



The Herald

*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.*

SUMMER 2011

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 11

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Don't Forget the Mission ...

Although things tend to be quieter at the First Church during the summer, the needs of our community still go on. If you can, please volunteer at Lifebridge (the Salem Mission) on the second Wednesday or fourth Saturday of the month. Just contact the church office to sign up.

Summer Services: August 2011

First Church in Salem & First Universalist Society in Salem (FUSS)

**ALL SERVICES TO BE HELD AT THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY,
211 BRIDGE STREET**

*****ALL SERVICES START AT 10 AM*****

- Sun, August 7** The First Church will hold our annual Founders' Day Service. The Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell and the Rev. Marjorie Matty will co-lead a celebration of the amazing history and legacy of Unitarianism and Universalism here in Salem. The morning of Founders' Day will begin with a special processional that will start here at the First Church in Salem and then proceed down Essex Street to Townhouse Square (the site of our original building almost four centuries ago) and then over to the First Universalist Church on Bridge Street. Please join us at the First Church on Essex Street at 9:30am if you would like to process that morning. Service at FUSS begins at 10am.
- Sun, August 14** First Church member Claire Donaldson will preach. Claire is a longtime member of the First Church, a former Chair of the Standing Committee and a graduate of Boston University School of Theology. We welcome her back to the pulpit.
- Sun, August 21** The Rev. Dr. Tom Wintle will preach. Tom is the minister of the First Parish Church in Weston and a longtime leader of the UU Christian Fellowship. He has preached at the First Church many times.
- Sun, August 28** First Church member Dr. Rose Wolf will preach. Rose is a member of the First Church and the local pagan community and has led services at the First Church several times before.
- Sun, September 4** Labor Day Weekend. No service scheduled.
- Sun, September 11** Our Annual Homecoming and Rally Sunday. Join us as we kick off our new season with our sister church in town, The First Universalist Society. Jeff Barz-Snell and Marjorie Matty will co-lead a Water Communion Service (details below). The service will include a moment of silence and special music to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9-11. All those attending are invited to bring some water from your summer vacations and excursions for the Water Communion. 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. Please collect a small vial or container of water on your next trip and bring it with you to the joint Homecoming Day/Rally Service on Sunday, September 11.



Schedule of Events

ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD AT FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SALEM (FUSS) AT 211 BRIDGE STREET DUE TO RENOVATION PROJECT. WE WILL RETURN TO FIRST CHURCH IN LATE FALL. ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10AM

August 2

✦ Alliance Luncheon, Noon [Anita Hill Room @ FUSS]

August 7 - Founder's Day

- ✦ Sunday Service at **10am**, Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell & Rev. Marjorie Matty preaching
- ✦ Joint RE Meeting between FUSS and FC after Fellowship

August 9

✦ Alliance Luncheon, Noon [Anita Hill Room @ FUSS]

August 10

- ✦ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner at 4:45 pm
- ✦ Joint Meeting with FC Standing Cmte and First Universalist Board of Trustees at FUSS

August 14

✦ Sunday Service at **10am**, FC Member Claire Donaldson preaching

August 16

✦ Alliance Luncheon, Noon [Anita Hill Room @ FUSS]

August 21

✦ Sunday Service at **10am**, Rev. Dr. Tom Wintle preaching

August 23

✦ Alliance Luncheon, Noon [Anita Hill Room @ FUSS]

August 28

✦ Sunday Service at **10am**, FC Member Dr. Rose Wolf preaching

August 30

✦ Alliance Luncheon, Noon [Anita Hill Room @ FUSS]

September 9

✦ RE Family Mixer at FUSS, 6:30pm

September 11: Homecoming and Rally Sunday

✦ Water Communion Service, **10am** (see details page 1)

SUMMER SERVICES

The First Church will host summer services at the First Universalist (FUSS), beginning Sunday, August 7, with our annual Founders' Day Service. 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 lot right outside of FUSS accessible entrance on the corner of Bridge Street and Ash Street.



