



First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

# The Parish Press

Editor: Nancy J. Hubbard

Holiday 2015

## 'Tis the Season

... of advertisers run amok and ambitions amplified beyond belief  
 ... of Martha Stewart moments mixed with desert island dreams  
 ... when even the most dedicated holiday-hopper admits perfection isn't possible and "good enough" is how the season ought to be.  
 'Tis the Season  
 ... of post-inebriated Santas blocking with consumer guilt the way to one-too-many holiday-mad stores.  
 ... when glad tidings of busyness keep from us the news that nostalgia ain't what it was.  
 ... when we deal with the gap between what we could/should be doing and what is possible in the reality of today.  
 ... the season when all dreams you've ever dreamed of being – but aren't- return, reminding you of what you once could be.  
 For all this and more, I say to you (and to me) –  
 This is the season  
 ... for generosity of spirit  
 ... for giving of the heart without counting cost  
 ... for forgiving those who are not here or not here as we would need  
 ... for gentleness with self and others  
 ... for hope that love in presence or in memory will pay a healing call  
 ... for conviction that the way YOU greet each dayspring is what matters after all.  
 Blessings, and may this holiday season bring, for you and yours,  
 Joy and Peace.

- By Maureen Killoran

### Important Dates:

- 11-22 *Memorial Box Making*  
9 am
- 11-22 *Williamsville Chapel*  
12 noon – 3 pm
- 11-27, 28 & 29  
*Wreath Making*  
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-4 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*  
7 pm – 9 pm
- 12-5 *Gingerbread Fair*  
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-12 *Dana Brass Concert*  
5:30 pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*  
5 pm
- 3-20 *Palm Sunday*  
10 am
- 3-27 *Easter Service*  
10 am
- 5-1 *Recognition Sunday*  
10 am

Pianist: Hallie Martin

Church 10 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

**Thanksgiving Farmer's Market** – Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12 noon – 3 pm the Hubbardston Historical Society will hold its annual market at the historic Williamsville Chapel on Burnshirt Road. The Church will have a table with jams, jellies, and quilt raffle tickets.

**Prepare for Fair Week** – The Gingerbread Fair on December 5<sup>th</sup> is swiftly 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 corner of the vestry transforming into a bistro for lunch, and a kitchen full of folks peeling carrots, making coleslaw and baking gingerbread. There are plenty of jobs during Prepare For Fair Week at the Church. Please let us know if you can help during that week

**Laurel Wreath Making** – Let There Be Wreaths. Beginning Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup> 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. Place your orders for these handsome 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** – Always held on the first Saturday in December. This year's fair on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 3 pm mixes community spirit and merriment for all. Come in and embrace the sights and fragrances of the season in our historic vestry.

Watch The *Silent Auction* items up for bid, or become a bidder. Peruse the assorted items at the *Craft* table. Take a chance on the *Chinese Auction*, still \$2 for 10 chances. This auction includes 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 "*Bear Claw*" *Country Quilt* and a special *Holiday Raffle*.

Our traditional holiday tables that bring new life to long forgotten New England crafts will feature laurel wreaths; birch slab memorial boxes; berry bowls; natural garlands; knitted hats, scarves and mittens; homemade jams and jellies; hand packed spices; homemade candy; and a variety of fine baked goods including Indian Pudding and Finnish coffee bread. The coffee bread sells out fast.

Come celebrate the season with us and enjoy the wonderful offerings at the Gingerbread Fair.

This year the fair Co-chairs are Carol Whitney and Mary Taylor. Donations for each table are needed and can be accepted during Prepare for Fair week.

**Holiday Luncheon** – Rest awhile and enjoy our new Ham and Baked Bean luncheon served in the vestry, beginning at 11 am. with sides of homemade coleslaw, artesian bread and gingerbread topped with whipped cream and a drink, all for only \$8. Relax while you dine with family and friends. Take out is available.

**She'll be calling you** – If you have not been called by Diane Watkins looking for donations for our Gingerbread Fair luncheon that does not mean you are off the hook. Diane's sweet, quiet and persuasive tone of voice may ask you to donate coffee, cream, milk, carrots or cash to buy the hams with and the list goes on. If you want to beat Diane to the phone, give her a call at 978-928-5420 and pick an item or 2 off the luncheon list.

**"Bear's Claw" Country Quilt** – The Bear's Claw Quilt was the third quilt used to help prepare slaves for their journey to freedom. Runaways were directed to follow the actual trail of a bear's footprints. Animal footprints would indicate the best path, just like a road map, through the mountains. Following the bear's tracks would also lead tired, hungry runaways to food and water.

This colorful quilt is done in shades of red, brown, green, and blue. The background is light tan. The backing material and binding are complimentary to the colors of the top of the quilt. The simple hand quilting sets off the overall pattern of the Bear's Claw. This 83" square quilt is just right for any home and is an heirloom for the future.

We have enclosed 4 tickets for this one of a kind quilt. Chances are \$3/1 and \$10/4. Please return the sold ticket stubs or mail them to P.O. Box 509 before December 5<sup>th</sup>. The winner will be drawn at the close of the fair.

***Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet Concert*** – Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> the 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*** – This well attended service will be Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Lisa Kirk, seminarian will deliver the Christmas message. Our pianist, Hallie Martin will be leading us with the traditional Christmas hymns. Our service concludes with a candle-lighting ritual in which the church lights are dimmed and people pass a flame from candle to candle until everyone is holding a lit candle and we sing Silent Night.

### ***CHURCH NEWS***

***Annual Meeting Held*** – This meeting was held Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in the vestry at 11 am. After potluck, we held our annual election of officers during the business meeting. The new officers for the upcoming

Church year of 2015-2016 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Nancy Hubbard, Clerk, Carol Hubbard-Kelley and Gail Dorval as Vice Presidents. Those in attendance reviewed the Annual Report.

***Thank You Mary Taylor - Change of Officers*** – it is with heavy hearts and gratitude that the members of the church accepted the resignation of Mary Taylor, as church clerk and doer of many things. Mary has led the group these last years to undertake many important and long neglected projects. Most notably, obtaining "Free and Clear Title" and the Deed to the property, which was an outstanding issue since the 1840's (!). Mary worked long and persistently to achieve these documents for the church and its membership. She attended so very many hearings, lawyer meetings, selectboard meetings, town meetings, investigative meetings to find, obtain and get all the facts correct and transparent for all. She also spearheaded the building renovation, which included re-siding the steeple, pointing the brickwork and repainting the building. She led many other projects as well, inside and outside of the building and events to bring us all together to be the community centered group and place for all in the town who wish to join with us. Please join us in thanking Mary (and her family) for her dedication and to the life of our church and encourage her to continue to help in however she wishes to share her many talents and skills. Thank you, Mary – we are truly grateful for all you have done.

***Community Food Collection*** – Donations at any level are deeply appreciated and can be made by cash or check or by an actual food donation. This collection is done to provide Hubbardston families in need with a Thanksgiving meal and more. All proceeds will be used exclusively for food baskets. Our donations are distributed with the help of Hubbardston Center School and the Hubbardston Police Department. This collection will be ending Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 509,

Hubbardston, MA 01452. Donations of frozen turkeys to complete the Thanksgiving meal are also accepted.

**Cord of Wood Raffle** – The winner of this raffle was Jeremiah Oakes. This was drawn at our Fall Indoor Yard Sale held October 24<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you goes to Chris Pirner of Hubbardston for donating this wood.

**Remaining Schedule of Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Services** – This series is a musical performance as part of the worship service at 10 am. Please contact Carol Whitney if you would like to perform or would like to recommend someone. The schedule of performers is as follows:

Dec.	12	Pioneer Valley Brass – 5:30 pm
Feb.	21	TBA
Mar.	13	Surround Sound
Apr	10	Swinging Singing Seniors

Coffee hour with light refreshments will follow after each music service.

**Sales are Big Successes** – Thanks everyone. You made Field Day and Fall Indoor Yard Sale huge successes. Our patrons continue to recognize the dedication of the volunteers as we do the important work of this community Church including our ministry and preserving our historic property.

**Pulpit Speakers** – The First Parish Unitarian Church has many similarities to other small New England churches. We are a very old, small congregation in size, very active in keeping our services available to everyone, and we have no settled minister. This fact allows us to have an eclectic selection of speakers in the pulpit. This Church calendar year we continue this selection with a grouping of semi-retired ordained ministers, Masters of Divinity, Students of Divinity, and Lay persons. Not to leave out our Second Sunday Visiting Musician Series where music is the sermon. Our speakers reflect on many topics. Topics are drawn from the news, seasonal importance, personal, and biblical

inspiration that will encourage us to look inward and outside of ourselves in our daily lives. The popularity of this is reflected by our increased attendance. What follows is the schedule of the remainder of the year of Pulpit Speakers. Come join us, not just on Christmas and Easter but all year long.

<b>Jan.</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Lay Service</i>
	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>TBA</i>
	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Lay Service</i>
<b>Feb.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Lay Service</i>
	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>TBA</i>
<b>Mar.</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Lay Service</i>
	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Rev. Eliza Blanchard</i>
	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Easter -Lisa Kirk</i>
<b>Apr.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>TBA</i>
	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>TBA</i>
<b>May</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Lay Service</i>
	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Recognition Sunday Rev. Eliza Blanchard</i>

**Knitting Club** – Wednesday evenings at 7 pm there is a drop-in knitting or any type of needlework group at the Church. If you have a project you need help with, would like to try something a little more complicated than what you usually knit, or want to try to knit for the first time, come on by. You can contact Nancy Hubbard at hopkinson34@charter.net or by phone at 978-928-5964. Happy Knitting!

**Joys and Sorrows** – please keep in your thoughts and prayers the families of those friends and members we have recently lost: Shirley Harty, Janet Kelley, Gertie Thompson and Gloria Utzig's father.

**Parish Committee** – The Parish Committee has weekly meetings doing the general business of the Church and attends other meetings including General Business, Selectboard, Finance Committee, and Fair meetings.

Carol Whitney: Pres.	978-928-3748
Barbara Hubbard: Treas.	978-928-4475
Nancy J. Hubbard: Clerk	978-928-5964
Carol Hubbard-Kelley	978-928-4473
Gail Dorval	978-297-2718