

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

*“May Jesus himself and God our Creator, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.” (Second Thessalonians 2:16-17)*

### Surprising Gifts

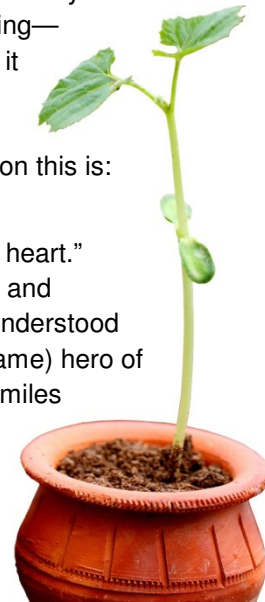
Some people think the *best* gifts are surprise ones. Others have a different idea: they'd rather know what's coming or, at least, know that the giver knows what they want.

We'll be talking about “Surprising Gifts” this month and we'll be doing it based on this verse from the writings of St. Paul in the Bible. This text, from the *Message* translation of the Bible, provides the theme for our stewardship campaign 2014. Please watch your mailbox/inbox for a letter and an invitation to consider your gifts for this coming year.

In our everyday speech we talk a lot about “heart”: “being heartened,” “heartfelt expressions,” having a “strong heart,” et cetera. It is precisely that broad and deep sense of “heart” that St. Paul, in this verse, is describing. “Put a fresh heart in you” is stated, in Paul's native language, by only three words—the second and third are just as they are in English: “in you.” That's important(!)—without “you” there's nothing to talk about. But the first word, ahhhh that first word, it is fascinating—what the *Message* translates as “put a fresh heart” is only one word in Greek, and it can be translated as either “comfort” or “challenge”. I love this—it can mean to bring care and succor and promote rest; AND it can mean to call forth, to arouse. No wonder it takes four words to translate into English—and what a great translation this is: **“Put a fresh heart.”**

Beloved, that is what God does. God comforts us *and* challenges us with a “fresh heart.” God provides and even empowers us for rest and re-creation *and* God challenges and empowers us for the living of these days. Among the modern day prophets who understood this “fresh heart” of God is that nameless (at least I've never seen or known her name) hero of the Montgomery Bus Boycott who, when asked how she felt about having to walk miles every day just to get to work and then back home, said: *“My feet is tired but my soul is at rest.”* Indeed. That's God Spirit at work!

May God ever and always “surprise” you with gifts of comfort and strength. May God hearten you as you, and as we together, concretize our mission and vision and put into word and deed *and* dollars and cents the goals and objectives of



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our mission and vision. May God hearten you as the challenge *and* the comfort of knowing that you and we together are putting God's vision to work becomes reality.

"God's work, our hands" is a well-known saying—and it's true! "God's heart, our heart" is another way of speaking the same truth. May God "put a fresh heart in you." Amen.

Blessings,

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade, [revwdmiller@comcast.net](mailto:revwdmiller@comcast.net)

### **A Pastoral Invitation—Let's Talk? Let's Pray.**

As our Crossroad discernment process moves from the theoretical to the real, from church the way it has always been to "Oh my goodness, does it mean that we might...?", from "I baptized my children there" to "Where would we worship?" we are all experiencing a wide range of feelings and responses—including me! I want to extend an invitation to any and all who might want some one-on-one time with me or other members of the leadership team to check in and talk. You may want to talk about the process, concerns you have, questions you need to ask but may not want to bring up in a public setting. Please, allow me to walk with you through this time as your pastor and spiritual guide. Of course as we make decisions we will build in time for processing along the way, but if you want time now, please say so.



### **In Our Prayers**

Concerns: The horrible death of a teacher in Danvers and the perpetrator of the crime; Diane's friend who lost her son to a drunk driver; Jenny & Brenda B pray at the loss of a family member who passed away; 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; 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: We celebrate the Baptism of Celine Shedd, Deb S, celebrates Audrey's birthday; the gifts of Super Saturday, the Red Sox World Series win.

