



A Publication of
The First Church in Salem, Unitarian

The Ames Covenant
In the love of truth
and the spirit of Jesus,
we unite for the worship of God
and the service of humankind.

The Herald

JUNE 2010

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Minister's Musings

I have a "friend" who comes by the church every so often to visit me. Usually when he drops by he is looking for a "few bucks" to help him buy some groceries. Every once in a while, he shows up looking for a more sizable donation when he going through some difficulty. Over the years, I have learned not to give him any more than a few dollars and some food. I then ask him how he's doing and he tells me a little about what is happening in his life. Sometimes he is working. Sometimes he is not. His life is not altogether stable and he is certainly not entirely in control. This man is not a bad person. He is just an addict. He has a chemical addiction that leads him to make harmful decisions for himself, his friends and family. People make poor long-term decisions when they are in the grip of an addiction.

I have been thinking about my friend periodically during the last month as I read about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. At the time of this writing, somewhere between 22 to 45 million gallons of oil have "erupted" from an out of control oil well almost a mile underwater in the Gulf. The spill is already at least twice the size of the infamous Exxon Valdez spill. The CEO of British Petroleum is himself describing this as an "environmental catastrophe." Clearly this spill will have devastating environmental and economic impacts for years to come, to say nothing of destroying one of the most productive fisheries in the world.

Amidst all of the reports and updates, I have heard very little commentary about the larger context of this toxic oil spill. While some voices have called for BP to be held liable and responsible (they are only liable for \$75 million in damages under Federal Law), I have not heard very many pundits ask the bigger question of why we are even drilling here in the first place. Certainly the answer to this question is complicated, but I would submit to you that it is not as complex as some would like you believe, especially if you don't own shares in a large oil company or accept their political donations.

Our country has an addiction. We have become dependent on a substance that ultimately is not good for us or the planet, at least in the amount that we consume. As a result of this addiction, we are permitting groups and companies to take big risks (and make possibly huge returns) to help us feed our insatiable habit. And when someone suggests that we need to stop or reduce our consumption, or when a voice declares that we could make major reductions through fuel efficiency improvements, public transportation and technology, they are criticized and dismissed, if not discredited. That is too bad, because as far as I can tell the fate of our country here in this 21st century will be determined at least in part by how we deal with this addiction of ours. Can we find the moral and patriotic resolve to make some changes as a society? Can we give up our dependence on vehicles that get only 18–20 miles per gallon?



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June Is Bustin' Out All Over

Each of the Sundays in the month of June have something special to offer. We hope you make a point in joining us for all of them.

June 6



Our annual **Church Picnic** follows the service. Chef Joe will once again be at the grill serving up hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Also at the church picnic will be the **Social Outreach Basket Raffle**. In the past, baskets have included such themes as wine, personal care products, children's games, and jewelry. Come see what's in store this year, and take a chance (or many chances.) The money collected goes to the work of the Social Outreach Committee in providing financial assistance to those in our community in need.

The rain date for the Picnic is Sunday, June 13.

June 13

Jeff Barz-Snell answers your questions from the pulpit with his annual **Question Box Sermon**. The box is in the Cleveland Room. Submit your question, mighty or minute, by Tuesday, June 8, then come on June 13 and hear what he has to say..



June 20

Our annual RE Recognition Sunday. Come join us we honor our youths' accomplishments in the RE program over the past year.

June 27

Join us for another Jazz Sunday, featuring Willie Sordello and our own Russell Lane as we gather for our final service before our July break.



Schedule of Events

June 1

- ♣ Alliance luncheon at noon
- ♣ Spirit Journey at 7:30 pm

June 2

- ♣ RE Committee at 7 pm
- ♣ Lyceum Parlor Series, 7 pm

June 6

- ♣ Sunday Service at 10:30 am, with choir
- ♣ Church Picnic following service
- ♣ Youth Group at 7 pm

June 8

- ♣ Alliance luncheon at noon

June 9

- ♣ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner at 4:45 pm
- ♣ Standing Committee at 7 pm

