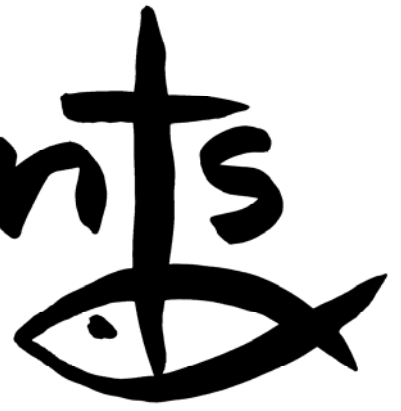


Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church
November 2010



FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus throws us a curve ball with his statement about our treasures and our hearts. What he says is, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). But if you read Jesus' statement quickly or are only partially paying attention, it is easy to flip his words around because somehow the statement seems to make more sense when it is reversed. Here it is reversed, see if you agree with me: "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also." Even after discussing this passage from Scripture with our Stewardship Committee and having had quite an in-depth and meaningful conversation about what Jesus meant, I reversed the order of the words and said the passage incorrectly when I was telling Pastor Matilda about the theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign! It is EASY to reverse the treasure part and the heart part in what Jesus is saying!



We IMAGINE that Jesus would be telling us: where your heart is, that is where you will give your money. BUT that is precisely what he is NOT saying. Jesus is saying: where your treasure is (where you spend your money) THAT is where your heart is also. Jesus is saying: what you are willing to pay for, what you spend your hard earned dollars (or shekels or denari) on reveals what matters to you (where your heart really is). Jesus is not saying: your heart will guide your checkbook to give to those things that matter. Jesus is saying: look at your checkbook, it will show you what actually matters in your life.

Oh dear.

When I look at my checkbook I am not totally thrilled with what I discover about my heart! I certainly LOVE my church-that is clear because there are so many big checks written out to my church. But I also certainly love my

stomach (and hate to cook) because there are so many checks written out to restaurants in our Valley. My checkbook tells a whole story about where my heart really lies.

But there is also another point, maybe a more subtle point, that Jesus is making. I believe Jesus is telling us that we can change our priorities by giving and spending where we WANT our heart to be. We can change our behavior and our heart will follow. If I WANT to be a more generous person, then I can give more money to my church and other good causes and that change in behavior will cause a change in heart. In other words, we can CHOOSE to put our treasure where we want our hearts to be!

The fall is always the time of our Stewardship Campaign. Individually, or as a family, we explore what our church means to us, we consult our checkbooks and our family budget, and we make a pledge for what we will contribute to the church in the coming calendar year. OUR gifts make up our church budget. But I do not want people giving to the church to make sure we meet our budget. I want people giving to the church because generosity is one of the fruits of the spirit. It is GOOD for our spiritual lives/selves to GIVE away money, to be generous, to make a serious financial commitment to the church. I also think that Jesus was right! Where our treasure is, THERE our heart will be also. If we give generously to our church, our hearts will also be invested in our church.

Jesus threw us a curve ball and it gives us a lot to think about. Please consider deeply your pledge to our church for 2011. And may your treasure AND your heart reside in our beloved Haydenville Congregational Church!

NOTE FROM MATILDA:

Children's Church and Youth and Family Ministries
In Children's Church, the core of our approach to children's religious development—more akin to spiritual direction than religious education-- is our "relational" view of children. In this view however the love that is mediated in relationships needs also to be made available to children in a more direct, internal way. "The religious materials of Godly Play give children an opportunity to become engaged in this way with an experience of the love of God...this way of working with the religious development of children allows the cry of the child 'let me experience God myself' to be heard."

-Rev. Leander Harding

WHAT IS GODLY PLAY, AND WHY DO WE DO IT IN CC?

