

June 2010 Hancock Herald



From the Minister

Dear Friends,

I once read that every game of chess is an argument, an argument about how the game of chess ought to be played. The thinking behind this claim seems to be that each player has an approach, a style of play that values certain strategies over others, and so each contest becomes a testing of the value of one strategy versus another.

Well goodness knows I'm not advocating for arguing in church, but the same basic truth can be seen to be at work in the church. Each congregation is a unique vision of how Christian faith ought to be lived out. We find our own unique paths, based on a wide variety of practices that are being shaped week in and week out. All congregations are shaped by their geographic location, for example. An urban congregation cannot shape itself the way a suburban or a rural one might. Congregations in New England take a different shape than those in other regions. In a similar way, all

congregations are shaped by their heritage, by traditions both great and small. In one congregation worship might be quite formal and traditional; while in another, an informal style prevails. Neither is inherently better than the other, but the choices that each congregation makes about worship shapes the life and witness that it will embody moving forward.

Hancock United Church of Christ is, of course, no exception. We choose to worship, learn, serve, and interact with one another in ways that are unique to us: some inherited and embodied without our awareness that there are other possibilities, and some consciously chosen. The ways we choose to function as a church constitute our witness to the world of the difference we think that the Good News of Jesus makes in our lives. Our life together is a sort of argument about how Christians ought to conduct themselves in our time and place.

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From the Minister (continued from front page)

It has always been this way for the church, and nothing makes this any clearer than the New Testament book of Acts. Written by the same author of the gospel of Luke, Acts carries the story forward, from the time that the first disciples stopped having physical encounters with the risen Christ (a development symbolized by the ascension of Christ into heaven). The stories recorded reveal a church community asking questions and answering them; they reveal a church deciding for itself what life ought to look like when it is infused by the Holy Spirit.

In worship this summer, following Pentecost Sunday on May 23, we're going to dive into some of the great stories of the first half of the book of Acts. By looking at their questions, by seeking to understand their experiences, by appreciating their answers to tough questions, we'll gain insight into how we ought to shape our own congregational life. Reflecting on the experiences of our ancient sisters and brothers we'll accumulate wisdom to guide our own on-going decision making as we give shape to our congregation's vision for what the Good News

means to us and asks of us.

I encourage you to pick up the book of Acts. It's a fast-paced story with lots of interesting developments concerning a wide range of interesting characters. And through it all, the major actor is the Holy Spirit, leading, guiding and challenging them. As we begin to contemplate the shift into summer thinking, let's include Acts in our thoughts, as we continue the work of being the church.

Grace and Peace,

Paul

Come to the "Getting to Know Hancock" sessions

June 6th 11:30 to 12:30

Hancock UCC will be receiving new members on Sunday June 13th. If you are interested in learning more about Hancock and thinking about joining the church, please attend our Getting to Know Hancock sessions on May 23rd and June 6th from 11:30 to 12:30, in the Pearson Room near the top of the back entry staircase. You'll meet other new members and hear from current members on what brought them to Hancock and what they have cherished about the church over

the years. You will also learn about the history of the church and the ministries and activities of the church. Children are welcome to attend with you. Childcare will also be provided. If you have any questions, contact one of our ministers or Julia Potter, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee at juliapotter@verizon.net.

THE MUSIC PROGRAM OF HANCOCK CHURCH PRESENTS



*A Memorial
Concert for
Carol Wilson*

THE CANTATA CHOIR AND
SOLOISTS OF HANCOCK CHURCH

35 PIECE ORCHESTRA

FEATURING SELECTIONS FROM
BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM

HANDEL: MESSIAH

BARBER: ADAGIO FOR STRINGS

ELGAR: NIMROD FROM ENIGMA VARIATIONS

SUNDAY JUNE 6TH AT 3:00 P.M.

In The Sanctuary • Free Admission • Reception to Follow



**DO YOU SING OR PLAY AN
INSTRUMENT?**

WE ARE SEEKING ALL THOSE (OF ANY AGE) WHO WOULD LIKE
TO USE THEIR TALENTS TO HELP ENRICH OUR WORSHIP THIS
SUMMER.

