

Cross Currents



November 2012 • Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors

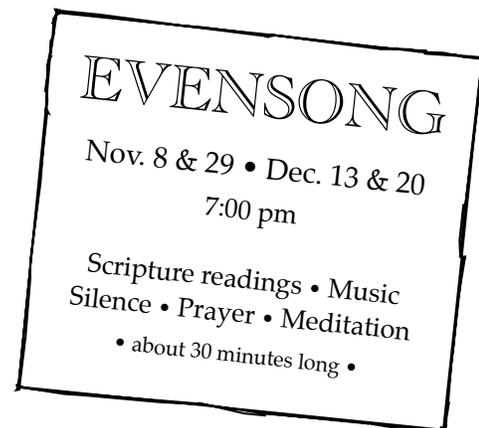
From Pastor Andrea

This holiday season as you shop for gifts for loved ones consider purchasing artwork to give away! Let me explain. I am now a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Homeless—which is the shelter/resource center on Worthington Street in Springfield that feeds, houses and supports men and women who are homeless. It is quite an incredible place and “our” Bill Miller is the Executive Director.

As my first project with the Friends of the Homeless, I am heading up an effort to hang ART in the shelter/resource center to make the place warmer, more inviting and more like home. The new building is an amazing facility, but it still feels a little cold because there is very little color and no artwork! Consequently, Bill and I are going to be “decorating” the shelter/resource center to make it more appealing and homey. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please give your artwork to me and I will take it down to Springfield.

Here are the guidelines:

- All the artwork you contribute must be a GIFT not a loan. The artwork will be hung at the shelter/resource center and will not be returned to you.
- We prefer if all artwork is framed.
- We do not want artwork that is “political” in any way or, as Bill says, “has an agenda!”
- We welcome artwork that reflects the diversity of the human race!
- If we get too much artwork (what a wonderful problem!), some art will be offered to the tenants who have rooms in one part of the shelter/resource center. They decorate their own rooms.
- Oil paintings, pastels, photographs and fiber art are all welcome.
- We have spaces for all sizes of artwork, so large and small pieces are most welcome
- All artwork will be hung on the walls.
- We cannot accept sculpture or objects that sit on tables or shelves.



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I know some of you will want to be a part of this great project. And maybe this winter you will go down to the shelter/resource center with me to help hang the artwork! Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to contribute to this wonderful effort. I think it will make holiday shopping more meaningful and it may inspire some of you who are artists to create something to donate to this project!

With love and with appreciation,



Pastor Andrea

Changing of the Guard

Our Church Family is blessed to have many able, willing, talented leaders. We are so grateful for the many, many people who do the good work of keeping our Church running! A great deal of the work of the Church is in the hands of volunteers who, on top of jobs, families, and the busy-ness of life find ways to keep our faith community HUMMING. Thank you one and all! Here are some of the recent changes in leadership roles at the Church.

Val Hooper-Lindros and Tara Lindros are expecting their first baby in December! Val has stepped away (after MANY years) from her role as Newsletter Editor. Richard Spencer, who worked for Boston area publishers as a designer/art director will be in charge of the design and production of CrossCurrents.

Diane Scott will continue as the Chair of Trustees until January. Rick Turner has been elected as the Vice Chair of Trustees and will step into the Chair position in January.

Connie Fender, construction manager extraordinaire, has been the lead consultant and wise counselor dealing

with the "building bulge" on the High Street side of the Church and also the big hole in the steeple. Working closely with Richard Spencer, Connie has provided invaluable guidance.

Paul Dunphy has stepped away from his position as Shepherd and Lee Satterfield has become a Shepherd again (she served once before!).

Paula Spencer has stepped down from being the church librarian and Laura Paul has taken on that role. Our church book group, which Paula has led for three years, is now on hiatus.

The Building Maintenance Committee now consists of Richard Spencer, Sue Carbin, Danny Hathaway and Kathy O'Connor. We thank them for sharing the load of keeping our building safe and in good repair!

