept 2 6-9pm in the Bell Room. Come hear all about everyone’s summer adventures while getting our bells ready for the new church year. Bring the whole family! Bring any new bell recruits! The more, the merrier! RSVP to Cheryl 781-862-2209 or cheryl@kraleys.com

Handbell Open House- Have you ever wanted to try ringing handbells? Ever wondered what those long tuning fork-like instruments are? Now is your chance to find out! Follow the crowds up the stairs to the bell room after church on Sunday, September 13. Talk to the ringers and try swinging a bell or a chime. If you know your right from your left, can count to 4, and like to laugh, you can ring handbells! Discover how much fun it is to make beautiful music as a team!

Hancock Church has six handbell choirs. Read on to find out which choir is right for you.

MUNCHKIN RINGERS on Sundays 9-9:50 for 3-5 graders. First rehearsal 9/20/09.

MARTING TO GLORY RINGERS on Sundays 9-9:50 for 6-8 graders and new high school/adult ringers to get started. First rehearsal 9/20/09.

HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE on Sundays 5:30-7 pm. First rehearsal 9/13/09.

TWELVE BELL RINGERS on Fridays 9:30-10:45 for adult beginners. First rehearsal 9/18/09.

MORNING GLORY RINGERS on Fridays 9:30-10:45 for adult intermediate ringers. First rehearsal 9/18/09.

HANCOCK CARILLON on Wednesday 7-9 pm for advanced adult/high school ringers. First rehearsal 9/9/09.

New ringers are encouraged to join a group in September or January.

Questions- Cheryl Kraleys 862-2209 or cheryl@kraleys.com

The Hancock Consort

The Consort is a group of instrumentalists and singers playing music from the renaissance period. The focus is on the joy of making music together, rather than performance. New members are always welcome.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30

Location: Kathie Stuart Room

Contact: Sybille Volz 781-861-8849

Joyful Noyse...

Is an early music ensemble in residence at Hancock dedicated to the research and performance of 16th-18th century music. The ensemble provides music for services about 6 times per year as well as support for the Chancel Choir and sacred and secular concerts. **Auditions take place each fall.**

Rehearsals: varies

Directed By : Martins Aldins,

Martins Aldins@parkschool.org

TELEVISION MINISTRY UPDATE



We now share our channel with public access so we are now on the LPTV channel which for each cable provider is the following:

Comcast - Channel 8 **RCN - Channel 3** **Verizon - Channel 35**

The schedule for all three channels is:

Sunday Service - Sundays at 1:00 a.m., LIVE at 9:45 a.m., tape at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays at 10:00 p.m.

Faith at Work - Sundays at 11:30 a.m., some Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

Once again, we thank everyone very much - the members of our Television Ministry Committee working diligently with LexMedia, our technical crew providing programming every week without fail and most especially our very understanding, patient and loyal viewers.

Fall work day - October 3

Mark your calendars for October 3 (Indoor Work Day) and October 24 (Outdoor Work Day) -- no technical skills needed, just a willingness to join the Prudential Committee in readying our church home for the fall and winter! Please join us?



Neighbors in Need

On October 4th Hancock will be participating in the Neighbors in Need (NIN), the UCC's special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

"Many of us wonder how can we really make a difference in the world," says Bernice Powell Jackson, executive minister for UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM). "How can we work for world peace? How can we help end hunger? How can we support justice and fairness? Well, a gift to Neighbors in Need is something concrete that we all can do. It allows our church's voice to be heard and our caring to be felt."

Two-thirds of NIN supports program initiatives and direct grants offered by the UCC's JWM, including hunger action programs, policy advocacy, just peace ministries and community organizing. One-third supports the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries and, in turn, its direct support of 20 American Indian congregations throughout the UCC.

Please consider making a difference and contribute to Neighbors in Need on October 4th.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL SENIOR PICNIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

11:45 AM TO 2:15 PM

AT THE HOME OF LARRY AND IRIS LARSEN

34 ELM STREET, CHELMSFORD.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (781-862-4220) OR YOUR

DEACON/VISITOR

TO RSVP OR REQUEST A RIDE.

