



The Hancock Herald

November 2010

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Local Food Celebration Draws A Bounty

By Mark Sandeen

The Christian Service Committee would like to thank everyone who came to the Local Food Celebration on **Sun., 10/10**. It was wonderful to see so many people celebrating the benefits of local food, helping us spell-out (literally) how our food

choices connect us as a local community and affect our environment. We celebrated the fact that 14 faith communities have found common ground and are building strong relationships by working together to grow good food for our hungry neighbors. As of this week,

the interfaith garden has delivered over 950 pounds of fresh, healthy organic produce to the Lexington Food Pantry. We also celebrated the fact that many broad and diverse groups within Lexington find common ground in supporting locally grown organic produce.



Celebrating the benefits of local food for our community and the environment at Interfaith Garden's work party, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, LexFarm, LexGWAC & 350.org. Locally grown produce (above) spell-out the number 350, the safe limit for greenhouse gases.

LexMedia Cable TV Schedule —
 Watch Hancock Services on RCN 3, Comcast 8 and Verizon 35 at these times:

- Sundays at 9:55am (LIVE) & 7PM
- Tuesdays at 10pm

JYO Helps Feed Homeless at Outdoor Church

What began as a summer church school activity has evolved into a new experience for youth in the JYO (Junior Youth Organization) program. It was after several sandwich-making sessions and visits to the Cambridge Common in July that a connection to the Outdoor

Church's mission fostered a growing commitment to supporting this unique ministry. On October 3rd we celebrated this new mission during worship on World Communion Sunday with a blessing of the shared meal prepared by the teens of JYO. Thirty bag lunches were then delivered

to Cambridge for the 1pm Outdoor Church worship service. The ripple effect from this outreach has touched many within the Hancock Community. To read their reflections and to learn more about the Outdoor Church, turn to page 3 of this issue of *The Herald*.

Come to "The Well" — Evening Worship at Hancock
 Looking for worship that is intimate, modern & participant-directed? Come give evening services (6:15pm in the Chapel) at Hancock a try! Contact Rev Dana Allen Walsh for more details
Fall 2010 Schedule: Sept 19 & 26; Oct 3, 17 & 24; Nov. 7, 14 & 21; Dec 5 & 12

From the Senior Minister



Dear Friends,

I went this year for the first time to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. It was a glorious autumn day: bright blue skies, flaming foliage, and warm sunshine. I had no rooting interest; I was just there to enjoy the spectacle for what it was. And I found myself marveling at the boats as they seemed to rocket out from beneath the bridge on which I was standing. If you've ever seen them, you know what it looks like: they glide along the surface, apparently without effort. Until that is, I paid attention to the details.

I had binoculars with me, and watched the rowers. It was not effortless for them. They were exerting maximum effort, pulling hard at their oars, but even more important was their work at staying together, each stroke in harmony with their teammates. And what I could not see, but had no trouble imagining, was the turbulence beneath the surface, caused by the bright blades of the oars, creating the whirlpools that are necessary to drive the boat forward. At the surface, all appeared smooth, but above and below, incredible hard work was happening.

You've gotten your Stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail. And unless you're very new to Hancock, this isn't your first one. Perhaps you read the letter carefully; or perhaps you just skimmed it, noticing that everything seems to be flowing along smoothly. Maybe you haven't read it yet; it's still sitting, waiting. If the Pledge Drive looks as smooth as ever, I hope you'll pause long enough to notice what's happening above and below the surface.

Since the early months of summer the Standing Committee (responsible for the over all life of Hancock UCC) has been working hard below most everyone's awareness. They're facing up to the fact that for a good while we've been deficit spending, covering operating shortfalls by taking from our legacy funds. And we've been delaying maintenance, postponing the care of our building until hoped for better times. And we've been holding the line on both Christian Service contributions and support of church programs such as our Church School and our membership growth efforts. The Standing Committee is recommending a budget that begins to reverse these processes.

“If the Pledge Drive looks as smooth as ever, I hope you’ll pause long enough to notice what’s happening above and below the surface.”

And above the surface, lots of people have been working to imagine a bright future for Hancock UCC based on the priorities of our 2008 Strategic Plan: revitalized Church School and family ministry programs, increased focus on Christian Service, and growing our membership by being welcoming and telling our story in new ways.

I hope you'll read that Pledge Letter carefully, and take note of the hard work that you and others like you are doing to help Hancock move into a bright future. We aren't going to get to our goals overnight, and money is not the answer to all our problems. But to the hard work of vision and commitment and hospitality that is already going on, we need to add our generous financial contributions. As wonderful as Hancock UCC has always been, the great work of being faithful to the Good News here and now is calling for our very best efforts. Let us pull together in harmony.

Grace and Peace,

Paul



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 December issue of *The Herald*?
The submission deadline is November 15th.

