

# Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church  
May 2012 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Recently a parishioner wrote me an e-mail message on a Saturday expressing her sorrow that she would not be able to attend Church the next day. Something had come up in the family, and she would be tied up in the morning. She said that Church helped her “prepare” for the week, and “much more” and she was disappointed to miss the service.

I know that “life intervenes,” as my friend Meg used to say. And so we are not always able to get to Church on Sunday mornings. I certainly understand that. There are family obligations, trips, vacations, sporting events, work, illness, and more....and so actually getting to sit in “your” pew on a Sunday morning can be a challenge.

I know many of you feel disappointed when you cannot get to Church and I want you to know that we are disappointed also! This is not to inspire guilt, this is to tell the truth. We miss you when you are not there! I often say to people: I hope to see you Sunday—we need the power of your presence and the strength of your prayers. And I mean that sincerely. Not only are you sad when you cannot make it to Church on Sunday, but we are sad as well. We just miss you! The power of your presence and the strength of your prayers make a difference in our Sunday worship. This is all to say: it matters when you are there. Each Sunday is like a little family reunion. There we all are back again, greeting, hugging, praying, singing, weeping...and it matters that the family is together. Church is not the only way to worship and be

close to God, in fact it is not really the major way. How we live, the decisions we make, how we spend our time, what we do with our money, how we choose to be of service, what we share and give, who we associate with—all these are daily and hourly ways to be close to God.

When reflecting on this with Annie Turner, she said: “It is through the very act of communal worship, of being together, that we gather the energy to go out into the world, love God, and love God's people. It is our fuel.” I find that helpful.



Attending Church TOGETHER on Sunday mornings is important because of the TOGETHER part. There we are gathered again....saints and sinners and each a little of both, humble and grateful, pensive and expressive, struggling and strong. We come together as a Church family open to learning, eager

to hear messages from God, thankful to be reunited, and ready to feel God's loving presence.

It matters that you are there.

I truly and sincerely mean it: you come to Church on Sundays partly for you and partly for the rest of us. You need Church, and we need you as well. We really do need the power of your presence and the strength of your prayers.

With love and many blessings,

## NOTE FROM MATILDA

Former Youth and Family Minister

Dear Church Family,

By the time you read this, a month will have gone by since we last worshipped together. Since I last saw you, you have had, among other things, a contemplative yet triumphant Palm Sunday, and what I know was a truly awe-striking Easter Sunday. Over the course of this month, I have been reveling in the memory of our time together, and basking in the love and appreciation you showed me on my final Sunday. Even more than that, I am “remembering” all the gifts I received from being part of such an amazing, faithful, beloved community. I carry you so close in my heart, and you are a source of ongoing inspiration.

**In Gratitude:** I hope you saw my posting in the bulletin the first week of April, in which I reported back on the unspeakably generous gift(s) I received from the congregation. In addition to what I listed, I was also presented with the beautiful “*We Love You Pastor Til*” Cake, and a truly magnificent bouquet of flowers, which graced our table for many days. I will admit that I was, and continue to be, a bit overwhelmed by your generosity and the “extravagance” with which you showed me your love and appreciation. But I remind myself that this is who you are—people who give, people who manifest bounty, people who bring and offer your treasures to a community to make up the body of Christ. These gifts will always be sacred reminders of you and the gifts of Love and Spirit that one cannot touch or see.

**What Now:** I have begun my new job, a two-year position as “Multifaith Fellow” at Smith College. I am helping the school look at issues of religious diversity, interfaith cooperation, and “religious literacy,” which means—what should young people know about the religions of the world to help them be responsible citizens? I am so grateful for the opportunity to examine these things in our war-torn world, and work to do what you do—extend God’s radical welcome to all God’s people; questioners, believers, questioning believers, and all those who fall outside the boundaries of what we call “religion.” Olin and Haical and Angie are doing fine, and we do our own version of “Godly Play” at home in our yard or living room! I take as many opportunities as I can to be with children and share in their rich, boundless spiritual imaginations. I miss you, but continue to trust that the ministry at Haydenville is flourishing and you are continuing to grow as a community in leaps and bounds, making the “dazzling bouquet” all the more rich, healthy, and beautiful! I pray for you every day and look forward to hearing news from Andrea, who gives me short



updates and continues to inspire me even in small doses with her passion, energy, faith, buoyancy, and love.

