

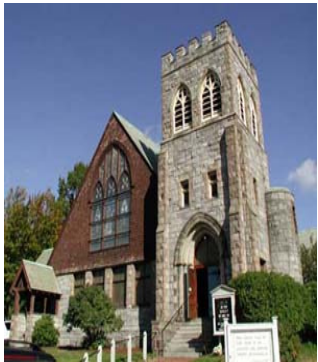
UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

November 2008



147 High Street

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Services, Events and Announcements	2
Building and Grounds Report, Thank you, Community Cupboard	3
Mission, Ongoing Events, Church Info	4
From The Trustees, Eco-Social Justice Comm., Immigration Task Force, How Does Our Church Run?	I N S E R T S

Thanksgiving



Moxie *The ability to face difficulty with spirit and courage.*

I was on tour with a band in Europe and we were in Yugoslavia, just before that nation descended into civil war, and while selling t-shirts, I found myself confused by the money. I found that I had two of the same bill with the same color and image but one bill had the number 5 and the other 500. When I inquired the reason I was told that the five dollar bill was new, and it was an example of how the nation was controlling inflation. I remember thinking "who is going to believe that by removing two zeros, it is going to control inflation." I also remember naively thinking that this couldn't happen in the US.

I don't believe that our economy is about to completely melt down, but I am aware that the economy is affecting us, our nation, our city and you and me in very real ways. At first it seemed so distant and removed from our everyday existence that I found myself feeling smug that the politicians and money changers were getting their comeuppance. As spiritual descendants of the Puritans, we are tempted to make a series of moral judgments about ourselves, our fellow church members, and our neighbors in the present economic situation. The word for that is *Schadenfreude* a German term meaning enjoyment taken from the misfortune of someone else.

It is a misplaced emotion born of a desire for justice tainted with the cynicism of our modern age. What all of should be doing is trying to cultivate within our church and community is solidarity, the genuine fellow feeling for others. We need to understand where our real support comes from and once united we can work for, and pressure our political leaders to create a fairer economic system. Because it will take all of us and then some to do the work that lies ahead regardless of who wins the election.

If you are living on a fixed income or are worried about finances, please let me know. The Ministerial Charity Fund may be able to help with small bills, but more than that, there are people in our congregation who may be able to help you with figuring out your next steps in providing resources for budgeting and planning. Beyond that, there is the simple fact that the church cares. Never be embarrassed to ask for support. This is a national crisis and it is too easy for us to be swamped by the immensity of it, so remember to reach out to us.

– Rev. Hank

Upcoming Services

Worship Services for November

NOV 2: The Election Sermon of 2008

- Rev. Hank Peirce

The Election Sermon was a sermon genre peculiar to Puritan New England, it typically touched on the nature of government, human nature, the qualifications and duties of rulers and the like. On the Sunday before this very important national election I will address what lies before all of us on the coming Tuesday.

NOV 9: And Now...

- Rev. Hank Peirce

What has truly changed since last week? What lies ahead for you, for us, for everyone. What are our expectations and what will happen when our expectations are met and when they aren't. Where should our fulfillment of our hopes really lie?

NOV 16: It's Not /Your /Birthday

- Rev. Hank Peirce

The "It's Not Your Birthday" project started last year and we will piggy-back on those successes. The aim is to help us to learn to control our personal expenses, contribute funds to local charities, teach our children the importance of giving not just of getting, and help our environment by cutting down on waste. It will help us to regain control of our religious lives, declaring that the holidays are Holy Days and that they belong to those who follow them, not those wishing to make money off of them.

NOV 23: Thanksgiving and Harvest Communion

- Rev. Hank Peirce

Today we not only celebrate the bounty of our lives but give thanks for the hard work that has gone into making this bounty. The service will be followed by our annual Thanksgiving potluck meal.

NOV 30: TBA

Events and Announcements

Heather Gomez is this month's Worship Associate.

Path to Membership Class: Saturday November 15th 10:00am – 1:00pm

Are you interested in joining the church or just finding out more about our church and our faith? Who we are, what we do, and why we do it? If so then this class should not be missed. Please sign-up in Benker Hall.

TUESDAY NIGHT EVENTS

NOV 4: Election Night Party.

NOV 11: Rise Up Sing-a-long

NOV 18: Immigration Task Force Thanksgiving Celebration.

NOV 25: Steve Schmidt's Journey (from Catholic seminarian to the Peace Corp in Thailand to Buddhist monk to UU divinity student)

Doors open at 6:30pm. Talks start at 7:00pm, followed by discussion and socializing.

November 1st

Is the Global Warming Cafe at the West Medford Community Center from 5-7 PM. Learn how to save the environment in a fun, family friendly way.

Congratulations Russell Fidelman and James Castle who recently completed the Coming of Age service.



Thank You

Thank you to the following people who were worship service volunteers during September and October.

