



The Hancock Herald

August 2011

Inside this issue:	
From the Sr. Minister	2
Save the Dates	3
A Trip to Overlook Farm in Rutland	4
Special Edition Honduras Book	5
Update from the Interfaith Garden	5
From the Director of Children's Ministries Pam Cochrane	6
Adventures in Faith	6
Message Board	7
Worship Calendar	8

Capital Campaign Moves Ahead



Growing for Good

The Planning Committee has been working hard this summer. Our task is to present a proposal of projects and expenditures, funded by a capital campaign, to the congregation at our Annual Meeting in January. This proposal will include building space renovations and infrastructure improvements, non-building related programmatic priorities, and a fundraising target to achieve these goals. While our architect, Don Mills, is completing an assessment of the building infrastructure this summer, the Planning Committee is developing a list of programmatic priorities. Some of these priorities have significant building impact while others do not.

The first step in determining our programmatic priorities was identifying what is important to Hancock Church. For this we used the "Statement of Purpose" (http://hancockchurch.org/~huccweb/hucc/statementofpurpose_2006.pdf) developed for the Hancock Strategic Plan in 2006. The Statement of Purpose is essentially a definition of Hancock Church – who we are and who we want to be going forward. It puts forward four main foundations that are essential to the overall mission of Hancock: Community, Worship, Service and Education.

Our next step involved brainstorming what each of these individual foundations meant to us and what prevents us from achieving the things we want or need in each area. For example, here are some aspects of a vibrant community:

- Welcoming
- Safe
- Respectful
- Leadership
- Inviting
- Engaging
- Informative
- Inclusive
- Caring
- Gathering
- Accessible
- Multi-generational

And here are some issues preventing us from being the vibrant community we wish to be:

- Lack of accessibility makes it difficult to include all members and visitors
- Cannot find.... (Hancock is a maze and difficult to get around)
- Entrances not inviting/welcoming
- Limited man-power
- Ushers and Greeters
- Visitors and Caregivers
- Staff for logistical support

After repeating this exercise for all four foundations we found many overlapping ideas, concepts and problems. Currently we are working in subcommittees to determine our priorities in each area. We are looking back at all of the ideas generated in the dream phase of the campaign along with the list of 19 themes to determine how they fit into these four categories. Not surprisingly, these ideas and themes fit very easily into these foundations. We expect to find some overlap. We expect to find some surprises. We are striving to give Hancock a plan for Growing an exciting and vibrant church, On the Green for Good!

Join us after church in the chapel on July 31 for additional information.

**LexMedia Cable
TV Schedule**
Watch Hancock Services on RCN 3, Comcast 8 and Verizon 35 at Sunday 9:55 am (LIVE) and 7 pm.

**Bedford Cable
TV Schedule**
Watch Hancock Services on Comcast 10 and Verizon 40 on Sundays at 7 p.m. (with a one week delay).

LexMedia
You can also watch worship live at lexmedia.org.

From the Senior Minister



Dear Members and Friends,

We are deeply into summer now, and I hope that each and every one of you is finding time for rest. We live in a hectic, fast-paced world. We're all driven to accomplish things, to set and then to achieve our goals.

For some of us this drive is most external: jobs and family and other pressures that impose deadlines and time frames upon us whether we wish we had them or not. For others, the drive is more internal: we have high standards for and expectations of ourselves, and we feel good about accomplishing our own goals.

But whether the drive is internal or external; whether we are retired or still working; or for that matter, whether we're children or adults, our faith still teaches us about the importance of rest. From earliest times, the people of God have been commanded to keep a day of Sabbath, a day of rest, on which God is to be worshiped and honored.

Indeed, the first chapter of Genesis, which celebrates God's creation of all that is, ends with God resting. Even God must pause, to remember that our lives and our existence are about more than just work.

More than any other time of year, summer lends itself to rest. The days are longer, so our pace can be slower. The heat of the day invites a rest when the sun is at its peak. The expectation at work is that we'll claim vacation time, to play, and not to work. The whole world seems to invite in the summer what it denies the rest of the year: a time for rest and for play.

