



The Hancock Herald

November 2011

Honduras Mission Trip Feb. 26—March 5, 2012



Inside this issue:

From the Ministers	2
Thank You From Norma Blake	3
Capital Campaign	4
City Mission Director to Speak at Hancock	5
Fight Hunger with Mission: 1	5
The Well on Facebook	5
Congregational Care	6
Children's Ministries	6
Music & Arts	7

Looking for a fun, meaningful, spiritual, and adventurous experience?

- Be part of Sustainable Harvest International's transformational work to alleviate hunger in Central America while restoring valuable ecosystems.

- Work with Jorge, SHI's dedicated and knowledgeable field trainer.

- Learn how to make organic fertilizer, build a tree nursery,

plant banana trees, build a raised bed vegetable garden, dig a fish pond, and build a chicken coop.

- Stay with one of the hospitable families of the Piedras Negras community and learn first hand what living in poverty means.

- Befriend local children and feel your heart reach out.

- Eat delicious, local, organic and unprocessed food prepared lovingly by Elva and

other women in the community.

- Enrich your experience through spiritual reflection with Hancock friends.

If you are interested and would like to learn more, please sign up at coffee hour or contact:

Charlotte Dougherty,
781.863.8018,
charlottepougherty@gmail.com.

Dana Allen Walsh, 781.862.4220,
dana.allenwalsh@hancockchurch.org.

LexMedia Cable TV Schedule

Watch Hancock Services on RCN 3, Comcast 8 and Verizon 35 at Sunday 9:55 am (LIVE) and 7 pm.

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.

Dec. 4 is 11th Annual Hancock Holiday Fair

Be sure to save the date of Sunday, December 4 for Hancock's 11th annual Hancock Holiday Fair, featuring gifts that help others around the world. The Fair will be held in Clarke Hall and the Dining Room, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You can buy distinctive and unique gifts that

will benefit 24 local, national and international charities, while enjoying entertainment and refreshments. See you there!

For more details, contact Sandra Shaw, 781-862-4415.



From the Ministers



Dear Friends,

In order to keep fresh and continually growing, ministers need a variety of activities and programs. We need to read, of course, and time to do it. We need to write, and time to do it. We need periodic sabbatical leave to rest and reorient ourselves for the work ahead. And we need to participate in continuing education, supervision, and peer support of the kind provided by the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program (SPEP) of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. Both of us are regular participants in and vigorous supporters of the SPEP.

The first years of any minister's career are filled with challenge, and Dana's first years at Hancock were no exception. It's not unusual for new ministers to burn out quickly, and either leave their first church for another, or, as often, to leave ministry entirely. The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program invited Dana to participate in a peer support group for young associate ministers. A skilled and seasoned woman pastor led the group with wisdom and grace. Hard as it might be to imagine, Dana attests that without this program, she might have become a casualty herself, out of ministry entirely. But in part because the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program is here, Dana has grown into fullness in her ministry.

In Paul's nearly quarter century of ministry, he has learned the value of this sort of on-going support. While he was serving churches in Maine and Wisconsin, he sought it out, but there were no organized programs to provide on-going opportunities to meet with peers, to exchange ideas and learn from best practices, to support one another with prayer and care. Prior to coming to Massachusetts, Paul had to create these groups for himself. What a joy to discover, upon being called here, that a Community of Practice group was being formed for senior ministers serving greater Boston churches. It's been a blessing and a source of encouragement and strength for Paul throughout the first years of his tenure here.

The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program also provides a rich array of continuing education opportunities for ministers and congregations throughout the year. Massachusetts is a pioneer within the UCC in this regard. Paul's experience reveals a truth: in most places in the country, resources to provide these sorts of services do not exist. What is more, there is clear evidence linking participation in the Pastoral Excellence Program with congregational vitality. Excellent ministers lead vibrant churches, and vibrant churches are wise enough to support excellence in their ministers.

But the truth is that the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program has been funded by a grant from the Lily Foundation. And even though it has been successful and hailed as a model to be emulated, the grant is running out. If the program is to continue, the churches of the Massachusetts Conference must make it happen.

In our upcoming Capital Campaign, we'll be using a portion of our funds to reach out beyond our walls, and we would like very much for a portion of those funds to be given to the campaign for the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program. Hancock is, and will remain, a leadership church in the UCC in Massachusetts. We are large and healthy and vibrant. But there are scores, even hundreds of churches across the commonwealth that do not have our blessings. Small and often struggling, these churches need vibrant, healthy and excellent ministers to survive and to thrive. Our contribution to the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program will be a leadership gift, and show our commitment to the unique and essential ministry of the UCC, which is needed now more than ever.

More information about the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program can be found at the Massachusetts Conference website: www.macucc.org. Paul and Dana would welcome the opportunity to tell you more, because we think that the more you know, the prouder you will be of the work that Hancock supports through the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program.

