

Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church
May 2010 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

FROM THE PASTOR

I have noticed that in recent years some churches are described by their music. If someone says they attend a "traditional service," we may think that in their church they sing hymns from the 18th century accompanied by an organ. If people say they attend a "contemporary service," we might imagine that we would find a band there, a drum set, and some microphones. If someone says they are going to a "Taize service," we would expect a particularly meditative form of singing and chanting. If it is "gospel" that is sung, we might imagine an energetic and inspiring form of music and worship.

Some pastors have referred to these "competing" styles of music and worship as the "worship wars." That's the new catch phrase. Having heard the expression "worship wars" recently in a clergy group, I found myself thinking (of course) about our worship at the Haydenville Congregational Church--and I found myself wondering how we would describe our music and worship style. I realized that on any one Sunday we might sing hymns and songs from four different traditions. Does that make us wonderfully eclectic or terribly unfocused?

On any given Sunday we might sing "Dazzling Bouquet" (which is as nutty as they get), followed by "In the Garden" (written in 1913), followed by "Somos el Barco" (written by a folksinger in Greenfield), followed by "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (from the Taize

songbook), followed by "Angels Hovering 'Round" (which we now know by heart). How would one categorize who we are based on that mishmash? Maybe it says we are a contemporary church family who love old traditions and relish meditative chanting songs and have memorized some sweet four-line sung responses. Maybe our multi-tradition song choices each Sunday say this about us: we are children and adults, long-time church members and newcomers, gay and heterosexual, rich and poor and in between, women and men, and we like some different things and we like some of the same things and we like to sing. Maybe the diverse songs and hymns we sing each week reflect the diversity of US. Maybe that's just who we are. Maybe it is a good thing. I love our congregational singing, I love the contributions to our worship service offered by our choir, and I love when we spontaneously burst into one of the well-known, now well-loved four-line song/chants we have learned and sing out of the blue from time to time. I don't think we are unfocused, we are just hard to categorize or pigeon-hole. The family of God is diverse, and so are we, so let's just sing on! I think we're wonderful.

Love and Blessings,



NOTE FROM MATILDA:

Children's Church and Youth and Family Ministries

Haydenville Youth Group: Group Member Profile #3

Starting in March, we began featuring a profile of each of the members of our Youth Group in the newsletter. Please read and enjoy!

Youth: Ileana Fournier

Grade and School: 5th Grade, Jackson St., Northampton

Nickname: "Ana"

Family members: Mom, dad, brother Gabe, Dog Sadie, Cat and Lizard.

Hobbies: Gymnastics, Reading, Writing

The thing that makes Ileana laugh the hardest: "Funny things in books." "And, once when my teacher yelled into the trash can because we could not understand a simple math problem."

My hope for the World: "That everyone will have a full belly."

Favorite thing about Haydenville: "The people—everyone is so nice!"

More about Ileana: As you may know, our current youth group began as a group that I called "YYG," or, "Younger Youth Group." We formed this group because after the Confirmation Class formed, the younger youth decided that they too wanted their own group. Ileana was one of the main incentives for this group, and it is now in its third year and moving towards year of confirmation/coming of age in 2010-11. Ileana let us know that she too wanted to learn about God and have fellowship and community with her peers, and so we formed! At the time she was new to our church and just 8 years old! Now a bright, energetic, busy, and deep thinking 11-year-old, Ileana is still a blessing to have in our midst. Ileana is an extremely talented gymnast, and is deeply committed to her practice. She spends many weekends at meets and practices, and can sometimes be seen flipping and somersaulting around the Dining Room or Children's Church, as she is often unable to contain her energy and skill! But there is more to Ileana than meets the eye. She is deeply committed to service, both at school and at her church, and has been a leader in many of our service projects. She is also a reader, a writer, and a thinker. She may publish something someday! Please introduce yourself to Ileana if you have not had the pleasure of meeting her, and stay tuned to our Youth Group bulletin board for a picture!

