

Cross Currents

October 2016 • Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors



From Pastor Andrea

It was a few years ago when our Matilda Cantwell left her position as Associate Pastor and Head of Children and Family Ministry that parishioner Rose Sullivan, clinical social worker and professor, taught us all the expression “good good-byes.” Matilda had been part of our ministerial staff for seven years and no one could imagine the church without her. We were bereft when she announced that she was leaving our church to take a position in the Chaplain’s Office at Smith College.

Rose sat us down and said it was important for us to understand that good good-byes have an enormous benefit for the person leaving, for the individuals who are having a hard time letting go, and for a community as a whole. Rose instructed us to plan a big good-bye party for Matilda, but before the big final good-bye, to be open about the leaving and to refer to it as “...when Matilda leaves the church...” not “...when Matilda is gone.” Rose reminded us over and over again that Matilda was not dying—she was taking another job.

Rose also taught us to think deeply about our faith, and how we hold Jesus in our hearts even though Jesus is not physically with us, and none of us were alive when Jesus walked the earth. We refer to Jesus with love, we remember how he lived his life and the legacy he left for us, and we experience him still as close and near to us.

Rose said people can be “not with us” and yet still very much “with us.”

Our church is once again facing a big change in staff and we are committed to good good-byes and all that Rose taught us years ago. Because of my announced retirement, I will be preaching my last sermon on January 1, 2017. I am not dying, I am simply moving on to do other things with my life—new projects, a new focus on climate change activism, some long-postponed artwork, and some exciting work within the Black Lives Matter movement. I will be leaving, yes, but life at the church will go on. And life at the church will go on with vigor, energy, a new focus, strong leadership, and the loving support our congregation always offers to one another.

Highlights

visit us online at: haydenvillechurch.org

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Endure the now and in all ways care
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This life is yours
Endure”

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The Deacons have asked me what I want for a final party or parties. I feel very clear about what I would like! I would like ONE party, not more, on my final day at the church....January 1, 2017. After I lead worship, preach, and celebrate Communion, I want us all to come into the Dining Room for a big potluck lunch together.

The Deacons are worried that we may over-pack the Dining Room—that we'll have lots of folks here for this good good-bye party. So we'll be creative. Maybe we'll put some card tables in the Sanctuary! Maybe we'll put some stools at the counters in the Kitchen and make room for a half dozen people there. Maybe we'll eat on the steps leading upstairs. I know I want us to be together, and I know I do not want us to rent a larger venue. So we'll squish in and make it work.

In terms of other good good-byes, we need to keep talking about our feelings and saying aloud that this is hard. That we are all putting on good faces but we are also near tears some days. We need to feel and express our feelings.

We also need to remember that if we keep God at the center of this Church—not Andrea, not the budget, not the building, not the staff—then everything will unfold with grace and beauty. We can trust that God will see us through....all of us.

And there are other ways we'll be experiencing good good-byes. Jeff O says we'll sing all my favorite songs between now and the end of the year. He says this knowing that some of my favorite songs are some of the songs people dislike the most. So get ready for "Upside Down Christmas" and "Jesus is Coming" (even though it is not Lent) and of course "Dazzling Bouquet" and our very beloved "I Am The Church" (which we truly do all love).

There are other zingers we might throw in there....and some old chestnuts. We have to sing "For All the Saints" because my favorite line in any hymn, in any song is "...and hearts are brave, again..." The "again" makes me weep. How often we are called to be brave. Again and again and again and again. Like now.

Of course we will sing my stand-by favorites that I make you sing endlessly: "I Will Change Your Name," "Take O Take Me As I Am," "Courage Sister," "Holy Ground," and "Don't Be Afraid." We might throw in "Old Rugged Cross" which has bad theology but a beautiful melody, and "Gather Us In" because it makes me laugh so hard. What other hymn in the world has the line, "Gather us in—the rich and the haughty?"