**More Gratitude:** My heart remains lifted in Thanksgiving and I repeat: “you are “part of my foundation,” and I am proud to know you. I am deeply grateful for the time we had together and the ways our relationship, though changed, will continue to be a source of nourishment to each other in days and years to come.

In faith, gratitude, and deep affection,  
Matilda

## LOCUSTS AND LICE AND SICK CATTLE –OH MY!

By Dawn Orluske



On Palm Sunday, we had our first Children’s Church Seder. We have wanted to make this event happen for a couple of years, and this year we accomplished this amazing feat. Having never been to a Seder myself, I really had no idea what the planning would involve. I had told the story of The Exodus with Godly Play, so I knew the story fairly well. I started to talk to Jewish friends and family about their favorite parts of a Seder. I was thinking my nine-year-old nephew would delight in telling me about the gruesome plagues that afflicted the Egyptians, or finding the Afikomen, the small piece of matzoh that must be found before the Seder can conclude. But my nephew told me the best part of the Seder for him was answering the four questions asked at every Seder:

*“Why is it that on all other nights during the year we eat either bread or matzoh, but on this night we eat only matzoh?” “Why is it that on all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs, but on this night we eat only bitter herbs?” “Why is it that on all other nights we do not dip our herbs even once, but on this night we dip them twice?” and “Why is it that on all other nights we eat either sitting or reclining, but on this night we eat in a reclining position?”*

Our kids were very interested in these questions as well. They loved dividing into the people of God and the Egyptians. Kayla Gilman-Solomon did a stellar job of keeping the kids engaged throughout the telling of the story. She had them pretending to recline and be served (the Egyptians) and toiling building pyramids, raising crops and being slaves (the people of God). She taught the children that the plagues only were brought upon the Egyptians, while the Jews did not suffer. The kids found the plagues funny and unbelievable, but no one was laughing when Kayla told the children about the last plague—the death of the first born son in every Egyptian family. You could see the children imagining what that plague would have meant for their own families.

The children were treated to many traditional Seder foods, and were able to have fellowship while Kayla asked the four questions. I cannot thank the Gilman-Solomon family enough for creating this very rich experience for our kids.

A friend told me her favorite part of the Seder story is the enormous faith that was required of the Jews when crossing the Red Sea. According to the story, it was not until the Jews actually **got in the water** that it began to part. I love this image. **Likewise**, it took a great amount of faith in God and one another to create this memorable Seder experience, and I am deeply thankful and blessed, as is all of Children's Church.

### **LOOKING AHEAD WITH BOOK GROUP**

By Paula Spencer

At our April meeting we found that some of us had not been able to get copies of Bread of Angels, and several people were sick and couldn't make the meeting. We decided to devote another session to Stephanie Saldaña's remarkable book. To avoid conflict with Gay Pride activities on May 12, we'll meet the following Saturday, the 19th.

For June we are reading Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Those who've already read Bread of Angels can get started on that as it's a long book, but by all reports, excellent and very readable.

Our 4th Annual Poetry Read will take place over the summer, and, with any luck, in a beautiful outdoor setting (To Be Determined).

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY BEAUTY**

By Rev. Julie G. Olmsted

It was my deep pleasure to attend the Maundy Thursday service at Haydenville this year. Having officiated at Maundy Thursday services for the last twelve years, I welcomed the opportunity to sit as a believer, to drink in the soft, quiet and always moving service that takes place at dusk, the loveliest time of day in early spring. The experience of our faith is always enhanced, if not ignited, by the fuel of the imagination. I love imagining Jesus sitting at his last supper with those he loved (and knew) so well. The flickering candles, the ominous air, the Mandatum to those gathered near: *love one another as I have loved you*. What else could there have been to say?

As I walked in and quietly took my seat, I was surprised by the immediacy of my own tears. The music, the hush of anticipation, the tone set by Pastor Andrea, the awareness of what was to come...human cruelty in its ugliest and most hateful form, crucifixion that still takes place in myriad forms and in myriad places.