In Other Youth and Family News:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began

to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. -Acts 2'1-21

May is a Month of Excitement and Transitions in Children's Church! This spring children will be delving deep into the parables, and the youth have a special unit on a Christian perspective on the "isms" taught by Toby Davis. **On May 23rd**, the Youth will take a trip to **Red Gate Farm** in Buckland and children and families will have our Sunday worship service there, followed by chores on the farm, fellowship with the animals, and a picnic lunch! **On May 30th we will have our last Children's Church** of the year, and we will celebrate **Children's Sunday with, among other things, the Baptism of the Haydenville triplets, Rowan, Ezra, and Ellis Durrant-West.**

As always, our Children's Church celebrates the season of Pentecost by looking at the story told in the Book of Acts of how the Holy Spirit fills each of us with different languages, and yet there is understanding all around. For us this represents the importance of the individuality of each of us, and the importance of diversity of all kinds in our Children's Church. Pentecost is the time when Jesus, and all that he represents, comes to each of us in the form of the Holy Spirit, and reminds us of the importance of our own individual characteristics, strengths and gifts.

Children's Church ends for the year on Sunday. May 30th, and after that parents and our childcare helpers will rotate providing childcare during the summer months. But keep your eyes out for the contributions of the kids to our "Children's Church Garden," planted and maintained last year by Jackie Cloonan, Jo Cannon, Kathleen Kent and others, in the back left corner of the lot that borders the parking lot. Like a garden, the children themselves blossom and grow in miraculous ways during the summer months—so keep your eyes on them!

THE MILL RIVER FLOOD OF MAY 16, 1874

By Kathleen Kent

Writing the following article was difficult because I had to leave so much out, yet there was so much I didn't want to include. Even when I wasn't reading about the flood, the stories and gory details would linger in my mind. With many of the stories stemming from this disaster, one gets the picture of horror and unfathomable grief, but also of heroism, bravery and unfathomable strength. Rising from all of these stories is an immense spirit of unwavering devotion to one another; whether known or unknown, person or pet, alive or dead.

In the end I included a summary of the disaster, a few astounding stories, and some of the church's involvement. Most of the information is taken both directly and

indirectly from Elizabeth M. Sharpe's book, [In the Shadow of the Dam](#), 2004.

On Saturday morning, May 16, 1874, the Williamsburg Reservoir dam, located three miles above the Town Hall, burst open. It sent an avalanche of water down the Mill River, and within an hour left roughly 140 people dead and 740 homeless. The force of the reservoir devastated the villages of Skinnerville, Haydenville, and Leeds and swept onto the Florence Meadow to deposit much of what had been picked up along the way. This included parts of mills, shops, farms, trees, bridges, and houses (mostly of factory workers). The majority of victims in Skinnerville and Haydenville had immigrated from Canada and Ireland and worked in the mills.

Years later, a man who saw the flood as a boy tried to put into words what he saw as the flood approached:

A great mass of brush, trees, and trash was rolling rapidly toward me. I have tried many times to describe how this appeared; perhaps the best simile is that of hay rolling over and over as a hay rake moves along the field, only this roll seemed twenty feet high, and the spears of grass in the hay rake enlarge to limbs and trunks of trees mixed with boards and timbers; at this time I saw no water.

A few people were able to wriggle themselves free from the debris. Ten-year-old George Roberts floated from the breakfast table at his home in Williamsburg to Haydenville, two miles downstream. He untangled himself on the riverbank next to his neighbor's cow, who had also survived the journey. As George crawled up the bank, the cow followed. When George stopped to rest, the cow did the same. Four or five times up the river bank George and the cow crept, stopped, and rested, neither leaving the other's side. An observer said he couldn't tell if the boy was caring for the animal, or if it was the other way around.