Okay. Enough about the good, bad, touching and funny hymns we will sing in the coming months. We will (and this is important) baptize many babies and children, share Communion, attend evening programs together, lift up the joy of Thanksgiving, and move through Advent and Christmas together. If we keep God at the center we will be led, comforted, held, guided and loved.

We are committed to good good-byes. We can do this.

I love you all.



Shelter Sunday Celebrates 25 years!

• October 16, 2016 •

Every fall on **Shelter Sunday** volunteer canvassers have gone door to door throughout greater Northampton, Florence, Leeds and Easthampton collecting donations to support *local* homeless shelters, emergency housing, soup kitchens and other survival services. Last year people generously opened their doors and raised over \$40,000 for the campaign.

This year Shelter Sunday will use a different approach. Please look for our brochure which will have information on **Shelter Sunday** and descriptions of the five nonprofit organizations that make it all work. It will also have an envelope for donating by mail and information on how to donate online. We will still have volunteers canvassing in different areas. Please consider taking a neighborhood walk with your family or friends and bring much needed sustenance to those in our community who are in need.

To volunteer or for more information, email Anne at: volunteer@northamptonsheltersunday.org or call 413-582-9508

All of the money raised goes directly to service programs of five local organizations: MANNA Soup Kitchen, Single Room Occupancy Project, Interfaith Emergency Shelter, Grace House, Grove Street Inn

**Make a difference in the lives of others
who are not as fortunate as ourselves**

Words That Hurt, Words That Heal

Words have the power to hurt and to heal. The book of James 3:1-12 says: *“Our tongue is like fire and even a small fire can set a whole forest ablaze. Our tongue can stain our body, it can ruin our relationships with our family and friends and it can damage our reputation in the community when our tongue is set on fire by the fire of hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature can be tamed, but no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”* But in the end, says James, you and I always have a choice as to how we will use our tongue. We can use our tongue to hurt or to heal, to curse or to bless, to put down or to lift up. Think for a moment about words that you know that have the power to hurt and words that you know that have the power to heal!

Sometimes we say that sticks and stones can break our bones but words can never kill us. But that’s not true. Words do have the power to kill. Several years ago Pastor Andrea arranged to stage *October Mourning* in our Haydenville Church sanctuary. It is the story of Matthew Shepard – a young gay college student living in Laramie, Wyoming who was picked up by two young men in their truck, tied to a fence outside the city, and brutally beaten to death. The minds of those boys who beat Matthew Shepard were filled with hate and prejudice at a very early age in Laramie. For years they had heard their parents, their teachers, and their civil leaders using anti-gay words in relation to gays and lesbians. Even their ministers were using these words. Reverend Fred Phelps from Laramie was on national television saying, “If God doesn’t hate [anti-gay word], why does he put them in hell.” These were the words that could be heard in Larimie on the night they seized Matthew Shepard, tied his hands to a wire fence and beat him to death.

But words also have the power to heal. The tongue can wound the human spirit but the tongue can also forgive, thank, encourage, uplift, affirm, support and empower, heal and speak out for justice and love. Every blessing in the Gospel tries to teach us how to speak with our tongues these words that can heal, like the blessing from First Thessalonians that says: *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up. Encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, repay no one evil for evil, always seek to do good to one another and to all.”* Years ago there was a little African American girl in New Orleans named Ruby Bridges. When the Supreme Court of the United States ordered schools to integrate in 1960 Ruby was one of the

first to start going to an all white elementary school in that city. Ruby was in the 3rd grade with Miss Hurley as her teacher. Every day when she went to her new school white parents and their children lined the sidewalks and shouted, “N_____” “Go home,” “You’re not wanted in our school.” But Miss Hurley believed in her heart that all black lives matter, and as she stood at the window of Ruby’s classroom on the second floor listening to the words of the crowd down below, it brought tears to her eyes. As she watched Ruby make her way through the angry crowd she saw that Ruby was also saying something to them. So she asked her, “Ruby, what were you saying to that angry crowd when they were shouting at you?” And Ruby replied. “Oh Miss Hurley, I wasn’t talking back, I was just praying for them. I was just saying the prayer Jesus said on the Cross, ‘Father forgive them for they know not what they do.’” Remember, your words, even in our Church, can hurt or heal too.