I came up from "low church." That is to say, there was no liturgical calendar. There wasn't any Lent, any Advent; there were no "Holy Week" services. But I have come to love this aspect of our tradition, as much as I love some of those I knew as a child in the Church of Christ. Our liturgical calendar is set in time, because we live in time. But, although time is linear, emotions like sorrow, grief, joy and a peaceful heart are not linear, and not predictable. We can feel sorrow at Christmas, just like we can feel pleasure in the beauty of a Maundy Thursday service, even while crying, for beauty, for loss, for the suffering of others, including and especially the suffering of one who loved so purely and gave so completely. Andrea told us there would be no postlude, there would be no benediction; there would be no speaking as we left the church. Why? Because sorrow and suffering never have the last word. Easter has the last word. Love wins. Joy triumphs. Maundy Thursday's Tenebrae service provided a perfect springboard to the jubilation of that incredible Easter service that we had. It sprinkled meaning and added depth to all of Lent that then dovetailed into the amazing surprise and beauty that was Easter morning. It moved in me my love of our faith in general and our Lord in particular. It blessed my understanding of myself as a Christian. It gave me permission (as our faith always does) to be my authentic, "un-together" and vulnerable self.

Thank you, Pastor Andrea, and everyone else who made the Maundy Thursday service a perfect segue into joy.

### **HAYDENVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COOKBOOK!**

Here's your chance to get the recipes for all of the great treats we enjoy at coffee hour each week. This fall we will be offering a cookbook at the fair, but we need your help. We need you to share your favorite recipes with us and maybe even a few family secrets and treasures. Kim Waddell & Trish LaFreniere will be collecting them for the next several months, so dig deep into your recipe box and bring out your inner Emeril or Paula Dean.

Thanks so much!

### **DONATIONS TO CHURCH LIBRARY**

By Paula Spencer

We are very grateful for the donation of many wonderful new books to our Church Library. Carol Rinehart and Doug Renick's dear friend Martha Jane Hackett had a remarkable and extensive library of books on faith and related matters. After Marty's death, they very kindly offered her books to us and we are very grateful. Titles by Richard Rohr, Gunilla Norris, Henry Nouwen, John Shelby Spong and many others will be wonderful additions to the collection. Thanks to Doug and Carol for guiding these books to a new home.

## JESUS IS RISEN!

By Lynn Fogg



At Haydenville Congregational Church, it seems to have become the tradition that Easter Sunday is a spiritual extravaganza. And so, this year I arrived early and even though it was still 45 minutes before our Service began, there was excitement everywhere. Back in the Narthex, both “young” and “not so young” alike were feverishly working to transform our chicken wire structure into a beautiful flower cross. In the Sanctuary, the choir members were be-decked in purple sashes and warming up their voices, preparing to practice the day’s songs. And of course, there were our traditional balloons, (with their 20 foot long ribbons that were smartly designed for easy retrieval.) These were being handed out to our “junior church leaders” who unexpectedly learned, much to their delight, that they would play a role in our Service.

As our Service grew closer, folks known and unknown, streamed into the Sanctuary. Some were our 10 new members who would be joining our Church this day; most who had supportive friends and family in tow. Others were here for the very first time. What a day it was to meet our Church community! And of course, it would not be a New Members’ Ceremony, without a rousing rendition of “A Dazzling Bouquet”, sung lovingly to our newest Church members. Their commitment to join our Church this day brought Church membership to a very robust 182 people strong! As Andrea would say: “Praise God”!

In the midst of all this frivolity and joy, as only our Pastor can do, we then shifted to the “real stuff” of Holy Week and Easter Sunday; “stuff” that lives within each of our lives. Andrea informed our Congregation that we would now engage in an Easter dramatization, done in silence, with only the accompaniment of the Choir singing “Amazing Grace”. A number of Church members were called to come forward. One by one, they carried a double-sided sign; one side with a statement of challenge in their life and on the other, words of resurrection. These shared statements were so reflective of Jesus’ journey from Holy Week to Easter Sunday. Needless to say, there was nary a dry eye in the Sanctuary.

As Service ended, I found myself feeling so proud to be a member of this Church. By creating a sense of safety, we are a community that allows ourselves to lay bare our pain and struggle for all to see. We also work together to find the silver lining in our challenges. Just as Jesus found, we too can find our resurrection moments, just as we did on this holy Easter Sunday!