Ministry/Program News: Children’s Christian Education (CE)

Spotlight on Outdoor Church Ministry to the Homeless

We give thanks for all those who have participated thus far in the JYO ministry with Outdoor Church. With the support of the Youth CE Committee, mem-

bers, and JYO kids, we will continue this ministry each Communion Sunday throughout the year. Blessings indeed! To learn more about the Outdoor

Church or how to participate in this outreach contact Pam Cochrane, Acting Director of Children’s Ministries, at pam.cochrane@hancockchurch.org.

Thoughts from JYO: “My Experience With Outdoor Church”

By Erika Tanahashi

You don’t have to go to the city anymore to see the homeless: with the recession, your friends, family, neighbors might just be joining this large majority of people. The food banks are not enough anymore, and more and more people are starving each day. That’s why this summer I decided to join Duncan and my mom to go on several Sundays to the Outdoor Church in Cambridge. This

is a meeting place for the homeless to find faith, hope, and a little something to fill their stomachs. The Sunday School kids this summer would make around 50 or so sandwiches varying in type. We would also bring some sort of sweets like banana bread, cookies, and fruit. These food items probably show up on your grocery list every week, little things that don’t mean much, they may be mediocre or average. But to the people at Outdoor Church, a tuna sandwich

and a ripe strawberry makes their day. It’s extremely heartwarming to see how thankful these people are for the simple necessities of life. This experience has opened my eyes. These nameless faces now have names, and the stories they tell I carry with me. Some tales are interesting, some are very sad. This time with Outdoor Church has helped me to realize that finding faith can be helping others in the community, and not necessarily praying at church.

Notes from Our Seminarian: Blessings Abound Outdoors

By Joy Fallon, Seminarian

On World Communion Sunday, a loaf of sliced brown bread and jars of peanut butter and jelly sat on the communion table at Hancock UCC, next to the silver plates of cubed bread and the stacks of small communion cups waiting to be served. Pam Cochrane, the new Acting Director of Children’s Ministries, invited the young people in the congregation forward, and immediately their eyes focused on the unusual additions to the table. She explained that today

the junior high kids were going to be making sandwiches for people attending the Outdoor Church on Cambridge Common, because that was another way in which God wanted to feed everyone; it was all part of being fed by God through communion. Later in the service, after the traditional elements had been served, the youth returned with the fruits of their labor, and brought forward several baskets filled with brown paper bags, sandwiches ready for the Outdoor Church. Senior Minister Paul Shupe took the baskets and blessed them, but all of us knew

that far more than those baskets had been blessed that morning. By participating with Outdoor Church that day, the kids were blessed by being invited to share of themselves; the adults at Hancock were blessed to understand communion more deeply, as the basic staples of an everyday meal, shared among friends; and those in Cambridge were blessed with some nourishment, prepared in love. Blessings abounded.

Thank you, Outdoor Church!

The Outdoor Church is a ministry to homeless men and women in Cambridge. The mission is to reach and minister to most of the homeless men and women in Cambridge who live outdoors and to provide them with spiritual and material sustenance. Dedicated clergy offer prayer services and pastoral assistance outdoors in all seasons and all weather in order to be accessible to men and woman who, because of shame or embarrassment, hostility or illness, cannot or will not enter conventional churches.

The Outdoor Church (www.theoutdoorchurch.net) regularly holds short prayer services in Porter Square, under the mobile sculpture near the T station, at 9am and on the Cambridge Common, near the Civil War monument (across from Christ Church Cambridge on Garden Street), at 1pm every Sunday throughout the year. Following this service, lay and ordained ministers carry sandwiches, pastry, juice, and clean socks into Harvard Square and Central Square, where a meal and communion are offered.

Stewardship 2010 Update: Community & Hospitality



By Dean Rutila,
Stewardship Chair

By now you should have received the Stewardship Committee's letter and brochure for the stewardship campaign this fall.

We've identified, if pledges allow, the four priorities for ad-

ditional funding that we would pursue to strengthen Hancock's contributions to our families and our community:

- Enhancements to our Sunday School curriculum;
- Improvements in the front and rear entrances to the church;
- Media outreach to increase our visibility in Lexington, with special focus on younger families; and

- More support for Christian Service, including a Good Samaritan Fund that will underwrite pledges when our younger members participate in charitable walks and other challenges.

This is an important year for Hancock, and we need your help, as we're hoping to increase our giving this year. Please consider your pledge commitment and join us for a very special Faith Promise service on **Sunday, November 14th**.

Hancock Members Speak: What Does Stewardship Mean to You?



By Wendy Tanahashi-Works, Co-chair of the Children's CE committee.

