



# The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2

## SEPTEMBER 2015

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## Minister's Musings

*We are here to abet creation and witness to it,  
to notice each other's beautiful face and complex nature  
so that creation need not play to an empty house.*  
~ Annie Dillard

Recently I ran into a fellow member of our congregation out and about. We were chatting with a group of people, most of whom did not know me and were not members of a religious community. After exchanging warm summertime greetings, this person looked at me and exclaimed, "When does church start up again? I can't wait!"

Now in many parts of the country, and I suppose in many eras, this would not have been a socially awkward thing to say out loud, but in this situation it resulted in a temporary "lull" in the conversation. Not everyone goes to church or any sort of religious service these days, and those of us who do sometimes can be regarded as "unusual" or perhaps even suspect. So many people in our society have preconceived notions and associations about organized religion and what attending church means and implies. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for communities like ours.

For me, attending a regular religious service is an invitation to set aside my regular weekly worries and obligations and remember what is most important in this life. It is the opportunity to re-connect with my values and experience the transcendent (however we wish to define that). Just as important, it is an occasion to make connections with good and decent people, and remember and even celebrate religious values that promote peace, justice and just plain decency. Quite often in this life and time, we don't find places that encourage those sorts of values.

We also do not find places where we are invited to bring our whole selves and be in community with others: places where we can share our joys and sorrows, our laughter and our tears; places where we can "abet creation," as the poet and writer Annie Dillard describes it. It is my experience people that don't join churches or synagogues or mosques: they join other people; like minded souls searching for reconnection as well. That is after all, what religion literally means: to "re-ligios," to re-connect.

I, too, am excited to begin anew our regular church schedule after the summer break. We have an engaging, stimulating and even fun fall planned with many opportunities to see old friends and make new ones, all while making a difference.

See you in church!

Where we love is home -  
home that our feet may  
leave,  
but not our hearts.  
**Oliver Wendell Homes, Sr.**



## September Schedule of Events

**Sun, September 6: No Service, Labor Day Weekend**

### Sun, September 13: Homecoming Sunday

9am Choir Rehearsal

9am Second Sunday Yoga Resumes

10:30am Homecoming Service with Water Communion & Choir

Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown

### Tue, September 15

12:00pm Lunch with the Pastor

### Wed, September 16

7:15pm Standing Committee

### Sat, September 19

10am Choir Rehearsal

### Sun, September 20

10:30am Service

12pm Race Discussion Group

4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

### Wed, September 23

4pm Salem Pantry Bagging

Yom Kippur, begins at sundown

### Sat, September 26

9am Salem Pantry Distribution

4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

### Sun, September 27

10:30am Service

## Around the Parish

**Sylvia Mae Radue** was born on August 14, the third child of **Liv and David Radue**, and little sister to **Avonlea Jane** and **William Radue**. Her baptism will be on September 27. It's gonna be big!



Other babies reportedly on the way: church members **Rebecca Haines** and **Jessica Sedgwick** both are due over the next month!

**Jeanne "Nina" Otto** passed away at the end of July at the age of 86. She was the mother and mother-in-law of



**Susan and Charlie Linder Bean** and an occasional church attendee, when she was not in her cottage on her beloved Baker's Island. A memorial service was held there on August 23. She leaves behind three children, a noted career as a nurse, and a garden that she lovingly tended over many years.

Our deepest condolences are extended to **Lilli Nye** upon the recent death of her husband **Tom Zajac**. Tom was a professional musician and "multi-instrumentalist" with an international reputation in the early music community as a gifted performer and teacher. For the last two years, he lived with an unusual form of brain cancer. He passed away at the very end of August at the Kaplan House operated by Hospice of the North Shore. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lilli and their families.

**Jeff and Jennifer Barz-Snell** recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

**Charlie and Trish Newhall** just celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary.

Speaking of Newhalls, **John Newhall** has just begun his freshman year at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.

