

First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

The Parish Press

Editor: Cyndy Washburn-Doane

Holiday 2008

Seasons Opportunities

We are fast approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas with all the business that they involve. They tend to be times that we turn in upon ourselves-times that families gather, times that we prepare our houses for guests.

This will be a difficult year for many of us. The economy is not good and some of the things that we usually do will be out of reach. Perhaps this is a good time to simplify our lives and to realize that it does not take money to spread hope and love and joy!

The recent political elections have brought great change. Since 9/11 we have lived in a culture of fear and suspicion, a culture of greed and looking out for "Number One." Change is never easy. It always raises anxiety. Still change is largely determined by what we expect. Let's hope and pray and act so that the future will be better than the present. Let us use this Holiday Season to show our love, our generosity, our hope to those around us. Each of us can make a difference.

Ralph

Important Dates:

- 11-16 *Meatball Making*
9am
- 11-19 *Berry Bowl Making*
7pm
- 11-23 *Memorial Basket Making*
12 noon
- 11-28 *Wreath Making*
9 am – 3pm
- 12-5 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*
7pm – 9pm
- 12-6 *Gingerbread Fair*
9 am – 3pm
- 12-7 *Dana Brass Concert*
5:30pm
- 12-14 *Kid's Christmas Party*
4:30pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*
5pm
- 1-11 *SSVMS: Mark Fisher*
5:30pm
- 2-8 *SSVMS: TBA*
5:30pm
- 3-8 *SSVMS: TBA*
5:30pm

Rev. Ralph Clarke
RE Director: Nancy Hubbard

Pianist: Melissa Dymek

Church 5:30 pm
Sunday School 4:30 pm

How to contact us:

First Parish Unitarian Church, Box 509, Hubbardston, MA 01452

Church
Phone:
978-928-
5822



Minister's Email:
revrtclarke@verizon.net

Minister's Phone:
978-808-3770

Websites:
hubbardstonunitarian.org
www.uua.org
www.cbd.uua.org

COMING EVENTS:

Laurel Wreath Making – *Let There Be Wreaths.* Beginning Friday, November 28th of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday, November 30th from 9 am till 3 pm, we will create, assemble, fashion, build and construct close to 75 big fluffy laurel wreaths decked out with large pinecones and big red bows. If lots of us help, Sunday will not be necessary. Please bring a snack to share and 2 bags of laurel. If you do not have laurel on your property, give us a call and we will direct you to the great laurel pickin' patches. The laurel can be picked a few days in advance, make it an after dinner family excursion to get rid of those calories from that extra slice of pie. Better yet, pack up the pie and bring it for a snack. Place your orders for these handsome wreaths with Barbara (928-4475). They go quickly.



Gingerbread Fair – The Annual Gingerbread Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 9 am – 3 pm. This festive day is filled with food, music and raffles. It is a step back into time, the way it was when we were kids, that warm cozy feeling of friends and neighbors sharing in conversation.

The Silent and Chinese Auction tables are chock-full of donations from local businesses and friends from Hubbardston and the surrounding towns. There are restaurant certificates, gift items, services, food specialties, and passes to local attractions. For all of you sports fans we will be raffling a signed picture of Rex Sox pitcher, Manny Delcarman, Pawsox tickets and Worcester Tornados tickets. Betty Bumpus, Lori Prentiss & Cyndy Doane will be chairing these tables.

Jeanne Donahue will chair the bake table with Pat Woodward assisting. This table is piled high with Finnish coffee bread, homemade pies, quick

bread, squares, Indian pudding, cookies and other goodies.

Home made jams and jellies, including Concord grape, blueberry, elderberry, blackberry, mint, strawberry, and crab apple. Barbara Hubbard, June Hubbard-Ward and Mary Taylor made all these delicious jellies/jams. They also donated the fruits, sugar and jars.

New this year is our Pet Corner. Get your cat a catnip mouse in an array of bright colors, and your dog some tasty homemade biscuits. Check your pet's Santa list. We also have cat beds and Christmas stockings.

Carol Whitney will chair the candy table with Kim Pirner assisting. They will weigh it up by the pound or sell it by the piece. Remember; nobody can eat just one. Some of the favorites at this table are penuche, peanut butter, chocolate fudge and butter cream mints.

Laurel Wreaths will be for sale and they go fast. Give Barbara a call at 978-928-4475 with your order. The Naturals Table has berry bowls, pinecone garland, memorial baskets and other beautiful earthy items. Be sure to say hello to Diane Watkins and Nancy Hubbard, chairs of this table.

The Craft Table will be mounded with handmade items, tree ornaments, tree skirts and a lot of great stuff for gifts. Mary Taylor and Carol Hubbard-Kelley will be chairs.

Fair goers may also purchase hand knitted items and linens. Barbara Hubbard and Janet Dubois will be working at that table.

The Spice Shoppe will be open. Be sure the visit this aromatic table of hand packed spices. Among some of our favorites are cardamom and catnip for your feline friends.

Lori Prentiss and her favorite elf will chair the Gingerbread House Raffle, and our Log Cabin Country Quilt Raffle. Be sure to treat yourself in these games of chance.

