



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

## OCTOBER 2009

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## NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

From the weather outside it seems fall is upon us, even if the calendar says otherwise. As I was sitting in my study reading this week I paused to watch the tree branches swaying in the wind. A few branches, reluctantly it seems, gave up some of their leaves. I watched these leaves swirl about in the air as they made their way to the ground. Observing this, I began to think about change, resistance, and giving up things.

Because change can be difficult, even painful, we human beings spend a lot of our time and energy on keeping things as consistent as possible in our lives. There's nothing inherently wrong with wanting some structure in our lives of course, but we might do well to remember that change is necessary for growth, as individuals and as a community. Anais Nin reminds us that "Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death."

Our Unitarian Universalist tradition is a living example of what is possible when we dare to change, when we no longer resist what is necessary to bring forth change, and when we muster the courage to let go of certain long held beliefs or ways of doing things.

How do you feel about change? Are you resisting change in any part of your life or the life of the St. Paul's community? If so, what is behind your resistance or unease? How might you find a way to let go of that resistance? What would it mean to grown, as a person or a community? What would it feel like?

I invite all of us you to ponder some of these questions as summer yields to fall and we bear witness to the wisdom of change as reflected in nature. Perhaps we'll discover that, like the turning leaves, change can be a beautiful expression of a faithful life.

Blessings and joy,

*Craig*

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM

Oct. 4            Craig M. Nowak, Student Minister  
Oct. 11           TBA  
Oct. 18           Rev. Jonathan Rehms  
Oct. 25           Craig M. Nowak, Student Minister

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

The Board of Trustees decided there will be **no morning church service Sunday, November 22, 2009.** Craig Nowak, who is doing his student ministry at St. Paul's, will be the speaker at the **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on Sunday, November 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church.** Let's all plan to attend to support Craig and the ecumenical services in Palmer.

### 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

		Oct. 17	Karen Papineau
Oct. 12	Harriet Prater	18	Sheila Thompson
16	Denise & Rob Faulkner	19	Irene Christiansen

### Food Share

Are you willing and able to help out a friend in need? 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 October community meal will be on Saturday, October 24. These will continue on the 4th Saturday of each month. As always, any help you can give will be surely appreciated.

## **FYI**

**TAG SALE** is open in Fellowship Hall on Saturdays, from 10 am until 1 pm through November 14. If you have time to help out on a Saturday, we'd be glad to have you. **September Tag Sale – ONCE AGAIN A HUGE SUCCESS !!!!!!! Thanks so very much to those folks who work tirelessly on this project.**

**CAPITAL FUND** Donations Request: We have had a good response to the August letter signed by June Bacon, Gordon Christiansen and Bob Faulkner. As of September 10: \$7,330.95 had been received from 11 donors. Donations are welcome and may be sent to the church office, marked "Capital Fund."

**CLARA BARTON DISTRICT NEWS:** In the most recent edition of the District's newsletter, District Executive Lynn Thomas announces her retirement at the end of 2009. A copy of the newsletter will be available in Fellowship Hall or you can sign up to receive the newsletter at [clarabartondist@verizon.net](mailto:clarabartondist@verizon.net)  
**FALL RALLY** will be held on November 7 at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. In an effort to 'go green' and save money, the District will not be sending registration materials via postal mail. As the date nears, info will be posted in Fellowship Hall and will be available at the District website [www.cbd.uua.org](http://www.cbd.uua.org)

**FROM THE UUA:** In an effort to avoid the cost – both monetary and environmental – of printing and mailing publications, many of the UUA's publications are now available only in electronic form. These – and other UUA publications – are available on-line at <http://www.uua.org/publications/> If you don't have internet access, or otherwise need assistance accessing this info, please contact Tracie at the church office – she'd be happy to help!

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT** There has been a lot going on this summer, as this list shows!