- Rev. Peter B. Ives, Theologian-in-Residence

October Birthdays!

- 2 Andrea Ayvazian
- 3 Alice Barber
Ileana Fournier
- 7 Kathy O’Connor
- 9 Kathleen Kelleher
Karen Lowe
- 10 Carl Loomis
Izabel Mereschuk
- 13 Nicholas Elias-Gillette
- 14 Michael Klare
- 18 Suzanne Brow
Sarah Tompkins
- 21 Nicole Pagliaro
- 23 Beverlee Orluske
- 24 Carolyn du Bois
- 26 Robert Lampron
- 30 Chris Mereschuk
- 31 Amy Andrew



Where is My Online Issue of CrossCurrents?

Several newsletter "Update" cards have been returned with requests for the electronic version. In the past the electronic newsletter was distributed as an attachment to an email. The electronic version of *CrossCurrents* can now be found each month on the Church website at: <http://haydenvillechurch.org/newsletter/>. A link to the newsletter is also included in the weekly announcement email.

Richard Spencer, *CrossCurrents Designer*

Beginnings/Endings

I often wish that life could be clearer in its sense of coming to a stop or beginning something new. As Anne Lamott often laments, "If I were in charge of the Western World, I would..." I would have an ending come to a full stop. Period. No dangling bits, no emotions that slop over, no untied ends. A neat package. And then, when something new comes into view, have it be clear and clean with definite parameters, crisp as a white sail against the horizon.

But no. And just to remind us of how sloppy God's world is, we get Fall. In bits and pieces. Summer begins to feel "not-like-summer" but like "the-beginning-of-fall." The leaves on the maple by our deck are starting to turn red in places; Joe Pye Weed is out and almost done with; asters send forth tentative purple flowers; the warblers migrate; and I watch the hummingbirds, knowing they will leave soon. Or, as my significant other said this morning, "Hey, bud, where's your suitcase?"

School flyers have already infected and depressed the minds of countless children (but not their parents) since the first week in August. Let the shopping commence! Yellow school buses are seen parked on streets, waiting, like some vast bugs ready to devour children.

I confess to a sense of melancholy. I begin to remember my past and the past of my "children" (now 29 and 25). Who loved to pick up the phone and order glorious clothes for Char from Hanna Andersson? Not me. Who liked to visit the Lanesboro Mall for clothes for Ben and perhaps an action toy to soften the blow of school beginning? I suspect we picked up a Barbie as well, hopefully Barbie Veterinarian or Barbie Doctor.

I remember Halloween trick-or-treating, getting the kids dressed in their costumes. One year Ben made a marvelous aluminum devil mask, painting it a vivid red. It scared even me. Each fall I would pluck pumpkins from my garden and set them on our deck railing where they stayed, festive and cheery, until the first frost. Then I would set the vibrant mums on the house stairs, where they cheered me every morning.

At 71 I do relish our empty nest and ability to come and go as we please. But the ending of having "kids" living with us is a sweet/sad thing. I miss them. I miss the warblers. Soon I will mourn the hummingbirds until Rick will say, "Get over it already, they will come back."

Yes, and then Spring will come in a laggard sort of way, giving us one blindingly-sunny warm day, followed by a late snowstorm that crushes my daffodils. I don't know how we bear it, really. Jonah in the whale had nothing on us!

But then—I remember: our God is a God of beginnings and endings. The Bible is full of such things. I began, and so I shall end, or as my dearest aunt once said to me, "Annie, music has to come to an end." So it shall. But somewhere not too far away, the music will start up again for another person, another flower, and another hummingbird.

