



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

SEPTEMBER 2011

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## Minister's Musings

*Here is the church, and here is the steeple,  
Open up the doors and see all the people.*

It's funny how a little change and upheaval in your life can get you thinking about the basics. Some psychologists would describe this as a coping strategy; reacting to a stressful situation by regressing in one's outlook or behavior. Right now, I prefer to think about all that is occurring at the First Church as a reminder what is important and what values lie at the heart of our community.

Lord knows we are experiencing a lot of change here at the First Church. We began the largest renovation project in 85 years in July. There is furniture stacked in the pews of the Meetinghouse. Walls and stairwells are being torn down. A huge hole has been dug in what was our garden. These are all steps in a process to make some long-needed improvements to our building including universal accessibility in the form of an elevator and ground level entrance, a new, high efficiency heating system, and new classroom space, not to mention a wonderfully redesigned garden outside.

So far there has been a lot of work and coordination to begin and manage this project. The Project Management Team and the Standing Committee have been working pretty hard for Unitarian Universalists in the summer time! (See inside for the listing of folks we thank for volunteering this summer.) I am pleased to report that we are managing with some occasional challenges.

As the calendar turns, we now look forward to beginning the second "leg" of our renovation journey: having church this fall with our friends at the First Universalist Society. Starting on September 11, we will join our sister church in town for their services. We have a fun and inspiring schedule of events and services planned for the fall. And we have many opportunities to get to know some new people and be a healing and energetic presence in our larger community. In the end, that is what churches like ours do.

Shortly after I arrived in Salem, I began a practice that I continue to this day: I reserve the word "church" for our members, not our building. Don't get me wrong: buildings are important and in many ways they are a physical reflection of the people who care for and operate them. But the lovely, 19th Century gothic style edifice on Essex Street is not our church. It's our "Meetinghouse," a term used by our Puritan forbears that makes a lot of practical and theological sense to me.

Perhaps that is why I have found myself thinking about that old English nursery rhyme and hand game: "Here is the church..." Even as we focus on very involved and challenging construction matters, I continue to be reminded that what happens among us and within us, not around us, is what is essential. As our church season begins, I invite you to come and tour the progress at our Meetinghouse on Essex Street, (look for upcoming dates), but I also encourage you to join the First Church as we gather with our fellow UU's over on Bridge Street. Here's to a productive and inspiring fall.

See you in church!



## September Schedule of Events

### September 1

⤴ RE Committee at 7 pm

### September 4

⤴ No Sunday Service

### September 7

⤴ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner at 4:45 pm

### September 11

⤴ Homecoming/Rally Intergenerational Water Communion Service [SEE SCHEDULE AT RIGHT]

### September 14

⤴ Standing Committee, 7pm

### September 18 Meet the Ministers [See Page 3]

⤴ Sunday Service at 10:45 am

### September 24

⤴ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner at 4:45 pm

### September 25 Paul Madore Leads the Choir

⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45 am

### September 28

⤴ Master Planning & Implementation Committee, 6:30 pm

## Looking Ahead

### October 2 Jazz Quartet featuring Russell Lane & Willie Sordillo

⤴ World Communion Day Service

### October 9

⤴ Indigenous People's Day Service

### October 16

⤴ Blessing of the Animals & Intergenerational Service

### November 20

⤴ Intergenerational Thanksgiving Sunday

## Religious Education Events Fall/Winter Schedule

**Sept 9th 6:00pm:** RE Family Mixer at FUSS

**Sept 18th:** RE Classes Begin

**Oct 21:** Family Fun Night Halloween Party 7:00pm

**Nov 12th:** First Church and FUSS Variety show. Time TBA

**Nov 20:** Pageant casting after classes

**Nov 27- Dec 11:** Pageant Rehearsals after Coffee Hour

**December 9:** Parents Night Out

**Dec 18th:** Christmas Pageant and Party!!!



Service includes special music and moment of silence to commemorate September 11.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**9:00** Choir Rehearsal at First Universalist with Paul Madore

**10:10** Gathering in front of the First Church for those who wish to process down to First Universalist

**10:15** Leave First Church to walk down to First Universalist Church

**10:30** Arrive at First Universalist for an opening day reception out on the brick courtyard near the Church Street parking lot.