Four years ago Andrea and I discovered the "Godly Play" curriculum and felt it would be a good fit for our children's program, then in its infancy. (No pun intended) We did some research, and then **Sally Lemaire, the Ladies' Aid, and a few other individuals pooled their resources and purchased us the curriculum**, and a great deal of the beautiful handmade materials that go along with it. We are more grateful every year for their generosity and willingness to give it a try, and we are very lucky to own and have access to these beautiful materials. Two years ago we purchased more of the materials, and now we own one complete "set" which takes us through the whole liturgical year. Karen Guiel and I are both officially trained Godly Play teachers.

How can I learn more about Godly Play? A congregation member recently said to me, "We don't know the Bible Stories, can we have a Godly Play Story?" I thought this was a great idea and am more than happy to oblige! To this end, we will be offering two Godly Play storytelling sessions this month, *to be held after worship on **Sunday, 11/7 and Sunday 11/21, and these will be Godly Play for Grownups!*** In fact, listening to Godly Play Stories is a *great* way to learn Bible Stories—for adults and children alike. So we welcome you to attend one or both of these storytelling sessions, where you will begin to learn how to tell a Godly Play story yourself in CC if you choose, *or*, simply have the experience of hearing a Bible story told in a different way or for the first time.

What is Godly Play? Godly Play uses the three main components of the Christian tradition: Sacred Story, Liturgical Action, and Silence. Liturgical Actions are things like Baptism in which God's presence is revealed through ritual. Silence comes through the "wondering" time, where those hearing the story reflect upon the inner meanings evoked by what they have heard. And Sacred Stories are, of course, all those that make up our scripture, and in Godly Play the children see these acted out through the use of

sacred objects and then have the opportunity to "enter into" the stories by playing with these objects themselves. One of the reasons we endorse, use, and love Godly Play is because we believe that *God is still speaking*, and we believe that God speaks in scripture through metaphor, poetry, and imagery, as well as through moral mandates and through the accounts of history. In fact, we believe that many of the characters in the Bible are *not* meant to be moral exemplars but *human examples*. Through their stories we see ourselves and our world reflected in deep and meaningful ways, which open our imagination and enrich our capacity for spiritual transformation.

Why do we use Godly Play as our "core" curriculum in CC?

Godly Play encourages us to move into deeper dimensions of our faith. It values process, openness and discovery, and prepares children to join in the worship and life of the congregation as they develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols and rites. Godly Play shares our deeply held belief in the *innate spirituality* of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God. Whether or not you want to teach in CC, we invite *you* to our storytelling sessions to have this different experience of spirituality and the Christian Faith. If you can't come but want to learn more, see me, or stay tuned to our children's messages where you just might hear us tell a "sacred story."

In faith and gratitude,
Pastor Matilda

GODLY PLAY PRINCIPLES

Here are some of the basic precepts of Godly Play, as described by the Godly Play foundation:

When Christian language is learned by the Godly Play approach, it is learned as a means to know God and to make meaning of our lives. This approach is quite different from the traditional model in which the teacher tells the children what they need to know.

The goal of Godly Play is to show how to be open to the Holy Spirit, The Creator, and the Redeemer all at once and all the time in every place. To achieve this goal is to help children become deeply rooted as Christians and yet at the same time use this powerful language and community to be open and creative.

Godly Play encourages participants to make meaning for themselves by inviting them into stories and providing the opportunity for them to connect the stories with their personal experience.

Godly Play teaches kindness and mutuality through its rituals and by the way it organizes physical space,

objects and a group of children. It embodies the Biblical ethic of how God wants people to live and be together.

Godly Play teaches that there is *Kairos* time (significant time) as well as *Chronos* time (chronological). Kairos time is not concerned with the clock but with seeing God at the center of daily life.

Godly play offers a contemporary child's version of "*lectio divina*" or holy reading, wondering, and meaning-making. Instead of cognitive analysis alone, kinesthetic and artistic learning is used.