The Church School Launches the Year with Renewed Vision and New Curriculum

The church school wing of Hancock Church is abuzz with cleaning, planning, and brainstorming! The Children's Christian Education Committee, with the help of representatives from the UCC Mass. Conference, worked hard over the spring to discern a vision for the church school. Now that summer has come, we've been working hard to make that vision real. New developments include:

- Making the church school more welcoming with a thorough redecoration of the classrooms and educational wing.
- Moving to a rotation-style curriculum which focuses on engaging the multiple learning styles of Hancock's children and enables teachers and children to go into greater depth with stories and activities.
- Creating more opportunities in the church calendar for kids to share their gifts in worship, including acolyting, reading Scripture, and singing.
- Connecting what the kids learn in church school with service in the larger community.

It is an exciting time for children at Hancock. With the addition of the new Music Director, Mark Morgan, and new opportunities for kids in worship and learning, there are many ways to take part. Come join at the following upcoming events through October:

*Saturday, September 12, 9-11 am in Christian Ed. Wing; **Teacher Orientation for Fall Trimester Teachers.*** Teachers will plan for their classes, meet their colleagues, and find out what they need to know about the new curriculum.

*Sunday, September 13; **Homecoming Sunday.*** Kids remain in worship to join the whole church in launching the new chapter in Hancock's history.

(continued on net page)

Church School continued

*Sunday, September 20, 9:15 am in the dining room; **Church School Kick-Off Breakfast.*** This will be a fun registration and orientation event. While families learn about church school and meet this year's teachers, they can also enjoy muffins, a raffle, and ticket draw.

*Saturday, September 26, 5 pm; **Family Movie Night.*** Come join other Sunday School families for pizza and a movie at Hancock Church! This is a great opportunity for families with Sunday School aged children to get to know one another.

*Sunday, October 18, **Claude Anshin Visits the Church School.*** The children's first unit on peacemaking will culminate in a visit to the church school from Claude AnShin Thomas, a Zen monk, Vietnam veteran, and peace activist.

If you would like to volunteer as a teacher or learn about helping with Christian education in other ways, contact **Bess Deck: 781 648 1795**, decks4@verizon.net; **Wendy Tanahashi-Works: 781 863 1325**, dwworks@verizon.net; or **Duncan Hilton: 617-894-4231**, duncan@hancockchurch.org

Youth Programs – Grades 6 through 12

Another exciting school year is upon us and planning for the 2009/2010 actually began last spring with the election of new HYG officers, additions to the Youth CE committee, and numerous discussion on activity planning during the summer months.

Last year we had one of the largest confirmation classes in many years, OWL (Our Whole Lives) was run very successfully for a second year with fantastic participation, JYO had numerous activities and strong attendance of over 20 children on a weekly basis, and HYG had another exciting year embracing community service with over 50 of our high school age kids participating on a regular basis!

This year we hope will be even better and more rewarding!

To get everyone involved we have a number of meetings scheduled to introduce parents and children who want an update on these programs or are new to the various groups a chance to learn more and participate in these great activities.

Mark the following dates in your calendars about orientations:

- OWL Parent Orientation (parents of 8th graders) – **Sunday August 30th immediately following worship**
- Confirmation Class & New HYG'ers Parent Meeting (9th graders and their parents) – **Sunday September 13th at 5:00 PM**
- JYO Parent Meeting (6th thru 8th grades) – **Sunday September 20th immediately following worship service**

Other key dates to remember:

- JYO classes start on September 20th (Upper room after children's sermon)
- HYG meeting start on September 13th (7:00 PM upper room)
- OWL starts on September 20th
- Confirmation Class starts on September 13 following the orientation

We will make sure to use email to update on a regular basis but if you have any questions feel free to contact Duncan Hilton or Dana Walsh for more information or any members of the Youth CE Committee which includes; Wade Appelman (Chair), Barbara Shinn-Cunningham, Ruthanne Igoe, Dave Cushing, Sharon Kendall, Mike Amirault, Connie Greg, and Joan Rutila.

Adult Education Opportunities at Hancock this Fall

"Christianity 101" -- Sundays at 8:30 AM

A discussion of faith issues, Bible texts, church history and other topics, led by Paul Shupe.

"Theology on Tap" -- time TBD

A time for young adults to explore faith-related issues off-site, led by Dana Allen Walsh.

"Parents Discussion Group" -- monthly Sunday evenings?

An opportunity for parents to explore faith issues in parallel with their teenagers.

"Making Peace Everyday" and *"A Peacemaking Workshop"* -- Sunday, Oct. 18

Two workshops led by Claude AnShin Thomas, Zen Buddhist monk, Vietnam veteran, and author.

