

UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford (UUCM)



# HIGHLIGHTS

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

FEBRUARY 2011



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

*Some words from my Canvass kick-off sermon on the 23rd of January.*

We care for each other here at our church, in fact we are at times the physical representation of our faith's love for each other when we do the work of the church. We are the good news personified. We are the good news when we show up on each other's steps with a casserole. We are the good news when friends take child for the night, so a parent can have some time to themselves. We are the good news when we get together for coffee and a prayer. We are the good news when we spend hours sorting bags on onions for the food pantry. We are the good news for that immigrant who has no voice, we are the good news for the refugee who needs a ride, or some household items. We are the good news for each other and for others outside of this church.

We need to be aware that we are loved and cared for by others, people we have never met. People who died long ago, but who contributed to our church's life in different ways that have allowed us to be here now. We can measure that in different ways, the land, our buildings, or theology and form of government and our endowment. People gave their money, their hard earned money because they loved this church and because they wanted us to be here today. If we divide our budget by the number of adults who are active in our church community it comes out to \$1500 per adult. It's not cheap, but its also not outrageous either. In reality, it is what it is. It is what it costs for us to run this church. Now if you can give more money than that, great, although we do get money from our endowment without eating into the principle we should use that money to help those who can't afford to increase their giving.

So during this canvass season people are going to come to your house and ask you to give to this support this ministry of ours and I hope that you can increase your giving, I know that we will. Remember that your gift is a gift, maybe even a sacrifice to our shared values. It is a gift to those people who are your friends here, a gift to the children who will come a gift to the future members of this church.

You are the good news, be the good news!

Peace,

Hank

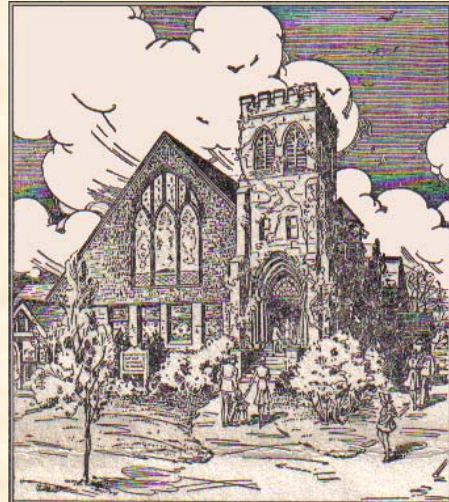
## SUNDAYS AT UU MEDFORD

### SOCIAL HOUR

Join us every Sunday for coffee after the service. If you are new to the church, please take a blue mug so people can come meet you.



Coffee hour provides an important contribution to parish life by encouraging friendly gatherings and offering attendees a chance to get to know each other and to welcome newcomers.



## Worship Services for February

*The worship theme for February is Transformation*

### **February 6, 11am: The Butterfly Effect — Rev. Hank Peirce**

Yes really the sermon is going to be on this tired old chestnut of an illustration, but of course with a different take.

### **February 13, 11am: Standing on the Side of Love — Rev. Hank Peirce**

This Valentine's weekend lets look at the ways in which we as individuals and as a congregation stand on the side of love, how we put our faith into action.

### **February 20, 11am: Death of the Liberal Class — Rev. Hank Peirce**

Social commentator Chris Hedges says that liberals in the US have been "devastated, or at least co-opted, by a corporate elite that is relentlessly driving the country toward oligarchy." Although Hedges is speaking of politics, it just may apply to religious liberals as well.

### **February 27, 11am: "The Earth is Blue" — Mr. Daryl Bridges**

**EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Monthly Worship Themes**

We have started using monthly themes as a way of focusing ongoing theological reflection and discussion among church members. Here are the themes for the coming year.

November	Gratitude
December	Unity
January	Vocation
February	Vision
March	Forgiveness
April	Transcendence
May	Transformation
June	Truth

# February

<b>Week 1:</b>	<b>at a glance</b>
Sun. 02/06, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 02/06, 11 am	Worship Service
Tues. 02/08, 7:15 pm	Board Meeting
<b>Week 2:</b>	
Sun. 02/13, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 02/13, 11 am	Worship Service
<b>Week 3:</b>	
Sun. 02/20, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 02/20, 11 am	Worship Service
<b>Week 4:</b>	
Sun. 02/27, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 02/27, 11 am	Worship Service



**2nd Annual Auction April 9th**

The auction committee is already hard at work to bring you a fun-filled evening that will add to our church coffers! Please make no plans for April 9 other than to join us. Again, many more details will be forthcoming, including the announcement of our "extra special guest auctioneer".



**Ferry Beach Weekend**

This year our weekend is May 20-22 (weekend before Memorial Day). Please mark it on your calendar. Much more information will be forthcoming, and the kick-off Social Hour at church will be March 20. Wear your beach hat!!



