



# May 2010 Hancock Herald

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**Paul C. Shupe Senior Minister**

**Dana Allen Walsh Associate Minister**

*The Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ*

*&*

*Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational*

*Lexington, Massachusetts*

*Invite you to celebrate with us the*

*Installation of*

*The Reverend Paul C. Shupe*

*As Senior Minister*

*Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.*

*1912 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts*

*A reception will follow the service*

*Members of the clergy are invited to process vested in red*

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HANCOCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST invites the community to celebrate with the congregation as a new senior minister, The Reverend Doctor Paul C. Shupe, is installed on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3pm. Current members and friends, former members, Hancock Nursery School families, neighbors, and others of different faith communities are all welcome to share in this very special event in the life of Hancock Church.

Dr. Shupe will be installed as the 11th Senior Minister of Hancock Church in a joyful worship service. The Reverend Dana Allen Walsh, Associate Minis-

ter at Hancock, members of the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association, as well as members of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ Conference, the church, and the community will participate in the worship service. Hancock's Director of Music, Mark Morgan, will direct the Chancel Choir, and the Hancock Carillon Handbell Choir will play. A reception will follow in Hancock's Clark Hall.

*"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. . . . I am honored to be your new Senior Minister and am enjoying the work of ministry and service and worship with you."*

The congregation welcomes Paul and his wife, MaryAnn,

## New Books in Potter Library

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Come in to the Library or check the book-cart on Sundays in the dining room to find our latest additions.

We have Greg Mortenson's new book, Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, not Bombs, which follows the work begun in his immensely popular book, Three Cups of Tea, also in our library.

Cary Library has promoted Tracy Kidders's Home Town for its Lexington Reads program. A copy is now on our book cart.

The new biography of Louisa

May Alcott by Harriet Reisen is readable and informative.

Don Weikert has given us two books by Nan C. Merrill; Psalms for Praying and Walking with Wisdom.

### A PLEA FOR MISSING BOOKS AND INFORMATION ABOUT BOOKS YOU DONATE

Please check your shelves and those in your children's rooms for Potter Library books. They are easy to find because all our books have a label on the spine and a book pocket in the back. Please leave any books in the return basket by

the library door. No fees – no questions – we just need our missing books to come back to our shelves so others may use them

We are happy to receive donations of books that you think suitable for our library. We frequently receive duplicates. We reserve the right to choose those books that are timely and appropriate for the congregation. If we cannot use them, we will be happy to give them to Cary Library for their book sale, put them on our annual free table or return them if you so request.

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## Spring Clean Up—Saturday, May 15—9 am to 1 pm

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Please join the Prudential Committee and the Landscaping Subcommittee and friends on the morning of Saturday, May 15 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) to help us clean up the Church grounds to ready our Church home for the summer! We have a great list of projects and would appreciate having your help so that we can complete these projects that same day. The projects don't require any experience, and we'll be glad to teach you any needed skills.

One special request: if you are thinning out your pachysandra or your periwinkle (a.k.a. myrtle or vinca) this spring, we would be grateful for contributions of the excess. No need to clean out the individual plants -- clumps are fine! Linda Williams will be glad to pick it up from you or arrange for you to drop it off at the Church between now and May 15 -- Linda's phone is 781-861-8448.

And for any general questions about Work Days, please call Lucy Miller (978-371-9632) or email her at

lucymiller@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you!

## From the Minister

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Dear Friends,

By now, you are almost certainly aware that our church basement was recently invaded by rain and groundwater. I know that many of you had similar circumstances in your homes, and we are all sympathizing with one another. For a couple of weeks, the theme of our church building's life was "A River Runs Through It." Happily the sunshine has returned and we are again able to imagine a future without mops and sandbags and sump pumps filling our waking hours.

According to the story, when Noah stepped out of the ark, God was waiting for him with a new covenant, and new life flourished on the land. Our flood was not quite of this proportion, but already I can see that new life is going to emerge from this disaster, and God's blessings are abundant.

