



The Common

A gathering place for inspiration and resources to aid in our journey toward excellence

United Church News
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October | November 2008
Section B

▶ in this issue

- ▶ **LOCAL CHURCHES PUT THE GREEN LIGHT ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**
- ▶ **MASS. INTER-FAITH POWER AND LIGHT FIGHTS GLOBAL WARMING**
- ▶ **M&P COLUMN: WHERE DOES HOPE TAKE YOU?**
- ▶ **MASSRELEAF MINISTRY**
- ▶ **ONE CHURCH'S EFFORTS**
- ▶ **ANNUAL MEETING**
- ▶ **CALENDAR**

Nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches

Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ
One Badger Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5517

(508) 875-5233
macucc@macucc.org
www.macucc.org

Send questions, comments and suggestions to:

Marlene Gasdia-Cochrane,
Writer/Editor
cochranem@macucc.org

To subscribe or change an address, call 800.363.0575 or go to www.macucc.org/ucnews



photo:Jacqueline Cochrane

Bells toll to warn of the environmental disaster that looms upon us. Energy use is assessed in order to reduce energy consumption, lower operating costs, and promote clean, renewable energy in houses of worship. Climate summits are planned and healthy curriculums are being developed. There are many ideas blooming throughout the Massachusetts Conference churches in an effort to avert the destruction of God's great earth. Read this issue and you may find a few seeds of hope to plant in your community.

Local churches put the green light on environmental awareness actions

by Marlene Gasdia-Cochrane, Editor

In June, Massachusetts Conference Minister and President The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, invited local churches to “blow the trumpet” – to ring their church bells 350 times to inspire communities to “make the necessary changes in our behavior so that our grandchildren will enjoy the Eden into which we were born.”

The campaign began with churches in two corners of the Commonwealth: First Congregational Church, UCC in Williamstown and Dennis Union Church in Dennis. Then, on 4th of July weekend, two churches in the other two corners joined: Old North Church in Marblehead and First Congregational Church in Sheffield. The goal is to have 350 of the almost 400 UCC churches in Massachusetts ring their bells before the 350th day of the year – December 15th. (350 represents the number of parts per

million of carbon in the atmosphere that is sustainable on a long term basis.)

“During the times of the Revolution, the church bells were often rung as alarms,” said the Rev. Carrie Bail, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Williamstown. “This time, “she said, the bell is being struck as an urgent call to action to prevent a potential worldwide disaster.”

Bail has been involved with several environmental action groups. In fact, last year this paper reported on the Williamstown church's involvement in the “Step-it-Up” grassroots campaign started by Environmentalist Bill McKibben, author of the 1989 book on global warming. The church held an event where interfaith, political, scientific and business representatives came together to speak to the community about global warming.

...The goal is to have 350 of the almost 400 UCC churches in Massachusetts ring their bells

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light fights global warming

by Vince Maraventano,
Clean Energy Coordinator, Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

At a time when it is critically necessary to reverse global warming, First Parish of Westwood, UCC, Eliot Church of Newton, and the Massachusetts Conference are leading by example.

In 2002 Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light conducted environmental stewardship assessments for First Parish and Eliot Church. Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light (MIPandL) is a non-profit initiative offering Massachusetts congregations of every religious tradition a comprehensive means of reducing energy consumption, lowering operating costs, and promoting clean, renewable energy in houses of worship and related buildings. With over 150 members involving Christian, Jewish and Unitarian Universalist congregations, we are a mutual ministry working with the community of faith toward environmental justice and care of creation.

The results of the assessments and actions taken prove that good environmental stewardship is good

stewardship of church resources. Both churches have significantly reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and saved a lot of money.

First Parish of Westwood installed a 2.64 kWh photovoltaic panel on its roof, through a cooperative effort with MIPandL, Conservation Services Group and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. A monitoring device shows energy output and the amount of fossil fuel use that is being avoided. Since monitoring began in 2004 the panel has generated 23,709 kWh of electricity. In 2007 it generated 5,820 kWh resulting in savings of \$1,222. The Massachusetts Technology Council paid 62% of the cost of the panel. Federal and state tax credits may also be available for such installations.