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE EACH SUNDAY FROM
JUNE 27TH-SEPTEMBER 5TH

NOT COMFORTABLE SINGING A SOLO BUT WOULD LIKE TO
SING IN A SMALL GROUP? LET US KNOW!

SIGN-UPS ARE BEGINNING NOW. JUST CONTACT MARK MORGAN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AT
MARK.MORGAN@HANCOCKCHURCH.ORG OR CALL 781-862-4220.



Hancock supports SHI in Year 2

As you may recall, Hancock's Feeding 5000 committed to fund the work of Sustainable Harvest International for 3 years in the village of Piedras Negras. \$3000 underwrites field trainers, tools and materials for a year, allowing more than a dozen families to participate in SHI's program.



Importantly, families' nutrition, health and income are upgraded as they participate in and benefit from planting organic gardens, building chicken coops and fish ponds, installing drip irrigation, building wood-conserving stoves and more. A \$3000 investment helps up to 170 people derive half of their day's food from SHI-guided programs, which is over 62,000 meals annually.

In year 1, with your support, fundraising endeavors enabled us to send SHI \$3,190 to underwrite their work. Deacons sold plants at the Alternative Christmas fair, a member donated the proceeds from his woodworking sales, and you came to our Souper Bowl, where the Church School decorated our soup bowls.

This year, Year 2, we have recently wrapped up a number of fundraising activities which resulted in \$5,160 for SHI. Even more people and Hancock groups were involved, including: a table at the Alternative Christmas, a fall wine raffle, HYG donating the proceeds from their Hungerathon, the Sunday School making and selling potholders, you coming to the Harvest Moon dinner dance as well as the more recent community-wide Go Green dance. Others were inspired to make individual donations after hearing more about SHI's work directly from Florence Reed and our members who went and worked in Piedras Negras.

Thank you for being part of the support team for SHI.

SHI fact: Since 1997 SHI has worked with 2,139 families in 155 communities, converting 13,971 acres to sustainable diversified and reforested land use. And 2,767,471 trees have been planted in Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry – June is “tuna” month



If you donate food this month, consider giving cans of solid white tuna (5 to 7oz.) The more the pantry receives of its “focus food of the month”, the more streamlined is their buying of other staples.

Food can be dropped off in baskets in the narthex, outside the church office or by the dining

room doors.

Volunteers needed for upcoming months: Be part of the Hancock team that volunteers on the 2nd Saturday of every month. The commitment is from 8:45 to about 11:30 am and the learning curve is short! Find out how rewarding it can be to work at the Pantry, knowing you are helping provide a community service.

Volunteers needed for June 12th, July 10th, Aug 14th and Sep 11th. For more information contact Caroline Nijenberg (carolinen@rcn.com or 781 862-4465)

Focus foods for upcoming months:

July: cereal ... no family-size boxes

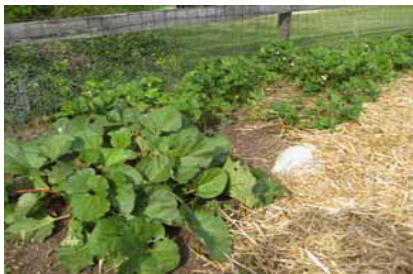


The Lexington Interfaith Garden

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

Each week two or more Lexington congregations work in the garden. Turns are taken summarizing the week's work. Here are excerpts from a Pilgrim member who worked Week 8 of the garden:

Tuesday, May 4, 2010: Four volunteers from Pilgrim Church joined Carla under a blue sky and BIG puffy clouds. In spite of all the rain we had in March and early April, the garden had been dry for several weeks. After a tour of the garden plots, Carla explained what an unusual year this is: the planting and sprouting is well ahead of most years. Then she showed us where to weed and water. Carla had harvested a few stalks of asparagus in the morning; by afternoon, a few more had grown enough to be harvested, which amazed us. Tiny slender corn shoots were showing here and there in the corn plot, and strawberries were blooming along the edge of the garden. They made a beautiful border... After about an hour of watering and weeding, the beautiful clouds that had been building up began unleashing huge drops of water, which soon seemed like a downpour! We scurried to the barn and ended our work for the day. The rain was welcome, but didn't last very long.