- Annie Turner

Visioning Themes Next Steps

Sunday, November 6th after Worship

Please Note Date Change

Over the past couple of years, our congregation has been engaging in visioning and planning for our future. Themes have emerged from all of the workshops and listening sessions. Your voice is essential at this gathering where we will clarify and prioritize these themes for our future. Childcare will be provided. Please save the date and look for more details coming soon.

Occupy the Choir Loft!

St. Augustine said "*Whoever sings, prays twice.*"

The choir is always open to new members. Talk to Jeff if you are interested.

Black Lives Matter Series

The Peace and Justice Committee is coordinating a series focusing on Black Lives Matter beginning on Oct. 18. It will be similar to the wonderful series that we had about Islamophobia. We are looking for YOU if you would be interested in this idea and might be willing to be on a planning committee. Please contact Karen Browne-Courage at joyfulreunion@gmail.com or at 413 320-6459 if you would be interested in exploring this.

Calendar for October

Thank you "Hilltown Hosts" for providing the coffee hour goodies during October.

Please check the online church calendar to confirm meeting dates, times and locations.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat. Oct. 1	10:00 am	Blessing of the Animals, <i>see page 9</i>	Church front lawn
Sun. Oct. 2	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion, "Neighbors In Need" Special Offering, Exploring Membership #2	Sanctuary
Mon. Oct. 3	7:00 pm	Coming Out White, <i>see page 8</i>	Dining Room
Tues. Oct 4	7:00 pm	Christian Love, Monogamy, Polyamory and Covenant	Dining Room
Wed. Oct. 5	5:30 pm	Fall Book Group with Pastor Andrea, <i>see page 9</i>	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Oct 6	9:30 am	Café Office Hours with Pastor Andrea	Williamsburg Snack Bar
	6:30 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Oct 9	10:00 am	Worship Service, Exploring Membership #3	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Mon. Oct. 10	7:00 pm	Coming Out White, <i>see page 8</i>	Dining Room
Tues. Oct. 11	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Oct.12	5:30 pm	Fall Book Group with Pastor Andrea, <i>see page 9</i>	Dining Room
	6:00 pm	Children and Family Ministry Committee	Children's Church
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Oct. 13	9:30 am	Café Office Hours with Pastor Andrea	Williamsburg Snack Bar
	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Oct. 16	10:00 am	Worship Service, Shelter Sunday, <i>see page 2</i> , Exploring Membership #4	Sanctuary
	11:30 am	Teacher/Safe Church Training, <i>see page 9</i>	Sanctuary
Mon. Oct. 17	6:00 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Coming Out White, <i>see page 8</i>	TBD
Tues. Oct. 18	Time: TBD	Black Lives Matter, Film and Discussion, <i>see page 4</i>	Dining Room
Wed. Oct. 19	5:30 pm	Fall Book Group with Pastor Andrea, <i>see page 9</i>	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Oct. 20	9:30 am	Café Office Hours with Pastor Andrea	Williamsburg Snack Bar
	6:00 pm	Journey: Support Group	Dining Room

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. Oct. 23	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Mon. Oct 24	7:00 pm	Coming Out White, <i>see page 8</i>	Dining Room
Wed. Oct 26	5:30 pm	Fall Book Group with Pastor Andrea, <i>see page 9</i>	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Oct. 27	9:30 am	Café Office Hours with Pastor Andrea	Williamsburg Snack Bar
Sun. Oct. 30	10:00 am	Worship Service & New Members Ceremony, Blue Moon Sunday/no Coffee Hour	Sanctuary
		Cathedral in the Night	Northampton

From the Deacons' Bench

We Are Everywhere

"We are everywhere" was oft repeated in gay and lesbian communities in the 1980s. We had to tell ourselves that we were everywhere, because being "out" was challenging at best, dangerous at worst. In 1985 I had an office mate in Philadelphia who said she'd never met a lesbian. "You have now," I told her. We were both doing AIDS outreach and education. That's how *not* visible many of us were!

