



The Herald

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.

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Minister's Musings

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
sing praise to his Name, he forgets not his own.*

In this issue	Pg.
November Schedule	2
Pageant Schedule	2
All Souls Service	2
Calendar	3
Flowers	3
Standing Committee	4
Project Updates	4
Stewardship	5
RE News	6
Archives Committee	6
Music Director	7
Henny Penny	7
Project Photos	8
Get Involved	9
Pledge Campaign	10

I came across two short articles buried in the front section of the New York Times this last week. The first reported that 30 major corporations in this country did not pay any income taxes from 2008 to 2010; companies like General Electric, Boeing and Pepsico. According to a study by Citizens for Tax Justice, the average tax rate for the 300 largest companies in the US was 18.5%, lower than what many individual taxpayers pay. The corporations rightly argue that the loopholes they employ to reduce their tax exposure are entirely legal. This is true.

The second article, hidden under a giant department store ad, reported that the number of very poor people in this country has grown significantly over the last five years. In fact one out of every 15 Americans lives in a state of abject poverty, more than 20 million people overall, one quarter of them children. This stands in stark contrast to the reports about the wealthiest 1% in the US who continue to gain in their net worth. Many in this wealthy group pay a relatively low tax rate since much of their income derives from the sale of stocks and bonds, whose tax rate is capped at 15%. Never before in our country's recent history (at least in the lifetime of anyone reading this) has the gap between the haves and have-nots been so wide. And we are starting to see the inevitable tensions bred by this state of affairs.

There is an old ideal that we celebrate this time of year that we could very much use right now. It is the notion of a "commonwealth." It is the belief that, whether we like it or not, whether we always realize it or not, we are all in this together. Too often we have recently emphasized the competitive and confrontational aspects of our culture and economy. There is another side however. Cooperation and some view of the common good are just as important (if not more so) to the stability of our communities and society. Just look at the history of the Pilgrims, whose story and mythology we celebrate and hold up this time of year. Their survival required them to think cooperatively and fairly. While free markets are important, cooperation and some concern for equity and justice are essential. Right now many people in this country perceive correctly that there are two sets of rules in our country and this needs to change.

Thanksgiving is a time when we pause to count our blessings. It is also a time when we remember those ideals that contribute to our common good. That is part of the vision embedded in the words of the famous hymn we sing each year when "we gather together," with the powerful image of the "wicked oppressing now cease from distressing." I wish you all a happy and reflective season of giving thanks. Many of us are far more fortunate that we often recognize.

See you in church.



Jeff

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 6. **Be sure to remember to reset your clock back one hour on Saturday evening, November 5.**





November Schedule of Events

November 1

⤴ Project Management Meeting, 8am

November 6 (Daylight Savings Time ends. Clocks back Saturday, Nov. 5 before bed)

⤴ All Souls Sunday Candle Lighting Service, 10:45 am.



November 8

⤴ Project Management Meeting, 8am

November 9

⤴ Lifebridge Dinner, 4:45 pm
⤴ Standing Committee, 7:15 pm

November 13

⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45 am
⤴ Pageant Casting, 12:15pm

November 15

⤴ Project Management Meeting, 8am

November 20 Thanksgiving Sunday

⤴ Sunday Service with Choir, 10:45 am
⤴ Pageant Rehearsal, 12:15pm



November 22

⤴ Project Management Meeting, 8am

November 23

⤴ MPIC, 6:30

November 24 – Happy Thanksgiving

November 26

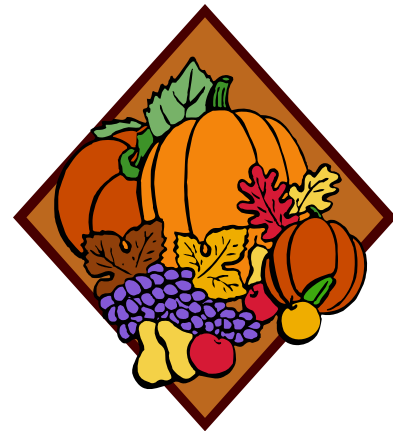
⤴ Lifebridge (Dinner, 4:45 pm)

