



# FOCUS

September 2014 | Vol. 37 Issue 7

## A Message from Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

### Sunday Worship In September

Theme:  
Hospitality

#### September 7 Welcome Back Sunday

The Story of  
Abraham - The  
Demands of  
Hospitality  
*Rev. Susan*

#### September 14

Story of Good  
Samaritan - The  
Opportunity of  
Hospitality  
*Rev. Susan*

#### September 21

Hospitality  
*Rev. Heike*

#### September 28

Visitor Sunday  
Story of Shunnamite  
Woman - The Gifts  
of Hospitality  
*Rev. Susan*

### HOSPITALITY

This month our theme in worship is hospitality. Hospitality is big business today. People learn how to do customer service, catering and hotel management. Often hospitality is simply a quality of openness that emerges when you least expect it, or don't quite know what to do. Sometimes it is the human interactions that connect us, even in otherwise formal settings. It is the unlikely moments when we reach across the table and share honestly. Hospitality is the willingness to be vulnerable to a stranger, or just human. The miracle is that when we show hospitality to others, so often we find we are the ones who have been blessed.

I discovered this truth again on July 8. That day, I had the honor of representing you at the closing on the building which was formerly the Daystar Property next door to the church. The Treasurer, Frank Arren, had been authorized by the Church Board to sign all the papers, so my role was primarily ceremonial. But as I shook hands with the representatives from the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association, a Christian Science association that oversees their retirement homes, I realized that we shared a deep faith in the power of prayer. So I took the opportunity to express our gratitude to the Benevolent Association for being such good neighbors over the decades and for using the building in such a spiritual way.

Our church has been in a unique position to understand the work of our neighbors in this Christian Science retirement home. We have been able to appreciate the spiritual depth of their program and philosophy. Inspired by Mary Baker Eddy, this is a church that does not believe in medical intervention. So our neighbors next door have spent the last days of their lives facing the medical challenges of old age by reading the Bible, sharing Christian community, and praying together. We don't have to believe in Christian Science to appreciate the strength of the faith of these folks next door.

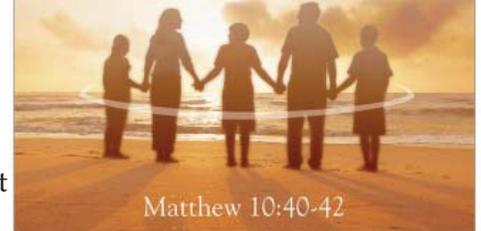
On July 8th, as we sat at a big table in a law office in Wellesley, I spoke directly to the sellers, expressing our appreciation for all the prayers that were uttered in those rooms, told them we appreciated the spiritual legacy of this property and have every intention of honoring it.

As God's gift next door continues to unfold for us, this fall in our church we will have the opportunity to dream about how best to use this new space. We have plans for two thirds of it and the final third of the building is space that we need to pray about. My hope is that somehow we can use all the space to preserve the building's legacy as a place where people live together in Christian community and spend their days teaching and learning about God, strengthening our faith and glorifying God.

Looking forward to see you all this fall in Worship!

Blessings,  
Susan

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."



## *Music Ministry News* by Dr. Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music

Everyone knows I love to spend as much time as possible on the beaches of Cape Cod or Maine throughout the summer. I enjoy swimming, walking the beach, and mostly, reading under my beach umbrella. All my music scores are marked with a fine layer of sand in the bindings, a sign that a good study of the piece has taken place.

