

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

MARCH 2009

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Barbara Stone, Music Director
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NEWSLETTER

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM
Fellowship Hall

March 1 Field Trip to Petersham UU Church (be at St. Paul's at 8:45 am)
March 8 Rev. Jon Rehmus
March 15 Rev. Stephen Howard
March 22 Welcome! Service and Brunch
March 29 Rev. Jon Rehmus

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

Coffee Hour

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Verna Besaw for donating goodies for coffee hour week after week. Coffee hour is the time when we get to touch base with and care about each other and Verna makes that time "sweeter" for all of us. Thank you, Verna, we all appreciate our "Coffee Hour Angel."

Anniversaries and Birthdays

March 12 Dan Windoloski	March 16 Bill Faulkner
14 Diane Faulkner	16 Karen Papineau & Jim Keydel
	22 Bonny Rathbone

Food Share

The price of oil and gas is rising again! AND, winter is still not over! Many folks are struggling to make ends meet. 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 February meal will be held on **Saturday, March 28**, beginning at 5:00 pm.

FYI

Daylight Saving time begins on March 8. Remember to turn your clocks ahead!

St. Patrick's Day is March 17.

The First day of Spring is March 20 !!!!! HURRAY !!!!!

Rick Dundale – You have done a fabulous job in keeping our sidewalks clear this winter. You are so appreciated. Thank you.

Collection for our Soldiers

Don't forget that we are still collecting items for our military personnel overseas, through our former minister, Chaplain George Tyger. We didn't get to send anything in January because of all of the canceled church services, but with the help of the 2nd Baptist Church, we did send out a fair sized box on February 17th. We will be continuing to collect toiletries, socks, cigars, and blankets as well as cash donations for shipping. These men volunteered to put their lives on the line for us. We need to support them as much as we are able.

Board of Trustees Meeting is March 17.

Our Book/Tag/Curio sale will be opening up again in April. That is one sure sign of spring !!!!

Attention camera buffs:

Bring your camera to church! It's time to update our website, and we need some fresh new pics, both of our members and our church, inside and out!

FINAL FIELD TRIP

St. Paul's will be closing its doors on **March 1, 2009**, and taking a field trip to the Petersham UU church, as the finale of our series of three trips to get acquainted with our UU neighbors. We hope you will join us at St. Paul's at 8:45 A.M. on Sunday, March 1, as we meet there to carpool and socialize on our way to the Petersham UU church. If you have any questions, call Cathy Senecal at (413) 283-7277 at any time and leave a message. Refreshments for Petersham's coffee hour are welcome, too!

Welcome! Service & Brunch

St. Paul's will be hosting a "Welcome! Service" on Sunday, March 22. Members, friends, families and walk-ins welcome for a question-and-answer session on Unitarian Universalism followed by a pot-luck brunch. If you'd like to sign up to bring a dish, there's a sign-up sheet in the back of Fellowship Hall.

Homer Denniss is currently living at Orchard Valley, 2387 Boston Rd., Wilbraham 01095; Apt. 224. His phone number is 413-599-1764. He would love to hear from old friends.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CLARA BARTON DISTRICT

The Spring Conference and Annual Meeting of the Clara Barton District will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. Lunch will be followed by the CBD Annual Meeting, workshops, vendor booth visiting, and our closing worship. The day's program will end at 4:00 pm.

We are honored to have as our keynote speaker, Connie Goodbread. Her address is titled, *Now is the Time*, and she describes her presentation with these words, "Unitarian Universalism is an amazing spiritual discipline. While on the surface our faith seems simple, it is anything but simple. We are not the people who can believe anything we want. We are the people who believe what we must. It becomes confusing and scary when, as leaders, we step out on the edge of change. How can we know what is best?"

*FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.CBD.UUA.ORG

MARCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed March 4-11 as Tracie will be on vacation. Office hours for the first two weeks of March will be: Monday & Tuesday March 2nd & 3rd from 9:00 – 2:00 and Thursday & Friday March 12th & 13th from 9:00 – 2:00.

UUA CONGREGATIONAL MAILINGS

Beginning this month, the UUA will no longer be sending out printed copies of the Congregational Mailing. According to the February mailing the "primary motivation was to honor the commitment that Unitarian Universalists made in the 2006 Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming to reduce our Carbon footprint (we sent out about 237,384 pieces of paper last year in the Congregational Mailing alone). Because, like so many other organizations, we now also face serious financial restrictions, we realized that this was the right moment to make the switch."

The Congregational Mailing will be available by the first day of each month at www.uua.org/monthlymailing. The cover letter is posted on the site, and each item in the mailing is available as an Adobe download. Each month we'll put a reminder in St. Paul's newsletter to let you know that the mailing is available on-line. Additionally, highlights of mailing will be listed in our announcements. If you don't have internet access or if you need assistance downloading, please contact Tracie in the church office & let her know which item you'd like printed.

THEMED SERVICES RESUME IN APRIL

Last fall, in an effort to familiarize our community with our UU ideals, St. Paul's began to schedule some of our services in themed units. Each unit focuses on topic headings taken from the UUA Covenant and Living Tradition. Four units have already been covered: "Acceptance of One Another and Encouraging Spiritual Growth," "The Right of Conscience and the Democratic Process," and "Jewish and Christian Teachings Which Call us to Love Our Neighbors as Ourselves." After a break for the holidays and a cold New England winter, we'll resume our themed units in April and continue through the end of our church year.

APRIL: "Renewal of the Spirit: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces that create and uphold life."

MAY: The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person:

JUNE: "The Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning"

Start thinking about the spring and summer tag sales—especially when you are cleaning out your attics or basements. You can let Gordon Christiansen know what you've got!



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is April 12 this year. If you are interested in putting some lovely flowers on the altar, you can let Barbara Stone know.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Would you be willing to add your voice to the choir on Palm Sunday and Easter? Please see Barbara Stone for more information.

St. Paul's History –

The year 1976 marked our nation's bicentennial. The community participated in a reenactment of General Henry Knox's movement through Palmer of cannons from New York State to aid General George Washington in Boston. Gordon Christiansen, a St. Paul's member and Palmer selectman, provided venison for a stew which was cooked by St. Paul's members and served to the Knox Trail trekkers on Main Street on a cold January morning.

That year also marked the centennial of the organization of St. Paul's Church of Palmer in May, 1876. the Rev. Justin Lapoint updated our church history with a booklet, *A Few Faint Streaks of Light*, published in April, 1976. A service of re-dedication of the church cornerstone was held May 30, 1976, following the Sunday morning worship service. Present were the Rev. Justin Lapointe and former ministers, the Rev. Keith C. Munson and the Rev. Gordon B. McKeeman, along with 108 members and friends of St. Paul's. After the service a metal box was placed in the space behind the original building cornerstone. It contained items relating to our country's bicentennial and to our church's centennial as well as St. Paul's current by-laws and directory of members.

In November, 1976 the first agreement with Quaboag Children's Center, a daycare facility, was signed for use of the area behind the sanctuary, formerly used as the Sunday School of the church. This community service continues to this day.

After an active and productive ministry, Justin and his family moved on to Marietta, Ohio at the end of 1977.

The church used supply ministers for regular services during the search process between January 1978 and February 1979.



An Old Cowboy's Advice

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer..

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'!

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'!

