



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.*

JANUARY 2011

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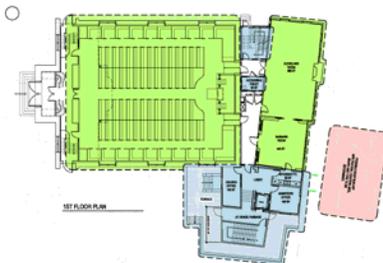
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Minister's Musings

January is the traditional time for considering the past and resolving about the future. Named for Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, this is the month when we perhaps feel most keenly the passage of time with the turning of the calendar. Here at the outset of a new year many of us naturally find ourselves assessing our direction and marking progress. The First Church is no different.

In the last few years, the Church has made significant progress in identifying the needs of our community and the challenges of our building. With the help of expert, outside support and committed, competent members, the First Church has assembled a long-term plan for renovating our building and meeting the needs of our growing, multi-generational community. We wish to be a place that welcomes all people regardless of physical mobility. We wish to update our old systems and heat and cool our building using high efficiency equipment that will reduce our carbon footprint. And we wish to be able to meet the growing needs of our members and the larger community. All these wishes were included in the thoughtful and ambitious master plan for our property and wonderful old meetinghouse that was approved by the church in 2009.



There have been challenges along the way. Since approving the Master Plan for renovating our building, we realized that there was a larger water problem than we initially realized in our basement. Now, after 12 months of analysis and study, it is clear we have the information to move forward. And move forward we can.

I realize that for many of us this process has taken longer than we anticipated. Indeed, I had personally hoped we would have already had a building with universal access by the outset of 2011. But these things always take longer than expected. What I can tell you for sure is that the members of the Master Planning and Implementation Committee and the Standing Committee have been working hard to figure out how best to proceed. There are a lot of details still to be determined in the next few months, but it is clear to me that some version of a renovation project could very well begin—soon. This will require the support, goodwill and patience of the whole First Church community. I encourage all of us in the coming weeks to pay attention, read the updates, and get involved. About once every 80 years over our church's almost 400-year history there is a major update or change to our property. I hope all of us will support this next, unfolding chapter in that history. Here's to a busy, productive and exciting 2011.

See you in church,



From the Standing Committee

A Happy New Year's Greeting to All,

In May, 2009, the Congregation of the First Church approved a visionary Master Plan that in its initial phase, will throw open our doors to all who wish to enter while transitioning to the use of sustainable energy sources. This plan reflects several years of our best thinking and is a bold step into the future. It is a plan that leads through actions rather than words, a plan that embodies our principles in the most graphic of ways.

While the hope had been to begin construction in June 2010, a variety of regulatory hurdles and financial obstacles made it more prudent to delay. Since that time, several regulatory hurdles have been crossed and the MPIC has been hard at work evaluating the costs and benefits of particular energy systems. At the same time, an ad hoc group of members has been reviewing potential revenue sources, including grants, member/friend giving and financing options.

In the next month, the Standing Committee will be considering whether to begin construction in June 2011. This decision has profound implications for the Church and I encourage all of you to offer your voice to this discussion by communicating with members of the Standing Committee.

Another top priority for January is adopting a realistic operating budget for 2011. To that end, the Finance Committee is busy collecting budget projections from First Church Committees. If you Chair a committee and have not yet given your projections to the Finance Committee, please do so as soon as possible.

– Nicole McLaughlin, chair

Flowers

Sign up to provide flowers for our services this winter. Special wording can be placed in our weekly Order of Service in honor or memory or a loved one, or to commemorate an important event. You can use the church florist for a cost of \$45, or bring your own creation. Arrangements can be simple or elaborate — the choice is yours! See the sign up sheet in The Barnard Room on Sundays during Fellowship, or contact the church office.

