



# 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.

OCTOBER 2011

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2

**Also in this issue:**

October Schedule	2
Around the Parish	2
Calendar	3
Family Fun Night	3
RE News	4
Youth Group News	4
Music News	5
Henny Penny News	5
Stewardship News	6
MPIC Update	7
Trick or Treat	7
Project Photos	8
Acknowledgements/ Opportunities to Serve	9
Halloween Family Fun Night	10

## From the Standing Committee

### In the Thick of It

On a glorious Sunday in September we returned to church. Not our Meeting House, but church nonetheless, since “church is the people, not the building”, as Reverend Barz Snell is fond of saying. A troop of First Church congregants came striding into the brick courtyard with our banner flying, and they were welcomed by an impressive number of people ready to begin the adventure.

As I stood on the steps of the First Universalist Society and watched the chatting groups of Universalists and Unitarians slowly grow silent as they caught the first snatches of the quartet singing “Down to the River to Pray”, I was glad to be a part of that historic gathering of so many good people, so many beautiful children, so much good will.

As the month has progressed, I have again felt pride that my community is willing to try to make this experiment work - pride in the efforts of the joint RE committees and directors to make this time meaningful for our children; pride in the focus of the joint Social Justice/ Social Outreach committees to accomplish something more significant than each church could do alone; pride in the ten or so First Church folks who showed up to help mightily with the food pantry on an early Wednesday evening; pride in the musicians who are helping us to worship.

The First Universalists have done so much to make us welcome. What can we all do to show our gratitude? Our church is paying a weekly stipend for the use of their lovely building and some of our staff are partnering with FUSS to help them maintain their facilities. When you put cash in the collection plate above and beyond your check or envelope to First Church, your money goes to FUSS. But perhaps the most important thing you can do is to try to connect with the people there by attending services and fellowship and participating in the activities and programs that are taking place. We are weaving our voices, traditions, actions, and prayers into an interesting tapestry, and I wouldn't be surprised if we take a few ideas for change back with us when we return home.

Ah yes, home. So many things are going on there, and soon you will have a chance to take a tour and see the progress. We've had some interesting “unanticipated site conditions” to deal with, but what project doesn't? We are in the middle of the chaos that we knew was coming, but we are very grateful that our builders and architects have been so creative, professional, and supportive. I think the weather has been our only real adversary.

We are in the thick of it. And it is challenging, nerve-racking, and exhilarating. What an exciting time to be a member of First Church in Salem, and what an opportunity we have to join with other people of good intention and works and to learn to be more comfortable with change.

See you in church!

Lynn Taggart  
Chair, Standing Committee



## October Schedule of Events

### October 2

♣ World Communion Sunday Service, 10:45 am Jazz Quartet

### October 4

♣ Project Management Meeting, 8am

♣ Spirit Journey at 7:30 pm

### October 6

♣ RE Committee, 7 pm

### October 9

♣ Indigenous People's Day Sunday Service, 10:45 am.

### October 12

♣ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner. 4:45 pm

♣ Standing Committee, 7:15 pm

### October 11

♣ Project Management Meeting, 8am



### October 16

♣ Blessing of the Animals and Intergenerational Service, 10:45am

### October 18

♣ Project Management Meeting, 8am

### October 21

♣ Fall Family Fun Night: Halloween Party, 6:00 pm

### October 23

♣ RE Meeting, 9:30am

♣ Sunday Service with Choir 10:45am

### October 25

♣ Project Management Meeting, 8am

### October 26

♣ MPIC, 6:30 pm

### October 29

♣ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner, 4:45 pm

### October 30

♣ Halloween Sunday Service coordinated by CUUPS, 10:45am

### Looking Ahead —

### November 6

♣ Annual All Souls Day Candlelighting Service to remember dearly departed loved ones, 10:45 am

### November 20

♣ Pancake Breakfast, 9:30am

♣ Sunday Service, 10:45am



## Around the Parish



**Peter Copelas, Jr.**, the Senior Deacon of the Church, is recovering from an operation in which he had a triple bypass. Word has it that he is slowly on the mend but that the operation was successful.

A brief sighting of **Jason Copelas**, Peter's Grandson, occurred at Salem Hospital several weeks ago, as he visited his grandfather. Jason now works for a economics consulting firm and lives in New York City, making some of us who knew him when feel all of the sudden very old.

**Beth Schulz** ran in the Salem's "Wicked Half-Marathon" in September.

**Seth Mascolo** has started up a walking history tour program in Salem. Business is picking up for the next few months! Speak with Seth if you like to know more or sign up.

## Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday, Oct 1, 8 am – 12 noon.

Salem High School, 77 Willson Street

\$20 per car. TV's and computers monitors, \$10 each.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY of Salem or Beverly REQUIRED

Go to the City of Salem's website to see full list of what to bring.

