

A weekly collection of news, reflections and announcements from the
Congregational Church of West Medford
an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dearly Beloved,

In your email or US mail this week, you received a pastoral letter which makes very real the movement of our congregation towards a bold decision for the future. Please take the time to read it carefully and thoroughly as it describes where we are and what we are asking of you over the next month (or so) as we move thoughtfully and carefully towards our future.

I found that the most significant moments in our Crossroads conversations were those spent in imagining a future as a mission oriented faith community. I encourage you to consider the following excerpts about The Missional Church from Session IV. I pray that laid side by side with the Pastoral Letter you have received, you will be left with the same sense of hopefulness and future that I am experiencing in our midst as we birth a new call and mission for our ministry.

From Handout 4:1: The Missional Church, Part 2

In order to go into the world to live God's mission—to establish relationships with people...congregations must know the needs, ways, language, and lifestyles of the "field of mission" which surrounds it.... And yet, increasingly, many congregations are cut off from their communities....

It's very common for aging congregations to perpetuate old models of church-life. It's also common for church activities to become self-focused – meeting only the social needs of congregational members without devoting sufficient energy for helping people live out their Christian calling to serve the larger world. To make matters worse, many congregations have few financial resources to engage in mission in their communities and world because they are spending larger portions of their budget on rising health care costs for their pastors and costly maintenance on their buildings.

Some of these congregations fall into the trap of survivalism, focusing more and more of their energies (and financial resource) on just keeping the church open. Likewise, less and less time, energy and resources are available to be active in meeting the ministry needs of the larger community and world.

Other congregations realize that simply tweaking worship services and patching up old buildings won't really help the effort to redevelop ministry. Yet, they don't have models for church life that go beyond what is called an *attractional model of church life*. Attractional models for congregational life are



Continued on next page

founded on the premise that a building with good Christian programming and strong worship will “attract” people to it. In this attractional model, there is a ceaseless quest for better programming, more relevant worship, more advertising and larger budgets. In fact, in North American culture, this model has served many churches well until the last decade or so. In a few places, this attractional model can still work. But it is based on the idea that people should “come to” church and that the church’s purpose is to serve its members and participants.

In the “missional” model of church that we explored in the previous session, the church is not a “come to” place but a “go to” lifestyle. In this model, the people of the church are constantly following God in mission to the world. Yes, the church gathers for worship and discipleship, but it is primarily focused on equipping people to live a Jesus lifestyle amid their daily lives.

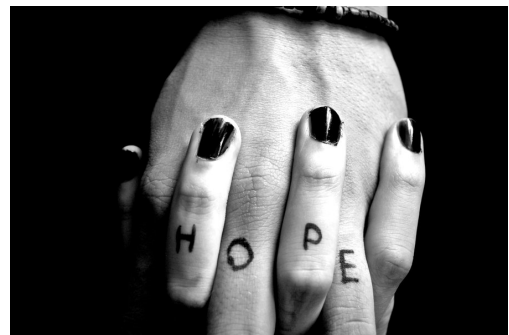
Reggie McNeal, in his book, *Missional Renaissance*, says, “The missional church is an expression of God’s heart. It serves as an indication of God’s continuing commitment to God’s redemptive mission in the world....the missional church believes that God is on a mission and that we are to join God in that mission...not to ‘do church’ but to ‘be church.’ *Missional is a way of living, not an affiliation or activity.*” Missional churches are making three major shifts:

1. **The shift from making good church members to making disciples of Jesus:** This places a congregation’s focus on discipleship (living the lifestyle of Jesus) and challenges the often-held assumption that a church is a vendor of religious goods and services. We, as church participants, are not religious consumers, but children of God who need one another to train and coach us in how to live our daily lives.
2. **The shift from church growth to community transformation:** This moves us beyond the “Three B’s of traditional church: Buildings, Budgets and Behinds in the Seats!” Instead of having church growth as our goal, our goal is changing our neighborhood or city. Growth may happen, but it is a means to the end...not the end itself. With this shift, we see other local churches as partners in mission, not our “competition.”
3. **The shift from preserving the institution to sending local missionaries:** With this shift, we invest our congregation’s time and resources into equipping and encouraging people to deal with the daily stresses, challenges, relationships and activities of life. Instead of “guilting” people to serve on another committee or attend more church meetings, we free them to live the Jesus lifestyle in their personal routines. People are *encouraged* to be involved with civic groups, youth sports, schools, politics, workplace activities and to “infect” those areas of community life with the values of the Gospel.

So what about you? Are you ready to make this shift? Are you ready to be God’s hands, God’s feet, God’s very own heart?

I know I am!