November 27

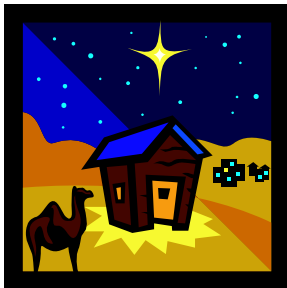
⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45am
⤴ Pageant Rehearsal, 12:15pm

November 29

⤴ Project Management Meeting, 8am



2011 Pageant Schedule



Sun, November 13th 12:15 pm. Casting in Bolles Hall.
Sun, November 20th 12:15pm. Rehearsal in Bolles Hall
Sun, November 27th 12:15pm. Rehearsal in Bolles Hall
Sun, December 4th 12:15pm. Rehearsal in Bolles Hall
Sat, December 17th 4:00pm. Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary.
Sun, December 18th 9:00am. Costumes, Make-up and Rehearsal.
10:45am. Service and Pageant
12:30pm. Annual Holiday Party, Bolles Hall

November 6

All Souls Candle Lighting Service

We will be remembering those who have died in our All Souls Service. Please bring your items of remembrance for our altar on November 6th. Items that remind you of a loved one, photographs, poetry or prose - all are welcome - as we remember those who have gone on before us.



**ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD AT OUR SISTER CHURCH FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY,
211 BRIDGE STREET THIS FALL.**

PLEASE NOTE SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:45AM.

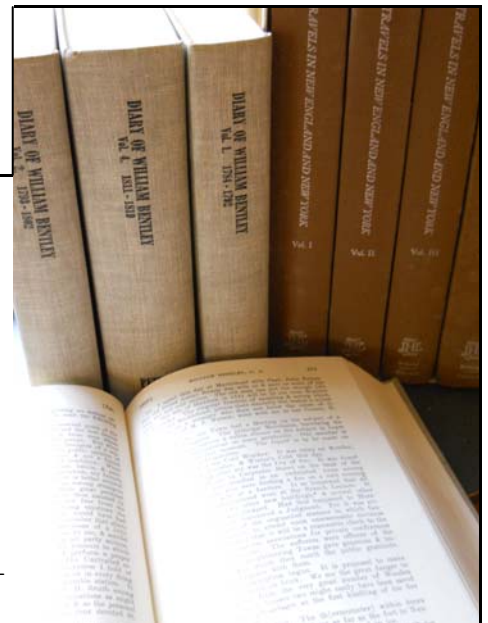
PARKING IS AVAILABLE...The First Universalist is located at 211 Bridge Street in Salem. Parking is free on Sundays in the Church Street lot and street meters. If you are in need of closer parking there is an accessible parking spot right outside of FUSS accessible entrance on the corner of Bridge Street and Ash Street.

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 0

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>All Sunday Services begin at 10:45am at First Universalist.</i>		1 - Project Meeting, 8am	2 -	3	4	5 <i>Reset Clocks before bed.</i>
6 <i>Daylight Savings</i> - All Souls Candle Lighting Service, 10:45am	7	8 - Project Meeting, 8am	9 - Standing Cmte, 7:15pm - Lifebridge dinner, 4:45pm	10	11	12
13 - Sunday Service, 10:45am - Pageant Casting, 12:15pm	14	15 - Project Meeting, 8am	16 - Salem Pantry Bagging 5pm-6pm	17	18	19 - Salem Pantry Distribution 9am-1pm
20 Thanksgiving Sunday - Sunday Service, with Choir, 10:45am - Pageant Rehearsal, 12:15pm	21	22 - Project Meeting, 8am	23 - MPIC, 6:30pm	24 Thanksgiving	25	26 - Lifebridge dinner, 4:45pm;
27 - Sunday Service, 10:45am - Pageant Rehearsal, 12:15pm	28	29 - Project Meeting, 8am	30			