Here's what I see: your church leaders, especially the Prudential Committee, but also your Moderator Robin DiGiammarino, and the other financial committees of the church (Finance, Stewardship, Endowment, Personnel) are stepping up to address not only these immediate problems, but also the long-term needs of our building and our financial resources as we move into this next chapter of life together at Hancock UCC.

All of these leaders met in mid-April for what we called a "Financial Summit." It had been a long while since they had all gathered together and spoken openly not only of immediate problems, but more importantly about future goals for Hancock, and how the very practical matters of building and finance can be addressed to help support new programs of worship, learning, outreach and evangelism to help us thrive and grow. These leaders are beginning to explore possible plans to accomplish work too long deferred, but also work to better equip

us for the future of ministry in and mission from our church community.

You will be hearing much more about this work in the weeks and months to come. Not only will these leaders be sharing their thoughts, just as importantly, they'll be seeking to hear yours, creating opportunities to listen to your hopes and dreams for the future of our building and of our programs.

Our church building is one of our most important tools and resources. As such we need to care for it so that future generations may gather in it and be strengthened and equipped so that the work of discipleship can go on.

We are sometimes tempted to think that spending on our building is sort of selfish, that money we spend here is money diverted from our mission to help others. I always find myself understanding that idea, and disagreeing with it. On one hand, we neither want nor need an overly fancy building. God is neither praised nor is anyone served by our sitting on gold-plated pews. But on the other hand, here is where we assemble to do the work of equipping one another to live and serve in the world as faithful disciples of Jesus. Our building is the place where we gather again and again to do the work of church: worshiping, learning, and planning. It needs to be well cared for and capable of aiding us. To that end, it needs to be clean, welcoming, accessible to all, organized to suit our needs, and properly cared for.

I'm excited by the prospect of many conversations about the future that are soon to come. I wake up every day excited to go to work at Hancock UCC, and know that you feel much the same about our shared ministry here on the Green.

Grace and Peace,

*Paul*



Bill McKibben recently spoke at Harvard University about the moral imperative for local action if we are to ensure that human life will flourish.

He talked about how we have used fossil fuels to build bigger homes, and built those homes farther apart from each other and that perhaps the biggest impact of cheap fossil fuels has been to make us lonelier.

He talked about how we had twice as many close friends in the 50's as we do today, how we ate twice as many meals with friends and families as we do today, and how, according to Gallup polls, our personal happiness as a society peaked in 1956. Our happiness has declined even while our average income and our nation's GDP increased 3 fold.

He talked about the value of building meaningful and tight bonds between people and bringing us closer together as communities. He talked about how people have 10 times more conversations with their neighbors at a farmers market than they do at the super-market.

He suggested we can build a world where we are happier with our lives and at the same time, a world where we use substantially less fossil fuels. He reminded us this is very possible. We need look no further than the example of Western Europeans who use half the energy per capita as Americans, but are much happier, healthier and live longer.... and they have a lot of room for improvement!

He talked about how important it is to decentralize our production of energy, our production of food, and our financial system... if human kind is to flourish.

He suggested that if a financial institution like AIG or Lehman Brothers is too big to fail, the answer isn't bailouts. The answer is that we shouldn't let companies get so big that our entire global economy is threatened if they make a few bad decisions.

He talked about how fossil fuels naturally lead to centralized solutions for energy and food production, but how wind and solar power are naturally decentralized and the advantages (and tradeoffs) inherent in that decentralization.

He talked about how farmers markets are the fastest growing part of the food economy. How people build community and personal relationships at farmers markets, how 100,000 people in Madison, WI shop at farmers markets every week, fundamentally changing how food is grown in that area of the country.

He announced his next big initiative, which is set for October 10, 2010. He announced that day will be a global work party, a day dedicated to highlighting the work that we are all doing at a local level to address climate change and to move towards a sustainable world where human kind can flourish.

It is an interesting challenge. What actions will we have to show on October 10th?