Key Dates & Information for Renovation and FC (First Church)/FUSS (First Universalist) Services

WATCH THIS TIMELINE FOR WORK CALLS

Subject to changes and updates as they become available

<u>Every Tuesday</u>	<u>Construction Meeting</u>
July 5	Building permit received
July 14	Henny Penny moved from FC to their new temporary home on Jefferson Ave.
July 26-28	Essex Builders begins site preparation
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archives partially moved into Meetinghouse • RE moved to FUSS • Admin Office moved to Cleveland Room
Week of August 1	Essex Builders will begin outdoor excavation.
August 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder's Day: Procession from FC to FUSS with service at First Universalist • Joint RE Committee Meeting of FC and FUSS
August 10	Joint Meeting with FC Standing Cmte and First Universalist Board of Trustees at FUSS



Items being stored in the Meetinghouse during renovation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Fellowship

Thanks to everyone who hosted or sponsored Fellowship in June:

June 12: *Jen Barz-Snell & Mary Krighaum*

June 19: *The Women of the First Church*

June 26: *Peter Copelas, Jr.*

We are excited about having fellowship at FUSS (First Universalist Society) starting in September. On September 11 there will be a joint FC/FUSS picnic after church at Forest River Park (everyone please bring something) to begin our time together. There we will ask you to sign up on a fellowship sheet (similar to how ours is done at First Church). More suggestions will follow about our shared fellowship.

If you have any questions please email the church office at firstchurch@nii.net or call 978.744.1551.

Flowers

Thank you to Mimi Ballou, The Kane Family and Christiane Hansen-Mitev and The Deacons of the First Church for their donations of flowers during the month of June.

You can sign up for August—and beyond by phoning or emailing the church office: 978-744-1551/firstchurch@nii.net. 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!

Lifebridge (The Salem Mission)

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

George and Ellen Brandenburg, Duncan and Cynthia Cox, Alan Hanscom, Sally Holtzman, Russell Lane, Peter LeBlanc, Richard L'heureux, Betty Nichols, 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, cooking or serving dinner that night, or both—the choice is yours! Contact the church office at 978-744-1551/firstchurch@nii.net

Please note: The only July-August coverage we'll need will be the 2nd Wednesday of August. We do still need a few volunteers for Wednesday August 10, at 4:30 p.m. at Lifebridge, 58 Margin St, Salem. This is the cooperative dinner served by UU Marblehead and First Universalist. Contact Duncan Cox, coxes3@verizon.net, 978-745-6207 if you are interested.

Chalice Lighters and Readers

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

June 5: *Natalie Jaeger*

June 19: *Deb DiGiulio*

June 26: *Peter A. Copelas*

From the Music Director

Summer, glorious summer, is when we're all on vacation with nothing to do but play and relax and enjoy the steamy weather, isn't that right? Well, I think that used to be true. When you're in upheaval mode, however, as at First Church in Salem, and the church world is about to go topsy-turvy for the next few months, the concept of vacation is just a bit elusive. So many wonderful things happening and so much to do, all to be done by yesterday.

As to the musical part of this moving-construction-planning cum worship to happen, things get just a wee bit dicey; yet, and I'll admit it, pretty exciting. The First Church Music Committee has met with the First Universalist Society of Salem (FUSS) Music group and we've been putting together a schedule of events for these next few months, with the cooperation of our minister and Reverend Mattie from FUSS. This is all by way of an explanation of the above-mentioned elusiveness of this year's summer vacation time.

We're already planning services which, for us will start August 7, when we host August services at FUSS. The August 7 service, however, being the First Church Founders Day celebration will take on a special aura as it will be as well our first joint worship with FUSS. It looks like the plan will be to process our congregation from 316 Essex Street to our new temporary location at the FUSS to enjoy what promises to be a very meaningful morning service.

This means that yours truly will try to muster the choir forces of both churches (i. e. beg choir members to come out of vacation mode) to join in this collaboration.