The Diaries of William Bentley

The First Church would like to thank the Rev. Tom Wintle for his recent donation of a complete set of The Diaries of William Bentley. Tom is the Minister of the First Parish Church, Unitarian in Weston and had purchased this set thirty years ago. Recently, as he was downsizing his library in Weston, he decided that the best place for them was Salem. The Rev. William Bentley was the Minister of the East Church in Salem (one of the churches that split and then reunited with the First Church) and was Salem's first Unitarian minister, from 1789 to his death in 1819. During his ministry he chronicled his life in Salem in the early 19th century with such detail and interest that his "diaries" are still reviewed by historians and writers to this day. The First Church now owns three complete sets of the good Rev. Bentley's Diaries.



From the Standing Committee

Whitewater Rafting: notes from inside our construction project.

Anyone who has ever been involved in a construction project knows that the elusive “on time and on budget” almost never happens. We’ve had our share of those charming “unanticipated site conditions” to deal with, not to mention delays of equipment and materials. But what has been our biggest challenge? Water. Water in the ground, water in the drywells, water leaking through damaged shingles, water from the sky, water, water, water...especially in Willson Hall. It’s a problem we’ve faced for some time now, and many solutions have been tried, none of them completely successful. In fact, things seem to have been getting worse.

We’ve learned a lot from observing conditions exposed by the excavation and by some of the recent dramatic storms. One of our own members has actually uncovered evidence of a leak (from the 1927 water pipes coming from Essex Street) that may be artificially overtaxing all of our drainage systems, and we are now acting on that information. Perhaps it, along with other measures we’ve identified, will prove to be the answer. We should know lots more in the next few weeks. The water issues have forced us to put the new classrooms in Willson Hall on hold until we are dry, and it has forced us to spend money in ways we did not anticipate. We are definitely not going to be home for Christmas, but it seems we are closer to making our home dry than we have been in recent memory.

It has been a bumpy ride over the rapids recently. It has taken patience, tenacity, and a very big dose of humor to get this far. We have good people piloting this boat - our Minister, the Project Management Team and the Master Planning Implementation Committee. As my husband Russell said about all of this recently, “We’ll end up somewhere; not where we thought we’d be, but better than we were.” Personally, I’m just looking forward to the day when Reverend Jeff doesn’t have to wear galoshes to work!

Please come worship with us, support your church with your time and your pledges, and be a part of our congregation while we navigate these waters. You make it all worth it.

Lynn Taggart
Chair, Standing Committee

Around the Parish

Jaime Tanch has been busy as a member of the Property Committee calling contractors to clean out gutters and downspouts (which were clogged), procuring temporary heaters for the office (since we have no heating system) and keeping our temporary phone system up and running. Rumor has it that he is headed to Florida for a short bout of R&R this month. Enjoy.

Richard Hannah has still "got it" when it comes to diagnosis. While Dr. Hannah closed his medical practice after more than 35 years in May, the physician and Church Deacon decided to take matters into his own hands with respect to the water issue in the church's basement. Richard suspected that some of the water in our basement could be coming from a leak in our water main. So, ever the clinician, he took a sample of water from our flooded basement several weeks ago and sent it to a lab for testing. Sure enough, there was a trace amount of fluoride found in the sample, indicating that some of the analyzed water was from a drinking water source and not ground water. Further inspection on site by the City and our contractor turned up a leak in our water main. We plan to dig up the 65 year old water main next week and replace it.

Three cheers for Richard Hannah! And did we mention that the Stewardship Committee has a wonderful article in this month's newsletter...

Christina Long (the older woman always sporting a terrific hat) recently had a minor stroke. She is at home with her daughter, Charlene, staying warm and comfortable.

Mimi Ballou is recovering after hand surgery and doing fine. The hard part has been email.