Our Famous Swedish Meatball Luncheon will be served on the stage from 11 am – 1 pm. Bob Hubbard, Fran Ward & June Hubbard-Ward will serve you up a heaping plate full of homemade meat balls, smothered in gravy, real mashed potatoes, veggies, biscuits cut into boy & girl shaped gingerbread people, freshly baked gingerbread topped with whipped cream and a drink, all for only \$8.00. It doesn't get any better than this. For take out please call the Church at 978-928-5822.

The winners of the Silent and Chinese Auction and all of the other raffles will be drawn announced at the end of the fair. Good Luck..!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dana Brass Concert – Sunday, December 7th our Church will be hosting a free concert with The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet at 5:30 pm. The Quintet features trumpets, horns, trombones and a tuba. The performance includes an array of Holiday songs, arranged by the Quintet members. These services are given to any church desiring a high quality musical service. This organization came into being when the Quabbin Reservoir was constructed, which flooded 4 towns during the 1930's. The First Universalist Parish of Dana established a trust fund to keep the memory of North Dana and their churches alive. Save the date and join us for our Christmas Tradition in our acoustically perfect sanctuary for this wonderful free musical performance. Refreshments will follow.

Children's Christmas Party – Sunday, December 14th at 4:30 pm the Sunday School will hold their Christmas Program in the Sanctuary. Directly following the program a party will be held in the vestry with cake and presents. We hope an Ambassador from the North Pole will pay us a visit if we sing very loud. Please let Nancy Hubbard know if you are bringing a

younger guest. She will notify the Ambassador that they will be coming to the party.



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00 PM. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE TIME FROM THE REGULAR SERVICE. This will be a very traditional service. We light candles and sing carols. Please join us for this very special night.

CHURCH NEWS

There will be no Church service on:

November 30th

December 21st

December 28th

January 4th

January 18th

January 25th

February 15th

Annual Meeting – Our Annual Meeting was held September 28th in the vestry at 6:30 pm. During the business meeting annual election of officers was held. The new officers for the up coming Church year of 2008-2009 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard - Treasurer, Mary Taylor - Clerk, Cyndy Washburn-Doane, Lori Prentiss - Vice Presidents. Those in attendance received an Annual Report. Welcome back Parish Committee Members.

120 Club Continues – The 120 Club started by Barbara in 1990 benefits the Restoration Fund. During the year she completes two rounds of 1-20 club tickets. This fund permitted us to repair the septic system, work on the steeple, complete building work as needed and replace the roof. Thanks to our Members & Friends who purchase tickets over the years. Donations are accepted to this fund at any time.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game 2009 – Be on the look out again for our “FUN” Raiser. Beginning in early January 2009 the Church will be raffling off 4 tickets to a baseball game at historic Fenway Park in Boston. The package also includes luxury bus transportation by Wilson Bus Lines in Templeton to the ballpark and back to Templeton. Your tickets may be purchased from any member of the Parish Committee and members of the church. Ticket prices are \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. The Raffle will be drawn on Sunday May, 10th at our Mother’s Day Potluck Dinner at 4:30 PM. For further information please contact Mary Taylor at 978-928-4289 or e-mail her at mjt123@char ter.net. Proceeds from this raffle will benefit the Restoration Fund.



Hubbardston Community Theatre – The upcoming show for HCT will be “*Pirates of Penzance*”. Many of our Church members and Friends are part of this production, from actors, back stage, orchestra and props. The show is March 20, 21 and 22 at the Hubbardston Center School Auditorium. See you there.

Milestones - Albert Shaffer of Barre Road Cut Off passed away October 25th. Mr. Shaffer leaves behind his wife Theresa, one son Robert, two granddaughters, several nieces, nephews and friends. He was a World War II Veteran and a lifelong Hubbardston resident. He will be sadly missed.

Parish Press Spring 2009 – The spring edition of the Parish Press will be going out at the beginning of March 2009. Articles, ideas and news are always welcome. Please contact Editor Cyndy Washburn-Doane at cwdoane@-

charter.net. There is also a drop off for articles in the Church kitchen.

Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Series with Pot Luck Supper – Back by popular demand, is our series of musical presentations on the Second Sunday of the month taking place during our 5:30 pm service. In addition, every second Sunday is a Pot Luck Supper at 4:30 pm. Each musician will perform for about 20 minutes as part of the worship service. This is a nondenominational service.

Remaining Schedule:

**Dec. 7	Pioneer Valley Brass at 5:30 PM
Jan. 11	Mark Fisher, singer & guitarist
Feb. 8	TBA
Mar. 8	TBA
*Apr. 5	HCS Select Singers & Advanced Recorders
May 10	Sunday School Children’s Play

*First Sunday
**No Pot Luck

Special thanks go out to our first two performers: Tom DiBouno & The Chair City Pipers. Anyone interested in being included for next year’s series, please contact Carol Whitney at 978-928-3748 or e-mail her at caroljwwhitney@charter.net. Please pass the word.