Grace and Peace,

Paul and Dana

Coming in November

Thank You From Norma Blake



Hello everyone! It's hot and sunny so far down here in Florida, but I hear the next few days may be down to only 80 degrees!!!!

I miss HUCC but.....(it still feels like we are only on vacation).

What a retirement party you gave me on Sept. 25!! I had such a great time. My family was impressed and they are still telling their friends and family about the party. I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with the festivities.

I brought my Memory Book to Florida with me and have looked at it several times; each time reading something I haven't noticed before. I will cherish it

forever. I am sure I am boring others with it who do not have any insight of how much it means to me.

A big thank you to those who contributed to my gift. I have been looking at cruises from Ft. Lauderdale and I am sure some of that gift will be used soon to set sail to the Caribbean.

We will return home for the holidays and hope to see you at a Hancock Christmas Eve service.

Concord Prison Outreach Seeking Donated Gifts This November

This November, Concord Prison Outreach is again seeking donated gifts for the inmates at the two prison facilities in Concord. Prison Outreach an organization of citizens from Concord and surrounding communities who work with the inmates of Concord Reformatory and the Northeastern Correctional Center on many projects one of which is the presentation of small gift bags for the inmates at Christmas time.

Hancock started to participate in this project about five years ago and the donations from the generous people at Hancock have been very welcome and hopefully we will be willing to continue.

The items must be those described in the list below which is the same as last year's, no deviation is allowed by the prison authorities. Although the list may seem sparse, these are often the only holiday remembrances which many inmates receive.

No one need purchase all the items; on the other hand it's fine to purchase multiples! They will all be used.

Please place them in the box which will be left in or near the office. Louise Haldeman, a Concord resident will retrieve them and take them to the sorting point, the Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord. Early in December volunteers from Concord Prison Outreach will fill gift bags with one each of the items listed below. Thanks to the participation of Hancock, as well as other faith organizations beyond Concord, it is now possible to provide a gift bag for all the inmates.

Also included in each bag can be a "non religious" holiday greeting card (Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings). "Merry Christmas" is OK as long as the message inside is secular. The card should be signed with the first name only. Especially valued are the hand-made cards from children. Please keep the latter no larger than half an 8 1/2 x 11

sheet of paper otherwise they get mangled when put in the bags.

6 oz. Tube of Toothpaste

Bar of deodorant soap

Envelopes 6 3/4 size

Pair of white socks (no tubes or knee hi's)

Pocket calendar (no wire)

Shampoo 15 oz plastic bottles

Stick deodorant (no roll ons)

Writing tablet/pad (no wire; up to 8" x 11)

For more information about Concord Prison Outreach and the many programs it offers please go to www.concordprisonoutreach.org.

Lexington Food Pantry: Donate Cereal in November

If you donate food in November, please consider giving **cereal**. Donation baskets are in the narthex, as well as outside the office and dining room. Volun-

teers are needed for **November 12** and **December 10** 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).

Capital Campaign Priorities



One of the things that we love about Hancock is the abundance of educational and service opportunities that are available here. We have engaging programs for our elementary Church School, JYO, OWL, Confirmation and HYG. We have Pastor's Class, First Thursdays, Theology on Tap, Women of Faith and Drawing from the Well. There are opportunities to work at the Interfaith Garden, cook for Rosie's Place, make sandwiches for the Outdoor Church in Cambridge, and go on mission trips to Honduras and Neon Kentucky.

Yet, we know we can still accomplish more. We love what we do here, but if we expand and support our programs, we will have additional opportunities to show others what a wonderful place Hancock is for a church home.

So what do we think is important?

How can we improve? From your feedback we heard what you think are the programmatic priorities for education, service and outreach:

We wish to bring in speakers to discuss topics such as justice, service and faith with our congregation as well as with the community at large;

We know that nurturing and expanding our service programs will provide more opportunities for Hancock members to participate;

We want to improve our communication so we can share all of our terrific programs and opportunities for service with our congregation and with the greater community as well;

We strive to be leaders in education and service both within our faith community and within the community at large. To support church leadership at all levels, there is a desire both to create more leaders at Hancock by pro-

viding training and support, and to support other UCC churches through the Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign (see Senior Minister message on page 2 by Paul Shupe and Dana Allen Walsh).

With these guidelines in place, we are developing a plan to continue our tradition of excellence in Education and in Service at Hancock.

Upcoming Dates for Capital Campaign Events:

Nov. 13 after the morning service Pastor Renee Liabraaten will report on her Resource Assessment to discern our readiness to engage in a Capital Campaign. Childcare will be provided.

Nov. 20 after the morning service our architect Don Mills will present updates to the Master Plan and a preliminary concept for Phase 1 Plan for our Capital Campaign. Childcare will be provided.