June 13 -

- ♣ Sunday Service at 10:30 am; Question Box Sermon

June 15

- ♣ Alliance luncheon and discussion of Jewish Traditions, at noon

June 20 - RE Sunday

- ♣ Sunday Service at 10:30 am, with choir

June 22

- ♣ Alliance at noon

June 26

- ♣ Lyceum Parlor Series, 7 pm

June 25

- ♣ Youth Group trip to Canobie Lake, 3:30 pm

June 26

- ♣ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner at 4:45 pm

June 27 - Jazz Sunday

- ♣ Sunday Service at 10:30 am

June 29

- ♣ Alliance at noon

June 30

- ♣ Lyceum Parlor Series, 7 pm

J U N E 2 0 1 0						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>All Sunday Services begin at 10:30am</i>		1 - Alliance, noon - Spirit Journey, 7:30pm	2 - RE Cmte., 7pm - Lyceum Parlor series, 7pm	3	4	5
6 - Sunday Service, with choir - Church Picnic - Youth Group, 7pm	7	8 - Alliance, noon	9 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm - Standing Cmte, 7pm	10	11	12
13 - Sunday Service, Question Box Sermon	14	15 - Alliance, noon	16	17	18	19
20 - RE Sunday Service, with choir	21	22 - Alliance, noon	23 - Lyceum Parlor series, 7pm	24	25 Youth Group trip to Canobie Lake, 3:30 pm	26 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm
27 - Jazz Sunday Service	28	29 - Alliance, noon	30 - Lyceum Parlor series, 7pm			

Flowers

Thanks to everyone who donated flowers in May and who participated in the Flower Communion on May 23.



There are still opportunities for donations in June and it's not too early to sign up for August—and beyond. Special wording can be placed in our weekly Order of Service in honor or memory of a loved one, or to commemorate an important event. You can use the church florist for a cost of \$45, or bring your own creation. Arrangements can be simple or elaborate—the choice is yours! See the sign up sheet in The Barnard Room on Sundays during Fellowship, or contact the church office if you have questions: 978-744-1551/firstchurch@nii.net

March with (UU) Pride

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Boston's Gay Pride Parade and the Mass Bay District of the UUA is inviting congregants from all those churches not already



marching under their own banner, to join the Mass Bay contingent. The Parade is on Saturday, June 12, around noon, starting from Copley Square in Boston. Participants are asked to be ready to march by 11:30 am. Exact location details are forthcoming from the Pride committee. If you are interested in marching, please contact the church office by phone or email (978-744-1551/firstchurch@nii.net) to let us know so we can inform the MBD. We will also provide details as we get them.

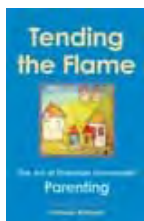
From the Religious Education Director

Summer Reading Assignments! (For parents!)

Here is a summer reading list of what I think are the best UU books for parents and families. To help you choose what books are best for your family I will have these titles plus a few more on display in the Barnard room for the month of June. Feel free to flip through the display books as often as you wish. Just please do not take these the church copies home! I have included links for purchasing copies for your family from the UUA Bookstore (www.uuabookstore.org).

BOOKS ON UU PARENTING:

***Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting* by Michelle Richards**



This book is a guide to Unitarian Universalist parenting. This book shows how to incorporate spiritual practices in family life, how to teach the seven principles to different ages, and offers guidance answering the “big” questions kids always need to ask. *Tending the Flame* is a fabulous resource for UU families whether you were born into UUism or are brand new to the faith.

[Click here to order](#)

***The Gift of Faith: Tending to the Spiritual Lives of Children* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar**

The classic book on the importance of nurturing our children’s spiritual growth, Jeanne Nieuwejaar eloquently explains to today’s parents why children need a spiritual home, a faith community to sustain them throughout their lives. If you only read one book on the spirituality of children, this is it. I highly recommend *The Gift of Faith*.

[Click here to order](#)

***The Book of New Family Traditions: How to Create Great Rituals for Holidays and Everyday* by Meg Cox**

This is a fun book with great ideas about creating meaningful family traditions. This one is a must have for young families!