January Schedule of Events

January 4

- ⤴ Alliance Luncheon, noon
- ⤴ Spirit Journey, 7 pm

January 5

- ⤴ RE Committee, 7 pm

January 9

- ⤴ Epiphany Sunday Service, 10:30 am
- ⤴ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm



January 11

- ⤴ Alliance Luncheon, noon

January 12

- ⤴ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner. 4:45 pm

January 13

- ⤴ Becoming a Welcoming Congregation Workshop, 7:30 pm



January 16

- ⤴ MLK, Jr. Sunday Service, 10:30 am
- ⤴ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm

January 18

- ⤴ Alliance Lunch-and-Learn Series on Islam, noon

January 22

- ⤴ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner, 4:45 pm

January 23

- ⤴ Sunday Service, 10:30 am
- ⤴ Youth Group, 7–8:30 pm

January 25

- ⤴ Alliance Luncheon, noon

January 26

- ⤴ MPIC, 6:30 pm
- ⤴ Standing Committee, 7:15 pm

January 27

- ⤴ Welcoming Congregations Cmte, 7:30 pm

January 30

- ⤴ Sunday Service, 10:30 pm
- ⤴ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm



JANUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 - Sunday Service with Janus Ritual, 10:30am - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	3	4 - Alliance, noon - Spirit Journey, 7pm	5 - RE Cmte, 7pm	6	7	8
9 - Epiphany Sunday Service with Communion, 10:30am - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	10	11 - Alliance, noon	12 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm	13 - Welcoming Congregation Workshop, 7:30pm	14	15
16 - MLK, Jr. Sunday Service with choir, 10:30am - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	17	18 - Alliance lunch-and-learn series, noon	19	20	21	22 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm
23 - Sunday Service, 10:30am - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	24	25 - Alliance, noon	26 - MPIC, 6:30pm - Standing Cmte, 7:15pm	27 - Welcoming Congregation Cmte, 7:30pm	28	29
30 - Sunday Service, 10:30am - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	31					

Meet the New Members

David and Jeannine Helen have lived in Salem for the past few years. David was raised in Boston and attended Catholic school through High School (Don Bosco Technical High). He then earned an art degree through at the University of Massachusetts. He currently works at the Harvard Business School as its Technology Manager. David's free time is commonly spent as a crew member of the Friendship in Salem. He also enjoys playing ice hockey during the week.

Jeannine grew up in Holbrook, MA and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Western New England in Springfield, MA. She was a social worker for several years and is currently in the Master's program for teaching English as a Second Language at Salem State University. She enjoys writing, reading, Pilates, running, ice skating in winter and spending time with friends and family. David and Jeannine share their home with Mumu the Cat.

Tricia Pini fell in love with Salem and the North Shore area upon moving here in 1998. Born in Cambridge, she spent most of her childhood in Arlington MA and was raised as a Roman Catholic. After working many years a collections manager for the oldest multi-line candy manufacturer in the U. S., Tricia stayed home to raise her children. Once her children were preschoolers, she decided to change careers. She now works as the assistant director and Kindergarten readiness curriculum coordinator at the Fox Hill School in Danvers. Tricia finds great joy helping her neediest of preschoolers discover a way to be successful in their classroom community and hopes they carry that with them beyond their school day. She and her husband Doug have two sons: Dan and Jacob.

When you get a chance, be sure to offer **David, Jeannine** and **Tricia** a warm welcome to the First Church. And look for more New Member introductions in the February issue of *The Herald*.

From Religious Education

The December festivities were wonderful! The Sunday school played to a full house for this year's pageant and it seems the ability of our actors grows by leaps and bounds every year! Under the direction of Max Burbank, our First Church kids put on a performance well beyond what one would expect of kids their age. Bravo to our talented kids and to Max and Valentina for a truly memorable Christmas Pageant.

Once again Santa did not disappoint for our annual Christmas Sunday Family party, arriving right on time during the holiday sing along. The children were thrilled to see him and even happier when they realized he had a gift for each of them. Pizza and goodies were enjoyed by all. This is a party is a wonderful event that just gets better every year.

This year's pageant and Christmas party were very well attended. We had more children than ever in the pageant and lots of great people, some new to the church and those who have been with us for years, enjoying the festivities together. And the key word here is together. We had the best support ever from our volunteers to bring these events off so successfully. Our friends and members truly showed that this is *our* program and *our* church. Together we make this a wonderful community for our kids and each other.

