



The Hancock Herald

June 2011

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| From the Sr. Minister | 2 |
| Hancock Staff News | 3 |
| Confirmation Class | 4-5 |
| Summer Sock Drive | 6 |
| A Seminarian's Letter from Abroad | 7 |
| LGBTQA Update | 8 |
| Congregational Care: Message from Meg | 9 |
| A Special Book | 10 |
| The Notice Board | 11 |

Capital Campaign Moves from Dreaming to Planning



Growing for Good

Hancock's Capital Campaign "Growing for Good" began last January with the Dream Phase of the campaign.

A Comprehensive Assessment (CA) Team was appointed to solicit experienced design professionals to work with us to assess our building and the ways it is used to help shape and develop a plan of action to achieve our goals and vision for Hancock Church. A Steering Committee was appointed to solicit dreams and ideas for a future Hancock Church involving the entire congregation.

The CA Team drafted a detailed Request For Proposal (RFP) and invited six design firms to submit proposals. After careful consideration and reflection, the Team selected Don Mills, of Mills Whitaker Architects.

Don's firm was chosen for its experience with historical church restoration/renovations; their ability to create overall integrated planning to address accessibility and way finding; their work with large congregation groups; their track record for successfully implementing projects and their design of worship spaces that address today's current needs.

A subset of the Steering Committee interviewed and hired a campaign consultant to assess the readiness of our congregation to take on a capital campaign as well as our financial resources. The subcommittee selected Reverend Renee LiaBraaten, a consultant from Kairos and Associates, to assist us with this comprehensive resource assessment. Renee was selected for her success with other church capital campaigns, her track record of involving entire congregations in the campaign process through her use of interviews and focus groups, her communication skills, her spiritual background, and her leadership skills.

The Steering Committee designed and led three all-church events to solicit congregational dreams: small group brainstorming sessions, a "speed dating by topic" session, and a coffee hour event for members to complete and submit their feedback surveys. Committee members also solicited feedback from church staff and from members who are unable to attend church regularly. Out of all of these conversations came over 760 ideas that were organized into 19 themes.

Continued Page 10.

**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 8 and Verizon 38 on Sunday at 7 pm. There is a one-week delay.

Welcoming New Members Sunday June 5

Hancock Church will welcome our newest members during the morning worship service of Sunday June 5th. If you are interested in affirming your membership in the church on the 5th, please contact Julia Potter, chair of the Welcoming and Membership Committee (juliapotter@verizon.net), or the church office at 781-862-4220 for more information.

From the Senior Minister



Dear Members and Friends,

On June 5, we'll be welcoming new members into the congregation. It is always a day of great joy when new friends become members with us. Our longest term member is Olive Frost, who celebrated her 101 first birthday on May 22. She has been a member for more than 85 years, having been confirmed here as a young girl. Now we'll welcome our newest members and all of us will be giving thanks to God together.

But what does it mean to be a member? What is required of us?

Well, the simple truth is that nothing is or can be required. Hancock UCC, is not a social club or an activity group that requires attendance or even financial support through dues or other fees. Belonging to the church is never an obligation or a duty. Membership, belonging, is intended to be a joy, something that we participate in gladly as an expression of our faith in God.

While nothing is or can be required, to be a good and faithful member does call us into a certain kind of relationship. This relationship is best defined through two words:

FREEDOM ----- COVENANT

These two words are not precisely opposites, but they are in tension with one another. Freedom in the United Church of Christ means that each individual is responsible for her or his own faith journey. There is no creed that everyone must say and believe; instead each of us is free to believe according to the dictates of our own heart, mind, and conscience. To become a member of the church is to accept responsibility for taking your own faith positions, and living your life in accordance with what you believe.

We are all free, but we are not alone. By joining the church, we enter into a covenant relationship with others. We covenant to do together what none of us could do alone. We covenant to listen to one another, to care for each other, to take each other seriously, and to learn from one another. We covenant to be together and to remain in relationship, even if we do not always agree. We are free to disagree; we are bound by our covenant never to dismiss each other.

When we welcome our new friends, we enter into a covenant together, to support each other and to grow together in mutual service. Our new friends pledge to support our common endeavors as we do, with prayer, with time, with energy and with our money. Our covenant is always enriched when new folks, each of them free, chooses to enter into relationship with us at Hancock. So we welcome our newest members, and we call upon our current members to rededicate themselves to the unique covenant relationship between free individuals. God can work through you as easily as through me, and when we work together, our strength multiplies, and God's work moves forward.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members on June 5, doing so by renewing your commitment to the covenant community that is Hancock United Church of Christ.