Strawberries and rhubarb



Lots of lettuce!

Thursday, May 6: Two volunteers from Pilgrim plus a willing substitute, Edie Sandy from Temple Isaiah. Edie reported that again asparagus was harvested twice in one day. This sounds like a miracle plant! She also reports that "Carla got some tomatoes and eggplants at McCue's in Woburn, and we planted them (eggplants in the little garden, far from the tomatoes!)" This is a mystery.....do eggplants and tomatoes not get along well together? Perhaps next week's gardeners can find out the answer!

May 8: Garden work cancelled.....so our garden hosts Carla and Tom could attend a Red Sox / Yankees game together! I'm glad Carla will take a break now and then.

Hancock will next be working in June and July on the following days:

Tues, 6/15th 4:30 – 6pm

Thurs 6/17th 4:30 – 6pm

Sat 6/19th 8 to 9:30am.

Tues, 7/27th 4:30 – 6pm

Thurs 7/29th 4:30 – 6pm

Sat 7/31st 8 to 9:30am

Contact Amy Swanson if you are interested in working. (amy.swanson@rcn.com or 781-863-9443)

A Few Words about the Church's Staff

Most of you are aware that changes are coming to our congregation's staff. The processes and procedures for making these changes are led by Paul Shupe in consultation with Moderator Robin DiGiammarino, the Human Resources Committee and other related program committees of the church. We've been blessed with talented staff persons, and as we bid farewell to them, we simultaneously make plans for replacements to ensure that the work of the church goes on.

Anna Humble, who has been an Administrative Assistant and Minister Intern leaves us at the end of May for Texas, as she and her husband begin the next chapter of their lives. Anna is seeking a call to pastoral ministry, and we wish her nothing but the best. Her work here has been a ministry and a blessing. Our Director of Children's Ministry Duncan Hilton will be departing mid-summer to follow his sense of call. Duncan has been a real blessing to our Sunday School, the Junior Youth Organization, and the families of our children, and he will be missed. We pray for clarity of call for him, and extend our heartfelt thanks and hopefulness. Frank Maloney, who has served as Sexton for nearly three decades is also leaving us. He will be joining Home Instead, a community service organization that provides companion services to elderly folks desiring to remain in their own homes. Frank has been a loyal and committed worker, and we know that he will bring these same qualities to his new position.

To accomplish the work of the church, it has seemed wise to adjust some of the responsibilities that they have been carrying, and to reorganize the work load a bit.

A new position has been created: Facilities Manager, and a person hired to fill it. Dan dos Santos will be responsible for working with the Prudential Committee on the care and upkeep of the building, assisting the staff and all committees with setups for meetings and activities, and will coordinate with the community groups who rent and use our building. Dan is a bright young man, studying facilities

management in school, and brings talent and energy with him. He will be reachable via email: facilitiesmanager@hancockchurch.org.

Another new position is our Communications Coordinator, who will be responsible for the production of all our bulletins, newsletters, enewsletters and the website. Applicants are being interviewed as this is written, and we'll soon welcome a new member to our team. Thad Jackson continues as our Business Manager, but with some changes to his responsibilities. The work that he has done with our building will now pass to our Facilities Manager. In exchange, Thad will now be doing the work of our Collector position. We think that these changes to our administrative team will streamline our functions.

A search committee has been appointed to find our Congregational Care Coordinator, who will be responsible for creating a system ensuring good pastoral care for all our members. The committee is: Carol Bukys, Charlotte Dougherty, Scott Martin, Linda O'Keefe, and Paul Shupe. Again, applicants are being reviewed as this is written, and we hope to bring someone aboard soon.

