

# Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church  
September 2008 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

## FROM THE PASTOR



This summer I found a little gem on my e-mail, sent to me by a friend across the country. This little gem is an anonymous compilation of human wisdom. I have included some of the treasures that were included in the e-mail (which is probably

traveling electronically around the world)--and I have added a few of my own. You might have fun writing some of your own as well! If you do write some and want to see them published in the next newsletter, send them along to me and Val we'll print up a page of YOUR contributions!

Loving Blessings to you all,

### I've learned...

(below are excerpts from the e-mail that I received)

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night"....Age 6

I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk....Age 7

I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back...Age 9

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me...Age 15

I've learned that brushing my daughter's hair is one of life's great pleasures...Age 26

I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there....Age 29

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it...Age 41

I've learned that you can make someone's day by just

sending them a little card...Age 44

I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies...Age 47

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly when they die...Age 53

I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, try to improve your marriage...Age 58

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance...Age 62

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness I usually make the right decision...Age 66

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer...Age 72

I've learned to believe in miracles. And, to tell the truth, I've seen several...Age 73

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one...Age 82

I've learned that I have a lot to learn...Age 92

### Here are some I had added (and I am Age 56)

I've learned that summer speeds by three times faster than winter....

I've learned that I get a lot of housework done the day I am supposed to be writing a sermon...

I've learned that a tiny deck with a bunch of potted plants can bring a great deal of joy and serenity...

I've learned that community is almost as important to me as food and water...

I've learned that people feel better after they sing...

I've learned that being healed and being cured are different...

I've learned that we're all doing our best all the time...

I've learned that God is never ever far away....

I've learned that enormous heart-breaking love is worth it...

I've learned that being middle-aged has surprising rewards...

**NOTE FROM  
MATILDA**

Dear Friends,

It is with joy and anticipation that the Children's Program Committee Co-Chairs Annie Culver, Julie Elias, and



Regina Kaufman and I begin another Children's Church Year. This year we will be focusing on the stories from the Old and New Testament using the Godly Play curriculum, and looking at how scripture can speak to us all in so many diverse ways. During Advent and Lent we will focus on service and global awareness. Children's Church begins on 9/7, and registration forms will be available beginning this month. If you register your child for Children's Church, please plan to attend an orientation after worship on 9/7 OR 9/14. These will be informal sessions for you to get to know the space and the teachers. Also, a new Children's Program Committee is forming and will be meeting on Wednesday 9/24 at 6:30. If you are interested in working with this committee or teaching in Children's Church, please see me.

A special thanks to Dawn Orluske and Regina Kaufman who organized summer child care, and to all the parents who helped out in July and August! Thank you!

And please check out our little Children's Church garden all painted by the kids--it was a good first year!

I am looking forward to seeing the kids after the summer break and having another year of growing and learning together.

In faith and gratitude,

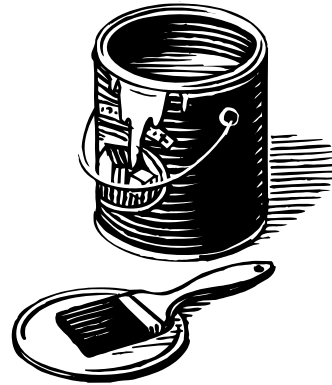
Pastor Matilda

**PAINTING THE NARTHEX AT THE CHURCH**

*Reflections by two people who did the lion's share of the work!*

**From Diane Scott**

This job, like other jobs I have done at the church, has reminded me how important physically working on the church affects me. Throughout this project I have "touched" the structure of the building in many more places. As I have worked, bits of me are left on the walls, floors, ceiling etc., and at the same time the church imbues itself in me. As if, in becoming a part of the church, the church becomes a part of me.



My hands touch the places that people for 150+ years have touched. My fingerprints join those who have cared for and have looked after this building for more than a century. As we work the echoes of our thoughts and conversations join the many that have come before us. Some of these folks I have known, others strangers, connected to me

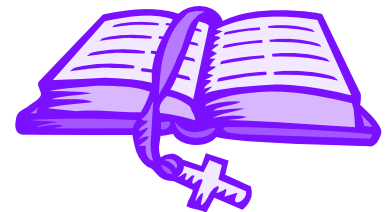
only by a common love. We carry on the tradition of care taking our beloved place of worship. I treasure this experience.

**From Lynn Fogg**

As a new church member, it has been my joy to 'give back' for what I have already received from this Church. My recent "giving back" has been in the form of painting the narthex, along with a number of other church members. "Sprucing up" the physical structure of the church, I think helps to more clearly reflect the wonderful welcoming that we all receive from our church family as we walk through its doors each Sunday. As more projects of this kind are completed, our church will reflect on the outside, the same warmth that we feel on the inside!