The Religious Education program here at the First Church is ready to begin a new year. The first few months of the year are our strongest teaching weeks. We have a quiet stretch of time to study our themes and topics in depth without distractions. Our children continue to bond both in class and as a larger group. Students are learning about love, service, and the age old questions of right and wrong. We will be planning our service project for the year and choosing social justice group or groups to learn about and to support. We will also touch on diversity and bullying in our older classes before the end of the year. This is a time of year when every Sunday is filled with quiet discoveries - be sure to have your child here in class on Sunday mornings as much as possible.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Deb DiGiulio, Religious Education Director

From Henny Penny

Greetings All,

The Henny Penny Holiday Songfest was an absolute success! The children gave it their ALL and the surprise visit from Santa Claus made our morning extra special. The children, families and friends enjoyed an outstanding performance followed by plenty of yummy goodies to snack on coupled with plenty of conversation and laughs. Thank you to all who contributed to make our Holiday Celebration so wonderful. We are especially grateful to Mr. Joe Perron who set up the rooms and prepared the church space for our special event.

It is so wonderful to be back and to see the cheerful smiles and enjoy the hugs and giggles from the children after a restful and extended Holiday Break. We're back into our routine and have begun to kick off 2011 with lots of super special projects and kindergarten readiness activities. Throughout January and February, Barbara and I will be busy compiling our student assessment notes to prepare for parent conferences in late February and into March.

Our chair refinishing project is just about wrapping up. Henny Penny families have generously provided donations to sponsor the refinishing of the 26 wooden, classroom chairs. Pelletier and Son, here in Salem, is doing the work for us. In February, we will graciously honor and celebrate those families who have helped us throughout this project. The wooden chairs remain the original seating from when the school first opened in 1964. If you haven't already, take a peek in the main classroom to check them out.

We are thrilled to have Mr. St. Pierre rejoin us. Our "get-up-and-go-guy" was getting up and going a little bit too much in December and needed a short break to take it easy a bit. All of us at Henny Penny and the First Church are so happy he's back.

Enjoy the winter wonderland around you!

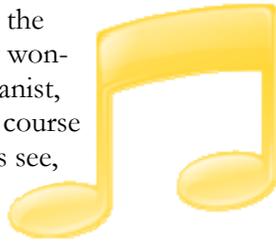
Love and Joy,

Kerry Martin, Director of Henny Penny Nursery School, and Barbara Hermann

From the Music Director

December 26 and, yes, take a big breath. This is an incredible season for musicians and, yes, much of it is really wonderful, but I don't know a single musician who doesn't breathe a sigh of relief when it's over.

At First Church, I must say that the month of December was a truly wonderful one for us musicians, organist, instrumentalists, singers, and of course I do hope, listeners as well. Let's see, the choir was part of the first Sunday in Advent service on December 5, we did extra rehearsing, then there was Christmas Sunday with the children's pageant and all the excitement and fun that that day brings. Christmas Eve, my, wasn't that just great! I still can't believe that we did the *Messiah* Hallelujah with 14 singers up in the gallery. Singers one and all said to me, play LOUD! But, weren't they terrific? The prelude, the anthem, the carols, Kathy Sharry's spectacular "O Holy Night" ... anyway, you get my mood. Although with a much simpler format, Low Sunday, as we have come to call it (no explanation need be given) on 12/26, was equally fitting as a continuation of the 12 days leading to Epiphany, with Jeff's storybook format.



It's indeed a wonderful feeling to think back on the last several days and to realize that we were all a part of the true meaning of Christmas. It's a lot of work for everyone, of course, but well worth it, from music, to the liturgy of the word, to the beautifully decorated meeting house, to the splendiferous food at all occasions, and, of course, in addition to all that, we do manage to complete all the more pedestrian chores of shopping, wrapping and, dare I say, partying during all these days before and after Christmas.

