



Highlights

Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford • www.uumedford.org • (781) 396-4549 • February 2006

Inside:

Moxie.....	1
Worship.....	1
Board Notes.....	2
Post Script.....	2
Social Action Committee...	2
Announcements.....	2
Food Pantry.....	3
Volunteer Opportunity.....	3
Who's Who?.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	3
Mission Statement.....	4
Contacts.....	4

A Month of Sundays:

Feb. 5. Honest Abe: Intergenerational Service Rev. Hank Peirce
Feb. 12 Of Candles & Communion Rev. Hank Peirce
Feb. 19 Beans & Brown Bread Rev. Hank Peirce
Feb. 26 Lay Lead Service Colleen Squires & Steve Schmidt

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

Recently Nancy Kurtz and I had a lunch meeting with the Rev. Bonnie-Jeanne Casey to plan the leadership training day, and once again I walked away with more ideas than could fit in my head. Now one idea that got me to thinking may or may not have any impact on the leadership day, but it was so compelling that I want to share it with you.

We were discussing who comes to our church, why they come and how long they usually stay. I have always known that there are only a few people who grew up in Medford who attend, and that there are maybe six or seven folks who have been here for more than ten years. Bonnie-Jeanne asked us this: *“How would thinking that the people who come to your church stay active for ten years rather than for a life time affect how you do church?”* This question had Nancy and me busy the rest of our day.

“What does this question mean?” you may ask. In most urban congregations people only stay for ten years or less before having to move, while in suburban and rural areas congregations can count on generations of families to be around. The difference means that urban churches need to quickly get people up to speed on how the church works, what we believe, and what is expected as members. The suburban and rural churches can assume that Mr. X will take care of the potluck because he always has, or that Ms. Y will get the front yard looking just so, or even that people will ‘just get how church works’ after coming to church for a few years. So, if we assume that maybe we have been using the wrong measuring stick, what things do you think we could or should change?

These are the sorts of questions and ideas that Rev. Casey energizes us with. I invite any of you, whether you are sitting on a committee now or would like to at a future time, to sign-up for the leadership training day and take part in how we look at what we do as a community of faith.

Peace,
Hank

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Spring Events

There are a number of events and activities to look forward to in the next few months that will strengthen our community and celebrate our commitment and accomplishments at UUCM.

Our leadership day will be February 4th. This workshop with Rev. Bonnie Jeanne Casey will help us put together our visions for some directions where we want to head in the coming year and how we can use the budget process to get there.

Our membership canvass will occur during March and April. Let's use this as an opportunity to reflect on and discuss with the canvass members what UUCM means to each of us and what our hopes are for its future.

The Membership Committee is spearheading a major fund raising and social event, the Person-to-Person Auction. Dates and plans are being finalized. The committee would welcome assistance from those wishing to participate in organizing the event, soliciting the items to be auctioned, engaging an auctioneer, etc. there are lots of tasks which can be divided up so if lots of people help, it will not be too burdensome. This should be a really fun event and a chance to get to know our fellow members and their skills and talents in new ways. If you can help, contact Helen Silver.

We also will be commemorating and recognizing the completion of the restoration work on the sanctuary window and tower. Again, details of this event will follow later.

See you in Church!

--Nancy Kurtz, Board Chair

*"People are just as happy as they make
up their minds to be"*

Abraham Lincoln

POST SCRIPT

After my sermon addressing the regrettable ministry of Rev. Charles E. Clarke at the Hillside Universalist Church I thought that I might, every once in a while, include a brief biography of someone from our Unitarian Universalist history who is not well known.

Chester Greenwood was born in Farmington, ME and grew up in the Unitarian Church in Farmington. At the age of 15 while testing a new pair of ice skates, he grew frustrated at trying to protect his ears from the bitter cold. After wrapping his head in a scarf, which was too bulky and itchy, he made two ear-shaped loops from wire and asked his grandmother to sew fur on them. He patented an improved model with a steel band that held them in place and with Greenwood's Champion Ear Protectors, he established Greenwood's Ear Protector Factory. He made a fortune supplying Ear Protectors to U.S. soldiers during World War I. Farmington Maine is now known as the Earmuff Capital of the World.

--Hank Peirce

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Action Committee is finishing up a project to provide information to Community Cupboard Food Pantry clients about fuel assistance programs available to people in need. With the rise in fuel costs, on top of gasoline, rent, and food expenses, it is hard for people living at or below the poverty line to afford adequate heat. We hope the information we can provide will help.

Our next projects include leading a lay-led service in March focused on peace. On the Social Action table in Benker Hall we have made available pamphlets from the UU Service Committee titled "Frequently Asked Questions about U.S.-Sponsored Torture." Please take one.