**Rummage Sale**

As you are sitting home watching the snow come down, how about cleaning out a closet and setting things aside for the UUCM spring rummage sale? The date is Saturday March 26. Mark your calendar, plan on helping out a little, and SAVE that



**Choir Practice**

The choir rehearses at 10am most Sundays from October to June, and sings during the service two or three times a month.

Anyone is welcome to join!

New members are always welcome (no audition or music-reading skills necessary)! For more information, please contact Music Director Thom Lissey at [music@uumedford.org](mailto:music@uumedford.org) or (617) 966-1526.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, COMMITTEES &amp; GROUPS



## Sunday and Christmas Eve Worship Service Volunteers Acknowledgments

**Social Hour Hosts:** David Concepcion, Jeanne Feeley, Craig & Martha Sandler, Clare Gallup, Pauline Fiorello, Camilla Fox, Emily Hanna (twice), Linda Squires, Jim & Rebecca Kennedy (twice), The Religious Education Committee and children, Liza Kitchell, Susan Jhirad, Rita Bamford, Russell Tripp, Lourie August, Karen Johnston, Molly Ruggles

Thank you to Russell Tripp for making the coffee for Social Hour every week.

**Greeters:** Lori Gardinier, Linda Coultas, Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, Jeanne Feely, Elizabeth Dowey, Lynn Merl, Bob Stockwell (twice), Linda Squires (multiple times), Loren Bernardi, Tammy & Dan McKanan (multiple times), Clare Gallup, Casey Chapman, Russell Tripp

Thank you to Linda Squires, the Membership Committee team, and the Sunday Volunteer Coordinators who each week take care that community members new and old are properly welcomed and informed.

**Service Assistants:** Thank you to all the Christmas Eve service readers

**Chalice Lighters:** Geoff Ward, Craig Chandler

**Bell Ringers:** Sophia Mohoney, Maya Coultas & Jenn Vento, the Healion Family, Patricia Healion, Eddie & Luke Barbeau, Matt & Philip Haberstroh

**Flower Sponsors:** the Gallup Family; Carol Schachet, remembering the first anniversary of the Haiti earthquake; Linda & Colleen Squires in honor of their 24th anniversary! Thank you Mary Stevenson for her creative and beautiful weekly flower arrangements.

**Choir Members:** Janice Dallas, Hank Driscoll, Lynn Knight, Nancy Kurtz, Anna Seleny, Helen Silver, Jenn Vento, Geoff Ward.

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, COMMITTEES &amp; GROUPS

## Fall 2010 - Early Winter 2011

## Building and Grounds Committee Report



A substantial number of projects were completed this past fall and early winter.

### Grounds

Thank you to everyone who generously volunteered on our fall leave raking and cleanup day. Special thanks to Geoff Ward who filled numerous barrels and bags with leaves on his own.

Substantial additional plantings were added to the grounds this fall. A tall ornamental grass was planted in the front of the church towards the driveway. Rita Bamford planted many groundcover junipers to fill in the front bed near the sidewalk. She also donated and planted a small dogwood tree to the right of the main front door. Finally, more daylilies and astors were planted at the left side of the Osgood House.

### Building

Much work was done on our buildings these past months!

The copper roofing on the flat part of the turret to the left of the church side door was replaced. Copper was used to comply with historic building restrictions. The damage to the ceiling of the Quiet Room caused by the leaking of that roof was then repaired.

The shingles on the Benker Hall outside wall which surrounds the large stained window was replaced, and stained. Quite a bit of underlying rotted wood was discovered and replaced.

After much prodding, the areas on the outside of the Osgood House where the paint started peeling shortly after the job was initially completed in 2006 was scraped and repainted by the painter.

The church sewer line started backing up in late November. It was discovered that many decades of root growth had clogged the drain pipe and the huge mass was cleared out.

The toilet in the back room next to the Moore Room was repaired, and its shutoff valve was replaced, after it started leaking.

The church telecommunications setup was reconfigured. The physical lines inside the Osgood House office were tidied up and augmented. Multiple voicemail boxes were added to the main church telephone service, and the second line was made internet-only. This will result in savings of \$50 per month. (Thank you to Geoff Ward and his friend Jon Evans.)

Maria Muller, Building and Grounds chairperson.

## COMMITTEES & GROUPS

### APPLICATIONS FOR PAUL GRAYSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR 2011 AVAILABLE

Paul Grayson, a member of the UUCM since April of 2001 until his demise on March 12, 2006, was above all a teacher and a lover of learning. In his honor his widow, Bea Grayson, and the Board of Trustees have established the PAUL GRAYSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

The Fund was established with an initial donation from Bea Grayson. The Board has also voted to dedicate the plate collection on the second Sunday in March of every year to the Fund. The Scholarship Award will be made annually to one or more members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, young of age or young at heart, who plan to achieve an educational goal in the coming year.