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade, revwdmiller@comcast.net



OUR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



In Our Prayers

Concerns: The Beal family at the death of a niece a few weeks ago; Jeff S is happy to have his cable/phone service restored from Comcast and a hopeful about a job opportunity; Gail A. lifts up Breast Cancer Awareness month and all, including her sister-in-law Jen dealing with breast cancer; Dick continues prayers for his friend Ed who has Lou Gehrig's disease and is struggling with financial difficulties; June L. recovering from a hospitalization this past week; Elizabeth B. prays for her father (age 92) who has Alzheimer's disease and for her mother facing decisions about his care.

Joys: Kim & Jamie G. celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary!; Elizabeth B. in gratitude for congregation's support of her music and recital; the celebration of the wedding of Bev R's daughter Allie and husband Chris wedding celebration last week.

We continue to pray for Marsha at loss of friend and music colleague Marjorie who passed away recently; Ose's friend Alma whose husband has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease; Min, the translator at Goodland Church, recovering from surgery; Joy's friend Sheila with cancer is undergoing the first round of chemotherapy; Thelma T. who is improving and hopes to return home soon; for our church's Crossroads process and future; for the environment; for President Obama and Congress regarding our present times of strife—may God's intentions prevail as they make decisions; for Lorna S. still hopeful for full recovery; Diane P's friend's Paul and Joe in treatment for cancer; Eva W. recovering at home and June L. receiving care at home. We remember fallen soldiers and Veterans and those serving in our military. We lift up all of the children of our congregation and those we bless in Bright Stars.

Please send prayer requests to office@medfordchurch.org by noon each Wednesday

Pastoral Care Concerns: "Deacon of the Month" for October is Robin Baker. Please let us know if there is someone who could use a visit, phone call, card, or prayer. The Deacons (aka: Spiritual Life) rely on your input about the well being and needs of our members and friends.

Empty your Pockets in the Pennies from Heaven Jar: The "Pennies from Heaven Jar" will be in the Narthex for you to empty your pockets of the loose change you may have. This jar is just one way to help support the church in a very easy way. The jar easily takes coins and paper money.

Happy October Birthdays

Kimberly Grubb	October 05	Phil DiSciullo	October 11
Drew Hill	October 15	Tripp Hill	October 15
Thelma Thompson	October 20	Robin Baker	October 20
Jenny Briggs	October 30	Dylan Barca	October 31



Altar Flowers Always Welcomed: Please contact Brenda Briggs bgbriggs51@gmail.com (or the church office@medfordchurch.org) to make arrangements to schedule a Sunday to bring flowers or order them in honor or memory of a loved one.

Fellowship Café: Fellowship Café: During the month of November, the deacons will be sponsoring coffee hour with the help of the children of the Sunday School and all of you are invited to bring treats to share!

November 3: Please bring your favorite muffin (homemade or store bought)

November 10: Apple Festival, please bring any special apples, apple desserts or apple treats of any kind

November 17: Pumpkin Festival, who can bake a pumpkin pie or pumpkin bread?

November 24: Crossroads pot luck luncheon.

Worship Volunteers Always Welcome: We are always looking for folk to participate in worship as ushers and readers. Youth and Children are always welcomed to participate. The Spiritual Life Committee recruits readers. Kathy Williams is the contact at this time. (kathypricewilliams@yahoo.com)

If you would like to usher, please see Rev. Wendy to find out more or ask any questions. You are also welcome to call the church office to volunteer. Our church works better when we all pitch in and participate! Your help is appreciated.

The Gift of Bread: The Spiritual Life Committee is looking for volunteers to bake a simple loaf of gluten free bread for our monthly celebration of Holy Communion (on the first Sunday of the month). The recipe is very simple (and uses a gluten free pizza dough product). Spiritual Life can provide the bread making mix if you can provide the loving care. No kneading involved. One volunteer has already agreed—perhaps you would like to bake bread every other month? Contact Rev. Wendy.

Crossroads Follow up! Congregational Conversation, Sunday Nov 10 after worship.

The Crossroads Leaders and Strategic Planning Team are meeting to share the insights from your conversations. Please gather to hear what is bubbling up from the Crossroads Conversation and check in about where we are in regards to our Bold Decision. This will be a chance to prepare for the Decision making meeting on Nov 24—please plan to participate and share ideas.

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24, 11:30—1:30

Pot Luck Soup and Salad Luncheon and Congregational Meeting

The Crossroads Leadership and Strategic Planning Teams invite you to a soup and salad luncheon to celebrate the season and participate in a meeting of the governing body of our church. Please plan to be with your church Nov 24 to make the “Bold Decision” indicated by our Crossroads Process and Strategic Planning. **Can you help organize this Thanksgiving Sunday Pot Luck?** Rev. Wendy is seeking one or two persons who feel called to help host and organize the pot luck so that we have the meal, set up and clean up covered (the sexton will help with some of this). Watch for a sign up sheet during fellowship time!! Julie Roberts will help to keep us organized—can you help her to get people signed up? Here is what we are seeking: **Hearty Soups, Salads (green, fruit and pasta), Desserts, Drinks/Bread. If you want to sign up but won't be here for worship before hand, please call the church office.**

MISSION AND OUTREACH

RE-

MEMBER

Planning for Pine Ridge Volunteer Trip 2014: Preliminary planning meeting for the Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation 2014 for interested participants will be held after worship service on November 3, 2013

Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering will be collected next Sunday, November 3. NIN contributions can be made on-line at any time [here](#).



