

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational

April 2010 Hancock Herald

Paul C. Shupe—Senior Minister

Dana Allen Walsh—Associate Minister

From the Minister

Dear Friends,

Easter morning is soon upon us, April 4, 2010. We'll be gathering for worship to hear again the good news of resurrection, offering our praises for God's love made manifest. It's good to be in worship on that morning, and those of us who are members here anticipate it with joy.

But Easter morning provides a wonderful opportunity to do some work in another way, because on Easter morning we'll be joined by lots of people who aren't yet a part of our church community. We'll have men and women and children among us who may not have been to Hancock in a long while. We'll have people with us who have never before joined us for worship. It's essential that we make an extra effort to make everyone, but especially our visitors and guests, feel welcome and at home. We want to convey to them how happy we'd be to have them return and worship with us again.

We can do this work of welcome by making a few specific efforts:

- We'll want to be friendly, being willing to offer a hand of greeting to people we don't know, taking a chance on meeting a new friend.
- Instead of saying "Is this your first time at Hancock?" simply say "I don't believe we've met. I'm _____, and it's good to meet you."
- We'll keep our eyes open for anyone who looks lost or wondering about where to go. We'll offer to be helpful guides.
- There will be a welcome table in the Narthex, staffed by our Membership Committee, and they'll have written information about Hancock to share. Feel free to bring anyone to the table for assistance.

We were all pleased and excited a few weeks ago when thirteen adults joined our church, becoming full members of Hancock United Church of Christ. It is a joy to welcome talented new friends, who bring energy and vision and enthusiasm to our church life. Every time new people join us, we add to the potential for ministry and service that we can offer here to our world in need. Our ability to

embody the Good News is enhanced by new folks.

The church does not seek to grow for the sake of growing. We are not competing in a game in which the church with the most members wins. But we do seek to grow for other reasons. Growth brings with it a new vitality. Growth brings an expansion of our possibilities for service. (cont. on page 2)

From the Minister, (continued from front page)

Growth means that more people are discovering the joy that we have found here, this community in which we take seriously the possibility that God is still speaking, and still calling us to the paths of discipleship.

Growth is essential for good health. But it doesn't happen without

effort. Easter morning is a perfect opportunity for all of us to extend our very best effort to be joyful, welcoming and kind. Won't you join in this essential work as we worship God and give thanks for the resurrection of Christ?

Grace and Peace,
Paul

HOLY WEEK

Sunday March 28 – Palm and Passion Sunday

10:00 am Morning Worship

6:15 pm Sunday Night Worship

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Worship in Clark Hall

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

7:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Morning

6:15 am Easter Sunrise Worship – The Old Belfry

9:00 am Easter Morning Worship – The Sanctuary

10:00 am Fellowship Hour—Dining Room



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE PLANNED

All are invited to worship outdoors at sunrise on Easter Morning, April 4. We will gather on the hill beside the Old Belfry just off the Lexington Green. So as to inconvenience neighbors as little as possible, please park in the Cary Memorial Library

parking lot, and come up the hill from the Clarke Street side. We will gather at 6:15 am for a half hour service which will include prayer, traditional hymns, a brief reflection and the celebration of communion. Dress appropriately for the

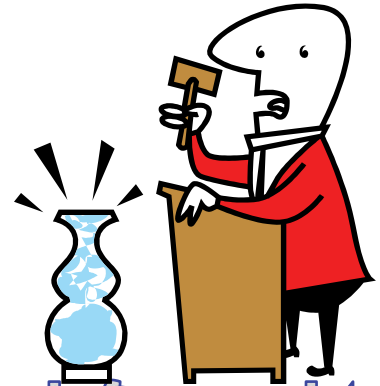
weather and the setting. The Service will be held outdoors unless it is actively raining, in which case we will gather in the Chapel at Hancock Church. Paul Shupe will lead the service.

Come to Where the AUCTION IS!

