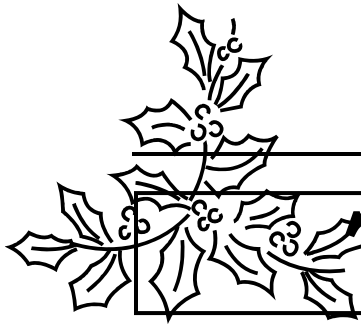




First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston



The Parish Press

Rev. Ralph Clarke
978-808-3770

Holiday 2006
Editor: Cyndy Washburn-Doane

November Thoughts

Well, here it is November, though the last week or so has not felt much like it. Still the days are getting shorter and soon it will be cold weather. A lot has been happening in our church. Walls have been repaired and painted, a lot of cleanup has been done and we are preparing for the Church Fair. The work of a number of people has made a big difference and will continue to make a difference. This is the time of year when community is especially important. As the days get shorter it is more important to be around friends and family.

Within a few weeks it will be Thanksgiving and then Christmas and New Year. Be aware of the importance of those around us during this season.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have made and are making the projects around the church a success! Your work is indispensable. I hope that you will be able to attend the upcoming Dana Brass concert and welcome friends and neighbors and, while you are at it attend and bring neighbors to our regular services. They are at the heart of who we are as a religious community.

Ralph

How to contact us:

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*THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AS
FOLLOWS - PLEASE MARK
YOUR CALENDARS!*



Laurel Wreath Making—Wreath making will be held Thanksgiving weekend beginning Friday November 24th through Sunday November 26th from 9 am until 4 pm. Hopefully we will finish by Saturday and Sunday will not be necessary. Please bring a snack to share and 2 bags of laurel ready to go. The laurel can be picked a few days in advance, make it an after dinner family excursion! Also, order your very own beautiful wreath from Barbara (928-4475) today!!! (They go fast.)



Christmas Memories Quilt Raffle- Enclosed are 5 tickets to the raffle. When you attend the Gingerbread Fair on December 2, please return the sold ticket stubs, or mail them to PO Box 509 before December 1st. Tickets are \$1.00 per chance or \$5.00 for 6 and will be drawn Saturday December 2nd at the Gingerbread Fair. Tickets will be available from the Parish Committee and members. For more information, contact the church or e-mail Cyndy Doane at cwdoane@charter.net.





Gingerbread Fair – The annual Gingerbread Fair will be held on Saturday December 2nd from 9 AM – 3 PM. This event is planned and worked on all year long and we need the entire church to support it to make the day a huge success. The funds generated by this fair help fund our programs, services and all the other events. The day of the Fair is fun and a day to be enjoyed by all. The Vestry will be filled to capacity with: The Chinese Auction (Cyndy Doane), Silent Auction (Betty Bumpus),

Baked Goods (Jeanne Donahue), Candy (Carol Whitney), Gingerbread House Raffle, Naturals (Diane & Maegan Watkins), Spices (TBA), Crafts (Mary Taylor & Carol Hubbard-Kelley), Wreaths, Holiday Raffle, Knitting (Barbara Hubbard) and new this year the Memories Quilt Raffle (TBA).

June Hubbard-Ward will chair our famous Swedish Meatball Luncheon served from 11 AM – 1 PM. The meal will be served on the stage overlooking the fair and will include homemade meatballs, gravy, peas & carrots, mashed potatoes, biscuits, a drink and gingerbread with whipped cream for desert all for \$7.00. Diane Watkins will be calling our members and friends for luncheon donations.

Fair goers can listen to the wonderful voices of Phil Katz from the Otters and other guests who will drop in during lunch. All of our tables need donations from you, your neighbors and friends and can include baked goods, hand made crafts and candy to fill the tables. If you can help in any way – give us a call. Mary Taylor and Cyndy Washburn-Doane are this year's Fair Co-chairmen @ 978-928-4289 (Mary) and 978-928-4866 (Cyndy).

Dana Brass and Pot Luck Night - December 10, 2006, our Church will be hosting a Christmas Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm and a free concert with  The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet at 6:30 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 at the vesper hour. This musical 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 potluck followed by a wonderful musical service. Our building, with its great acoustics, is one of only three buildings in the Town that have been accepted onto the National Register of Historic Places.