A few weeks ago Karin and I had breakfast with two women who were new to the Valley. As we got to know them, I thought they might like knowing about our church. But how do you bring up church over egg sandwiches on a Monday morning?

It's not that I didn't *want* to talk about our wonderful church community. It's that I didn't want to be perceived as one of the *other* kinds of Christians: the ones who believe that they get a higher seat in Heaven with each soul they "save," while spreading hate and bigotry. I sent up a little prayer: *help me find a way.*

About two minutes later, an HCC member walked into the restaurant. Hugs and introductions ensued. Moments later, two more members came in, and then three more. (They were all meeting informally over coffee.)

"How do you all know each other?" our new friends asked. "Church," we said in unison. "We've been looking for a church!" they said. My little prayer was answered, and that morning, it seemed like *we were everywhere!*

I was overjoyed that so many showed up in answer to my small prayer, but it makes me wonder at my own lack of bravery. Are we everywhere? Are those sitting at the next table in a restaurant, or sharing a workspace, or standing in line at the grocery store, seeking community with other progressive people of faith?

Now in the lesbian and gay community, we seldom need to remind ourselves that "we are everywhere" because we are a lot more visible. (This is not close to being true yet for our BTQ siblings). This visibility wasn't gained with ease, it's still not entirely safe, and there are powerful forces that wish we'd remain closeted. So progressive Christians could take a page from lesbian and gay history. We learned that simply being "out" wasn't enough. We had to be out *and* visible. We had to insist on recognition. We had to say our names over and over. We had to show up with all our identities.

We, progressive people of faith, are everywhere. I plan to find courage in that. Being out *and* visible as progressive Christians isn't just about building our community for its own sake. It's about countering the hate-filled messages that dominate civil discourse. It's about insisting on being seen as a force for nonviolent social change, peacemaking, and love. It's about courage.

- Pat James

Traces of a Memory

Explain how when
When looking back on your past
Things sometimes seem so fine
Now
And even the bad wasn't so rough
Now
That it's all felt behind.
These scars you've obtained may exist in your heart
For a very, very, very long time
Yet, even those scars may be obliged to resign
As traces in back of your mind
If only like
Traces of a memory inscribed on the flight of a bluebird
in time
Traces of a memory inscribed on the flight of a bluebird
in time
Not long ago you embraced and you touched
Then
Soon after paths past their ways
Life's sometimes cruel with ups and downs
Like a rose with its thorns in your way
(just) look on this all
With a smile in your heart
And be convinced that it will never be through
Because once love's embrace has had a glimpse of your heart
It will always remain part of you
If only like
Traces of a memory Inscribed on the flight of a bluebird
in time
Traces of a memory inscribed on the flight of a bluebird
in time.
Stay on your path
Divorce all fears
Endure the now and in all ways care
Pay heed to your dreams
Regardless of their pitch
This life is yours
Endure
So now when looking back on your past
And feel the need to cry
Just release those tears
Because tears are just part of being alive
Just release those lonely tears
Traces of a memory inscribe on the flight of a bluebird in
time.

- By Bobby Davis ©1980 Recited at worship on August 14

The God Poem

Love and Peace
spreads around
with great care
that we do for you

As the leaves fall
We think about you
We like you
and all the different ways
God's love surrounds you

The love that spreads
into a big circle of people
surrounds God with
Love, Peace and generosity

As the people talk
about generosity
and care they give
they think it's a gift of God
that we pray for
the things we love.

As Butterflies fly
We think about you
and the great care
that you give to us
and the great care
that you give to us.

- Holland Pomputius, age 4

Children's Church and Youth Ministry: It's not too early to think about volunteering!