**BOOK OF REVELATION BIBLE STUDY**

Does the book of Revelation make you wary? Are you disturbed by how Revelation has been used by some to threaten and condemn "sinners"? Student minister Cherylann Richards will be leading a study of the Book of Revelation on six consecutive Friday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM starting on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Join us and discover the message of "Resistance to Empire" that was presented to the original readers of Revelation. Although not necessary, it might be helpful to read Revelation before the start of the study. This will allow Cherylann to adapt the study to areas people are particularly interested in.



## TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

By Linda Small



As many of you know, I was diagnosed with cancer in April. Over the past five months, church has become a lifeline for my dear Ann and me. I have not been physically able to come every Sunday, but Ann has.

And when she goes without me, I always ask her about the service, who was there, what happened. And after she tells me all of that, she always tells me about the many people who were asking about me. So even when I could not go to church, I felt connected to my church family.

When I first learned that the church would be closed for the month of July, I thought that was a great idea. Then July came. I really felt alone. It was a hard month for me, as I struggled with the negative opinions being offered about my care by the various doctors I was seeing at the time. Then Ann and I decided to get a second opinion on my treatment, and thank god/goddess we did. It is a gift to be working with doctors who are kind, caring and positive.

The church set the stage for this change, I think. Ann and I attended the lay service led by the Loose Ends Group on the Sunday before our second opinion appointment. It was so sweet and gentle--just what we needed before our trip to Boston. It also made me miss my church family and long for the return of "official" services.

When August 3 came, Ann and I were so happy to be back at church. We really missed everyone! A LOT!!!! I loved the whole service: Pastor Andrea's sermon, Communion, and all the songs. Everything was wonderful and touched my heart very deeply. I even had Communion at my seat on Sunday. When I received the bread and juice, I sat down and just began to cry. It was good. I think I had been holding a lot inside and finally I felt safe enough, surrounded by my church family and god/goddess, to let it all out.

As I sat there and cried a number of church family came over and gave me hugs, tissue, pats on the back. It was so healing and loving. Ann was in the back of the church coming back from Communion and she saw what was going on and she said it was very loving and kind. She was so happy to see people stopping on their way to Communion to hug me, it brought tears to her eyes.

I appreciate Pastor Andrea reminding us that God is everywhere always. (You cannot remind me enough on that one,

usually.) I don't need that reminder in church, though. Not after last Sunday.

I am so glad to see everyone again—to get hugs from my church family or just a pat on the back, a smile, or just "I am happy to see you!" And so many of you have told me you are praying for me. That touches my heart in a way that can only be expressed by the tears I have in my eyes as I write this. You all mean so very much to Ann and me. What a gift I have been given in the Haydenville Congregational Church. I am so blessed to have found it! Just so you know, Ann and I still have a long road ahead on this journey. Right now, the plan is for me to have a second surgery and additional Cure Me O'Therapy (chemo) treatments. We think this will all be completed by Christmas time.

Much love and blessings to you all – Linda

## PETS IN NEED

By Jennifer Lewis



As some HCC members and friends may know, the country's economic downturn is making it hard for the many elderly and low-income people to feed and care for their beloved animals. Shelters have seen a big increase in pets given up for adoption because owners can no longer afford to feed them. Such losses can be heartbreaking, especially for elderly or socially isolated owners for whom their pets are primary sources of loving companionship. To help alleviate this situation, the Northampton Survival center is accepting donations of both canned and dry cat and dog food.

## COFFEE HOUR FOOD IN SEPTEMBER

Here is the line-up for September everyone so get ready, get set, start baking! Actually that is just a joke, we welcome non-homemade goodies like store-bought cookies, nuts, cut up fruit or vegetables. Any post-church snack item will be happily devoured! Remember when it is your turn to bring a goodie to share for Coffee Hour, you also help set up and clean up. Thank you everyone!

September 7: U, V, W, X, Y, Z

September 14: A, B, C, D, E

September 21: F, G, H, I, J

September 28: K, L, M, N, O



## WHAT DOES THE CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

By Phil Hall

We could probably find as many answers to that question as the number of people we asked. Remember... *Here's the Church, here's the steeple, open the door and see all the people?* That is familiar to all our ears. But most of us, I think, would not use steeple or building to describe our image of the Church. To run loose with a political campaign slogan, *"It's the People, stupid."*

No doubt, we could all share hurts, wounds and disillusion over how the church has fallen far short of our dreams and/or expectations of what it ought to look like. And, we could probably all easily agree that our own HCC is right "up there" -- among the best. However there is a larger view of the church that many of us have **not** experienced. I am referring to the Massachusetts Conference's Annual Meeting. This year it will be held on November 1st in Worcester. Pastor Andrea will no doubt be sending us more information. These words are just a little FYI. Do check it out and think about it.