Greeters: Dal Coger, Loren Gomez, Susan Jhirad, Michael Glenn, Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, Loren Gomez, Linda Coultas

Bell ringers: PJ & Matt Haberstroh, Hannah Gallup, Geoff Ward

Social Hour hosts: Diane Dmytryk, Chris Fiorello, Linda Schwetz & Jim St. Clair, Jenn Vento, Heather & Alex Gomez, Anne & Reece Stevenson, Karen Johnston

Flower contributors:

The MacNamees, Omri Schwarz, Miles Fidelman, Karla Hailer, Colleen & Linda Squires

Thank you Mary Stevenson ...
(two years running now?)

Thank you to Russell Tripp for his ongoing help with making the coffee for Social Hour.

Worship volunteers will be acknowledged monthly in this newsletter. Please let us know if we missed anyone.

Building and Grounds Committee Report**Building:**

- The task of installing battery operated alarms is now complete. Fred Humphreys, our custodian, installed 10 smoke alarms and 5 carbon monoxide alarms in the church and the Osgood House.
- A 7-day water heater timer with bypass switch has been installed in the church. We believe that this will save at least 50% of the church's water heating cost.
- Two programmable thermostats with lock cases have been installed in the church sanctuary and Benker Hall. These should be very cost effective too.
- Also the church will receive two Energy Star rebates from National Grid for installing these energy saving thermostats.
- After researching heating oil prices for the upcoming season, it has been determined that the lowest cost option is for the church to continue to receive its oil and servicing from Cubby Oil Company.

Grounds:

- Several more shrubs have been planted in the front of the church. Most of these were donations from the garden of Mary and Bill Stevenson.
- More mulching has been done as we slowly reduce the amount of lawn area of the church grounds.
- The brick walkway in front of the church has been edged in preparation for perennial beds.

Thanks
Maria Muller,
Building and Grounds Chairperson

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to everyone who has so generously been bringing food on Sunday for the Food Pantry. It is much needed in this terrible economy. A special thanks to the Boston Area Gleaners who have been bringing us beautiful produce from the fields this fall that would rot if they did not gather it. If you want to learn more about them or join in, go to www.bostonareagleaners.org Also thank you to the Church School children who so thoughtfully packaged Halloween treats to give to the Food Pantry clients. And finally a big thanks to Karen Johnston and others who pitched in on Tufts Community Day to staff an information table about our Food Pantry there. Great idea!

November is always the most hectic month for our Food Pantry because of the special Thanksgiving distribution which swells our number of clients considerably. That distribution will be on Tuesday, 11/25. If you can help pre-bag the Thanksgiving bags, come to Benker Hall at 4:00. Children able to work accompanied by an adult are most welcome. Thank you! -- Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

UU Medford

147 High Street
Medford, MA 02155
(781) 396-4549
Fax: (781) 396-2965
info@uumedford.org
www.uumedford.org

Church Office Hours

Tues-Wed-Friday: 9 am–2 pm
Thurs: 9 am–12 noon

Rev. Hank Peirce, Minister

revhank@uumedford.org
(781) 643-2523
Office: (781) 396-7309

Esther Rosado

Director of Religious Education
dre@uumedford.org
(781)396-4549

Lynn Battinelli

Church Administrator
(781) 396-4549
info@uumedford.org

Thom Lissey

Music Director
(617) 966-1526
music@uumedford.org



Ongoing Events

Please check calendar section on web-site for an updated listing.

Thursdays Community Cupboard Food Pantry

6:00 –7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday Buddhist Meditation

8:30-11:30 am, Moore Room

Keep in Touch — Announcements E-mail List

To join the announcements e-mail list, contact Miles Fidelman at mfidelman@fidelman.net. You will receive an e-mail confirming that you have been added to the list.

Newsletter Submissions

All articles for the newsletter are due the 15th of each month, for the following month's issue. Please send submissions to Brad Chapman at: newsletter@uumedford.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford is a diverse, welcoming community striving to provide a nurturing environment for the spiritual journeys of people at all stages of life. We foster social engagement among ourselves and seek to make a difference in our community and in the world at large.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

147 High Street Medford, MA 02155

NONPROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

*Boston, MA
Permit No. 58346*

***Time Sensitive Material
Address Correction Requested***

From the Trustees

This year we developed a Board covenant. In general, a covenant is a set of rules developed by the Board and agreed to by each Trustee that governs the way in which we relate to one another. Board covenant is as follows:

- It is important to listen to others with respect
- In conversation try to understand other people's perspectives
- Speak out of your own experience
- Communication is grounded in our being the chief guardians of our supportive community
- Communicate in a way that reflects the values and spirit of the church
- Assume good intentions
- Bring good intentions
- Be aware of your own intentions and that your intentions are not superior.
- Strive for justice
- Speak to each other respectfully
- Speak on principles and policies rather than personalities
- Try to keep a sense of humor
- Reflect on our own narcissism and competitiveness
- We will seek resolution in support of the needs of the church
- Be oriented towards service

This is an important step for us and we hope that you will find these rules to be reflective of our vision and mission of the larger UU Church of Medford community. We also set some general goals for ourselves and each Board member signed up to work on these goals. Board goals are as follows:

1. Make a proposal to the congregation about transition building to a partnership (led by **Miles Fidelman**)
2. Build a greater sense of community (led by **Denice Sakakeeny-Smith**)
3. Create administration systems that match the capacity of the church (led by **Jesse Jaeger**)

We are currently getting organized around these goals and will have more to report soon. We are working hard to build a sustainable and fulfilling community for all to enjoy. Please feel free to reach out to us to share any ideas you may have.