Eliot Church of Newton has followed a more traditional route with similarly impressive results. In 2003 Eliot installed four locked programmable thermostats and a zone valve creating 5 heating zones. Those improvements alone resulted in a

-continued on B4

-continued on B3

Where does hope take you?



MINISTER
& PRESIDENT'S
COLUMN



The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal
Minister
& President

This is what it feels like to be at the fork in the road. What you're feeling. Whoever you are. Right now. Having lived for thousands of generations, human beings have never before felt what you are feeling – what it's like to be at the fork in the road.

Ahead, one path appears (at first at least) as if it will be a continuation of the path you have been on. Change is hardly evident. If you learn of change at all, it is in hushed tones, quiet whispers on page 23 of the newspaper, and such changes are almost always in a distant, unfamiliar place (such as the Canadian Arctic, where ice shelves more than three times the area of Manhattan recently broke off). The price of gas goes way up ... people (and perhaps you, yourself) drive less ... and the price of gas goes down – some. Thank God!

If you squint – like you really want to see where this path is going – you can see that the path makes a turn. Beyond that turn you can see nothing. Just before the turn is a sign. It reads, "Danger! Cliff! End of path..." But the sign is rickety; it's just leaning there, like someone brought it from someplace else. It's hard to tell how long it might take before you'd reach that turn; hard to

know how much time you'd have to maintain continuity with life as you've experienced it. Perhaps a few years. Perhaps a little longer. But what you're certain of is that you don't control the pace. Down the way is a church. You can hear the pastor's sonorous voice through the open window. He's reading from the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

It's hard to know how much time you'd have, to maintain continuity with life as you've experienced it.

The other path is disconcerting, to say the least. Within a few steps, you'll have to get on all fours and climb down a treacherous ravine. You don't have the right equipment – in fact, much of the equipment you'll need hasn't been invented yet. And you can't go down this path alone. You can only go down this way if everyone helps one another and totally commits to a common challenge. As you steel yourself and peer over the edge of that descent, you see that if you make it down in one piece, you'll face an even more daunting challenge – to summit what appears to be an impossibly difficult climb. A scientist hands you binoculars. The binoculars also allow you to see quite far down this path – much farther than the bend in the other path. They also allow you see down this path in greater detail.

Three things jump out at you. First of all, the path is parched. Potable water becomes more and more scarce. Second, none of the forms of energy that are now plentiful can be taken on this path. New forms must be developed. Finally, there's no way you can bring with you all the things – the stuff –

you've accumulated throughout your life. And one more thing. There's a church you can see in the distance. And on the sign out front there's part of a single verse of scripture from the book of Revelation, chapter 21, verse 5, "See, I am making all things new."

Jim's Antal's "Green" Book Picks New Books on the Ethics and Theology of Climate Change

Any preacher with interest in climate change and the environment could benefit from reading any of the following:

Willis Jenkins, **Ecologies of Grace - Environmental Ethics and Christian Theology**; Oxford, 2008.

Yale Divinity School professor asks how does salvation relate to environmental ethics? He argues that being saved intimately connects with saving nature.

Michael S. Northcott, **A Moral Climate - The Ethics of Global Warming**; Orbis, 2007.

U. of Edinburgh Professor offers a book that engages the science, draws on the whole of scripture in its exegetical portrait of the earth, thoroughly grasps the relevant theological concepts (including the trinitarian, christological, anthropological and eschatological issues) and moves the reader to repentance, empowerment and engagement in the political and economic dimensions of this crisis. (Thanks to Sam Wells' review in Christian Century, 5/6/2008)

James Gustav Speth, **The Bridge at the Edge of the World - Capitalism, the Environment,**

and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability; Yale, 2008.

Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Speth brings formidable knowledge of both science and economics to examine the justice implications of the environmental crisis.

Thomas Friedman, **Hot, Flat and Crowded**; Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008.