Mrs. Mockler snatched her son from his bed. The previous winter he had fallen on the ice and sprained his ankle. Unable to move, his legs were frozen before he was discovered and he was left unable to walk. Mrs. Mockler and her son escaped the house but could not make it to dry land. For more than ten minutes she stood waist-deep in water, taking blows from floating rubbish. Despite being knocked down twice, she never let go of her boy until they were rescued after the water subsided.

Many people were saved due to a few heroes, including George Cheney, who insisted the dam was breaking; and Collins Graves and Jerome Hillman who raced their horses for miles downstream to warn as many people as possible.

Graves and Hillman entered Haydenville together then quickly separated. Hillman yelled to the people filing out of the brass works to run for their lives then raced down the

street past the church, calling to the sexton to ring the bell. When Hillman flew back up the street he saw no one in the bell tower. So he climbed up the bell tower but managed only one or two peals before the church was surrounded by water. Then he waded up the hill behind the church to save himself.

By Saturday afternoon, survivors in Haydenville were using the basement of the church as a temporary morgue. The church was still cloaked in black banners for Sunday's memorial service for Joel Hayden Sr., who died six months earlier. Huge floral arrangements adorned the sanctuary. Acting Governor Talbot and several members of the governor's executive had already arrived in Northampton to attend Hayden's service the next morning. But now women were in the basement arranging corpses in rows and attempting to identify them. They covered each with a white sheet brought from home, and pinned on a slip of paper bearing the name of the deceased, if known. Before undertaking became a professional service, preparing the dead for burial was customarily women's work. Those who found loved ones returned with wagons.

On Saturday night each of the flooded villages held a meeting of its citizens to organize recovery and relief efforts. In Haydenville, Reverend James Kimball of the Haydenville Church and Dr. William Trow, the town's physician, were appointed to the relief committee. Dr. Trow urged an inquest to determine the cause of the disaster, and responsibility, asserting that they needed an explanation of why the dam should break at a time when no unusual pressure was placed on it. Reverend Kimball sought monetary relief from all levels, and at one point he stood outside the church with a contribution can. It's reported that someone asked Kimball if there would be preaching tomorrow. "No," he replied, "God does the preaching tomorrow."



*View of Haydenville
(See more photos on back cover)*

ROBERT H. LIFE SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2010



Any member or child of a member who is furthering his or her education is eligible to apply for the Robert H. Life scholarship fund. This includes siblings in the same family. The Life Fund may be used for as many years as needed. Each person applying must write a letter asking

for the fund and include the following information:

Your name, address and telephone number

Social Security Number

Name, address and phone number of the school you are attending

The amount of the tuition

Send or give this to Donna Harlan

10 The Lope

Haydenville, MA 01039

The amount of the scholarship will be determined by how much money we receive from the fund, how many requests we receive, and the amount of your tuition.

The deadline for applying is May 28, 2010.

BIBLE

Submitted by Norma Kellogg

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

WE NEED YOU!

Please be a donor to the Church's CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ~ we need all hands on deck to make our goal of \$100,000 to paint the Church this summer and do structural repairs to our beloved building! Please send a check OR give on-line (fast and easy). We need you and we thank you in advance for your generosity!



GOOD-BYE TO HCCHURCH

By Cherylann Richards

Intern from Andover Newton Theological School

It is hard to believe, but my year as your intern is coming to an end. It has been a very full and rewarding year. As most of you know, the vast majority of my time was spent in Children's Church and with the youth group. This was my hope and one of the main attractions of HCC as an internship site because children and youth religious education was the one area where I had minimal experience. I learned so much working with Pastor Matilda, the Children's Church teachers, and all of our children. I learned about Godly Play, taught many of the stories, designed and led response times, led Children's worship, helped facilitate teacher training workshops, did lots of music, attended and helped facilitate youth group meetings, learned how the Children's Church Committee worked, and by the time you read this will have survived (hopefully) an overnight youth group lock in event! HCC has an incredible Children and Youth program, so incredible I encourage you to learn about it and perhaps even consider taking part.