Hancock History...

Moving forward, looking back: Hancock Church Historian Sue Rockwell provides glimpses from life at Hancock in past eras.

Newspaper article, **1889**:

"Connected with the Hancock Church is a society known as "Willing Hands" composed entirely of the youngest misses of the Hancock Society. This enterprising company, wishing to gain funds to assist the church and benevolent objects, gave an entertainment in the hall of the Massachusetts House, before an audience composed of their friends that filled the room. The program presented was a varied one, made up of entertainment novelties which the Willing Hands are to be congratulated on presenting in such a gratifying manner. A nicely played piano solo by Alice Goodwin and a violin solo equally well rendered by Bessie Muzzey opened the program and was followed by shadow pictures given behind a curtain on an impromptu stage. Excellent piano solos were furnished by Rosa Morse and Annie Brown, and the farce of "The Precious Pickle" was very well done. The closing number of the program was a "duster drill" by the Willing Hands, who went through their marching and graceful evolutions, to the music of the piano, with skill and presented a pretty picture in pink and blue dust caps and with paper dusters of the same colors on long wands."

City Mission Society Executive Director to Speak at Hancock Nov. 6

Each year, one of our favorite Hancock events is Manger Sunday. Each December, members bring new unwrapped gifts or gift cards for those who are in need and receive help through the City Mission Society.

City Mission Society of Boston is the oldest multi-service agency in New England, addressing the educational, eco-

nomic, and social needs of impoverished and area residents since 1816. These services reach over 25,000 people each year!

The Executive Director, Rev. June R. Cooper will be speaking during our church service about the City Mission Society on November 6th. At 11:30, after the church service, Rev. Cooper will give a presentation and film in the Kathy Stuart Room.

We hope that many of you will attend and learn about this worthwhile organization that Hancock Church has been supporting for many years.

Fight Hunger with Mission: 1

November 6th, 2011



Please join us on November 6th in the Dining Hall to help fight hunger by participating in UCC's Mission 1 program. The program as envisioned by UCC lasts for 11 days from 11-1-11 to 11-11-11. There are three components to our participation:

Contributing to Neighbors in Need. offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes by the UCC. Hancock already made collected donations in the offering plate on October 9, but additional donations may be made on UCC.org/mission1. UCC's goal is to raise \$111,111.

Donating healthy food items. Hancock's donations will be dropped off at the Lexington Food Pantry. The Pantry's wish list of items currently includes:

Mac & Cheese
Canned Stews
Chilis
Canned Hash
Whole kernel corn

We will have collection bins by the front downstairs entrance for the full 11 days and in the Dining Hall on Sunday, November 6th.

Signing letters to our representatives in Congress. The UCC will offer 11,111 letters asking out government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide. We will have letters prepared for your signature. Please stop by and sign.

Questions?

Visit www.ucc.org/mission1 or contact Connie Gregg at congregg@rcn.com or Geoff Kuli at GeoffreyKuli@comcast.net.

The Well on Facebook

Our Sunday night worship service is on Facebook. Join the conversation now at www.facebook.com/thewellhancock

Hancock Ministries

Congregational Care at Hancock: Caring for Each Other in Times of Need

By Joy Fallon, Congregational Care Coordinator



Did you know?

In the last 5 weeks, we've delivered nine prayer shawls or hand knit blankets to those facing difficult times.

Know someone who would be comforted to receive one? Interested in knitting or crocheting so we can keep offering these gifts of love? Let Joy know.

Joy.Fallon@Hancockchurch.org

Did you know?

In the last 4 weeks, we've named 42 different people in our Hancock "Cordon of Prayer" – the weekly phone update of those who have asked for our prayers.

Call the church main line to join this ministry of prayer for others, to learn who is ill or in need of prayer, or to let us know of who might need and welcome our prayers. 781-862-4220.

Did you know?

In the next few weeks, Hancock members will organize "collations" – gatherings after a memorial service or funeral – for three different Hancock families mourning the loss of loved ones.

Families provide their food, but we assist with the set up and other arrangements. Willing to help? Please let us know, by contacting Joy or Linda O'Keefe, lpokeefe@rcn.com.

From the Director of Children's Ministries Pam Cochrane

Children and Youth Christian Education

Hearing the "Familiar Stories" –

Throughout the fall the children and youth of Hancock Church have shared a rich dialogue on the "familiar stories" of the Old Testament. During November the classes

will continue to explore The New Covenant found in God's message to Moses and our study in the classroom will continue to use music, art and storytelling to engage our sharing and learning. We give thanks for the gift of Bibles to the 2nd Graders through the Bertha Cooper Memorial Fund and give thanks for all the teachers and shepherds who have supported and lead the conversations.



