



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MANHASSET (United Church of Christ)

1845 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 11030

516-627-4911 / Fax 516-627-4963 / www.uccmanhasset.org

## JULY / AUGUST 2006 BULLETIN

### A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER

In the coming days and weeks, many of us will be heading to the beach, the pool, the boat, or the golf course. Some of us will be road-tripping around the country to visit family and friends or to go to summer houses. With all this wonderful summer fun in full swing, things tend to slow down around our church and town. And this is a good thing. We all need to take a break from the familiar routine to ease our minds, renew our emotional energy, and refresh our spirits. As we do so, let us consider the words of Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Tim Haley, who wrote the following piece.

*Amid all the noise in our lives,  
We take this moment to sit in silence –  
To give thanks for another day;  
To give thanks for all those in our lives who have  
brought us warmth and love;  
To give thanks for the gift of life.*

*We know we are on our pilgrimage here but a brief moment in time.*

*Let us open ourselves, here, now, to the process of becoming more whole –  
Of living more fully;  
Of giving and forgiving more freely;  
Of understanding more completely the meaning of our lives here on this earth.*

Grace and Peace, Rev. Jimmy Only

### CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Hats off to our recent high school graduates: Caroline Abbott, Brittany LoSchiavo, Kara Manoogian, Amber Parker.

### THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN THE SPIRE RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

As many long-time members will recall, for years our church had a monthly newsletter entitled, *The Spire*. However, during the mid to late 1990's, *The Spire* took a journalistic turn and began in-depth reporting on events and people in the church, publishing 4-6 times a year. To fill the gap, *The Bulletin* was inaugurated by the Board of Deacons to serve as our monthly newsletter. While *The Bulletin* has served as an effective communication resource, some church members find the name confusing. Many of us grew up in traditions where the Sunday order of service was referred to as the bulletin. As it has been several years since *The Spire* was published and to correct any confusion, the Board of Deacons decided to change the name of the monthly *Bulletin* back to its traditional name, *The Spire*. This change will take place with the September issue.

### CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE

The results of the Church-wide Survey are in and the Deacons are very pleased. According to the survey, we are a church that feels good about itself and is very happy with the way things are going. Copies of the results will be available in the receptionist's desk beginning July 15. While you are free to read the report for as long as you like, the Deacons ask that the copies not leave the building. Mitch Brickell and Regina Paul, who work with survey data in their company, will summarize the results and write a report to be distributed to the congregation in the September *Spire*. In the fall, Rev. Only will use the survey results as the springboard for a sermon. During Fellowship Time that day, the Board of Deacons will host a Q & A time with the congregation.

### \*\*SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGE\*\*

If you show up for worship at 8 or 10 AM this summer you will get to enjoy some quality time alone with God. That's because everyone who remembers will show up for the **45-minute service at 9 AM throughout July, August, and Labor Day Sunday**. Standard worship times resume September 10.

### SUMMER WORSHIP TO TAKE PLACE IN THE MUSIC CENTER

While we await the sanctuary / chapel air conditioning, our 9 AM summer worship will take place in the air conditioned Music Center.

### FELLOWSHIP TIME IN THE SOUTH LOUNGE

Throughout the summer our 9:45 AM Fellowship Time will meet downstairs in the **air-conditioned comfort** of our South Lounge.

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Church summer office hours are 9 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday until September 5.

### SEPTEMBER 24 ~ BOOK CLUB SELECTION *Abraham: A Journey To The Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler

Join us on Sunday, September 24, at 11:30 AM for a discussion of Bruce Feiler's engaging and inspiring book, *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* (available in paperback). Bruce Feiler is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven books, including *Walking the Bible*. He is also the writer/presenter of the PBS series "Walking the Bible," a frequent contributor to NPR, and a contributing editor at *Gourmet* and *Parade*. A native of Savannah, Georgia, he lives in New York City with his wife and twin daughters.

Writing for Amazon.com, Gail Hudson reflects on *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* saying: "At a time when conflicts among three of the world's major religions—Islam, Judaism, and Christianity—are in the global spotlight, Bruce Feiler offers a stunning biography of the one man who unites all three religions: Abraham. 'The most mesmerizing story of Abraham's life—his offering a son to God—plays a pivotal role in the holiest week of the Christian year, at Easter,' writes Feiler. 'The story is recited at the start of the holiest fortnight in Judaism, on Rosh Hashanah. The episode inspires the holiest day in Islam, 'Id al-Adha,' the Feast of the Sacrifice, at the climax of the Pilgrimage. And yet the religions can't even agree on which son he tried to kill.' Herein lies the irony and perfection of Feiler's timing. As we struggle to find a path to peace among these three religions, all warring in Jerusalem, near the stone where Abraham brought his son for sacrifice, this captivating biography speaks to Abraham as the metaphor he is: the historically elusive man who embodies three religions, a character who has shape-shifted over the millennia to serve the clashing goals and dogma of each religion. Anyone seeking to understand the roots of tension in the Middle East need look no further than the final half of this book, where Feiler interprets the meaning of Abraham as seen through the prism of each religion. Surprisingly, the book is as entertaining as it is thoughtful: Feiler is a masterful writer with a warm, humorous voice, a dazzling way with metaphors, and an underlying intelligence that comes through in every passage. *Abraham* deserves the highest of recommendations.

