



# The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian

MAY 2012

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9

## In this issue

May Schedule and Sunday Highlights	Pg. 2
Calendar	3
Around the Parish	3
RE News & OWL Info	4
Music	4
Stewardship	5
MPIC	5
Standing Committee	6
Henny Penny	6
Music	7
Thanks/Sign Up	7
Historic Inc Award	8
Open House: May 18	8

## Minister's Musings

This will be a season of milestones and accomplishments for the First Church. The most obvious one will be our official return to our building for worship services on Sunday, May 6, the date of our Annual Meeting. While we were able to hold Easter service here, our building was not quite ready for a full return. This has been ten months in the making with the largest construction project to occur here at the First Church in 85 years, since 1927. If you haven't had a chance to come and visit the building, I do hope you will drop by and see how we have made the old First Church more sustainable, more accessible, and simply more hospitable. There is not one part of our 19th century building that has been left untouched by this project, especially with the new 8-zone heating system. We also have addressed some major water and drainage issues that I hope will allow us to open up Willson Hall for greater use.

So this is one milestone worthy of celebration and acknowledgement. There is another. At the end of March, an event occurred that never had happened before in the 383 year history of our community: a woman was elected as Chair of the Deacons. Mimi Ballou has served as a Deacon of the church since 1987, but being elected as a Deacon and being selected to serve as Chair of the Deacons are two separate things.

As some of you know, we have had Deacons since our founding. Other than the Minister (or Pastor) they are the only other officers elected without a term. They are elected to serve for life. It is a big deal and something of an honor to be nominated and elected. We know since we possess Deacon's records that go back to the 1640's and detail the many ways that the Deacons have been asked to serve the church (That is, after all, what the word "Deacon" means in Greek: "servant.") Down through the centuries and decades, it is this group that has come to the assistance of members and maintained the church as an institution. Most recently, it was the Deacon's who first recommended that the Church sell some of its collection of communion silver, which in turn allowed us to proceed with this latest renovation project. Mimi was instrumental in proposing and advocating for the sale of some of the oldest silver pieces in our collection. She provided a real vision for how we could use part of our legacy as a congregation to transform our building so that our physical space more adequately reflects the needs and values of our growing, 21st century congregation. And now, she has been elected by the Deacons to serve as their Chair. While in many respects, the position is ceremonial, it is still a great honor and most definitely a milestone worthy of mention and celebration.

As we return to our building and take up residence, we still have much to do over the spring and summer. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities to paint, to dig, to garden and simply to help one another. This month however, we also plan to take the time to celebrate and give thanks. I do hope you can join us for our Annual Meeting or attend a service this month. We are even planning an open house for the Salem community on Friday, May 18 from 5:00- 8:00 pm. (See inside for details.) Please join us as we recognize this year of transformation and milestones. See you in church,

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW  
FIRST CHURCH  
EMAIL ADDRESS IS  
firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com**



## Sunday Highlights in May and June

As always, Sundays in May and June are full of special events that you'll want to make sure to note. Here's a quick overview.

**Please note all services in May and June will take place at 10:45am.**

### Sunday, May 6 — Annual Meeting

The 383rd Annual Meeting of the First Church will take place following the morning service. All members should plan to attend.

### Sunday, May 13 — Mother's Day

Fellowship hosted by the Gentlemen of The First Church  
See sign up in the Barnard Room.

### Sunday, May 20 Morning Service

### Sunday, May 29 — Memorial Day Sunday

### Sunday, June 3 — Church Picnic

We will once again be grilling up hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. See sign up in the Barnard Room.

### Sunday, June 10 — Flower Communion At First Universalist

Bring a flower with you to the service at the First Universalist Society for a final service with our sister church.

### Sunday, June 17 — RE Sunday at First Church

Our annual RE Recognition Sunday. Come join us we honor our youths' accomplishments in the RE program over the past year. We will celebrate the day by inviting FUSS congregants to the service.

### Sunday, June 24 — Last Worship of the Season

Join us for the last service before July break.

