

*The Continued Weaving of
Evangelism, Mission and Justice*

Common Cloth

Resources for Your Congregation

February 2005

Vital Congregational Life Clusters

There are ongoing Cluster groups currently meeting in S. Dennis, Brockton, E. Milton, Topsfield and Methuen. Teams from churches work on vision, mission field work, small group ministry, leadership, etc. Two new groups are forming in the Central and Western Areas:

- March 3 Western Area - First Congregational Church, Amherst
- March 8 Central Area - Location TBA

Contact Paul Nickerson for more information.

Visit a New Church Start

Did you know that there are new church starts in the Massachusetts Conference, UCC? One of the best ways you can be supportive is to go and visit a worship service. Not only will your participation help that new church but you will learn of some new things you can do in your own church.

So please go visit:

- **The Hispanic Community Church of Boston** worships at 1:00 on Sundays at Central Congregational UCC in Jamaica Plain. The music and the spirit will inspire you.



- You can stay at the same church building and join **Hope Church** for worship at 5:30. Liz and Matt Myer Boulton will greet you with lively worship and a growing congregation.

- **The Hispanic Community Church of Lowell** meets at Christ Church United on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM. Cesar and Lisa DePaz lead this fast-growing church that is most hospitable.

If you would like to know how you can help a new church start please contact Paul Nickerson at Nickersonp@macucc.org.

Sponsored By:

The Commission for Evangelism and Renewal
The Commission for Mission and Justice
Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ

Staff:

Rev. Paul B. Nickerson, Acting Associate Conference
Minister for Evangelism, Mission and Justice
(508) 875-5233, Ext. 236 • nickersonp@macucc.org

Check out further resources at www.macucc.org

On Fire with the Faith, Preaching and Teaching for Transformation

March 31-April 2nd,
at Andover-Newton Theological School

A time of prayer, study, sharing and equipping towards an integrated ministry for preaching and teaching for transformation.

Guest speakers include Barbara Lundblad and Luis Pagan. There will be evening revivals in Cambridge and Roxbury with great preaching and music.

For further information, contact Paul Nickerson at Nickersonp@macucc.org. This event is co-sponsored by MACUCC, ANTS, Local Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries.

Hospitality Tip

Want to make people feel more at home when they visit your church? Then think food.

Have coffee available with pastries, a la Starbucks, before worship and fill up your coffee hour with lots of goodies. Food makes a difference and helps people feel welcomed.



Planting Trees

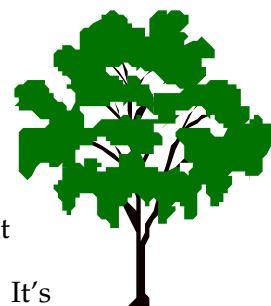
Would your church like to be involved in an environmental ministry?

MassReleaf gives congregations opportunities to plant trees in de-forested urban

environments. It's

fun, it's faithful,
and it makes a difference.

For more information please contact Neal Seaborn at Eseaborn@comcast.net.



Save the Dates

*Some upcoming Events.
Please mark your calendars.*

Vital Congregational Life Cluster Group Meetings

Northeast Area – January 19, 2005,
Methuen, First Church, 7 PM – 9 PM

Southeast Area – January 25, 2005,
South Dennis Congregational Church,
6 PM – 8 PM

Hospitality Event

February 12, 2005 – Location TBA

February 26, 2005 – Plymouth Church,
Framingham, 9 AM – 1 PM

“Are we content to remain comfortable doing ministry the way we always have done it, with some positive but limited results, knowing in our hearts that we aren’t making much of a dent in our culture? Or will we take the risk of boldly trusting God for a fresh vision, powerful strategies and incredible results”

John Jackson, [PastorPreneur](http://PastorPreneur.com).