**Hannah Palmer** is heading back soon for another year at the University of Edinburgh, while **Theo ("Ee-oe") Burbank** returns to Smith College this month with plans to do a semester abroad in London. **Andrew Truong** is back at Holy Cross and plans to major in political Science and Spanish.

**Catherine Bertrand** was recently made the Artistic Director of Salem Theater Company.

**Bonnie Hurd Smith** recently published a pictorial and chronological history of the The US Coast Guard Air Station, Salem, MA. It tells the story of how and when Winter Island was developed the way it was, complete with air hanger for seaplanes and storage for explosives during WW II. Bonnie had help from Nelson Dionne and his vast collection of local photos and postcards now archived at Salem State University Library. You can purchase a copy locally at Wicked Good Books here in Salem.

Stay tuned for future installments in "Salem's Forgotten Stories!" The next books in the pipeline are "Salem Serves" (military history) and "Salem Eats" (a nostalgic look at favorite eateries then and now).



# SEPTEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 No Service	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Yoga Resumes 10:30am Homecoming & Water Communion with Choir. RE resumes.	14	15 12pm Lunch with Pastor	16 7:15pm Standing Committee	17	18 7pm OWL Orientation at UUCGL	19 10am Choir
20 10:30am Service 12pm Race Discussion 4:45pm Lifebridge	21	22	23 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging	24	25	26 9am Salem Pantry Distribution 4:45pm Lifebridge
27 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Choir Service	28	29	30	31		

## Religious Education Calendar

- Sun, Sept 13:** Religious Education classes begin.
- Sun, Sept 18:** OWL Orientation 7:00 at UUCGL.
- Sun, Oct 4:** World Communion Sunday  
Bread Baking
- Wed, Oct 14:** Decorate Willson Hall for Halloween
- Fri, Oct 16:** Halloween Family Fun Night
- Sun, Oct 25:** Halloween Sunday and  
Trick or Treat for Trash
- Sun, Nov 22:** Pageant sign up
- Sun, Nov 29:** Pageant rehearsal
- Sun, Dec 6:** Pageant rehearsal
- Sun, Dec 13:** Pageant rehearsal
- Sun, Dec 19:** Pageant rehearsal
- Sun, Dec 20:** Pageant and Christmas party

## Choir Sundays & Rehearsals for September

- |              |         |                 |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| Sun, Sep 13  | 9:00 am | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sun, Sep 13  | 10:30   | Choir Sunday    |
| Sat, Sept 19 | 10:00   | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sun, Sep 27  | 9:00    | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sun, Sep 27  | 10:30   | Choir Sunday    |

## Coming in October

- Salem Witch Hysteria Lecture  
with Salem State Professor "Tad" Emerson Baker  
**Wed, Oct 21 at 7:00 pm**
- Lecture in Gloucester by Alice Rothchild on Israel and Palestine  
**Sunday, October 25, 3-5 pm at**  
Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester.



## ***A View from the Garden***

As August rushes by, we take a look over our shoulders at the growing season that will too soon come to a close. As we've said before, our mission is to create welcoming spaces for gathering and contemplation, all the while using sustainable practices on a limited budget.

To those ends, we spent the spring planting the "passalong plants" that were so graciously donated by members and friends of the church. The new bed under the linden is graced by donated hostas, ferns transplanted from the lower garden, and vinca for ground cover. Aside from the vinca, our other main purchase this calendar year was from a wholesale source for daffodils - which will greet us next spring when we need them the most. The American Redbuds that looked like goners in June made a comeback, but we've been advised that because all of the new growth is coming directly out of the main trunks, we should not expect them to make it through another winter.



Watering the potted plants at the entrances and weeding kept us busy during July and August. The plantings on the front granite stairway came into their own mid-summer. They are a combination of donated plant materials including Lady's Mantle, strawberries, coleus (held over from 2014 by Joanne Jonsson on her glassed-in porch!) and purchased ornamental grasses. We hope they will serve us through the fall season until it's time for a winter display. We will be looking for support from our wonderful community later in the autumn when it's time to plant bulbs, rake leaves, and put the garden to bed.