[Click here to order](#)

BOOKS FOR KIDS:

***The Kids Book of Awesome Stuff* by Charlene Brotman**

Super fun mix of science and Unitarian Universalism for kids. Especially great for summer vacation with projects like a Bug Safari, worm watching, and “dead stuff that rots.” This is like a backyard mini summer camp guide.

[Click here to order](#)

***A Lamp in Every Corner: Our Unitarian Universalist Storybook* by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer**

Stories about our UU faith to share with children, great for bedtime story reading.

[Click here to order](#)

BOOKS FOR ADULTS:

***Waking up the Karma Fairy* by Meg Barnhouse**

My favorite UU author, Meg Barnhouse has a unique way of finding spirituality in everyday life. She makes reading about our faith really fun! Hilarious and thought-provoking, I highly recommend anything by this author!

[Click here to order](#)

Happy summer reading,

Deb DiGiulio,
Religious Education Director

Upcoming for RE

Sunday, June 6

- Church Picnic

Sunday, June 20

- RE Sunday

Sunday, June 25

- Youth Group trip to Canobie Lake

From the Music Director



As we wind down the church year, there isn't a lot to report musically at First Church. At this writing, we have just had the first of two planned jazz services before the end of the season and quite a wonderful experience it

was. As arranged and sponsored by church member Russell Lane, he brought in friends Rebecca Shrimpton as vocalist and Mike Mele on guitar, with Russell on drums. All three players were excellent and, after the service, I sensed this really good feeling from a really large congregation. Thank you, Russell. Our next and final jazz service will be Sunday, June 27 and will feature the well known Willie Sordillo on sax. Willie leads a regular jazz service at Old South Church in Boston and we are very fortunate to have him participate in worship here at First Church, again through the good graces of Russell Lane.

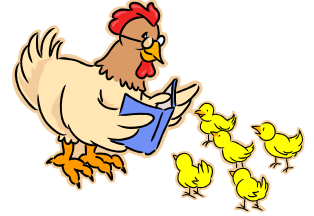
Choir will sing again on June 6th and 20th and, wow! It's summer.

See you in church.

Paul Madore
Director of Music

From Henny Penny

It's that time of year when we begin planning our play and graduation celebration. The children have come up with a fabulous theme this year : something along the lines of an enchanted island with a jungle, oh – and of course hula hoops, coconuts, boats, pirates, grass skirts... As you can see, we're in the process of narrowing down the theme and choosing our songs. Over the next several weeks, leading up to our play, we'll be working on planning, organizing, designing and decorating. There are songs to be rehearsed, lines to be practiced, sets to create, costumes to put together, and a printed program book to illustrate. In preparation for our costumes, the children will be tie-dyeing t-shirts next week. The fun is just about to begin!!!!



Our Mystery Reader schedule has wrapped up!! It was such a treat to be surprised by our Mystery Readers each day through March, April and into May. Also, our parent tea last Wednesday was a true success. Thanks so much to Kathy Wood for organizing it for us. As the year winds down, the children will be participating in a gymnastics show – a special event for our parents to witness. We'll also be enjoying a special visit by Mr. Erick Rodenhiser, Storyteller Extraordinaire. So much to do in so little time!!

Kerry and Barbara

From the Alliance

The Alliance continues its monthly lunch-and-learn sessions on Jewish Studies as related to Christian practices, from 12–1 pm on Tuesday, June 15. Bethany Weinberger and Jeff Barz-Snell lead the discussion.

Also, we would like to take the opportunity to relay messages of thanks from troops who have been the recipients of care packages from Operation Troop Support:

"I want to take this time out and thank you to all who took part in putting this box of wonderful things together. It was a happy surprise. Not only was it a surprise to me, but also to the young Soldiers out here who get nothing from any family, or friends. They probably won't admit it, but their eyes just brighten up when they see a box with their name on it. Thank-You to all in Danvers, MA that make this all possible. Please know that your hard work and dedication to providing such Service for our troops have been a blessing.

"I want to thank OTS for the package. I shared the contents with my staff. I'm a Navy Corpsman stationed in Afghanistan with a Seabee Mobile Construction Battalion. We provide emergency and clinical medicine to all personnel in any situation. I'm 30 Y/O, married with two boys and am from NH where I work as a paramedic with the 911 system."

