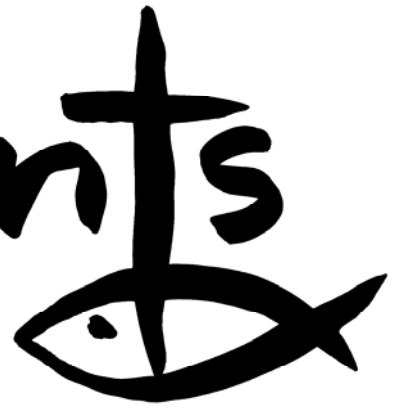


Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church
October 2011 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*



FROM THE PASTOR

Do you know your number?

We are coming up on our Annual Fall Stewardship Campaign and your Pastor and your Stewardship Committee want you to know your number!

What are we talking about?

This year we are hoping people will calculate what percentage of their income they pledge to the church! It is an interesting calculation to make and, we think, a good number to know! That's why, this year, we are asking: do you know your number?

When you calculate your number—the percentage that you pledge to the church—I suggest you base it on your net (not gross!!) income because I think you cannot give away money you never see. So start with your net income—whatever that may be, from whatever sources—and then, using whatever amount you decide to pledge to the church, figure out what percent of your income you are giving to the church.

I think this is a good year to know your number for two reasons:

- One...it lets you know precisely how much of your income you are directing toward a church you love and want to support;
- Two...our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is **"Count Yourself Blessed."**

This Fall we will be doing a lot of counting...we'll be counting our blessings, the kids will be counting how many people are in the Choir, how many Saints are in the Sanctuary, how many children are in Children's Church—we are going to be counting like crazy! And your Stewardship Committee wants you to be counting as well! We want you to start by knowing your number...the percentage of your income that you are pledging to the church.

Furthermore, in this about-to-be-launched COUNTING CRAZE, I am issuing a challenge—with the support and backing of our Stewardship Committee. My challenge is called **"8 FOR 8."** Here's how it goes. I know my number! I give 8% of my take-home pay to the church as my annual pledge. And I am looking for 7 more people to join me in pledging 8% of their income to the church for 2012. That's my "8 FOR 8" Challenge and I am putting it out there for you to consider.

I told the Deacons about my "8 FOR 8" Challenge and they were excited. The day after I talked about it at a Deacon's meeting, a Deacon called me and said he wanted to join the "8 FOR 8" Challenge! So now I am only looking for SIX people. If you want to join the "8 FOR 8" Challenge you can remain anonymous (if you want). OR you can decide to let me announce your name at the close of our Stewardship Campaign (in November). Either way is fine.

8 for 8!

Let me know if the "8 FOR 8" Challenge appeals to you!

Even if giving 8% of your income to the church feels too high, too hard, too out-of-reach, do calculate your own percentage. And maybe maybe maybe this year you want to pledge 1 or 2 percentage points HIGHER than last year! We would love it if we inspired that!

Please prayerfully consider YOUR PLEDGE for 2012 to our Church. To be very frank (and in keeping with our Fall Stewardship Campaign):

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

With love and with heartfelt thanks,

NOTE FROM MATILDA

Some Words About Ordination

To ordain is to order or shape. God ordained creation, bringing it into being and then pronouncing it good. ...Because the church is ordained to order its life so that it marshals its gifts for the maximum faithfulness to the reign of God, it calls certain men and women from within its ranks to special service...These are people who in their personal lives exhibit a compelling love of God and the Christian community...-From the UCC Manual and Ministry

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, I will have had my "Ecclesiastical Council," which is the final "vetting" process on the road to Ordination into Ministry in the United Church of Christ. As you may know, I have served this congregation as a licensed pastor. As such I can administer the sacraments here in this church, but not officially in other settings. On September 18th, the "Ecclesiastical Body," made up of Church leaders and lay delegates, will hear about my spiritual journey and call to ministry, review my ordination paper, conduct an informal oral examination of my theology, and then vote on my fitness for ordination.