## May Schedule of Events

### Saturday, May 5

- ⤴ Capital Campaign Training, 9:00am
- ⤴ Work Volunteer Session, 9:00am

### Sunday, May 6: ANNUAL MEETING

- ⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45 am
- ⤴ Annual Meeting follows service

### Wednesday, May 9

- ⤴ Standing Committee, 7:15 pm

### Saturday, May 12

- ⤴ Work Volunteer Session, 9:00am

### Sunday, May 13: MOTHER'S DAY

- ⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45am

### Saturday, May 19

- ⤴ Work Volunteer Session, 9:00am

### Sunday, May 20

- ⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45am,

### Wednesday, May 25

- ⤴ MPIC, 6:30 pm

### Saturday, May 26

- ⤴ Work Volunteer Session, 9:00am
- ⤴ Lifebridge Dinner, 4:45 pm

### Sunday, May 27: MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

- ⤴ Sunday Service, 10:45am

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW FIRST CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS IS [firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com)**





# MAY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday Services at 10:45 am		1	2 - RE cmte, 7pm	3	4	5 - Capital Campaign training, 9am - Work Party, 9am
6 ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday Service, 10:45am	7	8	9 - Standing Cmte, 7:15pm	10	11	12 - Work Party, 9am
13 MOTHER'S DAY - Sunday Service, 10:45am -	14	15	16	17	18	19 - Work Party, 9am
20 - Sunday Service, 10:45am	21	22	23 - MPIC, 6:30pm	24	25	26 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm
27 MEMORIAL DAY - Sunday Service, 10:45am-	28	29	30	31		

## Around the Parish

**Tommy Leon** is home recuperating after his very successful hip replacement operation in mid April. Husband, **Don Glover**, is taking good care of him and Tommy is apparently getting up and about very quickly. Who knew that outings to Cafe Grazziani for lunch were part of a physical therapy regimen!

**Betty Nichols** is home nursing a sore back. We will look forward to seeing her back at the First Church as the weather warms and we return to our home on Essex Street.

Congratulations to **John Wathne** for recently receiving "Honorable Mention" for his painting "Highland" at the recent "Zero to Ninety" exhibit at the Marblehead Arts Center. It would seem that structural engineering, model trains, house painting, mortar composition, and now fine arts painting are "all in a day's work" for this church member.

**Rebecca Haines** recently published an opinion piece in the Salem News on the social influence of princess ideals

in Disney films on the life of girls in the US. Rebecca is a Professor of Communications at Salem State University. She was also our soloist on Easter Sunday and brought the house down with her rendition of Handel's "Let the bright Seraphim."

**Jennifer Barz-Snell** won "Employee of the Month" at the Spaulding Rehabilitation North Hospital (formerly Shaughnessy-Kaplan) here in Salem where she works as a social worker. The prize comes with a prime parking spot.

**Deb DiGuilio** returned recently from a trip to London and Paris with her daughter. She liked Paris and Versailles but London was her favorite.

**The Paul Madore Chorale** performed a memorial concert on Sunday, April 22 including a moving rendition of Fouré's Requiem.

**Rose Wolf** has an article in the latest edition of the Salem Gazette. She has begun to publish a regular column called "Witch Ways." Her most recent column deals with Beltane and the many myths of the "Green Man" throughout European folklore.

## From Religious Education

We are moving back! First Church is returning home on May 6th! We still have lots to do and need everyone who can help to stop by on a Saturday and pitch in. We will be prepping and painting, organizing Religious Education's entire store of books, supplies and furniture. We will be hanging bulletin boards, moving tables and chairs, organizing closets and storage areas. We also will be moving items we have stored at First Universalist back home. This is a big task that needs lots of hands. It will be so exciting setting up our new and refurbished spaces for our children to learn and grow within. I expect the atmosphere during these work events to be barely suppressed joy!

Our big push will be on Saturday May 5, 9:00 am. But there will be much ongoing work one most Saturdays throughout the spring so watch the e- Herald for information.

Looking back, what we have accomplished is nothing short of amazing! Combining two very old and different RE programs and congregations for the better part of a year. As complicated as it seemed before we began, in reality, all went surprisingly well. With mutual goodwill and respect differences were overcome, horizons were broadened and friends were made. Ultimately a solid and enduring relationship between two vibrant and historic communities has been built.

On another note, we are planning the remainder of our church school year and I can share a few highlights; we will

be back at FUSS to share in their Flower Communion on June 10th. I hope to use this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to FUSS for hosting us this year. Do try to attend with your family.