Several First Church children are in the Salem YMCA Children's Theater production of "A Christmas Carol." Shows will be the second and third weekends in December.

The First Church was asked by several groups and individuals to participate in local holiday community events, including the **Annual Christmas in Salem House Tour**. Perhaps next year!

Have an item you would like to be placed in "Around the Parish?" Simply call or email the Church Office or the Minister.



Stewardship Update

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill

Please Help Us Meet Our Annual Giving Goal!

Contribution Statements through October 16, 2011

The Stewardship Committee recently sent out individualized contribution statements to all members with giving updates through October 16th. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee or Catherine Bertrand, the church Administrator (firstchurch@nii.net or 978-744-1551), for assistance.

Through the 3rd Sunday of October (October 23rd), the church has received the following in Member/Friend contributions as compared to 2009 and 2010:

2011:	\$60,434 67% to our goal of \$90,000
2010:	\$59,873 70% to total 2010 giving of \$85,060
2009:	\$65,069 75% of total 2009 giving of \$87,000

Although we are running slightly ahead of 2010 giving, we are still well behind the giving of 2009 and we only have 9 weeks left to go!

We need your help. This has been an exciting and yet very challenging year. Although we have been displaced, we have found gracious refuge through the generosity of our neighbors at First Universalist (FUSS). Our expenses have not gone down; however, but in fact have increased slightly as we are contributing to the operation of our partner church while continuing to incur most of the normal operating expenses of First Church.

On the other side of the ledger, our receipts have been affected, as cash contributions to the offering are retained at FUSS as agreed. Also, for many of us, the most natural and convenient way to fulfill our pledges is through the weekly offering. As might be expected, overall attendance is down during our period of guest-ship, so our receipts against pledges have fallen behind.

Help us get back on track toward our goal. Please make arrangements to deliver your contributions in church or by mail. Most banks offer a convenient online bill payment service that takes care of cutting a check and mailing it. If you would like to consider this option, but feel uncomfortable setting it up, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee and we can help.

To the 16 church members and friends who have fulfilled their pledge already, please accept our heartfelt thanks, and we hope you will consider making an extra contribution in consideration of our unusual circumstances.

If you have not pledged, your contributions are also deeply appreciated, and your additional donations will go a long way in helping us reach our goal. We hope that each one of you will take the time to consider what this church has meant to you and then give generously.

If you have any questions about Stewardship at First Church, please feel free to contact any one of us: Robyn Giannopolo, Bill Henning, Eric Kenney, and Steve Palmer.

From Religious Education

We have just completed our second month of our joint Religious Education program with the First Universalist Church. The children and families are making friends, working together and learning about different ways of being a Unitarian Universalists. Some of the topics from the past month in our RE classes were, in no particular order; learning about sustainability in our world, how the universe was made, the Seven Principles, what are we afraid of, and, all people are important. Please feel free to ask about what our children are exploring in their classrooms and how it pertains to Unitarian Universalism.

Our combined Spaghetti Dinner/Halloween Party was wonderful. Good food, lots of fun and some great fellowship all came together for a fabulous event. Thanks to all the folks who rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to make this evening possible, without you these events would not happen.

November brings a fresh burst of activity for our program. Religious Education will host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on Nov 6th to thank our teachers for their excellent service.

Our pageant casting begins a bit earlier this year. Max Burbank will be meeting with those families and children interested in being part of our traditional holiday pageant on Sunday, November 13th after coffee hour. For more pageant information please see the pageant schedule box on Page 2.

On Sunday November 20th the children of the Religious Education program are invited to bake cornbread together for the congregation to use in our Thanksgiving communion. Parents and volunteers are welcome to take part in this event.