INTERFAITH CIRCLES

By Ty Power

Interfaith Circles for the LGBTIQQA Community invite Haydenville Congregational Church members to participate! Interfaith Circles provide opportunities for LGBTQ individuals of different faith backgrounds to participate in small groups that explore the bedrock questions of life and faith. Based on the Small Group Ministry model used by Unitarian Universalist congregations, Interfaith Circles are an opportunity to deepen connections with other people, across divisions of faith, through shared spiritual exploration. Groups consist of up to 10 participants, including a facilitator. We meet monthly to share personal spiritual perspectives on topics such as "Embodiment: queer bodies, trans bodies," "Family of origin, Family of choice," "Forgiveness" and "Sacred sexuality." For more information, email interfaithcircles@uunorthampton.org or visit <http://uunorthampton.org/bogblog/166-interfaithcircles.html>.

THANKSGIVING DINNER-Share the Love!

A Message from the Deacons



If any members or friends of our Church do not have a place to go to have Thanksgiving Dinner, please tell Pastor Andrea. AND if any members and friends of our Church have room at their table for one or two extra people, please tell Pastor Andrea. Andrea will pair people up: those

who would like an invitation with those who have extra seats at the table. Please be in touch!!

PASTOR ANDREA IS WORRIED

Sometime in early September I met with a parishioner who is active in our church. She told me that she had been at a church meeting the night before that did not end until quite late, and she still had to go home and make dinner for her family. She also said, "And I'll be back at church tonight for an event I am helping with." I stopped her and encouraged her NOT to come. I am getting worried about church members' burn-out. Some of you, too many of you, are doing TOO MUCH. You are at church too many nights during the week, and you are there early and there late. I want to encourage you to PACE yourself and to say "no" more often to church obligations. If we spread out the church work load, and EVERY PERSON helps in some way, we'll protect those who are currently "over-functioning" and doing too much. Also, here's a plea to all our Committee Chairmen and Chairwomen: Let's keep church meetings to 60 or 90 minutes whenever possible. Let's tighten up our meetings and get people in and out more efficiently. I know that I am currently running the FIRST LIGHT DVD series and I have made a promise to the 16 folks involved in those classes. I have told them: we will start promptly at 5:30 PM and end promptly at 7:00 PM and we do! And it is really helping us to run a tight ship and use our time well. We get there, we get going, and we end on time. Committee Chairs! I am pleading with you to start meetings on time and run a tight meeting and get folks out and home. I am worried about volunteers burning out. Everyone on board with me? Let's keep reminding each other (and feel free to remind me when I am running a meeting!!!). Let's protect our time, let's protect one another, let's avoid church volunteers burn-out. Thank you one and all.

WHY "FROM CHARITY TO CHANGE" HAS ITS NAME!

By Pastor Andrea

I recently read a quote by The Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin that made me understand more fully why our church group that works on cross-class and poverty issues chose its name! Our group is called "From Charity to Change" and I think Rev. Coffin would approve! Note his words:

"Had I but one wish for all the churches of America today, I think it would be that they come to see the difference between charity and justice. Charity is a matter of personal attributes; justice is a matter of public policy. Charity seeks to alleviate the worst effects of injustice; justice seeks to eliminate the causes of it. Charity in no way affects the status quo, which is why charity is so popular in middle-class churches, while justice leads inevitably to political confrontation."

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE!

The new Church program, THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE! brought to you by the Deacons and Pastor Andrea, has really taken off! Numerous Church groups have lined up to lead Thursday Night Live evening programs into the new year! Here's a peak ahead to the programs:

September: Willot spoke about his trip to Haiti

October 14: Peace and Justice Steering Committee hosted a Supper and Film about the Transition Towns Movement

November 11: From Charity to Change Community Supper and Sing-along

December 9: Shepherds' Hosting a *Blue Christmas Service*

January 13: Youth and Family Ministry Sponsoring the Evening

February 10: Jim Foudy, Publisher of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, will talk about what makes news and why

March 10: Special Lenten Program "Transformational Breathwork" with Facilitators Jude and Jontz Johnson

April 14: "Caring for Dying Loved Ones" program with Author Joanna Lillian Brown



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH BOOK GROUP

By Paula Spencer



The new Church Book Group year began with our first 'official' meeting in October. Nine of us got together on a sparkling autumn Saturday to share our thoughts on Roland Merullo's novel Breakfast with Buddha.