From myself, and the music ministry of First Church, I want to wish each and everyone a wonderful, healthy new year, with the fervent hope that our country will get its act together sooner rather than later to the benefit of all, rich and poor, healthy and not, American and not, and this whole great world of ours.

See you in church!

Paul Madore, Director of Music

From the Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Makes Fellowship Possible



Among the many special fellowship events enjoyed by the First Church are the tenth anniversary celebration of Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell's pastorate (top), a holiday fellowship hour (middle), and our annual church picnic (bottom).



What can you give to help our church live?

Please watch your mail for the 2011 Stewardship Campaign brochure and pledge card. You should see an envelope with them in the next couple of weeks. Please consider the contents and respond as soon as possible.

Also, the 2010 contribution statements for tax purposes will be mailed by the end of January.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

In Memoriam

Warren W. Hartwell, Jr.

Church member and Deacon Warren Hartwell passed away December 1, 2010. He was 86. Born December 29, 1923 in New London, CT, the son of Warren W. and Martha P. Hartwell, he was a graduate of Hudson High School in Hudson, MA and Wentworth Institute in Boston, MA.

Warren was very proud of his meritorious service in the Army as an infantryman during World War II and was in The Battle of the Bulge. He was recipient of a Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart. Following the war, he and his wife Clara resided in Swampscott for 48 years and spent summers at their home on Lake Winnepesaukee in Alton Bay, NH. Warren was a 50-year member of the Masons, a former Commander of Military Order of Purple Heart, Salem Chapter and former Commander of Disabled American Veterans, Salem Chapter. He enjoyed boating, gardening and being with his family, friends and brothers.

Warren is survived by his wife of 63 years Clara J. (Heath) Hartwell, son Steven of Belmont, CA and daughter Lisa of Center Ossipee, NH, two nephews and a niece: Rick, David and Donna. A funeral for family and friends was held on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at the Peaslee Alton Funeral Home in Alton, NH. He was buried at the New Riverside Cemetery in Alton, with military honors. Donations may be made in his memory to the American Parkinson's Disease Association. Our condolences and prayers are extended to Clara, who still lives in Swampscott.

Jeremiah (Jere) Burns

Lifelong Church Member and Salem resident Jere Burns died peacefully at home on Monday, Dec. 27, 2010 after a brief illness, having just spent Christmas surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren.

Jere was born on June 6, 1928 at his parents' home on Salem Common. His parents were Lucretia ("Lukie") Perkins Burns and William Russell Burns, longtime

members of the Second and then First Church. Jere graduated from Salem High School in 1946 and was then appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy by Congressman William Bates, graduating from the Academy in 1950. In 1951, he married Abby Moffat.

After his graduation from Annapolis, Jere joined the United States Air Force where he served from 1950–1954. He was stationed in Japan during the Korean War, where he piloted his F-84 through 43 missions. Jere's "right stuff" was evident not only in conflict but at other times of duress, such as his ejection from an F-84 Thunderjet that crashed during a test mission over Luke Air Force Base.

After his military service, Jere and Abby returned to Salem and Jere continued his passion for flying by becoming a commercial pilot for Trans World Airlines. Jere's service to others extended to his beloved hometown, where he was past President of the Salem Athenaeum, the Chestnut Street Associates, the House of Seven Gables, and Hamilton Hall. He was also Treasurer of the Samaritan Society.

Jere's love of flying, intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm and sense of adventure extended to his personal life. Jere and his family enjoyed extensive world travel together during his 30 years as a commercial pilot. As a private pilot during retirement, Jere volunteered with the environmental organization Lighthawk. He loved sailing, skiing and playing tennis. He rarely missed playing street hockey every Sunday on Chestnut Street. He loved nothing better than a morning cruise to Misery Island on "Aunt Nan" or "Resolute" with Abby, his coffee and donut from Ziggy's.