Friends, seize the moment. Slow down. Sit still. Take naps. Play. Vacation. And above all, remember as you rest to keep Sabbath, to remember God who created you, who blessed you with life and showers you with joys. And for those who find it hard to slow down, remember: God wills it.

Restfully,

Paul

“Even God must pause, to remember that our lives and our existence are about more than just work.”

Comments? Suggestions? We Want to Hear from You!

Have ideas, comments or suggestions for *The Herald*? We want to hear from you! Send your input to office@hancockchurch.org

Have items for the next issue of *The Herald*? **The submission deadline is August 15** for the September *Herald*.

Important Events Upcoming — Save the Dates!

Though summer is barely at its mid-point, it's not too early to start saving some important dates.

Sunday, August 21 – The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh returns from her Sabbatical leave. Dana will preach this Sunday. Come hear all about her time away!

Sunday, September 11 – Morning Worship will reflect on the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Worship will include sharing from the ministers as well as lay folk, reflecting on the themes of “Remembering, Healing, Learning.” **After worship, Don Mills**, the architect working with us on the evaluation of our building needs, will make a presentation to congregations and invite your questions.

Sunday, September 11 – An Interfaith Service will be held on the Lexington Green at 6:00 pm, with a refreshment period afterward at Hancock. In the event of foul weather, this Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association hosted event will be moved to our sanctuary.

Sunday, September 18 – Celebration Sunday (formerly Homecoming). Come celebrate the beginning of our church year with an exciting worship service and after worship Activity Fair. The Celebration continues at **The Well**, worshipping at 6:15 in Clark Hall.

Sunday, September 25 – Honoring Norma Blake – After worship we'll honor and celebrate the 25 years of work given to Hancock Church by our Office Administrator, Norma Blake. Please plan to stay for the reception.



Hymn Sing! Join us **Sunday, August 7th** for an old fashioned hymn sing!

Back by popular demand, the hymn sing will start at 9:45 in the sanctuary.

Come and request your favorites!

We will do another on Sunday, August 28th.

Hancock Service

A Trip to Overlook Farm by Pam Cochrane



June 10th was overcast and a bit cool and damp for a picnic however it proved to be a fine day to visit Heifer's Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass., an hour drive from Lexington. Fourteen of us arrived at 1pm and gathered for an informational session and tour.

Our guide was a recent college graduate from Missouri who had arrived in the spring for a sixth month stay on the farm. She shared the latest Heifer video of families across the globe telling their stories of receiving an animal through Heifer International. She was impressed with our knowledge and questions as we learned the five "m's" of a Heifer animal's life; milk, manure, manpower, money and motivation.

Hancock has supported Heifer for more many years. Annu-

ally, the church supports Heifer's mission through the Church School Offering, and fundraising at the Christmas Fair through card sales. Again, this year we have sent over \$5,000 to Heifer International providing the gift of an "Ark" to the organization.

A Gift Ark brings hope to many hungry families and supports the entire mission of Heifer Project. It's like a parade of: 2 flocks of chicks, 2 sheep, 2 trios of rabbits, 2 beehives, 2 guinea pigs, 2 llamas, 2 goats, 2 donkeys, 2 trios of ducks, 2 pigs, 2 trios of geese, 2 camels, 2 oxen, 2 water buffalo and 2 cows. A Gift Ark purchases and transports quality animals to wherever they are needed most and provides training and support for recipients.

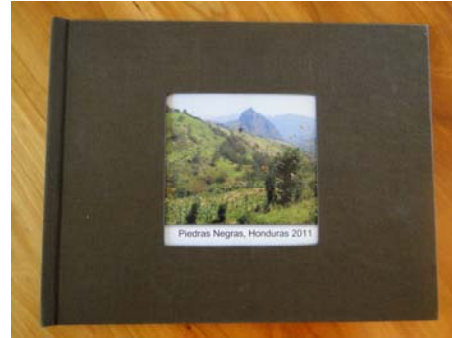
We were anxious to see all the animals that we've learned about over the years at Hancock as supporters of the organization, and we were not disappointed. At Overlook, we were up close to goats, heifers, yaks, llamas, alpacas, pigs, bunnies, guinea pigs, chicks, ducks, bees and even a camel. We also were able to tour the Global Village representing home settings from countries all over the world. The village offers a glimpse of life in China, Peru, Thailand and Guatemala, to name a few.