Start reading today and join us in September.

### MANY THANKS

Thanks to everyone who donated blood at our recent blood drive, wrote letters to Congress and/or the President in an effort to help those suffering in Darfur, gave generously to help the three Saratoga families furnish their apartments, and worked hard to make our recent C.E. Sunday and All-Church Picnic a great success.

### KICK-OFF SUNDAY AND BRUNCH ~ SEPTEMBER 10

Join us for Worship at 8 or 10 AM for Kick-Off Sunday on September 10. On this special day our Sunday School children begin a new program year and our Chancel Choir begins a new season. **Join us as well for our annual Brunch at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall.**

### FALL BIBLE STUDY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17 AMOS & HOSEA: BOUNDARIES, TOUGH LOVE, AMAZING GRACE

Beginning Sunday, September 17, a Bible study on two famous Old Testament prophets, Amos and Hosea, will be led by Margot Kramer and Pam Lennox. This seminar challenges us to join the prophets in being boundary-crossers; to cross the boundary between religion and politics, or that boundary between "us" and "them." Amos' and Hosea's message is surely relevant for a society such as ours, divided on issues of theology, politics, economics, government, and morality. We need to hear about God's tough love and amazing grace, which is extended by God to a people who have often broken the divine heart. The Bible Study will run for approximately 7 weeks. The Resource Book written, by the Rev. George W. Ramsey, a Presbyterian minister and college/seminary professor for almost 40 years, is \$18 and will provide the foundation for each week's lesson. Call Valerie at the church office to register for the course and buy a book.

### SAVE THE DATE ~ OCTOBER 14, 2006 CHURCH-WIDE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Mark your calendar for our church-wide progressive dinner scheduled for October 14, 2006. Terry MacGown, chair of the Membership Committee, is organizing the event and needs volunteers. If you can help, call her at 516-869-0644.

### CHILDREN (AGE 3 ~ GRADE 5)

In lieu of Sunday School in the summer, children are welcome to play and learn in our air-conditioned Nursery (Room 204), where staff will provide Bible stories and coloring sheets. Sunday School and Children's Choir resumes September 10.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ AUGUST 28 - 31

As you make your summer plans, add our August 28 – 31 (4 days) Vacation Bible School to your calendar. Our theme is "Treasure Island." **Register now by calling Marge at the church office (627-4911 x104).**

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

It takes numerous volunteers to make VBS a success. If you would like to volunteer, call the church office at 627-4911.

### YOUTH (GRADES 6 ~ 12)

#### VBS YOUTH ASSISTANTS ~ AUGUST 28-31

Do you enjoy working with children? If so, call Chase and volunteer to be a Vacation Bible School Youth Assistant. Sure the pay is lousy (okay, there is no pay) but there's much fun to be had and it will likely count as community service hours (required by many schools these days). Stop what you're doing right now, pick up that phone and dial 627-4911 x106 to volunteer. The first 20 callers win a snazzy VBS t-shirt (okay, you'd get one anyway but it was worth a try).

### 2006/07 CONFIRMATION CLASS

If you know of any young people 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above who have not been confirmed, please tell them about our 2006/07 Confirmation Class. The class meets on Sundays at 8:45 AM beginning September 10. Call the church office for more information.

### YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults of the church (those in their 20's, 30's – and some in their 40's who feel youngish) should direct event ideas to Rev. Chase Peoples.

### FELLOWSHIP TIME SPONSORS NEEDED

Would you like to celebrate a milestone with our Church Family by sponsoring Fellowship Time on a Sunday morning following worship? Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or other significant events provide ideal opportunities to honor important people in your life. For the recommended \$50 donation, the Church Administrator will arrange to purchase the standard light fare such as cookies, pastries or doughnuts. However, in lieu of the \$50 donation, you may purchase a special cake or other treats of your choice. You may host the Fellowship Time for that Sunday or the Board of Deacons will secure hosts. A sign-up sheet for sponsoring **Fellowship Time** is available every Sunday.

### ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

The Altar Flower Committee is seeking donations for altar flowers. This is a lovely way to remember your loved ones. Send your check, along with your information for the Order of Worship, to the Church Office, 1845 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, New York 11030, attention Marge D'Ottavio. The requested donation is \$50, although any amount is welcome.

**VISIT OUR CHURCH  
24 HOURS A DAY AT  
[www.uccmanhasset.org](http://www.uccmanhasset.org)**

### CHURCH CALENDAR July 1–Sept. 4, 2006

#### Sunday, July 2

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
11:00 a.m. – Baptism

#### Tuesday, July 4

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

#### Sunday, July 9

#### Sunday, July 16

#### Sunday, July 23

#### Sunday, July 30

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. – Fellowship Time

#### Sunday, August 6

#### Sunday, August 13

#### Sunday, August 20

#### Sunday, August 27

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. – Fellowship Time

#### Monday, August 28-31 (4 days)

9:00 a.m. – **Vacation Bible School**

#### Sunday, September 3

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. – Fellowship Time

#### Tuesday, September 4

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**