Our thoughts are turning to next year and our plans to create a small dedicated garden space for our RE and Henny Penny friends. As the concept evolves, we will let everyone know about this interesting development. The dormancy of winter is always dreaming and planning time for gardeners, and we will look forward to watching the cherished plants from other gardens live their new lives in our churchyard along with the daffodils of spring.

The wistful feelings we have as summer draws to a close are tempered by the prospect of seeing you all in September on Homecoming Sunday!

Mary Collari, Jan Eschazier, Lynn Taggart  
Co-Chairs of your Garden Committee







## *From Social Justice*

At the start of the summer, the Social Justice Committee marked our 1 year anniversary at First Church. We used the opportunity to review our goals and activities for 2014-2015 and to brainstorm ideas for 2015-2016. In mid-August we met again to turn the brainstorming into concrete ideas for the First Church calendar. In short, the Social Justice Committee has three lines of action for the year: periodic commitments to the community, thematic arcs, and social justice education.

Starting last May the Lifebridge Committee expanded First Church's support at Lifebridge to 2 meals per month. We also committed to serving as a Family Promise host church, and our first host week will be 12/27/15 - 01/3/15. Both Lifebridge and Family Promise are meaningful outreach to less fortunate in the community. They require dedicated volunteers and advance planning. Between Amanda Roeder, Duncan Cox, and a long-standing and robust team, support at Lifebridge is well in hand. We hope to assist by spreading information and recruiting more congregants (and families!) to participate. Family Promise is just getting underway, and although we have a number of volunteers within the First Church community, we will need to grow the pool to meet our commitments. To that end, Jessica Kane and the Social Justice Committee will host information and training sessions this fall in advance of our hosting in December.

At various points during the year last year, Rev. Jeff used the time after fellowship to show videos and host discussions related to Social Justice issues. This year we are working with him to formalize those presentations and discussions in concert with specific Social Justice projects. Our vision is to have 4-6 week narrative arcs that include opportunities to learn, to share, and to act. The first of these will start in October with a viewing and discussion of The Story of Stuff. Later in the month the RE classes will "Trick or Treat for Trash," picking up debris in the neighborhood. Then, on 11/1 they will imbue those raw materials with energy in assembling "All Souls Trash Creatures." We hope that this sequence will be engaging and thought provoking for all ages. Later in the year we are looking to do similar arcs with Story Corps, water pollution, and more. The details will continue to coalesce in the weeks and months ahead.

Our third line of action is specifically targeted at the older youth and will be driven by their interests. As last spring's Spring production of the story of Jacob and Esau made clear, youth of First Church have a strong theatrical flair. We hope to leverage that in interesting ways. More details will follow after discussions with the youth.

In summary, First Church will have many different social justice activities and opportunities this year. Please let us know if you want to help or if you have your own ideas to share.

Sincerely,  
David Radue  
Social Justice Committee Chair





### **From the Music Director**

It's hard to believe that we waited so long for summer, then it arrived, and now we're praying that it doesn't end; but here it is, Labor Day in a mere two weeks. In some small way, it is nice to get back to our regular routines and to start feeling productive once again, but let's hope, at least, that the warm weather sticks around a bit, well, for me, at least until December!

So here we are. I have planned already our first choir Sunday of the new church year which will be Homecoming Sunday, and I have met as well with Jeff to map out the rest of the year with all the special events that occur throughout the new season. I guess that I have to admit that there's something stabilizing with all that.

For anyone who is interested, the Choir Sundays through this calendar year will be as follows: 9/13, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1 (All Souls Day), 11/22 (Thanksgiving Sunday), 12/6, 12/20 (Christmas Sunday), and 12/24 (Christmas Eve). Listing these dates is my intro to a plug for new members to add to our wonderful choir (aren't they though)? So, if you like to sing and feel so inclined, please feel free to join us at our first rehearsal on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. The commitment is minimal. Along with the above dates, we plan 3 or 4 extra Saturday morning rehearsals, and that's it. So, think seriously about joining us.