Our next meeting is in Osgood House on Wednesday, November 12th at 7 PM. Most of the meeting is open to the public and we welcome your input.

This community is also seeking a Treasurer. Basic knowledge is required, and training and lots of support will be provided. Please contact members of the Nominating Committee, **Sue Driscoll** or **Colleen Squires**, if you are interested in taking on this key role. Many thanks to **Helen Silver** for her continued service in this capacity.

Many Blessings,
Denice Sakakeeny-Smith
Trustee, Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

Eco-Social Justice Committee

We have purchased a composter from Medford City Hall which will be installed at the church for composting. Also we are going to try and implement a program to save the coffee grounds from the social hours and compost this every week.
- Heather Gomez

Report from the Task Force on Immigration Issues

The Task Force on Immigration Issues has now sponsored two Tuesday evening events—September 23rd and October 21st. Thanks to everyone who attended! We are now approaching the third and last of our fall events, all in support of the Welcoming Massachusetts Campaign, and all aimed at deepening our understanding of the issues involved in fair and just immigration reform.

Six members of the Task Force attended the October 1st “Witness for Justice” vigil in Boston, organized by the Arlington Street Church and endorsed by the UUA and UUSC. The demonstration called for an end to the raids, arrests and deportations of immigrants, and for Congress to pass laws providing a path towards citizenship.

We have carried out several fund-raising efforts. *All funds collected through November 15th will be distributed at the November event to groups serving immigrant communities or projects.*

The Task Force is now looking at ways of extending our efforts to the broader Medford community in 2009. One project already in-the-works is a series of monthly films on the immigrant experience, co-sponsored with the Medford Public Library. Additionally, for ten days (including our November event and the Sunday Thanksgiving dinner), we’ve arranged for the photo exhibit “Faces of Medford,” to be displayed in Benker Hall so everyone can see it.

Our November program will be on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th, from 6:30 – 9:00 PM**. It will be in the Thanksgiving spirit of “Welcoming our Neighbors.” Celebrating the diversity of our community, it will honor some local groups that assist immigrants. The evening will begin with a communal pot-luck dinner at 6:30. Stephen Schmidt will give a talk on the religious and spiritual basis of our work around immigration. We will then honor four local groups and hear about their work. These groups include the Medford food pantry, the ESOL program in West Medford, Malden’s Refugee Immigration Ministry, and Manny Exilhomme’s A Better Tomorrow Charity, Inc. Please plan to attend this event, as it promises to be an exciting and educational time.

TUESDAY NIGHT NOVEMBER 18th 6:30 – 9:00 PM Beginning with a communal dinner:

**WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS: HEARING ABOUT AND HONORING LOCAL GROUPS
WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

Thanks go out to everyone who worked on the October 21st program and/or who has been active in or helped out with the Task Force. This includes Steve Schmidt, Michael Sandberg, Liz Ammons, Eileen Dunne, Nancy Kurtz, Hank Driscoll, Esther Rosado, Heather Gomez, Philip Bloom, Annette Bloom, and Michael Glenn. The Task Force is meeting monthly, studying together, and planning further programs. If you are interested in working with us, please contact Michael Glenn at 781-396-6424 or michaelglenn01@comcast.net.

Interview Project: How does our church run (and occasionally crawl)? Have you ever wondered ...

- What is involved in getting coffee hour together?
- How does the Order of Service magically appear each Sunday morning?
- How is the Sunday service music selection chosen?
- Who shovels the driveway and sidewalks when it snows?
- Who keeps the heat turned on?
- What happens to my pledge?

We are asking your help to document the tasks that keep our church going each week. We invite those who help keep our church running and those who want to know more to participate in an interview project. One of the board initiatives for the year is to document the roles of church members, staff, and volunteers so that we can share knowledge between individuals and not have to "reinvent the wheel" each time a task arises.

This is not a big commitment and the more people involved the better (and we'll have more fun too). It is a chance to learn about the church and to meet people who have shown a dedication to the church with their service. Anyone who has a contribution to make, large or small, is invited to contact one of the following board members:

Geoff Ward: gw@lavabit.com, 781-395-9034 Jesse Jaeger: jesse@jaegerfamily.us, 617-275-1278
Tom Innis: tinnis@proventive.com, 617-435-8587