We've established that choir services for 8/7 and then beginning 9/11 on a regular schedule will include 2 hymns and 2 musical segments each time, much less concern than what has been our regular format of 3 hymns and 4 musical segments, plus a sung benediction.

To that end, I am busily trying to come up with selections that will work for this first service. Starting September 11 (which will be our first official joint choir Sunday), we have worked out a schedule rotating choir leadership between churches which should work nicely. You will receive more info on this schedule in the September issue of the Herald.

So, for now, I hope to see many of you on August 7 (hoping as well to dispel the notion that UU's don't pray in the summer!!!)

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

Paul Madore

From the Stewardship Committee

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 August 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.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

From Henny Penny

Greetings,

We are pleased to announce that Henny Penny has secured a temporary location for the 2011-2012 school year. Our program will move to 247 Jefferson Avenue, the former location of Creature Comforts Grooming Services and the Little Darlings Preschool. We are so thankful for the support and assistance on behalf of Reverend Barz-Snell, William Henning, Maria Buckley, Lynn Taggart, Jessica Kane and many others. Barbara and I are especially grateful to William Henning for lending his negotiating skills and Maria for providing legal assistance. These people made it all possible and ultimately facilitated the signing of our lease and for that we are so thankful (not to mention VERY relieved).

Our summer continues with scheduled playdates each week at local playgrounds throughout Salem. This provides a wonderful opportunity for the kids and parents to enjoy the company of their old pals, as well as to meet many new faces of the children and families that will be joining us in September for the very first time.

Enjoy the last bit of lazy summer days with your family and friends.

Kerry and Barbara



First Church Choir.
Photo Credit: Joan Walker Hannah

MAGICAL MOMENTS WITH MOTHER NATURE

The First Church Trip to Star Island

By Jim Ognibene

Stop for a moment. Put the schedule aside. Turn off the computer. Silence the cell phone. Accept the invitation of Mother Nature. The penetrating warmth of the summer sun is one of the most tempting reasons to partake in the many gifts of the summer season. That is exactly what we did! Thirty five members and friends of First Church shared a day together at Star Island with Mother Nature and other island goers on Sunday, July 17th. We carpooled from the Salem area to the dock in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and traveled by ferry six miles out to Star Island in the Isles of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire. We got to enjoy a gorgeous summer day of clear blue skies, casually explore the retreat and conference facilities, hear local legend and chat up cool and casual conversations with fellow day trippers as we discovered the island terrain under the July summer sun.

After our arrival on the island, George and Ellen Brandenburg, our trip guides, gave us a walking tour and brief history lesson including local folklore and other fun and interesting facts. Around mid day, we scattered about to find places to enjoy a picnic lunch. There was a smorgasbord of delectable delights going from blanket to blanket. One of the big hits was Tiffany Magnolia's Spicy Molasses cookies. (She has shared her recipe in this issue of the Herald – thank you, Tiffany!). After lunch we had a few hours to meander as our hearts desired. Several wandered the rugged and rustic halls of the Oceanic House. Others sat in wooden rocking chairs on the expansive porch overlooking the sun glistened, pristine sea. Some went for walks on the rocky shoreline, swam and waded in knee-deep water, while still others took rest in the shade of the gazebo near the Oceanic House. The three o'clock ferry back gave us the opportunity to mix and mingle a bit more on our way back to the mainland.

The group offers a hearty thank you to George and Ellen Brandenburg for bringing this trip from idea to implementation and serving as gracious hosts. We thank Mother Nature for providing a beautiful summer day and sharing her Spirit through sun, ocean, wind, rock, sand, birds, flower and fauna. For the members and friends of the First Church, it was a great day of casual, impromptu conversations. We were able to stop, (experience a day without our computers!), relax, and enjoy the gifts of nature, each other and summertime. Namaste.

Spicy Molasses Cookies

~Tiffany Magnolia

Adapted from the King Arthur Flour Cookie Cookbook

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 2 cups sugar (more for coating)
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp allspice
- 2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 large egg

Melt butter in a saucepan with molasses, sugar and salt. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and stir in spices. Set aside to cool.