"...I felt like this place was teaching the world about how helpful a simple animal can be to a family and a community..." - Jacob Deck

Heifer's Overlook Farm is open year round and offers a great day or afternoon trip for all ages.

Visit www.heifer.org to learn more and view a full calendar of events. If you visit, bring back your story to share at Hancock.

Special Edition Book Piedras Negras, Honduras 2011



Thanks to the many participants of the Spring Mission Trip to Piedras Negras, Honduras, a wonderful book of the trip has been produced and two copies are now available at Hancock.

You'll find one copy in the Potter Library and the other in the Church School Story Telling

Class Room. Special thanks to Nancy Schlecht for coordinating this effort.

Four copies of the book will travel to Honduras, gifts to Sustainable Harvest International, Fucohsso Field Organization, Aaron Banas, and the host family of Dona Elba.

An Update on the Interfaith Garden from Mark Sandeen

It would be hard to imagine better days for working in the garden than we've had the last couple of Saturdays. Cool, crisp air - blue skies - and lots of friendly people.

I thought you might be interested in how we are doing this year compared to last year at this time.

We had a wonderful growing season last year - and the garden got off to a great start last year.

But because of the late snow, just about everything at the garden has been delayed a bit this year.

Our first work day last year was March 14th. We started a week later this year on March 22nd.

The snow and cold weather delayed our first harvest by almost three weeks.

We brought our first asparagus and rhubarb harvest to the food pantry on April 17th last year.

This year, we brought our first asparagus and rhubarb harvest to the food pantry on May 7th - almost three weeks later than last year.

The cold also affected the amount of our asparagus - we had 13 pounds last year and only 9 pounds this year.

But our harvest at the garden seems to be catching up to last year's fabulous numbers - after that slow start.

We've harvested 176 pounds of produce so far this year - compared to 204 pounds of produce this time last year.

We had almost 40 pounds of wonderful produce today, so it looks like we are running a little less than one week behind our harvest numbers from last year at this time.

Our top three items so far this year are bok choy, potatoes, and lettuce, weighing in at 45 lbs., 32 lbs., and 31 lbs. Those three items made up a little more than 60% of all the produce we brought to the food pantry so far this year.

Last year at this time we had delivered 78 lbs. of lettuce, 30 lbs. of zucchini and 7 lbs. of potatoes.

So far this year we've delivered asparagus, basil, beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, dill, garlic, lettuce, mint, onions, parsley, potatoes, raspberries, radishes, peas, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, squash, strawberries, sugar snap peas, swiss chard, tarragon, thyme and zucchini. We've had a lot less rain this year - 14.6 inches from March 1 to July 16, compared to 21.6 inches last year over the same period.

To be fair, a lot of the rain last year came in those two huge storms in March. We had 13.6 inches of rain in March alone. From April 1, 2010 to July 16, 2010 - we only had 8 inches of rain. This year we've had 50% more rain during the same period - with 12.3 inches from April 1, 2011 to July 16, 2011.

Any bets on where we'll end up this year at the end of the growing season?

Singers and Instrumentalists Needed for Summer Music

Each summer we are blessed with having music for our worship provided by the array of talented musicians we have here at Hancock.

There are dates available through September 4. If you would like to share your talents as a soloist or instrumentalist with us this summer, simply contact

Mark Morgan,
Director of Music, by telephone at 781-862-4220 ext 212 or by e-mail at: mark.morgan@hancockchurch.org.

From the Director of Children's Ministries Pam Cochrane

Christian Education Fall Preview

September 11th, Special Church School/JYO Gathering – Clark Hall

Church School Classes and JYO begin on September 18th

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program – Sexuality and Our Faith for teens in 8th Grade begins September 18th at 7pm.

Confirmation Class for teens in 9th Grade begins September 18th at 5pm.

