



The Hancock Herald

January 2012

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Hancock 'Doubled' Giving on Manger Sunday



After a joyous Manger Sunday where we gathered gifts for City Mission Society of Boston, Hancock members sorted donations on December 10 and 18 in Winchester.

By Pam Cochrane, Director of Children's Ministries
When we arrived at First Church in Winchester on December 10th to sort presents

for City Mission Society, Carl McDonald, the Boston Urban Outreach Director, greeted us with a huge smile and handshake, his words exclaimed,

"Last Sunday was amazing, with the twenty bags of presents, cash and gift cards, Hancock's donation this year doubled, we are truly blessed, thank you!" Manger Sunday was extraordinary, attendance in the

sanctuary exceeded 375, children, youth, adults and seniors packed the pews. The abundance offered during worship was a visible reminder of the Hancock's commitment to support City Mission. A dozen Hancock volunteers donned name tags and quickly got to work sorting coats, games and shopping for individuals and groups, over thirty five organizations will be served this year through the Christmas Shop. What began on Manger Sunday, takes new shape and form (Continued on Page 3)

2011 Hancock Holiday Fair a Success

The 11th Annual Hancock Holiday Fair achieved its goal in raising needed funds for the many charities who participated, while providing unique shopping choices for all who attended. Many people were responsible for helping in this amazing effort.

We want to thank our committee members: Julie Duncan, Charlotte Dougherty, Janet Woit and Nancy Schlecht. Also we are grateful to the many volunteers who pitched in to ensure a successful day.

These included Shirley Hamblen, Nate Martin, Tom Ransohoff, Craig Zaehring, Julia Potter, Lisle Swanson, David Hathaway, Ben Potter, Liza Duncan, Robin DiGiammar-

ino, Jim Martin, Dave Hathaway, Bill Erickson, Dick Dougherty, Beth Schutt, Ruth Ladd, Deb Holland, Harriet Chmela, and the Bonnell-Bradley family.

We should also thank staff members Sara Withee, Julina Rundberg, Thad Jackson and Dan dos Santos for their support. We are also grateful to Starbucks for their donation of coffee.

We were overjoyed to raise more than \$23,000 which all went to the various participating charities. Next year we hope to include some additional charitable organizations to enhance our shopping opportunities. We also invite anyone from our Hancock



family to contact us who may be interested in helping with this popular annual event. And as always, we welcome any ideas or concerns which you may wish to share with us!

Thanks to all, CeCe Potter and Sandra Shaw, Co-Chairs

LexMedia Cable TV Schedule
Watch Hancock Services on RCN 3, Comcast 8 and Verizon 35 at Sunday 9:55 am (LIVE) and 7 p.m.

Bedford Cable TV Schedule
Watch Hancock Services on Comcast 10 and Verizon 40 on Sundays at 7 p.m. (with a one week delay).

LexMedia
You can also watch worship live at lexmedia.org.

From the Senior Minister



Dear Friends,

"For with God, nothing will be impossible."

Luke 1:37

According to Luke, these were the words spoken by the angel Gabriel to the wondering young woman Mary, as he explained how the birth of her son would come about. Seven words that convey something essential about faith: namely that there is a force in the universe (God) who is not necessarily bound by our expectations or theories about what can and cannot be done. The affirmation, in all its simplicity, requires of us a certain modesty: we cannot claim to know what is or is not possible, and therefore should not give up hope. But more than hope, it conveys a certain expectation: that God can and will act as God wills, and that we might well be expected to be a part of the action.

Certainly Mary embraced both the hope and the expectation that God could and was acting through her to bring about God's purposes for the earth. We admire her faith and her courage, but truly it is her willingness to trust that shines most brightly. She could not and did not know how this would come about or why she had been chosen or even what it would ultimately mean for her and for the world. But Gabriel invited her to trust, and she accepted. And the world was changed forever.

Similar stories abound in the Bible. The escaping slaves standing on the beach, the water standing up like walls on either side, and Moses asking them to trust in their God. The boy Samuel, just ten years old, instructed to tell his boss that God was going to bring his house to ruin because of his corruption. Zacchaeus trusting Jesus enough to come down out of his tree and his old life, and walk into a new life of generosity and justice. Lydia, the maker of purple cloth, daring to open her home to Paul and Silas when they'd just been broken out of jail, trusting God more than she feared the Romans. None of these actions made sense: they were all risky. But God had purposes beyond their fears and anxieties, and invited them to trust.