Lauren Pierce, Marcia Gomes, Toby Davis, Chip Roughton, and Stefanie Davis have begun a year of service as Youth Group Leaders, co-leading our Sunday evening Youth Group with Joanne Morgan. Chip and Stef went through the training with Joanne and are now poised to co-lead the Our Whole Lives curriculum with our Youth.

- Pastor Andrea

Stewardship and Fall Family Outings

Stewardship, as defined by Merriam-Webster is: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Our kids learn how to care for many things in Children's Church. They have learned how to plant and tend seeds and starters in our intergenerational garden, they have learned to care for their brothers and sisters in Haiti by making dolls to comfort children affected by the devastating earthquake, and they have learned to care for one another in sharing their joys and

concerns. This year the Stewardship Committee is asking the kids to help care for our church. The children are being asked to bring in pennies each week, throughout the Stewardship Campaign. Each week the offering is given AFTER the children are dismissed upstairs. It's our hope that we can begin teaching the kids how they can be responsible stewards for our church by giving their own offerings. Please help your kid(s) to remember their pennies each week!

The Children's Church Board (Andrew Geery, Karen Guiel, Joanne Morgan and Maureen Ricksgers) has decided to offer a family-friendly, no-to-low-cost outing once a month. In October we took a hike at Fitzgerald Lake and ten people took part. The kids were given baskets to find treasures on their hike, and afterwards we all had cider and apple cake! We closed in prayer for the wondrous autumn day God had given us. On Nov. 10, Andrew will be heading up our evening of 'Dinner and a Movie' at 5:30 pm. Stay tuned for details about our holiday craft night in December featuring the talents of Maureen. We will be creating Christmas story bags that enable the children to tell the story through props much like in Godly Play.

Thanks to all the teachers who have served during this first rotation: Karen Guiel, Dana Gillette, Wilson Molano, Michael Fournier, Kara Beth Joseph, Jen Griswold, Karla Hathaway, Judy Swanson and Jeff Olmsted. The children are blessed to have such loving, wise and creative teachers.

- Dawn Orluske

Below: Starting off our hike at Fitzgerald Lake: Julie Guiel, Tatum Hathaway, Sarah Guiel and Miles Swanson-Ricksgers front is Daniel Guiel



Photo by Dawn Orluske

It's the Stewardship Season!

Our Favorite Time of Year

Stewardship Committee (Chair Kayla Gilman-Solomon, Bonnie Atkins, Toby Davis and Pastor Andrea) actually think Stewardship Season IS our favorite time of the year! We LOVE our Committee, and our plans for the 2012 Stewardship Campaign are "awesome" (Toby's word). We have a great theme, we love our Church, we are not afraid to talk about money, we all love giving to the Church, and we are happy to lead the charge encouraging everyone to make a generous pledge to the Church. So what's not to love?

Here are the Stewardship Campaign dates for this year:

Oct. 28: we launch the Campaign and we announce the goal

Nov. 4: Toby speaks about his giving

Nov. 11: Kayla speaks about her giving

Nov. 18: Bonnie speaks about her giving and Pastor Andrea preaches on Stewardship. That is the day you get your RED ENVELOPE with a letter in it from the committee AND your famous pledge form. Then you all ponder and discern and think about how much you want to pledge for 2012.

Dec. 9: All pledge forms are brought to Church, collected in baskets by Committee members and blessed

Dec. 23: We announce whether we made our goal!!!!

So everyone get ready to get on board with another upbeat, uplifting, fun and energetic Stewardship Campaign. We want to be 100% giving--that means 100% of our Church members make a pledge in 2012 for 2013. We know you will pull through. YOU ALWAYS DO!

We thank you in advance for your pledge!