April 11th

Preview: 11:15 AM

Live Auction: 12:00



Here are just a few things you can look forward to:

Vacations:

Cape Cod Maine
Nova Scotia Vermont

Art and Handcrafts:

Stained Glass Needlepoint Pillow
Pottery Paintings
Quilts Clothing
Sports, Museum, Performing Art Tickets
Dinners, Gift Baskets, Gift Certificates
Professional Services
Pizza Party with Paul at the Parsonage
Name your "Dream Sermon"
Household Items

**Children's Book,
Puzzle and Game Sale**

Lunch! Baked Goods!

**Baby Sitting
Available!!**

Come support the efforts of our HYG by attending and bidding at their auction! This event happens only every two years and is the main fundraiser for their mission trips.

Admission to the Auction: \$5 per Adult—Seniors and kids FREE!

Items still being accepted

Please call Joan Rutila 781 862-6627 email rutila@rcn.com or Connie Gregg 781 863-8432 email congregg@rcn.com. You can also bring donations to the church office weekdays.

Patriot's Day Bell Concert



Patriot's Day Concert-The Handbell Program at Hancock Church presents their 7th Annual Patriot's Day Concert of American Music in the sanctuary on Monday April 19 at 11:15- 12noon. The music is rung on English handbells by ringers of all ages in a program that is light hearted and family-friendly. It features music of American com-

posers such a march by Sousa, the Naval Hymn, Over the Rainbow from the Wizard of Oz, spirituals, and much more. Admission is \$3 per person to benefit the Handbell Scholarship Fund that enables ringers to attend workshops and festivals to help develop their ringing skills. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible. Invite your friends,

relatives, and neighbors to this light-hearted concert carefully timed to follow the morning Road Race and before the afternoon parade. Questions- Cheryl Kraley 781-862-2209



The Hancock Music and Arts Committee Presents:

The Lyricum Woodwind Quintet celebrating its 30th year

*In concert at Hancock Church
Sunday, April 25 at 3pm*

Mozart – Divertimento No. 13 in B \flat , K.V. 270

Milhaud – Suite d'apres Corrette

Rasmussen – Quintet in F

Liadov – Russian Folksongs

Fine – Partita for Wind Quintet

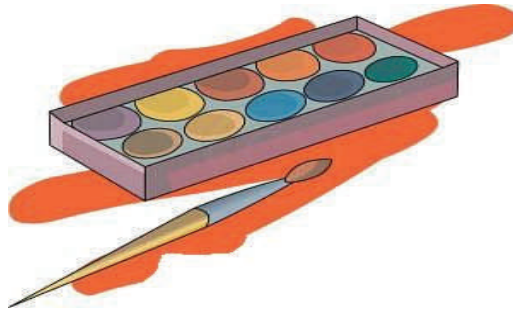
Suzanne John, flute Janice Bennett, oboe

*Deborah Levine, clarinet Jeanne Paella, horn
Isabelle Plaster, bassoon*

Benefit Hancock Music Program

Requested donation \$10, \$5 for students

Hancock Music & Arts Committee Presents:



Blossoming into Color: Art and Spirit Workshop with Carla Mattioli, M.A. (Artist and Candidate for Interfaith Ministry)

Sunday, 25 April from 11:30 AM until ~1:00 PM

In this magnificently creative season of Spring, while the earth awakens from its winter's rest, we are enlivened by the joy that is Easter and the inspiration of Pentecost. This Art & Spirit workshop offers you a creative way to celebrate the season and the beauty and joy of new life! Participants will enter the living world of color through song, creative movement, nature observation and a guided watercolor exercise designed to enhance creative appreciation of nature's beauty. Let the Spirit lead you in new and creative ways!

This will be an enjoyable event and no previous art experience is required! We intend it to be an inter-generational event suitable for middle and high school youth as well as adults. We will meet in Clark Hall after church and begin promptly at 11:30 AM. Light snacks will be provided.

We can only accommodate 25 to 30 participants so be sure to register early. Signup sheets will be available after church during coffee hour beginning on March 28th or you can register with Isabelle Plaster either by telephone (781-325-6458) or email (plasteris@aol.com). A donation of \$10/person is requested to help offset the cost of the art materials.