There's a good bit of mystery, and even anxiety in the air here, as we endure the "sticker shock" attendant to finding out the cost of our hopes and dreams for Hancock's capital campaign. It's been a great and open and democratic process; we've all had multiple opportunities to share ideas and hopes and dreams. But now we're getting very near to the time when concrete decisions need to be made and the questions are multiplying:

- Are we being selfish in shoring up our building?
- Don't we need to grow as a church? Don't we need to do something more than build?
- Can we really raise that kind of money? What if I can't help all that much? What if my gift seems tiny compared to the need?
- What will the impact of this be on our annual budget, which seems to be tight all the time already?

They're good questions, and we are wise to ponder them and others like them. We must talk and listen and pray together.

But we must not, we cannot, merely settle for what we think **we** can do. For if God is with us, if God is still speaking, if we are earnest in our discernment about what God might be asking of us, then we have as our partner the same God who told Mary and Samuel, Zacchaeus and Lydia that great things were expected of them. We can and must have trust in God, with whom all things are possible. Asking our questions, engaging our discussions, working through our worries and anxieties: all can and should be done in expectation that God has called us to be God's partners in this time and place. And that working together, nothing will be impossible.

Grace and Peace,

Paul

Holidays at Hancock

Hancock Gives to City Mission Society at Manger Sunday

(Continued from Page 1)

when you take part in sorting donations. Carl handed my husband Ken and I a clip board and we began selecting items for a dozen homeless teenagers supported by a local homeless prevention group.

Carl asked us to be generous in our giving as we made selections from the piles of donations. Carl explained, "They will need warm cloths so pick scarves, gloves, hats, coats and sweaters and socks for each on the list, that is what they need." We began our work in earnest, then a few selections later, Carl reappeared to clarify, "one more thing, about these youth, they'd prefer not to receive bright colors, at night they don't want to stand out." I acknowledged, and the reality of what

it must mean to be a homeless youth in metro Boston sunk in. I replaced the brightly colored scarf and hat set I had selected off the winter clothes table with a crocheted grey hat and matching scarf.

Our job sorting took on more meaning. The sentiment stayed with me and I could see in all the volunteers a conviction to the mission, these gifts really matter. Each year more than 200 volunteers help sort and prepare gifts for more than 4000 needy families, teens, and children in the Boston area. Thank you, Hancock, for giving so generously and freely. The need for all of us to reach out to others is great. Praise God!

For decades, City Mission Society has served as a catalyst for people of faith

to find ways to reach out to others. CMS's successful Christmas Shop in Winchester brings hope and joy to children and families in the most need during the holiday season. CMS collects thousands of gift items provided, collected, and sorted by volunteers from dozens of congregations, youth groups, college students, and businesses. Each year, people's generosity is only matched by their genuine enthusiasm for participating in the giving and volunteering that is essential to the Shop's success. The best stories of holiday giving are about hundreds of people who reach into their hearts, their pocketbooks, and their personal time to give and unconditionally care about people they have never met through the CMS Christmas Shop. City Mission Society

A Ton of Thanks from the Interfaith Garden



By Amy Swanson

Taking small license, we can say that the Interfaith Garden has grown a ton of food in its first two seasons! Add the over 850 pounds harvested and delivered this past year to the 995 pounds from last year and you get over 1850 pounds, or a ton (rounded). And if those rabbits hadn't been so wily and figured how to outsmart 3 layers of fences, we might have delivered a literal ton, not just a rounded ton! What a diverse bounty was delivered! 38 different varieties of produce and herbs were harvested last season...from A (acorn squash) to Z (zucchini).

There's no way that all that food could be grown without the steadfast support of volunteers. This year the Garden extended an invitation to anyone in the community to help. Thanks to those of you who invited friends and neighbors to get involved as part of this open invitation. Last season over 370 volunteer slots were filled with 137 different people from the community rotating in to help. Some worked once, and others came back on a regular basis.

Hancock has been an especially important source of support to the Garden. Many Hancock members helped out and their timely response to my call for volunteers made the job of scheduling so much easier. I add my thanks to that of the Interfaith Garden to the following Hancock volunteers: Carol Bukys, Pam Cochrane, Rachel Downs, Faith Fenske, Marcia Gens, Connie Gregg, Shirley Hamblen, Harriet Hathaway, Anne Hoffman, Candy McLaughlin, Linda Nason, Susan Navia, Tom Ransohoff, Lisa Sandeen, Mark Sandeen, Nancy Schlecht, MaryAnn Shupe, Amy Swanson, Dana Allen Walsh, Keith West, Norma Wyse.