Tell us what you are interested in!

A brief survey will be circulated at church in September asking for your input.

Lexington Food Pantry—September is "Canned Vegetable" Month

If you donate food this month, consider giving 15 – 16 oz size cans of vegetables (no green beans, thanks). The more the pantry receives of their "focus food of the month", the more streamlined is their buying of other staples.

The Pantry thanks Hancock for its consistent support...providing ongoing volunteers, donated food and financial support. Next opportunities to volunteer with other Hancock members are September 12th and October 10th. No experience needed. Volunteering at the Food Pantry is fun, easy and very gratifying. You can sign up on the Christian Service bulletin board across the hall from the church library or contact Amy Swanson (781-863-9443 amy.swanson@rcn.com).

Here are foods the Pantry is highlighting in upcoming months:

September: Canned vegetables -15 - 16 oz. (no green beans, thanks)

October: Cereal 14 – 20 oz boxes

November: Peanut butter (16 – 18 oz)

December: Canned fruit (15 – 16oz) or pineapple (22-24 oz)

Harvest Time and Feeding 5000

One of the visions of the Feeding 5000 group has been to start a garden in Lexington where we can grow healthy organic food to give to our local and regional neighbors who do not have enough to eat. A number of folks at Hancock have started exploring our options by visiting Gaining Ground, a local farm in Lincoln that is doing just that.

(www.gainningground.org)



Here are a few recollections from some of our visits to Gaining Ground

It was a beautiful day. Gaining Ground's manager, Verena was fabulous. She provided a constant stream of interesting conversation about farming, organic techniques, cooking ideas, her life story, and the economics of community farms. She told us that in her opinion the future of farming in Massachusetts is young, educated and female!

We weeded several rows of beans and eggplant using a tool called a scuffle hoe that lets you weed very quickly while standing up. The soil was soft and dark. It was an easy and therapeutic job that provided lots of opportunity for talking with your neighbors and building relationships. Our time there went by very quickly for everyone from 5 to 75 years old.

Our youngest gardener had a great time making friends with the earthworms and picking fresh green beans as the rest of us weeded carrots and harvested garlic. I heard him claim "I'm going to eat them all!" (referring to the beans, not the earthworms).

We put Reemay down to cover the rows of plants to protect them from getting eaten by the beetles and other insects. Reemay is a semi-transparent white cloth that lets sun and rain through, but keeps the bugs out. Organic, Organic, Organic.

Verena really does make the whole experience a lot of fun. She is a bundle of energy and her love of farming is contagious. My 17 year-old son enjoyed it as well. "It was a lot better than I thought it would be."
(continued on next page)

Harvest Time (continued)

You can see for yourself by visiting Gaining Ground during their annual Harvest Fest on September 26th starting at 11AM. It is a great opportunity to see a working organic farm, have a lot of fun and learn some organic farming techniques at the same time.

Talk to Dana, Amy Swanson or Mark Sandeen if you are interested in helping to start our own garden.

Feeding 5000 Survey

The Feeding 5000 Project Group is asking for your feedback. Your responses will help guide us as we plan future activities.

The link to the Web version of the survey is:

<http://Tinyurl.com/Feeding5K> We prefer you fill it out online as the survey program will collect and analyze the data for us. But if you cannot do it online, you can get a print copy from the counter outside the Office. Questions can be referred to Beth Schutt (781.862.8109; beth.schutt@gmail.com)



Prime Time Linger Lunch, Sunday 9/27th sponsored by Feeding 5000

Speaker: Kevin Johnson, Smaller World Trip Coordinator at Sustainable Harvest International,

Kevin facilitated the Hancock mission trip last March, working along with the 10 Hancock travelers. Join us for a fun and informative Linger Lunch and hear him:

- Illustrate in colorful detail how our financial contributions to SHI are changing the lives of individual and families in Piedras Negras and Santa Anna, and enriching the communities in innumerable ways.
- Tell us delightful stories about his amazing and varied experiences working with SHI in Central America (including his stories about leading a fun group of Hancock Church participants on a mission trip in March 2008).
- Make you realize that you cannot miss Hancock's March 2010 mission trip to Piedras Negras, Honduras.
- Teach us about relieving hunger while restoring the productivity of the land and making the environment more verdant.



Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) is our global partner for Feeding 5000. The organization provides farming families in Central America with the training and tools to overcome poverty while restoring our planet's tropical forests. The Feeding 5000 initiative has

committed to provide financial support to SHI's work in Piedras Negras, Honduras -- the same village where members of our congregation will travel again in March 2010 to assist in implementing SHI's program. Hancock's Feeding 5000 initiative has committed to raise \$3000 per year to sponsor SHI's work in Piedras Negras, Honduras. Our sponsorship will feed the entire community every day for an entire year.

Come celebrate Year 1 and help launch - Year 2's goal of Sustainability and Community Sunday, 9/27th linger lunch *Accomplishments from Year 1 of Feeding 5000!*



Sunday, 9/27th linger lunch

Accomplishments from Year 1 of Feeding 5000!

In our first year of looking at hunger we wanted people to feel like they could help and have an impact. So we offered opportunities to get involved in a way that reached our local neighbors as well as those in Boston and in impoverished communities overseas. Look at some of what got done:

- Filling 160 food boxes...the equivalent of 2400 meals of food!
- Mission trip to Honduras
 - o Building a relationship with Piedras Negras and Sustainable Harvest Int'l
- Walks for Hunger
- Community-bonding and educational dinners:
 - o Alternative Thanksgiving Dinner
 - o Souper Bowl
 - o Hunger Banquet
- Supporting Lexington Food Pantry
- Cooking for Rosies
- Learning and sharing in book groups

Looking forward to Year 2 - - Our goal is to find ways of addressing hunger in sustainable ways.

In Year 2, we invite you to learn more about how we as global people of faith can address hunger in ways that leverage our time and resources so to have lasting impact. Among other things, this next year, we will be hosting a series of "Prime Times" -- after-church speakers who will share how their hunger-focused organizations pursue their work in sustainable ways.

On 9/27th, we kick off Year 2 with keynote speaker, Kevin Johnson, trip co-coordinator and field liaison for Sustainable Harvest International. (See related article.)

Come join us for a simple lunch and hear more on Sunday, 9/27th at our Feeding 5000 Linger Lunch!

Upcoming Feeding 5000 calendar:

- 9/26th -- Harvest fest at Gaining Ground starting at 11am
- 9/27th -- Launch/linger lunch, Kevin Johnson, keynote speaker from Sustainable Harvest International
- 10/3rd -- Harvest Moon tastings and dance
- 11/8th -- Prime Time with Heifer Int'l, after church
- 11/14th -- Alternative Thanksgiving Dinner

Hancock Hosts Claude AnShin Thomas: Zen Buddhist Monk, Vietnam Veteran, and Author

On Sunday, October 18th Hancock will host Claude AnShin Thomas. He has traveled on a remarkable journey toward healing and peace that has taken him from his childhood in Pennsylvania, to the horrors of combat in Vietnam (where he received numerous awards and decorations) to a life of addiction and homelessness.

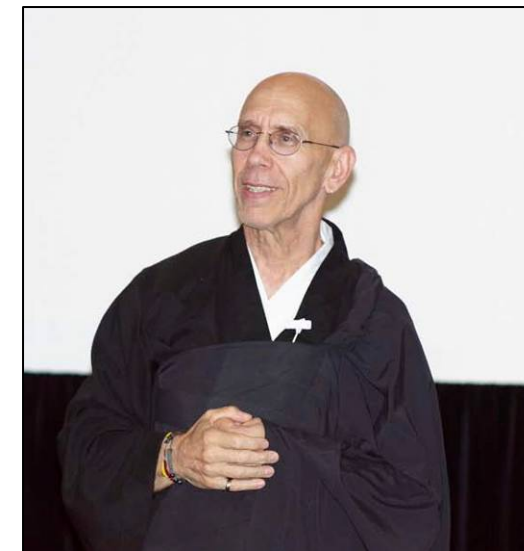
In 1990 he began the study of Buddhism with the Zen Buddhist Monk, Thich Nhat Hanh. In 1995 Claude AnShin became ordained in the Japanese Soto Zen Tradition by Baisen Tetsugen (Bernie Glassman) Roshi. Today he teaches and speaks throughout the United States, Europe, and South America as a promoter of peace and nonviolence in the effort to address the many repetitive cycles of war and violence which have their roots in us.