This summer, my favorite read was a biography of Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944): student of Tchaikovsky at the Moscow Conservatory, composer, teacher, and one of Russia's finest choral conductors. Among his 500 compositions, his masterpiece is a textbook on choral conducting and pedagogy. The Choir and How to Direct It was written around 1910 and was submitted for publication in 1930. Due to Chesnokov's strong affiliation with the Russian Orthodox Church, publication was made nearly impossible. Since the vast majority of his compositions were sacred and his concert choir was the choir of Holy Trinity Church in Moscow, his work and compositions became highly suppressed during the rise of communism. All sacred music and it's proponents were silenced under Stalin. Chesnokov began writing secular and instrumental works, very much as lovely as his sacred choral music. His text on choral conducting was finally published in 1940, but only with all references to the church and sacred choral music eliminated from the text. In 1960, the original manuscript was published in English, with all it's references to the church choir and sacred choral music retained. His text describes the most perfect choral conductor: a person who is skilled and disciplined, inspired and nurturing. He describes clear and concise conducting technique, very regimented and thorough rehearsals, and crisp and clean diction with a warm and colored tone, all in perfect tune. This book has gotten me fully charged and ready to begin work at our own church with our very talented and devoted chancel choir.

Please consider joining us at our first rehearsal, Thursday September 4th at 7:30 pm. Don't be too surprised if you hear an anthem or two by Chesnokov in the near future. (sung in Russian, of course!)

## Sabbatical Leave for Rev. Heike Werder

I am very grateful for being able to take a Sabbatical leave, beginning Oct. 3, 2014. I will spend my time away on a number of projects: First and foremost, I am going to plan and organize our trip to Germany. In preparation of the trip I want to put together a few lessons about the medieval church and it's secular history so we understand better what we are going to see in Germany.

Secondly, I am planning to learn as much as I can in the area of "Ministry With Boomers", and what we, as a church, might have to offer to them. I have also signed up for a "Yoga and Fitness" retreat at the Kripalu Institute in October. In November, I am going to hear the Dalai Lama who is visiting Boston, and I will attend the MA Women's Conference in Boston on December 4, 2014. And I am very excited to travel to Germany from December 15 to Dec. 29, 2014 celebrating Christmas with my family. I will however come back for two days in November to help with our Fair.

While I am away, we, the staff and ministers, have made plans for the Thursday lunches and the community dinners to continue, and we have put in place an Adult Education program for most of the Sundays in the fall.

Thank you for allowing me this time of spiritual renewal.

### FOCUS

Focus is published monthly. Contributions from members and friends of the Church are invited. Please submit materials by e-mail to [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).

October issue deadline:  
**Thursday, September 18th.**

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## Hospitality and Family Promise by Rev. Heike Werder, Assoc. Minister



This month the sermon theme is Hospitality. The word derives from the Latin *hospes*, meaning host, guest, or stranger.

To the ancient Greeks, hospitality was a divine right. In Celtic societies the concept of hospitality was valued, especially in terms of protection. In India hospitality is based on the principle Atithi Devo Bhava, meaning "the guest is God".

Judaism believes in the principle of Hachnasat Orchim, or "welcoming guests," based largely on the example of Abraham in the Book of Genesis. Hosts provide food and drink for their guests, as well as tend to their general comfort and entertainment. At the end of the visit, hosts customarily escort their guests out of their home, wishing them a safe journey. *(The information comes from wikipedia.com)*

In Christianity, the command is pretty straight forward: "Practice hospitality!" In the letter to the Hebrews we read: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (13:2).

Today, hospitality is rarely a matter for protection and survival, but is more associated with etiquette and entertainment. And yet, it still involves showing respect for one's guests, providing for their needs, and treating them as equals.

As a church we strive to practice hospitality by opening our doors and classrooms to anyone who wishes to explore what we have to offer, by sharing meals around the table, and by making the stranger welcome. And then there are times when we are invited to practice hospitality by reaching out.

By now you might have heard about the organization called Family Promise of Natick, MA. This organization, with the help of Host Congregations, provides overnight accommodation for families who would otherwise either have to live on the streets or live separately in different homeless shelters. There are almost no family shelters in existence in MA, and this organization makes it possible for families to stay together while trying to get their life back to 'normal'.



Our church helps this organization by being a Support Congregation to a congregation that is hosting the families. We might help with shopping for supplies and groceries, cooking and sharing evening meals with the families, helping with homework or playing games with the children, setting up and taking down of rooms at the Host Congregation, or supporting the Day Care Center in Natick by doing mailings, office work, or staffing the family room.