If I were to have written an ad seeking a church community when I first came to Lexington seven

years ago it would have gone like this:

"Help! Newly married mother of four, ages 5 to 16, and two schnauzers. Blended family Seeking Church. New to Lexington. In need of friendships, parental direction, spiritual renewal, and support. Must provide youth and children programs K-12. Cannot commit to church committees due to new family and job. Coffee a must."

Hancock Church has fulfilled all these needs and more. Even as my parental checklist alters and my children's needs and development progress, I continue to encounter what our family needs at Hancock: the new Rotational Model Sunday school program that addresses young learners' different needs each Sunday in creative spaces; JYO's community based projects such as Rosie's place; Sort & Wrap in Winchester; Outdoor church in Cambridge; the Our Whole Lives program that guides and educates 8th grad-

ers to make better choices sexually, socially, and with substance; the 9th grade confirmation course which involves community service and welcomes challenging questions of faith; in HYG, the social justice and youth leadership culminating in their trip to Kentucky. These are just a few highlights of what my four children have experienced thanks to Hancock and its staff and volunteers. These experiences have launched many meaningful and lively dialogues at the dinner table.

I have committed myself to Church school teaching and to the CE committee for the past 6 years. Teaching the younger children has helped me address my own faith through responding to their questions and helping them make connections with their faith and the larger community. Teaching has always been how I have learned best and Church school is no exception. I love to act out stories with props and sound and be playful. I can do this in the new storytelling room with the kids. As an educator by trade, I am encouraged by our new curriculum which addresses all learners and their learning styles in an engaging and creative manner.

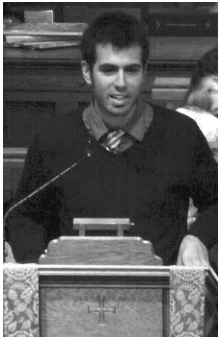
We now can share a magical space under a big tent where our biblical stories can be told and retold in many ways. Costumes, stuffed animals, floor pillows, ribbons, plants and a live bunny

all create the story telling room. We, the church school teachers, shepherds and committee members, are very excited by this new Rotational Curriculum which is entering its third year. The learning spaces are designed to be conducive to the different learning modes: storytelling, music, art, community life and fun and games. We are all excited as the spaces start to take form. Late night meetings, painting rooms, ripping up carpets, and the morning curriculum training sessions with coffee and donuts have created kinship and determination among us as we explore and embrace this new teaching program. We hope that we can welcome current and new families to our program.

For me, my contribution of both money and time is important to support the children and youth programs and the programmatic changes they are experiencing. I celebrate and support our Hancock youth as lifelong learners of faith who carry with them a moral and spiritual compass. With this in mind, it is important that we all reflect on how the church has impacted our lives, our children's growth, our communities and how much we can all pledge both financially and with our talents.

I invite you all to join me under the storytelling tent with your enthusiasm, talents and financial support.

What Does Stewardship Mean to You? (cont'd)



By Sean Wlash

My road to Hancock is a bit unusual. Not many join the church as the pastor's spouse, and I'm not sure counting on an influx of staff members' significant others is

the best way to grow the church. Though, we may want to consider starting a profile on Match.com.

When Dana was called to Hancock, we had a conversation about my involvement in the church. Now, I grew up in the Catholic church – attended every Sunday at my father's request, and many a confessional Tuesday for misbehavior. In college and after college, my theology changed and I began attending

a variety of churches, and during our time in Princeton, I attended regularly the UCC congregation in New Jersey where Dana interned.

But this was now a big commitment. Graciously, Dana said, "Hancock is my place of work; if you need to find a different spiritual place, that's fine with me." Now, I'm no fool and while I appreciated the understanding, I didn't solely believe the offer to be entirely true. But I took her at her word. And for the first year or two, I sat – fourth pew from the back on the left hand side - scoping it out. What I bore witness to was a wonderful congregation that were welcoming and faithful, that sought to live out God's word and seek to understand a still-speaking God. So it didn't take much time for me to make that pew – fourth from the back on the left hand side – my permanent seat.

Perhaps the biggest endorsement

of Hancock that I could give is that I would gladly and wholeheartedly be a member of this congregation regardless of who I was married to.

I feel welcome in the pews, encouraged by you all, and revitalized through the ways in which I can participate in the life of the congregation. I have enjoyed my teaching ministry with Our Whole Lives and my recent work with membership committee in imagining how Hancock can continue to grow.

To grow the church, we can't count on marriages, but we can count on opening the doors to all, inviting friends and neighbors, and sharing the place we love.

Hancock has meant a great deal to me and my family. This is why I give. This is why I stay. This is why I come.

Stewardship and the Hancock Community: A Youth Perspective



By Stephanie Yost

So my freshman year of high school, my family decided to join the Hancock Church community. Before coming here, we hadn't really been attached to any church for a

while, so joining was like getting back on the horse. Luckily, because of middle school track, I knew Sarah Foster and her family, and she had strongly encouraged that I check out the youth group, HYG.