Claude AnShin Thomas' visit reflects Hancock's value of spiritual transformation and its progressive Christian heritage to learn from and collaborate with people of other faiths. If you would like to learn more about Claude AnShin and the work he does, you can visit the website of the Zaltho Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization which supports his life and work: www.zaltho.org or purchase his book "AT HELL'S GATE – A Soldier's Journey from War to Peace". (There are also copies available at Hancock for borrowing and on the event day there will be copies for sale). If you would like to help with set up and publicity for the event please contact the Director of Children's Ministries, Duncan Hilton at Duncan@hancockchurch.org.

- 10:00 am: Start of morning worship
- 10:10 -10:15 am: Claude AnShin Thomas introduces himself to the congregation in morning worship.
- 10:20 -11:00 am: Claude AnShin meets with the children and middle schoolers, who will have been studying Jesus'

injunction, "Blessed are the peacemakers," to share what he has learned about making peace.

- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Discussion for Hancock adults and families following the church service in the Pearson room: ***"Making Peace Everyday: Discussion with Claude AnShin Thomas: Zen Buddhist Monk, Vietnam Veteran and Author"***
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm: Workshop in the Kathie Stuart Room for members of Hancock and the general public. ***"Practices of Peacemaking: Mindfulness Meditation: Sitting Meditation, Walking Meditation, and Deep Listening."***
- 5:00 – 6:30 pm: Claude AnShin meets with the Confirmation Class to share his story and how he lives out his faith.
- 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Claude AnShin meets with the High School Youth Group to discuss with the high schoolers how they can be peacemakers.





Summer HEAT

It has been a busy summer for HEAT, the Hancock Environmental Action Team! One of the group's major initiatives—to reduce the carbon footprint of Hancock's physical infrastructure—took two leaps forward this summer.

First, in June, HEAT brought a motion before Standing Committee to change Hancock's electricity supplier to NSTAR Green, which is generated entirely from clean sources such as wind and solar. In bringing the motion, HEAT cited the significant social costs of pollution and climate change brought about by conventional "brown" power, as well as God's clear and repeated charge to his people to be good stewards of creation. We are pleased to report that, after a number of SC members spoke eloquently in support of it, the motion carried and the switch was carried out shortly after. As a result of this change, Hancock will emit approximately *50 fewer tons* of CO₂ into the environment each year. NSTAR Green costs slightly more (1.9 cents per kWh, or about 10-15% more than conventional), but this cost is more than offset both by recent NSTAR electricity supply rate reductions and the efficiency gains described below.



Second, in July, HEAT teamed up with Prudential to conduct and evaluate an electrical energy audit of the church buildings. Although Hancock's lighting systems were already relatively efficient, due to the many recent advances in lighting technology, the audit revealed opportunities to reduce Hancock's historical electricity usage (75,000 kWh/year) by as much as 20% (to about 60,000 kWh). Because the great majority of the cost of the changes is covered by grants and the rest financed with a small, interest-free loan, the expected payback period is less than two years, and Hancock will enjoy the subsequent savings indefinitely. Once we crunched the numbers, the

decision to proceed was easy. All of this work was completed in the month of August with no disruption to church operations. As an added bonus, next time you are at church, look around and see if you notice the cleaner, brighter, more consistent lighting.

Between these changes and the church's recent switch to cleaner, more efficient natural gas heating, we estimate that Hancock's carbon footprint has been cut approximately in *half* while decreasing our operating budget. As collective stewards both of God's creation and of our tithes and offerings, these are accomplishments we can all feel great about.



Where to from here? HEAT has exciting plans for the church year that include learning opportunities about where our individual carbon footprints come from and how they can be reduced (the answers may surprise you!) and an information campaign leading up to an important Town Meeting vote this fall on the energy efficiency requirements in Lexington's building code. We will also be co-sponsoring events with Feeding 5,000 to help raise awareness of how we can make our diets healthier, more sustainable, and more economical while having a meaningful impact on alleviating human hunger.

Interested in finding out more or getting involved? Look for us at Hancock Homecoming on September 13th or come to one of our sponsored coffee hours. We also invite you to attend HEAT's regular meetings, which are generally held at 7:30 on third Thursday of every month at the church. For further information or to join the HEAT mailing list, check us out on Hancock's web site or contact Dave Cushing at 781 789 8791 or dcushing84@gmail.com. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

HOMECOMING SUNDAY September 13, 2009

Honoring Our Hancock Saints

On Homecoming Sunday, we want to provide a way for members and friends of Hancock to remember and/or honor those persons who have been an inspiration to them, or who have helped to strengthen their faith. To do so, we invite you to purchase a flowering mum plant which will be used to decorate the sanctuary through out the fall, and which will be given to individuals or families who visit Hancock this fall.