Two years ago FUSS began sponsoring a Unitarian Universalist student in the Philippines through the UU Partnership Church Council of the Philippines. Romel Alagos is currently 12 years old and entering seventh grade. FUSS has committed to provide books, school fees, and uniforms for Romel for six years of his education. To help raise funds for Romel's education a doll house has been donated by Julie Anderson's mom, Linda. The furniture for the dollhouse will be donated by individuals or families within the two congregations. The dollhouse will be raffled off December 18th. Tickets will be available starting November 12th. We hope everyone in our community takes advantage of this opportunity to help fund Romel's education. Please come by the RE hallway outside the Anna Hill room to view this wonderful dollhouse.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Deb DiGiulio, RE Director

From the Archives Committee

The Archives Committee welcomes members of The First Church to a short meeting one of the Sundays in November, 1:00 p.m., in the library at The First Universalist Church, where we will be reviewing any responsibilities in the By-Laws that might apply to Archives as well as recommendations by our archivist, Kobi Kobiakka. If you have a long time association with the church and could contribute to its oral history, are just interested in its Archives, or are a member of the committee, please contact Charlene D. Long (CDLong@TheBuffumGroup.com or 978-744-6540). When the date is established, she will let you know.

The Archives Committee is interested in locating someone who might consider taping long time members for their oral histories of the church. Contact Charlene (CDLong@TheBuffumGroup.com or 978-744-6540).

From the Music Director

We've just completed our second month of joint services with the First Universalists and what first seemed like a daunting task seems to be working out quite well. Granted, both churches are different and yet a lot the same, we're working well together and it has become a positive and major learning experience.

The truly energizing part of this experience is the impressive weekly attendance at Sunday services and the joy of hearing this big vocal sound with everyone belting out (that description may be a wee bit irreverent) the hymns. My mouth drops every time a hymn starts.

Now that it looks like we will probably still be together over the holidays, those daunting preparations are jumping out before us and telling us that we must think about services, pageants, schedules, music, getting everyone involved and generally planning for a wonderful Christmas season.

From the musician's point of view, there seems to be a never ending wealth of possibilities and talent to work with, which makes it all challenging and extremely rewarding.



As if all this "routine" stuff were not enough, there's that other little matter of how work is progressing with the 1836 building at 316 Essex Street. Things are certainly happening but there is always that gnawing feeling that keeps saying to my brain "how can all this ever be finished". The construction part is progressing very nicely, but there is also the issue of the unexpected, like water problems and old buildings and the surprises they so easily come up with. Most importantly, how will it all come back together after the major work is completed. It'll all happen I'm sure and we'll say, finally, it's done and isn't it wonderful. Therefore, let us tell each other over and over again, "stop worrying" and be just as excited now as you were when it all got started.

So many thanks need to be expressed to our wonderful friends at FUSS for keeping us sane, and let us look forward to every Sunday that comes along and be grateful.

See you in church (that universal term for one ideal),

Paul Madore

From Henny Penny

Greetings,

We are excited to share that the Henny Penny children and families participated in the Birthday Wishes Project during the month of October. Birthday Wishes is a non-profit organization that brings birthday parties to homeless children. Their mission is to recognize the importance of a birthday in a child's life and believes that the gift of a birthday celebration provides normalcy, joy and hope in these children's otherwise unsettled lives. On Thursday, October 27th, Colleen Eddy, Kaydee Rouse, Barbara Hermann and myself brought the an overwhelming amount of donations from the Henny Penny families. All items were brought to Inn Transition, over in Peabody. The room was filled with babies, toddlers, young children and parents. Robert and Jonaya, the birthday kids, were both in attendance. We started the event off sharing the book/CD, "The Spooky Wheels on the Bus" and then passed out foam pumpkins and lots of stickers for decorating. As we wrapped this up, the lights were dimmed and both cakes were brought out with candles and everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday to the two young children. Robert burst into excitement when it was time to blow out his candles and Jonaya had a smile that never seemed to fade, as she delicately unwrapped each gift and shared it with her mother. I have to say it was truly a heartwarming experience, not to mention a tremendous success! Barbara and I cannot thank everyone enough for their generous contributions.