I also had many other opportunities here at HCC including taking part in Adult worship, writing many confessions and many assurances of pardon, leading a memorial service, providing pastoral care, preaching on Ash Wednesday, taking part in leading Maundy Thursday and Easter services and I will preach on May 2. I had multiple opportunities to meet with Pastor Andrea, other church leaders, and a designated support group and learned a great deal from these people. And of course, got to know all of you at coffee hour. Throughout this time I consistently felt warmly welcomed and appreciated and I don't think there is really a way to thank you that could completely express my gratitude. I will commit instead to "paying it forward" as I leave Haydenville and continue my ministry in other places, carrying all of you and my experiences here at HCC in my heart. I pray that God will continue to bless you and the many ministries of HCC.

BOOK GROUP

The Church Book Group is growing and thriving. At our meeting on April 10 we welcomed several new participants and had a great discussion of Marcus Borg's The God We Never Knew. In May we'll be reading Sarah: A Novel by Marek Halter, a fictional rendering of the Old Testament story of Sarah and Abraham. Everyone is most welcome to join us on May 8 at the Lilly Library in Florence, 10 a.m. Please speak with Paula Spencer for more information or if you have questions.



WALKING THE LABYRINTH

During Lent, we placed a huge canvas labyrinth in the Dining Room on three different occasions and people came and walked the labyrinth in silence (with soft music playing). We had a "Guest Book" out on a table and here is what people wrote about the experience they had walking the sacred and ancient pathway called the labyrinth.

February 23, 2010

Carol Wilson - My experience walking the labyrinth was a gift, a blessing.

Sue Carbin - A gentle yet powerful experience.

Jackie Cloonan - Unexpected "good things" are always right around the corner.

Susan Farrell - A mind-cleansing, freeing experience.

Jo Cannon - Following the path of life with purpose while pausing for thought and feeling is freeing.

Lee Lee (Lee Satterfield) - You have a candle in your heart. Amen

Paula Spencer - A lovely experience. I found peace at the center – no real answers but maybe that is the answer.

Deb Edwards - As I was walking one of my favorite angel songs came on by Patty Larkin – I did not walk the Labyrinth, I floated through.

Nancy Desmarais - Inspiring and meaningful

March 6, 2010

Lisa Hall - The lines at the center form a question mark. What is the question at the center of my life/our life at this time? How can we live into an answer? Thanks to all who brought us this opportunity to walk the Labyrinth.

Lynn Fogg - It was nice to revisit the labyrinth again – it's simple peacefulness, refreshed me – it was meaningful and holy and just right to reflect on things of Lent.

Mary S. - Thank you for this opportunity. My reflections and meditation seemed so meaningful. I didn't want to leave the center.

Kathleen Kent - I got lost.

Candy Smith - A calming experience.

Annie Turner - This was incredibly powerful and moving. I realized some of the obstacles I put in the path of my journey to God and how much in need of mercy I am. Thanks to all.

i am a little church—e. e. cummings

Submitted by Paula Spencer

i am a little church (no great cathedral) far from the splendor and squalor
of hurrying cities
-- i do not worry if briefer days grow briefest, i am not
sorry when sun and
rain make april

my life is the life of the reaper and the sower; my prayers
are prayers of
earth's own clumsily striving (finding and losing and laughing and crying)
children whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness

around me surges a miracle of unceasing
birth and glory and death and resurrection:
over my sleeping self float flaming symbols of hope, and i
wake to a perfect
patience of mountains

i am a little church (far from the frantic world with its rapture and
anguish) at peace with nature
-- i do not worry if longer nights grow longest; i am not
sorry when silence
becomes singing

winter by spring, i lift my diminutive spire to merciful Him
Whose only now
is forever:
standing erect in the deathless truth of His presence
(welcoming humbly His
light and proudly His darkness)



NEW DEACONS

Every year four deacons complete their three service terms and rotate off the Diaconate and four new deacons rotate on to begin their three years of service. This year our three new deacons are: [Lisa Hall](#) and [Susan Farrell](#) from Williamsburg, [Sarah Icklan](#) from Northampton, and [Jim Palermo](#) from Southampton.