Exhorting sacrifice, Friedman argues that there is still time for the United States to bring our technological capability to bear on the greatest challenge humans have ever faced, and in the meantime, reverse our economic decline. We must recognize what John Gardner called "a series of great opportunities disguised as insoluble problems."

Thomas Berry, **The Great Work - Our Way Into The Future**; Bell Tower.

Foundational, inspiring and prophetic. Written in 1999 by cultural historian and world religions teacher after decades of study.

MassReLeaf Ministry: planting trees for human justice and survival

by Neal Seaborn, MassReLeaf Ministry Director



Neal
Seaborn

The Jesse Tree. The Tree of Life. Trees – which of course are vital to everyday living – have played significant roles throughout religious history,

and are still important to local religious organization ministries. Besides the life-sustaining task of absorbing carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen, trees nourish communities in many other ways.

Trees also reduce levels of other toxic gases and solid particle pollutants in the air that can negatively impact human physical, mental and emotional health. Trees reduce heating and cooling needs for residential buildings, reduce rainfall runoff and consequent erosion, return clean drinking water to local wells, function as habitat for wildlife and reduce global warming.

However, the benefits of trees reach beyond ecology. Planted within municipalities, they are visible signs that a community has a sense of pride and that the community is highly valued by its residents. Forested streets and public parks help define the character of communities and offer the functional benefits of noise reduction, cooling shade, visual screening, enhanced property values, economic growth, community pride, reduction of crime and recovery from illnesses.

It is for these reasons that a direct-hands-on ministry for local religious organizations was born. As a result of a successful tree-planting pilot project in 2003 by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Wellesley Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church of Somerville, UCC, the Massachusetts Conference and the DCR established a joint social action partnership.

The aim of this partnership – the 'MassReLeaf Ministry' – was to help

revive the practice of environmental theology within local religious organizations and to bring a doable environmental justice ministry to the forefront of congregational experience in the worship, life and witness of these organizations, their communities and the wider world.

Since that seed was planted, the MassReLeaf Ministry has provided local religious organizations with facilitation resources they need, including: money to pay for trees, education, connections with appropriate local municipal counterparts, project management and planning guidance support, proper tree-planting and maintenance technique training, and technical support to ensure success of their respective projects.

The results so far: 23 tree-planting projects led by local religious organizations in communities across Massachusetts. 29 local religious organizations have participated in these projects (along with their local municipal counterparts and other community organizations) and planted 541 trees (200-400 pounds each).

Those trees have really made an impact throughout different communities.

Reverend Ann Suzedell, Senior Pastor of the Quincy Point Congregational Church, UCC, said: "Planting trees among the 45 buildings of Riverview Housing that house 180 low-income families, was a very meaningful experience for our church. Especially at the end of the first day of planting when the residents, many of whom were formerly homeless, came out of their housing to admire and fondly touch some of the 33 large trees that we planted."

Cristina Cabrera, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary

(ANTS) Student and ANTS Ecology Minister reported that: "The experience of working with the City of Newton, Hebrew College, Eliot Church of Newton (UCC), Newton Highlands Congregational Church, UCC and other local volunteer organizations to conduct a MassReLeaf Ministry project to plant 64

trees throughout Newton ... went a long way to help draw our community together."

I invite your local church to lead a MassReLeaf Ministry local project or participate in a hands-on or financial way. Your involvement will benefit tens of thousands of the neediest people in Massachusetts for many years to come.



LEARN MORE @

< www.macucc.org/emj >



This MassReLeaf Ministry planting was led by the Quincy Point Congregational Church, UCC at the Quincy Riverside Housing Development and supported by the Quincy Housing Authority, City of Quincy officials, and Riverside Housing Residents.

Mass. Interfaith Power & Light

-continued from B1

25% annual reduction in fuel costs. Eliot Church expects to see further fuel use reduction this year. New cellulose insulation was added under a utility rebate program that absorbed 75% of the cost. At a recent work day, members insulated fireplace openings and installed additional weather-stripping. Eliot is also considering the installation of interior storm windows.

