

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

In December of 2007, I came to St. Paul's church for the first time as a guest worship leader. You welcomed me with great warmth and enthusiasm. Since then I have led several worship services at the church and my affection for the church and its members continued to grow.

Now, just a little shy of two years since my first visit to St. Paul's, I'm writing with great joy to reintroduce myself to the St. Paul's community as your student minister for the 2009/2010 church year.

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Craig Nowak. I am a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry and live in Connecticut with my spouse, Kevin, who is an antiques dealer. For the past few years I have attended Hartford Seminary part time while also working as an advertising manager and antiques appraiser for an auction company. In September, I will begin studies at Andover Newton Theological School just outside Boston, where I have been awarded their Presidential Scholarship. I plan to complete my MDiv degree at Andover Newton by May of 2011.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, I worked as a chaplain at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut as part of their Clinical Pastoral Education program. I have been active in social justice work and have appeared in print, on the radio, and television as voice for liberal religious values. My published work includes a piece that appeared in the religious journal *Conversations in Religion and Theology* as well as some of my poetry. I have found that poetry and other creative writing is one of many benefits that arise from my regular spiritual practices which include meditation and contemplation.

Now that I've shared a little about myself with you, I hope that in the coming months you will share a little of yourself and your life's journey with me. You will see me in the pulpit 1-2 times per month beginning September 13th. When I'm not in Palmer I can be reached via telephone at **860-916-9261** or email at craignowak@comcast.net

I look forward to serving as your student minister, confident that we will learn much from each other and hopeful that the time we spend together and the work we choose to do will prove beneficial for St. Paul's and the wider community.

Blessings and joy,

Craig

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM

Sept. 6	No Services	
Sept. 13	Craig Nowak	Ingathering Water Communion
Sept. 20	Rev. Jon Rehms	
Sept. 27	Craig Nowak	

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

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

Sept. 1	Gene Papineau	23	Bob & Diane Faulkner
8	Tyler France	25	Gabrielle Henrichon
9	Bobby Faulkner	28	Gordon & Irene Christiansen

Food Share

We can all give just a little to help out our friends who need some help. A Food Share Box is located in Fellowship Hall near the coat closet. Please feel free to place your non-perishable items in this box. 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 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 first community meal this year will be on October 24, 2009 beginning at 5:00 pm.

FYI

The Book Sale and Curio Shoppe is open in Fellowship Hall on Saturdays, from 10 am until 1 pm. The weekly tag sale will stop the end of September; and the weekly book sale will stop the end of October.

The Saturday tag sales are keeping us busy, as new donations are coming in all the time. We are looking forward to the September Brimfield Flea Market week. Please sign up to help if you have time available.

TAG SALE

September 8 - 12

The Reverend Stephen Davies Howard, 78, passed away on July 15th at the Fisher Home, Amherst, following a brief illness. Stephen served as our 3/4 time interim minister at St. Paul's from September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2003, and in recent years as regular and well-liked guest minister. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Anne, and family.

It was with great sadness that our friend, **Ernie Bacon**, passed away on June 17, at the age of 86. Ernie was a member of St. Paul's for many, many years. Our love and prayers go to his wife, June and daughters Amy, Sally and her husband Brent, and son Rory Bacon. Ernie, you will be missed by us all.

Frank Zabawa, one of the founding members of Palmer Food Share, passed away on August 5.

By now you have received a letter from St. Paul's asking for donations to our Capital Account to help maintain our fine church and its buildings. St. Paul's was built 130 years ago! As you can imagine, there are many projects that have to be done to keep our church safe and up to date. The projects currently slated to be addressed will cost approximately \$50,000.

The current members of this church family are working hard to maintain our buildings with the resources we have. We understand that the economy is not the best, and that some of you are on a fixed income. If you are able, a donation to the Capital Account would be greatly appreciated, so we can continue work on some of the projects.

We are hoping that you are feeling better now, Verna Besaw. Verna is now home recuperating after her surgery in August. Hope to see you soon.