I am looking forward to what we can accomplish next year. Aren't you?



Stewardship Message

We hope you were able to attend Manger Sunday and participate in a thoroughly enjoyable service. If you were there, you heard Dana's message regarding stewardship. We are over four weeks into our campaign and while we have made solid progress, the number of pledges remains below our expectations (see graphs from the 18 December bulletin). We know this is an exceptionally busy time of year but we hope you will find time in the next few days to think about your Hancock Church annual pledge.

As Dana said, your participation is important for three reasons. First, in the next few weeks we will be finalizing our 2012 budget and your pledge enables us to thoughtfully consider our priorities for 2012. Second, many exciting programs and initiatives are planned for next year. Your contribution, no matter the level, helps us to continue the important work of our church, such as education, music and social justice. Third, through our pledges we reaffirm our covenant to each other. It takes all of us to build a great church, and together there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

If you are ready to make a pledge, you can do so right now (hancock.stewardship@gmail.com). If you email, your information will be received by Hancock's business manager, Thad Jackson, who handles all pledges and payments. Please let Thad know your name, address and pledge amount, just as you would if you were to complete and submit a pledge card.

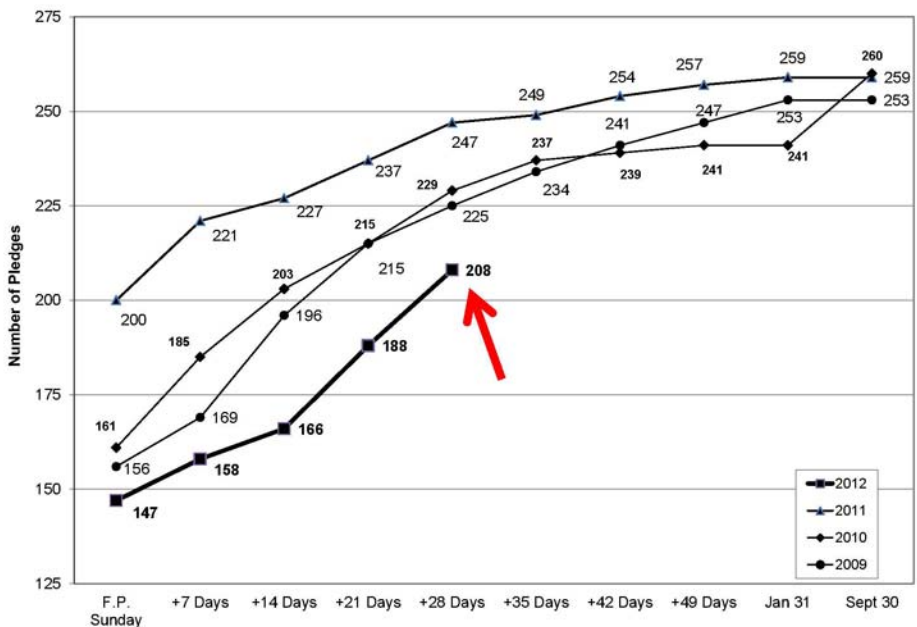
If you are not quite ready to make your pledge, we stand ready to help in any way we can. We have a few questions for you:

- We want to make sure you have what you need to complete your pledge. Do you need any additional information or a pledge card? Would you appreciate a phone call to discuss your pledge?
- To accommodate new, exciting initiatives and cover escalating costs, our budget for 2012 will be greater than 2011. If you are able, will you consider an increase in your pledge?

If you face difficult circumstances in this season of Advent, remember, you are a loved and valued member of the Hancock family. And stewardship is much more than just raising funds. Is there anything we can do to help you at this time?