On June 17th, we will have our traditional RE Sunday where we recognize the children and youth's accomplishments during the past year. While we are delighted to celebrate this event here at First Church we have respectfully invited our friends at First Universalist to celebrate the day along with us. As you may recall on RE Sunday each child receives a book specifically chosen for them. In an effort to save resources, build community, and yes, maybe save some cash too, we have come with a fun plan to recycle all those wonderful children's books lying around your house that your own kids may have outgrown. If your family has a well loved book in good condition perhaps you would like to pass it on to another family? Simply place a small notepaper inside the front cover telling us who the book is from and the approximate age the book is appropriate for. We will place a collection bin at the entrance to the First Church beginning May 6th to collect the recycled books. On RE Sunday another child will get to experience the book your child loved. What a great way to share books and to save the planet too!

We look forward to our future together here in our beloved First Church home!

Happy spring,  
**Deb DiGiulio, Director of Religious Education**

---

## OWL Parent Orientation Meeting and Potluck Supper June 10th from 6-8 PM

As we hope you've heard, First Church will be running the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for 7th-9th grade students starting in September. We are happy to be able to offer this highly regarded teen sexuality program. We've scheduled the OWL Parent Orientation for June 10th from 6-8 PM at First Church. If your child is going to participate in OWL, you must attend the orientation.

We'll try to make the orientation fun and interesting. As part of the evening's program, we're also planning a potluck supper. In addition, we'll offer a "movie night" (film TBD) during the meeting so that your youngsters may come along with you. Please RSVP. Let us know who's coming and what you plan to bring for a potluck dish. RSVPs may be sent to [trish.newhall@gmail.com](mailto:trish.newhall@gmail.com)

The anticipated dates for the OWL student sessions follow. There may be some minor changes, but you can plan that all meetings (other than the overnight) are scheduled for Sunday evenings from 5:30-8 PM. From 5:30-6 PM, students and parents will share a potluck supper. We encourage parents

to stay on to socialize. Also, there is a parent sexuality curriculum if anyone would be interested in facilitating discussions while the kids are participating in OWL. Please let us know if anyone is interested in doing this.

September 23rd & 30th  
 October 13-14th (overnight planned)  
 October 21st (possible...waiting to hear on Saltonstall vacation schedule)  
 October 28th  
 November 4th, 11th, & 18th  
 December 2nd & 9th  
 February 24th  
 March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st  
 April 7th, 14th, 28th  
 May 5th

Of course, if you have any questions, please contact one of us!  
 The OWL Facilitators: Claire Donaldson, Mike Fritz, Jesse Jaeger, and Trish Newhall



## From the Stewardship Committee

Can you believe that we are one-third of the way through the calendar year already?

Through the 4th Sunday of April (April 22nd), we have received the following member and friend contributions compared to the same periods in 2011 and 2010:

2012	\$28,882	32% to our 2012 giving goal of \$90,000
2011	\$30,786	36% of total 2011 giving of \$85,392
2010	\$28,056	33% of total 2010 giving of \$85,060

As you can see, we are running about \$1,900 or 6% behind the contributions that were made during the same time period in 2011, but we are about \$800 or 3% ahead of the same period in 2010. We are about \$1,800 (2%) behind in tracking to our \$90,000 annual goal. Of course, it is difficult to quantify the impact of not being in our own church during this period, but attendance by First Church members has been down which ultimately impacts the collection. The continued slowness in the economy and the worries that places on people's personal finances has also had a great impact on most members and friends. It is still early in the year and we are optimistic (and faithful!) that we can reach our annual goal. **THANK YOU to those who have contributed!**

The year-to-date giving was greatly **helped** by a VERY significant Easter contribution from two of our members and a packed church for Easter (including our friends from First Universalist!). **Easter attendance, including children, was almost 300!**

Contribution statements reflecting giving through the end of April will be mailed in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions or concerns about the information in your statement, please contact the Catherine Bertrand, the church administrator, at 978-744-1551 or [firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com). You can also contact any of the Stewardship Committee members listed below. In a "last ditch effort" to help plan the church's financial year, we will be including **one last pledge card** for members from whom we haven't received a pledge card yet.