**10:45** Worship service begins with a Water Communion ceremony\* (bring water from a trip this summer) followed by a memorial ritual to commemorate 9-11. The Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell and the Rev. Marjorie Matty, co-officiating. *This is an intergenerational service but there will be childcare for ages three and under.*

**11:45** Service concludes and people are invited to join First Universalist Society for their Annual Picnic at Forest River Park

**12:15** Annual Picnic begins at Forest River Park in Salem. Everyone brings their own items to grill and eat and share.

\*Many Unitarian Universalist congregations hold a water communion at the end of the summer, in which participants of all ages bring "living waters" from wherever their travels led them and mingle them for later use by the congregation in ceremonies.



**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.*

## S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>All Sunday Services begin at 10:45am</i>				1 - RE Cmte., 7pm	2	3
4 - No Service-	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6 - Project Management Team, 8am	7 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm	8 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	9	10 - Choir Rehearsal, 11am @FUSS
11 - Choir Rehearsal, 9:30am @FUSS - Homecoming/Rally Service, with Choir, 10:45am	12	13 - Project Management Team, 8am	14 - Standing Cmte, 7pm	15	16	17 <i>Yom Kippur</i>
18 - Sunday Service, 10:45am	19	20 - Project Management Team, 8am	21	22	23	24 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm;
25 - Sunday Service, 10:45am -	26	27 - Project Management Team, 8am	28 - MPIC, 6:30pm	29	30	

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**Friday, September 9, 6:00- 8:00 pm**

Family Fun Night mixer at the First Universalist Church. Join Jeff Barz-Snell and his family and get a tour of our worship space for the fall.

**Sunday, September 18**

9:30 AM Bagels, Coffee & Conversation with the Ministers. Join Jeff Barz-Snell and Marjorie Matty for an informal questions & answers session to discuss how our two churches will share space and community this fall.

10:45 AM Morning service with both ministers and the Rev. Sue Phillips, District Executive for the Mass Bay District of the UUA. Sunday School program begins.

**Sunday, October 2, 10:45**

World Communion Sunday with a jazz quartet, featuring Willie Sordillo on tenor sax and our own Russell Lane on drums.

## From the Religious Education Director

Dear First Church families,

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer and are recharged and ready to take on an exciting year of religious education at the First Church. While our building is undergoing renovations, our religious education program will join with the RE program of the First Universalist Society of Salem (FUSS). This shared RE program provides many rare and wonderful opportunities for the children from both congregations. Students will experience how different groups of Unitarian Universalist worship and express their faith together. Students will explore religious education while building relationships with new UU children and youth, and they will enjoy the talents and caring of a larger group of UU adults. All this while having fun too! So be ready to explore, expand, meet new people and recharge your UU faith as we worship with our UU neighbors at the First Universalist Society of Salem.

Sharing a program with our sister UU church will of course bring changes. The children will be in new classrooms, but they get to explore and know a great old building. The First Universalist Society has some great party spaces and a beautiful light filled hall with a great stage. (Of interest to our theatrically inclined youth perhaps?) We will expand our classroom offerings by adding a class for 3 and 4 year olds. All other classes will continue as before with the children's familiar teachers and childcare personnel as well the addition of some great volunteer teachers from both churches.

At First Universalist our congregation will get to explore firsthand what a completely intergenerational service looks and feels like. The Homecoming Sunday service, called Rally Sunday at FUSS, will be intergenerational. Several other intergenerational services are scheduled throughout the season. This is a great way to "try on" new ways of worshipping together.

While we can expect many things to be different while we are the guests of our friends at First Universalist, some things will stay the same; our commitment to offering an inclusive, safe and loving space for students to grow and explore their faith, build friendships, and be part of a caring community. So be sure to come to church on Sunday September 11th and as many Sundays as your family is able. You are the heart and soul of our community.

To begin our shared journey of and friendship and faith exploration the joint Religious Education Committees from First church and FUSS have planned a Family Mixer on Friday, September 9th at 6:00pm. Please come and meet our FUSS hosts, see the beautiful building and visit your child's classroom and teacher. We will have pizza, games and other fun. (Even for teens!)

In Faith,  
 Deb DiGiulio  
 Director of Religious Education

## From the Music Director

It's hard to believe we're full swing into our move to FUSS and our collaboration with the First Universalist Society, as, by all external appearances, First Church is in demolition/construction mode. I was shocked last week to walk through the hallway from Catherine's old office to the Cleveland Room (Catherine's current and temporary digs) to look face to face into the bathroom across from Jeff's office. I won't go into the various other gaping holes in our building as preparations continue in the construction of the addition on the east side of our building. Come by and take a look but be sure to ask before you proceed into scary areas as the 'verboden' or 'do not enter' sign is silently (and sometimes not so silently) in effect.