We know they will serve the Church well and hope their service will deepen their individual spiritual journeys.

PEACE AND JUSTICE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Peace and Justice Steering Committee is a spirited, welcoming and fun group of people looking for your input and enthusiasm! We re-formed this group this year and are striving to be activists in our own ways promoting peace, social justice and concern for our planet. Please join us at either of our last two meetings before summer break: May 24 or June 21, both at 5:30pm. We will also be offering a film the evening of May 18 focused on environmental issues--look for a flyer on the specific title in May.

In peace,
The P&J Team

CHECK IT OUT / CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

By Paula Spencer, Church Librarian

Our Church Library is bursting with new (to us) books, ready for you to borrow! The collection has been reorganized and is shelved alphabetically by author, with separate sections for nonfiction, fiction and poetry. Easy directions on how to sign things out are posted. There is also a list of new acquisitions.

Special thanks to Bonnie Atkins who donated some wonderful titles including: Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography (John Dominic Crossan); When God is Silent (Barbara Brown Taylor); Hildegard of Bingen: An Integrated Vision (Anne H. King-Lenzmeier); The Soul Garden: Creating Green Spaces for Inner Growth & Spiritual Renewal (David Norfolk); We Are The Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness (Alice Walker). Thanks Bonnie!

Carol Rinehart gave us a copy of Marion Shaw Hackett's Inspiration Wears Sandals. It was written by the mother of a friend of hers. Marion Hackett and her husband were "agricultural missionaries" in Burma, and the book describes their experiences there.

Since library space is quite limited we are not able to accept every donation. Please give me any books you'd like to have considered for accession rather than leaving them in the library area.

After an inventory of the collection it turns out over 100 items have gone missing (not on shelves and not signed out)!! Please have a look around the house for any books, CDs or anything with an HCC Library sticker so it can find its way back home. There is a list of the Missing on the library shelf FYI.

Happy reading to all!

NEWS FROM KARA ABOUT WILLOT'S TRIP TO HAITI THIS SUMMER



Willot's trip will be from June 28th to August 4th, he will be going with as much as he can in way of CASH, medical supplies (sterile gloves, bandages, ibuprofen, Tylenol, antibiotic ointment), seeds (will buy farming tools in Haiti), baby care items (receiving blankets, infant Tylenol), and toiletries (dental care, soap, etc). His mission is simple.... go home and help!

Willot will be traveling through rural communities, as well as spending time in the city of Port au Prince. He has planned stops in Carrefour, Kencoff, Leogane, and in the Nord West, to visit farmlands, spend time with families in need, hold community empowerment meetings and workshops, and collaborate with local leaders to launch the vegetable seeds project as a part of Ayiti Gouvenans which promotes long term sustainable development in Haiti.

This is also the first time that Willot will be reunited with his family and friends since the quake. He will bring with him more love and compassion than anything else. Willot strongly believes, as do I, that with support from all around the world and a global commitment for social change and justice, Haiti will rise, and again become the pearl of the Caribbean. I will be home, holding down the fort and praying!

Thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD!

Mark your calendars now...

Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ, ANNUAL MEETING:
June 19, 2010 at the DCU Center in Worcester~~Worship, Plenary Sessions, Lunch, Marketplace, Song and Inspiration! Join us!



All Church Picnic on June 27, 2010 at Willowbrook Pavilion at Look Park. We'll gather at the Park right after worship on that day and eat, sing, play games and visit with each other! Plan on attending (the picnic in years past has been wonderful!).



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS!

By Lisa Kautz

As most people know by now, last December the Trustees charged us with a goal of raising \$100,000 for capital improvements to our church. As we stand today, the campaign has raised over \$41,000. The majority of these funds were obtained by what we deem "lead gifts" from some of our members and friends of the Church during the initial "quiet" phase of the campaign.