My first HYG meeting was a little bit overwhelming, since it was just after the group had gone to Kentucky. Everyone already had all these inside jokes from the trip so I was a little wor-

ried. But soon I was told all the crazy stories about putting ketchup in sinks and saran wrapping people to their beds, and I was definitely intrigued. Everyone I talked to wanted to share their experience with me, and I became more and more interested in finding out what was so great about this group.

I soon found out during my first trip to Grotonwood retreat center. Playing "wink", an extremely violent tackling game, can instantly build bonds in a group. But more than anything, the atmosphere of HYG was what drew me in the most. Anyone who knew me to some degree was introducing me to everyone else, and now I am doing the same thing for the new members of the group. Recently we had "Bring-A-Friend-Night", and the friend I brought was impressed

with how comfortable everyone seemed with all the new people there. It was a little hectic, but only because so many people wanted to come, having heard about how much fun our youth group is.

This community, and not just the youth group, has welcomed so many people with open arms. Personally, I love getting away from homework on Sunday nights so I can run around the church, pray, and have such a strong support system in the people who surround me here. I hope many of can feel just as welcomed as I have!

Hancock Serves: Mission & Service Opportunities

Donations Needed: Concord Prison Outreach's Christmas Gift Bags

This November, Concord Prison Outreach is, again, asking for donated gifts for the inmates at the two prison facilities in Concord. Prison Outreach, an organization of citizens from Concord and surrounding communities, works with the inmates of Concord Reformatory and the Northeastern Correctional Center on many projects, one of which is the presentation of small gift bags for the inmates at Christmas time. The items must be those described in the list below; no deviation is allowed by the prison authorities. Although the list may seem sparse,

these are often the only holiday remembrances which many inmates receive. That the recipients are grateful for this kindness was evident in the touching letters of thanks that were on display in the Dining Room last month.

To participate, please place any quantity of any/all of the items below in the donation box outside the church office. Please also include a "non religious" holiday greeting card, signed with first name(s) only. Especially valued are hand-made cards from children, no larger than half an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper.

Items requested:

- * 6 oz. tube of toothpaste
- * Bar of deodorant soap
- * Envelopes 6¾" size
- * Pair of white socks (no tube socks or knee-highs)
- * Pocket calendar (no wire)
- * Shampoo (15 oz plastic bottles)
- * Stick deodorant (no roll-ons)
- * Writing tablet/pad (no wire; ≤8" x 11")

Questions? Please contact Louise Halde- man at louise4292@earthlink.net or at 781.369.8562.

Third Annual Mission Trip to Piedras Negras: March 28-April 4, 2011

Looking for a spiritual experience that is a fun, meaningful adventure? Considering being part of Hancock's mission trip team and assist in Sustainable Harvest International's transformational work to alleviate hunger in Central America while restoring valuable ecosystems. While there, we will:

- work with Jorge, SHI's dedicated agriculture extensionist.

- learn how to make Bocashi, build a tree nursery, plant a productive vegetable garden, and build a chicken coop.
- stay with one of the wonderful families of the Piedras Negras community and learn first-hand what living in poverty means.
- befriend local children and reach out with our hearts.
- eat delicious, local, organic and un-

processed food prepared lovingly by Elva and other women in the community.

- enrich our experience through spiritual reflection with HUCC friends.

Sign-up at coffee hour or contact Charlotte Dougherty at 781.863.8018 or at charlottedougherty@gmail.com or Rev. Dana Allen Walsh at dana.allenwalsh@hancockchurch.org or at 781.862.4220.

Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry: Donations & Volunteers Needed

When you donate to Lexington Food Pantry, consider donating their "focus food of the month." November is "**Canned chili, stews or hashes Month**" (no family-sized). Donation

baskets are in the narthex and outside the church office and dining room. **Be part of the Hancock team** that volunteers on the 2nd Saturday of every month. The commitment is from 8:45-

11:30am and the learning curve is short! Volunteers are needed for Hancock's December slot (12/11) For more information, contact Caroline Nijenberg (carolinen@rcn.com or 781 862-4465).

Interfaith Garden: Last Month to Volunteer for This Season

The garden is winding down but there is still some work to be done before the garden gets "put to bed" for the season.

Next opportunities for Hancock members to help **are Tue., 11/2** from 5-6pm and **Sat, 11/6** from 7:30-9:00am.

Contact Amy Swanson at amy.swanson@rcn.com or 781-863-9443 for more information.