Liturgical Sunday – November 20th.

Seasons of the church year will be celebrated in worship on November 20th. Through music and stories clergy will lead the congregation through stories from Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. The Children and Youth will focus on learning the changing themes, liturgical colors and practices that comprise the Christian Calendar and how these seasons imbue our worship celebrations and daily living. Look for the "Seasons of the Church Year" poster in the Education Wing where you'll find copies to take home.



In support of **Mission 1, 11.1.11 - 11.11.11** Hancock's Church School champions the congregation on collecting food for the Lexington Food Pantry. Bring canned goods to church on November 6th. The goal is 1,111 items so rally the tuna fish, peanut butter, canned fruit and soup and deliver food to the Dining Room following worship.

November will also begin a month long study of **Heifer International** as the children continue to explore the issues of Hunger worldwide.

The Heifer Activities Calendar will help families at home share ways animals and sustainable farming support families and children in other countries. Look for copies of the calendar outside the classrooms.



First Sunday of Advent – Intergenerational Advent Activities in Clark Hall November 27th

Advent activities for children and youth during church school on the first Sunday of Advent will include making advents wreaths, cards and ornaments. And the fun continues after worship for all ages through coffee hour as we celebrate preparing for the season.

Music & Arts

Hancock Launches New Concert Series With A Joyful Noyse!

The Music and Arts Committee is pleased to announce the inaugural season of our new Concert Series. The Series features Hancock's wealth of musicians in a wide range of music. Concerts will include **A Joyful Noyse**, the **Bell Choirs**, the **Lycicum** woodwind quintet, and the cantatas of the **Chancel Choir**. A special event will be the **Lexington Choral Festival**. Watch your mail in mid-November for a flyer detailing the entire season!

From Joyful Noyse Director Martins Aldins:

Undoubtedly Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* (RV 589), has been, for many years, one of the most popular baroque pieces performed during the Advent season. His other extant *Gloria* (RV 588), although of equal charm and quality, is seldom performed and unknown to many music enthusiasts. It is quite remarkable that for both of his *Gloria* settings Vivaldi used slightly modified versions of the *Cum Sancto Spiritu* that he borrowed from Giovanni Maria Ruggieri's setting of the *Gloria*.

A Joyful Noyse will give Vivaldi enthusiasts a chance to hear these two remarkable settings of the *Gloria* text, Vivaldi's RV 588 and Ruggieri's RV Anh 23, in the Sanctuary of Hancock Church on Sunday, November 27th at 3:00PM. Accompanying the choir and soloists will be a chamber orchestra that will include strings, oboes, trumpets, bassoon, harpsichord and organ. We are delighted to have the concertmaster of the Lexington Symphony, Elizabeth Whitfield, as well as their principal violist Lisa Kempksie, back with us again to lead the string section. A donation of \$10 will help to support the diverse and vibrant music programs at Hancock Church.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.



Music for the Advent Season by Vivaldi, Ruggieri and Caldara
Presented by

A Joyful Noyse

November 27, 2011, 3:00PM
Hancock Church, 1912 Mass. Ave., Lexington, MA
\$10 Donation for Church Music Fund

Come Sing For Christmas!

The Chancel Choir begins its preparation for this year's cantata, **Carols and Lullabies from the Southwest** by Conrad Susa, on Thursday, Nov. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. The *Carols* features a wide variety of traditional carols in beautiful new settings for choir, harp, guitar, and marimba. The cantata will be sung in worship on Sunday, January 8th.

10 X '12 Update

We are 40% of the way to our goal, but the Choir is still **seeking 6 more women** (sopranos and altos) to finish out our recruiting campaign. Come join us on Thursday evenings at 7:30—and tell a friend!

Children's Choir forming for Christmas!

Are your kids always singing around the house and in the car? Have them join our children's choir, The Hancock Choristers, for Christmas! The Choristers will start rehearsals on Sunday, Nov. 6th at 11:15 a.m. for 45 minutes in preparation for sharing in worship on December 18th. There will be 5 rehearsals total. The Choristers is open to all kids grades 1-8. For more information, contact Mark Morgan, Director of Music at mark.morgan@hancockchurch.org

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational

1912 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

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

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

Non-profit Organization
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, Mass
Permit No. 52230

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.hancockchurch.org



Hancock Calendar

The following is a list of November 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, Nov. 6: 10 am Morning Worship - Holy Communion, Rev. June Cooper from CMS .

Sunday, Nov. 6: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. Clark Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 13: 10 am Stewardship Sunday. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, Nov. 13: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. Clark Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 20: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh preaching.

Sunday, Nov. 20: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. Clark Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 27: 10 am Morning Worship. The Rev. Paul Shupe preaching.

Sunday, Nov. 27: 6:15 pm Worship @ the Well. Clark Hall.