For many, going to the Annual Meeting may sound like just another big 'ole boring church meeting. But it is not. There are presentations, discussion groups and an atmosphere that all bring real "meat" to the gathering. This year Rev. Martin Copenhagen, the Senior Pastor of the Wellesley Congregational Church, will be the keynoter. There's no one better. He is one of the bright, bright lights in our Conference.

The theme will focus on "faithful behaviors" with a particular look at the gift of discernment. There will be small sharing groups, opinions that will be to the right and left of your own, caring and inclusion at every turn, worship, singing of a large Conference Choir,

and singing, singing, singing throughout the day. You will not get bored. You will bring a lot to the meeting and the meeting will bring a lot to you and to the Haydenville Congregational Church.

Do consider it.



FROM RACHEL CARTMELL

Dear Haydenville Congregation,

I was surprised last spring to discover I had a large, benign tumor at the base of my skull, pressing on my brain stem, cerebellum, and various cranial nerves. The surgery is tricky but, in my case, the worst of it was that I lost hearing in my right ear, permanently.

I had my one-year follow up this past Friday and the report is good. So, thankfully, I believe this is the end of my brain tumor story.

I wanted to wait until I received this word before I wrote to extend my thanks to those that prayed for me or sent ANY positive thought my way, even if it was just for a second. It's all made a difference--perhaps not in the surgical outcome but in my ability to move through the whole experience from start to finish.

A couple of days after the surgery, I distinctly remember being in my hospital bed and feeling lifted up--I felt loved and cared for and it gave me strength. An incredible feeling I will never forget. Out of the blue. Special delivery. Thus this note: I wanted you to know that your positive thoughts and prayers were delivered to me in the hospital. And I was lifted up.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I am eternally grateful.

Rachel Cartmell  
(The itinerant visitor who sits in the way back with her daughter, Lucia.)



## SUNRISE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

By Lisa Hall



Dear Church Family,

This year I will again be holding a book sale to raise money for The Sunrise Foundation, Inc., a local non-profit which sponsors a children's educational project in Nicaragua. The fundraiser will be on Saturday, September 20th,

from 9 to 5, on Main Street

in Northampton, in front of First Churches. For more information about our center, please go to

<[thesunrisefoundation.org](http://thesunrisefoundation.org)>

I am collecting books for the sale now. So, if you have books, need to clean out your bookshelves, belong to a book club, or want to help with the sale, I would love to hear from you!

Maybe you know someone who has been doing a lot of summer reading? Have friends who are in book clubs? Know someone who is always saying they need to clear out some books? If so, please send this message along to them.

**WE NEED YOUR BOOKS!**

Please contact me about dropping them off at my office or home:

Office: Northampton Wellness Associates

395 Pleasant St.

Northampton MA 01096

(413) 584-7787 x105 - OK to leave a message

Home: 106 Ashfield Rd, Williamsburg - (413) 268-9271

Thanks for all your help with this!

Lisa Hall

P.S. Last year we raised over \$2,000! We had to sell a lot of books to do that. That's why we need your books! Thanks so much!

## SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

By Pastor Andrea

Phil Hall, Donique McIntosh and I invite you to join us for a three-part fall series called "Seasons of Our Lives." Our plan is to explore how God is speaking to us and moving through our lives (or not!!) when we are in our early adult years, in our middle years, and in our older years. Phil, Donique and I invite church members and attendees from age 20 on up to join us for these very special evenings together. Our plan is to gather (each time we meet) in one large group for prayer and a time of shared reflection. Then we will divide into three smaller groups: folks who are in their 20s, 30s, and 40s will meet with Donique as their facilitator, people who are in their 50s and 60s will meet with me as their facilitator, and folks who are 70 and up will meet with Phil as their facilitator. Each of the small groups will talk about their experiences of God and their spiritual journeys and then we will reconvene as one large group a gain to share insights and close with prayer. The three sessions will be held on September 24, October 1 and October 8 from 6 PM to 8 PM. We hope you will join us for what we believe will be lovely evenings together filled with deep sharing and fruitful discussion.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR  
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

September 2	Ruth Loomis
September 5	Sue Pennison
September 7	Richard Williams
September 9	Marcelle Walters
September 16	LynnCurry
September 17	Helen Symons
September 20	Viola Fraser
September 22	Anne Harrison
September 23	Ann Loomis
September 26	Laurie Walhovd
September 27	Nancy Pomeroy
September 28	Mary Sheehan
September 30	Tobias Davis

## BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN SISTER

By Maya Angelou

Submitted by Sandy Blackmon



A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ that a man should have to seek Him first to find her.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not shouting 'I'm clean livin''

I'm whispering 'I was lost, Now I'm found and forgiven.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I don 't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not trying to be strong

I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say.. 'I am a Christian' I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not claiming to be perfect,

My flaws are far too visible but, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I still feel the sting of pain..