“By joining the church, we enter into a covenant relationship with others. We covenant to do together what none of us could do alone.”

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 July 15** for the August *Herald*. There is no July *Herald*.

Hancock Faces

Norma Blake to Retire

After more than a quarter century of service to Hancock United Church of Christ, Office Administrator Norma Blake has announced her intention to retire.

Norma has been a cheerful welcoming presence and a faithful servant of the congregation throughout her years with us. She will be deeply missed and impossible to replace.

We are pleased to say that Norma will continue to work throughout the sum-

mer months.

Her last day with us will be September 29. She has decided to announce her intentions because she wants Hancock to have as much time as we need to make our plans for the future.

We are also pleased that it will give each of us time to say goodbye in our own ways without waiting until the last minute.

SAVE THE DATE: September 25

Norma will be celebrated and honored by Hancock Church on Sunday, September 25, 2011 following morning worship.

If you would like to be a part of planning the celebration, please contact Paul Shupe or Robin DiGiammarino. In the meantime, please save the day and watch as we get closer for your chance to join in giving our thanks to a wonderful person who has given her very best efforts to the church for many, many years.

Meg Anzalone Leaving Hancock to Lead Maine Church



For the past year, Hancock UCC has been well served by the Rev. Meg Anzalone, who has helped us to pioneer our

new congregational care ministry.

Now Meg must leave us, as she has been called to be the full-time minister of the

Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville, Maine. This small but strong congregation needs all the leadership abilities that Meg possesses, and we can assure them that their gain is our loss.

We are grateful to Meg for her year with us. She has worked in beautiful harmony with the staff, and has been supportive and visionary with the members of her congregational care team.

It takes grace and courage to begin a new ministry program, and Meg has

shown us an abundance of both. While we shall miss her contributions to our church life, we join in wishing her every good hope as she begins her new ministry in Maine.

Paul will be working with the new Congregational Care Team to determine the best course forward, and we will keep the congregation fully informed.

On Sunday, June 5, we'll release Meg from her responsibilities to us, and celebrate her ministry among us. We hope to see you that Sunday!

Seminarian Joy Fallon Awarded Billings Prize for Scripture Reading



Joy Fallon was recently awarded the Billings Prize for Scripture Reading. The award is given annually by the Massachusetts

Bible Society to the Harvard Divinity School (HDS) student who is best able to bring the Bible to life through oral presentation.

Joy recently completed a year as a Hancock UCC seminarian. She has completed her thesis, and recently graduat-

ed from HDS with the Master of Divinity degree.

She is a member in discernment in the United Church of Christ preparing for ordained ministry.

It has been a blessing to have her serve among us this year at Hancock.

Hancock Welcomes New Members from the 2011 Confirmation Class

Completing their year-long study in confirmation class, 14 youth took the next step in their faith journey and affirmed their faith in the United Church of Christ on May 22, joining as members of Hancock's community of faith. Please welcome, pictured below from left to right:

Katie Heveran, Ted Tambone, Kaylen Barnhart, Brendan Appelman, Paul Williams, Jaime Ransohoff, Michael Amirault, Brian Appelman, Matthew Edmonds, Erika Tanahashi, Alexis Tambone, Clara Clough, Audrey Hurd.

The worship service celebrated the many gifts the Confirmands bring to our community of faith. The Rev. Paul Shupe charged the group with three promises; to be their authentic selves in all that they do, to put their faith in action beyond the walls of the church into all the places they go, and to never forget that God loves them. Blessings and gifts were offered by Confirmation Leaders, Pam Cochran and Eric Sherlock.



Caring for Our Church Prudential Committee Work Day



Prudential Committee Work Days provide the chance for church members to give back and help maintain our aging building.

Here are some photos from the last Work Day showing Dean Rutila and Dave Hathaway in the bell tower.

Interested in helping out? Watch for upcoming Work Day dates in the bulletins and Hancock Weekly e-mail newsletter.



Hancock Serves

An Update on the Interfaith Garden from Mark Sandeen



On Saturday May 7, a group of volunteers from Hancock Church, Lexington Catholic Community and our local boy scout troop met at the Interfaith Garden on a beautiful spring morning to do some planting, weeding and harvesting in the garden.

We harvested all the asparagus that was

high enough to eat as well as some healthy looking rhubarb and brought them to the Food Pantry.