Eliot also reduced natural gas use 25% by the addition of a hot water heater blanket, and a timer that limits operation of the recirculation

pump to 6 hours per day. The installation of 32 CFL's in the sanctuary, and occupancy sensors in bathrooms, cut electricity use by 20%.

The Conference facilities in Framingham installed insulation and double pane windows following a 2003 MIPandL assessment. Conference Minister

Jim Antal hopes to make conference improvements that are a model for all churches. The Cornerstone Fund of the United Church of Christ offers Eco-Loans of up to \$75,000.

Electricity costs follow gas and oil costs and are expected to rise significantly next year. The combination of saving money, saving resources, and protecting the environment are pretty powerful reasons to check with MIPandL and see how your church can 'go green.'



...good environmental stewardship is good stewardship of church resources.



LEARN MORE @

< www.MIPandL.org >
email: Maraventano@mipandl.org



Even one small change can make a difference. Here the sanctuary of Eliot Church of Newton is illuminated with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLS).

[photo by Nick Maraventano]

Summit on climate and energy to be held in November

The Massachusetts Conference, the Massachusetts Council of Churches, Boston Theological Institute, and the Episcopal Church are co-sponsoring a summit of religious leaders to discuss the twin crisis of climate instability/global warming and energy prices/“peak oil”.

The meeting of religious leaders, clergy, staff and lay leaders will be held November 20th at Plymouth Congregational Church in Framingham, from 11:00am - 2:30pm.

Bill McKibben, internationally known author on climate issues,

will speak on his new global initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is a requested donation of \$40 to cover expenses; lunch is included. For additional information, or to register, contact Tina Clarke at tclarke@cleanwater.org or phone 413-863-5253.

One church's attempt to answer the call to environmental stewardship

by Jenny Fleming-Ives, Member, First Churches of Northampton



Jenny Fleming-Ives

of the environment.

Over 10 years ago The First Churches of Northampton, a combined UCC and ABC Church, began to take seriously the call to faith communities to be stewards of the environment. It started very simply with small attempts by individual church members to promote recycling of items in the church kitchen and to reduce the number of paper goods at church events. Building on church members' interest the Board of Christian Education took the institutional lead by sponsoring a range of activities with an environmental theme, from fall apple picking and a Blessing of the Animals Service to 'Keeping the Earth' and 'Simpler Christmas' workshops and an Earth Sabbath. All of this was supported and encouraged with preaching and teaching by the ministry staff.

An Environmental Concerns Working Group was formed with representation from each Board of the Church. The Church Council charged this group to accomplish three things: (1) Come up with a plan for each Board and Committee of the Church to promote environ-

mental awareness and stewardship; (2) look to adopting the National Council of Churches Environmental Covenant; and (3) create The First Churches own Environmental Covenant to include in the Sunday worship bulletin.

All of this was accomplished by February of 2001 when at the Annual Meeting the National Council of Churches Covenant and The First Churches' own Environmental Statement were adopted by a unanimous vote. Following this decision First Churches members contributed to the successful passage in June 2001 of the resolution on the Environment and the Church at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Continuing outreach, First Churches joined with other faith communities in the Pioneer Valley to form the Environmental Interfaith Task Force to promote environmental education and activism among congregations and people of faith. The Task Force has promoted the clean up of polluting power plants; has held annual updates on environmental legislation with Massachusetts State Legislators; has offered public forums on global warming with leading scientific experts in the field; has sponsored

workshops on sustainable living, on the reduction in the use of toxic chemicals, and assisted faith communities in learning practical steps to take towards healing the earth.

We offered public viewings of: "The Inconvenient Truth" and "The Great Warming."

At First Churches, implementation of environmental stewardship into the life of the Church has been an ongoing task. Building renovations have been reviewed with a view to environmental impact; energy audits continue and cleaning supplies have been evaluated in light of toxins. Caring for the Earth and celebrating God's creation has been woven into worship services and the Christian Education curriculum. Most recently the Youth Group led the congregation in observing a Carbon Sabbath: a sunset to sunset fossil fuel fast where we ate baked beans cooked in a homemade solar oven and read stories by the light of beeswax candles.