Our Halloween celebration on Wednesday and Thursday was loads of fun. The children each had their picture taken and enjoyed making jewelry, foam decorations, singing songs, stamp art and more. While it wasn't the same as our parties in the past with our host of parent volunteers, party favors, cookies and treats (all due to our space restrictions), it was clear that the children still had super special morning . . . and I have to say that the lack of sugary treats was a bonus!

Our next community service project for November will be to collect canned and boxed goods for the Salem Mission. Please bring in non-perishable items throughout the month of November. We will deliver them to the Salem Mission at the end of the month. As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation in all that we do.

Kerry & Barbara

PROJECT UPDATES

Here's is a short list of progress we made this last month in our construction project:

1. The new high efficiency gas boilers have arrived and are currently being installed. There are three of them and they can work by themselves or with each other depending upon the amount of heat needed in the building. There will be 8 different zones in the new heating system. There used to be just one!
2. The new gas main for the church has been installed. We have some temporary heat while we await the installation of our new radiators.
3. A civil engineering firm, Nobis, was hired to evaluate solutions for addressing the basement flooding problem. We hope to have a real plan to address the longstanding basement water challenge very soon.
4. The framing of the addition is underway and should be completed in the next few weeks! If you walk or drive slowly by the church, you will see that the new addition is "rising out of the ground" with the new main entrance and stair well taking shape.



GET INVOLVED

LIFEBRIDGE

Thanks to the following who signed up to volunteer to shop or to serve at Lifebridge in October:

Duncan Cox, Sally Holtzman, Russel Lane, Richard L'heureux, Robert Lutts, Lynn Taggart, Andy Schultz, Bea Stucbell

Volunteers are needed on a monthly basis at Lifebridge (formerly 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.

SALEM PANTRY

Salem Pantry at First Universalist, 211 Bridge Street is in need of volunteers to help bag groceries and distribute food in November.

Bagging: Wednesday, November 16, 5 p.m. till approximately 6 p.m.

Distribution: Sat. Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. till about 1 p.m.

The need is great. Please consider volunteering on Wednesday or Saturday (or during both times).

FELLOWSHIP

We are encouraging everyone to sign up for fellowship/coffee hour at First Universalist FUSS for Sundays after the church service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Anna Hill Room for people who want to sign up to host or sponsor Fellowship/Coffee Hour.

While we are at our sister church this fall, we will have a less elaborate coffee hour. That means less goodies to buy, bake and serve (and easier on the pocketbook).

Thanks to everyone who has helped out and who will help out this fall as we share time and space with our neighbors! See you at fellowship/coffee hour!

The Fellowship Committee and Joan Hannah

FLOWERS

Sign up to provide flowers for our services in November and beyond. Special wording can be placed in our weekly Order of Service in honor or memory or 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! Contact the church office if you have questions: 978-744-1551/firstchurch@nii.net

THE HERALD



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The First Church in Salem, Unitarian
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Director of Henny Penny: Kerry Martin

Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio

Chair of the Standing Committee: Lynn Taggart

Archivist: Kristin Kobialka

Administrator: Catherine Bertrand

Sexton: Joe Perron

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

2012 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

In the next few weeks, all members and friends of the church will receive a package of information about making a financial pledge to help “steward” this church in 2012. It will be a very exciting year for us as we move “back home”. Once again, we will ask you to consider the importance of The First Church in your life and the life of the greater community and then to plan your prospective giving for 2012. Just like your personal budget, the First Church must plan how it will use its limited resources to meet the needs of this growing congregation. In addition to meeting our every day expenses of heat, electricity, maintenance and salaries, we would like to budget for new activities and increasing social outreach.

We will be reprising the popular pledge card raffle this year, so please make sure to get your pledge card in on time!

If you have any questions about Stewardship at First Church, please feel free to contact any one of us: Robyn Giannopolo, Bill Henning, Eric Kenney, and Steve Palmer.