We continue to pray for 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](mailto:office@medfordchurch.org) by noon each Wednesday**

## OUR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastoral Care Concerns:** “Deacon of the Month” for November is Kathy Williams. 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 November Birthdays

Max Beal	November 2
Margot Semonian	November 24
Larry Wescott	November 30



**Altar Flowers Always Welcomed:** Please contact Brenda Briggs [bgbriggs51@gmail.com](mailto: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:** 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 special apples, apple desserts, apple treats (any kind)
- November 17: Pumpkin Festival, who can bake a pumpkin pie or pumpkin bread?
- November 24: Crossroads pot luck luncheon—please sign up for pot luck!

**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](mailto: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.

### Next Sunday, Nov 10: Please join us as the Crossroads Conversation Continues!!

**All Congregation Conversation, after worship.** 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. We will share some specifics on the conversations we have had to date with Real Estate Brokers and Developers—and we will offer some examples and ideas from successful, mission focused emerging Christianity. Let the creativity and brainstorming continue!!!

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

**Pot Luck Soup and Salad Luncheon**

**& 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. We will take a vote on actions indicated by the Crossroads process.**

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.**



**Save the Dates**

**Advent Wednesdays—December 4, 11, 18 at 7:00 pm**

**A time of reflection, healing and renewal  
for the journey as we birth something new.**

We will join Joseph and Mary on the road to Bethlehem as they answer Herod's mandatory call to travel home and be counted for the census.

We will worship, create community, and wait for the birthing of a new thing. The service will include a message, prayer, meditation, and the healing act of laying-on of hands. Come and sit in stillness.

In collaboration with our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Susan Corso will lead these mid-week sessions. Dr. Corso is the head of the Spiritual & Energy Medicine Departments at Visions HealthCare, and has been a Spiritual Director for over thirty years.



## MISSION AND OUTREACH

RE-  
  
MEMBER

### **TODAY—After Worship Pine Ridge Volunteer Trip 2014 Planning:**

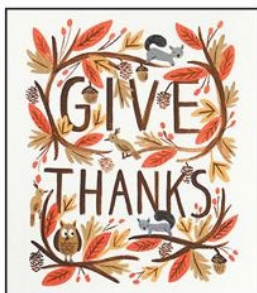
All welcome—come see what its all about and join in imagining this year's project.

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** offering is being collected TODAY, 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](mailto: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!**

**Food Collection: If you are not able to attend the “Medford Gives Thanks” event, bring your food donations to church and we will take them along!**



### **“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”

## FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

### **Medford Historical Society and Grace Episcopal Church present:**

#### **A History of Grace Episcopal Church**

Sunday, November 17, 2013

2:00—4:00 pm at Grace Church, 160 High Street, Medford

#### **Featured Speakers:**

Mayor Michael McGlynn, the Rev. Noah H. Evans, parish historian Allison Andrews & personal histories from a panel of Grace Church members

#### **Tours of the historic H.H. Richardson church**

Artifacts on display

Free and Open to the Public – Refreshments



### **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](mailto:eloomis@mah.harvard.edu)

### **Informational Events from Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice**

A Free talk on **Medical Marijuana** is being sponsored by Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice and the Malden Council on Aging on Tuesday, November 19 at 10:00 am at the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street in Malden. A pharmacist from Hallmark Health Systems will discuss when a physician might order a prescription of marijuana and what the benefits are. Also will be discussed the different forms this prescription is available in. For more information call 781-338-7885.

**Stoneham Senior Health Fair:** Free Health fair is being held on Thursday, November 14 from 10-12:30pm at the Stoneham Senior Center, 136 Elm Street, Stoneham. Free health screenings, health resource information, and give-a-ways. Sponsored by Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice and the Stoneham Council on Aging. For more information call 781-338-7885.