Together every day we seek to lift up and care for God's earth through what we do in worship, education, individual and congregational lifestyle choices and in our church's community, national and global involvement.



Healthy curriculum available for free

The Massachusetts Council of Churches is offering a free resource to promote healthy living. "Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities" – an adult and youth curriculum on Creation, toxic products, and environmental justice – is now available to congregations in Massachusetts. This free, Biblically-based resource provides churches with an introduction to environmental justice and the problem of toxic chemicals in everyday life, and provides practical solutions.

The program, which consists of eight study sessions, is designed as self-contained and lay- or clergy-led. Four of the sessions provide a framework for understanding environmental health and justice from a Christian perspective; four sessions suggest ways to protect children, make churches safer, contribute to healthy communities, and get

involved in legislative advocacy. The sessions stand on their own or can be used as a series.

The curriculum is appropriate for use in an adult Christian education class, a retreat, an Advent or Lenten study, a youth group, clergy group, ecumenical gathering, and many other settings.

Training classes are also available throughout October. Contact Lise at 508-869-2167 or mcchealthychurches@yahoo.com



LEARN MORE @

For a hard copy of the curriculum, or to order a free "Coffee Hour Kit" – which can introduce the topic to your congregation – contact Louise at the MCC office, 617-523-2771, or email louise@masscouncilofchurches.org.

Resources

The UCC's Cornerstone Fund offers loans for property-related projects, including for energy efficiency.

For more information go to <http://cornerstonefund.org/>

General Information

The United Church of Christ's Environmental Justice
www.ucc.org/justice/environmental-justice

United Church of Christ's Eco-Action
<http://ucccecoaction.org/index.html> The

The Web of Creation
www.webofcreation.org/

The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice
<http://ncccecojustice.org/resources.html>

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
www.epa.gov/stewardship/index.htm

Resources and Curricula

Operation Creation
www.newcommunityproject.org/pdfs/operation_creation.pdf

Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities

For a hard copy of the curriculum, call Louise at the MCC office, 617-523-2771, or send an email to louise@masscouncilofchurches.org. Questions should be directed to the Rev. Lise Hildebrandt (mcchealthychurches@yahoo.com or 508-869-2167).

Videos & DVDs from the Resource Center

"Love the Earth and Be Healed"
Study the idea of loving the earth and environment and in the process become healed by reconnecting to all that God called good.

"Remedies: Healing the Earth"
Learn how grassroots communities are taking on the challenge while, at the same time, participating in sustainable livestock development.

"Renewal: Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement"
Effective ways to engage people of faith, foster inter-faith dialogue and break down barriers between secular environmentalists and people of faith.

Local churches put the green light on environmental awareness

—continued from B1

Williamstown, however, is not the only hotbed of global warming and environmental awareness events. There are ministries forming and local church activities taking place all over the Commonwealth in an effort to bring attention to the environmental crisis.

In fact, September's Spotlight story highlighted the efforts of the First Evangelical Congregational Church of Uxbridge. Over eight weeks during the summer they honored their covenant with the earth and its creatures by holding service at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon. Rev. Gordon Merten, interim pastor, felt that being around the habitats and creatures themselves proved to be an appropriate setting to focus faith on the environment, conservation and protection of animals. The members also gave out 700 cloth bags at the zoo to help deter the use of plastic bags.

What began as one person's worry over styrofoam cups at coffee hour has turned into a greening commitment by the West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church (UCC) in Gloucester. The church's actions were recognized by the National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Program in their list of "Great Green Congregations." To start, the church switched from styrofoam to recycled paper cups, and the group made sure the cups got recycled again by placing blue recycling bins next to the trash can. Then some members began bringing in their own ceramic mugs to eliminate paper waste altogether. That movement inspired other changes, like using non-toxic cleaning products and unbleached paper, and creating a recycling station for batteries and items that contain mercury, like high-efficiency light bulbs.