In order to be "ordained" however, one also has to have what is referred to as an "ordainable call." A call is "extended by a part of, or the entire community of faith for a person to do specific ministry in a particular time and place." You, Haydenville Church, are that place! So you, members and friends of the Haydenville Church—will you have me as your Youth and Family Minister? That is the question that will be asked of me after my ordination service which, if I am approved, will happen on **Sunday, October 16th, at First Churches, at 129 Main St. in Northampton.** It will mean the world to me to have you there!

I came to Haydenville in 2005, just a few months into Andrea's ministry here, as an intern from Yale Divinity School. At the end of my internship year, the church had already begun to grow and was able to offer me a 15 hour per week position as Assistant Pastor. This role has grown with Children's Church, and I now have a twenty-five hour per week position as Youth and Family Minister. There are no words to express my gratitude for the role I have been given here, for Andrea's supervision and mentorship and for all she has taught me about ministry. And, there are no words to begin to express what I have learned from this congregation. I have grown in faith from the honor of being a witness to your joys and struggles, and I have become the Pastor I am from walking with you on your journeys.

As I go forward my hopes are: That our Children's Church will continue to thrive and that we can find ways to meet

the needs of our growing group; that our youth program (teens and young adults) can grow and connect with other youth in other faith groups who are performing service and working for justice; that we can become more connected with the opportunities and ministries offered by the wider UCC; and most importantly, that we can all continue to grow in faith together and be God's hands and feet in this broken but beautiful world. I am humbled by the call and the task before me, yet I know that if I am approved, the 16th of October will be a joyous and Spirit-filled day. Hearing the call from you, the Haydenville Church, will make it so!

-In Faith and Gratitude,
Pastor Matilda

Youth and Family Ministries

October has three "Service Sundays"—see these special offerings:



2541

SUNDAY October 2nd—SHELTER SUNDAY— Join us to canvas to help raise the money to house and feed our homeless brothers and sisters this winter. Sign up in Church Dining Room or contact Pastor Matilda (413)374-

October 23rd - CROP WALK Come walk with us in Northampton to fight world hunger and famine through Church World Service. See Dawn Orlukse, (413)320-1278, pafournier@earthlink.net



October 30th - BLUE MOON SUNDAY, No Coffee Hour—Join Youth Group for a Service Project, meet in Church Dining Room following worship. We are preparing a meal and helping lead Worship Service at "Cathedral in the Night," in Northampton. Meal preparation will happen in the Haydenville kitchen following worship. Cathedral in the Night service is at 5:00 p.m. We need volunteers for cooking in the morning/early afternoon, and we invite people to join us for worship in the evening. **Cook/Food Prep. leader to help Pastor Matilda and Youth Group especially needed. See Matilda, (413) 374-2541, tildacan@comcast.net**



SUMMER DAY CAMP AT WOOLMAN HILL

By Lynn Fogg



I had the great pleasure of being able to participate in our recent summer camp in Deerfield with many of my Church family. Although the day began somewhat overcast – with a strong likelihood of rain, our hardy band of believers were not deterred.

Folks arrived, two by two, with smiles on their faces and arms full of food and guitars, arts and craft materials, balls and puzzles. For me, it was so reminiscent of our previous Weekend Camp on Cape Cod. For in that experience, we grew so much as a Church Community, just by virtue of spending time together in a new and different way. At Day Camp, it was also fun to learn from Pastor Andrea, that Woolman Hill has been a very special place for her for a long time and that she was excited to be able to share it with her Church family.

And indeed we did enjoy our surroundings... having Worship Service in an old Quaker Meeting House on the premises, going bird-watching in the fields and woods and having a rousing game of kickball, with the kids outscoring the adults, much to their great delight. And there was so much more – story telling by Tom McCabe and backgammon lessons from Gloria, a joke fest and the making of peace flags.



For the blend of praying, laughing and breaking bread together made it a very special day. Again, it was an opportunity for us to grow deeper as a Church Community and I am certain that we did just that!