You may not know this, but the very large rhubarb leaves on the top of those very tasty red stalks of rhubarb contain toxins. I'm told you'd have to eat about 10 pounds of rhubarb leaves before you suffered any ill effects. But just to be safe, we cut the large rhubarb leaves off the stalks and put them in the compost bin.

A week earlier, we put up some plastic mesh along the rows of climbing peas, so that the germinating vines would have some supports. Then we inspected

the rows of peas and filled in the rows by planting new seeds where the prior week's plantings hadn't germinated.

We also planted a row of skinny European eggplant next to a row of basil plants. I'm already imagining what a great meal those two together would make. Eggplant parmesan with some fresh basil on top. Mmm good.

Speaking of wonderful spices – we found lots of volunteer spices growing among the potato rows. Connie and MaryAnn carefully dug up the cilantro growing in the potato rows and transplanted them to their own location over near the crook-neck squash hill.

Lexington Food Pantry Focus Food for June is Whole Kernel Corn

If you donate food in June, please consider giving whole kernel corn (15 oz. can). Donation baskets are in the narthex, as well as outside the office

and dining room. Volunteers are needed for June 11 to help distribute the food at the Pantry. The commitment is from 8:45 to about 11:30 am for this

volunteer work and the learning curve is short! For more information, contact Caroline Nijenberg (carolinen@rcn.com or 781 862-4465).



JYO Summer Sock Drive for The Outdoor Church

Emma Crossin, the executive director of The Outdoor Church in Cambridge visited Hancock Church in May to share how her organization serves the homeless in Cambridge.

One of the surprising things Crossin shared was how important it is for people to keep their feet clean, warm and free from infection. Failure to do so can result in serious illness. This is a frequent problem for the homeless.

Many times, people donate socks and other warm clothes to The Outdoor Church in the winter, when the need is most visible. But Hancock's Junior Youth Organization (JYO) is gathering socks now to help The Outdoor Church stock up for the fall and winter.

The JYO is gathering socks of all sizes, but the need is greatest for men's socks. To donate, look for the JYO's Summer Sock Drive basket outside the church office.

Hancock Abroad

A Letter From Seminarian Brian Gruhn



Dear Hancock United Church of Christ,

As a lot of you may know, I have spent this year studying abroad as the first Andover Newton student to take advantage of our exchange program with our sister seminary in Wuppertal, Germany. There are, essentially, three things that made this experience possible for me:

- 1) The Andover Newton/Kirchliche Hochschule exchange program, which made it possible to study and live in Germany for FREE!
- 2) The generosity of Hancock United Church of Christ, by granting me the honor of remaining your Hancock Fellow

for the year, despite my physical displacement, which made it possible for me to have health insurance and food during my year abroad. Due to many unforeseen economic and bureaucratic factors, I have not been able to find a job in Germany, so your generous gift has literally kept me alive this year.

3) My dear Inka Scherhans and her family, and the grace they have shown to me, taking me in on weekends and holidays, feeding me more than I need and showering me with even more blessings.

For all these things I give thanks.

As much as I have enjoyed this experience--and I will continue to throughout the summer, as German schools operate on a Winter/Summer semester system, rather than Fall/Spring like in the US—I am filled with excitement and anticipation for returning to Hancock and my final year at Andover Newton.

I have spent the majority of my year reflecting on my place in the world, or as we might say, my “calling.” The process of living as a stranger in a strange land, attempting to study and understand a different culture, a different land; it has given me a deeper

appreciation for the duality of the human condition: eternal spirit within a limited body. We are somehow, thankfully, both tethered to a specific time and place, yet given the opportunity to partner with God in the creative, perpetual act of Loving Creation. I have lived my year within this tension, constantly dialoguing between my hopes, desires, dreams and my limitations, flaws, and haunting reality. A lot of this dialogue, for better or worse, has been documented on my blog, which I offer for your pleasure and critique: <http://gruhnb.wordpress.com/>.

While I will continue this dialogue throughout my life, I have already spoken a little with the Rev. Paul Shupe about some immediate results of my journey to this point. What does this mean for my relationship with Hancock UCC when we gather together in the fall?

The good news is, I have a much stronger sense of self, I have a wider scope of history, and specific ideas about where our world parts ways with God’s Kingdom.

The bad news...if any...is that I feel called to look for and repair those divergences, so we can bring our world a little closer to the Kingdom, and I will be calling on Hancock United Church of Christ to explore and work with me in that process.

So have a wonderful and fun summer, because we have a lot of work to do together in the fall.