First Church of Christ, UCC, in Longmeadow partnered with a local supermarket to raise environmental awareness by having the church school children decorate paper grocery bags with "save the planet" themes. Once the bags were finished, they were brought back to the store in time to be filled with groceries on Earth Day, April 22nd — gaining attention of the local shoppers in the community.

The Wellesley Congregational Church recently started an Environmental Ministry to explore ways to become better stewards, by educating, implementing new methods and encouraging new behaviors in their congregation. The ministry looks at all aspects of church life, including the management of the church building. As part of their capital plan, there are designs to convert the old heating system from oil to geothermal energy and install energy-efficient windows. In addition, an "energy-saving tip of the week" is published in the bulletin

and paper recycling bins have been placed in every room paper is used. Even the children are involved in the church's energy audits. The youngsters' recurring activities include finding opportunities and proposing solutions to reduce, reuse and recycle. One Sunday, they identified every leaking faucet and toilet in the building.

As Rev. Chris Ney of the West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church noted: "Stewardship is about how we use all the resources at our disposal for the benefit of our community and future generations."

And many churches are pushing efforts outside their own gates.

The First Congregational Church of Brimfield is one of the members of the Ecumenical Fellowship Community (EFS) representing churches in several different churches in the Brimfield area. The group is sponsoring a four-event series focused on how the environment affects the physical and social health of families and communities and what the Bible says about the just care and protection of the environment and health. The series is a program of the Massachusetts Council of Churches and runs from October through May.

"As nature is wounded we become newly aware of the care and the keeping of the Redeemer Christ," said Dale Rosenberger, Minister of Dennis Union Church. "In a word, the dead and risen Christ is source and sustainer of all things living. This means rivers and sierras, salmon and cedars point to Christ. The church embodies and announces this message."

Minister and President Antal is challenging all local churches to spread the message and take up the bell-ringing.

"As the largest Protestant denomination in the Commonwealth, as each congregation decides to ring its bell 350 times, more and more of our 82,000 members will learn why the number 350 is so important," he said. "And when Christians learn that our choices threaten the most vulnerable people on earth and all future generations, they will change their behavior and demand that governments change everyone's behavior."



LEARN MORE@

Take up the ring challenge:
<<http://350.org/en/ringing-change-0>>
(508)875-5233

Earth Day Bags
<earthdaybags.org>

Great Green Congregations
<nccecojustice.org/realstoriesgreatgreen.htm>



events

upcoming workshops, retreats, mission trips, and conferences

October and November

Thursday, 10/2 – Thursday, 11/20
Refugee Immigration Ministry
Malden, MA
www.r-i-m.net

Saturday, 10/4, 9am – 3pm
How To Get More Members For Your Congregation
Evangelical Congregational Church,
Westborough, MA
Contact: Karen Jones at jonesk@macucc.org

Friday, 10/10, 9am – 4pm
Building Strength in Small Churches
Pilgrim Way Baptist Church, Windsor, CT
Watch for more details

Tuesday, 10/14
Congregation Library Tour
14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA
www.congregationallibrary.org

Tuesday, 10/14
Growing Deeper Roots
14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA
www.congregationallibrary.org

Friday, 10/17, 7pm – Saturday, 10/18, 4pm
Confirmation Retreat
Craigville Conference Center, Centerville, MA
www.macucc.org/youth/confirm.htm

Saturday, 10/18
Cultivating a Church Library
14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA
www.congregationallibrary.org

Saturday, 10/18, 9am – 12noon
Western Area Leadership Academy: Jazz Up Your Sermons, Jazz Down Your Life (Part 1 of 3) - Easthampton Congregational Church, Easthampton, MA
www.macucc.org/western/wala-2008.htm

Thursday, 10/23, 10am – 3pm
Resource Ministry Open House -with Rev. Maren Tirabassi
Massachusetts Conference Center - Edwards House
Framingham, MA
www.macucc.org/resources/index.htm