For more information about our workshop leader see Carla's Awakening Arts website at www.awakearts.com

THANK YOU FLOOD CONTROLLERS

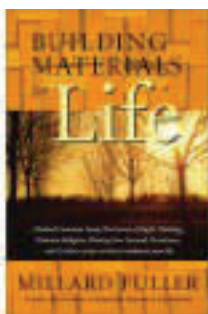
As one of the "cellar-dwellers" affected by the recent flood, thank you so much to the terrific members of our Prudential Committee and others (David Cooke, David Chanoux, Jon Eddy, Dave Hathaway, Thad Jackson, Carmen and Wendall Kalsow, Larry Link, Dean Rutila, Jim Weston and Bill MacLean) for their prompt, efficient and diligent attention to the crisis. They were on top of the situation at all hours of the day and night and significantly lessened the potential damage to the area. And a special thank you to our wonderful staff, particularly Thad Jackson, our modern Paul Revere.

Susan Rockwell, Historian/Archivist

LET'S TALK ABOUT RESURRECTION

The Adult Education Committee invites one and all to a conversation with Paul Shupe about the resurrection of Christ. The conversation will be held following worship on Sunday, April 25, from 11:30-12:30, in the Chapel. No special preparations are required, though folks are encouraged to read the gospel accounts of the resurrection: Matthew 28, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24 and John 20-21. Your questions will be welcomed as we explore together.

"First Thursdays" Discussion Group



Prompted by the successful turnout and lively discussion of Joan Chittister's *The Gift of Years*, "First Thursdays" offers opportunities for morning fellowship and discussion. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 1, 9:30-10:30 AM, in the Wilson Room. Millard Fuller's *Building Materials for Life* (free and available in the church office) serves as a springboard for exploration of faith and life issues. Paul Shupe will lead the discussion. Participants are encouraged to read Parts 1 and 2

("Fundamentals" and "Faith") ahead of time. Some questions to think about as you read: What are your particular talents and strengths? At the present stage of your life, what are some of your basic character traits and attitudes that you consider helpful/unhelpful, and what changes might you consider trying to make? In your own life, where has persistence helped you to overcome problems, and where has it not been sufficient? All are welcome!

Understanding and Coping with Alzheimer's Disease

AN INVITATION TO FAITH COMMUNITIES UNDERSTANDING AND COPING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE A FREE HALF DAY WORKSHOP FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The MetroNorth Partnership invites you and members of your congregation to attend a free workshop to be held on April 10, 2010. Please see attachment for more details. The workshop is open to the public at no cost. Please share and post. Your help is appreciated. The MetroNorth Partnership is a collaborative effort of health and social service providers; allied professionals and concerned individuals working as one entity to extend the work of the Alzheimer's Association for the purpose of providing support and education for families and individuals coping with Alzheimer's Disease.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula McCarron, Outreach Coordinator, Dana Home of Lexington Co-Chair for April 10th workshop 781-861-0131 or mccarron@rogerson.org

How Does the Consumption of Meat Affect Climate Change?

What is the impact of our current food production system on greenhouse gas emissions?

Did you know that having a meatless meal once a week has the same effect as driving 1,000 fewer miles a year? According to Robert Goodland and Jeff Anhang, co-authors of "Livestock and Climate Change", the raising of animals for food accounts for as much as 51% of the annual human caused greenhouse gas emissions.



Here are a few more surprising statistics provided in a 24 February 2010 Northeast Sustainable Energy Association email newsletter:

- The average distance a bite of food travels before we eat it is 1,500 miles (from Energy Use in the US Food System)
- After cars, the food system uses more fossil fuel than any other sector of the economy. A system that in 1940 produced 2.3 calories of food for every calorie of fossil fuel it used has become one that requires 10 calories of fossil fuel energy to produce a single calorie of modern supermarket food (NY Times Magazine, October 9, 2008)

If residents of even a small state like Vermont substituted local production for only 10 percent of the food they import, it would result in \$376 million in new economic output, including \$69 million in personal earnings from 3,616 new jobs (Bill McKibbin, *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*)

There is clearly some disagreement about the actual magnitude of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by our food production system. However, all sources claim that the production of food is a large component.