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not holier than thou,

I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

## SPIRITUAL PARTNERS

By Sally Lemaire

The idea sounded interesting and the partner a person I wanted to get to know better... So why did it take us two months to begin and then a month in between to write again? Fear of writing what we really wanted to say? Fear of not being "creative" enough? Laziness during the summer months? (This was 2007.)



Maybe all the above but we did get started and slowly are learning the joy of sharing a spiritual journey of unknown outcomes. It is special and sacred to read about a time of questioning or doubt and then come back around to celebrating the uniqueness we each bring to the other.

It may have been a slow start but it was worth the wait.

## WHAT JIM SAID...

By Pastor Andrea

On Sunday, August 10th I asked Jim Palermo to come forward with me during our time for Offering and share why in addition to being a church leader and serving on many committees and devoting considerable TIME to the church, he is a generous contributor each week to our Offering. Jim spoke beautifully and it moved many people. Here (below) is what he said. And THANK YOU JIM for all that you do and all that you give to our church.

*The reason I give what I can to this church is that you are the faith community I have searched for my entire adult life. At the time my friend and neighbor, Kenny Nichols, invited me to attend his church, I felt broken. You accepted what was broken about me; but you also helped me to discover and to celebrate what was not broken. You are my church family, and in you I see the reflection of Jesus Christ.*

## WOOD NEEDED



A church family needs a tip on a good place to purchase wood for their fireplace this winter. If you know of a good place to buy wood, please tell Pastor Andrea who will convey this information to the family. Thank you!

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

<b>Sept 4:</b>	7:00 PM	“Blood and Oil” movie with speaker Michael Klare, Church Dining Room
<b>Sept 5:</b>	4:00 PM	Fridays at Four Writing Workshop begins again for the year
<b>Sept 7:</b>	10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion, Children’s Church begins again Presentation by Church Member Lisa Hall about The Sunrise Foundation and their work to help children and families in Nicaragua.
<b>Sept 8:</b>	5:15 PM 5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room Green Task Force, Children’s Church upstairs
<b>Sept 9:</b>	5:30 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
<b>Sept 10:</b>	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Safe Church Committee Meeting in the Pastor’s Study Men’s Lay Led Service planning meeting, Church Dining Room
<b>Sept 14:</b>	10:00 AM	Worship Service with Service to Welcome New Members
<b>Sept 18:</b>	7:00 PM	Ladies Aid Meeting (focus: October Church Fair)
<b>Sept 19:</b>	6:30 PM to 8:00 PM	Bible Study: The Book of Revelation with Cherylann Richards
<b>Sept 21:</b>	10:00 AM	Worship Service “Exploring Membership” Classes beginning again following our worship service. Meet upstairs in the Pastor’s Study—all most welcome.
<b>Sept 22:</b>		Confirmation Class Meeting (after school, see Pastor Matilda for more information)
<b>Sept 24:</b>	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	“Seasons of Our Lives” Series—Session 1, Church Dining Room
<b>Sept 24:</b>	6:30 PM	Children’s Church Committee Meeting, Pastor’s Study
<b>Sept 26:</b>	6:30 PM to 8:00 PM	Bible Study: The Book of Revelation with Cherylann Richards
<b>Sept 28:</b>	10:00 AM	Worship Service
<b>Sept 29:</b>		Youth Group Meeting (after school, see Pastor Matilda for more information)

### CALLING ALL INTERNET USERS

By Kate Davidheiser



There’s a new search engine that provides a “kick-back” to registered non-profits and I’ve registered the church. The next time you want to search for something go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and make sure that our

church is in the “who do you goodsearch for?” box. Also, if you do any shopping online, you can access the goodshop site on that page. Many, many companies are giving rebates of 1-5% or more of your purchase. Just make sure that you go through the goodshop site to do it. If you really want to delve into this, check out the FAQs on the bottom of the goodsearch page. Everything you want to know is right there. Thanks to Jamie Poudrier-Drake for passing along this information!

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### *Standards of Care*

A play by Tobias K. Davis  
October 2 & 3 at Smith College, October 4 & 5 at UMass

This is the production that premiered in Minneapolis in June to rave reviews. *Standards of Care* follows two female-to-male transgender-identifying characters as their lives heat up and flip upside-down, all because of one woman.

“STANDARDS OF CARE...has an important story to tell and does so balanced with love, humor, pain and promise.”  
Lydia Howell, KFAI Radio





## **Haydenville Congregational Church**

United Church of Christ  
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