Our fantastic and innovative Children's Church program only works because *you* make it happen. Each Sunday, we need at least four adults to work with our young ones. Head Teachers deliver the lesson for the day (prepared and provided by Pastor Chris), while Support Teachers assist in engaging the children and supporting the Head Teacher. You can volunteer for multiple weeks or months or even just one Sunday morning. High school-aged youth are also encouraged to be leaders in the classroom.

Additionally, we need volunteers to work with our youth during service and fellowship activities, be it rock climbing, river cleanups, sledding, a lock-in, or volunteering.

All volunteers are required to complete a registration form (or renew last year's form) and complete a satisfactory CORI check in accordance with our Safe Church policy. We will also hold a volunteer info session early in the program year. Please contact Pastor Chris for more information or to volunteer, and thanks!

Exploring Membership Classes: New Series Continues

Would you like to make your relationship with the Haydenville Congregational Church more formal? Would you even like to talk about what that means? Would you like to meet with others and talk about your spiritual journey and what brought you to the Church in the first place? Come to our circle as we “explore” what it means to join a Church and answer questions like: What might I feel and receive if I join? What is expected of me? And the really important one: Why join?!

Pastor Chris and Pastor Andrea lead the four-week series. At the end of the four sessions, individuals decide if they want to/are ready to join the Church or not. It is truly “exploring” membership! There is no pressure to join!

The remaining three classes (October 2, October 9, and October 16) will be held after Church, upstairs either in Pastor Andrea’s office or in Children’s Church (depending on the size of the group). Those interested in joining will formally join the Church on October 30. Questions? See Pastor Chris or Pastor Andrea. Interested in coming to the series? Please let Pastor Chris or Pastor Andrea know.

Coming Out White

What does it mean to be white in America? Coming out White is a six-week reading and discussion group on the meaning, power, and responsibility of white people to dismantle racism. Sponsored by Deacons and offered in cooperation with the Peace and Justice Committee, this group is for white people who are distressed about racism in the US - and in our own hearts and minds. We will examine how we, as good-hearted, well-intentioned Christians, may still participate in, and benefit from, ongoing oppression of people of color. Through reading, discussion, and direct learning activities we will create a challenging and supportive space to understand whiteness, unlearn racism, and become more powerful advocates for racial justice.

We will meet on Monday evenings October 3 - November 7. Ruth Jacobson Hardy and Pat James are co-facilitators. To sign up contact Pat at: minnesotapats@gmail.com.

Enduring Understandings

Your Peace and Justice Committee noted a recent article in the Gazette listing twelve principles for sustainability. The Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst has adopted those principles, which were developed by the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education and are called “Enduring Understandings.” We thought our congregation would like to consider the twelve principles, one each month. See Principle #1 below which we can ponder during the month and imagine what our world would be like if this is what we all believed, if this how we thought and acted.

1. **“A healthy and sustainable future is possible.** We can learn how to live well within the means of nature. This viewpoint inspires and motivates people to act.”

Looking Way Way Ahead!

Hot Chocolate Run! Because so many church members are involved in the Annual Hot Chocolate Run that raises money for Safe Passage—so many of you run and volunteer!—our Church will be throwing all our support behind the Run this year and not meeting for worship at 10:00 on December 4th. Instead we will have a lovely Evensong-style worship at 4:00 pm that day, with music, readings, lighting the Advent Wreath, and Communion. So you can be part of the Hot Chocolate Run this year without worrying about the conflict with our morning worship service!

Christmas Day! Our big Christmas Eve worship service will be held, just as it always is, on December 24th at 7:00 pm. However, because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will be holding our worship service on December 25th in the Dining Room and there will be light breakfast foods available when you arrive. We will be reading a Christmas story and singing carols, and children are welcome to come in pajamas! Our service will be a little unusual, festive, and delicious! Come one, come all!