It was mentioned in The Arrow (the Second Congregational Church newsletter) that their members are delighted to share Union Services with us and the members of the Baptist Church. They feel very welcome and enjoy the refreshments and conversation following the services.

In case you did not read the August 6th Palmer Journal Register, our previous minister, Peri Murdock, was honored with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by the Palmer Rotary Club. This is the highest recognition bestowed by the Rotary, and is given annually to a Rotarian who demonstrates better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world. Congratulations Peri !!!!

The **Clara Barton District Office** is resuming the publication of its newsletter, though this will be an email version with a new name (enter the naming contest in the July issue!). It is our hope to share District information and events with everyone on a monthly basis. You can sign up to receive this at www.cbd.uua.org, or by contacting the church office. Many thanks, CBD Staff, Lynn Thomas, District Executive.

Horace Clarence Boyer arranged hymns in our *Singing the Living Tradition*: #30 "Over My Head;" #118 "This Little Light of Mine" and #156 "Oh Freedom -- all of which we have sung during our various services. Mr. Boyer passed away in Amherst on July 21.

As a very young boy, he formed a gospel-singing duet with his brother, James. He was named curator of Musical Instruments at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institute. He was director of the Voices of New Africa House Workshop Choir, an ensemble of 50 voices drawn from Smith College, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College and Hampshire College as well as the University of Massachusetts. He received many citations including the Martin Luther King Heritage Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society of American Music. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the Union of Black Episcopalians.

UUA has sent notice that Peter Morales was elected as UUA President.

St. Paul's Bylaws were amended at the June meeting; updated copies are available at Fellowship Hall. Also available are copies of the updated St. Paul's directory.

REMINDER: ALL REPORTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

St. Paul's History –

The Rev. Robert. S. Slater was called as our part-time interim minister on February 1, 1991. He was retired, living in Amherst. Later he moved to Lynn, MA, after which he traveled usually once a week on Sunday to Palmer. Our religious education program under the DRE continued to be popular. Mr. Slater was well liked during the one and one-half year search process, which ended in June 1992.

The Children's Study Home closed their office here in 1991. The church roof load was paid off in June 1991.

On June 28, 1992, St. Paul's church called the Rev. Richard F. Drinon to be its next minister starting August 1st.

He had been the Director of Ferry Beach UU Camp in Saco, Maine. Under his pastorate here there was an active RE with a paid DRE and there was a large increase in church membership. His original eight goals involved canvas, RE, membership/fellowship/publicity, the hiring of an office manager and the purchase of a new computer, communication, social concerns, music and choir, and youth group. In 1994 the church bought a new computer and a new copier, and there was a move to hire paid staff to do some of the things volunteers had done in the past. Because of the changing demographics of our members, more families had both adults working. We hired a new church administrator and a new organist/choir director, and the choir grew to thirteen members. A church council was formed to open lines of communication and a large wall planning calendar was started. A special church meeting on June 19, 1995 significantly updated the bylaws. Successful canvases were held, and three tag sales a year were continued for fundraising. He was involved in various community activities and became a Palmer Rotarian. He recommended changing from the calendar year to the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to agree with UUA and CBD and the church year. Mr. Drinon finished 6 years in Palmer in spite of having a mild stroke during his popular ministry here. He resigned on August 31, 1998, to go to the Hopedale, MA UU church.

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Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.'

The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

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A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!'

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...but please don't shove me either!'

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF PALMER
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009**

You are hereby notified of the special meeting of the members of St. Paul's Church of Palmer to take place at Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter to act on the following:

Article I:

Review and act on minutes of the special meeting 9/28/08 and the annual meeting of 6/14/2009.

Article II:

Review and act on reports of all officers and committees and from all affiliated organizations for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Article III:

Vote to transfer monies from the Capital Account to the Maintenance Repair Account.

Article IV:

Church calendar planning session for fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Your attendance is respectfully requested,

For the Board of Trustees,

June L. Bacon, Clerk