- A) Painting church trim (minus steeples) and two handicapped ramps: Finished & Paid
- B) Painting barn: Finished & Paid
- C) Bat Control in church attic: Finished  
Clean up of manure: Finished. Paid 9/3/09
- D) Renovation of nine stained glass windows: Removed windows are at studio. Late Sept. or Oct. completion. Plywood covering openings was painted trim color.
- E) Waiting for National Grid Bill for energy Saving work
- F) We are waiting cost estimate to solve rain drainage problem from Fellowship Hall roof to drywells.
- G) Church sign for Park Street Lawn has not arrived. It will be put inside barn until we can erect it.
- H) Prepaid fuel oil has been purchased from Noonan Energy for next winter.
- I) Rick Dunderdale has brought our snow blower to be serviced before winter.
- J) Well-Design Alarm Systems has been told to go ahead with upgrading our Fire Alarm System.

Halloween "Trick or Treat" will be at the end of this month. If you are out and about that evening, please watch for the ghosts and goblins walking around.



## St. Paul's History –

Our interim minister starting September 1, 1998, was the Rev. Alison Hyder from Baltimore, Md. She recommended we should get more involved in district and denominational activities and held brown bag lunches for people to get together for religious discussion. At the 1999 annual meeting of the CVD a motion to merge the CVD and the Central Massachusetts District was approved to take place in 2000. The newly merged district was named Clara Barton District (CBD). A renovation was planned for the second floor of the church building above the daycare center to provide a meeting place for a youth group. It has not been carried out yet. Ms. Hyder left for Provincetown, MA on August 31, 1999.

The Rev. George A. Tyger came to us from an interim ministry in Springfield, MA. September 1, 1999. Mr. Tyger believed we must begin to seriously look at where we were as a community and where we were going. He stated that this church was in very dire straights, that our members were resistant to change in theology, liturgy, spending, leadership, and programs. He felt that our number of members had almost fallen below the critical mass needed to sustain a congregation. He stated that there was a need for a major attitudinal change.

In 2001, the Board developed a covenant, an agreement of how we would treat each other:

We Covenant to walk together:

**In Love**, by nurturing one another's spiritual growth and full humanity;

**In Respect**, by honoring one another's beliefs and intentions, listening without judgment; listening to understand;

**In Compassion**, by being there for one another in times of joy and sorrow alike;

**In Humor**, by learning to laugh together, have fun together, and joyously celebrate our faith community.

Thus do we covenant with one another in faith and in love.

The members were shocked when Mr. Tyger announced his resignation effective July 31, 2001, only after 23 months here. In his final report he asked St. Paul's to consider the option of intentionally closing our doors with a suggested 5-year-plan to accomplish it. He moved to Rochester, NY, to a larger church—an opportunity he said he could not pass up.



If you are old enough to remember Red Skelton, I think you will enjoy this. For those of you not old enough you will see what you missed. Either way, his humor was always clean and he was a great entertainer. A rerun of great one liner's from the man who was known for his clean humor. I hope you get a chuckle or two reading them once more.

## RED SKELTON'S RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

1. Two times a week we go to a nice restaurant, have a little beverage, good food and companionship. She goes on Tuesdays; I go on Fridays.
2. We also sleep in separate beds. Hers is in California , and mine is in Texas .
3. I take my wife everywhere.... But she keeps finding her way back.
4. I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said. So I suggested the kitchen.
5. We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.
6. She has an electric blender, electric toaster and electric bread maker. She said "There are too many gadgets, and no place to sit down!" So I bought her an electric chair.
7. My wife told me the car wasn't running well because there was water in the carburetor. I asked where the car was. She told me, "In the lake."
8. She got a mud pack, and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off.
9. I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.
10. I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months I don't like to interrupt her.
11. The last fight was my fault though. My wife asked, "What's on the TV?" I said, "Dust!"

Can't you just hear him say all of these? These were the good old days. When humor didn't have to start with a four letter word. It was just clean and simple fun. And he always ended his programs with the words, "God Bless."