-Kayla Gilman-Solomon

Bible Study: The Book of Exodus

For the last few weeks Pastor Andrea has led a group of twenty-two members of the congregation in an in-depth study of the book of Exodus. We have learned about the Israelites' suffering while in bondage in Egypt and of their miraculous escape into freedom. Some of the themes we've studied and discussed include the development of identity, the process of learning to live in community, and the story of how God taught the Israelites to be free, providing them with food as well as spiritual sustenance. Studying Exodus has made us think about these lessons in terms of our individual lives and the life of our church here in Haydenville. We have thoroughly enjoyed these weeks of Bible Study and we hope that Pastor Andrea continues this program in the future!

- Velma Garcia

Our recent Book Group meeting opened with this prayer:

"Loquacious, still-speaking God, thank you, thank you, thank you for books and for writers, for words and for reading, and for those who taught me to read and to learn to love it."

Rev. Anthony B. Robinson
Still Speaking Devotional



Our church, note the dirt road, bicycle, child(?) on the fence with knee-socks, old style telephone poles, and the size of trees along High Street...

Photo compliments of Lynn Goodhue

Haydenville Choir Rocks!

Haydenville Choir rocks! And besides presenting music every Sunday during worship, we are branching out: renamed "Peace In The Valley", we are performing as part of "First Night" in Northampton. That's December 31, 3 pm in the sanctuary at First Churches. We will be doing some of the repertoire you've heard and loved in the last year AND we will be featuring Rev. Andrea as performer/singer/rabble rouser! Put it on your calendar, and bring all of your friends- that space is BIG!

Thanks to members Ross Bassett, Sandy Blackmon, Emily Dines, Carolyn duBois, Susan Farrell, Jim and Christine Foudy, Marcia Gomes, Karen Guiel, Peter Ives, Kathleen Kent, Jeff Luekens, Lauren Pierce, Anne Pratt, Mary Sheehan, Richard Spencer, Ann Turner, Mary Vaughan, Kim Waddell, Kathy Walsh, Eleanor Warnock and Cate Wilson. And THANKS FOR LISTENING!

- Jeff Olmsted

Make Soup, Not War

Is anyone else out there as deeply disturbed by current events as I am right now? I know we've always had war in various places of the world, plus poor people shunted aside and ignored, plus victims of racism, homophobia, and violence to nature and humankind. But somehow this fall these sad and bitter parts of human behavior feel like an iron cloak on my shoulders. I cannot even read about Syria anymore it is so upsetting, particularly after we read the wonderful book, "Bread of Angels" which tells of the monastery outside of Damascus headed by an Italian priest who tried to stay neutral and provide sanctuary for both sides in the conflict.

So today I ran around the house, trying to find something that would make me feel not quite so like a blasted heath or the aftermath of a car crash. Called a friend. That kind of helped except she was decidedly needy at the time, and I was decidedly not in a place to nourish her. Walked the dog. Always good for a time, but somehow it wasn't doing it for me. And straight gin at 2 in the afternoon simply isn't an option.

Then, ex-hippy that I am, I ran out to the garden (somehow rushing about when you feel terrible always seems to help a bit), pulled some leeks, and dug out the last of the carrots. They were huge and healthy looking, a bright, crisp orange. Inside I washed the veggies, chopped the leeks, and sliced the carrots, putting them into a big iron pot with sizzling olive oil. Then I added part of a sweet potato, a chopped apple, chicken broth, balsamic vinegar, fresh thyme, a sprinkle of ginger, and lots of fresh black pepper.

Grinding up the pepper definitely made me feel better. I put on some Gregorian chant and listened to it as I stirred the soup. The black mood began to lift. And with it, I lifted my hands.

"I have no control over this, God. I cannot help the Syrians being killed in Damascus. I can't help the Christians in Iraq. I can't repair the European Union or help the enraged Greeks. But by God, I CAN make soup."

Blessed John the 23rd, a man of great humility and joy who oversaw the Vatican II council and opened the doors of the Catholic Church to the winds of modernity, used to pray at night in bed with these words:

"Lord, it's your Church, not mine. I did the best I can. I'm going to bed!"