REFLECTIONS ON CHURCH DAY CAMP

By Anna Swanson-Ricksgers

At camp I really liked...
I really liked playing kickball and beating the adults.
The joke time was fun because I got to hear a bunch of different jokes that people told.
The spaghetti dinner that we had was very tasty.

I LOVED CHURCH CAMP!!!!



REFLECTIONS ON CHURCH DAY CAMP

By Kathleen Kent

1
The kickball soars into a tree and
bounces in its arms -
looks caught before it
drops and ricochets off
the stonewall towards the house.
Bases clear.
Foul ball, Mike Estes says,
and the kids are still ahead.

2
Spaghetti boils while
we make whale noises
stomachs hurt with laughter

INVITATION TO PEACE VIGIL

From the Peace and Justice Steering Committee

The Peace and Justice Steering Committee would like to invite members of the congregation to make a public witness for peace and non-violence. On the fourth Saturday of every month HCC members will join the peace vigil on the corner of King and State Streets in Northampton. (Of course you are free to go any Saturday in the month.) The vigil has been continuous for about 12 years. It began as a vigil against Iraq sanctions when it became clear that Iraqis, especially children, were being hurt severely, even killed, by the sanctions. It has continued through stopping the war on Iraq, stopping the occupation of Iraq, and now stopping the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The vigil is sponsored by the Northampton Committee to Stop the War in Iraq which also sponsors the free films on Friday night at the Media Education Foundation. The Committee is totally committed to non-violence. The vigil begins at 11:00 and ends at 12:00. There is a bag of signs. Arrive a few minutes early, pick a sign, and take your place in the line of vigilers. If you have questions about this, speak to members of the P&JSC: Jo Canon, Jackie Cloonan, Doug Renick, Robert Davis. See you on the vigil line October 22nd!

EVELYN HARRIS of SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK TO PERFORM AT HCC!

On Friday, October 28 at 8 PM, the fabulous **Evelyn Harris**, from Sweet Honey in the Rock, will put on a concert at our Haydenville Congregational Church. This unique performance will become a live pressing of a CD titled, "From Whence I Come." Accompanied by a large choir and a grand piano, this is sure to be a deeply moving experience! If you have already seen Evelyn perform, you know what a dynamic artist she is! A limited number of tickets are available, so get them early. They are \$15 in advance, or if any seats are still open, \$20 at the door.

MEET THE REV. ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON

By Pastor Andrea

My friend and colleague Bob Livingston is supposedly "retired" but he seems as busy as ever. However, he has found time (bless his big heart!) to join our pastoral team and is working closely with Pastor Matilda and me in offering pastoral care to members of our congregation. Bob lives in Belchertown, and to prevent him from driving all the way to Haydenville each time he meets with someone, he is seeing folks in their homes and at coffee shops (like the "Cup and Top"). If you would like to meet and talk with Pastor Bob, please let me know. He is a rare gem and a wonderful addition to our pastoral team.

Here is a brief biographical sketch of Bob so you can get to know something about him. He worshipped with us in June and will be joining us again in October.

Ordained by the Berkshire Association, United Church of Christ in 1966, Bob has served as an Intentional Interim Minister, trainer, and consultant for local churches for over 25 years. Although retired from active parish ministry, he still serves as a visitor for the Pension Boards UCC; as Registrar of the Hampshire Association, as a member of the Commission for Leadership Development of the MA Conference UCC; and as a member of the faculty of the Interim Ministry Network, an interfaith organization for support and training of Interim/Transitional Ministers and Rabbis. Through the IMN he has earned the designation of Professional Transition Specialist. He has also been trained as a facilitator of the "Healthy Congregations" program of Dr. Peter Steinke.

A native of Pittsfield, Bob has served in four UCC Conferences and now resides in Belchertown with his wife, Gail Weirick, and their antique Golden Retriever, with Daisy, another Golden, a trained "Service Dog for Ministry" due to be Bob's associate in November.

Bob and Gail have a son and his family in Michigan and a daughter and her family in Iowa. They each have given Bob and Gail two grandsons.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE LECTIONARY-CHALLENGED

A few weeks ago, I innocently asked at a Deacon's meeting how we, as a church, can help congregants better prepare for each service. It was gently pointed out that there is such a thing as a "Lectionary" placed right by the door that we all enter and exit each week. It informs us of the biblical reading for each Sunday.