Jere is survived by his wife of 59 years, Abby Moffat Burns; children, Pamela B. Burns and her husband Edward S. Pliner of Madison, N.H., Jennifer M. Burns of Sedona, Ariz., and Jeremiah Staniford Burns, Jr. and his wife Susan E. Burns of Falmouth, Maine; grandchildren, Zachary, Hannah, Jake, and Anna; brothers, William Russell Burns, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth Burns of Salem, Mass., and Henry J. Burns and his wife Andrea Burns of Norway, Maine; nieces and nephews; and his faithful dog, Daisy.

Around the Parish

The First Church under the leadership of **Lynn Taggart** served dinner to over 110 homeless folks on Christmas Day at Lifebridge.

Sandra Biondo, Joan Hannah, Mimi Ballou, Priscilla Sload and Paul Madore all worked to deck the Meetinghouse in festive splendor for the holidays. We thank them.

The **Grasberger Sisters (Brooke, Paula and Lydia)** all made a surprise appearance at the Christmas Eve Service; one even with blue hair. They sang with the choir. The minister now officially feels old.

A four-month old kitten was found trapped in a window well of the church the last week of December. Church members **Sue and Charlie Linder-Bean** have graciously adopted the very cute, little “yellow tabie.”

More than 200 people filled the Meetinghouse for the funeral of longtime church member **Jere Burns**. The place was packed with church members, friends and folks from the neighborhood.



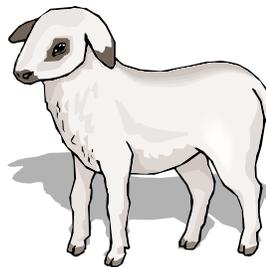
Rose Wolf shared the wonderful history of the famous piece “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Clause,” at this year’s Storybook Sunday on December 26.

Mike Cluck once again distinguished himself with an outstanding performance as a certain jolly old elf at this year’s Christmas Party on December 19. He is to be commended and thanked. Red polyester is very, very warm.

FIRE in the SNOW: The Goddess Bride and the Feast of Imbolc

In Victorian poet Christina Rossetti’s play for children, *The Months: A Pageant*, the second month is personified as a woman who ushers in the rebirth of life in the new year in both the plant and animal world. Bearing a bouquet of snowdrops, February welcomes the first lambs to be born, then sings the praises of both:

*The lambkin tottering in its walk
With just a fleece to wear;
The snowdrop drooping on its stalk,
So slender, –
Snowdrop and lamb, a pretty pair,
Braving the cold for our delight:
Both white,
Both tender.*



The Celtic Goddess—and Christian Saint—Bride (BREED) may seem to be slender and tender and white, an ethereal maiden more suited to a demesne of blessed spirits than an earthly, birth-ly domain of blood, milk, and fire. However, the hidden power of this youngest incarnation of the Mother Goddess reminds us of the truth of the observation by St. Francis de Sales, “Nothing [is] so gentle as real strength.”

The maidenly and the motherly realms are equally Bride’s, and in both worlds her might is symbolized by light. Though virgin, she holds within her womb the sun-seed of the coming Spring; and such is the wisdom she possesses as daughter of Dagda, the “Good God,” that she serves as patroness of bardship, smithcraft, and midwifery: arts in which new life is brought forth through “labor“ of spirit, mind, or body. The very fluid she coaxes from the teats of the ewes that have just borne the year’s earliest lambs is potent: first milk, or colostrum--hence the Celtic name for this holiday: Imbolc (IH-molk), “in milk.” Medieval farmers and shepherds, who called this pre-milk *beastings*, knew the stuff was precious. Today, scientists speak ponderously of the amazing properties of colostrum. One might argue with those who would put under a microscope the magick of this time of beginnings, going—what else?—tete-a-“teat.” Witches, however, simply feel its poetry, drinking warm milk and dancing through an arch twined with red roses to symbolize the birth-gate. If we take the white hand of Bride, we may all be led to the place where--in the words of T.S. Eliot--“the fire and the rose are one.”