## “You” made our Auction a Success



### A Big Thank You !

### We made \$18,500!

For all who donated items or services, worked getting the auction ready, worked at the auction, donated food, games, books, puzzles, bought lunch or sweets, attended and bid, we would like to thank you. Your contributions will enable the church to lower the cost of each HUG member's cost for their trip to Neon for the next two years and provides scholarship so any teen who wants to go can.

A special thanks goes to our perennial, auctioneer extraordinaire **Phil Terry**. Phil, what would the auction be without your good humor, strong voice and ability to squeeze the last penny out us tight wads?

**Sharon Kendall**---thanks for taking on the lunch duty! We knew we asked the right person. The fact that you organized all this in no time makes you a super woman in our eyes.

**Anne Hoffman**---thanks for taking on our new venture—children's book, puzzle and game sale. Your leadership and salesmanship will get us long way in our goal to fund future trips.

Another special thanks goes to the Hancock UCC staff. Where would we *all* be without **Norma Blake's** encouragement and airtight memory???. And to **Anna Humble** who cheerfully accepted last minute additions to the bulletin without batting an eyelash. **Frank** for set up **and Thad** for financial help.

The following businesses and non-profits have generously supported the auction by donating food and gift certificates.

Pemberton Farms  
Blue Hair Salon  
Greater Boston Running Co.  
Lexx  
Neillio's Gourmet Farm  
Nourish  
Sweet Beads  
deCordova Museum

Wilson Farms  
Crafty Yankee  
Avenue Deli  
Boston Red Sox  
New England Zoo  
The Boston Breakers  
Boston Lyric Opera

Harvard Art Museums  
Isabella Stewart Gardner  
Sturbridge Village  
Peabody Essex Museum  
Plimouth Plantation  
Cake  
Via Lago

The HYG has been very instrumental in making this day a success. Your parents have a lot to be proud of. We would like to especially thank the HYG members of the auction committee:

Tori Kendall  
Lucy Galvin

Chan Gregg  
Chris Batty

Chris Appelman  
Sara Foster

Sincerely,  
Amy Swanson

Connie Gregg  
Joan Rutila

Carol Bukys  
Janet Woit



## Organ and Voice Recital—Sunday, May 23—3:00 pm

On Sunday afternoon, May 23, the Music & Arts Committee will present a concert by organist Gayle Martin and soprano Deborah Kraus. Gayle H. Martin is University Organist and Assistant Professor in the Music Department at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada, where she teaches organ performance, music history and choral conducting. She directs the [Elliott Chorale](#) and [Choral Society](#), and coaches an early music group, Opella Nova. She holds degrees from the Crane School of Music, SUNY, Potsdam; McGill University; and the University of Alberta. While studying organ in France, Martin was organist at the American Cathedral in Paris and lived in the cathedral tower. Martin has recorded three CDs; [Celtic Impressions](#), recorded on the organ at the Mount Allison University Chapel, [Air Races](#), a collabo-

rative CD with piper Ian MacKinnon and [Prism](#), Martin's first solo CD, recorded on the newly restored organ at Trinity-St. Stephen's in Amherst Nova Scotia.

Versatile mezzo-soprano Deborah Kraus graduated from the celebrated Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where she studied with Vincent Lenti, Masako Toribara, Maria Luisa Faini, and Robert Spillman, before moving to Montreal where she worked with Jan Simons and the McGill Opera Studio. Ms. Kraus has garnered high praise over the years for her recital, chamber music, opera and oratorio concerts in eastern Canada and the United States. She tours with such well-known conductors as Uri Mayer, Boris Brott, Iwan Edwards and Syd Hodkinson; her frequent performances on CBC Radio and Television and her recordings with the American Composer

Series, distributed worldwide - all led to still greater acclaim. Ms. Kraus's art has dazzled aficionados of American popular music of the 1920's-50's. She starred in the CBC TV series Yesterdays (with pianist Armas Maiste) and recorded a cross-over CD, the beguiling Dream Dancing: The Songs of Cole Porter and Richard Rogers - with acclaimed Montreal pianist John Gilbert.