A major reason to make intentional decisions about what we eat and where it is grown is that if we eat most of our food from close-to-home production, we will be safer if climate changes disrupt our current food production systems. By encouraging successful farms close to home, we will have nearby food production if there are disruptions in the food delivery system.

Remember that food consumption is an area where individual decisions can make a difference; supply will follow demand and it's happening already.

So, if you haven't already done so, try shopping at the Lexington Farmers Market when it opens again this spring on June 1st from 2 to 6:30pm at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Fletcher Avenue. It will continue through the summer on Tuesdays, same time and place.

Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry - April "Spaghetti Sauce" month



If you donate food this month, consider giving 22 -24 oz jars of spaghetti sauce. Vegetarian and or lower-salt varieties are appreciated. The more the pantry receives of its "focus food of the month", the more streamlined is their buying of other staples. Next month (May) the focus food will be Baked Beans (including vegetarian)

Fact of the month: We don't need egg cartons anymore! (Thank you to those who dropped them off.) Unfortunately, the Pantry's generous supply of donated eggs is no longer available.

Focus foods for upcoming months:

May	Baked beans (including vegetarian)
June	Solid white tuna (5-7oz.)
July	Cereal



Are you ready to get your hands dirty?

The Lexington Interfaith Garden is up and running! Interested in growing food to be donated to the Lexington Food Pantry and other needy channels? Want to do this good work alongside mem-

bers of other faith communities? Sign up to work in the Interfaith Garden plot located by the Lexington Green. Hancock will have an opportunity to work in the garden every few weeks from now through October. Ages 6 and above are welcome. Children **MUST** come with a parent who will supervise. Let us know if you would like to be on the volunteer list for future work dates. Contact Amy Swanson (781-863-9443, amy.swanson@rcn.com) to sign up or get more information. Be sure to check out the garden's website at <http://interfaithgarden.org/>



Borrowing from what has been grown in this plot before, here is a prospective garden planting cycle:

Late March - spinach, peas, lettuce seed & heads, radishes, green onions, beets

Mid- April – onions, potatoes, broccoli seedlings, cabbage seedlings, parsley seed

May – lettuce heads, radishes, green onions, beets, chard, beans

June – basil, zucchini, yellow crookneck squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, butternut squash, acorn squash, pumpkins, eggplant, zinnias

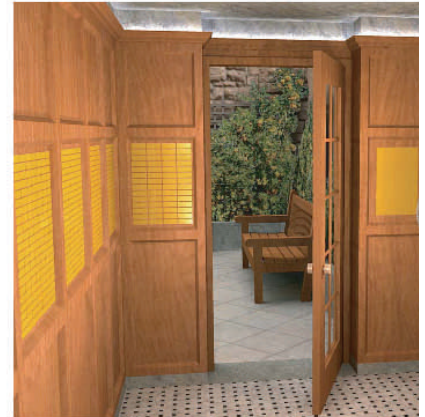
July – fall broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower seeds, second rows of beans.

August- transplant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower seedlings. new lettuce, radishes, green onions, beets

Dedication of our Remembrance Hall

The dedication of the first group of memorial plaques as well as the initial dedication of our new Remembrance Hall will take place during both Easter services on Sunday, April 4. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we will also memorialize with gratitude the contributions of Hancock friends, named and unnamed, who have gone before us and helped build our foundations of faith and service.

We look forward to All Saints Sunday this fall, when the Memorial Garden is finished and we will be able to dedicate the completed Memorial Garden and Remembrance Hall project as well as additional plaques requested by families of Hancock Church.”



4th Annual Women's Retreat—April 30-May 1

Grotonwood Conference Center ~ Groton, MA

All women are invited to attend the Women's Retreat! It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know other women at Hancock, to relax and have fun, and to talk and reflect together. We will gather on Friday evening and share appetizers and desserts. On Saturday, there will be structured time together and free time to walk the

beautiful grounds of Grotonwood. Our theme for this year's retreat is "Relaxing Into God."