As ever, the book discussion led to other topics, related and unrelated to

the book, and we left feeling enriched and uplifted. We warmly welcomed 11-day old Daniel Guiel to the group and many loving arms got to hold him while we talked.

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion

by Gregory Boyle is our November selection. Fr. Boyle works with gang members in L.A. and has developed a remarkable intervention program called Homeboy Industries that has changed many lives. Reviewers have praised the book and we're looking forward to reading it. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 13, 10 a.m. in the Church Dining Room

We extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to join us, either on a regular or an occasional basis. I would be happy to provide a list of the books we are reading this year and the dates of our meetings if you're interested.



ALL SAINTS DAY

An Announcement from the Church Deacons



We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7th. On that day we will ask everyone in Church to think of someone who has passed on who helped shape their life and each person in church will have the opportunity to call out one name as Pastor Andrea moves

through the congregation at the beginning of our worship service. Please think about the one name of someone who has been gathered to God that you would like to share—you will be given a cross to write her/his name on and then asked to lift the cross when you say the name. The person could be someone you knew like Aunt Betty or someone you did not know like Martin Luther King, Jr.

The point of Christianity is not to enter heaven once we have died, but to have heaven enter us while we are still living.

GOOD FOOD!

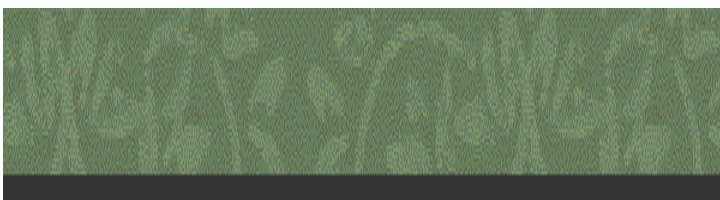
Here is the calendar for bringing Coffee Hour goodies in November. Please remember: when it is your turn to bring something to share, you also help set up and clean up! The calendar goes by last name. All edible foods are welcome including unusual surprises. And we LOVE to have protein to give to the children. Thank you one and all!

November 7: D, E, F, G

November 14: H, I, J, K

November 21: L, M, N, O

November 28: P, Q, R, S



CONNECTING SAINTS: WARNER TO LOOMIS STORY CORP/HISTORICAL PROJECT

By Kathleen Kent

I called Saint Cora Warner to see if she also lost her electricity from the strong winds. She said she hoped not because she had two pies baking in the oven for the Crop Walk. I told her I was trying to write an article about Gordon Loomis for the newsletter, hoping she may know something about another church member who died in World War II, Frederick King. She knew Frederick and the story of his brothers, their widowed mother and their house behind the house that was three houses down from the church and schoolhouse. Her voice lifted, though, when I mentioned Gordon's name so I switched the subject back to him. She said after Gordon died his brother Russell went to her house and told Cora that she was Gordon's girlfriend. Cora said to him, "I didn't know that." Russell explained that Gordon had a romantic interest in her. Cora told me she wished Gordon had told her that. "He was very handsome you know." She asked why I didn't want to know about the other (8) men from Williamsburg who died in service. But I was trying to contain the article and figured I could ask about them another day. Then as usual, she apologized for her "poor memory," and said she wished she could be more helpful.

Gordon David Loomis was born in Haydenville on July 4, 1925. Gordon was raised on a farm on Mountain Street which had been in the Loomis family for about five generations. His baby sister died at home very tragically when he was five, but he was surrounded by four more younger siblings, grandparents, and other relatives. He attended the Haydenville grade school and studied agriculture at Smith Vocational, (presumably to work on the farm). At 16 Gordon followed in his forefathers' footsteps and became a member of the Haydenville Congregational Church



Gordon Loomis: July 4, 1925 -
'November 5, 1944.