Can you tell that I haven't been a regular churchgoer before our terrific HCC? Well, I was raised Catholic but that stopped a very long time ago.

So if there are other like-minded or lectionary-challenged folks out there, here's my official highlight - there at your fingertips every week. Enjoy and let me know how your journey is going. We can compare notes.

In love and peace, Susan Farrell

TALENT SEARCH!

It's time for us to form our Nominating Committee as described in our By-Laws. The committee nominates candidates for all the Boards and Committees of the Church. Haydenville Congregational Church is looking for two volunteers to work with our Vice Moderator, Sue Carbin, who will chair the committee, to identify potential candidates for election at the Annual Meeting. Committee members will talk with the chairs of the various Boards and Committees and with Andrea to determine the needs of each group and identify potential candidates. The work of this committee will begin in October and end with the Annual Meeting in February.

If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, please give/send your name and a brief statement of interest to Sue Carbin at scarbin1973@aol.com by October 2nd. The Church Council will choose the final candidates at their next meeting on October 9th.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Start Reading IN THE SHADOW OF THE DAM

Thursday Night Live! Program coming based on that book and history

November 10, 2011 at 6:30 PM in our Church Dining Room

Ambitious, self interested industrialists, unqualified engineers, and incompetent contractors combined to create the conditions for one of the most catastrophic man-made disasters in late 19th century America. When snow melt and spring rains came in May, 1874 the poorly constructed Williamsburg Dam gave way and unleashed 600 million gallons of water on the villages below, killing 139 people, and erasing the major portion of industries lining the Mill River in Williamsburg, Haydenville and Leeds. Our Thursday Night Live program will feature a presentation by **Fred Goodhue** on the Mill River Flood using Elizabeth M. Sharpe's [In the Shadow of the Dam](#) as a reference. All welcome!

DEDICATE A PEW HYMNAL TODAY!

Dear friends,

As our church has grown so has our need for pew hymnals! We would like to offer you the opportunity to help us make this purchase, and dedicate your gift to someone who is special to you.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and return it to the church. The cost is \$18.00 per hymnal, and when you make your gift, a bookplate will be placed in the front cover of one of our new books.

Please choose the wording you would like:

This gift is given in **HONOR** of _____
From _____

OR

This gift is given in **MEMORY** of _____
From _____

If you would like to dedicate more than one hymnal, please use the back of the form for your requests.

This is a wonderful way to remember or honor someone special to you, and we appreciate your contributions to help defray the cost of this project.

Thank you for your generosity,

Diane Scott
Music Director

BOOK GROUP NEWS

By Paula Spencer

In September our Church Book Group gathered after the summer break to choose some of the books we'll be reading in 2011-12. The October selection is Elizabeth Sharpe's *In the Shadow of the Dam: The Aftermath of the Mill River Flood of 1874*, a fascinating account of a local event in which our church played an important part. This will tie in with Fred Goodhue's presentation on the subject in November. There are paperback copies of the book for sale at a discounted price of \$17.80. Please let Paula Spencer know if you'd like to buy one. Our next meeting date is Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. in the Church Dining Room. As ever, all are invited and most welcome.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR FOOD! YUM-YUM!



The following is the line-up for folks to bring goodies for Coffee Hour. The calendar goes by last name. Thank you for contributing to our famous Coffee Hour after Church each Sunday. When it is your week to bring food, you also help set up and clean up.

October 2: H, I, J, K

October 9: L, M, N, O

October 16: P, Q, R, S

October 23: T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

October 30: BLUE MOON SUNDAY, No Coffee Hour

We will be doing a Community Service project together as a Church after our Worship Service!

"I have been driven many times
to my knees by the
overwhelming conviction
that I had nowhere else to go."
Abraham Lincoln

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE!