Together we will explore what it means to relax into God and practice Sabbath. We'll move beyond the idea that Sabbath can only be observed at church on a Sunday morning. Sabbath can be found at a quiet corner of a coffeeshop, a walk through the woods, or cutting up

vegetables for soup. How do you disengage and step off the treadmill of life? What does Sabbath look like for you?

Sign up outside of Dana's office door if you are interested. Feel free to email or call Dana if you have any questions about the retreat.

Upcoming Events at Church School

5th Grade Communion Class Culminates on Maundy Thursday

In March the 5th graders have been learning about the history and meaning of communion during Church School. The class will culminate with the fifth graders helping to lead the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 1 at 7:00 pm. The kids will need to arrive at 6.45 pm that evening to rehearse their parts.

Palm Sunday and Easter Processionals for Children and JYO

The children and JYO'ers will be part of worship on both Sundays. On Palm Sunday the kids will be processing in with palms; on Easter the kids will be processing in with the crosses/kites that they made in church on March 21. On Palm Sunday, meet Duncan in the chapel at 9:45 am to receive a Palm. On Easter Sunday, meet him before one of the services, at either 8:45 or 10:45 to pick up your kite.

Group Trip to Overlook farm

Join other church school families in visiting the Heifer Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA (just over an hour from Lexington). We'll caravan from Hancock following the April 25 worship service and should be back in Lexington by 4 pm. The programs offer the extraordinary opportunity for people to experience some of the challenges of global hunger and poverty – and come away with a re-energized determination to be part of the solution. Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Overlook is also a working example of the sustainable agriculture Heifer supports around the world.

Upcoming Events for JYO

Friday, March 26th - Movie/Late Night

In the Upper Room, 7-10 PM. Join other JYO'ers for fun and fellowship!

Sunday, March 28 – Guest Speaker, Former In-mate Speaking about Justice and Transformation

During the regular class JYO will host a guest speaker and former inmate from Partakers, a "faith-based, non-profit organization, committed to advancing restorative justice, rehabilitation, and the healing transformation of both prisoners and society." The visit is part of the class' year-long study of the Beatitudes.

Good Friday, April 2, Meal Preparation

Come at 4:30 pm to help prepare a soup and salad meal to be shared with all who come to worship on Good Friday, including the confirmands and their parents, as well as the wider church. It is a chance for people to share their Lenten journeys and enjoy a simple and reflective meal together. The dinner is at 6 pm; the worship service is at 7 pm.

April 11 – African Drumming in JYO Classtime

In the spirit of Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord," and the spring JYO unit on spiritual practices JYO will be hosting members of the drumming group from First Church in Somerville who will be teaching the kids to drum. We hope that many kids will be able to come make joyful noise.



The link between food choices and hunger

Amy Swanson

Even if we don't experience hunger first hand, we know what it is and have a general sense of who is impacted. At Hancock, we've had opportunities to discuss it, read about it, participate in food drives or volunteer in ways to alleviate the condition. We have a sense of the enormity of the problem.

Consider these hunger facts compiled by Bread for the World:

An estimated 1.02 billion people in the world go hungry. Nearly all of the undernourished are in developing countries. And in the United States, over 49 million people—including 16.7 million children—live in households that struggle to put food on the table. That means one in seven households in the U.S. are living with hunger or are at risk of hunger.

Now consider this fact: **"The world produces enough food to feed everyone.** Abundance, not scarcity, best describes the world's food supply. Enough wheat, rice and other grains are produced to provide every human being with 3,200 calories a day." (<http://rehydrate.org/facts/hunger.htm>.)

One Week of Food for Revis Family, NC

\$85.50 per person/wk



The problem is that food is allocated in ways that make it difficult for the poor to have affordable access to it. As the developed world consumes more than its share of available calories, others by necessity end up with a smaller and less-

One week of food for Aboubakar Family

Breidjing Camp, Chad \$.20 per person/wk.



fair-share which is increasingly more expensive for them. The developed world's higher consumption is due to both dietary choices as well as government policies directing grains for industrial uses (e.g. corn-based ethanol). Here is a stunning fact: Of 2009/10's expected production of coarse grain (includes corn, barley, sorghum, etc), only 17% will be used for food, 57% will be used as feed and 26% for other uses. (The UN's Food and Agricultural Organization).