Children's Christmas Party – Sunday December 17th starting at 5:30 PM with a short service and a traditional Christmas Pageant starring all the Sunday School children, with a seasonal party downstairs afterwards. Please tell me if you will be there and if you are bringing other children to this event, so our Elf has something for everyone.



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Sunday December 24th at 5:00 PM. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME FROM THE REGULAR SERVICE. This will be a very traditional service with lots of carols to sing.

There will be no church service on December 31st.

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Meeting Held – Our annual meeting was held September 24 in the vestry at 7:30 PM. A business meeting was held and the annual election of officers. The new officers for the upcoming church year of 2006-2007 Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Mary Taylor, Clerk, Cyndy Washburn-Doane, and Lori Prentiss, Vice Presidents. Those in attendance received annual reports Welcome Lori to the Parish Committee.

120 Club – The fall round of drawings are well underway with weekly winners so far as follows: Brian Boucher, Dot Suojanen, Marsha Howlett, George & Elaine Graves, Jim & Sue Vaida, Carol

Beauvais, Peter Bumpus and Sue Flagg. The final four drawings of this round will be the top prize of \$150, 2-\$100 prizes and another \$50. These will be drawn at the Sunday School Christmas Party on December 17th. Thank you to everyone who participates. The profits from this go directly to maintaining the building, with the new roof on and the steeple patched up, our attention turns to major exterior painting and repairs to the ceiling plaster inside which has considerable water damage due to the leaking roof. Donations are welcome for these projects and will be deposited into the First Church Paint and Restoration Fund and as always are 100% tax deductible.



Take me out to the Ball Game – Be on the look out *again* for our “FUN” Raiser. Beginning in early January 2007 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 13th at our Mother's Day Potluck Dinner and our Children's Sunday at the Church beginning at 5:30 PM. For further information please contact Mary Taylor at 978-928-4289 or e-mail her at mjt123@charter.net. Proceeds from this raffle will benefit the Renovation Fund.

Spring Newsletter – Our spring newsletter will be going out sometime in March 2007. Articles, ideas or other news are always welcomed. Please contact Editor Cyndy Washburn-Doane at cwdoane@charter.net. There is also a drop off for articles in the church kitchen.



Hubbardston Community Theatre – HCT will be holding auditions for their upcoming

show *Alice in Wonderland* in the Sanctuary of the Church on Sunday November 19 at 1PM. The auditions are open to everyone. Many of our younger parishioners will be trying out, along with our favorite older familiar faces. Other members take on many jobs with the show; back stage, orchestra and props just to name a few. The show is March 16th and 17 at 7 pm and March 18th at 1 pm. See you there.

Vestry Spruce Up – We all need to give our Church members a big round of applause for the many hours of hard work put in to cleaning up the vestry. The ceiling was spray painted by Kevin Quinn, many ceiling tiles replaced and light fixtures cleaned. The Sheriff's Department prepared the walls for painting. They spent 7 days working for us. The walls have been painted and the floors cleaned up a bit. Carol Whitney hung new curtains. We saved about \$4000 with the great effort from our congregation and Sheriff's Department.

Rental Space – Our spruced up vestry is now ready to become prime rental space. Some excellent uses for our space could be a dance studio, craft instruction, yoga, or exercise. Please pass the word and anyone interested should contact the Parish Committee.

Grant Progress – Chenot & Associates are nearing completion of the preliminary assessment and preparing

the grant application to bring to the Parish Committee for approval. We are getting to the exciting part now. More info will follow in the spring newsletter.

Welcome Mom's Club – Hubbardston now has a Mom's Club, which is a national organization for Moms networking with Moms. They will be holding monthly meetings in the vestry during the winter.

Recent Loses – William Bumpus recently passed away on October 10th. He leaves his wife Connie and 3 children, Bette, Billy and Peter. The family wishes any contributions be sent in his name to our church, P. O. Box 509.

Frances Washburn passed away on November 5th. She leaves her husband Frank and a daughter Cyndy. The family wishes any contributions be sent to the Rebecca Doane Scholarship C/O the G.F.A Credit Union, Hubbardston Branch, P.O. Box 468, Gardner, MA 01440.

Parish Committee – The First Parish Unitarian Church's Parish Committee continues to be very busy. They meet every Wednesday at 4:30 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.

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|--------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |

Wishing you Happy and Healthy Holidays!!