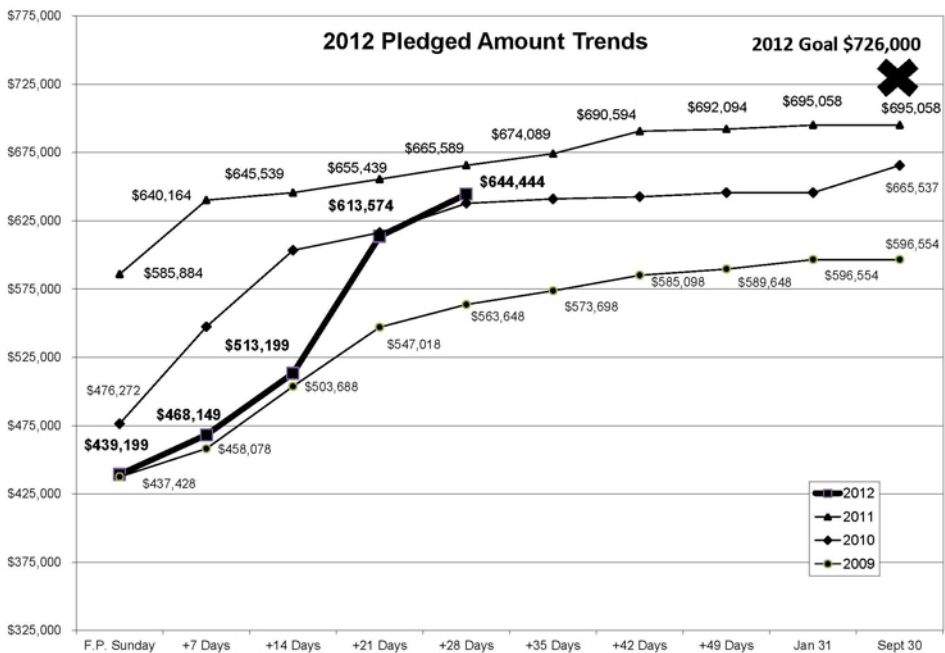
Please take a moment to share your thoughts with a member of the Stewardship Committee: Dean Rutila, Skip Irving, Louise Haldeman, Bill Erikson, and Manuel Navia.

2012 Pledge Trends



2012 Pledged Amount Trends

2012 Goal \$726,000



Hancock Capital Campaign Report: Practicing Faith



The Planning Phase of the Capital Campaign is coming to the decision stage. At Annual Meeting, on January 29, we will ask the congregation to approve going forward with a campaign.

Our dreams and priorities have been incorporated into a Master Plan, and for the first step to realize our goals we have parceled out portions of the overall design to create a Phase One plan. As you have heard, Phase One renovations will cost anywhere from 4.7 to 7.3 million dollars. We understand this is a large amount of money.

We have asked for feedback and heard concerns from the congregation. By far the biggest is “Can we afford this?” We also hear “Why do we think this will make our church grow when churches are getting smaller and closing?”

Our committee doesn’t have firm answers to either of these questions, but we do have faith. We have faith that we will be able to raise the money.

And we have faith that God wants us to stay on this historic site, praying and working in His name for Good. We ask that you, the congregation, share that faith with us. Instead of being like Doubting Thomas, let us try to be like Moses and let God lead us on our journey.

In January, you will have the following opportunities to participate in the Capital Campaign process:

All Sundays in January: Tours of the proposed changes before and after church at 9 and 11 AM.

January 8: Architect Don Mills will present the Phase One plan (Small details can still be changed, but this will be our overall plan as we move forward).

January 15: Questions and answers on the “Widening the Welcome” Fund.

January 22: A time for questions with Planning Committee members.

January 29: Annual Meeting. A vote will be taken on whether to go forward with a Capital Campaign.

There are documents on the website (www.hancockchurch.org) and outside the church office explaining what can be accomplished with our church building in Phase One as well as the cost estimates for 3 different options.

Included in these costs is a “Widening the Welcome” fund. This fund will provide money for new initiatives to help grow the congregation such as to improve our website, provide new adult CE and Service programs, and to expand our welcome to the Lexington community and beyond.

As always, we welcome your questions and comments. The Planning Committee can be reached at cc-planning-hucc@googlegroups.com. And remember to have FAITH that God will provide for our needs and guide us on our journey.

Join Us for Music Sunday on January 8

<p>Carols and Lullabies Christmas in the Southwest By Conrad Susa</p> <p>The Chancel Choir With harp, guitar, and marimba</p> <p>Sunday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Join Us For Music Sunday!</p> <p>We will be celebrating the Incarnation of Christ on Epiphany Sunday, January 8th.</p> <p>The Chancel Choir will sing the beautiful Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest by American composer Conrad Susa. The Carols consists of 10 traditional carols in contemporary settings arranged for choir, harp, guitar, and marimba. This service brings our Christmas celebrations to a close and is perfect for the entire family.</p> <p>Come join us and invite a friend!</p>
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We will be celebrating the Incarnation of Christ on Epiphany Sunday, January 8th. The Chancel Choir will sing the beautiful Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest by American composer Conrad Susa. The Carols consist of 10 traditional carols in contemporary settings, arranged for choir, harp, guitar, and marimba. This service brings our Christmas celebrations to a close and is the perfect for the entire family.