CREATIVE WRITING FROM WOMEN IN THE PRISON SYSTEM: **Thursday, October 13: 6:30 PM**

Thursday Night Live - VOICES FROM INSIDE, READING AND PRESENTATION. An organization which has transformed lives through the power of writing, Voices From Inside (VFI) runs writing workshops for incarcerated women, using creativity to build leadership and work for justice in the prison system. Please come and hear VFI writers talk about their experiences and read from their work. The evening is free but a collection will be taken to support VFI. Be on the lookout for a flyer about the event in church. Questions: contact Pastor Matilda at (413) 374-2541.

Look!
Your heart has a label.
Look at the label on your heart!
It says: "Made by God."
And the fine print says:
"Love one another
as you want to be loved."

**HAYDENVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SAFE CHURCH
GUIDELINES: CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Goal of CC Safe Church: *To contribute to an atmosphere of cooperation, trust and community, where the worth and dignity and individuality of each child is honored and protected, where no one is threatened or intimidated, and where abuse or neglect of any child is prevented.*

- "Two Adult Rule:" This means that at least two adults will be present at all times with any group of children. When CC is being taught by one teacher without an Assistant, the "floater" person will be close at hand. Doors to CC rooms will be kept ajar at all times.
- Adults and Children cannot leave the premises together without special permission from parents and coordinators of CC program.
- Suspected Abuse or Neglect must be reported confidentially to Pastor or Coordinators of the CC program.
- Teachers will attend orientation sessions at least twice yearly.
- Children will be informed that physical aggression toward other children is not allowed and may lead to a temporary "time out" from Children's Church.
- Children should never be hit or physically redirected. Physical guidance with children over three should be used only in consultation with parents and other adults. Pats on the shoulder and back are encouraged, but adults should model "asking" to give hugs, and such physical contact should be done in the presence of others.
- Toileting Guidelines: Adult should take children who request assistance, or who are ages three and under to the bathroom. Adults should stand outside the bathroom with door ajar if possible. Following the first time an adult helps a child with a toileting routine they should inform parent (s).
- Children are not to leave the Children's Church area unsupervised during worship. In most cases they should not leave the room at all, but if they need to, an adult should accompany them.
- Two adults (one may be a parent) must be present in the nursery at all times, and/or the nursery must be under the supervision of a head teacher who is present in the room where the nursery is located.

"... Faith is not the confidence that my religious views are true and correct in every jot and title.

It is not the assurance that, because God loves me, nothing bad is going to happen to me or to those I love.

Faith is, rather, knowing that there is a goodness and rightness in the world that is of God:

a righteous, grand, and holy love that I will never wholly grasp but in which I am invited to participate through the giving and receiving of human love.

Faith is the confidence that no matter what happens, love is always available --
as action, as memory,
as a gift from others,
as a capacity in myself.

If God is love,
then what my faith requires is that I
notice the love in which I move and
breathe and have my being,
love at work in my world,
in my species ... and in myself...."

from Beginner's Grace by Kate Braestrup

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Choir Rehearsal~~Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Loose Ends: Sewing and Support Group~~Every Thursday from 2 to 4 PM in the Church Dining Room. All welcome for a time of sewing, knitting, drinking tea and sharing fellowship.

Fridays at Four Writing Group meets every Friday at 4 PM in the Church Dining Room.