The question has come up as well about seeking volunteer hymn leaders for occasional Sundays. This would be especially important whenever a relatively new hymn is being introduced to the congregation, so that these somewhat less known hymns can be learned and sung more easily. More to come on that!!

It will be great to see everyone back in the pews in great numbers on Sunday, September 13, to usher in the 387<sup>th</sup> year of the First Church in Salem Unitarian-Universalist.

See you in church,  
Paul Madore

### **From the UUA**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES**

##### **ESCALATING INEQUALITY**

Delegates at the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, RI, selected "Escalating Inequality" to be the 2014-2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations.

The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it take action—each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement—it is a question.

Challenging extreme inequality is a moral imperative. The escalation of inequality undergirds so many injustices which our faith movement is committed to addressing: from economic injustice to mass incarceration; from migrant injustice to climate change; from sexual and gender injustice to attacks on voting rights. This Study Guide provides Unitarian Universalist congregations with materials and guidance for beginning or deepening their exploration of economic justice, helping to navigate this complex and inspiring subject with many ways to engage at personal, congregational, local, state, national, and global levels.

<http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality>





## Henny Penny

It's hard to believe summer is over and the new school year has begun! We are very excited to announce Stacey Dupuis has been added to our permanent teaching team at Henny Penny. Stacey lives in Salem and is excited to bring her yoga practice to share with the children in our program. Many of our returning students will remember Stacey from the time she spent in the Henny Penny rooms last spring during Barbara Hermann's trip to France. We are very pleased to have Stacey bring her positive energy and smile into our classrooms!

Did we mention Barbara's travels? Barbara has taken to the skies again and will be spending September and most of October in Guam. Her daughter Kim is expecting her first child, and Barbara is spending some time helping Kim adjust to motherhood and getting to know her grandchild. Although Barbara is taking a lengthy leave of absence, please don't worry about Henny Penny. We have Kristine Whittmore committed to work the entire time Barbara is overseas. Krissy is a recent college graduate with a degree in geology. If you spend time in the Salem Y swimming pools you might recognize Krissy in her role as lifeguard. This summer she has split her time between lifeguarding at Salem's Forest River Park swimming pool, and teaching swim lessons at the Salem Y.

Please take a trip upstairs to see the big changes in our classrooms. A huge thank you is in order for Billy McCarthy for his part of helping us restore old chalkboards we found hiding under a couple of the bulletin boards in the rooms. At one point many years ago these large chalkboards were covered in corkboard tiles and converted into bulletin boards. Last spring we noticed a great deal of bumpiness under the paper on the two boards, and discovered small corkboard tiles were beginning to fall off the board from their corners. We ripped off the tiles and Billy worked hard removing the adhesive residue left behind. We are excited to have another space where the children can create in the rooms! Billy has also painted the hallway, bathrooms, office and more. He has been instrumental in helping us prepare for our relicensing meeting with the Department of Early Education and Care on the calendar for early November.

Our Learning Areas have been moved around quite a bit too. Most of our blocks and other larger building materials, along with transportation toys and more, have been relocated into our Engineering Zone in the last classroom. This will allow the children to build much larger and more complex structures, cities, villages, and more! They will no longer be cramped into one corner of the room for building but will have the luxury of a room dedicated to building and design.

In our first and largest classroom we have created better define Learning Areas for Science, Math, Literacy, Dramatic Play, Writing, and Art. We have also created a larger Library space and have added two displays for holding books, making it easier for the children to retrieve and return books as they like, and hopefully diminish the amount of damaged books heading to our Book Hospital. This area will also double as our Quiet Space, and triple as our Morning Meeting space! We know you will love the changes in the rooms.

## Sunday Yoga Resumes Come for Yoga, Stay for Church Sunday, September 13 9:00am

Join us for our monthly program at the First Church.