Finally, Paul and Dana are working with the Teaching Parish Committee to identify our two seminarians for net year. They too should be chosen soon.

We hope that you will express your thanks to our departing staff members before they go. We hope also that you'll welcome our new folks as they come on board. And above all, we hope that you'll be patient as the new staff comes together and learns how best to work with each other. Questions regarding any of these staff changes can be addressed to Paul.

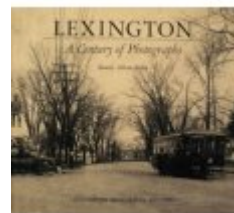
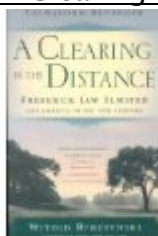
For your Summer Reading—Potter Library

Look on the Book Cart and on a Summer Reading shelf display in the Library for books that will suggest places to visit and connect you with interesting people and things to do.

For your children, renew their acquaintance with Blueberries for Sal and Make Way for Ducklings before you take them to visit the Public Garden and the Swan Boats. Check out Fannie in the Kitchen for a rainy day at home, and catch up with

Thoreau with Henry Hikes to Fitchburg – as well as Walden.

A Clearing in the Distance is the fascinating life of Frederick Law Olmsted and his remarkable career. Find and enjoy some of his wonderful landscape work in New England. Read Labyrinths and seek one to walk.



Check out Beverly Kelley's Lexington – A Century of Photographs and then see

what the places look like now.

We have lots more books on display and on our shelves. Come in to Potter Library. Books may be checked out for four weeks during June, July and August.

“First Thursdays” Discussion Group

The last session in our discussions of faith and life issues will be held on Thursday, June 3, 9:30 – 10:30 AM in the Wilson Room. Paul Shupe will lead the discussion. Participants are encouraged to read Parts 4 & 5 of Millard Fuller's *Building*

Materials for Life (“Life Lessons” and “Gifts”) ahead of time. Some questions to think about as you read: What concerns are you “almost ready” to address? On “radical common sense”: what are the radical ideas or actions in your life?

how do you find the right balance for you with common sense? How might “radical common sense” be applied at Hancock?

Sunday Morning Pastor’s Class

“Just Who Is Jesus?”

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. The current focus is on the Gospels and Paul’s let-

ters. Come for questions, exploration, lively discussion, and fellowship. All are welcome to drop in and attend whenever possible—no long term commitment required!

Summer at Hancock for Children & Youth

Celebrating the Fruits of the Spirit – Vacation to Church

The first Sunday after Pentecost marks the beginning of Ordinary Time, the time in the church calendar sometimes known as “green and growing time” or the “season of discipleship.” If the Christmas and Easter seasons are the “mountaintop moments” of the church year, ordinary time is the valley. It is a time to focus on applying our faith to the nit and grit of life – preparing meals, balancing checkbooks, raising

children, making and keeping healthy relationships, managing time well.

It is also a time when many families are away on vacation. For people who are in town, it’s my hope that the summer will be a vacation to church. Honoring the spirit of the summer, church school and JYO activities will be less academic and even more hands-on. The theme for the summer will be from Paul’s letter to the Galatians, 5.22: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Along with mini lessons about each of the fruits and reflections about how to cultivate them in our lives, the kids will also be celebrating the literal fruits of the summer with:

- Outings to work at the Interfaith Garden during worship
- Cooking and picnics

Creating murals and artwork for the church school classrooms and hallway

We Hope to See You at the Upcoming Events

Garden with Your Family at Gaining Ground on May 30

The 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. Email 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.

Spring Picnic, June 6, 11:30-1:30

Church School and JYO will have a spring picnic with tie-dyeing and games on June 6. The location is likely Hastings Park but still to be confirmed. Bring a picnic lunch for your family and enjoy the fellowship of other church members!

Church School Sunday is on June 20

The children will help to lead worship on this Sunday. We will also thank this year’s teachers, honor the fifth graders’ transition out of church school and give Bibles for the Second Graders. Save the date!