**Melrose Romance As We Age:** Love and romance are not just for the young. Dr. Latoya Etheridge, Family Medicine at Malden Family Health Center, will discuss why intimate relationships are important to maintaining good health as we age on Wednesday, November 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Milano Senior Center, 201 W. Foster Street in Melrose. Sponsored by Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice and the Melrose Council on Aging. For more information call 781-338-7885.

## NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE UCC

### **Metropolitan Boston Association Fall Meeting**

Today, Sunday, November 03, 2013; 2:30 PM--5:30 PM

#### ***Program: Christianity in a Multi-Faith Setting***

The opportunity for interfaith dialogue often erupts in response to a community crisis, yet cultivating inter-religious understanding takes planning and time. Two UCC leaders, who have been immersed in a multi-faith educational setting, share their expertise. Presented by The Rev. Sarah B. Drummond, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Andover Newton Theological School and The Rev. Elizabeth Nordbeck, the Moses Brown Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Andover Newton.

**Location:** United Parish of Auburndale, Newton, 64 Hancock Street, Auburndale, MA 02466-2311.



### **Eat, Learn, Share: breakfast program for church leaders**

Saturday, November 09, 2013; 9:00 AM—11:00 AM. Outreach, Stewardship and Finance committees and Trustees are invited to join us on the morning of Nov. 9 for a FREE breakfast program provided to local church leaders. The Congregational Church of Needham will host. You will learn about: the work of the National and Conference offices of the United Church of Christ, best practices to try at your own church, how those in other churches are doing the same work you are and hear about what's going on at the Conference level regarding our Conference mission and

vision statements and our our new Ministry Council structure. Also hear about the "United Church Mission" a proposal. And more: Learn how to encourage giving through telling stories and how to ask the hard questions at budget time. Meet and share ideas with other congregations and don't miss this learning opportunity and the chance to meet stewardship/outreach/finance people from other congregations. There is no cost for this event, but please register no later than Nov. 7 at [macucc.org](http://macucc.org). *Sponsored by the Lay Development Council of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ.*

### **Celebration IX: Together We Can—March 28-30, 2014, Portland, Maine**

*"How wonderful it is for God's people to live in harmony"—Ps 133:1* A weekend of spiritual renewal where together we can build community, form friendships, participate in workshops and make a joyful noise through all the land. Registration is now open. The United Church of Christ Women Leaders of New England sponsor this event every four years and in 2014 it will be held in Portland Main at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay. Workshops, keynote speakers such as Maren Tirabassi, Nancy Taylor, Mary Luti and other fabulous women church leaders, music, Forums, Bible Study and a Marketplace. <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org/>



## THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

**November 3 - 9, 2013**

November 3, 2013 Thirty-first Sunday After Pentecost

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Pine Ridge Meeting for 2014 After Worship Service

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)

Yoga—6:30 pm FH

Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:30 pm (BC)

### Tuesday

Girl Scouts (Briggs) —6:30 pm (Grn Rm)

CE Meeting— 7:00 pm (LR)

Gamblers Anonymous—7:30 pm (BC)

Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)

### Wednesday

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

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

Spiritual Direction Visit — 10:00 am (LR)

Girl Scouts (V. Petrelis)— 4:00 pm (BC)

Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

### Thursday

Spiritual Direction —5:45pm (LR)

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

### Friday

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

8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)

Girl Scouts (O'Rourke) —7:00 pm (BC)

Coffee House: Gould Farm — 6:00 pm (FH)

Boston Urban Outreach Project

via City Mission Society Program— 3:00 pm

### Saturday

Yoga —9:00 am (FH)

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)

Viola Diperna's Memorial Service — 11:00 am

Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)

Boston Urban Outreach Project ends — 5:00 pm

November 10, 2013 Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

## **Weekdays**

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, [www.BrightStarsKids.org](http://www.BrightStarsKids.org)

((M—F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, [www.GentleDragonPreschool.org](http://www.GentleDragonPreschool.org)

(M—F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), [www.englishatlarge.org](http://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 of the Month: Kathy Williams

Clerk: TBD

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