



The Reporter

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Autumn 2009, Volume 60, No. 13

Letter From the Pastor

Greetings!

Something's afoot at the church! Something profound and intriguing. I would be so bold as to call it a spiritual resurgence. One person recently affirmed what they called the warm, tangible presence of the Holy Spirit alive in the congregation. Thanks be to God!

We've come a long way over the past year and now are entering a new and important phase in our life together. You've heard me express the need for an intentional process of visioning and discernment and the time has come for a highly concentrated effort. We'll pray together and imagine together as we discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do in this day and age.

Over the coming five weeks I will preach a sermon series on the five practices of fruitful congregations, which were identified by Robert Schnase as radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. The vision team will be planning various forums to move this process forward.

And talking about new directions, I am pleased to announce the following additions to the church staff: Clare Rose-Howard has been appointed Church Administrator and Albert Howell is our Student Pastor.

I wish you Christ's peace,
Steven



Call to Special Meeting

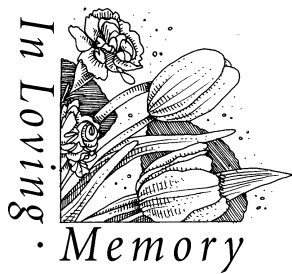
*Where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.*

Matthew 6:21

As we begin to prepare our 2010 budget, the congregation is called to a special meeting that will serve the following purposes:

- 1) Update the congregation on church expenditures and income to date in 2009.
- 2) Update the congregation on the performance of and draw on invested funds.
- 3) Launch the visioning process by which the congregation will set priorities for its future and determine accordingly how its financial resources will be appropriated.

The meeting will be held on October 18, 2009, in the Sanctuary following worship.



For many years, our church has used fresh cut flowers to decorate the altar each Sunday. These memorial flowers were paid for by parishioners and

delivered to the infirm and homebound during Sunday visits.

As times have changed, so too has the support of the weekly flowers. This year, approximately one third of the altar arrangements will be paid for by the church, around \$400. As most of you are aware, our financial situation cannot support a draw like this. Also, home visits usually occur on days other than Sunday and the flowers are, therefore, no longer delivered.

So, as Chair of the Flower Committee, I would like to hear from you about the importance of having professional flower arrangements on the altar each week. We could continue to receive memorial flowers on the weeks they are given and use seasonal creative ornamentation on the Sundays when they are not given. This option may result in an increase in the price of memorial flowers. We could do away completely with the practice of giving memorial flowers and instead honor loved ones by having a special memorial section in the weekly bulletin and *The Reporter*, setting up a system where folks can make a memorial donation to the church, a special project, or charity. This would also free up the altar for a wide range of creative displays that echo the themes of the sermon and / or season.

For the remainder of this year, we will continue to have altar flowers in place each Sunday as planned. As we look to next year's budget, I ask for your input as to whether flower arrangements are a necessity or if we can consider other means of remembrance. Your

comments, suggestions and questions are welcome.

Amanda Coughlin
Flower Committee Chair

Make Halloween Count

Our church will once again participate in **Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF**, the United Nations Children's Fund. We have ordered a lot of boxes and hope that all the children of the church and their friends will take a box out with them when they go Trick-or-Treating to help raise money so that children in other parts of the world might have food and water.

Outreach Team: Julie Roberts, Charlotte Wilensky, Jenny Briggs, Joy Roberts, Karen Lovejoy, Kathy Williams, and Susan Fuller.

Pet Blessing & Adoptions

On Sunday, November 1 at 2pm we'll offer a short and sweet Pet Blessing Service. Bring your cat, dog, ferret, bird, snake, horse, or monkey (not an exhaustive list) as we honor the pets in our lives. Weather-permitting the service will be on the front lawn.

We'll also offer a blessing for those animals still looking for homes, by hosting a pet adoption drive at the same time.

Service and event organizers are Joy Roberts, Kathy Williams, and Rev. Steven.

Please help us spread the word!



Clare Rose-Howard – Church Administrator

I am excited to have joined CCWM in the new role of Church Administrator. It is going to be a pleasure to get to know you over the next few months. My husband (Chef Allan) and I have been living in West Medford for 12 years. We have three children who attend Brooks Elementary: Isabella, Isaiah, and Isaac. I am thrilled to accept the position as Administrator, to assist Rev. Steven and Council set up new organizational systems, bring the bookkeeping in-house, build relationships with each of you, and help CCWM be salt and light in the community. For 10 years, I have been responsible for strategic business decisions including marketing, bookkeeping, and office management for Chef Allan's Catering and for my own businesses with Arbonne International and Silpada Designs. I have an MBA from Boston University with a concentration in Entrepreneurial Management. My family is a member at Eagles Heights Church in Revere. As a member, I play guitar on the worship team and pray for others on the prayer ministry team. My greatest passion is to share the love of God with everyone I meet and so I founded BuildHisKingdom.com and have been writing devotions to encourage others to step into their God-given purpose. Jesus has no hands on this earth unless we let Him use ours, so I am thrilled to be able to offer my gifts in serving the church. You can reach me Tues-Fri at 781-395-3360 or office@medfordchurch.org.