[http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA\\_News/032CAD44-000F8513](http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_News/032CAD44-000F8513)



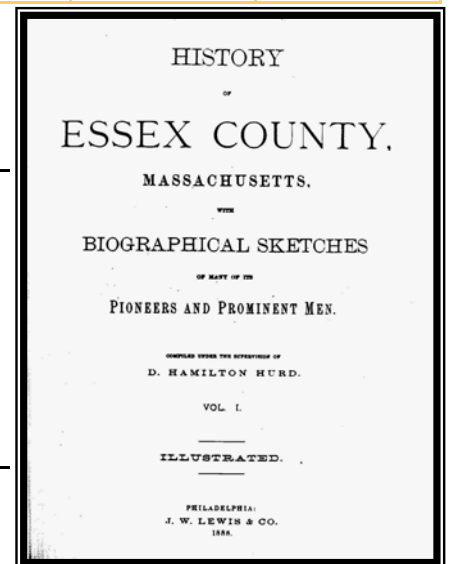
**ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD AT OUR SISTER CHURCH FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY,  
211 BRIDGE STREET THIS FALL.  
PLEASE NOTE SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:45AM.**

*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.*

# OCTOBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>All Sunday Services begin at 10:45am at First Universalist Society</i>						1
<b>2 World Communion Day</b> - Sunday Service, Jazz Quartet	3	<b>4</b> - Project Management Mtg, 8am - Spirit Journey, 7:30pm	5	6	7	8
<b>9 Indigenous People's Day</b> - Sunday Service	10	<b>11</b> - Project Management Mtg, 8am	<b>12</b> - Lifebridge dinner, 4:45pm - Standing Cmte, 7:15pm	13	14	15
<b>16 Blessing of the Animals</b> - Intergenerational Service	17	<b>18</b> - Project Management Mtg, 8am	19	20	<b>21</b> - Fall Family Fun Night, 6:00pm	22
<b>23</b> - Sunday Service with Choir	24	<b>25</b> - Project Management Mtg, 8am	<b>26</b> - MPIC, 6:30pm	27	28	<b>29</b> - Lifebridge dinner, 4:45pm;
<b>30</b> - Samhain Sunday Service	31					

The First Church would like to thank local historian and neighbor Jim McAlister for his recent donation of "History of Essex County with Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men, " published in 1888. Jim found this amidst one of his outings to antique shops and old book stores all over New England. Our Archives is still actively collecting volumes of local history having to do with Salem and the First Church.



## From Religious Education

Our first month of sharing Religious Education classes with our friends at First Universalist Society has been a great success. Our students are adjusting very well, making new friends, exploring a new building and have had the opportunity to experience a water communion and an intergenerational service. We are happy to see our families returning and blessed to be on the receiving end of the warm and loving hospitality of our sister church. Our Family Mixer event on September 9th was well attended and First Church folks got to tour the building, greet old friends and meet new friends from FUSS.

To accommodate the combined populations of the two Religious Education programs, we are offering 6 classes based on age/grade. We have a High School group, which meets every other week, a middle school group, the Navigators class of 4th and 5th grade students, the Explorers class of 2nd and 3rd grade students, First Steps for grades K-1 and the 3 to 4 year old class. Childcare is provided for children under age 3 in the nursery. Attendance has been very good and the students are all working well together.

While we are guests of The First Universalist Society we will still be enjoying most of our much loved RE special events. Our Halloween Family Fun Night will take place on October 21st at 6:00 pm here at FUSS. You can anticipate all the usual fun, crafts, games and special surprises we normally expect from this wonderful event, with a few new additions borrowed from the Halloween traditions of our hosts!

Be sure to include our upcoming seasonal events on your family calendar for the next few months. Saturday, November 12th, FUSS/FCS will host our first ever variety show. Prepare your special act and watch for details soon; December 9th, parents' night out (no kidding!); and December 18th is our Christmas Pageant and party. Casting will begin early this year for the Pageant so be prepared.

Warm gratitude and thanks to all our kids and families from both congregations who are coming to church every Sunday, meeting new people and embracing change. Without you all, even the best planned and executed program would be meaningless. You are the reason for our Religious Education program. You are our success.

In Faith,

Deb DiGiulio  
Director of Religious Education

## **RE CALENDAR FALL/WINTER**

**October 16, 10:45am**  
Blessing of the Animals  
Intergenerational Service

**October 21, 6:00pm**  
Family Fun Night Halloween  
Party

**November 12, 5pm**  
First Church and FUSS Variety  
Show

**November 20, 10:45am**  
Intergenerational Thanksgiving  
Sunday  
Pageant Casting after classes

**November 27- December 11**  
Pageant Rehearsals following  
Coffee Hour

**December 9, Time TBA**  
Parents Night Out!

**December 18, Time TBA**  
Christmas Pageant and Party!!!

## From the Music Director

It's hard to believe that we've just completed our third joint service with the First Universalists (FUSS) and I must say that the experience so far has been truly rewarding and delightful. There seems to be a pervading and wonderful feeling around us. Our hosts have been tremendously welcoming, the numbers each week from both churches have been unbelievable and, as I look out to the congregation, I think to myself "this place is mobbed", and there had to be at least 60 kids this morning lining the floor at the front of the meeting house.