So, now, for the next few months, we are in residence at FUSS on Bridge Street. Our first 3 services in August have gone smoothly with a major collaboration of both churches on 8/7 and then FC hosting the August 14 and 21st services, as is our custom in August.

We are in the planning stages for Rallying/Homecoming Sunday on September 11 which, of course, will include a major commemoration of 9/11, the choirs from both churches and, of course, a get together picnic after the service to mark the official start of a new church year. We're planning a few surprises for this day as well, so be sure you're a party to it.

As for what comes after, it's all in the planning stages but there will be wonderful happenings which, hopefully will inspire and motivate members of both church communities. This is an exciting time in the life of FUSS and FC and \*I am certainly glad to be a part of it all.

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

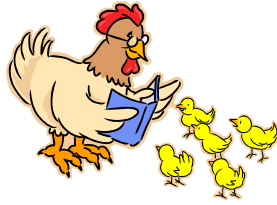
Paul Madore



## From Henny Penny

Greetings All,

We are excited to be starting up the school year at our new and temporary location at 247 Jefferson Avenue. We have received passing grades on our building inspection, fire inspection, and lead inspection. Mr. Donohue of the Department of Early Education and Care visited us in late August with an extensive criteria checklist which we passed with flying colors (HOORAY) and Henny Penny will be receiving the DEEC license by September 1st!



Throughout the summer, the children and families of Henny Penny participated in summer play dates. These were informal, drop-in play dates arranged at local playgrounds in Salem and scheduled every two weeks. This was a wonderful way to bring new and returning families together and encourage the little ones to meet and play. This also helps to create as smooth transition for the children as they begin school in September. What a pleasant and comforting surprise it will be to see familiar faces in the classroom during the first week of school!

In the middle of August, we hosted an Open House for our new and returning families. This provided everyone an opportunity to visit the school and explore our new space. The parents (and children) were very pleased with our bright and sunny location. There was quite a commotion that day when the subtle dust from our play sand at the sand table set off the fire alarm! Loud alarms sounded, fire trucks arrived . . . a brief evacuation (and a few tears) and within 15 minutes the alarm was reset and everyone returned to their play. WHEW! Good to know those alarms work! I guess our sand table will now become a rice table. Well, the classroom is set up, bulletin boards hung & decorated, furniture and toys are cleaned, supplies ordered, play areas are arranged, dress-ups are laundered, curtains hung . . . all we're waiting for are the smiling faces of our Henny Penny Kids! We can't wait.

Enjoy the last bit of summer with your friends and family and have a wonderful start to the Fall,

Kerry and Barbara

## A Look at Pagan Harvest Festivals

### SLOW GOLD:

#### Capturing the Essence of Mabon, the Harvest of Fruits

The second of three autumn feasts kept by Pagans, Mabon (MAY-bon), observed on September 21st, is the Harvest of Fruits. The Witches' Thanksgiving, this celebration echoes the time in ancient agrarian societies when perishable produce would have been "safely gathered in." Its myth is the poignant tale of Modron the Great Mother, whose golden-haired Son, Mabon, was stolen from her side. The grieving goddess goes on a desperate search for her lost little one--only to find him mischievously playing "peek-a-boy" in her womb, preparing to be born once more at Yule as the Son/Sun.



The hue of the end-of-summer countryside seems to conspire with the Mother to hold as much of the memory of her Sun as possible. In Keats' aureate/laureate "Ode to Autumn," the season itself is personified as the Goddess, who tends the bees and turns a cider-press. "When harvest comes to town, / Then honey spills, and apple swells," sings Treebeard the Ent in Tolkien, praising the same living gold "ore"flowing his realm in the fall. In more modern times, the residents of Green Town (i.e., Waukegan), Illinois, in Ray Bradbury's fiction make a cold-killing cordial from the small golden suns of the dandelions in their yards, a wine glowingly praised as "Summer caught and stopped."



Inspired by the writings of our knowers and the works of Nature, we ourselves may perform a most potent magick: changing the experiences garnered from the year nearly passed into wisdom that can endure for life. As the Sun hides himself away, we draw in our own light as we ponder what we have learned. With the help of Spirit, even the dross of our days may be transformed into pure gold--and that is, perhaps, the greatest "Fall-chemy" of all.