Christian Service Round-Up: Hancock In Action

Feeding 5000: Year 3 Progress, Current Efforts & Upcoming Events

By Laurie Bergstrom

Linger Lunch Enjoyed By All

Sun., 9/26 was a lovely day outside but even warmer inside with a light Linger Lunch sponsored by the Feeding 5000 project. Carol Counihan once again rallied her group to provide a delicious lunch of fresh salad, bread, minestrone soup, and apples that served about 55 members and friends of Hancock.

Special Guests

The greens for the salad were grown by our guest speaker from New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Adisson Toussaint, and his daughter. Hancock has sponsored Adisson, who is now in the last year of the New Entry program. Adisson arrived in Massachusetts from Haiti in 2004 with a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences from the Henri Christopher University. He graduated from the New Entry Farm Business Planning Course in the spring of 2008 and currently farms at Richardson's Dairy, a New Entry incubator farm located in Dracut, MA. He now operates AdSaint Farm, which provides fresh, organic vegetables and foods to promote good health. Adisson gets help from his high school daughters who assist with his production of lettuce, cabbage, beans, tomatoes, eggplant, carrot, and broccoli. The son of a farmer, Adisson is pleased to practice agriculture in the U.S.

Addison was accompanied by Jennifer Hashley, director of the New Entry, and also a vegetable and livestock farmer in Concord, MA. Jennifer serves on steering committees for the Massachusetts Food Policy Alliance, Mass Grass, and the Concord Agricultural Committee. She is a farm business planning instructor for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and teaches farm labs for graduate students in Tufts' Agriculture, Food & Environment program.

Feeding 5000 is pleased to continue supporting New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, a Tufts university Friedman School of Nutrition sponsored partner program. The Farming Project provides people with limited resources to being a small scale farm in MA encouraging economic self-reliance.

Report on Year 2 Success

Mark Sandeen updated the gathered group on the success the Feeding 5000 campaign to-date. One of the most exciting stories is our work in abroad in Piedros Negros and Santa Anna. Village farmers are now able to grow enough food to provide food for over 30,00 meals for themselves and their families in the first year! Hancock members, in conjunction with Sustainable Harvest, traveled to each of these areas to work and learn with villagers how to grow sustainable organic food and build high-efficiency stoves for cooking.

Moving Ahead: Year 3 Focus

The emphasis for year 3 of the Feeding 5000 campaign is being better local and global neighbors. Hancock will establish and maintain lasting connections with our local growers and our global growers. We will continue to encourage the congregation to become a part of the Interfaith Garden. We will also continue to educate and encourage members, friends, and family member to buy wholesome organic locally grown foods. We will continue to support Rosie's Place, the Lexington Food Pantry, and Heifer International.

Special thanks to the Feeding 5000 Committee and team of volunteers: Nancy Schlecht; Nancy Altshuler; Laurie Bergstrom; Connie Gregg; CeCe Potter; Caroline Nijenberg; Beth Schutt; Barbara Kay; Anita Chaux; Andrea Campbell; Amy Swanson;

Renee Spencer; Mark Sandeen; Linda Kilner; Mary Keith West; Carol Counihan; Charlotte Dougherty; Dana Allen Walsh.

How You Can Get Involved: Current Year 3 Efforts Underway

Greater Boston Food Bank "Back Pack Program"

Based on the enthusiastic participation of Hancock members in last year's Greater Boston Food Bank's "Back Pack Program" -- we helped feed 300 kids in Lynn and Lawrence -- we've decided to do it again! This year our goal is to exceed 1,000 lbs of food.

The mission of the Back Pack Program is to meet the needs of hungry children by providing them with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations when other resources are not available.

Look by the church office and in the narthex for posters, drop-off boxes, and lists of the specific items needed. Help us reach our goal by the end of November! For more information call Keith West at 617-851-5199.

"Indulgence Basket Raffle" to Benefit Sustainable Harvest International

Enter now for your chance to win one of three "indulgence baskets," filled with organic, sustainable and/or fair trade goodies. All proceeds from the raffle will directly support Sustainable Harvest International's work to end hunger in Piedras Negras, Honduras. Raffle tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25 and will be available for purchase at coffee hour after church and at all Feeding 5000 fall events. Three winners will be announced at the **Third Annual Alternative Thanksgiving Potluck** at 6pm on **Sat., 11/13** (more info on back cover of this issue of *TheHerald*). See you there!

Music Notes



Worship *For* and *By* All

By Mark Morgan, Director of Music

Children's Choir Returns!

Part of the challenge we face at Hancock Church is how we re-integrate our worship service to provide a worship experience that feeds the needs of all our members--young and old--and to provide a way for all of our members to participate in leading and contributing towards that worship experience. More often than not our children and youth are fairly invisible in worship on Sunday morning. One of the traditional ways our children have participated in worship is through our children's choir, the Hancock Choristers. We are pleased to announce that this program has been re-tooled and is being launched this month.