Now we are moving into the next phase of the campaign, which we initiated by sending out letters and pledge forms to all in our church community. If you have not already done so, we ask that you take the time to fill out your pledge forms or simply visit our website @ <http://www.haydenvillechurch.org/campaign.html> to make your donation.

On April 11 during service I shared some bad news with the congregation regarding one of the capital improvement projects: the painting of the church. Due to changes in the lead paint removal laws the cost of that project has increased substantially (in fact the cost has doubled from the initial figure we first received).

We are starting to move outside of our church community for support. Not only will we be calling on local businesses in the community to ask for their support in this campaign but we are also asking for everyone's consideration in reaching out to friends and family who know how much this Church means to you and see if they are willing to make a contribution. As this is a once in a decade effort by our church and we are amidst a difficult economic time, it is important to reach out beyond our community to ensure we reach our goal of \$100,000.

We recently made the Church home page on the internet include the Capital Campaign on-line donation information --providing a tool for you to simply direct friends and family to our website. This is an easy way for anyone to make a secure online donation as well as perhaps allowing others to learn more about our Church. There is no donation too small and we are very grateful to all who have contributed or pledged to date.

Now that most of us have completed our taxes perhaps a refund is on the way to you??? Please consider using a portion of your refund to make your pledge. I will share that when my return comes in I am sending in my donation from those proceeds.

The last update to share with you is we also have some additional events coming up to raise some funds and have some fun! Tom McCabe, Master Storyteller, is offering an

evening of "Storytelling for Grown-ups" with a Make-Your-Own-Sundaes-Bar to follow his stories (May 14 at 7 PM). And our wonderful Susan Farrell will be singing show tunes--"Susan Sings Broadway"--and we know that will be great (June 17 at 7 PM). Both evenings are not to be missed! Bring friends!

Thanks again for all your support – if you have not pledged or donated please act now – we need your support to reach our goal. On behalf of the entire committee, we thank you!

(Capital Campaign Committee: Lisa Kautz, Chair, Jim Palermo, Martha Smith, Judy Haigler, Kate Davidheiser, Trish LaFreniere, Robert Davis, Andrea Ayvazian)

ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE:

AN EVENING WITH RANDY KEHLER

By Susan Farrell

On April 8, 2010, Randy Kehler spoke and we listened and we were so lucky to be there.

The Peace and Justice group, once again, brought our church and the community a speaker who inspired and spoke quietly and eloquently about his personal journey in practicing active non-violence. As Andrea, his good friend and co-peace activist explained, he is a man who walks the walk, who lost his home to the federal government because he refused to pay taxes to a government that wages war and promotes activities worldwide that weakens other countries' potential versus uplifting their greatest good.

It was a thought-provoking evening in the best sense and one that, I felt, reflects what a church should be about - inspiration to help those in need and promoting the best in all of us. My favorite example that Randy gave was his demonstration of one hand expressing "stop" and the other hand outstretched to show compassion and a spirit of a willingness to work things out. In this way, all parties win and keep their self-esteem.

Thank you, Randy, and Andrea for bringing him in and the Peace and Justice Steering Committee for creating an evening (our third in the series "Soup, Salad, and Social Change") of profound reflection.

CORRECTION!

Last month, Sally Lemaire submitted a wonderful poem she wrote, but the title was printed incorrectly. It should have read, "soul-spirit-anima"; *anima* means 'spirit' in Latin. Our apologies, Sally!

A LETTER FROM SARAH ICKLAN

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I share this news with you: Maddy and I are moving to New York City in September. Maddy's field placement for Smith College School for Social Work is at a place in Manhattan called The Training Institute for Mental Health. It is going to be an awesome opportunity for her, and we are both thrilled about her placement. We are excited to be closer to our families and lots of our friends (some in New Jersey, some in NYC). It will be a great new adventure and we feel ready for it.

We are, however, very sad to leave this place that has become our home. We're not sure yet what the future holds, but we do know that we will be back often to visit, and that our couch will be ready for any couch surfers who want to crash.