Since its inception in 2006, Grayson Scholarships have been awarded to 15 recipients in the total amount of \$ 6200. In 2010, Grayson Scholarships were awarded to Russell Fidelman, Anne Stevenson, and Devan Hayes.

This year the fifth annual Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund collection will take place on April 10, 2011. Application forms for the Paul Grayson Scholarship Award for the 2011-2012 year will be available for pick up at the Church. They will also be available online at the UUCM website\*. Applications will be accepted up to April 30, 2011 and the award will be announced at the Congregational Meeting on June 5, 2011. The selection committee consists of Beatriz Grayson, Nancy Kurtz and Linda Schwetz.

Members who are awarded a scholarship will be asked to share their growth experience with the Congregation on Grayson Sunday.

Members and friends of UUCM may contribute to the Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund by check made payable to Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, with the notation Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund.

\*[http://uumedford.org/docs/Grayson\\_Scholarship\\_Application\\_2011.rtf](http://uumedford.org/docs/Grayson_Scholarship_Application_2011.rtf)



### A Benefit Concert for the Refugee Immigration Ministry

Saturday, February 12th 7 p.m.

At the

### Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church

70 West Emerson Street  
Melrose MA 02176  
781-665-7504  
[www.melroseuu.org](http://www.melroseuu.org)

Join us and hear music performed by  
local choirs and soloists including:

Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church  
First United Methodist Church of Melrose  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford  
First Congregational Church, UCC of Melrose

Donations accepted and all proceeds will be given to  
The Refugee Immigration Ministry.  
For more information about RIM go to [www.r-i-m.net](http://www.r-i-m.net)



**COMMITTEES & GROUPS****Search for Volunteer for UUCM Treasurer**

Helen Silver, our Assistant Treasurer and chief financial person, will be leaving the Boston area this spring. This means we need to find and train a replacement to fill this important position over the next few months. Her description for the job is given below.

Anyone comfortable with numbers and computers will find that the time and logistical requirements associated with the position are not high. The church accounting package can be installed freely on anyone's PC or Mac. Church administrator Lynn does most of the data entry, and the most recent up-to-date data can be easily copied onto a user's machine for report generating and cross-checking purposes. This all means that most of the job can be done from the comfort of your home.

Thank you to everyone considering the position,

Geoff Ward

**Job Description of UUCM Assistant Treasurer**

The person filling the position should be comfortable with numbers, and ideally have some knowledge of accounting principles, although a willingness to learn is OK.

He/she should be willing to be trained on how to operate the church accounting package, to enable reporting on church finances. Data entry is done by others, but the financial person should be able to do error-checking on the entries as needed.

Each week, an hour or so in the church office and occasionally another hour at home is usually enough time to accomplish the following tasks:

- (1) Approving expenditures and signing checks (backup signers available).
- (2) Depositing non-collection-related checks into the church checking account.
- (3) Replenishing petty cash as needed.
- (4) Reconciling the monthly checking account statement with office accounts.
- (5) Preparing a brief monthly report for the Church Board.
- (6) Keeping monthly investment statements and reports in appropriate binders.

If anyone has further questions, or would like to "step up" and volunteer for this important church position, please respond by writing to Helen at [hmsilver@juno.com](mailto:hmsilver@juno.com), or speak to anyone on the Board of Trustees. Thanks!

UU Medford

Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

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

**Church Office Hours**

Tuesday: 9 am - 2 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 - 10:30 pm at Diesel Café  
10:30 - 10:30 pm at Church

Thursday: 9 am - 12 noon

Friday: 9 am - 2 pm

**Rev. Hank Peirce**

*Minister*

revhank@uumedford.org  
(781) 396-7309

**Kimberly Wootan**

*Director of Religious Education*

dre@uumedford.org  
(781) 396-4549

**Lynn Battinelli**

*Church Administrator*

info@uumedford.org  
(781) 396-4549

**Thom Lissey**

*Music Director*

music@uumedford.org  
(617) 966-1526

**Ongoing Events**

Please check calendar section on website for an updated listing. <http://www.uumedford.org/calendar.html>

**Wednesdays — Al Anon**

7:30 - 9:00 pm, Benker Hall

**Thursdays — Community Cupboard Food Pantry**

6:00 - 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

**Saturdays — Buddhist Meditation**

8:30 - 11:30 am, Moore Room

**Keep in Touch — Announcements E-mail List**

To join the announcements e-mail list, e-mail a request to [webinfo@uumedford.org](mailto:webinfo@uumedford.org). 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 20th of each month, for the following month's issue. Please send submissions to Meghan Chan at: [newsletter@uumedford.org](mailto: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.*