On October 5, 2014 representatives of Family Promise will come to our church and tell us in detail what their organization is all about. They are hoping to train new volunteers that will join all our efforts to keep homeless families safe and together in their time of need. The training will take place on October 5, 2014 right after the worship service.

We are hoping to increase our volunteer base for the project. The wonderful news about this program is that it is for the whole family. Adults and children alike can join these efforts. Volunteers times are very flexible and will only take a limited amount of time.

Take a look at the website: [www.familypromisewetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisewetrowest.org). If you and your family are interested, please speak to Rev. Heike Werder, or contact Susan Kirk or Heidi Wiesel.

### Foam Recycle & Reuse from the EMT



As you know, foams cannot be recycled at the Needham RTS. This is due to the cost of shipping air, as they do take #4, #5, and #6 plastics in other forms. Expanded polystyrene (styrofoam), polypropylene and polyethylene foams can be compressed or melted down, however, by 50-60 times, and then recycled! A local company, ReFoamIt, is doing just that. So hold on to your foam, anything marked

with a 4, 5 or 6, and watch this column for further news of where to recycle it in Needham in the fall or in Dedham just after Christmas.

Packing peanuts cannot be recycled but can be reused! Bring yours directly to the UPS Store on Great Plain Avenue. If you can, keep green ones separate as they are used specifically for electronics.

See <http://refoamit.com/Portals/0/20140712%20What%20we%20recycle%20one%20page.pdf> for details on what is collectible by ReFoamIt.

## Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

### Sunday School/Youth Group Registration New this year: ONLINE REGISTRATION!

**All families** with children in Sunday School or Youth Group **MUST** fill out a form. This form registers your child for Sunday School (crib/toddler through 8th grade) and/or Youth Group (grades 6-12). Register at: <http://needhamucc.org/registration/>

### 2014-2015 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS INFORMATION:

All classes start on Sunday, September 7!

**Infants and toddlers:** Childcare is provided for younger children in the nursery for the entire worship hour starting at 10am.

**Preschoolers:** A special preschool Sunday School Class is offered in the Noah's Ark Preschool Room on the church's lower level for the entire worship hour starting at 10am.

**Grades K-5:** On most Sundays, children in grades K-5 join their families in the worship service at 10am for the first 20 minutes and then attend Bible Village, an interactive Sunday School experience with Art, Cooking, Theater, Story, Games, and Science workshops, for the rest of the hour. On the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday), the schedule changes just a bit so kids can join their families for communion. Kids start in Bible Village (chapel and then workshops) and then are dismissed for the sanctuary.



**Grades 6-8:** A special curriculum has been designed (by Rev. Jamie and seminary student Sandra Summers) for the 6th-8th grade Sunday School class which will feature 5 movies during the year. Each Sunday, the class will begin at 10am with donuts, a game, and a movie clip. Then, students will participate in meaningful discussion and activities about the Christian themes that can be identified in the movie (the same themes featured in sermons and in Bible Village!). Parents are asked to please note the rating of each movie. If you are not comfortable with your child viewing any of the movies, please speak to Rev. Jamie regarding alternative plans for your child on Sunday mornings.

**Grades 9-12:** This year, Youth Lounge will not be offered on Sunday Mornings. However, youth are encouraged to choose from the following options: Volunteer in nursery, preschool, or Bible Village, join your families for worship in the sanctuary, or

sign up to be an usher or worship assistant. See Rev. Jamie for more info.

