

First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

The Parish Press

Editor: Cyndy Washburn-Doane

Holiday 2011

SPIRIT OF THE HARVEST

"Each of us will be grateful this Thanksgiving in differing ways,
 Gathered in our separate families,
 Each with our own distinct recipes, customs and traditions;
 For some will have pies of mince,
 And others of pumpkin or apple;
 And some will dine early
 And some sit down late to the meal,
 Passing on the wisdom of the elders
 As to the question of whether the stuffing
 Should have raisins or currants,
 And whether to add sage to the gravy.
 For such differences of opinion,
 Make us truly appreciative,
 Realizing that as there is no one right way
 To celebrate the gifts of life,
 So there is no wrong way
 To share in love or friendship.
 But amid our diversity,
 Let us also be united
 In our gratitude
 For a world in which there are many faiths,
 A nation in which there is freedom of worship,
 A community in which people of many backgrounds
 Can gather in mutual care and respect.
 Amen.

Rev Gary Kowalski
 First Universalist Society
 Burlington, VT

Important Dates:

- 11-16 *Berry Bowl Making*
6 pm
- 11-20 *Memorial Box Making*
12 noon
- 11-25, 26 & 27
Wreath Making
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-2 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*
7 pm – 9 pm
- 12-3 *Gingerbread Fair*
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-4 *Dana Brass Concert*
5:30 pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*
5 pm
- 1-8 *SSVM: Fiddler's Garden*
10 am
- 2-12 *SSVM: Resurrection Brass*
10 am
Valentine Card Making
11:30 am
- 3-11 *SSVMS: Chair City Pipers*
10 am
- 4-4 *Sanctuary Cleaning*
6 pm
- 4-8 *Easter Sunday*
10 am

Pianist: Chris Bergquist
 RE Director: Nancy Hubbard

Church 10 am
 Sunday School 9 am

How to contact us:

Church
 Phone:
 978-928-
 5822



First Parish Unitarian
 Church
 Box 509
 Hubbardston, MA 01452

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

Prepare for Fair Week – The Gingerbread Fair on December 3rd is quickly approaching. The week before the fair the Church is abuzz. The vestry will be transformed into an amazing room overflowing with gingerbread people, holiday decorations, decorated tables, a stage transforming into a bistro for lunch, and a kitchen full of men are peeling potatoes and carrots, making meatballs and baking gingerbread. There are plenty of jobs during Prepare For Fair Week here at the Church. Please let us know if you can help during that week.

Laurel Wreath Making –. Let There Be Wreaths. Beginning Friday November 25th of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday November 27th from 9 am until 4 pm, we will create, assemble, fashion, build and construct close to 70 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 expedition 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 fine-looking wreaths with Barbara at 978-928-4475. They go quickly. If anyone in your family needs community service, this activity is a great way to get in some hours.

Gingerbread Fair - Members and friends of the First Parish Unitarian Church, On the Common in Hubbardston consider the Gingerbread Fair as the beginning of their holiday season. Saturday, December 3rd from 9 am until 3 pm is the big day, which is planned and worked on all year long. The funds from this fair help fund our programs, services and other events. Be sure to stop by our bulletin board or visit us at www.hubbardstonunitarian.org. to see what we are up to.

Our Holiday Luncheon will be served on the stage. The menu is homemade

Swedish Meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots and peas, a beverage and biscuits shaped like gingerbread people. Dessert is freshly baked gingerbread topped with whipped cream, all for \$8.00.

The Silent and Chinese auctions will have many attractive gifts, tickets, gift certificates to area restaurants, passes to museums, golfing, favorite attractions and themed gift baskets. Raffle tickets will be available for the "Basket Square" country quilt, a Gingerbread House and a special Holiday Raffle.

Our very New England traditional holiday tables will feature laurel wreaths, pine slab memorial boxes, berry bowls and natural garlands, knitted hats, scarves, mittens, home made jams and jellies, hand packed spices, homemade candy and incredible baked goods.

This year the fair co-chairs are Cyndy Washburn-Doane and Mary Taylor. Please bring a donation for each table. We hope you can attend and bring your family and friends, and perhaps make some new friends there! Cyndy and Mary are looking for workers for fair day and the week before.

"Basket Square" Country Quilt – "This years country quilt has again been made by Carol Whitney. This Traditional "Basket Square" Country quilt will be raffled off at the close of the Gingerbread Fair. It is described as being 85" x 85", hand quilted and pieced in shades of blues, reds, greens and browns with tan background pieces. This quilt is finished with a bold picture frame border. The backing is a neutral slate blue. The pattern is one that was used by an "Underground Railroad" in the 1800's. The colors and block placement make it complimentary to any décor. We have enclosed 3 tickets for this one of a kind quilt. Chances for the quilt are \$2/1 and \$5/3. Please return the sold ticket stubs or mail them to P.O. Box 509 before December 2nd. A picture of the quilt is on our Face Book Page.

Tree Lighting - The holiday tree lighting will take place on the Common December 4th, at 5 pm. This is sponsored by the

Hubbardston Parks Commission. The Pioneer Valley Brass Concert follows at 5:30 pm in the Church. All are invited.