In order to meet the needs of the relatively few children and families that we have in our youngest grades, we have decided to offer Choristers in a more focused fashion this year. The group is open to children in grades 2-8. There will be two to three sessions, each encompassing about 6 rehearsals. Children (and their families) who wish to participate are expected to make a commitment to attend at least 5 of the 6 rehearsals in a particular session. Children can sing one session, or as many as their schedule permits. New children are invited and encouraged to join at the beginning of each session.

Our first session will begin on **Sun., 11/7** at 11:15 a.m. in room 212 in the

education wing. We will have rehearsals on Nov. 7th, 14th, and 21st, and December 5th and 12th. We will sing for Sunday morning worship on December 19th (and possibly 5pm on Christmas Eve if they are interested and available.) The Choristers is led by our Director of Music, Mark Morgan.

Why should your child sing? Choristers is a fast paced and fun environment for your child to learn more about music, singing, and the great music (in this case Christmas music) of our tradition. It is also a way to get them involved in helping lead us in worship. In addition, studies shown great benefits to the cognitive development of children in many areas when they are involved in music. So many benefits, and no fee for being involved! Have your child come by on **Sun., 11/7** and give it a try!

Your Turn: Cantata Choir Begins—A great place for you AND your musical friends!

Hancock's Cantata Choir is comprised of our Chancel Choir plus friends, many of whom are not members of our congregation, who join together to provide special music for two services per year. The pieces picked are generally of a larger scale (usually with substantial instrumental accompaniment) than are generally offered on Sunday mornings.

This season, we will be helping lead a service during Advent that will lift

up the story of Mary--from the announcement by the Angel Gabriel of the news that she is carrying the Son of God (known as the Annunciation), to her song of joy on hearing the news (known as the Magnificat.) The Cantata Choir will sing the stunningly beautiful setting of Gabriel's message, the *Ave Maria* by Franz Biebl. This piece has gained enormous popularity in this country since its introduction in 1970. We will also sing a setting of the Magnificat by British composer Gerald Finzi. Finzi, a contemporary of the better known Ralph Vaughan Williams, composed the Magnificat for the choir at Smith College--his first American commission. It is a beautiful and varied work, both joyous and reflective.

Rehearsals will begin on **Thur., 11/4**, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the choir room. They will continue each week (except Thanksgiving) and we will help lead worship on **Sun., 12/12**. Cantata Choir is open to all (including community members not associated with Hancock) and no audition is needed. Cantata Choir is the perfect opportunity for you to reach out to your musical friends--invite them to come and join us in singing, or just to come on **Sun., 12/12** and enjoy the music!

For more information about either of these groups, please contact Mark Morgan at 781.862.4220, ext 212 or at mark.morgan@hancockchurch.org

Skyloom Sacred Dance Group Enriched Sun., 10/24 Worship

Many thanks to Skyloom Sacred Dance Group (members, pictured at right: Shirley Blancke, Ruth Lieberherr, Elaine Sisler; Sybille



Volz) for adding dance to our morning worship service on Sun., 10/24 with their interpretation of the day's Gospel reading, "The Pharisee and the Publican."

Thanks, too, to Thomas Kurz and Kathy Keleher

(pictured at right) for their musical accompaniment.



Ministry/Program News: Congregational Care

Message from Meg — New Team, New Mission Statement

One of the advantages of living in New England is the chance to experience the seasonal changes that occur! I understand that not all of you may share my perspective, but I do enjoy the experience of the rhythm of nature and the subtle, and not so subtle, ways change happens around us! As the leaves display their brilliant colors, then let go and fall from the trees, we move from the season of Fall toward Winter. For a time, there is more darkness than there is light, and the temperatures take a downward turn. If we are able to make a spiritual connection and notice the world of nature around us and within us, we can take advantage of the experiences that come our way.

At this time of year, we embrace the subtle darkness that deepens around and within us. When we are in touch with the changes deep within us, we can acknowledge and name our losses. We then can intentionally begin the healing process from within. There is a congruence that begins to take shape, and our inner and outer lives are in harmony with change that constantly comes our way, season after season!

As a congregation, you are experiencing these seasonal changes. You are remembering your sense of past history at Hancock while reshaping your sense of identity. You are continuing to ask important questions, and beginning to claim your gifts to share with others for the purpose of creating connections and strengthening the community. By extending hospitality and practicing good stewardship, you are extending your sense of fellowship to each other and to newcomers. As we move from the season of Fall to the winter season, we experience a time of uncertainty and loss. It is equally a sea-

sonal time of hope and adventure!