Around the Parish

Church member **Rebecca Hains** will be singing Mozart's "Exsultate Jubilate" at Old Town Hall on Sunday, June 6, at 3:00 pm. The event is part of the Salem Arts Festival and is free.



Other church members who will be performing soon are **Lynn Taggart** and **Richard L'heureux**, both as members of the Mystic Chorale. The 250+-voice Chorale presents the 20th Anniversary Concert and Sing on June 5 and 6 at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge. See page 10 for details.

The main door to the Church has been painted a subdued red; this after months of study and dialogue about which of the historically accurate palette of colors we should apply to the wooden portions of our 1836 building. Hopefully no one is "seeing red" as a result. Longtime members will agree that somewhere right now longtime Deacon and Church Treasurer, Mr. Bunny Putnam, is smiling down from on high. Painting the doors red was a dream of Bunny's for half a century.

Congratulations to **Phillip A. Mallard** upon his graduation from Northeastern Law School and congratulations to church member and father, **Phillip Mallard**, for completing his tuition payments!

Standing Committee and Officer Update

Now that the 2010 Annual Meeting of the First Church has concluded, we thought we should provide you with a list of those who will be serving as Standing Committee members and Church officers over the coming year.

The new chair of the Standing Committee is **Nicole McLaughlin**. Continuing members include **Mimi Ballou**, **Chris Finn**, **Joan Hannah**, and **Lynn Taggart**. They are being joined by incoming members **Chris Graniss**, **Barbara Maitland**, and **Matt Venno**, all of whose terms expire in 2013. **Peter Copelas, Jr.** will also be coming in to fill the remainder of a term that expires in 2012.

Joe Deegan will be taking over the office of Treasurer while **Jamie Tanch** continues as moderator and **Kara McLaughlin** continues as Clerk.

We thank them all for a willingness to take on these duties responsibility and wish them all the best in leading the First Church in the coming year.

Meet the New Members

Lance Arlander was born in Salem and christened here in the First Church. He is a descendant of Rev. Edward Norris, the fourth Minister of the First Church, 1640–1658. While Salem has always been his home, the Arlanders were a Coast Guard family and lived where duty took them. This meant growing up near Washington, DC; on the island of Rhodes, Greece; in the San Francisco Bay Area; and in Portland, Maine. Lance served in South Vietnam with the US Naval Riverine Forces in 1969 before returning to Salem and graduating from Salem State College.

He has worked in management with various electronics and medical technology companies in the greater Boston area for over 35 years and currently lives with his wife Katherine in Danvers. He is proud of his four adult children—Nathaniel, Benjamin, Henry, and Rebecca Arlander—who all have successful careers. For enjoyment he loves antiquing and painting in New England, woodworking, and cruising around the North Shore on his Vespa. The most influential person in Lance's life was his late grandfather, Captain Henry C. Nichols of Salem.

Master Plan Committee Update

Having deferred our Phase 1 construction project, the MPIC has organized sub-committees that are now hard at work investigating and planning to address the four major challenges that we face. These are:

- ◆ **Water infiltration.** This group is undertaking diagnostic activities, including interior excavation to provide a view of the Willson Hall foundation, and fiber-optic exploration and excavation of exterior drains and dry wells.
- ◆ **Mechanical systems.** This group is actively researching and modeling various heating/cooling and water use systems in order to understand short- and long-term carbon footprint, environmental impact, efficiency and cost effects.
- ◆ **Regulatory compliance.** A successful submission to the Salem Historic Commission was made in May, and plans are underway to go before the Architectural Access Board in June. In addition, a zoning issue arising from the private ownership of Eaton Place will be addressed.
- ◆ **Finance.** The MPIC Finance sub-committee will be assisting the Standing Committee in initiating a capital campaign.

I should mention that there is very interesting work going on here, and there is always room on these committees for new contributors. Our regular meeting dates are the 4th Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Palmer

From the Stewardship Committee

Through the third Sunday in May (May 16), the church has received the following in Member and Friend contributions, as compared to 2008 and 2009:

2010: \$33,399 — 33% to our goal of \$100,000
 2009: \$34,797 — 40% of total 2009 giving of \$87,500
 2008: \$35,643 — 37% of total 2008 giving of \$97,000

As you can see, we are still running a little behind last year, but we have closed the gap somewhat since our last report in the *April Herald*.