Blessings, Peace, and Thanks,

Brian Gruhn
Hancock Fellow

Hancock Happenings

Church School Sunday: June 12, 2011

Come join in the celebration of Pentecost as the JYO youth and children of the Hancock Church School lead worship and share stories from the classroom.

The feast of Pentecost is the day when Christians celebrate the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles, as promised by Jesus in the Gospel reading, and as fulfilled in the second chapter of Acts.

It is also remembered as the birthday of the Church. The color of Pentecost is red symbolizing the Holy Spirit as described by flames descending upon the apostles

empowering them to testify in many languages.

It is fitting that we hear the story again on Church School Sunday, in many forms and from all ages, as we celebrate in worship the progress of our children's faith journey and our commitment to life-long learning as disciples of Jesus.

God has blessed us with minds that learn and grow. We praise God for this generous gift as we add to our knowledge and deepen our wisdom.



Look for the display in the lower level hallway of projects and art created during the year by the children of the Church School.

UPDATE: LGBT @ Hancock



This year, Hancock United Church of Christ has seen the development of the LGBT @ Hancock group in an effort to be continually active in our Open and Affirming identity and supportive of our diverse congregation.

A number of us involved in the group represented Hancock at the annual Greater Boston PFLAG fundraising event this spring. PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a fantastic organization that works to support the LGBT

community by providing educational programs through presentations at schools, churches, and smaller discussion support groups to inform people about the crucial role of acceptance by parents and communities for the well being of LGBT youth.

The group also provides scholarships to high school students who advocate for equality and respect for LGBT people in their communities.

The theme for much of their work, and the benefit gala this year, is specifically to end bullying and harassment, which is something we've seen this year to be a critical issue for the safety and health of young people, particularly those identifying as LGBT.

The Hancock members who attended the event were: Eric Sherlock, Courtney Jones, Sarah, Margy, and Brian Keeping

and Tim Counihan.

A fantastic night was enjoyed by all from the food that was prepared by award-winning chefs, music, and recognition of the inspirational scholarship winners. The evening also featured live and silent auctions that helped the Greater Boston PFLAG organization raise \$300,000 to contribute towards their central mission. We left energized to continue to make our own advocacy group an active part of our Hancock community.

Coming up on Saturday, June 11 the LGBT @ Hancock group will be marching in the annual Boston Gay Pride parade with other churches from the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

We see this as a great opportunity to show our support for the LGBT community as well as our church's message of extravagant welcome. If you would like to show your support for the LGBT community come march with us! For more information please contact Eric Sherlock at eric.sherlock@hancockchurch.org.

Ministry/Program News: Congregational Care

Message from Meg — As Lilacs Bloom, Show You Care

Even though the cool, wet weather continues through May, there are signs that spring really has arrived! New goslings are growing and so are the weeds in my garden!

The lilac bushes are in full bloom, as their familiar fragrance fills the air around my house. The greening of the earth is in full swing. The daffodils have fallen back, and the bee balm, bleeding hearts, and lilies of the valley come forth. Lettuce is almost ready to pick, and the peas are about four inches high. Memorial Day marks the real planting season for New England!

Time to get other seedlings into the womb of the earth, while we await June summer weather, and many end of the year activities take place.

Baptisms, confirmations, graduations are plentiful. Formal church activities take a break for rest, relaxation, and renewal, until September, when the cycle begins all over again.

The Congregational Care Program will also take a summer break! Ministers will come and go on vacation breaks and sabbaticals. Worship services will be a bit shorter and have more of a summer feel!

All of us know though, that many folks

in the Hancock Church Community will continue to need care, cards, compassion, and company.

I urge you to continue to be a caring community to one another during the summer, whether or not you attend the summer worship services. More than ever, summer is the time to show you care about Hancock members and friends. Check in on your neighbor. Call a senior to make sure they are managing the summer heat. Share your garden flowers and vegetables with members of the Hancock community.

Even while on vacation, consider knitting prayer shawls for upcoming baptisms, hospital visits, or for someone in need. Ponder becoming a member of the Congregational Care Team in the fall. Consider doing a once a week kindness, a monthly visit or flower delivery, a card of cheer, or a friendly visit.

As summer comes, be assured of my prayers and blessings for you. I wish you rest, relaxation, and renewal. I want to say thanks to all who supported me with love, prayers, presence, and care during my father's illness and recent death. Your thoughts and prayers were so much appreciated by me and my family. The Easter lily from Hancock is planted on his grave!