Photo courtesy of Forbes Library

(Nov. 2, 1941). Gordon worked at a dye plant in Greenfield for 6 months and a trucking company in Dalton for 2 months before entering the service in February, 1944 at 19 years old. Within six months he went from Fort Devens to Georgia to Mississippi. By August he was sent overseas to France, later to Belgium, and then to Holland. On November 17 of the same year, Gordon's mother received this telegram from the war department:

Dear Mrs. Loomis:

It is with the deepest regret that I write to offer my sympathy in the death of your son, Pvt. Gordon D. Loomis, 31 452 22 0.

He died Nov. 5/44 in Belgium of wounds received in Holland on the same date. He was buried in Holland with a Protestant service. Every opportunity was given him by his Chaplain to be spiritually prepared for battle.

The heroism displayed by the American soldier in these days continues to amaze the world and surely holds the promise of a great future for our country. Your son's sacrifice is helping to build a better world for us all; I share your pride in him.

Words are inadequate to lessen your sorrow and bereavement at this time. Yet, I am sure you will be supported by consolations of a spiritual nature.

May the almighty grant him eternal peace and comfort you in your loss.

Besides his parents and a grandmother at home, Gordon Loomis was survived by four brothers, Robert, Russell, Cecil and Wilbur (Bill), and a sister, Esther. Esther Williams resides in Haydenville and is a long time friend of the church. Bill and his wife (and church deacon), Ellie Loomis, now run the farm on Mountain Street.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

November 1	Ruth Jacobson-Hardy
November 2	Martha Sager-Cutt
November 5	Kamali Joseph
November 8	Ruth Beebe
November 10	Danielle Poudrier
November 11	H. Alan Kellogg
November 13	Tara Castaldo
November 17	Mary Lee Satterfield
November 18	George Henry Jr.
November 22	Nancy Demarais
November 23	Leah Kellogg
November 25	Jacquelin Cloonan
November 26	Lynda Smith
November 30	cmoore

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

By Paula Spencer

Our Church Library collection has some terrific new titles for you to explore. Here's a sampling :

The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright

Marcus Borg's new novel (!) Putting Away Childish Things: A Tale of Modern Faith

Poems and Pastels by Sally Lemaire

Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life by C.S. Lewis

The Essential Henri Nouwen

To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings

by John O'Donohue

The Barn at the End of the World: The Apprenticeship of a Quaker, Buddhist Shepherd by Mary Rose O'Reilly

Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospels of Thomas by Elaine Pagels

The Essential Rilke (selected and translated by Galway Kinnell and Hannah Liebmann)

Ross Bassett, a new HCC member, has offered to help with library tasks and I am most grateful to him. If you haven't met Ross, do say hello and thank him for stepping up.

Here are a few procedural reminders to keep the library running smoothly:

- be sure to check out books (CDs, etc.) that you are borrowing in the Big Binder on the bookshelves; titles in the binder are arranged alphabetically by title; just write your name and date borrowed on the appropriate page. There are detailed instructions on the cover of the binder but it is a quick, easy process; feel free to contact me if you have questions or need any help;
- please return materials in a reasonable amount of time, say a month or so; otherwise they may get buried, lost, forgotten and not available to other readers;
- when returning, please place books etc. in the basket labeled "Library Returns;" if you wish, you may find the appropriate sheet in the binder and enter the return date or just leave the item(s) to be checked in and re-shelved;
- finally, an urgent plea not to leave books you want to donate (or otherwise part with) in the library area! Titles seem to wash up there regularly and I don't know from whence they came or why. If you would like to donate a book to the library please give it to me directly so I can consider adding it to the collection. Since our space is so limited I have to be very selective with acquisitions. If you wish, I can offer suggestions for other places to donate books that may not be suitable for our collection.