September is still a while away, but be sure to get in all the hugs you can in the meantime (I'm gonna need them!). Please know that I love you all dearly and immeasurably, and that I am forever changed because of you. Knowing you and worshiping with you has been my sincere honor and pleasure.

I know I will miss this church and you, my dear church family more than I can ever say.

Thank you for giving me the gift of your love; you will always have mine.

Sincerely,
Sarah (and Maddy)

CHURCH COFFEE HOUR: THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Wonderful, tasty and unusual (!) goodies appear each Sunday for our Coffee Hour because YOU bring them! Thank you O Faithful Providers! Remember anything edible is welcome, goodies do not have to be homemade. Also remember that when it is YOUR week, you also help set up and clean up! Here is the line-up (goes by last names) for May:

May 2: P, Q, R, S

May 9: T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

May 16: A, B, C

May 23: D, E, F, G

May 30: H, I, J, K (Blue Moon Sunday moved to May 8; see article by Matilda.)



OPEN LETTER TO OUR CHURCH FROM ANDREW BAKER

(used with permission)

Dear Rev. Ayvazian:

(I would say Andrea, but I'm writing for the church newsletter!) It was great to finally catch up over tofu scrambled eggs at the Blue House Café last week. And thank you for inviting me to your discussion gathering on Practical Non-Violence with Randy Kehler. It was great to see Randy again and hear his inspiring message. I enjoyed meeting some of your parishioners at the supper – I even began networking with one of them on publicizing an upcoming Climate Change event she is working on in the Hilltown Community Development Corporation quarterly newsletter.

Congratulations to you for your successful efforts in building such a vibrant congregation and beautifully renovated church!

I am following up on our chat to invite members of your congregation into our conversation on how the Haydenville Church and Hilltown CDC might begin to collaborate on community service projects. I mentioned a recent initiative we started last year called our Elder Small Home Repair Program. I have a few other ideas as well. I would be glad to meet with interested members of your congregation if they would like to learn more about Hilltown CDC's work.

One fun way to begin that exploration could be at our upcoming 4th annual Hilltown Spring Festival, which will take place on Saturday, May 15 from 10am – 6pm at the Cumington Fairgrounds. There will be a fantastic musical line up featuring everyone from the Hilltown Charter School chorus to Charles Neville, great local food and beer, local arts and businesses, a Sustainability Expo, kids activities and more. The Festival is a wonderful celebration of Hilltown life. And folks can learn about Hilltown CDC too. Last spring over 1,500 Hilltowners attended. Admission is free but there's a \$10 parking fee, so carpool and save! Hope to meet more of your congregation there. You are all invited.

All the best,

Andrew Baker
Executive Director
Hilltown Community Development Corporation
www.hilltowncdc.org