We've now put together a working plan for the next several Sundays giving all musicians a chance to do their thing, and the variety of planned services promises to keep us energized and inspired for the duration of this collaboration.

Our next joint Choir Sunday will be October 23rd and between now and then we've planned everything from a jazz service to all kinds of special music presentations, so, by all means, let's all continue to be a part of this very exciting time.

I manage to be at First Church several times during the week for various reasons, always trying not to put my foot where it shouldn't be, and, I must say, our venerable old building is indeed a major work in progress. There doesn't seem to be a single untouched square inch anywhere on the property. I ask myself, will this place ever be back to normal?? Never fear, however, the work is progressing very nicely as I see Jeff's and Catherine's new office space taking shape, handicapped spaces being adapted by most able carpenters and workmen and I have the feeling that, when all will be said and done (I wouldn't dare hazard a time frame for all this just yet), I think we'll all be very impressed with our vision and share in the future of the First Church in Salem.

In the meantime, let's enjoy our time with FUSS and enjoy this wonderful new experience in joint worship.

See you in church, and remember that church is wherever we all are.

Paul Madore



## From Henny Penny

Greetings all,

It has been a fantastic month with the children – and an absolute pleasure reconnecting with our returning families and getting to know our new families. Being in a new space can be unsettling and we have to say, . . . it feels like home again!

Our Open House in September was a terrific success. Barbara and I were so pleased with the turnout and we know everyone enjoyed the photos on display throughout the classroom (they'll be hanging up next week too!). The Open House provided Barbara and I an opportunity to explain the "How's & Why's" of what we do. We also ran through the school calendar, briefly, and talked about the upcoming classroom parties, community outreach projects, Holiday Song-fest, kindergarten transition meeting, play and graduation that will be taking place during the course of the year.

The children of Henny Penny enjoyed a visit from McGurdy's Traveling Farm! All children, including siblings, were invited to attend. This was a lovely culmination to our farm theme and the children really enjoyed the pony rides, petting zoo & especially the bunnies!

Hope you're having a great start to the fall!  
Kerry and Barbara



## Stewardship Update

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee!

### How do I make sure that my contribution gets credited to my First Church pledge while we are worshipping with the First Universalist Society of Salem (FUSS)?

There are several ways to do this:

1. The First Church office at 316 Essex Street remains open during construction, so you can mail a check directly to the office or better yet, try sending a contribution as a bill payment via your online banking service!
2. To make a contribution during a worship service:
  - a. If you are using a check, just write "First Church" on the memo line
  - b. You can continue to use the white numbered envelopes given to all First Church members.

The blue envelopes that are normally in the pews at First Church are available when you enter the FUSS sanctuary. Ask an usher for one when you are arriving.

All of the above are ways to make sure your gifts are tax deductible, as well.

The Deacons of each church share the responsibility of sorting the collection each week and crediting the gifts appropriately. Just a reminder that in addition to the stipend that First Church is paying to FUSS, any unidentified cash that is put in the collection plate is being given to FUSS as one of the many ways we are thanking them for providing us a home during construction. **While being away from our Meetinghouse home is very disruptive for everyone, it is very important that we continue to support our church financially during this time.**

### Update on 2011 Giving

Speaking of continued support....through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September (September 25<sup>th</sup>), the church has received the following in Member and Friend contributions as compared to 2010 and 2009:

2011: \$53,482	59% toward our goal of \$90,000
2010: \$50,531	59% of total 2010 giving of \$85,060
2009: \$53,725	61% of total 2009 giving of \$87,500

As you can see, we are running about \$3,000 ahead of last year! Given the state of the economy, we are very thankful to the members and friends for letting the church know how much it matters to them. Our percentage to goal is the same as last year because the goal for this year is \$90,000 vs. last year's actual giving of about \$85,000.

As we head into the very important fourth quarter of the year, the Stewardship Committee will be mailing an updated personal contribution report to all First Church members and friends. If you have already met your giving goal for the year THANK YOU (of course we wouldn't refuse any additional contributions you want to make!), and if you haven't, please help us meet our goal of \$90,000.