### 2014-2015 LESSONS/THEMES

**9/7-10/19:** (Theme: Hospitality and Vocation)

Unit 1: Abraham and Sarah  
Grade 6-8 movie: XMen (PG-13)  
Younger Family Alternative: ET



**10/26-11/30:** (Theme: Vocation and Stewardship)

Unit 2: Moses and the Exodus  
Grade 6-8 movie: Prince of Egypt (PG)

**12/7-12-21:** (Theme: Hope)

Unit 3: Birth of Jesus (Hope of Joseph and Mary)

Grade 6-8 movie: How the Grinch Stole Christmas (PG)

**1/4-2-22:** (Theme: Justice and God)

Unit 4: Esther

Grade 6-8 movie: Frozen (PG)

**3/1-4/12:** (Theme: Prayer and Surprise)

Unit 5: Holy Week

Grade 6-8 movie: Lego Movie (PG)

**4/26-6/14:** (Theme: Surprise and Freedom)

Unit 6: Paul

Grade 6-8 movie: Holes (PG)

### 2014-2015 YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION

The Junior High Youth Group, for grades 6-8, meets most Sundays from 5pm-6:30pm. The Senior High Youth Group, for grades 9-12, meets most Sundays from 7pm-8:30pm.

### September activities:

- **September 7th:** Ice Cream Kick Off Party (JH 5-6:30pm, SH 7-8:30pm)
- **September 14th:** Kickball Tournament (JH 5-6:30pm, SH 7-8:30pm)
- **September 21st:** Youth Group Parent Meeting (two sessions: 11am or 6:15pm)
- **September 21st:** Game Night (JH 5-6:30pm, SH 7-8:30pm)
- **September 28th:** Junior High Lasertag at Laserquest (2:30-4:30pm)
- **September 28th:** Senior High Haunted House Prep (7-8:30pm)

## Sunday School and Youth Group Parents!

All Sunday School and Youth Group families are encouraged to sign up for ANY 4 spots from September through December. Other adults in the church community who do not have young children are also encouraged to volunteer!! Volunteers are necessary in order to continue offering our programs! There are 207 spots available, so if each of our 60+ families signed up for 4 spots, we'd be MORE than covered! To signup, contact Rev. Jamie or visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4faaac2baa8-sunday1>

Job descriptions:

- **Crib/toddler:** arrive by 9:50am to watch the adorable babies until workshop is over (very easy!)
- **Preschool assistant:** arrive by 9:50am to assist the preschool teacher
- **Workshop teacher:** teach a 20-25 minute workshop lesson after Bible Village Chapel time. Lesson plans are VERY easy and all materials provided. Class usually 10:45-11:15am, except on Communion Sundays class is 10:15am-10:45am.
- **Shepherd:** Go with kids to chapel after the time for children (around 10:30am), and help bring a group of kids from the chapel to their workshop and then help the teacher in class until 11:15. (On Communion Sundays, start in chapel at 10:00am, then to workshops, then to sanctuary for communion.)
- **Grades 6-8 teacher assistant:** Help Mallory (the teacher) in Stevenson Hall from 10am-11:15am. Lessons are all MOVIE based!! And Mallory does all the work!
- **Chapel assistant:** help with a movie showing in the chapel
- **JH or SH Youth Group Chaperone:** Just be a second adult present in case of emergency, and help with dishes and clean up. (JH = Grades 6-8, SH= Grades 9-12). Some chaperone spots include carpooling, help at special events, or sleeping over at a Lock-In.



## YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN ALPHA!



If you are new to our church (i.e., started attending in the past few years, whether or not you are a member), you are invited to join a new program called Alpha. Each week for 6 weeks starting September 28, we will meet to share food and conversation. After dinner, adults will stay with Rev. Susan, who will give a short talk about faith followed by the chance to ask questions, to discuss the topics, to share your thoughts and to talk with one another. Kids will go with Rev. Jamie, who will prepare a lesson for the children that offers similar information in a kid-friendly format.

When we offered Alpha in the past people told us that it was one of the best programs they ever found for their families. One past participant said...

*"When we joined Alpha we were new to Needham and to the church. Alpha was a great way to meet people and get to know them on more than a superficial basis. We made lasting friendships."*

We hope you will join us this fall. We ask that if you plan on attending one or more sessions of Alpha that you RSVP with Rev. Jamie at 781-444-2510 ext 104 or [revjamie@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjamie@needhamucc.org). More information can be found at [www.needhamucc.org/alpha](http://www.needhamucc.org/alpha).