Gayle and Deborah will present an unusual program entitled "A Western European/North American TouSon" featuring music from Spain, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Canada and the United States. Gayle and Deborah are cousin and sister of Hancock member Scott Martin. This program is family friendly and a reception will follow. A free will offering will benefit the music program.

## Music for Viols and Voices

On May 8th, at Hancock Church, the Viola da Gamba Society - New England will join forces with Hancock's A Joyful Noyse in presenting a workshop on German music of the 17th century written for viols

and voices. If you are an experienced singer or viol player or if you are interested in taking beginners' classes in viol playing you will find more information about this day long event at:

[www.vdgsne.org](http://www.vdgsne.org)

Faculty for the workshop will include Pamela Dellal, Martins Aldins, Jane Hershey, Jean Twombly, Hannah Davidson and Janet Haas.

## May is “Baked Beans” month at the Lexington Food Pantry

If you donate food this month, consider giving 16 oz cans of Baked beans, including vegetarian beans. The Lexington Food Pantry thanks you for all your donations.

Focus Foods for the next few months: June Solid White Tuna (5oz to 7 oz) July Cereal

**Fact of the month: The Pantry needs lots of help, the afternoon of Sat, 5/8<sup>th</sup>. Can you help when they receive the food drop off of their biggest annual food drive blitz?**

Each year the U.S. Postal Service does a food drive where the mail carriers will pick up food from your house and drop it off at the local food pantry. The Lexington Food Pantry is in desperate need for people to help on the afternoon of Saturday, 5/8<sup>th</sup> to meet the mail trucks, help unload the groceries, sort, organize and pack up the food. If you have an hour or more to help, sign up! Extra help is needed from about 12:00 to 6, with most manpower needed after 2pm. Children, who can read, are welcome to come and work along with their parents. For more information and to sign up, contact Amy Swanson, amy.swanson@rcn.com or sign up on the Christian Service bulletin board. This is one of those times when another of your mother's sayings is so true: **Many hands make light work!**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Go Green Dance

*Raised the Green for Sustainable Harvest International*



The band—Trial Run

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the Go Green Dance for the benefit of Sustainable Harvest Int'l. You bought tickets, gave donations, came, and (we hope) had fun!

The timing of the dance ended up being great—we ended up with back-to-back SHI related events! Saturday night was the dance; and the next morning, at Sunday's coffee hour, the mission trippers reported back on Honduras, talking about their experiences and showing pictures. We also had the good fortune to have Florence Reed both at the dance and the coffee hour. Between the dance and the follow-on donations, over \$2200 was raised for SHI that weekend!



Florence Reed

Thanks to Len Nason, for inviting us to work with his band, TRIAL RUN on their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Go Green dance and have SHI as the beneficiary of that evening's fundraising! He and his fellow musicians gave us the forum to raise money and awareness for SHI within the broader Lexington community. (Stay tuned for next year's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Go Green Dance with TRIAL RUN!) Thanks also to the local merchants and businesses who contributed food and services for the evening: Peet's Coffee and Tea of Lexington, Stop and Shop of Lexington, Market Basket of Burlington, Whole Foods of Woburn, the Elks Lodge #2204 of Lexington for the use of the hall and finally, John Cini for providing the stage lighting and effects.



Hancock folks enjoying the evening

## Christian Education News (more info on page 11)

It has been a busy month for JYO with Cooking for Rosie's, a Late Night, two guest speakers, and organizing the Good Friday Dinner!

### Celebrating Holy Week

The Good Friday Dinner was a huge success. The biggest problem was finding enough bowls for the ~100 people who showed up! Over a dozen kids helped chop vegetables and make soup and a handful went beyond the call of duty to stay late cleaning up. A special thanks to Susan Foley, Will and Rob Cunningham, Stewart Deck, and David Parker for their help decorating, cooking, and cleaning up. It was a wonderful help to the confirmands and to the wider church.