This is a good attitude to have. It doesn't take away our responsibility to vote, to help the poor and the needy. It just reminds us that ultimately, this is not in our hands. What IS in my hands is making soup, bringing some to a vet friend who just had his mouth harpooned by a dentist, and feeding my "guys" at the end of a long work day.

It doesn't always feel like much, but somehow I think it is "much." We feed others. And they go out into the world to feed others. Imagine those hands cradled around a cup of hot homemade soup and I think we have a small glimpse of heaven--a concrete, earthy, nourishing heaven.

- Annie Turner

November Birthdays!

- 1 Ruth Jacobson-Hardy
- 2 Ross Bassett
- 5 Martha Sager-Cutt
- 6 Ella Agostino-Pierce
- 8 Sean McElligott
- 9 Sayla Russell-Baker
- 10 Danielle Poudrier
- 11 H. Allan Kellogg
- 13 Tara Castaldo
- 16 Rose Sullivan
- 17 Mary Lee Satterfield
- 18 George Henry
Tildy Turchinetz
- 20 Joanne Morgan
- 22 Nancy Demarais
- 23 Leah Kellogg
Audrey G. Walker
- 24 Paula Welch
- 25 Jacquelin Cloonan
- 29 Beth Agostino
- 30 cmoore

A View from the Balcony: Thoughts from the Youth Group

Since Rally Day in early September, the Youth Group has been meeting in the balcony during the worship service. We are learning about the order of the worship service, and have spent a lot of our time creating and writing cards for members and friends of our congregation who are lifted up in the weekly Joys and Concerns. We also spend some time writing in our journals, responding to questions and thoughts about church, the sermon, our faith, and ourselves. We'd like to share some of our thoughts with you...

Q: In one word, how would you describe our church?

A: Awesome, Loud, Big, Loving

Q: What are your thoughts about church?

A: It's a fun place. It's a good place to be. I like the food. It's nice.

Q: Why do you come to church?

A: Because I said I wanted to go, I told my mom I wanted to worship with somebody.

Q: Does God care whether or not you go to church?

A: No. He'd prefer it, but doesn't mind if you don't.

Q: What do you like about our church?

A: Everybody's nice. I like the food table. It's calm, especially when my brother's not running around and being crazy. It's nice.

Q: How would you describe or define God to a child?

A: God is a sacred being. God is the maker of this world. God is all around, like a wind spirit.

- Joanne Morgan & the Youth Group

Youth Group News

Youth Group has begun teaching and learning from the Our Whole Lives sexuality education and healthy relationships curriculum. This will be a pilot year of implementing Our Whole Lives with the Youth Group, and we appreciate the congregation's support and feedback as we begin this work together. I am sharing with you here the values underlying Our Whole Lives, and I

would be happy to speak with anyone in the congregation about this exciting new program!

Our Whole Lives Program Values

Self-Worth

Every person is entitled to dignity and self-worth and to his or her own attitudes and beliefs about sexuality.

Sexual Health

Knowledge about human sexuality is helpful, not harmful. Every individual has the right to accurate information about sexuality and to have her or his questions answered.

Healthy sexual relationships are:

- consensual (both people consent)
- nonexploitative (equal in terms of power, neither person is pressuring or forcing the other into activities or behaviors)
- mutually pleasurable (both receive pleasure)
- safe (no or low risk of unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and emotional pain)
- developmentally appropriate (appropriate to the age and maturity of persons involved)
- based on mutual expectations and caring
- respectful (including the values of honesty and keeping commitments made to others).

Sexual intercourse is only one of many valid ways to express sexual feelings with a partner. It is healthier for young adolescents to postpone sexual intercourse.

Responsibility

We are called to enrich our lives by expressing sexuality in ways that enhance human wholeness and fulfillment and express love, commitment, delight, and pleasure.

All persons have the right and obligation to make responsible sexual choices.

WE NEED A SNOWBLOWER!

We are buying a new snowblower (about \$1000) to get us through this winter (which is supposed to be very cold and snowy!) and many winters to come. Donations toward the snowblower happily and gratefully received. Please see Pastor Andrea.