*Easter Sunday dramatization "Transforming the Cross"  
Photo credit Gina Ayvazian*

## CHURCH PICNIC: A RAINBOW OF COLORS!

By Jil Blake



Remember last year at the end of the year church picnic when we looked up in the sky and saw a rainbow halo encircling the sun? We were ALL in the right place at the right time. Let's see if it will happen again. Please join us for the HCC end of the year picnic at Jil, Christine, and Sayla's house on Sunday, June 24,

immediately following the service. Grill-able items will be provided by the church.

Oh, and just in case there is no rainbow, let's create one of our own by bringing food items that resemble the colors of the rainbow! If your last name is A-F, please bring something RED (strawberries, red potato salad); G-J, please bring something ORANGE (Peach pie, jello salad); K-N, please bring something YELLOW (deviled eggs, potato salad); O-R, please bring something GREEN (Watermelon, tossed salad); S-U please bring something BLUE (blueberry pie, blue chips); V-Z please bring something PURPLE (fried/baked beans [I know, it's a stretch], grapes).

There will be sign-up sheets in the Church Dining Room so people can sign up to help in the following areas:

- Set up
- Clean Up (Taking down and returning tables chairs, etc.)
- Recycling/Composting
- Singing/Entertainment:)
- Children's Games
- Swimming (Life Guard)
- Transportation for visitors

## **TWO JOB OPENINGS AT HAYDENVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

### **HEAD OF CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

The Haydenville Congregational Church is seeking a person to head our Children's Church program—which includes our nursery child care program through children in the elementary school grades. The Head of Children's Church (CC) will organize and supervise the following activities: oversight and leadership of the Children's Church Committee; planning of the Liturgical Year and CC curriculum and schedule; organizing teachers to cover each Sunday and supervising their work; arranging for the CC lunch program to be covered; arranging for and supervising the nursery care coverage; and work closely with the Youth Leader.

The Head of Children's Church will work closely with the Senior Minister on planning for weekly Children's Messages during worship, and planning and leading special services throughout the year. The Head of Children's Church will also write a monthly article for the Church newsletter. Job requirements include: experience leading an active Sunday School program; familiarity with the "Godly Play" curriculum; commitment to values of diversity and inclusion; experience working in a multi-cultural environment; excellent communication and organizational skills; competent in computer skills.

This position is for the entire calendar/academic year with the month of July off. The position is 15 hours per week and the compensation is commensurate with experience. To apply: please submit a letter of interest and resume to: Children's Church Search Committee, Haydenville Congregational Church, Box 257, Haydenville, MA 01039.

### **YOUTH LEADER**

The Haydenville Congregational Church is seeking a Youth Leader for our active and growing youth program at the Church. The Youth Leader will do the following: work closely with the Head of Children's Church; organize and supervise activities for youth in the Church (ages include from Middle School through High School); provide lessons on Sunday mornings; organize, supervise and teach the Confirmation program for youth who are 12 years old and older; plan youth activities following the Liturgical Year and special programs and events happening at the Church; organize and lead an annual Lock-in (overnight) at the Church for the Youth; find creative ways to integrate youth into Sunday worship services.

The Youth Leader will work closely with the Senior Minister including occasionally offering the weekly Children's Message during worship. The Youth Leader will also write a monthly article for the Church newsletter.

Job requirements include: experience leading a youth program in an active Church setting; commitment to values of diversity and inclusion; experience working in a multi-cultural environment; excellent communication and organizational skills; competent in computer skills.

This position is for the entire calendar/academic year with the month of July off. The position is 10 hours per week and the compensation is commensurate with experience. To apply: please submit a letter of interest and resume to: Youth Leader Search Committee, Haydenville Congregational Church, Box 257, Haydenville, MA 01039.

### **COOKIE WALK POSTPONED!**

The COOKIE WALK scheduled for late April has been postponed to May 19. The reason is that the church folks who expected to be certified as "Safe Serv" in the kitchen cannot take the test until after May 1st (the course and test are being revised, that is the cause of this delay).

Please mark your calendars! Cookie Walk—May 19! Watch the Sunday Bulletin and these broadcast e-mails for more details.

Jackie Cloonan and Jo Cannon have more details should you want to talk with them.