### Youth Sunday on May 23

The JYO class will be participating in worship on May 23, Confirmation and Graduate Sunday. Over the next few weeks the kids will be brainstorming and practicing how they can contribute to the worship service and celebrate what they have done this year.

## What we've been up to!

### Guest Speakers: Partakers and Drummers

On April 11, in the spirit of Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord," and the spring JYO unit on spiritual practices JYO hosted members of the drumming group from First Church in Somerville who spoke about group drumming as a way to practice community and worship joyously.

On March 28, the JYO hosted Arthur Brembury and Lanny Kutakoff from Partakers, a "faith-based, non-profit organization, committed to advancing restorative justice, rehabilitation, and the healing transformation of both prisoners and society." It was a powerful experience to hear Arthur's story about how studying for a college degree in prison transformed his life. Arthur also has some very powerful lessons for

the kids, grounded in his own experience of ending up incarcerated at age 19, like "short-term actions can have very long-term consequences!"

## Church School Update

Congratulations to all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders for celebrating their first educated Communion at the Maundy Thursday worship service. It was wonderful to have so many of the kids involved in the Holy Week celebrations. They were made brighter and more memorable with the artistic and worship contributions of the kids. A special thanks as well to the Kuli family for organizing a Family Movie night last month. The kids enjoyed the pizza and the movie and the adults enjoyed a chance to chat in an informal and light-hearted setting

## The Lexington Interfaith Garden

The Lexington Interfaith Garden builds meaningful interfaith relationships by working together to grow organic produce for our hungry neighbors.

Our Hope is:

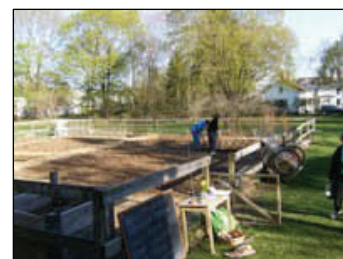
- To provide fresh produce for people in need.
- To educate ourselves and our community on the value of local, sustainable farming.
- To build connections within our interfaith communities.
- To have fun while doing rewarding work.
- To foster the notion of community and community work.



### Life at the garden. . .

When you first arrive, you'll see the blackboard which is updated each work day to let us know what kind of work is ahead for the afternoon. Most important task? Sign in and meet the other volunteers! The blackboard on April 6<sup>th</sup> told us we would be planting seedlings and we were asked to try to find the asparagus that was just appearing. Usually, Carla, the head farmer takes us on a tour of the garden so we can see what has happened since our last visit.

The garden is located at a private residence in the center of town. The main garden is about 50 ft by 60 ft. and there is another little garden plot adjacent. How many pounds of food will be grown is a big guess at this point, so to help answer that we have bought a weighing scale. Everything that gets picked to be given away will be weighed. By the end of the season we will be able to tell you how much produce has been contributed to the Lexington Food Pantry or to the Boston Gleaners, servicing local food banks. Stay tuned.



The garden looks all brown in the pictures, but up close you see the young green plants emerging. The people in the picture at right are prepping the rows where the onions will be planted, between the potatoes and the cucumber and squash plots. In Week 3, a variety of potatoes were planted, including Russet Burbank, Katahdin, and Red Norland. Carolyn Wortman of the Lexington Food Pantry says she buys about 60 pounds of potatoes a week for the Pantry clients. Come the fall, we expect she will be receiving our potatoes instead.



If you come visit, find the deep furrowed ground which marks where the potatoes were buried.

The garden is being planted with both seeds and seedlings. For instance, lettuce seeds were planted in the first week, and then lettuce plants were planted about 3 weeks later. The seedling plants will be ready to be harvested first and it the head farmer's expectation that just as we exhaust those plants the next generation of salad greens that were planted from seeds will be ready to harvest.