Saturday, 10/25, 9am – 5pm
Worcester Area Mission Society - Workdays
128 Central Street, Worcester, MA
<http://wamsucc.org/ways.html>
Saturday, 10/25, 9am – 12noon
Western Area Leadership Academy: Jazz Up Your Sermons, Jazz Down Your Life (Part 2 of 3)
Easthampton Congregational Church,
Easthampton, MA
www.macucc.org/western/wala-2008.htm

Tuesday, 10/28
Congregation Library Tour
14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA
www.congregationallibrary.org

Friday, 10/31, 3pm – Saturday, 11/1, 6pm
MACUCC 209th Annual Meeting
Crowne Plaze Hotel, Worcester, MA, and, United Congregational Church, Worcester, MA
www.macucc.org/2008AM/index.htm

Friday, 11/7, 7pm – Saturday, 11/8, 4pm
Confirmation Retreat
Grotonwood Conference Center, Groton, MA
www.macucc.org/youth/confirm.htm

Saturday, 11/8, 9am – 12noon
Western Area Leadership Academy: Jazz Up Your Sermons, Jazz Down Your Life (Part 3 of 3)
Easthampton Congregational Church,
Easthampton, MA
www.macucc.org/western/wala-2008.htm

Saturday, 11/15, 9am – 3pm
Day with Martha Grace Reese
United Congregational Church, Worcester, MA
www.macucc.org/emj/UnbindingTheGospel.htm

Sunday, 11/16, 3:30 – 4:30pm
ONACelebration Worship
United Congregational Church, UCC, Worcester, MA
Watch for more details

Minister & President Preaching

Sunday, 10/5, 10 – 11am
Edwards Church of Northampton
297 Main Street, Northampton, MA

Sunday, 10/19, 10 – 11am
Halifax Congregational Church
503 Plymouth Street, Halifax, MA
275th Anniversary

Sunday, 10/26, 10 – 11am
First Congregational Church, UCC
68 Main Street, Falmouth, MA
300th Anniversary

Sunday, 11/9, 10 – 11am
Second Congregational Church, UCC
173 Washington Street, Boxford, MA

Sunday, 11/16, 10 – 11am
Tabernacle Church Congregational, UCC, 50
Washington Street, Salem, MA

Sunday, 11/23, 9:30 – 10:30am
United Church of Christ Congregational
723 Massachusetts Ave, Boxborough, MA

Sunday, 12/14, 10 – 11am
Bradford First Church of Christ,
10 Church Street, Bradford, MA

Offices Closed

Columbus Day
Monday, 10/13

Veteran's Day Observance
Tuesday, 11/11

Thanksgiving
Thursday,
11/27 and
Friday, 11/28



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<macucc.org/calendar>
(508)875-5233

Reduce, reuse and recycle opportunity

First Congregational Church in Stoughton is hoping to recycle four pews and two rails. After doing some sanctuary remodeling they found themselves with these extra items and no place to put them. They are wooden, 50 years old, and 'in great condition.'

First Congregational also has 150 Pilgrim Hymnals (circa 1958) in fair to very good condition.

The church is open to selling or donating the items. Contact the church for details or more information.



LEARN MORE@

First Congregational Church
of Stoughton, UCC
76 Pierce Street
Stoughton, MA 02072
phone: 781-344-2371

Registration Deadline: October 17th

209TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 1, 2008

United Congregational Church • 6 Institute Road • Worcester
• Crowne Plaza Hotel • 10 Lincoln Square • Worcester

The Theme:

Faithful behaviors, the art of discernment, its history, and its place and faithful practice in decision-making in UCC polity today

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Martin Copenhaver Pastor of the Wellesley Congregational Church

Events:

Plenary, resolutions, marketplace, lunch, workshops and worship.

Business to be conducted:

Vote on the Conference budget and resolutions; hear a report by the Board of Directors and Minister & President

Optional events scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2008

www.macucc.org/2008AM