Donations towards a NEW Dishwasher

Pastor Andrea is accepting gifts of any size to pay for our new dishwasher (much needed!!!!). The cost of the dishwasher is \$3500 of which \$2000 has been raised. We are seeking the final \$1500 from donors! Want to help?!!!! Please see Andrea!

"Our Whole Lives" continues on page 7

Calendar for November

Every effort has been made to make this calendar current and accurate. However, you would be wise to also check the electronic church calendar to confirm meeting dates, times and locations.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri. Nov. 2	5:30-8 pm	Friendly 8s Dinner, Florence Group	Dining Room
Sat. Nov. 3	9-11 am	Bible Study Series on Exodus, <i>Pastor Andrea</i>	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 4	9-9:45 am	Adult Sunday School	Dining Room
	10 am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
	5 pm	Youth Group Meeting	Dining Room
	6 pm	Buddhist Meditation Group, <i>Rev. Nathan McElligott</i>	Children's Church
Mon. Nov. 5	6 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Tues. Nov. 6	5:30 pm	Trustees Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Nov. 7	5:30 pm	What Protestants Believe, <i>led by Ross Bassett & Rev. Phil Hall</i>	Dining Room
Thurs. Nov. 8	7 pm	Evensong (contemplative worship)	Sanctuary
Fri. Nov. 9	6 pm-8 am	Youth Overnight	Dining Room
Sat. Nov. 10	10 am	Book Group	Dining Room
	5:30 pm	Children's Church Gathering	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 11	9-9:45 am	Adult Sunday School	Dining Room
	10 am	Worship Service. Stewardship Sunday	Sanctuary
	12 noon	Church Council Meeting	Sanctuary
	5 pm	Youth Group Meeting	Dining Room
	6 pm	Buddhist Meditation Group, <i>Rev. Nathan McElligott</i>	Children's Church
	Wed. Nov. 14	5:15pm	Children's Church Meeting
	7:15 pm	Shepherds' Meeting	Dining Room
Thurs. Nov. 15	1 pm	Ladies Aid	Dining Room
Sat. Nov. 17	11 am	Gloria Ayvazian Celebration (see pg. 7)	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 18	9-9:45 am	Adult Sunday School - Final Session in 2012	Dining Room
	10 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	5 pm	Youth Group Meeting	Dining Room
	6 pm	Buddhist Meditation Group, <i>Rev. Nathan McElligott</i>	Children's Church
Thurs. Nov. 22	12 noon	Thanksgiving Day Potluck Dinner, All Welcome!	Dining Room
Fri. Nov. 23	5 pm	Grasshill Gallery set-up	Dining Room

Corrections to the Directory
 ATKINS, Bonnie - email: batkinslee@gmail.com
 BARBER, Alice - email: Abarber821@aol.com

Continued on page 7

Calendar for November

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat. Nov. 24	8-5 pm	Grasshill Gallery 18 th Annual Christmas Craft Fair	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 25	10 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	5 pm	Youth Group Meeting	Dining Room
	6 pm	Buddhist Meditation Group, <i>Rev. Nathan McElligott</i>	Children's Church
Tues. Nov. 27	5-8 pm	Soup, Salad, & Social Change	Dining Room
Thurs. Nov. 29	7 pm	Evensong (contemplative worship)	Sanctuary

Our Whole Lives Program Values • *continued*

Justice and Inclusivity

We need to avoid double standards. People of all ages, genders, races, backgrounds, income levels, physical and mental abilities, and sexual orientations must have equal value and rights.

Sexual relationships should never be coercive or exploitative.

Being romantically and sexually attracted to both genders (bisexual), the same gender (homosexual) or the other gender (heterosexual) are all natural in the range of human sexual experience.

I am happy to share more information about Our Whole Lives – please just find me at coffee hour or by email (joannemorgan28@gmail.com) or phone (857 -389-2859) with your questions!