Dates and Topics for the series:

- Session #1: Sunday, Sept 28, 5-7pm** - Who was Jesus and what difference does his life make today?
- Session #2: Sunday, Oct 5, 5-7pm** - Why read the Bible?
- Session #3: Sunday, Oct 19, 5-7pm** - How does faith help us?
- Session #4: Sunday, Oct 26, 5-7pm** - Is there room for doubt in this church?
- Session #5: Sunday, Nov 2, 5-7pm** - How do we learn to pray?
- Session #6: Sunday, Nov 9, 5-7pm** - Why belong to a faith community?

\*\*Please note: You will not be required to attend all 6 dates of Alpha if you are unable to. But we do encourage you to come to as many as possible!

## Bible Village Open House Sun. Sept 28, 11am-12pm

- All families are invited to an Open House on Sept 28 from 11am-12pm to learn more about the Bible Village Sunday School program for grades K-5, and other classes for crib/toddler/preschoolers and grades 6-8.
- New this year: Progressive Ice Cream Sundaes!

Start in the chapel to grab a bowl, and then visit each of our Sunday School rooms to pick up ice cream, spoons, and toppings to make your own ice cream sundae. (All allergies accomodated)

The Open House is a great way to meet teachers, to learn about curriculum, and to fellowship with other families from the church and the community.



## Germany Trip June 2015



The doors are still open for you to decide if you would like to take a trip to Germany with Rev. Heike Werder in the "Footsteps of Martin Luther."

We have set September 15, 2014 as the "To go or not to go" date for the trip. From the feedback I have received so far, the shorter trip is preferred - from June 24 to July 3, 2015.

Once we have made the firm decision that we are going, we have to start the work of making reservations for flight, hotels, and transportation. The earlier we book, the better the prices (according to Heike's travel agent).

Please contact Rev. Heike ([revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto:revheike@needhamucc.org)) if you have any questions.



### August Delegation Returns; Reportback September 14th!

Amy, Chloe, Madison, Will, Suzanne, Alan, Dave, and Caryl returned from Santa Maria Tzeja, Guatemala on August 17th. We participated in the dedication of the Tina Scharback Memorial Building, a multi-purpose educational building, with students singing and dancing, and a ribbon cutting ceremony. During the International Day of the Indigenous we saw the middle school students perform Mayan cultural activities. Some delegates attended classes in marimba; Mayan dancing; English; Quiché, the villagers native language; physics; and one delegate attended a computer class. We also enjoyed meals with families and met with various village groups, learning many fascinating points about the community. Interested in learning more? Please attend our Reportback on Sunday, September 14th in Linden Hall at 11:30 am. Light refreshments will be served.

### SAVE THE DATE -- September 20th Guatemala Partnership Friends and Family Event

We are excited to announce the second annual

Guatemala Partnership Friends and Family Event. All are invited to join us on September 20th at the home of Caryl and Dave Johnson at 505 Great Plain Avenue in Needham. The event is scheduled from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, but come for any amount of time you are available. There will be plenty of fun, food, and entertainment, so we hope you'll consider joining us for an evening of fellowship and celebration for all the wonderful work supported by our congregation. Last year we enjoyed a great day of visiting with good friends, and look forward to that again. And if you'd like to learn more about the Guatemala Partnership, this is a great opportunity to meet people who participate in a variety of ways. More details will be provided in September, but for now we hope you'll save the date.

### Sign-Ups for February 2015 Delegation

The February 2015 delegation to Guatemala is half filled, so if you may be interested, contact delegation leader Brenda Metzler soon to sign up or request information: [bmetzler7@verizon.net](mailto:bmetzler7@verizon.net). Travel dates are February 11-22, 2015. We especially need more youth (with or without parents). Tickets will be purchased in late September, so don't delay.