So what are the connections between food choices and hunger? You could answer that in a variety of ways. Here is one way I think about it and it relates to meat consumption. Do you understand why the organizers of the Alternative Thanksgiving Dinner wanted to hold a meatless dinner? The reason was to get people to enjoy good food together where the ingredients weren't as resource-intensive in terms of the total energy and calories required to produce as would be the food for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Getting our calories from meat is significantly more costly in terms of water, energy and grain inputs than for the same calories derived from plants. For instance, beef requires 16 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of meat. If we consume less of the foods that demand more of the world's available food and water resources, there is more for others.

What is our "fair share" considered in a global context? I don't know, but if you agree that you are likely taking more than your fair share, then one thing to do is to learn more about your food choices. Are you an average American who eats meat at one or two meals a day? Consider the math of choosing meat once less frequently a week...for instance eating 1/2 lb less of beef a week has the equivalency of freeing up over 400 lbs of grain a year that would have been used as feed. Become a virtual farmer and see what you can "produce" and then "virtually" donate it to those who are getting less than their fair share.

I would like to end with "food for thought":

Food Rules, An Eater's Manual (Michael Pollan)

.Rule #53 Serve a proper portion and don't go back for seconds

Rule #51 Spend as much time enjoying the meal as it took to prepare it.

Rule #24 It's not food if it arrived through the window of a car.

Children's Table Grace

We thank thee Lord for happy hearts,
for rain and sunny weather

We thank thee Lord for this our food,
and that we are together.

Gambling in Massachusetts—A Cure or A Delusion?

Class 3 gambling which includes casinos and slot machines is presently outlawed in Massachusetts. For a number of years proponents of gambling have sought to expand into Massachusetts claiming that having such an industry here would increase revenues to the state and provide many jobs. While this may look tempting it is a dangerous idea and would be unlikely to solve our fiscal problems. Other states have tried and none have succeeded in lowering taxes as a result. Gambling has created many problems ranging from the strain on the infrastructure of the towns and communities near casinos, to the rise in gambling addiction, domestic abuse, and crime. Dealing with all of these problems costs money as does the need for strict oversight and regulation.

Casinos do generate some revenue but they are far from recession proof! Existing casinos everywhere have laid off many workers and even before the recession it was apparent that the market was becoming saturated.

Casinos do provide jobs but often these jobs do not go to the local workforce. Many of the locations where casinos have been proposed do not have the workforce on hand nor do they have the housing, schools, and general infrastructure to support a new influx of workers and casino customers

Gambling can generate some revenue but the largest profit comes from the 15-20% of the customers who become compulsive gamblers. These are the people who gamble to excess, who stake their pensions, their chil-



dren's college funds etc on the hope of a big win. They are the office workers who turn to embezzlement, the laid off workers who gamble away their unemployment checks. The costs of dealing with the results of these tragedies will not be covered by revenue from the casinos.

Massachusetts has never conducted an independent study on the costs and benefits of accepting Class 3 gambling and we should insist that our legislators get independent data before acting on any of the new legislation which is being filed.

Many organizations including the Mass. Council of Churches, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, and others have come together to form a coalition, United to Stop Slots in Massachusetts, <http://uss-mass.org>. A great deal of information is available on their website. As the longtime casino gambling specialist for the LWVM and an even longer member of Hancock Church, I urge us all to become familiar with the subject and speak up whatever our views.

Louise S. Haldeman

Hancock Church Members Travel to Honduras

On February 23, nine members of Hancock Church embarked on a life changing trip to the small village of Piedras Negras in Honduras with Sustainable Harvest International (SHI). Our journey in Honduras began with a 90 minute ride up the side of a mountain in the back of a pick-up over unpaved roads. We arrived in Piedras Negras, a village of about 25 families, for lunch. Some of us had made the trek last year as well, and we were greeted as long lost friends. We stayed for five days with families in the village and worked on various projects. We made connections with adults and children, while we shared joy, laughter and even some tears.