Albert J. Howell – Student Pastor

Albert is a Master of Divinity candidate at Andover Newton Theological School. He is a

graduate of Harvard Divinity School and is expected to complete his course of studies at ANTS in December 2010. Albert is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and spent the last 5 years living in Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition to being a seminary student, Albert has been an educator and technology sales representative. He spent his 20s working as a public high school teacher and school district grant-writer, and his 30s selling K-12 curriculum software to schools and school districts. Albert is married to Midrene, also known as "Gigi," who is a Boston native and graduate of Cambridge Rindge & Latin. Albert has two sons, Wisdom and Coltrane. Albert's Field Education will last the remainder of this academic year. During this time he will work closely with Rev. Steven and a Teaching Parish Committee – Anita Nackel and Lorene Hegner – who will provide support and feedback on behalf of the congregation.



FOR THE FRIDGE!

Calendar

Ongoing

Uplifting worship and engaging Sunday School each week at 10am.

The choir rehearses at 8:30am on Sundays in the music room. All voices are welcome!

October

Sun 4, 10am	World Communion Sunday
Wed 14, 7pm	Council Meeting
Fri 16, 6:30pm	Youth Group Lock-In
Sun 18, 10am	Worship followed by a Special Congregational Meeting
Sat 24, 2-4pm	Sandwich-making for Outdoor Church Mission Trip
Sun 25, 11:30am	Outdoor Church Mission Trip on Cambridge Common after worship

November

Sun 1, 10am	<i>Remember Daylight Savings Time Ends!</i> All Saints Day Intergenerational Worship
Sun 1, 2pm	Outdoor Pet Blessing & Adoption Drive
Sat 14, 10am-3pm	All-Church Fall Fair
Fri 20, 6:30pm	Youth Group Activity
Sun 22, 10am	Thanksgiving Worship & Potluck Lunch
Thurs 26 & Fri 27	<i>Thanksgiving Break – Office Closed</i>
Sun 29, 10am	First Sunday of Advent



As of September 29, 2009 the church office will be open:

Tuesday – Friday
9am – 2pm

Birthday Wishes

October

2	Rev. Steven Savides
5	Kimberly Grubb
11	Phil DiSciullo
20	Robin Baker Thelma Thompson
26	Nobu Abe
30	Jenny Briggs
31	Dylan Barca

November

2	Brenda Briggs
3	Matthew Huse
24	Mie Abe
24	Margo Semonian
30	Larry Westcott

December

7	Janice Willson
13	Arline Clark Timothy Roche
15	Joyce Henson
23	Sindi Sekenski
29	Tom Campbell



Visit

www.medfordchurch.org

Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on World Communion Sunday (October 4) supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues.

Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Let us give so that others may receive!

YOUTH NEWS



Check the Calendar for exciting upcoming events & to let your friends know!

Save the Date: Every four years, five Regional Youth Events are held across the country during the summer for the youth of the United Church of Christ. They offer wonderful worship services, engaging service projects, youth-led and oriented workshops, family circles, liturgical dance, live bands, professional musicians and resources. Save the date for the **New England Regional Youth Event, June 24-27, 2010**. *Location & other info to follow.*



Did You Know...

The Pastoral Relations Committee, which falls under the Church Council, supports Rev. Steven and acts as the liaison between him and the congregation. Its goals are the professional growth and wellbeing of the pastor and to offer feedback from the congregation to the pastor and also from the pastor to the congregation. The members of this committee are Carol Luongo, Anita Nackel, and Julie Roberts. Please feel free to contact them.

Are you looking for inspiration in a challenging time?

Do you seek mission partners close to home?

Then come view the City Mission Society produced film

JAHMOL'S VISION FOR YOUTH PEACE

and meet the young people he touched

at the Fall Meeting
of the Metropolitan Boston Association
of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 1st, 2009
at the United Parish in Brookline

210 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446
(on street parking & public transportation accessible)

MEETING AGENDA

2:30 p.m. Gathering and Registration
2:45 p.m. Association Business Meeting with snacks!
3:30 p.m. Jahmol's Vision for Youth Peace
5:00 p.m. Communion to Send Us on Our Way

Please RSVP by contacting the Office (781) 890-1444 or
macucc.waltham@verizon.net

Need child care? Transportation?

Please contact the MBA Office by Monday, October 19 if you will need either of these services. Thank you.