On a recent Tuesday we heard more about where other foods were going. Like lots of tomato and basil plants together. (Where's the mozzarella?) And pole beans to be planted along with a few rows of corn so the beans can climb the corn stalks. How cool is that!

Discover the joy of being part of this important work. Volunteers work from 4:30 to 6 pm on Tues, Thurs and Sat afternoons. You get to work alongside members of some of the other 12 faith communities collaborating on the garden. Children at least 6 years of age are welcome along with a supervising parent. Contact Amy Swanson for more information ([amy.swanson@rcn.com](mailto:amy.swanson@rcn.com) or 781-863-9443.) and to sign up. Learn more at the garden's website <http://interfaithgarden.org/> or find the Interfaith Garden Lexington on Facebook!

## “Noah, Build Me An Ark!”

How many of you remember Bill Cosby's famous monologue (presumably with God)? Unfortunately, it is slightly less humorous when you don't have advance warning to build your “protection,” as Hancock recently experienced. By now, many people know that the Floods of March and April ravaged a large portion of our basement, including the Choir Room, Music Directors' and Historian's Offices, the wheelchair ramp, back hallway, etc. Many generous volunteers helped bail us out (literally!) with repeated and heroic acts of sandbagging, mopping, lifting/moving, and cleaning.



Beyond the immediate damage, we incurred significant costs to install sump pumps, drain hallways, and hire professional cleaners to mitigate further problems in these spaces. The storms “precipitated” extensive leaks in other areas of the church, too, such as the Tower Room, stairwells and kitchen. All of these breaches have quickly “advanced” our ongoing concerns to address critical portions of our Church's “outer envelope” including immediate roof and drainage work.

A financial summit on April 13<sup>th</sup> (chairs/members of Prudential, Finance, Endowment, Stewardship and Personnel, led by Paul Shupe and Robin DiGiamarrino), thoughtfully reviewed our short-term challenges, as well as framing some excellent long-term planning toward a stable financial picture. We collectively determined that Hancock needs to invest \$60,000 right now to “fix” our immediate physical plant needs. While some of this expense may have been unforeseen, we also recognize a great many of these problems relate to capital projects being deferred every year to balance annual budgets.

Many of us deliberated thoughtfully in making our annual Stewardship Pledge last fall. The Church leadership now asks each of us to consider an incremental “emergency” contribution to tackle these critical expenses. We will conclude the appeal before the end of May, even as we vet and hire professionals to begin the work. Please watch your email and mail boxes for more details, or ask any one of us for more information. Checks should be directed to the main office, with “Emergency Repairs” in the memo line.

Hancock has been blessed by many generous members over the years; we can take great pride in being a highly “responsive” community – often for causes far from Lexington. But right now, we need your attention at “home” as we dry out and put our worship place back in good working order.

Many thanks,

Paul Shupe, Robin DiGiamarrino, Lucy Miller, Laurel Freeberg,  
Larry Link, Dean Rutila, Arthur Daltas

## Pastor's Class—Sundays at 8:30 am

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Just Who Is Jesus?--  
Pastor's Class on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM. The "Pastor's Class," led by Paul Shupe, will continue to meet every Sunday morning through June in the Pearson Room, 8:30-9:30 AM. We are now turning to the New Testament, starting with Paul's

letters and continuing with the Gospels. Come for questions, exploration, lively discussion, and fellowship. You are welcome to drop in and attend whenever you can—no long-term commitment required!

## First Thursdays

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Next "First Thursdays" Discussion on May 6. The third session of our discussions on faith and life will be held on Thursday, May 6, 9:30-10:30 AM in the Wilson Room, and will be led by Dana Allen Walsh. Participants are asked to read the "Challenges" chapter (pp.61-86) of Millard Fuller's

Building Materials for Life (available in the church office). Some questions to think about as you read: What have you learned, and what positive experiences have you gained, from "failures"? What fears and doubts have you found paralyzing? Has doubt ever strengthened your

faith? What are the comforting "ruts" in your life? Are there any ruts or habits that you would like to break out of? All are welcome!