“More than ever, summer is the time to show you care about Hancock members and friends. Check in on your neighbor. Call a senior to make sure they are managing the heat. Share your garden flowers and vegetables with members of the Hancock community.”

Watch for details of Congregational Care happenings as the Church year begins! Thanks to the Care Team and all members of the congregation, who made a difference in the lives of Hancock members and friends through participation in Congregational Care this year!

Peace and blessings for the season,

Meg Anzalone
Congregational Care Coordinator

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 from June 26 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.

Capital Campaign Continued From Page 1

These themes will be invaluable to the Planning Committee and our consultants as the Planning phase of the Capital Campaign begins. For those who want to look through the information gathered during the Dream Phase, the Steering Committee and CA Team will place in the Potter Library a notebook holding the returned feedback surveys with survey comments, and the list of 760 ideas including non-capital campaign ideas. In addition to the Survey notebook, there will be additional documentation for review including Hancock's request for proposals sent to design professionals, the proposal submitted by Mills Whitaker, and the proposal submitted by Kairos and Associates.

Work will now begin on the Plan Phase, overseen by a Planning Committee who will work closely with the professionals we have hired. This new Committee is charged with the task of funneling the information learned from the Comprehensive Assessment, the Dreams identified by the Steering Committee, and the Assessment of Congregation Readiness to create a final capital campaign plan for presentation at the January 2012 Annual Meeting. This process will involve gathering information about our

building and programs and communicating to the congregation in a timely manner so that by examination, modification and prioritization the best plan for Hancock will be created. A report of the comprehensive building assessment will be shared with the congregation when completed in the fall and feedback opportunities for the congregation will continue throughout the planning process. Upon approval and with the consent of the congregation, a new committee will be appointed in early 2012 to oversee the Act phase of the capital campaign.

As we move ahead with our capital campaign "Growing for Good", we thank all of Hancock for your contribution of your time, your talent and your opinions. Your commitment and generosity has made this work possible. Thanks also go to our CA Team, Steering Committee, and Planning Committee members:

Comprehensive Assessment Team:

Bill Erickson
Carmen Ramos Kalsow
Wendall Kalsow
Dean Rutila
Lisle Swanson
Keith West
Linda Williams
David Zenk

Steering Committee:

Sam Altschuler
Carol Counihan
Robin DiGiammarino
Faith Fenske
John Foster
Sarah Kuli
Susan McClements
David Parker
Tom Ransohoff
Rosemarie Sauermann
Jim Weston
Charlie Wyman
Paul Shupe, ex officio
Dana Allen Walsh, ex officio

Planning Committee:

Carol Bukys Co-Chair
Joan Rutila Co-Chair
Sam Altschuler
Carol Counihan
Faith Fenske
John Foster
Carmen Kalsow
Wendall Kalsow
Yvette Kirby
Dean Rutila
Lisle Swanson
David Zenk
Robin DiGiammarino, ex officio
Charlie Wyman, ex officio
Paul Shupe, ex officio
Dana Allen Walsh, ex officio

cc-planning-hucc@googlegroups.com

Notes from Potter Library



**Rambles In Old
Boston, New England
(1887)
Edward Griffin Porter
George R. Tolman**

Edward Griffin Porter was installed as the first minister of Hancock Church on October 1, 1868 and became pastor emeritus in 1891.

He published this volume of essays and sketches of Boston in 1887 with

the preface dated in Lexington, November 1886.

The Rev. Porter "was an antiquary and historical scholar of high repute" – as noted in his obituary.

Hancock Historian Susan Rockwell found this reprinted book and we are delighted to have in Potter Library. Look for a special display about Rev. Porter on our June bulletin board.

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.

Did you know Hancock Church is on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/hancockchurch

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

Next Hancock Herald Deadline is July 15.

There will be no *Hancock Herald* in July. Please submit entries by July 15 for the *August Hancock Herald*. Send submissions to sara.withee@ Hancockchurch.org.

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.



Thank You For a Great Well Season

We thank everyone who attended our Sunday night service, *Worship @ the Well*, this season. There are no *Worship @ the Well* services this summer. We return Sept. 18. Hope to see you then!



www.hancockchurch.org

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational
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E-mail: office@hancockchurch.org
Rev. Paul Shupe, Senior Minister
Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, Associate Minister

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Hancock Calendar

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

Sunday, June 5: 10 am Morning Worship, Holy Communion. New Members. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, June 12: 10 am Morning Worship. Children's Sunday. Pentecost.

Sunday, June 19: 10 am Morning Worship. Bell Sunday. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, June 26: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.