Also, a big THANK YOU to those who continued to give to the church during the summer. Your contributions went a LONG way toward helping the church maintain a healthy cash flow during a normally low giving period.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robyn Giannopolo      Bill Henning      Eric Kenney      Steve Palmer

## Master Plan Committee Update

### Building Tour: Sunday, October 16

While it is our home, the First Church is also a very active work site, so access in this period is necessarily limited. However, we're keen to have a look, so in agreement with our builder **we have arranged a tour for any interested members (adults only)** of the project site that is our beloved old building on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, following services. At that point, framing of the new entry will be complete, so it will be comparatively safe to view, and the future state of the building will be emerging from the dust and debris. More information will be forthcoming. Please let us know of your interest, as numbers may require that we organize into smaller groups.



## Trick or Sweet: Samhain Essay

### GIMME SOME SUGAR:

#### *Taking in the Totem at Halloween*

Children on Earth observe a holiday known as Hollow Bean, when they go forth to gather the all-important food: candy.

--E.T.

Our earliest memories of "full-fill"ment are associated with food. Perhaps that's why, throughout our lives, one of the most intimate compliments we can pay to people or pets we're fond of is to express a playful desire to consume them. "Num, num, num," we mumble sappily into the soft creases of a baby's neck or the sweet spot behind a cat's ear. "I could just eat you up!" Why do we do this?



The answer is that we often make what we love into a totem. When we feel deep affection for another living thing, we want, anthropologists tell us, to take its unique quality, or mana, into ourselves. To acquire a totem's power (such as the innocence of the infant or the grace of the cat, above), one may either worship the creature or eat it. Happily, though, there exists a third choice: to cook up an edible substitute and enjoy that instead.

Witches know such symbolic "quasine" and practice it often. From the small round cakes served at each full-moon esbat to the warm milk punch offered in honor of the Maiden Goddess at Imbolc, they take into themselves via food their deities, the world, and the spiritual gifts offered by both.

Halloween/Samhain (SAH-wen) affords a perfect time for all folk to feast on the season's bounty. In addition to enjoying the actual fruits of the harvest, we also munch candy copies of both the wholesome foods (mellocreme corn and taffy apples) or the unholy ones (marshmallow ghosts and chocolate bats). The latter act smacks of a more frightful kind of feeding: destroying what we fear by devouring it. We have "et" the enemy--and he's in us. Candy-balism?

Now no more to figuratively swallow, but only the sweetness of the Pagan New Year to literally chew. However, in the darker and more sober days to come, we may wish to ponder these ideas, for they contain some useful truth--even if it is spoken "ingest." Blessed Samhain and Happy Halloween!

--ROSE WOLF

## PROJECT UPDATE PHOTOS





---

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

---

### LIFEBRIDGE

**Thanks to the following who signed up to volunteer to shop or to serve in September.**

*Duncan Cox, Alan Hanscom, Sue Kirby, Russell Lane, Peter LeBlanc, Betty Nichols, Andy Schultz, 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 Duncan Cox to volunteer [coxes3@verizon.net](mailto:coxes3@verizon.net).

---

### 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 September 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 Anna Hill Room on Sundays during Fellowship, or contact the church office if you have questions: 978-744-1551/[firstchurch@nii.net](mailto:firstchurch@nii.net)

---

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

While the First Church employs several people to help run its day-to-day operations, A LOT is also accomplished by a series of volunteer committees. These committees report to the Standing Committee (The primary governing body of the church) and are made up of concerned, loyal church members like you.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at church, there are always opportunities to help out. Volunteering is an EXCELLENT way to really get involved in the church and to meet other church members and friends. Currently, the Nominating Committee is seeking people who are interested in the following committees (but if one of these doesn't interest you, feel free to ask about others!): Decorating, Stewardship, Welcome and Social Outreach which volunteers for Lifebridge Dinners every month.

If any of these committees pique your interest or you want to learn more about volunteer opportunities at the church, please feel free to talk to the chairperson of the committee directly or a member of the **Nominating Committee: Peter A. Copelas, Duncan Cox (978-745-6207 or [coxes3@verizon.net](mailto:coxes3@verizon.net)) or Bill Henning (978-500-8527 or [wshinchi@aol.com](mailto:wshinchi@aol.com)).** “No prior experience is required!”

# THE HERALD



A Publication of  
**The First Church in Salem, Unitarian**  
316 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Phone and Fax: 978-744-1551  
Email: [firstchurch@nii.net](mailto:firstchurch@nii.net)  
[www.firstchurchinsalem.org](http://www.firstchurchinsalem.org)

Minister: Reverend Jeffrey Barz-Snell  
Director of Music: L. Paul Madore  
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

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
**Friday, October 21, 6:00pm at First Universalist**

Come in costume and be ready for some spooky fun. We will have games, crafts and some special surprises, as well as a few traditions borrowed from our hosts at First Universalist. The fun begins at 6:00pm and continues through 9:00 (or whenever).

See you there!