In a large bowl, combine flour and baking soda. Slowly add cooled butter/sugar mixture while beating. After all butter mix is added mix in egg. Mix whole dough until thoroughly combined, about 1-2 minutes. Put dough in refrigerator for at least 1 hour or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Shape dough into balls roughly an inch and a half. Roll balls in sugar and place on baking sheet with space in between.

Bake cookies for 13 minutes. They will be soft, but will harden upon cooling. Let them cool for 5 minutes on paper or baking sheet before transferring to wire rack to cool. Store in open air container for crisper cookies or in covered container for softer cookies.

Makes 3 dozen.



PROJECT UPDATE

[Essex Builders Corp.](#) features the First Church renovation in their email update. Design team [Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc](#) have prepared the construction documents. Read more below.



Essex Builders to Construct New Addition at The First Church in Salem, Unitarian

[Essex Builders Corp.](#) has been selected by [The First Church in Salem, Unitarian](#), as its Construction Manager for a new addition and interior renovation. Architect of Record, [Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc.](#) prepared construction documents reflecting a mandate from the church's Master Planning Committee. The main goals are to provide universal access, achieved by employing an elevator within the new addition with an at-grade entrance; and the installation of a new heating system, which reflects the church's commitment to conservation and sustainable energy values. Other elements of the design focus on improving areas ancillary to the Meetinghouse, for the benefit of community programs which include a pre-school.

"Being good stewards of our church and the earth are duties that we embrace with enthusiasm," the Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell explained. "Our congregation is blessed with many conscientious volunteers who have worked tirelessly to bring this project into the construction phase, and in a manner that reflects our core values of community and sustainability. Our Master Plan & Implementation Committee should be commended for the manner in which it has managed this process."

"Our design firm specializes in historic restoration and addressing challenges presented by landmark legacies such as this beautiful building," explained Lynne Spencer, principal at **Menders, Torrey & Spencer**. "Our final design reflects this church's historic pedigree and yet permits the congregation to better utilize the building in concert with current codes and ordinances, making it accessible to all while respecting the heritage of the Meetinghouse."

David O'Neil, President of **Essex Builders** echoed Ms. Spencer's enthusiasm. "Our company has established a reputation for placing the needs of its clients first and foremost. It truly is a privilege to be entrusted with completing this special assignment."

[The First Church in Salem](#), Unitarian, established in 1629, is one of the oldest continuing Protestant churches in North America.

[Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc.](#) of Boston, Massachusetts offers a complete range of professional design services.

[Essex Builders Corp.](#) is a full service merit shop General Contractor / Construction Manager located in Westwood, Massachusetts. Focused markets include: retail; industrial; commercial office; healthcare; assisted living; affordable housing; education and religious clients.



Courtesy of The First Church in Salem, Unitarian

PROJECT UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Article featured in Salem Evening News on Friday July 22, 2011: <http://www.salemnews.com>



July 22, 2011

After selling silver, historic Salem church set to expand

By Tom Dalton Staff writer

SALEM — The First Church in Salem, Unitarian, is about to begin its first major building project in more than 80 years.

Construction will include an addition with offices, new storage rooms for church archives and an elevator that will make the building fully accessible for the first time.

The church also is replacing its heating system, converting an oil-fired furnace to gas. "We estimate we will reduce our carbon footprint by almost 40 percent," said the Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell, the minister and a local environmentalist.

The Essex Street church was established in 1629 and is one of the oldest Protestant churches gathered in America. The current meetinghouse was built in 1836, with a rear addition completed in 1926. This \$1.3 million construction project, which has been in the planning stages for years, began with a bittersweet moment. In 2007, to help raise funds, the church sold some of its silver at Christie's, a New York auction house. The silver, which included a 1670 cup made by Jeremiah Dummer, America's first native-born silversmith, sold for \$787,000 at Christie's annual Early American Silver Sale.

The sale covered most of the construction costs, but not all. "We are in the process of raising the rest," Barz-Snell said.