For more information about the Christian Education fall programs contact Pam Cochrane, Director of Children's Ministries at pam.cochrane@hancockchurch.org or 781-862-4220.

More than thirty adult members volunteer each year in the Church School, JYO and Youth Programs. If you are interested in sharing your time, talents and energy with the children and teens of Hancock we welcome your involvement. Come join the circle, contact Pam Cochrane or a member of the Christian Education Committee: Sarah Kuli, Ann Boese, Gloria Amirault, Kristine Arena, or Susan Von-Huene.

Adventures in Faith Summer Program for Kids at Hancock – Sundays through August 28th.



The summer is a time to slow down, reboot, and enjoy the splendor of summer weather in New England.

Many a barbecue, ice cream social and pool party invite friends, family and new neighbors together to share in fun, games and storytelling.

And while many of us travel on vacation for a weekend or more, many of us also spend more time at home with family. The same is true here at Hancock.

While our year is charged with programs and events, the summer offers a different pace for worship, gathering and learning. One of those gatherings is *Adventures in Faith* for children.

The Adventures in Faith activity class, for children PreK-5th Grade, runs during usual church school time, 10:20 – 11:00am. The multi-age class offers play, storytelling and exploration in

many forms. And, like a family unit, older children help and share with younger kids. The small intimate nature of the class offers a relaxed dialogue and free play for all ages.

Ongoing projects with the kids include: felt board stories, working on a mural of the village of Piedras Negras, Honduras, prayer shawl knitting, card and book making, fun with recycled materials, painting, drawing and more. All are welcome.

Adult volunteers interested in helping in the class can contact Pam Cochrane, Director of Children's Ministries.

A Special Concert Featuring Associate Director of Music Marilyn Becker

On August 19, there will be a special concert performed by the Lyricum Woodwind Quintet and Marilyn Becker on the piano.

The concert will be held at the First Parish in Lexington, 17 Harrington Road on August 19 at noon. It is a

Friday. The concert will feature Rameau - Suite Champêtre Mozart - Divertimento, KV 253 Arrieu - Quintet in C Jacob - Sextet for Piano and Quintet.

The Lyricum Quintet includes Suzanne John on the flute, Janice Bennett on the

oboe, Deborah Levine on the clarinet and Jeanne Paella on the horn and Isabelle Plaster on the bassoon.

Admission is free and the facility is wheelchair accessible. For more information, visit www.fplex.org.

The Notice Board



Are you signed up for the Hancock Weekly E-Mail newsletter? It is sent out each Tuesday.

If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to, visit www.hancockchurch.org and look for the sign-up form.

If you plan to be away on weekends this summer, remember the church expenses continue. Please mail your pledge contributions to the church office, "Attention Collector," if you are not in worship.

Next Hancock Herald Deadline is August 15.

Please submit entries by August 15 for the September *Hancock Herald*.
Send submissions to sara.withee@ Hancockchurch.org.

Did you know Hancock Church is on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/hancockchurch

Follow us for the latest announcements and photos from Hancock Church.

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN AND REMEMBRANCE HALL AVAILABLE

The Memorial Garden and Remembrance Hall are available to Hancock members and friends for use by all to serve as places of worship, small gatherings and individual reflections. If you wish to commemorate Hancock loved ones please contact the ministerial staff or committee members regarding the placement of plaques and entries in the Remembrances Book.



No Well Service in August

There will be no Worship @ the Well in August. Our Sunday night worship is on vacation until Sept. 18. We hope to see you then!



www.hancockchurch.org

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational
1912 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421
Phone: 781-862-4220
E-mail: office@hancockchurch.org
Rev. Paul Shupe, Senior Minister
Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, Associate Minister

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, Mass
Permit No. 52230

Hancock Calendar

The following is a list of August services. To see a full list of services and events at Hancock United Church of Christ, visit www.hancockchurch.org/events/event-calendar.

Sunday, August 7: 10 am Morning Worship. Holy Communion. The Rev. Judy Brain preaching.

Sunday, August 14: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, August 21: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh preaching.

Sunday, August 28: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh preaching.