SHI's mission is to give rural Central American farmers the knowledge and tools to provide sufficient nutrition for their families while still preserving the environment. Every family working with SHI has volunteered to be in the program. Some families were instrumental in bringing SHI to the village and others have joined after seeing the difference SHI's farming techniques have made in a neighbor's life. When we arrived last year, SHI had been helping families in Piedras Negras for only 8 short months. We witnessed much poverty, hunger, and a sense of hopelessness among the families. Gardens were small or none-existent. Often family members would have to leave Piedras Negras to earn money in the larger cities and towns in order to feed their families. This

year we found the villagers seemed happier and better fed. The gardens had cabbages, radishes, carrots, and mustard greens among other things. One family that was still farming using the slash and burn techniques last year, had since joined the program and now has a beautiful property with fish ponds, a chicken coop, and a new garden.



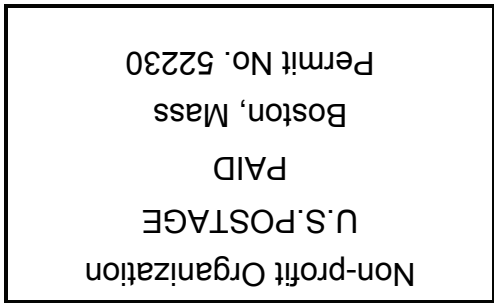
SHI helps families by building wood-conserving stoves, chicken coops, tilapia ponds, gardens and tree nurseries. This year we helped two families build wood-conserving stoves. Typical Honduran families cook over an open fire – often in the corner of their home. The fires are dangerous and spread harmful smoke throughout the house. It is estimated the average woman and child inhaled as much smoke as they would from smoking 8 packs of cigarettes each day. The wood-conserving stoves are made out of adobe bricks and mud. The adobe bricks can be made with local material. The bottom of the stove is a baking oven. Above the oven is the fire chamber and above the fire chamber is a metal plate for a cook top. SHI provides the 2 metal plates – one for the cook top and one for between the fire chamber and baking cham-

ber – and the stovepipe needed to vent the stove out of the roof. The stoves use less than half of the fire wood needed for the open fires and the amount of smoke inside the home is reduced to almost zero.

Chicken coops are important as they give a place for the hens to lay their eggs. The chickens run free most of the day, but are put in the coops at night. Without the coops, the eggs are laid all over

the place and can be hard to find, or are eaten by other animals. With the coops, the families have a steady supply of eggs. In addition, the chicken droppings can be used to make compost, or fertilize the garden or provide nutrients in fish ponds.

Families that have sufficient land and a water supply install fish ponds to grow tilapia and snails. These provide two important protein sources and help vary the diet. Many of the ponds eventually produce enough fish to sell to neighbors. Many SHI participants go on to plant crops that can be sold, providing another means to support their families. The program in Piedras Negras isn't that far along yet, however, all of the families we met were incredibly grateful to SHI for helping them feed their families. Many of us look forward to returning again next year.



**Hancock United Church of Christ,
Congregational**
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Web: www.hancockchurch.org

Hancock Church Work Day—What's It All About?

It's not work, it's really fun. Spend time with your Hancock friends doing quick clean-up, fix up projects to spruce up the church. No experience or skill required. Start in the morning whenever you can come, finish by lunch time and enjoy a memorable work-day "snack-break" along the way. Our church home has lots of needs so we can surely find a project (and a co-worker) that makes you comfortable and provides a productive and rewarding morning. You might even learn something

new that you can apply in your own home.

Willing to give work day a try?
Reserve these dates:

April 3 – indoor work day to spruce up the church for Easter. We have a special focus on improving our entryways – making Hancock Church most inviting for both new and regular worshipers on this special Sunday.

May 15 – outdoor work day to prepare the church grounds for spring. Cut, prune, dig, plant, paint, sweep, spread – something for everyone!

Come work with us at Hancock Church.