Summer Giving — Although the church is a little quieter in the summer, the bills still have to be paid! Please remember the church in your summer financial planning, especially during the month of July when we join the Universalist church for their services. Summer contributions help the Treasurer to avoid dipping into our rainy day fund to pay for operating expenses. Thank you in advance.

Giving Made Easy! — Although the First Church in Salem is not necessarily an “early adopter” of new technology, there is a way that you can help the church by using the online banking feature provided by most banks in connection with your personal accounts. Many of you probably use online banking to track your account balances, transfer money between accounts, or research a check, but did you know that by using the online bill payment feature to send a check to the church on a recurring basis it helps both of us? For the church, it eases the “ups and downs” of giving by providing a more consistent cash flow. For you it means not having to find your checkbook and/or giving envelope while you are rushing around trying to get ready for church on Sundays. We have several church members who already use this handy method of making contributions to the church. Give it a try and help both you and the church at the same time!

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Henning; Joe Deegan; Eric Kenney;
 Robyn Knights-Giannopolo; Steve Palmer

The Very Beast of Friends:

Honoring Our Animal Companions at Midsummer

I stand and look at [the animals] long and long. — *Walt Whitman*



Mmmmm—*Midsummer*...the time when, as Gershwin's Bess sings so sultrily, "the livin' is easy." June 21 marks the Summer Solstice, or Litha (LEE-thuh), which brings the longest day and the shortest night of the year; Light and Dark are in equal balance, and magick is rife. Witches know that this enchantment is not only of the supernatural kind portrayed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* but of the natural variety as well. Beast and man alike revel in the season's warmth, color, and fresh, juicy food, and hooves (and heels) are kicked up as we—animals all—delight in our senses. Alas, though, the very next day, the "high tide of the year" begins to ebb, so how can we humans retain this precious connection to the world we share?

One powerful way is by studying the creatures with whom we share our lives. A follower of the Old Path would call such beasts Familiars; these are animals that aid her or him in occult working. Scientifically, this makes good sense; the brain of the cat, for instance, is tuned to the Alpha wavelength, the most desirable state for magickal labor. Spiritually, it's valuable, too, because the effort to "see" through the eyes of a non-human being often provides a new and different perspective from which to view both life and death.

Early peoples who began to draw wild creatures into their home- and farm-steads were aware that these beasts had a connection to the realm of nature that they themselves did not possess. Pagan folk have long revered animals for such knowingness, and the great teachers of the Judaeo-Christian tradition shared this insight. Jesus exhorted his disciples to learn by observing the unquestioning trust placed by small birds in the providence of Spirit, and Solomon urged men to consider the ways of the ant in order to "be wise." Whatever our religious beliefs, we do well to honor our friends in fur and feather and to let their ways lend im-"pet"-us to our human quest for oneness with the world.

—*Rose Wolf*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lifebridge (The Salem Mission)

Thanks to the following who signed up to volunteer to shop or to serve in May:

George and Ellen Brandenburg, Duncan Cox, Lynn Donovan, Larry Fine, Alan Hanscom, Russell Lane, Richard L'heureux, Betty Nichols, Steve Sawtell, Bob Soucy, Lynn Taggart.

Volunteers are needed on a monthly basis at Lifebridge (the Salem Mission). Members and friends of the First Church serve dinner twice a month—on the second Wednesday and on the fourth Saturday, 4:45–6:45 pm. You can help out by shopping, or serving dinner that night, or both—the choice is yours! Contact the church office at 978-744-1551 / firstchurch@nii.net to volunteer, or see the sign up sheet in the Barnard Room during Fellowship hour.