– Rose Wolf



News from The Alliance

*Through **Operation Troop Support**, The Alliance has received correspondence from overseas expressing gratitude for the support of OTS through its care packages and Christmas cards.*

I would like to take the opportunity once more to thank you for your prayers and support. It means so much to know that we not only have the support of our family and friends, but also the support of our sponsors who have become like family to us. You take care of us and help us to better serve those we come in contact with on a daily basis. Being a part of our family we want to stay connected and give you updates on what is going on here. Many of us are over halfway through our deployment and your care packages have brought a little taste of home to Southwest Asia. You make our time here seem much shorter. We are doing great things here. We have been able to save lives through a greater emphasis on suicide awareness and greater focus on domestic violence awareness. ...What you give is put to great use Ministry starts in a box and it begins with you. Thank you so much for your continuing support!

— Ryan T. Mitchell, TSgt, USAF; 379 AEW/HC

I just wanted to drop a note of thanks to you and everyone that is associated with you. I have done a tour in Afghanistan and two to Iraq, now I am in Qatar moving in and out of both countries, and when I see notes like this, I can't help but get a lump in my throat. It is a good reminder as to why we are here and doing the things we do. For all of us, it is our chosen profession, but that fact doesn't make us being away from our families any easier or the job less difficult or less dangerous. The support we receive from home makes all the difference in the world. I, for one, really appreciate all of your support and all that you do. Please tell everyone thank you for me and from all of us around the world. Your words of support and gestures of support do not go unnoticed or unappreciated by any means. Thank you.

— MSG Robert G. Squires

The Stocking Project

The list of those who are owed thanks for making the annual Stocking Project such a success grows each year and this holiday, the list is longer than ever! In the past few weeks, in addition to those who sponsored families and those who gave monetary contributions, we also had several members who donated gifts to be added to bundles already collected. Almost 35 individuals and families from this congregation pitched in to provide gifts for 48 children. The First Church has truly taken ownership of this mission and we have again given a meaningful gift to our larger community. With a number of generous donations, we were even able to include a Market Basket gift card with each family's gifts. It is an amazing accomplishment!

Heartfelt thanks to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Bob Allen and Bob Soucy</i> | <i>Keenan/McLaughlin Family</i> |
| <i>Anderson Family</i> | <i>Richard L'heureux</i> |
| <i>Jean Arlander</i> | <i>Thomas Mac Donald</i> |
| <i>Jeffrey Beale</i> | <i>McLaughlin/Waxman</i> |
| <i>Ellen and George Brandenburg</i> | <i>Family</i> |
| <i>Burbank Family</i> | <i>Tiffany Magnolia</i> |
| <i>Peter Andrew Copelas</i> | <i>Morgenstern Family</i> |
| <i>Peter Copelas, Jr. and</i> | <i>John Newball</i> |
| <i>Krissta King</i> | <i>Betty Nichols</i> |
| <i>DiGiulio Family</i> | <i>Nugent Family</i> |
| <i>Jake Diozzi</i> | <i>Jim Ognibene</i> |
| <i>Donovan Family</i> | <i>Palmer Family</i> |
| <i>Fritz Family</i> | <i>Stephen Santell</i> |
| <i>Lynn Frothingham</i> | <i>Lynn Taggart and</i> |
| <i>Granniss Family</i> | <i>Russell Lane</i> |
| <i>Harten Family</i> | <i>Jamie Tanch</i> |
| <i>Bill Henning</i> | <i>Truong Family</i> |
| <i>Lloyd Holmes</i> | <i>Rose Wolf</i> |
| <i>Jaeger Family</i> | |

From the Editor:

Special thanks go to the members of The Alliance who over the past year have devoted one of their weekly luncheons per month to folding, binding, addressing, and stamping this monthly newsletter. And special thanks go to Betty Nichols who even delivers the finished product to the post office so readers get it in a timely fashion. — Jim

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Fellowship

Thanks to all those who hosted or contributed to Fellowship in December:

December 5: Lynn and Ryan Donovan, Rose Wolf

December 12: Peter A. Copelas, the Fritz and Jaeger families

November 19: Christmas Community Fellowship —thanks to all who contributed.