November brings us toward the holiday season. We have much to be thankful for. May it be a time to remember, a time to be grateful, a time to celebrate, and a time toward greater connection. Emerson said, “A beautiful soul always dwells in a beautiful world.” May we as individual human beings, and as a congregation, dwell in harmony with the subtle changes of darkness and light. May this be a beautiful time in the life of Hancock church as we approach the time of Thanksgiving and the Advent Season. This is a great time to become more connected through worship, through prayer, through community.

There will be many ways to be involved with the Ministry of Congregational Care as the new Congregational Care Team begins to broaden its vision with the entire community in this new season. You are invited to become involved in whatever ways that you are able. It may be by baking cookies, bringing Communion, writing cards, by visiting members who are ill, or by becoming connected by praying for people through the spiritual practice of the newly re-named “Hancock Community Prayer.” The hope is that more people will practice intercessory prayer by intentionally making prayer a spiritual discipline and joy of praying for others, both as a way to be more connected in the life of Hancock church and as a way of growing in faith. The change of name from the “Cordon of Prayer” to “Hancock Community

Prayer” came about as part of the Congregational Care Team’s hope to revitalize this component of congregational care as a way more people can consciously pray for each other, so that prayer and caring become a hallmark of the congregation.

A new brochure about “Hancock Community Prayer” will be available soon, highlighting the

Congregational Care Team Mission Statement: “United in Christ’s love, we dedicate ourselves to a ministry of hope and compassion, by providing a network of care for Hancock Church members and friends during times of need. Through prayer, encouragement, training and support, we will strive to create, build and nurture our connections with each other. Together we will care for others and strengthen our identity as a vital and caring faith community.”

multiple ways to be involved in Congregational Care. I also encourage you to please take time to look at the many opportunities listed on the yellow forms on the Congregational Care bulletin board (right outside of my office). Please stop by and consider the many ways through which you can become part of the caring connection in the Hancock community.

Peace and blessings for the season,

Meg Anzalone
Congregational Care Coordinator

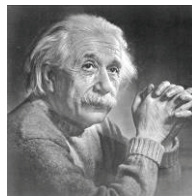
Building-Up the Hancock Community

Art Corridor November Feature: Yousuf Karsh Retrospective



Through the month of November, the Hancock Corridor Gallery (on the 2nd floor, above the Dining Hall) will feature a retrospective of the photography of Yousuf Karsh. A revolutionary in the art of portrait photography, Karsh's photographs of many of the 20th century's most notable people

have become iconic images the world over. During the more than six decades of his career, Karsh's subjects included Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Walt Disney, Mohammed Ali, Mother Teresa, Humphrey Bogart, Indira Gandhi, Sophia Loren, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ernest Hemingway, Nikita Khrushchev, Martin Lu-



ther King, Jr., Pope John XXIII, Pablo Picasso, Dizzy Gillespie, and Queen Elizabeth II. A master of studio lighting (he even lit his subject's hands separately), Karsh never failed to catch some private glimpse into the world's most public figures. Please wander through the gallery and enjoy the power and beauty of works by this modern master. (This exhibition courtesy of Paul Topalian.)

Potter Library "Stroll-Through" — Sun., 11/7 After Morning Worship

When was the last time you took a peek inside Hancock's own Potter Library? Why not come and see what's new? The Library Committee invites you to come

take a stroll through Potter Library on Sunday, 11/7 after morning worship. The Committee will be on-hand to answer questions and give you the full tour.

Questions? Contact Marjorie Travis (mwtravis@verizon.net).

"Of Comfort & Joy" — *Joyful Noyse* Advent Concert on Sun., 11/28

By Martins Aldins, Director of A Joyful Noyse

At 4pm on **Sun., 11/28**, in the candlelit Sanctuary of Hancock Church, the early music ensemble A Joyful Noyse will present an Advent concert featuring the music of two German composers, Heinrich Schütz and Michael Praetorius, composers who would influence the course of sacred music in Germany throughout the Baroque era. From the most poignant and intimate

settings for solo voice and harpsichord, to the grandeur of a double choir accompanied by brass, strings and winds, the music of this concert will express the myriad of emotions that accompany this season of hope, longing, expectation and joy.

This concert will also include works from the only secular publication of Praetorius, *Terpsichore*, named after the Greek muse of dance. You will get a chance to hear this delightful dance music performed by various groups of instru-

ments, both alone and together— strings, recorders, brass, and a consort of crumhorns and a racket, music that has been associated with Christmas for many years, music that will bring a smile to faces of all ages.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults, with all proceeds going to the Hancock Church Music Fund, to help maintain the diverse and vibrant music programs which enriches our church life here at Hancock.