Saturday, October 1:	9:30–10:30 AM	Exploring Membership Class, Church Dining Room Super Saturday, MassBay Community College, Wellesley, MA
Sunday, October 2:	10 AM	Worship Service with Communion Intergenerational gardening in CC with “Fertile Ground,” Church playground. Shelter Sunday, Northampton
Monday, October 3:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
Tuesday, October 4:	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
Saturday, October 8:	9:30–10:30 AM	Exploring Membership Class, Church Dining Room
Sunday, October 9:	10 AM 12 PM	Worship Service Church Council Meeting after Worship Service in the Sanctuary Godly Play Teacher Training, Children's Church
Thursday, October 13:	6:30 PM	Thursday Night Live! “Voices from Inside” Pastor Matilda will facilitate this evening as we listen to the experiences of a group that does writing workshops with women inmates. HCC Dining Room
Sunday, October 16:	10 AM	Worship Service. Launch Stewardship Campaign
Monday, October 17:	5:30 PM—7 PM	Peace and Justice Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 20:	1 PM	Ladies Aid, Church Dining Room
Saturday, October 22:	9 AM- 2 PM	Annual Fall Fair , HCC Dining Room
Sunday, October 23:	10 AM	Worship Service. Crop Walk in Northampton after church.
Tuesday, October 25	5:30 PM—7 PM	Soup, Salad and Social Change sponsored by the Peace and Justice Committee
Saturday, October 29:	9 AM – 1 PM	Deacon’s Retreat
Sunday, October 30:	10 AM	Worship Service, Guest Preacher, Rev. Robert Livingston. Blue Moon Sunday No Coffee Hour~~Youth-led Community Service Project following worship

With the exception of possible “executive sessions” to discuss sensitive matters, all church meetings are open to the entire community. (This does not apply to Shepherds’ meetings. Please call Mary Sheehan, Head of Shepherds, to learn more about Shepherds.)



Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
143 Main Street, PO Box 257
Haydenville, MA 01039

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

- October 1 David Warner & Brenna Ryan
- October 2 Andrea Ayvazian, Neil Adams,
Rowan, Ellie and Ezra Durrant-West
- October 3 Chester Cross, Alice Barber, Donna Harlan,
Ileana Fournier & Naila Romero-Alston
- October 5 Bonnie Roberge
- October 6 David Avakian & Jayden Childs
- October 7 Beth Fitzgerald & Kathy O'Connor
- October 9 Maryanne O'Toole
- October 10 Carlton Loomis (40th!)
- October 13 Mae Smith & Nicholas Elias-Gillette
- October 14 Michael Klare
- October 15 Lisa Kautz
- October 16 Irene Sicurello
- October 18 Amanda Wilson & Sarah Tompkins
- October 20 Ernestine Stowell
- October 21 Nicole Pagliaro
- October 23 Jamie Poudrier
- October 24 Carolyn du Bois

A2A

By Tynan Power

Our Accessible to All (A2A) Committee met September 13th, energized by having received the blessing of the Church Council and eager to begin the adventure of creating a more accessible church for us all! Because accessibility has always mattered to us, we've already begun that journey. We have a dozen large print hymnals, two new microphones, rockers for comfort and for soothing (children and adults!), a fragrance-free policy, a rearranged dining room that is easier to navigate (a joint effort of A2A and the Space Committee). Still there is so much more we hope to accomplish! We want to assess the ramp to the sanctuary, create easy-to-use allergen checklists for food served in our Dining Room, and start offering large print Bulletins once again.

To get a complete sense of what we need to be more accessible to everyone, we need your input—and we want you to think outside the usual boxes. Consider what might help if you are mobility impaired, visually impaired or hearing impaired, but we also want to know what would help if you have joint trouble, breathing problems, a seizure disorder, allergies, ADHD, learning disabilities, anxiety, depression or any other condition that affects how

accessible our church feels to you. We will be having an open forum to gather your input on Wednesday, November 16th, 5-6:30pm. You can also attend our next A2A meeting, Tuesday, October 11th, 5:30-7pm, or send email to A2A@haydenvillechurch.org.

BULLIED: A STUDENT, A SCHOOL AND A CASE THAT MADE HISTORY



The USNF Big Ol' Gay Committee invites the community to a screening of "Bullied," a moving new film by the Southern Poverty Law Center about a young man who was the target of anti-gay bullying and stood up to his tormentors and the school that should have protected him. With "Bullied," the Big Ol' Gay Committee kicks off its "Big Ol' Showtime" line-up. Next up, join us November 12 for "Trans America," January 22 for "The Wedding Banquet", January 29 as a rain-date or to see "Chutney Popcorn," and March 16 to watch "For the Bible Tells Me So." See "Bullied" on September 25th at 1pm, at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence (220 Main St., Northampton). For more information, email bog@uunorthampton.org.