Fellowship

Thanks to everyone who hosted Fellowship in May:

May 2: *Alicia Diozzi, Duncan and Cindy Cox*

May 9: *The Gentlemen of the First Church, the Fritz and Jaeger families*

May 16: *The Graniss family and Claire Donaldson*

May 23: *Lynn and Ryan Donovan, Mary Krigbaum*

May 33: *Jerry Zullo and Wayne Michalski.*

A couple of Fellowship hosting opportunities are available for June, and it's not too soon to sign up for August—and beyond. Feel free to team up with one or a few others to make it fun.

Chalice Lighters and Readers

Thanks to those who served as Chalice Lighters and Readers during services in May:

May 2: *Hobby Sides*

May 9: *Claire Donaldson*

May 23: *Jessica Kane*

May 30: *Russell Lane*

Thanks to a Year's Worth of Fellowship Hosts

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize all those who hosted Fellowship Hour for the past year. Your hospitality is an essential part of this congregation. This list is to the best of our knowledge based on the records we have, so if anyone's name is omitted, we apologize and hope you will let us know.

May 2009

Jerry Zullo
Karen Veno
The gentlemen of First Church
Nicole McLaughlin
Chris Hansen-Mitev
Claire Donaldson

June 2009

Rick Belejack and Alan Towne
Mary Krigbaum
Netrista Khatam
Deborah Greel
John Wathne

September 2009

Joan and Richard Hannah
Jessica and Matt Kane
The Anderson family
The Harten and Keenan-McLaughlin families

October 2009

The Localvore community
The Barz-Snell and Diozzi-Mascolo families
Lloyd Holmes
Bill Henning and Thomas Mac Donald
The Fritz family
The Graniss family
The Burbank family

November 2009

Mary Krigbaum
Claire Donaldson
Netrista Khatam
Tommy Leon and Don Glover
Liz Nugent
Christiane Hansen-Mitev
The Newhall family

December 2009

Sandra and Richard Biondo
Charlene Long
Duncan and Cynthia Cox
The Schultz family
Mary Krigbaum

January 2010

Jennifer Barz-Snell
The Fellowship Committee
Nicole McLaughlin and Ben Waxman
Duncan and Cynthia Cox
Bob Allen and Bob Soucy
Susan Morgenstern
The Veno family
George and Ellen Brandenburg
Claire Donaldson
Bill Henning and Thomas Mac Donald
Lynn Taggart and Russell Lane

February 2010

Barbara Maitland
Mary Krigbaum
Alicia Diozzi and Mike Mascolo
Joe Deegan and Bryant Winberry
Jim Maynard and Jim Singletary
Peter A. Copelas
The Fritz family

March 2010

Jim Ognibene
Carol Hedstrom
Karen Veno
Alan Hanscom
Lynn Donovan
David Helen
Patti Roka
Hobby Sides
The Newhall family
Joan Hannah

April 2010

Deborah Greel and John Wathne
The Burbank family
Chris Finn
Deb DiGiulio
The Anderson family
Rayleen Deering
Joe Perron
Mike Cluck
Don Glover and Tommy Leon



THE HERALD



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Director of Henny Penny: Kerry Martin
Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio
Chair of the Standing Committee: Peter A. Copelas
Archivist: Kristin Kobialka
Administrator: Jim Singletary
Sexton: Joe Perron

ONE OF THE OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCHES
GATHERED IN NORTH AMERICA, SINCE 1629

M Y S T I C C H O R A L E

led by Nick Page
with special guests



20th Anniversary CONCERT AND SING

Saturday, June 5, 8:00 pm
Sunday, June 6, 2:30 pm

Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Adults, \$20
Seniors/Students, \$15
Premium Reserved Seating, \$50
www.mysticchorale.org/ 781-316-2500

Minister's Musings (continued from page 1)

Can we find a way live more sustainably and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 80% in 40 years time? Some of us think we can.

But it involves a sort of 12-step process for the country when it comes to energy. It begins with admitting there is a problem over which we seem to want to have little control. It begins by acknowledging the collective impact of our many individual choices and realizing that the cheapest and best oil we consume is what we leave undisturbed under the ground. In that sense, what's happening in the Gulf is not just an environmental problem, but a moral one as well. I hope and pray that we can find the resolve to make some changes. It's not just smart, but it's the right thing to do.

We have a big June month planned for the church. I hope you can join us for some of it. See you in church,