Pioneer Valley Brass Concert – Sunday, December 4th 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, some 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 church alive. Save the date and join us for this Christmas Tradition. Light refreshments to follow.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 pm. This very traditional service will be coordinated by Chris Berquist, our pianist. The Christmas message will be presented through traditional hymns and readings. The service ends with our congregation forming a circle as we light candles from one another and sing Silent Night. Please join us for this time-honored tradition.

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Meeting Held – Our annual meeting was held Sunday, September 25th in the vestry at 11 am. We held our annual election of officers during the business meeting. The new officers for the upcoming Church year of 2011-2012 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Mary Taylor, Clerk, & Cyndy Washburn-Doane, Vice President. Those in attendance reviewed the Annual Report.

1-20 Club Continues – Since 1990 the 1-20 Club benefits the Restoration Fund. We complete two rounds of 1-20 club tickets per year. The continuation of the 1-20 Club encourages us to consider needed repairs to our historic building. Thanks go out to

our Members & Friends who have purchased tickets over the years. Donations are accepted to this fund at any time. Please contact Barbara if you would like to purchase a ticket.

Take me out to the Ball Game 2012 – Be on the look out again for our “FUN” Raiser. Beginning in early January 2012 the Church will be raffling tickets to a baseball game at historic Fenway Park in Boston. Your raffle tickets may be purchased from any member of the Parish Committee and members of the Church. The Raffle will be drawn on Sunday, May 20th.

Hubbardston Community Theatre held auditions on Nov 6th at the Church. Their show this year will be celebrating its 20th season and is appropriately called “Sing” and will be performed Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 16, 17 & 18, 2012 at Hubbardston Center School. The HCT organization is looking for past members & performers to come together and perform in this show. For more information please contact them a Hubtheatre4U@gmail.com

Remaining Schedule of Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Services– Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Series is a musical performance as part of the worship service at 11am. Please contact Carol Whitney if you would like to perform or would like to recommend someone. The schedule of performers is as follows:

Jan.	8	SSVM – Fiddler's Garden
Feb.	12	SSVM – Resurrection Brass
Mar.	11	SSVM – Chair City Pipers

Joys & Sorrows – Ted Curtis passed away on August 29, 2011. His daughter, Carol and her husband Brian Boucher survive him. Ted moved to Hubbardston 60 years ago and owned and operated many businesses in Town and was active in Town government and other civic organizations.

Parish Committee – The Parish Committee (PC) has weekly meetings doing the general business of the Church and attends other meeting including General Business, Select board, Finance Committee, Fair meetings

and Future Service Needs Committee meetings. This committee is looking for one more member.

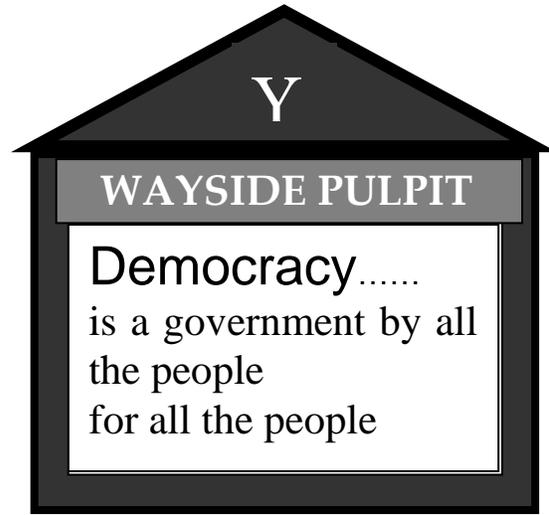
Carol Whitney: Pres. 978-928-3748
Barbara Hubbard: Treas. 978-928-4475
Cyndy Washburn-Doane: VP 978-928-4866
Mary Taylor: Clerk 978-928-4289

Ways to Contribute - The First Parish Unitarian Church is a non-profit organization that relies on the support of its members, friends and volunteers. There are many ways to contribute and become part of our living legacy, which continues to restore, protect and preserve our building and programs for future generations. Please contact a member of the Parish Committee to inquire on which giving program best fits into your budget. It is never too late.

The Parish Press - The Parish Press is printed and mailed three times a year; Fall, Holiday and Spring. The next issue will be mailed out in the Spring of 2012.

Future Services Needs Committee - Future Services Needs Committee includes Carol Whitney, Barbara Hubbard, Lori

Prentiss and Nancy Hubbard, have recommended that we continue with using supply ministers to fill the pulpit as it provides variety and added interest as we look for a seated minister. In the past year we have had the pleasure of hearing ministers and lay people including Bob, Wirtanen, Aaron Stockwell, Christian Schmidt and Rev. Eliza Blanchard. This committee is looking for additional members.



Christmas Spirit

Fill your heart like a vessel with the Christmas spirit. Take the time to let your vision clear and your concern deepen. Allow your heart to overflow with all the authentic gifts that this season has to offer.

The blessings and the wealth of Christmas can overflow from each of our hearts, if we take the time to fill our hearts first. We are a world of materially rich men and rich women who are spiritually impoverished by our very wealth. The signs of that impoverishment are all around us. They push and shove to get our attention, especially at this time of year.

But let us stop the rush and allow the spirit of the season to enter our being. Let us clear our vision and deepen our concern. Let it move us away from an isolating concern for self to a relationship of love and care and wonder and joy with all of life around us.

Donna Morrison-Reed
Past Unitarian Universalist Minister, Toronto, Canada

Wishing all of you a safe and peaceful New Year!