Log Cabin Country Quilt – Carol Whitney has once again made a beautiful quilt. This *Log Cabin Country* quilt will be raffled off at the close of the Gingerbread Fair December 6th. It is described as a 70” x 80” hand quilted, pieced in graduated shades of tan, reds, and greens and accented with a multi colored paisley border. The backing is a green paisley print. This quilt is appropriate for year round use done in shades that are everlasting. We are enclosing 6 quilt raffle tickets. When you attend the Fair, please return the sold ticket stubs, or mail them to Box 509 before December 4th. Tickets are \$1.00 for one or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets will be available all day at the Fair or from any Parish Committee member. For

more information, contact Cyndy Doane at cwdoane@charter.net.

Hymnals – These books of song are a wonderful way to acknowledge a loved one, mark a special occasion or just to purchase. A label will be placed inside each donated book in commemoration. Please contact Barbara to purchase a hymnal. Several more are needed.

Annual Giving - It is not too late to give to the 2008-2009 Annual Giving Campaign or to send in a pledge. These combined with the proceeds from our fairs, fund our operating budget and provide Rev. Ralph and Melissa, our pianist their salaries. If you need a pledge form or have any questions, please see Carol Whitney.

Tribute Gifts – these gifts support the Church's *Annual Giving Campaign* and are an excellent way to celebrate lifelong friendships and the organization where they all started. Tribute gifts are a meaningful way to mark the passing of a loved one. Other reasons why donors have made a tribute gift is to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, wedding and many other special occasions.

Parish History – When you hear the bell ring at the Church you can tell everyone the following: the bell was cast by George Holbrook of East Medway, MA in 1833. Holbrook was an apprentice to Paul Revere. The Holbrook Bell foundry cast more than eleven thousand bells during its existence from 1816 to 1880, carried on by four successive generations of the same family.

The clock was a gift to the Town from the proprietors and is an extraordinarily rare type, made in 1807 by Abel Stowell, a renowned Worcester clockmaker, who pioneered the flat-bed, wood frame pattern, based on French

design. The painted hardwood frame bears the maker's name and date: Abel Stowell, Worcester ...1807. Significant works by Abel Stowell are also held by the Smithsonian Institution.

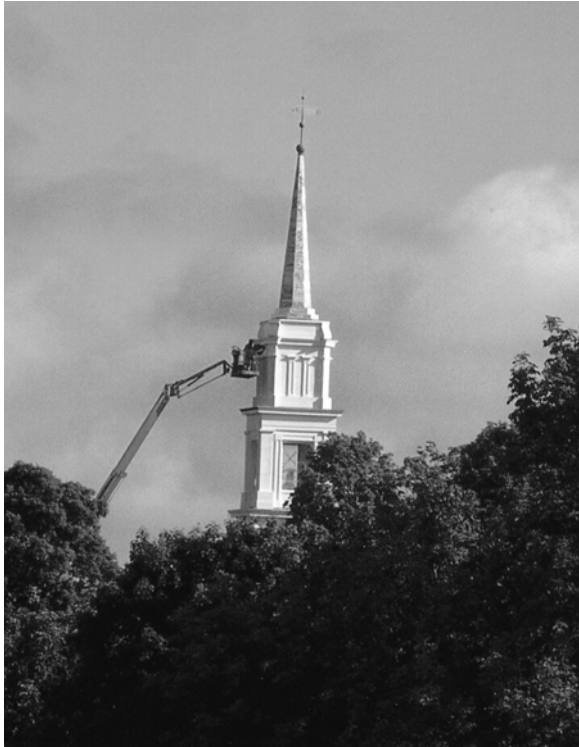
Planned Gifting – has been established to recognize those individuals who have made arrangements to leave a planned gift to the First Parish Unitarian Church. The Church welcomes those who have included the Church in their will, trust, retirement plan, or other deferred gift plan and have informed us of their generosity. Please consider supporting the Church's future through a provision in your estate plan. Kindly let us know if you have already done so. We want to express our gratitude and acknowledge your generosity.

Parish Committee – The First Parish Unitarian Church's Parish Committee continues to be very busy. They meet every Wednesday at 3 pm at the Church and have been working out the details of the many issues that the church has to deal with. If you need to contact any of them please refer to the following list or come to a meeting.

Carol Whitney: Pres.	978-928-3748
Barbara Hubbard: Treas.	978-928-4475
Cyndy Washburn-Doane: VP	978-928-4866
Lori Prentiss: V P	978-928-5818
Mary Taylor: Clerk	978-928-4289

Restoration Progress – The Parish Committee is excited to report that the work on the Church is nearly complete. The completion of Phase I has encouraged us to consider other needed repairs to this historic building. We are grateful for all the support from near and far. Let's continue our commitment to restoration. We have included some of the many photos taken throughout the project by Alden Adams on the following page.

RESTORATION PHOTOS



1.



2.



3.



5.



4.

Restoration Photos: (clock wise from upper left)
1. Murray Brothers Construction working on the steeple with the large lift. 2. Finished gilded clock face with restored letters. 3. Un-restored weathervane parts. 4. Completed steeple, clock and painting. 5. Brick foundation before restoration.
All photos courtesy of Alden Adams.