Our

Warrant for the 144th Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2012

11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

ARTICLE I- Report of the Officers responsible to the Membership

ARTICLE II- Adoption of a plan for support of our Church's wider mission in 2012

ARTICLE III- Appropriations for current and other expenses

ARTICLE IV- Authorization for the Treasurer to borrow up to \$20,000 for current expenses

ARTICLE V- Capital Campaign

To authorize a capital campaign in 2012 to raise funds for Phase I of a comprehensive and long range Master Plan created to guide decisions about repairs, renovations and/or changes to the church building and site.

The final components to be included in Phase I will be determined by the amount of funds raised during the capital campaign and by congregation vote at the Spring Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 20, 2012.

ARTICLE VI- Election of Officers: Moderator and Vice Moderator

ARTICLE VII- To transact any further business that may legally come before this meeting

Martha Sheridan, Clerk

Christian Service Committee Update

Twice a year the Christian Service Committee has the privilege of deciding on grants to outside organizations that extend the outreach work of Hancock. This process is called Special Appeals. One theme in the recommended grants this year was that most entities had a relationship with Hancock—either to the broader congregation or to specific members who act as their advocates. A total of \$5300 in grants was recommended, including a \$500 grant from the Emergency Response Fund. Here is the list of grants to be made in the name of Hancock:

\$500 Concord Prison Outreach: Not only do we have a Hancock member that co-ordinates donations of basic goods for Christmas packages to inmates, but we also have members who are currently or in the past have been involved in the outreach and mentoring programs sponsored by CPO.

\$1000 Lexington Housing Foundation: the seeds of LHF were in Hancock's Housing Initiative. Affordable housing is still a relevant issue for our community and LHF, with some still active Hancock members, act as an advocacy and consulting group for the town on this issue.

\$1000 Fuller Center for Housing: Hancock members have been active with this group for several years after the Digiammarinos invited Millard Fuller to Hancock. This past year some members participated in a building blitz in Minden, LA, not far from Shreveport, the destination where Dana led a Fuller mission trip a few years ago. And this past summer one of our HYGers participated in a mission trip building homes in Armenia.

\$1000 for SHI trip scholarships: It was decided to transfer \$1000 to CSC's Scholarship fund in be able to subsidize a portion of some participants' trips to Honduras. We recognize that the cost of these mission trips is a hurdle for some who would otherwise be called to participate. Our hope is that by making partial scholarships available, that the costs become more manageable, especially for young adults.

\$800 City Mission Society's A Lift Up program: This CMS program works with female-headed households, providing flexible funding and up to a year of case management to assure that they remain in stable housing and to support them on the path to economic self-sufficiency.

\$1000 Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (administered through the Salvation Army): This fund provides emergency energy assistance to families who are having difficulty paying electric, oil or gas bills. Cutbacks in some federal assistance programs of up to 50% will impact many households who would have gotten help with energy bills. Community non-profits like the MGNEF will need more private support to help offset the shortfall in this season of need. \$500 of this donation is to be funded out of Special Appeals funds and \$500 will come out of the Emergency Response fund.

We invite Hancock members to forward ideas of other non-profits for consideration for grants to members of CSC. (A document reviewing criteria for Special Appeals can be provided by any CSC member and will be coming soon to the website.)

Food Pantry: Donate Cereal in January

If you donate food in January, please consider giving Cereal. Donation baskets are in the narthex, as well as outside the office and dining room. Volunteers are

needed for January 14 to help distribute the food at the Pantry. The commitment is from 8:45 to about 11:30 am and the learning curve is short! For

more information, contact Caroline Nijenberg (carolinen@rcn.com or 781 862-4465).

Farewell from Sascha Dornhardt



On September 11th our congregation welcomed Sascha Dornhardt to Hancock. Seeking a three month field education experience as part of his studies at The Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Bochum, Germany Sascha stepped into life at Hancock with faith and excitement. He shared his joy, energy and grace with so many of us, that even after his return to Germany last month, his spirit of giving remains. His contributions to worship, to the Church School, JYO and HYG groups is numerous and we give thanks for opportunity to work with Sascha and share in his commitment to Christian life and learning.

Sascha's Farewell Message delivered in worship on Nov. 29th, 2011

Three months ago, I stood here and introduced myself to you. My first sentence was "This is a great opportunity to introduce myself to you this morning." Today, three months later, I stand in exactly the same place and say, thank you so much for everything. And, I am not good at saying goodbye.