A reminder that copies of the DVD "A Church Transformed," created by Jeannine Oakes, a former HCC student intern, are available for loan. It's a documentary describing the evolution of HCC from a small church in danger of closing to the thriving community it is today. Please see me if you'd like to view it.

O BULLY DEPRESSION

Based on a reflection and study of Psalm 22

By Phil Hall

O Bully Depression --
Such a cruel joke.
Haunting my sense of who I am.
Mocking my truth --

Where are you, God?
Must I forever stomp through
the dark caves of time
with little hope for
dawn's early light?

Where are you?
Must I for ever hang out on the edges of midnight
Pestered by those growling 3 a.m. questions?
You did not create me to stumble towards morning.
You came that I might have life.

Where are you?
Stirring in the dungeons of my pain ... (I hope.)
Are you taunting me or are you teaching me?
Depression has got to be more than
Just one of those things --
Where have you hidden the gem
that will make tomorrow better?
WHERE ARE YOU?

Get with it, God.
Show me Good Friday's path --
Easter's hallelujah!

O God ...
My struggle is not with life;
it is with You.
It is with you that I wrestle.
Enter the silence of my night
and teach me to wrestle gracefully
towards your dawn.

O God
You are saving me
And I am being saved.
Great North Star,
Guide me home.

November 2010 Calendar

Monday, November 1:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting
Tuesday, November 2:	5:30-7 PM	DVD Final First Light Session, HCC Dining Room
Wednesday, November 3:	7 PM	Confirmation Class, HCC Dining Room
Sunday, November 7:	10 AM	Worship Service with Communion. Celebrating All Saints Day. Stewardship Moment Ruth Jacobson-Hardy. Following worship, GODLY PLAY FOR ADULTS, Storytelling and Training I, Children's Church. Daylight Saving Time ends
Tuesday, November 9:	4 PM	Charity to Change meeting, Church Dining Room
	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, November 11:	6-7 PM	Thursday Night Live, "Charity to Change" sponsoring a Community Supper and Sing-along. All welcome.
Saturday, November 13:	10 AM	Book Group Meeting, HCC Dining Room, <u>Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion</u> by Gregory Boyle. Contact Paula Spencer for questions, prspencer1@comcast.net
Sunday, November 14:	10 AM	Worship Service. Stewardship Moment Cate Wilson. Following worship, Christmas Pageant and CC Winter Orientation, Children's Church. Please pick up RED ENVELOPES in church for Stewardship Campaign.
Tuesday, November 16:	4 PM	Catholics in the UCC, HCC Dining Room
Wednesday, November 17:	6 PM	God and Parenting Discussion Group, HCC Dining Room
Thursday, November 18:	1:00 PM	Ladies Aid meeting
	5:30-8:30 PM	Peace and Justice Steering Committee: Soup, Salad and Social Change Dinner and Program : Presenter: Frances Crowe, "PEOPLE OF FAITH SEARCHING TOGETHER IN TROUBLED TIMES"
Sunday, November 21:	10 AM	Worship Service. Following worship, GODLY PLAY FOR ADULTS, Storytelling and Training II, Children's Church.
Monday, November 22:	5:30-7 PM	Peace and Justice Steering Committee Meeting, HCC Dining Room
Thursday, November 25:		Thanksgiving Day
Saturday, November 27:		Grasshill Gallery, HCC Dining Room
First Sunday in Advent November 28:	10 AM	Worship Service. Bring pledges to church for dedication in worship



Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

143 Main Street, PO Box 257

Haydenville, MA 01039

*If you believe God answers prayers,
no proof is necessary.
If you don't, no proof is sufficient.*

Found in Reader's Digest
by Beth Howland

*Humor is a prelude to faith and
Laughter is the beginning of prayer.*

Reinhold Niebuhr