Service Participants

Thanks to those who assisted in our Services in December :

December 5: Thomas Mac Donald, chalice lighter and reader

December 12: Bill Henning, chalice lighter and reader

Christmas Eve: Chris Anderson, Alicia Diozgi, Seth Mascolo, John Newball, Beth Schultz, Hobby Sides, readers

December 26: Jacob Barz-Snell, Duncan Cox, Rose Wolf, readers

In addition, see RE News (page 4) for special recognition regarding the Christmas Pageant.

Film Screening

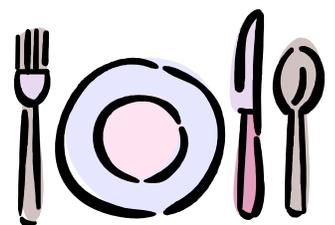
On Saturday, January 15, at 1:00 pm, at the Peabody Essex Museum, the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival presents *Out in the Silence*, a documentary film about growing up gay in small-town America. The film is free with admission (free for Salem residents), but reservations are encouraged. Reserve tickets online at www.pem.org or by calling 978-745-9500 ext. 3011. Also visit pem.org for information on additional screenings as a part of this Festival.

Lifebridge

This December our weekend dinner service at Lifebridge fell on Christmas Day. We are proud to report that First Church proved worthy of the occasion. Our volunteers prepared and served a special Christmas dinner: Pork roast, applesauce, roasted root vegetables, green beans, and bread & butter, followed by a selection of pies for dessert. We were generously assisted by Crosby's Market, which donated about a third of the grocery expense for this meal. Lynn Taggart must be singled out for special recognition here—she prepared a special Christmas menu and recruited five more volunteers to help out. As always, she considered the vegetarian diners, few in number but thankful to be included. She also took the initiative in asking Crosby's Market if they would be willing to help. Thanks to Chris Finn for arranging for dessert from the Lifebridge reserves.

This also seems like a good time to acknowledge Betty Nichols's work. Betty is listed not only among this December's volunteers, but also among the volunteers of every month going back many years. No one else from our church has been so dependable. First Church members and friends who helped out in December 2010 included:

- Charlie and Sue Linder Bean
- Rich and Sandra Biondo
- Duncan Cox
- Sue Kirby
- Russell Lane
- Peter LeBlanc
- Richard L'heureux
- Betty Nichols
- Jeanne Otto
- Lynn Taggart



THE HERALD



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Director of Henny Penny: Kerry Martin
Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio
Chair of the Standing Committee: Nicole McLaughlin
Archivist: Kristin Kobialka
Administrator: Jim Singletary
Sexton: Joe Perron

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

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation Workshop

The Welcoming Congregation Committee will meet on **January 13, 7:30–9 pm**, to continue its workshops with a discussion on **“The -isms and the -ias”**—homophobia, heterosexism, transphobia, sexism, effemphobia. Yes, all those “ias” and “isms.” What is homophobia? Heterosexism? Social bias and prejudice? In this workshop, we’ll engage in discussions intended to help clarify these concepts and understand their role in our everyday life. We’ll also examine the question of bias within ourselves and in others. Do you have biases about others? Probably! Are you aware of them? Maybe, maybe not! Does this mean you are homophobic? Is this even a useful question to ask? Probably not! Come to this workshop and find out why. Join us as we continue our series of dynamic conversations about homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality and heterosexuality.

Our December discussion about the Moral, Religious and Legal implications was quite informative, with many questions for Rev. Barz-Snell about what exactly the

Bible does and does not say about homosexuality. Pastor Jeff also shared hand-outs from other UU leaders along the same topic.

Claire Donaldson handed out a summary of various victories and trials recently in the news about legal concerns of same-sex couples, and also spoke to the medical care aspect of legal issues. She offered forms for Health Care Proxy for people of all orientations to be sure that the one they intend has say in the case of a medical emergency.

Please join us in the New Year for more discussions; we would love to hear your thoughts and questions. Light snacks are served, and child care is available if you arrange with Jessica Kane by January 7.