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
	1	<b>2 Community Dinner</b>	3	<b>4 Lunch with Heike</b>	5	6
<b>7 Welcome Back Sunday</b>	<b>8 Cancer Support Church One-Read Begins</b>	9	10	11	12	13
<b>14 Guatemala Report Back</b>	<b>15 Cancer Support</b>	16	17	18	19	20
<b>21 Introduction to Bible Study</b>	<b>22 Cancer Support</b>	23	24	25	26	27
<b>28 Visitor Sunday ALPHA</b>	<b>29 Cancer Support Hotdogs &amp; Hamburgers</b>	30				

LUNCH WITH HEIKE  
**Thursday October 2, Noon**

Let's Eat Together! Please join us for our monthly soup lunch on October 2nd in the library. Everyone is welcome! Next lunch is November 6th.

COMMUNITY DINNER - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!  
**Tuesday October 9, 6pm**

Our next community dinner is October 9th. Everybody is welcome to join us, not just Baby Basics families and volunteers. If you like to help with prep, set up and clean up, please contact Rev. Heike. Otherwise just come! Dinner starts at 6 pm and ends around 7 pm. Help with clean-up is always appreciated! Our next Community Dinner will be November 4th.

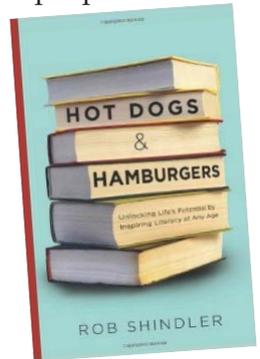
INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE STUDY  
**Sunday September 21, 11:30am with Sunu Yeh**

Everyone is welcome to drop by after church to try out Bible Study. Our goal is to support each other in our journey of faith. Last year we read Luke and Isaiah by studying a few chapters at a time. We will be selecting another book of the Bible soon to read for the fall, so please join us! For more information, contact Sunu Yeh at [dormouse99@gmail.com](mailto:dormouse99@gmail.com)

HOTDOGS AND HAMBURGERS - ALL CHURCH ONE-READ  
**Monday September 29, 7pm**

Are you interested in reading a book together for the all-church One Read? September 8, 2014 is National Literacy Day, and the inaugural event of Reading Changes Lives, a UCC initiative to raise awareness

about how illiteracy directly impacts a range of social justice issues. I know of a number of people in our midst who have helped children learn to read and with that unlocking hidden potential.



The book that is suggested we read together is "Hotdogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age," illustrates the impact of illiteracy and shows how one person can make a difference in the life of another. This story perfectly demonstrates how the issue of literacy impacts the world around each of us. Low literacy is a community issue. It affects not only the individual but the community in which that person lives. The gift of literacy is life-long."

If you are interested in reading this book together, we have purchased 10 copies of the book. Feel free to pick up a copy, and let Rev. Heike know that you did so. On September 29, 2014 at 7 pm we will gather for an evening of discussing the book.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CLIMATE CHANGE CAFE - A GREEN WALK AROUND YOUR HOME WITH LESLIE REICHERT**  
**October 19, 11:30am**

Toxic chemicals are everywhere in your home. We'll take a room by room tour and discover those hidden danger. Hosted by the Environmental Ministry Team. Light Refreshments will be served



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**Men's Breakfast, Sunday September 21**

On September 21st, the Men's Breakfast Group will reconvene after summer hiatus by welcoming all church men to breakfast. We'll catch up and plan discussion topics for the coming year.

The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together in the Library on the 3rd Sunday of the month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. We welcome men of all ages and accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion.

Contact: John Baldwin ([jsbaldwin@comcast.net](mailto:jsbaldwin@comcast.net)) or Rob Dunlavey ([rob@robd.com](mailto:rob@robd.com)) for more information.

**save THE  
DATE!**

**THE VILLAGE  
FAIR!  
NOV. 15TH**

address

stamp

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