ROSE WOLF

## **Outside the Comfort Zone**

It's pretty well documented that the kind of upheaval we are going through with our construction project can do some damage to a church community. There is often a wide range of support that varies from great enthusiasm that prompts people to volunteer to help all the way to anger about a project that is for some, unwanted. Not only are we changing our beloved building, but we have to leave it for a while, too. Even those of us who believe with all our hearts that we are doing the right thing are going to be living our church lives outside our comfort zone for a while. It is my great hope that we are resilient and flexible enough to make it through the next months and come back to our home whole and healthy.

Our annual Founders' Day on August 7 was the most well attended summer service I have seen in my time at First Church, and it was a lovely celebration of the long history of our church and the First Universalist Society in Salem. Again and again we from First Church were welcomed with kind words and gestures. I assumed that the rest of August would be, in true UU fashion, very low key, and that mostly First Church folks would attend, since we are the sponsors of services during the month. But the word passed quickly about Joe Perron's terrible heart attack, and when we arrived early on Sunday to try to fill Joe's very large boots, the First Universalists had made everything ready for us. They were there to help us find our footing on unstable ground.

Our two churches have some different customs and traditions, and it's easy to feel one's feathers ruffled about something as personal as worship. But I see these people reaching out to us in a way that embodies every one of the UU principles. As our two ministers explore ways to create a meaningful worship service, they will no doubt strive to make as many people as possible comfortable. It's inevitable, though, that they will not please us all. I ask us to let the idea of comfort be less important than the joy of being together in a community of old and new friends who all believe in the power of positive action.

It seems to me that we can deal with discomfort positively in two major ways – first, we can acknowledge it quietly to ourselves and let it pass through and out of us, and consider ourselves further along on a path toward tolerance. The second option, if the discomfort is great, is to communicate constructively about it with one of the ministers. They and the respective church boards have already discussed methods of conflict resolution and are prepared to help us over rough spots in our time together.

The people I have met at our new temporary home are teaching me what welcome, outreach, and friendship look like each time I am with them. I think I can take a big step outside my comfort zone for a reward like that.

See you in church!  
Lynn Taggart,  
Chair, Standing Committee

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## **From the Stewardship Committee**

During our time at FUSS, if you are in the habit of putting your pledge in the Sunday offering, you can make sure that it is credited to your pledge account in one of two ways. Either write "First Church Pledge" in the memo field of the check, or place the check in one of the blue First Church envelopes that you will find in the pews and near the orders of service at FUSS. Any cash placed in the offering plate will be given to FUSS in gratitude for their shelter during our time with them.

If you prefer to mail your pledge, you can continue to do so. We are still receiving our mail at 316 Essex Street.  
Respectfully Submitted:

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



## The First Church Needs You!

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 Committee**

For those who have a "green thumb", this committee ensures that our Sunday and special services are enhanced with the beauty of flowers. It also helps to organize and decorate the church for special events like Easter and Christmas. This committee does not have a formal meeting schedule and is a great way to "dip your foot" into volunteering at First Church.

### **Social Outreach Committee**

→**Lifebridge Dinners** always needs volunteers to purchase dinner supplies and/or serve dinner: Second Wednesday and Fourth Saturday of every month. To sign up contact Duncan Cox [coxes3@verizon.net](mailto:coxes3@verizon.net).

→**Salem Food Pantry** is also in need of volunteers. The Pantry operates out of the basement of 211 Bridge St on the last Saturday of each month. For volunteer information leave a message at 978 744-3224 or e mail our volunteer coordinator at [Director@thesalempantry.org](mailto:Director@thesalempantry.org).

### **Welcome Committee**

Do you like meeting new people? Do you enjoy talking about the church and what brought you here? This committee helps to make visitors and new members feel at home at First Church through personal contact and distributing printed materials. Think of it as the local "welcome wagon"! This committee meets approximately 6 times per year. **Chairperson: Thomas MacDonald (978-335-4989 or [thomas1253@aol.com](mailto:thomas1253@aol.com))**