Strengthening Hancock: HUCC Now Has A Safe Church Policy

On Tue., 9/21 the Standing Committee voted to approve the Safe Church Policy and Procedures for Hancock Church. This is the culmination of a year's worth of intensive study and reflection by the Safe Church Task Force. Our new Safe Church Policy and Procedures puts into

place guidelines for what we need to do in order for "people of all ages to be able to deepen their relationship with God and each other in an environment that is safe and secure." Included are steps to follow to help keep our youth and other members safe both in the church build-

ing and on church-sponsored trips. For these and more details, please refer to this policy which can be found in Potter Library and on the Hancock web site www.hancockchurch.org (in the "Resources" section under "Important Documents").

The Notice Board



Lexington Interfaith Thanksgiving Service --
Tue., 11/23
7:30pm Follen Church Society
(755 Mass. Ave., Lexington)

All donations to benefit the Lexington Food Pantry. Canned or dry food donations also accepted. Sponsored by the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association. For further information, contact Janet Parsons at 781. 862.3805, ext 201 or at <admin@follen.org>.

Heifer International Catalogs Needed

Once again, we need donations of Heifer International catalogs, which we will use to make handmade cards signifying a gift of animals, trees and honeybees to a needy family, whether in the United States, Asia, Africa, Europe or South/Central America! Please drop Heifer publications into the blue box outside Rev. Dana Allen Walsh's office.

Thanks and please visit us at the Hancock Holiday Fair!



Save-the-Date: Sun., 12/5, 11am-2pm 10th Annual Hancock Holiday Fair

Hancock's tenth annual Hancock Holiday Fair (formerly known as the Alternative Christmas Fair), featuring gifts that help others around the world, will be held on **Sun., 12/5**. The Fair will be held in Clarke Hall and the Dining Room, with expanded shopping hours from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. You can buy distinctive and original gifts that will benefit 25 local and international charities, enjoying delicious HYG refreshments and unique music by Joyful Noyse while you shop for "gifts that help others." The Hearts and Noses Hospital Clowns will also return. See you there! For more information, contact Sandra Shaw at 781-862-4415 or at sj.shaw@verizon.net.

Sun., 11/21: Advent Wreath-Making During Coffee Hour



As part of our Advent waiting, we celebrate Christ's coming by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the hope Christ brings to the world. On **Sun., 11/21** during coffee hour, all the supplies for wreath making will be available in the Dining Room. Come make a wreath or collect the supplies to make your wreath at home. Instructions, frames, wire, trays, greens and candles will be provided. All are invited to participate in this fun, hands-on activity!

Hancock's 141st Annual Manger Sunday — December 5, 2010

Come lift your spirits and embrace the Advent season by taking part in a beloved Hancock tradition: Manger Sunday. As part of morning worship that day, we will process to the manger with gifts for those who are less fortunate than we are.

Hancock, along with 40 other churches and groups in the Greater-Boston area, delivers the gifts to City Mission Society's (CMS) distribution center at First Church in Winchester.

Watch for more information (coming soon!) in the bulletin and in the weekly email about gift-giving suggestions and ways that you can help by delivering and sorting donations.



Be on the look-out! The *2010 Advent & Christmas at Hancock Planning Guide* will be arriving in your U.S. mailbox in a few weeks. It will list complete information, not only about Manger Sunday, but about all the other special events, activities, and worship service times for the season...so you won't miss-out on anything! We invite you to take part in the wide array of worship and fellowship opportunities available at Hancock throughout this joyful season.



www.hancockchurch.org

Rev. Paul Shupe, Senior Minister
Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, Associate Minister

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Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational

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Sat., 11/13: 3rd Annual Alternative Thanksgiving Potluck



Celebrate a traditional holiday in a non-traditional way: come to **Hancock's Third Annual Alternative Thanksgiving Potluck!** On **Sat., 11/13 at 6pm** bring your favorite meatless dish (and copies of the recipe to share) and

spend a wonderful early Thanksgiving meal with our Hancock community. Get prepared to test food and hunger facts in our Food Jeopardy game! And don't forget: our Back Pack Program collecting food to supplement weekend nutrition for school children in Lawrence and Lynn will be wrapping-up by then. Would you bring a donation? Or a food donation for the Lexington Food Pantry? And lastly, the Sustainable Harvest International indulgence basket raffle winners will be drawn that night...so enter now for your chance to win!

About the Alternative Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner —

As part of our Feeding 5000 program, we have explored how every choice, including our food choices, can make a difference in solving the global issue of hunger. For the past 2 years, we celebrated an early Thanksgiving by bringing our families together to experience a traditional meal in an untraditional way- a meatless Thanksgiving potluck dinner.



Why meatless? Eating less meat frees up grain, water, and other resources, allowing more people to get their fair share and be fed. In fact, Harvard nutritionist Jean Mayer estimates that reducing meat production by just 10 percent in the U.S. would free enough grain to feed 60 million people.

Mark Your Calendar —
Faith Promise Service: Sun., Nov. 14th
Together, let's renew our commitment to
and pledge our support for Hancock.