Each month, on the second Sunday, we host a 55 minute yoga class the Cleveland Room starting 9:00 AM. Liz Gruenfeld, a teacher and practitioner of yoga for 16



years, teaches the class. It is geared towards beginner and intermediate skill levels. So bring your mat and any blocks you might have and join us for Second Sundays at the First Church. Note: While there is no formal charge, this program welcomes donations of \$5-15 by those willing to support great events at the First Church.

in  
at

## Get Involved/Thank You!!!

### **Fellowship: September 20 Fellowship Committee Meeting**

Thanks to all those who hosted or contributed to Fellowship last church year. Sign ups will be available soon. Fellowship committee is looking for more members

On September 20, after Fellowship, we will be holding a committee meeting to answer questions for anyone interested in joining the Fellowship committee. If Fellowship is an important tradition to you, we hope you will consider joining the team of people who help organize it through the year.

Thank you to Chris Finn, Christiane Hans-Mitev, and Alicia Diozzi for overseeing the August Fellowships.

Welcome back!

Donna Fritz, New Fellowship Committee Chair

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### **Lifebridge Dinner Team: Sun, Sept. 20 & Sat, Sept. 26 at 4:45pm**

First Church has expanded our involvement at Lifebridge to a second meal each month. For years we have provided the meal on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. We will now also provide a meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. To help distribute the coordination workload, Duncan Cox will continue coordinating the Saturday meal while Amanda Roeder ([roedermusic@gmail.com](mailto:roedermusic@gmail.com)) handles the Sunday meal.

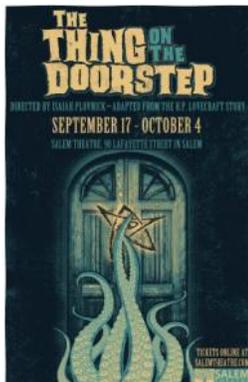
The next TWO Lifebridge dinners will take place on **Sunday, September 20** and **Saturday, September 26** both at 4:45pm. If you would like to help shop, prepare or serve dinner please sign up in the Barnard Room after one of the services, or online through the "Lifebridge" link on the First Church website's homepage or contact Duncan Cox at [coxes3@verizon.net](mailto:coxes3@verizon.net) or Amanda Roeder at [roedermusic@gmail.com](mailto:roedermusic@gmail.com)

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### **Flowers**

We would like to thank everyone who donated and ordered flowers during last church year.

Ordering flowers for the Meeting House can be done by making an entry on the sign up form in the Barnard Room. Please feel free to contact the Church Administrator with any questions! 978-744-1551/[firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com)



### **Salem Theatre presents *The Thing on the Door Step***

In this tale of dread adapted from the story by H.P. Lovecraft, Daniel Upton has shot his best friend, Edward Derby, six times through the head, yet claims that he is not a murderer. Lovecraft explores the tendrils of cosmic horror and dark magic creeping closer to our civilized world as Daniel is forced to question everything about his friend Edward's life and deadly secrets. Directed & Adapted by Salem Theatre creative Isaiah Plovnick.

September 17 - October 4 \*No performance on September 24: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays\* at 7:30pm; Sundays at 3pm.

Tickets online: [www.salemtheatre.com](http://www.salemtheatre.com)

# THE HERALD



A Publication of  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Minister:* Reverend Jeffrey Barz-Snell  
*Director of Music:* L. Paul Madore  
*Director of Henny Penny:* Tricia Pini  
*Director of Religious Education:* Deb DiGiulio  
*Chair of the Standing Committee:* John Wathne  
*Administrator:* Catherine Bertrand  
*Sexton:* Bill McCarthy

## ***First Church Program about Race and Society***

**Sunday, September 20**  
**12 noon after church**

How can we as a congregation and people with a liberal and healing faith make a difference locally?

Join us for our third program on race and class relations in the US and here on the North Shore. Over the summer, there have been several high profile and tragic cases around the country of young people of color being treated violently by local law enforcement. Black Lives Matter was a large focus of this year's General Assembly in Portland, OR, (the national meeting of the UUA). Our program will involve watching a short TED Talk on race and class in America and then having a discussion based on the book "Afraid of the Dark: What Whites and Blacks Need to know about Each Other." Copies of the book are available for sale in the Cleveland Room at the church.

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**