MAY CALENDAR

Saturday, May 1:	11:30 am	MARCH WITH US IN PRIDE MARCH through downtown Northampton! Meet in the parking lot across from the Northampton Post Office. Come march, sing and wave pride flags with your church family!
Sunday, May 2:	10 AM	Worship Service with Communion, Intern Cherylann Richards preaching "Exploring Membership Classes" in the Pastor's Study following worship service.
Monday, May 3:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting
Wednesday, May 5:	5-6:30 PM	FIRST LIGHT DVD and Discussion Series. Church Dining Room. Everyone is welcome.
Saturday, May 8:	10 -2 PM	Day of Volunteer Service and fun in Northampton's Hampshire Heights; Cleaning up children's play areas and community space (clean up, yard work, handiwork, shared meal and entertainment provided by "Alpha Squad," all youth dance troupe). Sponsored by Youth and Family Ministries. <i>All are welcome</i> and needed.
	10 AM	Church Book Group at Lilly Library, Florence. We're reading <u>Sarah: A Novel</u> by Marek Halter. It's the story of "one of the great women of the Old Testament." Please speak with Paula Spencer if you'd like to join the discussion.
Sunday, May 9:	9:45 AM	HYMN SING Come to Church EARLY because we will have a HYMN SING. We'll call out hymns from the Hymnal and sing whatever ones you choose. Come and sing your heart out!
	10 AM	Worship Service – Mother's Day! Special Collection taken on Mother's Day for Blankets for Hope and Tools of Change (same collection taken on Father's day)
Tuesday, May 11:	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, May 12:	5-6:30 PM	FIRST LIGHT DVD and Discussion Series. Church Dining Room. Everyone is welcome.
Friday, May 14:	7 PM	Story-telling for Grown-ups! With Master Storyteller Tom McCabe, with a "Make Your Own Sundaes" Bar following Tom's performance, Church Dining Room. Tickets \$10.00; Wheelchair accessible – All welcome!
Sunday, May 16:	10 AM	Worship Service
Tuesday, May 18:	5:30 PM	Soup, Salad and Social Change FILM NIGHT, Church Dining Room
Monday, May 17:	4:30 PM	Youth Group, Church Dining Room and 6:30 PM Children's Church Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 19:	7 PM	Shepherd's Meeting
Thursday, May 20:	6:30 PM	Ladies Aid Meeting, Church Dining Room
Sunday, May 23:	10 AM	Worship Service. Youth and Family Ministries Field Trip to Red Gate Farm
Monday, May 24:	5:30 PM	Peace and Justice Steering Committee, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, May 26:	5-6:30 PM	FIRST LIGHT- SESSION 2 BEGINS. Church Dining Room. Everyone is welcome.
Sunday, May 30:	10 AM	"Children's Sunday" Worship Service, Pastor Matilda preaching (Pastor Andrea in Ohio)



Haydenville Congregational Church

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

*Story-telling for Grown-ups!
with Master Storyteller Tom McCabe*

*Friday, May 14, 2010
7:00 PM*

*Haydenville Congregational Church
with a "Make Your Own Sundaes" Bar
following Tom's performance*

Tickets \$10

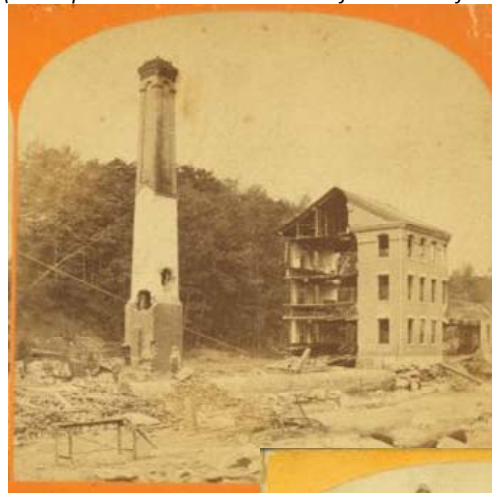
*Tom's performance is a Benefit for the
Church's Capital Campaign
Wheelchair Accessible ~ All Welcome!*

MAY BIRTHDAYS! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!



- May 1 Mary Vaughan
- May 3 Walter Kellogg
- May 4 Karla Hathaway & James Morin
- May 6 Tom Adams & Alice Pannoni
- May 8 Jan Powers & Kristine Pollard
- May 10 Donique McIntosh
- May 11 Jane Hall & Ann Vanderburgh
- May 14 Richard Loomis
- May 15 Susan Molano, Kayla Gilman-Solomon,
Keenan Pilot & Alexandra Bertuck-Wallace
- May 16 Cheryl Gale
- May 19 Darlene Stanesiewski & Jennifer Miller-Antill
- May 21 Kathleen Donoghue & Charles Lennon
- May 22 Sue Biggs
- May 25 Kathy Bonnet
- May 26 Coni Gilman-Solomon
- May 28 Gina Ayvazian
- May 29 Olin Rose-Bardawil
- May 30 Abigail Avakian

(These photos are a continuation of the article found on page 3)



*Ruins of the
Brass Works*



*Residence of
William Skinner*