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR NORTHAMPTON PRIDE!**

When: Saturday, May 12. Gathering time is at 11 AM!

Where: NEW LOCATION! Our church family will gather in the parking lot behind Thorne's Marketplace, outside the Northampton Parking Garage. **MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!**

### **FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD**

Hey everybody! We ALL have to pitch in to make our "famous" Coffee Hour a success! Below are the weeks YOU bring goodies to share (goodies need not be home-made and need not be sweet...we love nuts, fruit, cut-up vegetables, hummus!). And remember, the week that you bring goodies you also help SET UP AND CLEAN-UP! Thank you!

May 6: A, B, C and W, X, Y, Z

May 13: D, E, F

May 20: G, H, I, J, K

May 27: L, M

## **SPECIAL MISSION STATUS**

As part of its commitment to economic justice and social healing, the Haydenville Congregational Church may designate an organization as having Special Missions Status, if, in the judgment of the Church Council, its work is consistent with the mission and message of the Church.

Organizations seeking special status shall submit a proposal to the Diaconate and Board of Trustees for their recommendation which would be presented to the Church Council for a vote.

For consideration, an organization must be an established non-profit with one, or more, members belonging to the Church. An organization accorded Special Mission Status may benefit from a line item in the Board of Trustees budget and may benefit from a special collection one Sunday a year. The organization could also cite its special status in reaching out to other religious and civic organizations. Special Mission Status may be conveyed for up to two years, with the possibility of renewal. An organization so designated shall make an annual presentation to the Church about its accomplishments and priorities, and use of donated funds.

## **SUNRISE FOUNDATION—SPECIAL MISSION STATUS**

By Lisa Hall

I am very honored that The Sunrise Foundation is our church's first Special Mission project. As many of you know, Sunrise is a small, Williamsburg non-profit that supports educational programs for children in Nicaragua. This Special Mission Status couldn't come at a better time for Sunrise. We are in a dynamic process of transitioning into a more sustainable organization that can continue to serve our children and families for as long as they need us into the future. In addition to hiring a professional Interim Executive Director, who will help us make this transition, we have recently begun collaborating with Fabretto, a much larger non-profit that supports numerous children's centers across Nicaragua. In addition to donations of food and school supplies, Fabretto will be sending their trainers to teach our educators their Montessori-style enrichment curriculum, which is much more interesting and interactive than the standard Nicaraguan curriculum. We are very excited to have found a willing "big sister" organization to help us improve the programs we offer our children. Watch for an announcement of our up-coming presentation at church when we will be bringing you up to date with all the changes at Sunrise.

Special Mission Status will mean a modest stipend from the church. And it will also give us special status to approach other churches and local organizations about pre-

senting our programs at their churches and widening our base of supporters.

My dear church family, your past donations of your time and money, books, sewing machines, baby blankets, etc. have been greatly appreciated. And now Sunrise is receiving Special Mission Status from the church as well. Thank you for all your support through the last five years!!!

## **LADIES AID – A HISTORY: TRADITIONS STILL STRONG**

By Jackie Cloonan, 2012 Ladies Aid President

The minutes of the meetings of the Ladies Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church of Haydenville show an amazing dedication to the church and an inspirational spirit. The first Church Fair was held on March 10 -11, 1881. It raised \$297.62. During that same year, the society paid a total of \$450.00 toward the "Church debt."

A major source of income for the Society was "socials," which were held approximately once a month. Over time there was shift from "socials" to "working" groups such as sewing circles (sound familiar?), which made items for sale to raise funds.

The amazing spirit of these women is evident in the minutes of the Dec. 21, 1882 meeting, where it was decided "to call a meeting of the young people on Tuesday evening, to make arrangements for a 'Fair' to be held two weeks from that date. On January 25, 1883 it is recorded that the Society received \$596.64 from the fair! And on January 30<sup>th</sup> of that same year the Society records paying \$600.00 toward the Church's debt. This was the beginning of our annual Church Fair.

And another tradition still going strong appears in the entry for April 1883: "Leftover articles from the Church Fair were sold among the ladies, from which was realized \$2.45. You go Norma!

On May 21, 1884 the Society voted to become an Auxiliary of the "Women's Thome(?) Missionary Association. This appears to be the beginning of our current Missionary Committee.