Speaking of Pledge Cards, the Stewardship Committee is proud to announce that we have received **80 pledge cards so far this year for a total planned giving of approximately \$83,000!** This compares to 80 pledge cards received last year for a total projected giving of \$75,000. Maybe it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pledge card raffle? **THANK YOU** to those who have already submitted a pledge. For those of you who haven't had a chance to turn in your pledge card yet, **IT IS NEVER TOO LATE.**

Summer Giving: This is just an early reminder that although the congregation takes a break during the summer, its bills do not! Please consider making your summer contribution early so that the church can continue to meet its obligations in a timely manner without dipping into its cash reserves.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robyn Giannopolo

Bill Henning

Eric Kenney

Steve Palmer

---

## From the Master Planning Implementation Committee

As you have likely heard, we will be continuing work parties on Saturdays at the church for the foreseeable future. A huge amount has been accomplished, but there is still a lot to be done. In May our focus will be on making the second floor classrooms and Willson Hall spaces ready for the return of our RE program. This will involve a lot of preparation for painting, painting, cleaning and then organizing in the shared classrooms.

In early June Henny Penny will hold its graduation pageant in Willson Hall, so attention will also be paid to completing the painting and clearing the stage in that space. Later in the summer, once we have seen how the upgraded water management system performs, we'll turn our attention to the one remaining major task there, finishing the floor.

We also will need to turn our attention to the new garden space. It will be time to get outside and get our hands dirty with garden dirt, rather than construction dust. So, lots of opportunities for volunteers of all ages, interests, and abilities. Come on out and have some fun.

Dave Helen, Paul Madore, Betty Nichols, Steve Palmer

## From the Standing Committee

Soon we will be home for good, and we have so much to be thankful for. As I think back over the construction project and some of its challenges, the scary and distressing events are fading in memory. What is much more vivid is the way our community of members and friends have come together to help us bring our much-loved building back to use. There is so much not in the scope of the construction project, but we're finding that people are interested in making the rest of the structure fresh and appealing. We'll be working on Saturdays all through the spring and summer to make sure that we face the beginning of our next church year with a facility that expresses our values.

There are some businesses from the greater community that have helped us significantly, and I'd like to let you know so that you can support them, in turn, when you have the opportunity.

- Waters and Brown has given us expert advice on matching finishes, has given us discounts on all of our paint and equipment, and donated the polyurethane for refinishing the Barnard Room floor.
- Lucia Lighting gave us deep discounts on all of our lighting fixtures. The beautiful fixture in Rev. Jeff's future upstairs office was offered at wholesale. In addition, Lucia Lighting worked with us for hours at no charge to make attractive and energy efficient selections.
- Magarian Rugs cleaned all of our carpets at a 20% discount, and picked them up and delivered them exactly when we requested. And our rugs were *really* dirty.

Now, with insurance money from Hurricane Irene to paint the Meeting House, we are poised to make our worship space reflect the welcome we want to extend to all who wish to enter. We'll be talking about this to make sure everyone understands what is happening, and we will want to hear your voice about this important project. Our meeting house is a sacred and dear space to us all, so we will be very careful about any changes we make. There will be presentations from the craftsmen and test areas to observe. We are, after all, one of the oldest democratic societies in the country, and we will act accordingly.

We all want the same thing: a building that embodies our values. Just look at the old wooden sign that we found in the basement – it's hanging outside our new kitchen. Welcoming all is a part of our long history.

Please think about giving a few hours of your Saturdays over the spring and summer to make this historic project complete. 1927 was the last time our church made such significant changes. What we are doing now is our legacy for coming generations.

And with this, my last Herald message as outgoing chair of the Standing Committee, I am grateful to be part of this church that I have come to love.

Lynn Taggart  
 Chair, Standing Committee, 2011-2012

---

## Henny Penny

Greetings all,

April proved to be quite an exciting month as the children discovered evidence that the Easter Rabbit visited Henny Penny Nursery School! Snacks were nibbled on, a trail of white was left throughout the classroom, Easter grass was strewn about, goodies were left and a silly note and poem was left behind. What a thrill for our 3, 4, and 5 year olds!

The children showed their best smiles and we had individual photos and a group shot taken by Mr. Barry from Focal Image Photography.

Our next community outreach program will be with the Northeast Animal Shelter. We all know that spring is filled with lots of baby animals ~ particularly puppies and kittens! The children and families at Henny Penny are excited to offer their support and donations to this special cause.