Honoring this year's OWL and JYO Teachers and Looking Forward to Next Year

On May 23rd, confirmation and graduate Sunday, the JYO led the church in honoring the teachers who led this year's classes for youth.

JYO teachers included: Sharon and Wade Appelman, Connie Gregg, Joan Rutila, Rob Cunningham, Barb Shinn-Cunningham, Wendy Tanahashi-Works, Kathie Keagul, Susanna Peyton, and Mary Heveran.

A special thanks to Joan, Connie, Barb, and Dave Cushing for taking on the responsibility of writing this year's JYO curriculum based on the Beatitudes.

Members of this year's Confirmation Class were:

Nicholas Briggs
John Foley
Luke Olivier
Meghan Shaw

Nicholas Cunningham
Lucy Galvin
Natalie Puschak
Mariel Winton

Sam Eddy
Jeffrey Lang
Colin Sargis
Laura Zanin

OWL teachers included Rhonda Black, Dave Cushing, Linda Nason, and Sean Walsh.

The Youth CE Committee, after much thoughtful deliberation, has chosen an exciting new curriculum for JYO next year. It is called "Faith Practices" and is published by the United Church of Christ. It focuses on themes like Giving and Receiving Hospitality, Keeping Sabbath, and Playing and Living Joyfully and has activities for each theme so that the middle schoolers can explore, discuss, and serve based on the theme. The new curriculum is part of the committee's effort to provide more structure and continuity for teachers and kids in JYO. Education is always, in part, experimentation. The committee looks forward to hearing your feedback about its attempt to build on the program's already strong foundation.

Sundae Sunday—June 20th

Treat your favorite Dad, Mom or Hancock friend to a sweet treat on Father's Day, June 20th on the front lawn at 11:00 (right after the service). We will be serving up delicious, made-to-order Ice Cream Sundaes for all to enjoy. No calorie counting allowed!

Your friendly Parish Life Committee members will be showing off their scooping skills as they create customized Sundaes on the spot! Don't miss this delicious event!



A New Season of Growth at Hancock Church

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.

Continued on page 11

New Season of Growth (continued from page 10)

3. Ask a friend to attend an event at church with you, such as an upcoming Invite-A-Friend Event.
4. 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.
5. 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

Successful Outdoor Work Day

Saturday, May 15, was a glorious and highly successful Work Day, and a huge "thank you" goes out to the 30 Hancock members, plus Boy Scout Troop 110 and Cub Scout Pack 137 who worked so hard! You can see the product of their handiwork in the magnificent plantings in the front flower beds, all the way around the perimeter of the parking lot where they trimmed and cleaned up weeds and sand, in the Garth where much progress was made toward the Memorial Garden, and in the basement where the handicapped ramp was temporarily dismantled to allow for the flood repairs to be done. Thank you to everyone from a grateful Prudential Committee.



Paul C. Shupe
Senior Minister
Dana Allen Walsh
Associate Minister

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Christ, Congregational**

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Sexton Frank Maloney Departs with Our Gratitude

After more than twenty-eight years of service as Sexton at Hancock Church, Frank Maloney is leaving his position at the end of May, 2010. Many of you know Frank, and those who do know that he is a kind and dedicated worker who has given his best effort to the care of our building throughout his tenure. If the phrase "good Christian gentleman" were not already in use, we would have had to create it in order to describe him. He is steadfast and loyal, kind and helpful, and we are sure that in whatever comes next for Frank he will bring these gifts to the task because they are the values by which he lives. Frank has seen many staff members come and go, but all of them have known him in these ways. We wish him only the best as he begins the next chapter of his life. The church is providing Frank with continuing support and counsel.

Frank is a shy man, and did not want attention to be drawn to his departure. We have honored his wishes by not scheduling a public farewell. It would be appropriate however for notes or cards of appreciation to be sent or brought to the church office. We will happily forward them on to Frank. Please take a moment and express your gratitude to Frank for his long years of service. If you would like to contribute to a purse for Frank, please send it to the church office with "Frank Maloney" in the memo line.