If you would like to participate, please fill out the following information, and place this sheet in the offering plate. A mum will be ordered for you, and your dedication will be printed in the bulletin on Homecoming Sunday. The cost of a mum will be \$15.00, and you may pay for it at any time in the church office, or by check made payable to Hancock UCC, clearly designated for a Homecoming mum.

My homecoming mum honors/remembers

Name

My name: _____

My phone: _____

My e-mail address: _____

New Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:30-7:00 p.m. - Hancock Chapel

The Hancock ministerial staff is excited to offer the entire church community a Sunday evening worship service, which will be held in the Chapel. The idea for Sunday evening worship came from our HYG officers who have expressed a strong desire to worship together in a more intimate, interactive, and intergenerational setting. The Hancock ministerial staff is responding to the desire of our youth and their parents. With three groups meeting at Hancock on Sunday evenings - Confirmation Class, Our Whole Lives, and HYG, the hope is that parents will be able to come in when dropping off or picking up their child and worship together for a half hour.

The worship service will be interactive, energetic, thoughtful, and led each week by Paul Shupe, Dana Allen Walsh, Duncan Hilton, and Anna Humble. Everyone and anyone is invited to this new worship service - you don't have to have a child in a youth program! Our hope is that this service will be intergenerational - catering to children, youth, young adults, parents, and elders!

Our first worship service will be Sunday, September 13th, 6:30 - 7p.m. in the Chapel!

If you have any questions, please contact Paul, Dana, or Duncan.

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational
1912 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA 02421
Paul C. Shupe Senior Minister
Dana Allen Walsh Associate Minister
Phone: (781) 862-4220
E-Mail: office@hancockchurch.org
www.hancockchurch.org

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NOVEMBER

November 1 – All Saints Sunday - Holy Communion
“Our Cloud of Witnesses” Hebrews 11:1-3,, 8-12:12:1-3
Paul Shupe preaching
Daylight Savings Time ends

November 8 - Stewardship Sunday
“Our Whole Lives” Mark 12:38-44
Paul Shupe preaching
Prime Time: Heifer International

November 14 – Alternative Thanksgiving Dinner

November 15
“The Story of Antoninette Brown Blackwell”
Dana Allen Walsh Preaching Isaiah 6:1-8
Prime Time:

November 22 - Thanksgiving Sunday
Shared Preaching
Bells participating in worship

November 29 – The First Sunday in Advent & Holy Communion
“Active Waiting” Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36
Paul Shupe preaching



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HANCOCK CHURCH



SEPTEMBER

September 06 - Labor Day Weekend – worship returns to 10 am
“Two Paintings” Mark 6:14-29
Anna Humble preaching

September 12 - 26th annual Senior Picnic

September 13 – Homecoming Sunday
“Answering the Question” Mark 8:27-38
Paul Shupe preaching
Bell Open House & Activities Fair
Confirmation Class – parent & student info and dinner
HYG begins
Sunday Evening Worship Begins

September 20 – Seminarian Dedication
Church School Kick Off Breakfast
JYO Parent Meeting following worship
“Receiving the Children” Mark 9:30-37
Paul Shupe preaching
Church School, JYO, OWL & Confirmation Class Begins

September 26 – Gaining Ground Harvest Day
Church School Family Movie Night

September 27 – Year Two – Feeding 5000
“Eldad and Medad, Alex and Margaret, You and Me”
Paul Shupe preaching Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Bells participating in worship
Linger Lunch – Sustainable Harvest International –
Kevin Johnson

OCTOBER

October 3 - Harvest Moon – Tastings and Dance

October 4 - World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need offering
“One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism One God”
Paul Shupe preaching Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Harvard Collegium Musicum
Inquirer’s Gathering

October 11 – Columbus Day weekend
“This Is the Job” Psalm 9-16 Mark 10:35-45
Brian Gruhn preaching

October 18 - New Members will be received
“Servants of All” Mark 10:35-45
Paul Shupe preaching
Prime Time: Claude AnShin Thomas: Zen Buddhist Monk,
Vietnam Veteran and Author
He will also meet with the Confirmation Class and HYG

October 25
“Take Heart” Mark 10:46-52
Dana Allen Walsh preaching
Bells participating in worship
Prime Time: Anna Humble – Mental Health Awareness