I am thrilled to be wrapping up our time at 247 Jefferson Avenue and begin the transition to move back to First Church. It is both overwhelming and exciting to see the hard work and effort on behalf of all. The hard work towards the overall project and preparation of the classrooms, on behalf of the members and friends of The First Church of Salem, is truly humbling. Barbara and I are so grateful to be part of such community full of caring and commitment.

Thank you,  
 Kerry Martin



## Music



Walking through First Church today, I was absolutely amazed at the progress that has been made in just the last few weeks, and it's hard to believe, remembering back to March 1<sup>st</sup>, that we will be fully operational in one week's time. The joy in seeing the beauty that is our venerable old building makes us easily forget that this was all supposed to happen on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Oh well... We all must be so proud at all that has been accomplished in the last many months, and the list is very long with the thank you's that will have to be shared by a large number of our ever growing membership. I'm sure that our pastor on this day is bursting with pride at what has been accomplished and at the legacy that this generation will leave to our future generations. One wonders if the 1920's generation felt as we do today.

That being said, it does seem an eternity that we have been about the regular business of running a church and, in my case, planning music, regular services and those really big events in a church year. Didn't Easter feel good? We were at last about our real business of planning and executing worship in a not yet perfect meeting house but, all the same, it was indeed fabulous, and with an attendance practically bulging at the seams.

The experience of our joint operation with the First Universalist Church will surely make of us all better human beings who have grown through this mutual collaboration. I, for one, feel as though I have developed musically from this whole experience, learning how another congregation goes about organizing the music portion of worship, adapting to the differences and making copious mental notes on how we can improve what we had been doing before this time of real growth. I'm sure this can be said for all aspects of our ministry, RE, administration, pastoral concerns, etc., etc.

Let us be thankful as we return home and put our newly acquired knowledge to work as we move forward into this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Paul Madore, Director of Music**

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW FIRST CHURCH  
EMAIL ADDRESS IS  
firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com**

## Lifebridge

**Thanks to the following who signed up to volunteer to shop or to serve at Lifebridge in April:**

*Duncan Cox, Russell Lane, Richard L'heureux, Shava Nerad*

Volunteers are needed on a monthly basis at Lifebridge. Members and friends of the First Church to serve dinner on the fourth Saturday, 4:45–6:45 pm. To volunteer, see the sign up sheet in the Barnard Room during Fellowship.



## Fellowship

**Thanks to all those who hosted Fellowship in April.**

Hosts are still needed for May and June to host the adult and children tables. Hosts will also need to be part of set up and clean up. Be sure to sign in the Barnard Room. Feel free to team up with another individual, couple, or family.



## Flowers

Sign up to provide flowers for our services. 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 The Barnard Room on Sundays during Fellowship, or contact the church office.

# THE HERALD



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

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

Minister: Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell  
Director of Music: L. Paul Madore  
Director of Henny Penny: Kerry Martin  
Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio  
Chair of the Standing Committee: Lynn Taggart  
Archivist: Kristin Kobialka  
Administrator: Catherine Bertrand

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

## THE FIRST CHURCH WINS LOCAL AWARD!

The First Church is receiving a Historic Preservation Award from Historic Salem, Inc., the local preservation advocacy and community group.

**The award will be presented during  
Historic Salem's Annual Meeting on  
Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
at the National Park Service Visitor Center -  
2 New Liberty Street here in Salem.**

The meeting, ceremony and lecture are all open to the public.

**6:00pm** - Reception with refreshments  
**6:30pm** - HSI Annual Meeting  
**7:00pm** - Presentation of Preservation Awards  
**7:30pm** - Featured Speaker: Sidney Berger,  
*Director of the Phillips Library at the Peabody  
Essex Museum*

## Open House on Fri, May 18

You are cordially invited to a

**Community Open House at the First Church  
Friday, May 18 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM, rain or shine**

316 Essex Street

Please join us for an open house and springtime reception to celebrate the completion of the First Church's renovation project. Over the last ten months we have worked hard to make the First Church more sustainable, accessible, and hospitable. For the first time in our almost 400 year history, we are universally accessible. We have a new garden, a new elevator, a new addition, a new heating system and plenty more changes that we hope to share with our community.

Tours of the building will leave every 15 minutes from our new garden (weather permitting) or our new lobby. Please join us for some light refreshments and pleasant conversation.