As I review the notes of the Ladies Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church of Haydenville, I find that these women were strong in body, mind and soul and gave tirelessly to their Church and the community. I am proud to say that the women of today's Ladies Aid Society carry on that tradition. Next time you talk to a Ladies Aid member, thank them for their hard work and dedication to this church.

## WHAT PLAN?

By Annie Turner

Did you used to think that you were in charge of your life? That if you actually made a PLAN, it might—in this universe—happen the way you intended? I used to think that way when I was about, oh, maybe 30 or so. Before life slapped me upside the head.

I was reminded of this the other day when my dear cousin came to visit from Boston, and we took our Jack Russell terrier, Nita, for a walk up the dirt road by the beaver pond. The leaves danced and swirled in the wind. The terrier insisted on lifting her leg in defiance of her gender. The pond seemed alive and shimmering with light, the huge beaver lodge marked with newly-cut branches. As we walked my cousin asked when my husband thought he would retire. I answered with a shrug, “Gee, who knows? It used to be 68, but that was before we had kids so late in life. I guess he’ll know when the time is right.”

She went on to tell me of her husband’s plans; of various ideas they had for expanding their retirement house near the mountains; of plans for this path or that path as they grew older. She asked, “What do you think, Annie?”

And I answered with a poem, which is always a good idea. “Theodore Roetke wrote a wonderful poem called *Waking to Sleep*, where he said, *I wake to sleep and take my waking slow; I learn by going where I have to go.*”

“That’s really the best and only answer I can give you. I don’t know what will happen. Anything could happen to us. Anything.” And that included wonderful “anythings,” and also dire “anythings,” for we both knew there are no guarantees in this life. But what I do know is that “way opens”, as the Quakers say, and that by putting one foot in front of another, somehow we figure it out.

Do you remember that wonderful verse in Isaiah where God speaks: “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,/ and do not return there until they have watered the earth.../so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;/ it shall not return to me empty...” (Isaiah 55: 10-11, NRSV) I believe that my life—and maybe yours, too—is like that. We are shaped by unseen events. We cannot anticipate what is coming our way. The only sure thing is God’s loving word which will breathe out over our lives, shaping them and us, until the end of our breath and beyond.

My cousin liked the Roetke poem and asked me to repeat the lines. I actually think those words would be good to write on the inside of your shower stall with some of those cute navy or red soap pencils you get from A-Z so your

kid’s brain will be enormously stimulated even while sitting in the bath. Every morning when you shower you could read the poetic lines and be reminded that we are not in control—almost never; that whatever plans we make for our lives have the tendency to fly off over the hedge like a piece of laundry torn from a clothes line by the wind; that, in fact, sometimes the best things that ever happen to us—like falling in love, marrying our honeys, getting pregnant, finding a job, making a new friend and more—are unplanned in the end.

And God’s promise, which I hold to, is that somehow, beyond sight and knowledge, we will be brought to the right place in the end. That we will be like the word that does not return to God “void.” We *are* the harvest gathered in by the Word.

### THE LOVING ROOM

Live Fully, Love Wastefully,  
Be All That You Can Be

“The whole purpose of the Christ,  
the whole purpose of the Church,  
is to build a world where everyone in the world has a  
better opportunity to live fully,  
to love wastefully, and to be all that they can be in  
the infinite variety of our humanity. People of every  
race and of every ethnic origin, male and female,  
gay and straight, transgender, bisexual,  
left-handed, right-handed,  
ALL the varieties of our humanity.  
The job of the Church is not  
to tell someone what they must be  
to satisfy our emotional needs.  
The job of the church is to free everybody  
and to love everybody  
into being all that they can be.  
That’s the message of the gospel.  
‘I have come that you might have life, and have it  
abundantly’ and  
‘By this shall people know  
that you are my disciples –  
that you love one another.’  
There are no exceptions.  
Jesus did not say,  
“Come unto me, some of ye!  
He said, “Come unto me, ALL of ye.”