This Month In Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

This Month in Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

October 2nd: Children's Church lessons, Communion served by Carole Bull

October 9th: Children's Church lessons

October 16th: Children's Church lessons; Teacher Training following worship

October 23rd: Children's Church lessons

October 30th: Children's Church helps with Cathedral in the Night meal prep

Attention Youth and Adults With Youth! Please keep a look out for events and activities for youth in 6th through 12th grade coming up this fall. We will be joining First Churches Northampton and St. John's Episcopal Church for a few events, with details to come

soon. Youth are also encouraged to join our Children's Church teaching team! Please contact Pastor Chris for more information.

Safe Church and Teacher Training • Sunday, October 16th in the Sanctuary following Worship • All current teachers, prospective teachers, and those considering teaching in Children's Church are strongly encouraged to attend this hourlong gathering. We will take a quick look at the Children's Church calendar, go over some guidelines, share teaching tips, and review our Safe Church policy. Please note that familiarity with our Safe Church policy is a requirement for volunteering with our children and youth. Current and past teachers are invited to share ideas, questions, and agenda topics with Pastor Chris prior to the training.

Rev. Chris Mereschuk, *Associate Pastor and Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries*
Andrew Geery, *Chair of the Children's and Family Ministries Committee*

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 1st at 10:00 am • Church Front Lawn
Embark with us as we "paws" to show some love to our animal companions. Please have your pets leashed, crated, and in your control to avoid any catastrophe. There will be animal fellowship time at the tail end. New this year: **Please consider bringing a donation of dog or cat food, or blankets or towels for bedding to benefit local animal rescue agencies.** This event will be cancelled in the event of rain. Contact Pastor Chris "fur" more information.

Fall Book Group

Pastor Andrea will be leading a four-week Book Group this fall to discuss the books *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande and *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. Feel free to come even if you have already read only one of the books, or even if you just want to hear others discuss these powerful books that reflect on end-of-life issues, health care concerns, and making one's wishes known as the end approaches. The Book Group will meet four consecutive Wednesdays from 5:30 until 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Please pre-register to let Pastor Andrea know you are coming. Book Group dates: October 5, 12, 19, 26.

Christian Love

Monogamy, Polyamory and Covenant

Got questions? Got feelings? Got time to talk?

Pastors Andrea and Chris invite you to an evening discussion rooted in Biblical reflection and scriptural examples.

October 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm • Church Dining Room
Haydenville Congregational Church

Office hours for Ferdene, our Church Bookkeeper/Office Administrator, are from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian
Senior Pastor

Rev. Chris Mereschuk
Associate Pastor;
Director of Children's,
Youth, and Family
Ministries

Jeff Olmsted
Minister of Music

Lynn Fogg
Moderator

Sam Icklan
Vice Moderator

Lisa Hall
Clerk

Jo Cannon
Treasurer

Pat James
Jen Matias
Diaconate, *Co-Chairs*

Alice Barber
Trustees, *Chair*

Rev. Dr. Peter Ives
Theologian-
in-Residence

Yohah Ralph
Minister of
Outreach, Advocacy
and Pastoral Care

Kathy O'Connor
Church Sexton

**Bookkeeper/
Administrative
Assistant**
Ferdene Chin-Yee

Jim Foudy
Human Resources
Coordinator

Andrew Geery
Children's and
Family Ministries
Committee, *Chair*

Jennifer Clarson
Angel Take-out,
Coordinator

Nancy Wwinner
Angel Wings,
Coordinator

Jackie Cloonan
Snow Angels, Green
Angels, *Coordinator*

Bev Orluske
Nancy Wwinner
Angel Hearts

Doug Renick
Peace and Justice
Steering Committee,
Chair

Bob Varnon
Stewardship
Committee, *Chair*

Carolyn DuBois
Music Committee,
Chair

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Church Scheduler
scarbin1973@aol.com