I can say, that I have felt at home here. I felt at home in this congregation, in Lexington and in my host families. I thought often about why I have felt so at home here. I mean, I'm not really home. My home is 3600 miles away in that direction. My answer now, the reason I have felt so at home was because of all of you! So many nice and great people I have met here. And of course the Staff here at Hancock Church with whom I worked. There are so many lovely people who are part of this congregation; people with the firm conviction to respect one another, love one another and to welcome new and "foreign" people in such a warm and special way, so that they feel part of this congregation.

Three months ago, I was new and "foreign." I thought, "you will never find your way here." But I can't tell you how fast I felt at home, how fast I felt a part of this community. These three months were complete success for me. To see what life is like in an American Church, how you live, understand and teach religion and Christian faith was so exciting and enriching. But what I did not expect was how similar the living, understanding and teaching is to my church at home. Trying out new things and finding new ways to worship God is what makes Christian life exciting. Maybe that is another reason for this "home feeling."

But now it is time for packing suitcases. I pack my suitcase full on anticipation to see my family and friends. But I also pack my suitcase with sadness to leave this church and Lexington. I know that I will miss so many people here. But what else to I pack in my suitcase besides my toothbrush, my clothes, but 1500 photos and some small souvenirs. I can tell you, I take with me a lot of new experiences of which I cannot wait to tell my family, friends and teachers at home; new ideas of which I cannot wait to try out in my church. And of course the certainly that I have found friends here and people with whom I wish to stay in touch. Friends I will certainly see again. I am already anticipating my next visit here to Hancock and to Lexington. And if you want to visit me, just call me or write me an e-mail.

Three months are over now. A long time, which has passed so quickly. Perhaps the reason for that was my full calendar of event. Staff meetings, worship meetings, preparation for Church School, Sunday Services, coffee hour, Worship @ the Well, Bible Classes, HYG, JYO, retreats, visits to Andover Newton, Movie Nights and much more. Along with tourist stuff like; whale watching, Red Sox, theatre, and site seeing in Boston, Cambridge, New York and so much more. Halloween, Snow, Thanksgiving and of course, volleyball at LHS! I saw every game!

Thank you to all of you who have supported me. Thank you to the great Staff here at Hancock, particularly Pam Cochrane. A big thank you to my host families: the Sandeens, the Wests, and the Puschaks during the snow storm and Thanksgiving. I felt very much a part of every family. And thank you to so many nice people in this congregation that I have gotten to know. Thank you for so many invitations. Thank you for speaking German from time to time with me. And thank you for so many funny and crazy questions about my county. Just thank you for everything!

Because I am really bad in saying "goodbye," I would just like to end with my favorite German hymn just as I did the first day I met you all.

"Mogen die Straben uns zusammenfuhren und bis wir uns wiedersehen, halte Gott uns fest in seiner Hand" *May our ways bring us together and until we see us again, may God hold all of us safe in her hands.*

The Notice Board



Remember Music Sunday
on Jan. 8 at 10 am
Morning Worship. We
hope you join us!



Have you visited
The Well
on Facebook?

[facebook.com/thewellhancock](https://www.facebook.com/thewellhancock)

Save the Date! 6th Annual Women's Retreat

Friday, May 18th - Saturday 19th, 2012

Essex Conference & Retreat Center in Essex, MA

All women – young and old - are invited to attend the Women's Retreat. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know other women, to relax and have fun, and to talk and reflect together. Mark your calendar and look out for more information to come!

From the Historian's Office:

Hancock Comics of the 1960's

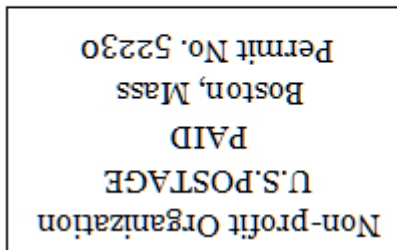
By Sue Rockwell





www.hancockchurch.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rev. Paul Shupe, Senior Minister
Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, Associate Minister

Phone: 781-862-4220
E-mail: office@hancockchurch.org

1912 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational

Hancock Calendar

The following is a list of January services. To see a full list of services and events at Hancock United Church of Christ, pick up a church bulletin or visit www.hancockchurch.org/events/event-calendar.

Sunday, Jan. 1: 10 am Morning Worship. Communion. NO WORSHIP @ THE WELL. Seminarian Brian Gruhn preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 8: 10 am Morning Worship. Epiphany. Music Sunday. The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 8: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 15: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 15: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. Congregational Care Coordinator Joy Fallon preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 22: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 22: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. Seminarian Brian Gruhn preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 29: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, Jan. 29: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.