Thank you again to folks who've provided us with such delicious dinners during the first two months of youth group! We are so blessed to have such a caring congregation.

- Joanne Morgan

New System for Repairs at the Church

The Building Maintenance Committee now consists of Richard Spencer, Sue Carbin, Danny Hathaway and Kathy O'Connor. Should you notice that something in the Church needs fixing

or repair, leave a message in the mail slot (at the foot of the stairs leading up to Children's Church) that is marked "Building Maintenance." You'll see the slot. That is the NEW SPOT to leave notes for the Building Maintenance Committee. Please do NOT approach a Committee member at Church and tell them verbally about something that needs attention (grabbing someone does NOT work well!). Please leave a detailed note in the "Building Maintenance" mailbox and the repair that is needed will get done! Thank you!

Welcome New Members

The names of **Rachel Greenwood, Peter Ives, Thomas Leamon, Karen Lowe, Mary Martone, Jeff Olmsted** and **Tildy Turchinetz** have been presented for membership in the Haydenville Congregational Church. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of our Church family. Through prayer and study they have been led by God to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with the members and friends of the Haydenville Congregational Church. They are here for service to God, using the gifts that God has given them.

**A
CELEBRATION!
AND A VERY
SPECIAL
SERVICE
TO HONOR
GLORIA
AYVAZIAN
ON HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY!**

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 17,
2012 • 11 A.M.
HAYDENVILLE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

SERVICE IN THE
SANCTUARY,
RECEPTION TO
FOLLOW

NO GIFTS PLEASE!
"I AM DIVESTING!"
RSVP REGRETS
ONLY
413.584.4899

Church Leadership

Rev. Andrea Ayvazian
Pastor & Teacher

Sue Carbin
Council, Moderator

Lynn Goodhue
Church Treasurer

Jo Cannon
Church Clerk

Ruth Jacobson-Hardy
Diaconate, Chair

Diane Scott
Trustees, Chair

Dawn Orluske
Head of
Children's Church

Joanne Morgan
Youth Leader

Jeff Olmsted
Choir Director

Ken Forfia
Church Organist

Kathy O'Connor
Church Sexton

Vicha Hajdamowicz
Administrative
Assistant

Jackie Cloonan
Ladies Aid, Chair

Maureen Ricksgers
Children's Church
Committee

Jackie Cloonan
Peace and Justice
Committee, Chair

**Kayla Gilman-
Solomon**
Stewardship
Committee, Chair

Carolyn DuBois
Music Committee,
Chair

Sue Carbin
Church Scheduler
scarbin1973@aol.com

Linda Zeigenbein
Interfaith Cot
Shelter, Coordinator

Annie Harrison
Scripture Reader,
Coordinator

Nancy Capron
Angel Take-out

Laura Paul
Church Librarian

Darien Gardner
Head Usher

Kim Waddell
Head Greeter

**Maggie Solis &
Laura Garcia**
Webmasters

Richard Spencer
Newsletter Design
& Production

Toby Davis
Accessible to All
(A2A), Chair

Jackie Cloonan
Grounds
Committee, Chair

**Sue Carbin, Danny
Hathaway, Kathy
O'Connor & Richard
Spencer**
Building
Maintenance

Shepherds

- Mary Sheehan
Chair 532-9848
- Ross Bassett
- Robert Davis
- Jen Griswold
- Kara Beth Joseph
- Sally Lemaire
- Ann Pratt
- Lee Satterfield
- Ann Vanderburgh

Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
143 Main Street, PO Box 257
Haydenville, MA 01039
413 268-9344

www.haydenvillechurch.org

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Our Church Family is so great at bringing delicious goodies for our FAMOUS Coffee Hour. Remember that when it is YOUR week, you also come early to help set up and you stay late to help clean up! Thank you everyone. Here's the line-up for November:

November 4: S, T, U, V
November 11: A, B, C & W, X, Y, Z
November 18: D, E, F
November 25: G, H, I, J, K