Linda Zeigenbein
Interfaith Cot Shelter
Meal, *Coordinator*

Chip Roughton
Scripture Reader,
Coordinator

Laura Paul
Librarian

Shirley Sicurello
Welcome Ministry,
Chair

Sharon Grace
Julie Salzman
Head Ushers

Jennifer Miller-Antill
Laurie Priest
Head Greeters

Laura Garcia
Webmaster

Richard Spencer
CrossCurrents

Jim Foudy
Men's Fellowship,
Chair & Church
Communications

Bev Orluske
Nancy Wwinner
Keepers of the Keys

Ross Bassett
Jan Varnon
Bob Varnon
Lay Delegates

Rev. Dr. Peter Ives
Pat James
Raquel Manzanares
Jen Matias
Keepers
of the Covenant

Trustees (*by Seniority*)
Alice Barber
Karin McGowan
Laura Garcia
Jo Cannon, *Treasurer*
Sylvia Fappiano, *LA Rep.*
Carol Shaw

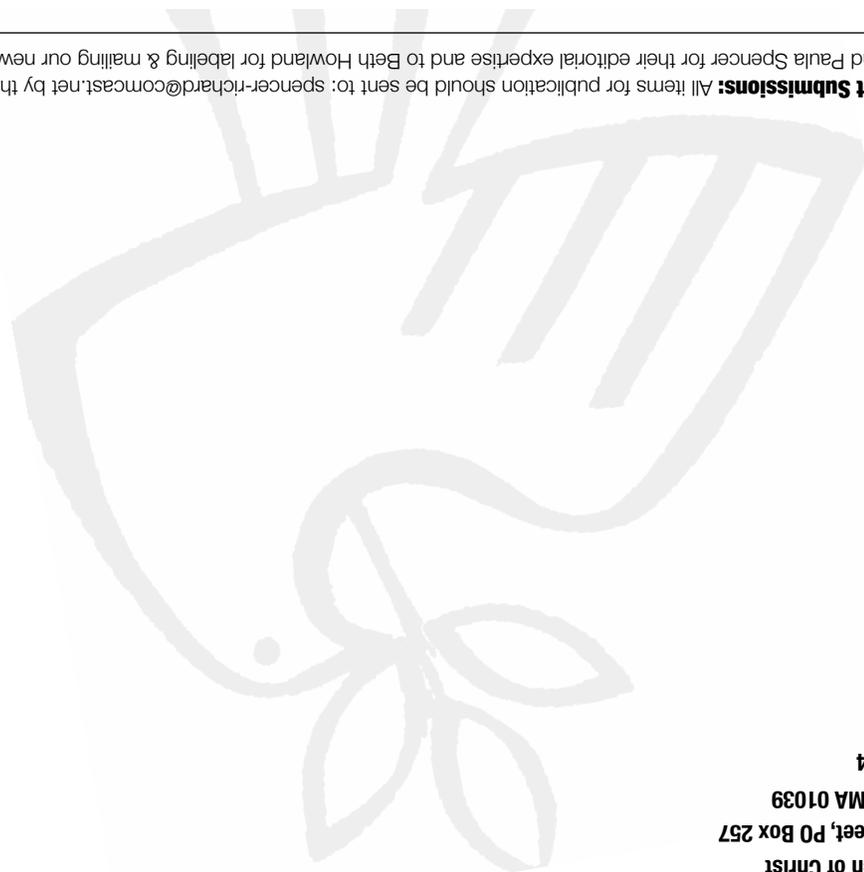
Deacons (*by Seniority*)

Jen Matias
Amy Andrew
Pat James
Paula Spencer
Shirley Sicurello
Carolyn DuBois
Olivia Ilano Davis
Tobias Davis
Karen Browne-
Courage
Trish LaFreniere
Cate Shaw
Christine Foudy

Church Council

Senior Pastor
Moderator
Vice Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Trustees, *Chair*
Diaconate, *Chair*
Stewardship, *Chair*
Music, *Chair*
Peace & Justice, *Chair*
Family Ministries,
Chair

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