This work is taking place at a church with a lot of history. Former members include Nathaniel Hawthorne, witchcraft victims Rebecca Nurse and Giles Corey, and Leverett Saltonstall, the city's first mayor. The church dismissed its third minister, Roger Williams, who later founded Rhode Island. During construction, the congregation will move out of its Essex Street building and over to Bridge Street.

"Our sister church, the First Universalist Society of Salem, invited us to join them for the fall," the minister said.

The First Church will hold its initial service at the Bridge Street church on Sunday, Aug. 7, its annual Founder's Day.

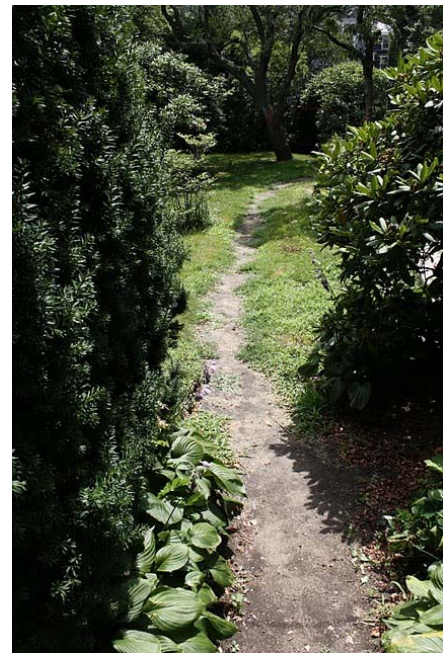
Construction will begin in the next few weeks. Essex Builders Corp. of Westwood is the construction manager. The Boston architectural firm Menders, Torrey & Spencer designed the historic restoration. The real work, however, began years ago.

"Our congregation is blessed with many conscientious volunteers who have worked tirelessly to bring this project into the construction phase, and in a manner that reflects our core values of community and sustainability," Barz-Snell said in a statement.



To raise money for its renovation, the First Church in Salem sold some of its silver, including this 1670 silver beaker given to it by Francis Skerry.

Images of clean up and preparation for renovation.



THE HERALD



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

THE SPEAR in MY HEART:

The Passion Play in Witch Ritual

“Ah! The spear in my heart! No-I must have been dreaming...”--
J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*



An unusual seasonal drama is featured in many Witch rituals and truly forms their heart. This so-called “passion play” brings to life a sabbat by portraying the deities associated with it.

One Lughnasadh (LU-nah-sah, August 1st), I wrote the Passion Play for our group; I was also privileged to act the part of Tailtiu (TELL-chu), the goddess celebrated at that time. This Celtic Queen, though half faery, died after single-handedly clearing the land so her people might have food.

Heartbroken, Tailtiu’s foster “sun,” the solar god Lugh (LU), declared a day of observance to honor her memory.

I let the characters behave as might any human mother and her boy, walking and talking of labors past and hopes for the future. I shall never forget the feeling of impending death and the fear that my people would fail as I sank to my knees, beseeching my son to guard them. No mere dream of the Otherworld, the Passion Play’s drama is the “objet d’art” that can pierce our hearts with light like the very Spear of Lugh.

TAILTIU: A year have I worked--a year today--
To clear the trees and the stones away.

LUGH: Mother, you’ve labored hard and alone--
Now this land is ready for crops to be sown!

TAILTIU: Nay, I’ve not labored harder than you
Who taught the folk weaving and crafts, my Lugh.

LUGH: Now perhaps there’ll be time for sports and feats--

TAILTIU: --But first the people need to eat!
I doubt I shall live to see such games. . .

LUGH: But the blood of Danu is in your frame!

TAILTIU: Even Fae may die and return to dust--
And, if this land is to live, I must.
I have given all I have to give--
Shine on them, son, and let them live!

LUGH: Oh, Mother, Mother! What shall we do--
We, who are now bereft of you?
From now until all Time is gone,
Your memory shall linger on--
This day my name shall always bear,
Though for your honor. This I swear!

--ROSE WOLF