Also our ongoing work includes joining in coalition with others to fight poverty systemically. In particular, we hope to become part of the "Let Justice Roll" activist campaign that advocates for a living wage for all in the United States. Endorsed by the National Council of Churches, "Let Justice Roll" brings together faith and community voices against poverty and was the principal sponsor of the MLK Day "Living Wage Day" program at the Quincy UU Church where Senator Ted Kennedy and members of SEIU were speakers. We wish to join in this activist effort to demand economic justice and to create fundamental social change.

We meet from 7:00-8:15pm in the Osgood House on the second Monday of every month. Our next meeting is on February 13th. All are welcome. Bring your energy. Bring your ideas. Keeping a living, visible, social action practice vigorous in our spiritual community is one way to put our UU principles into meaningful practice. Please feel welcome to join in.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Eve service at our church and contributed to the offering. The collection that night went to the Community Cupboard Food Pantry located in our church, which received more than \$400 because of your generosity. This money goes directly to the purchase of food: dried beans at a local supermarket, bread at a local day-old store, and many different items at very reduced prices at the Greater Boston Food Bank. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by the families and individuals who come to our Pantry.

Also the Food Pantry is happy to announce that again this year we received a substantial grant from the Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund. Applicants for this grant must be nonprofit charity or community service agencies in one of the areas in which Tufts is located (Medford, Somerville, Grafton, or Boston's Chinatown) and have one or more volunteer who works or studies at Tufts. We are very grateful to receive this support from Tufts University.

Finally, but not least important, two people in the church have volunteered to order, pick up, and deliver dried beans to the Food Pantry on a regular basis so we have enough of this staple each week. Many thanks to Maria Muller and Geoff Ward for taking on this crucial job!

--Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Someone is needed to take on the care of the church bulletin board, the one above the table in the hall. Teri Schwartz fixed it nicely with lavender and pale green for the Sabbatical Committee display - but that was last April. It would be so nice to see other colors there, changing about four times a year as the seasons change. A few silk flowers, autumn leaves, plastic snowflakes, or other small touches would add so much.

Surely it wouldn't take a lot of time, just a bit of interest. Expenses for materials can be reimbursed by the Membership Committee. Please see Helen Silver to accept this assignment, before someone else snatches the opportunity!

WHO'S WHO?

The Membership Committee will assist in getting a new directory printed soon. There will be a master list available during the social hour for a few upcoming Sundays, so you can check your listing. If you have a different e-mail address, a new cell phone number, another child or have moved in the past year or two, be sure to update your information. You can phone or e-mail it to the office (info@uufmeford.org) if you don't have a chance to stop by. Once published, we will print future changes in the newsletter so everyone can keep their directory current.

Plans for including our photos in the directory unfortunately did not materialize. However, we hope to soon post those of the board members, staff, and committee chairs in Benker Hall. That will help everyone know who's who. Anyone interested in helping with these projects should speak to Helen Silver, Membership Chair (781-395-1066).

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FEB 4 9:00-12:00

MOORE ROOM

The board invites all members of our community who see themselves in leadership positions of the church to come and take part in a training lead by the Rev. Bonnie-Jeanne Casey. Bonnie-Jeanne inspired the board into a different and more usable way of understanding its function in the church. No doubt she will inspire all who attend to similar revelations.

WORSHIP CONVERSATION

FEB 12 12:15-1:00

MOORE ROOM

The Worship Committee invites everyone to stay after the service and hear and discuss the results of the worship survey. This will be a chance for all of us to better understand the who, what, why and how of our worship liturgy.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

(date TBA) 5:00

BENKER HALL

The family game night is a chance for all members of the church family to come and spend time playing the board games you love now or loved as a youngster, and get to know all the other members of our church family. Look out for the announcement on the date.

ADULT EDUCATION: UU HISTORY

WEDNESDAYS 7:00

OSGOOD HOUSE

This four part class will cover our liberal religious history from 16th Century Europe to here today. All are welcome to come for all or to just 'drop-in.'

- 2/1 Unitarianism in Europe
- 2/8 Universalism in America
- 2/15 Unitarianism in America
- 2/22 Modern Unitarian Universalism

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Medford**

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

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9 am–2 pm;

Thursday 9 am–12 noon

Rev. Hank Peirce, Minister

revhank@uumedford.org
(781) 643-2523

Office: (781) 396-7309

Esther Rosado

Acting Director

of Religious Education

dre@uumedford.org

(781)396-4549

Lynn Battinelli,

Church Administrator

(781) 396-4549

info@uumedford.org

Russell Tripp, Music

Director

(781) 395-6449

Nancy Kurtz, Board Chair

(781) 391-5157

ONGOING EVENTS

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

THURSDAYS COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

6–7:30 pm, Sanctuary

SATURDAY BUDDHIST MEDITATION

8:30-11:30 am, Moore Room

SUNDAY YOGA

9:30–10:30 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(s).

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

All articles for the newsletter are due the third Monday of each month and should be sent to newsletter@uumedford.org.

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

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