

St. Paul's Church of Palmer
Universalist-Unitarian
Box 307, 1060 Central Street
Palmer, MA 01069-0307

January 2009

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NEWSLETTER

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM
Fellowship Hall

Jan. 4 "Field Trip" to Brookfield UU church (carpool from St. Paul's at 8:45 am)
Jan. 11 Rev. Jon Rehmus
Jan. 18 Rev. Stephen Howard
Jan. 25 Rev. Jon Rehmus

***** Coffee Hour immediately following the Sunday Service in Fellowship Hall. *****

The Jan. 4 "field Trip" to the Brookfield UU church is the first in a series of 3 trips to get acquainted with our UU neighbors in the area. We hope you will join us at St. Paul's at 8:45 am, so we can carpool and socialize on the way to Brookfield.

Coffee Hour

If you are willing and able to host a coffee hour, please call June Bacon at 413-283-5290, Harriot Henrichon at 413-289-1870, or Verna Besaw at 413-283-4244 to help out.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Jan. 5	Mark France	Jan. 22	Larry & Holly Boulanger
	Steve Lisk	Jan. 27	Jane Alois
Jan. 9	Taia Lee	Jan. 29	Mary Papineau
	Victoriah Harvey	Jan. 31	Jerome Torrell
Jan. 11	Maurice & Virginia Tierney		Charles Thompson
Jan. 17	Sharane Tierney		Kaitlin Rathbone

Food Share

It's a new year! Many people are struggling between putting food on the table, or paying a bill. Our friends need our help! Please feel free to place your non-perishable items in the Food Share box, located near the coat closet in Fellowship Hall. Palmer Food Share at 39 Walnut St. is open on Tuesday and Friday from 10 am to 11:30 am. Those in need must register prior to receiving food, and then are eligible to receive food every 3 months. You can even mail monetary donations to Food Share, 39 Walnut Street, Palmer 01069.

Church Greeters

Gordon and Irene Christiansen and Verna Besaw have graciously offered to be greeters on Sundays. If you would like to also greet, you can call the church office at 283-8185.

Community Meals

The Community Meals are held on the 4th Saturday of each month. If you would like to help out you can give Barbara Stone a call at 413-283-5257. If you would like to donate a food item or make a monetary contribution, you can also let Barbara know. The January meal will be held on **Saturday, January 24**, beginning at 5:00 pm.

FYI



SNOW --- SNOW --- SNOW ---

December certainly delivered lots of cold weather and snow to Palmer. Again this winter, Rick Dunderdale is clearing the walks and pathways around the "city block" which St. Paul's occupies. He does his best to keep the way open for the day care center, for our uses of the property, and the public who use the sidewalks along the four streets. Thank you Rick !

New Furnaces and Furnace Fund

Our new furnaces installed before this heating season began are working well. By using four new programmable thermostats in the Fellowship House / Hall building, and two of the same in the church building, we should consume less fuel than previously used.

Fellowship House/Hall has one furnace which heats FOUR zones (1st floor bldg.; 2nd floor bldg.; Fellowship Hall; and classrooms below hall) plus domestic hot water. The church building has two furnaces. One heats the day care center, and the other heats the sanctuary.

Last August, Bob Faulkner sent a letter announcing the start of a "Furnace Fund" special collection to help offset the costs of new furnaces and cleanup and removal of the old ones. He is pleased to report that so far we have received over \$15,210.00 in donations toward the estimated total \$37,800.00. The fund is still open and donations are gladly accepted. Please make check out to St. Paul's Church and write furnace fund on the memo line.

Don't forget that we are still collecting items for our military personnel overseas, through our former minister, Chaplain George Tyger.

Thoughts and prayers go out to Homer Denniss who is at Health South in Ludlow; and Gene Stone who is at Lifecare in Wilbraham. We all wish you both a speedy recovery and on your way back home.

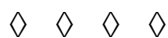
Congratulations to Rev. Peri Murdock who attended the Christmas Eve service at her home church which she was ordained. It was possible for her this year as she is now retired.

St. Paul's History –

The Rev. Glenn Canfield of the Connecticut Valley District and the Rev. Myles Blanchard of Monson were present at the meeting as advocates for the Rev. Nagel. The conclusion of this stormy session was to reduce Mr. Nagel's salary starting in August, 1968. He left for North Carolina later that summer. This episode in our history was quite painful for all concerned.

During his ministry the Memorial Fund was started in January, 1966 with donations in memory of William R. Faulkner. The fund was to accumulate to \$20,000 before interest only could be used for church expenses.

The Rev. E. Palmer Clarke and his wife Marjorie had the difficult task of beginning at St. Paul's in October, 1969, after Mr. Nagel's forced resignation the previous year. A biblical scholar and former professor at Tufts University, Mr. Clarke's major contribution was the fostering of the ecumenical spirit in the town of Palmer. An active youth group was founded during his pastorate. Mr. Clarke left in 1972 to retire to Ossipee, NH.



Come and join our church-wide field trip...

On Sunday, February 1, there will be no service at St. Paul's. We will be visiting the Monson UU Church, as the second field trip in a series of three visits to get acquainted with our UU neighbors in the area. We hope you will join us at St. Paul's at 8:45 A.M. on Sunday, February 1, as we meet there to carpool and socialize on our way to the Monson UU church. If you prefer to travel independently, directions are posted on the Monson UU website. If you don't have internet access and need directions, or in case of inclement weather, call Cathy Senecal at (413) 283-7277 at any time and leave a message. I will get back to you with the necessary info.

P.S. Refreshments for Monson's coffee hour are welcome, too!