Last Call for RSVP for the Annual Boston Urban Outreach

In-Service Project, Friday, November 8, 5 pm--Saturday, November 9, 3 pm

All are welcome, including friends and neighbors who are interested in the kind of spiritual growth that comes from mission work. The costs of the event will be fully covered by our Outreach Mission fund, but we need to know now how many spaces to reserve. **Please RSVP to Susan D'Arcy Fuller (susandarcy@hotmail.com)** indicating how many from your family will attend, and please indicate if you plan to sleep overnight at the church in Charlestown. **Children 12 and up are welcome with an adult chaperone.** Note that our confirmation class will be required to participate as they are able. Thank you!

Mount Auburn Hospital, 330 Mt Auburn St., Cambridge Bereavement Support Group:

All groups run for eight Monday evenings from 6:00-;30 pm and meet in the Clough Conference Room located on the second floor next to the Cafeteria. Each session closes after the second week. An education component is interwoven into the discussions. Contact Beth Loomis at 617-575-8606. Any adult who has experienced the death of someone significant is welcome. eloomis@mah.harvard.edu





“Medford Gives Thanks”

Monday, November 25

7:00 – 8:00 PM

**Food Drive &
Community Wide
Thanks Giving Event**

Grace Episcopal Church

160 High Street, Medford

**Sponsored by the Medford Interfaith Clergy
to benefit**

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Unitarian Universalist, 147 High Street, Medford; 781-396-4549

St. Raphael/St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry

38 Boston Ave., Medford,; 781-488-5444

Friends of Francis Food Pantry

441 Fellsway West, Medford; 781-396-3400



**Bring your non-perishable and non-expired food
donations to the event to be blessed and distributed.**

**Monetary donations are welcomed.
Checks to “Medford Interfaith Clergy Association”**

Medford Family Network: Supported in part by a grant from the Medford COA, this group welcomes grandparents and other relatives caring for younger children in the absence/illness of their parents. Weekly meetings provide a strong, informative, educational, and "safe" place for the benefit of those who are parenting young relatives. Grandparents Group meets every Thursday from 9:30 am to 11 am. This coming Thursday, author Becky Sarah will speak about Grandparents, the differences between yours and today, Oct 31, 2013. Becky spent 8 years researching and writing about this subject. Meeting will be held at Medford High School, Family Network , 489 Winthrop St Medford, MA 02155 . Please contact Marie Cassidy at 781-393-2106 or email: mcassidy@medford.k12.ma.us The Medford Family Network of the Medford Public Schools is a universal (everyone welcome) parenting education and family support program focusing on the positive impact on the developmental process of children from birth to age 6, and supporting the families who care for them. This is accomplished through parenting education workshops; discussion groups; age-specific playgroups; new moms groups; home visitation; family events; lending libraries; a family resource / drop in center; information and referral services; family literacy initiatives; and individual consultation.

Night of 10,000 Lights: November 2, 2013, 7:00 -10:30 pm at Medford City Hall, a fundraiser benefiting the Medford Family Network.

The Friends of the Medford Family Network will be holding its annual fundraiser. This adult night out will once again feature tastings from all of the best restaurants in Medford; live music; a silent auction; fabulous raffle prizes; and a gift bag filled with coupons and surprises for all attendees.

Help support the Medford Family Network by: Attending - Sponsoring - Advertising in our Program Book - Making a Donation

Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door

Get your tickets via www.medfordfamilies.or or at the MFN Family Center



THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

October 20-26, 2013

October 27 2013 Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

Worship and Baptism (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Crossroad Leaders and Strategic Planning Team Meeting 11:30-1:30 pm— (LR)
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class— 4:00 pm

Monday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:30 pm (BC)
Mother's Club (LR) 7:30 pm

Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous—7:30 pm (BC)
Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)
Girl Scouts B. & J Briggs 6:00 pm (GR)

Wednesday

3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am— 6:15 am;

8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 p--6:15 pm (FH)
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am, 5:30--6:15 pm (FH)
Girl Scouts— 7:00 pm (BC)

Saturday

Alanon —9:00 am (YR)

November 3, 2013 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class— 4:00 pm

Weekdays

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, www.BrightStarsKids.org
((M—F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, www.GentleDragonPreschool.org
(M—F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), www.englishatlarge.org

Room Legend: (FH) Fellowship Hall; (BC) Barnes Chapel; (YR) Youth Room; (LR) Living Room

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon for Today: Joy Roberts

Clerk: TBD

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