*Bishop John Shelby Spong (Ret.)*

## MAY 2012 CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 1:	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, May 2:	7 PM	Shepherd's Meeting, Church Dining Room
Sunday, May 6:	10 AM	Worship Service with Communion. "Gay Day" Celebrating the LGBT Community and Our Inclusive Welcome as an Open and Affirming Church
Monday May 7:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
Saturday, May 12:	11 AM	Northampton Pride Parade. Gather in the parking lot behind Thorne's Marketplace, outside the Northampton Parking Garage so we all can go to the start of the parade together
Saturday, May 12:	4-7 PM	Dr. O's Medicine, Church Dining Room
Sunday, May 13:	10 AM	Worship Service, Mother's Day. Baptism of Miles and Anna Swanson-Ricksgers
Tuesday, May 15:	5:30 PM	Soup Salad & Social Change event, Church Dining Room "A brief Bible Study to remind us of the biblical basis for seeking justice. A review of all six Soup, Salad and Social Change events of this program year, looking particularly at the actions that the events inspired. A review of our justice making efforts for this year and a first conversation about next year's focus and activities."
Thursday, May 17:	1 PM	Ladies Aid, Church Dining Room
Saturday, May 19:	9 AM-1 PM	Cookie Walk, Church Dining Room  Book Group reading: <u><a href="#">Bread of Angels</a></u> by <i>Stephanie Saldana</i> , Part 2. Contact Paula Spencer for details. New time and new place to be announced.
Sunday, May 20:	9:45 AM	CC & Youth Group will meet at Haydenville Congregational Church to caravan to Mockingbird Farm in Easthampton. There everyone will worship, explore and picnic. Questions contact Dawn Orluske <a href="mailto:pafournier@earthlink.net">pafournier@earthlink.net</a>
	10 AM	Worship Service.
	12 PM	Council Meeting in Andrea's Office
	12 PM	A "Friends of the Homeless" Presentation in the Sanctuary
	2 PM	Hampshire Association of Churches Annual Meeting, Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, 235 State Street, Granby
Monday, May 21:	5:30 PM	Peace & Justice Steering Committee Meeting in Children's Church
	6 PM	A2A Disability Meeting. Contact Toby Davis for details. Church Dining Room
Wednesday, May 23:	6:30 pm	Zonta Game Night Fundraiser. Contact Lynn Goodhue for details. Church Dining Room
Saturday, May 26:	11 AM-12 PM	Peace Vigil, corner of King and Main Streets, Northampton. An invitation from The Peace and Justice Steering Committee
Sunday, May 27:	10 AM	Worship Service. 3 PM Installation for Deborah Moore, Edward's Church, All are welcome



# Haydenville Congregational Church

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

## AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR CONGREGATION

from Donique McIntosh—"In Care" Student

My time in western Massachusetts is nearing its end. I moved here to earn my doctorate and finished that last year. I have been praying about where to do ministry. God has been leading me to Chicago for a while and I finally decided to step out on faith after getting some pretty clear signs that it's time to go. Although I am not certain exactly where I'll be yet, I know that I'll be taken care of and that my needs will be met. I'm leaving with the clear sense of a call to pastoral ministry which is different than how I experienced my initial call to ministry. I am thankful for the ways that God has led and sustained me through this time in western Massachusetts and HCC. My ability to discern a call to pastor and to decide what kind of pastor I want to be is directly related to my time here. I appreciate the ways that you supported me while I earned my degree and as I further discerned my call.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HAYDENVILLE CHURCH FAMILY

from Lynne Wallace and Nicky Pagliaro  
Mason's mothers

This small note cannot express our gratitude for the food, groceries and prayers during Mason's first week. We could not have gotten through it without your support. We look forward to Mason growing up in the Church.

You all are so amazing!!

Love,  
Lynne, Nicky, Alexandria and Mason



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Mary Vaughan
May 4	Jessica Morgan, James Morin & Karla Hathaway
May 6	Alice Pannoni
May 10	Donique McIntosh
May 11	Jane Hall & Ann Vanderburgh
May 12	Katie Hull
May 14	Richard Loomis
May 15	Susan Molano, Kayla Gilman-Solomon, Alexander Bertuch-Wallace & Andrew Geery
May 19	Jennifer Miller-Antill
May 25	Kathy Bonnet & Pete Solis
May 26	Coni Gilman-Solomon
May 28	Gina Ayvazian & Nicole Loughnane
May 29	Velma Garcia
May 31	Micaela Newcomb-Gerken