## More Christian Education Info (continued from page 8)

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In the church calendar the season of Easter is actually 50 days long. As one colleague put it, Easter often feels more like "Trumpets, then crash" than a 50 day long celebration. If Lent is a time to recognize hunger in the world and hunger in ourselves, then Easter is a time to celebrate

abundance. To honor this season church school and JYO will be volunteering at Gaining Ground, an organic garden in Concord that donates all of its produce to area food pantries and meal programs.

The first trip will be Sunday, May 30 from 1-4. RSVP to [duncan@hancockchurch.org](mailto:duncan@hancockchurch.org) if your family is interested; space is limited because Gaining Ground puts limits on their number of volunteers each week. Kids of all ages are welcome.

## A New Season of Growth at Hancock Church

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This article arrived after the Herald was in print. I am including it in the email version.

Thank you for welcoming the 13 new church members who joined Hancock in February. They discovered our exciting faith community and we want them to continue to enjoy church life here. We also hope that others who are looking for a place to continue their faith journey will find their way to Hancock, because we know it to be a great place for worship, learning, growing, and sharing the responsibility of our faith's work in the world.

Growing the church community and welcoming visitors is a mission for our whole congregation. Newcomers may find a church by driving by, looking in the phone book or newspaper, hearing about an activity or mission they are interested in, participating in community service work alongside church members, word of mouth, and looking online, among other ways. But consider this:

87% of people in the US who come to a church and stay, do so because someone invites them.

A personal invitation is a powerful message. It tells the recipient that you are extending yourself to include them in another part of the community. It says that you may have more in common than what appears on the surface. While we may tend to shy away from "the E word," Evangelism, it's a great time to challenge our thinking about inviting others in. As our new senior minister Paul says, "Do we really want to keep all the good things here for ourselves?"

Hancock's Membership Committee is starting a new Invite-a-Friend initiative. We encourage you to invite people you think may enjoy Hancock's community to visit church with you. Now, before you stop reading, please know that most of us are not comfortable telling others about our church or inviting someone to Sunday worship. But ours is an active congregation with many activities and special events, which offer a variety of ways to introduce the church to friends or neighbors. So keep an eye out for notices of "Invite-A-Friend Events" in the coming months. We'll highlight upcoming Invite-A-Friend Events in the bulletin and weekly email. Activities such as Family Movie and Pizza Night, and the first band concert of the summer would be great opportunities to share casually with others. Special worship services such as Cantata Sunday, Fall Homecoming Sunday, and the recent Youth Sunday service are perfect for visitors too.

While we all continue to make Hancock a warm place, entering the church for the first time, participating in a new service, or going to coffee hour may still be daunting to visitors.

However, if you invite and bring someone with you, 99% of hospitality issues will take care of themselves.

So if you see someone whom you haven't encountered before, say hello. Ask them if you can help them find something (such as the childcare rooms or the coatroom). It's okay if it turns out they already know all the secret staircases in the church. Helping one another is part of our whole church mission, and starts within the church.

Here are 5 actions you can choose from to make a difference at Hancock in this new season of growth and change—you are probably already doing some of these:

1. Introduce yourself to someone at coffee hour or greet your pew neighbors.
2. Tell someone outside the church about a particular thing you liked about the service Sunday: give a one sentence description of why the [sermon, music, message, outreach project, children's sermon, coffee hour,....] interested you.
3. Ask a friend to attend an event at church with you, such as an upcoming Invite-A-Friend Event.

Tell someone outside the church we have a new minister and what you like best about his ministry, or how he completes such a talented ministry team.

Place an event flier for a Hancock activity in a local business.

Thanks for all you do to make Hancock the great place that it is.

--The Membership Growth Committee

## Hancock Church Installs New Senior Minister

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This is the press release for the Lexington Minuteman. It is not included in the printed Hancock Herald but has interesting information that many would like to know so I am including it with the email version.

HANCOCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST invites the community to celebrate with the congregation as a new senior minister, The Reverend Doctor Paul C. Shupe, is installed on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3pm. Current members and friends, former members, Hancock Nursery School families, neighbors, and others of different faith communities are all welcome to share in this very special event in the life of Hancock Church.

Dr. Shupe will be installed as Senior Minister of Hancock Church in a joyful worship service. The Reverend Dana Allen Walsh, Associate Minister at Hancock, members of the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association, as well as members of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ Conference, the church, and the community will participate in the worship service. Hancock's Director of Music, Mark Morgan, will direct the Chancel Choir, and the Hancock Carillon Handbell Choir will play. A reception will follow in Hancock's Clarke Hall.

Dr. Shupe accepted the congregation's call to be the 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Minister at Hancock Church in August 2009, replacing the preceding senior minister of 28 years' tenure. Dr. Shupe served as a beloved minister for congregations in Madison, Wisconsin, and Falmouth, Maine. Dr. Shupe brings energy and enthusiasm and more than 20 years of experience with him, plus a passion for preaching, teaching, fellowship, and the Red Sox. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Grace-land University, his Master of Divinity at Vanderbilt Divinity School and his Doctor of Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary. He has already enriched all aspects of worship and community at Hancock, as he builds connections within the church and develops new opportunities for growth and learning for church members and clergy alike.

Dr. Shupe joins a talented ministry team comprised of Associate Minister Dana Allen Walsh, Director of Children's Ministries Duncan Hilton, Director of Music Mark Morgan, and Associate Director of Music Marilyn Becker. Dr. Shupe believes that the Hancock Church and the United Church of Christ have a unique mission in the world today, to work for justice and peace with a commitment to responsibility and freedom. He said:

"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. . . . I am honored to be your new Senior Minister and am enjoying the work of ministry and service and worship with you."

The congregation welcomes Paul and his wife, MaryAnn, in fellowship. Paul and MaryAnn have two sons who reside in Portland, Maine.

Hancock Church is a progressive, social justice-oriented congregation, and an open and affirming faith community. The church was founded in 1868 on Lexington's Battle Green. Hancock Church invites all who seek to continue their spiritual journey to worship services every Sunday at 10 am and 6:15pm. Worship services are authentic and relevant, with a welcoming community, compassionate missions, and opportunities for lifelong learning.

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## Hancock Packs Backpacks

Friday, April 16th, 11 members of Hancock made their way into the Greater Boston Food Bank to help pack food that would be distributed and placed into backpacks of 400 kids in Lawrence, MA. Most likely, these kids would be eating this food on the following weekend and will have shown up at school on Monday nourished and ready to learn.



Throughout the months of January and February 2010, members of Hancock's Feeding 5000 campaign launched a food drive to supply food to distribute to the GBFB's Backpack Program, which provides food for the weekends for public school kids in Lynn and Lawrence whose family income level qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. The Backpack Program food drive at Hancock collected over 1,000 pounds of food which was immediately shipped to Lynn, MA and was distributed to the 400 kids who qualified for the program.

Thanks are due to all who participated in this program--either through food or cash donations.

According to Paul Colligan, Program Director at GBFB, "Early feedback from the school systems is that the Backpacks

are making a difference to these children. Many thanks for your efforts in getting this program going. We are preparing a formal survey and will have some quantified and qualified data to report in the next 60 days. Once again, thank you for Hancock's support."

Donations may be made to the Greater Boston Food Bank specifically for the Backpack program by writing:

The Greater Boston Food Bank  
70 South Bay Avenue Boston, MA 02118-2700  
or calling: 617-427-5200 between 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday-Friday.

Donate through The Food Bank's Virtual Food drive. [Click here to make your donation today!](#)

Those who participated were (back row) David Hathaway, Keith West, Sophie, Isabella, Phoebe and Megan Parker, Judy Schuler, Lisa Sandeen, (front row) David and Rebecca Parker and Carol Bukys.