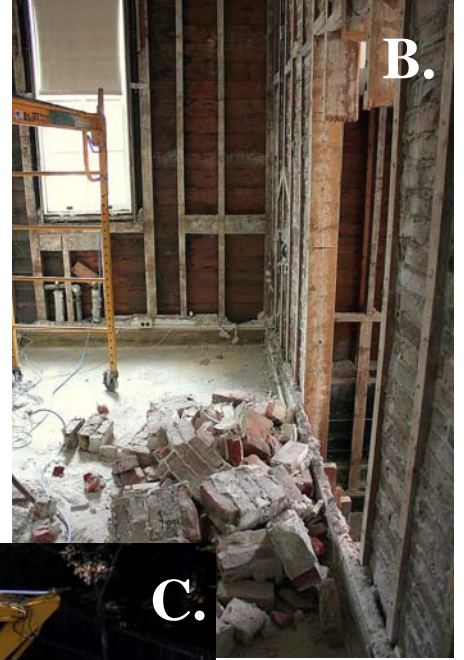
### **Stewardship Committee**

For those who might be (but not necessarily!) good with numbers or have a knack for raising funds, this committee serves as a link between the church and the "treasure, time and talents" of the congregation by facilitating an understanding of the church's financial needs and member giving and thus acting as shepherds of the church's legacy, traditions, growth, and future. This committee meets monthly. **Chairperson: Bill Henning (978-500-8527 or [wshinchi@aol.com](mailto:wshinchi@aol.com))**

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!"

## SUMMER WORK PARTY VOLUNTEERS

Party People!!! We would like to thank the following the people for taking the time to help during the Summer Work Parties: In July we moved Archives, RE and Admin and in August Willson Hall went through a seriously needed clean up. None of these tasks were small or would have possible without the help of volunteers who took time out of some beautiful weekend days (and some weekdays) to come in. Thank you to **Steve, Katherine and Hannah Palmer, Mimi Ballou, Eric Kenney, Don Glover, Lynn Taggart, Russell Lane, Chris Finn, Duncan Cox, David and Jeannine Helen, Joan Hannah, Pete Nugent, Jamie Tanch, Richard L'heureux, Alicia Diozzi, Andy Schultz, Paul Madore, Kristen Kobialka, Deb DiGiulio and Jeff Barz-Snell.**



Can you guess where these spaces are located?  
Answers below!



A. Interior window into old admin office. B. Old admin office. C. Garden as seen from tower. D. Rev. Barz-Snell's door...through the restroom. E. Stairs to basement.



## Opportunities to Serve

### FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR

It will be wonderful to see everyone on Homecoming/Rally Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011! ***Following the service there will be potluck shared fellowship/coffee hour between First Church and First Universalist at Forest River Park. Please bring a potluck dish to share together. Bring your own items for grilling. Side dishes are also welcome.***

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

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### LIFEBRIDGE

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

*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.

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### 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

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## Around the Parish

In August **Jesse Jaeger** was named the new Executive Director of the UU Mass Action Network. Congratulations!

**Sally Holtzman** completed her master's degree in elementary education this summer and has already been hired as a teacher at the Village Elementary School in Marblehead for the fall. Go Sally!

**Alicia Diozzi** has accepted a history teacher position in Wellesley for the fall. Congratulations and namaste!

**Alina Usmanov**, a long time babysitter and Sunday school teacher here at the church, is off to Bentley College. We wish her well.

**Ali Palmer** is back at George Washington University. We understand her summer job reinforced for her the value of obtaining a college degree.

**Joe Perron** is a new man after having had a heart attack and being rushed to Beverly Hospital on August 11. Several procedures later, we are pleased to report that Joe is on the mend. We expect him back this fall, working light duty.

**Chris Finn** has stepped in to provide some additional custodial support as our Sexton pro tempore. He is helping us here at the First Church in preparing parts of the building for construction and doing a few small projects over at the First Universalist Society.

# THE HERALD



A Publication of  
**The First Church in Salem, Unitarian**  
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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

## Free Book Swap Coming Up

Salem Recycles is holding another free book and media swap on Saturday, September 10, 10 am to 1 pm on the first floor of the church school at St. Anne's Church, 290 Jefferson Avenue, Salem.

Mark your calendars now and start gathering your unwanted books, CDs, DVDs and videos! All books will be accepted, even text books. Everything that doesn't find a new home will be donated or recycled.

Materials can be dropped off in advance on Friday, September 9, 6–7pm or bring them with you on Saturday. Volunteers will be available to help unload

Everyone is invited to take books, etc.—no “swap” necessary. For more information contact Julie Rose at 978-619-5679.

## FIRST CHURCH IN SALEM ON THE WEB!

Be sure to join our Facebook page to keep up to date on information regarding First Church events, services, the renovation project and more!

Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-in-Salem-Unitarian/204802176206484>

Visit our Flickr page for photos of the Renovation project:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/>