



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

December 2009

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I recently came across the following warning and thought it important to share with you as we move into December...

WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS*

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts and minds of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.
- Advent begins November 29th. May we prepare ourselves to give and receive hope, peace, joy, and love as we experience the coming, or *Advent*, of Christmas.

Blessings and joy,
Craig

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM

Dec. 6	Craig Nowak, Student Minister
Dec. 13	Rev. Jon Rehmus
Dec. 20	Craig Nowak, Student Minister
Dec. 24	Lay Led, 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight service of music, carols, and readings
Dec. 27	Rev. Bill Baughan

Services in Fellowship Hall for remainder of winter.

*** 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

Dec. 5	Cathy Senecal	Dec. 17	Rev. Peri Murdock
12	Sue King	18	John Grzebien
16	Maurice Tierney	30	Talin France

Food Share

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. Please remember these people in your holiday shopping!

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

There will be NO community meal in December. See you in 2010 !



Christmas Flowers

Call Barbara Stone at 413-283-5257 if you would like to put flowers on the altar during the holiday season.

Notes on Winter Services

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday December 24th at 7:00 pm

Please bring your family to our lay-led service of music, candles, holiday readings, decorations, Christmas carols and celebration.

Services move to Fellowship Hall

Again we will conserve fuel by moving our Sunday services to Fellowship Hall during the three months between Christmas and Palm Sunday. The Sundays included are between December 27 and March 21.

Off Visiting!

Your Religious Services Committee has planned to have St. Paul's members visit another UU Church on the first Sunday of January, February and March. We will meet here and car-pool for the trip. This replaces our regular service here. January 3rd to Amherst is our first visit.

Buildings and Grounds Report

- A) Stained Glass Windows job in 90% done. Probable installation: Mid-December. On Nov. 13, six of us had a tour of stained glass studio.
- B) Church sign installation was delayed because changeable letter cabinet was delivered without internal lighting. Mistake correction took about two weeks. Installation will be soon.
- C) All cellar windows in both buildings have been cleaned, broken panes replaced, re-weather stripped.
- D) Three furnaces have had annual cleaning and service.

Robert G. Faulkner, Sr.

FYI..

THANK YOU! To all members of St. Paul's, thank you for your generous contributions to our collection drive for Palmer Food Share held at our Nov. 15th service. We collected 86 pounds of food to donate to Food Share.

Congratulations to Bonnie Rathbone on receiving the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's Founders Day Award. According to Zonta president Mary Knight, Bonnie, principal at Palmer High School, was selected to receive the award because "She doesn't just care about educating children. She is concerned about the whole child. She has been a real inspiration for a lot of people and we wanted to acknowledge that." Congratulations, Bonnie!

The fundraising committee cannot accept any further donations to our tag sales due to space constraints. We have used all of our storage space to its full capacity. Books and videos only will be accepted until further notice.

Bob Faulkner & Barbara Stone represented St. Paul's in the ecumenical choir on Sunday, November 22 during the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at the Second Congregational Church. Choirs from St. Anne's, St. Thomas and Second Congregational Churches also participated.



Mark your calendar -

The Hubbardston UU Church is having a free performance by the Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet on **Sunday, Dec. 6 at 5:30 pm**. This quintet includes trumpet, horn, trombone and a tuba. The concert features an array of our favorite holiday songs. This musical organization was formed when the towns of the Quabbin Reservoir were flooded. The First Universalist Parish of Dana established a trust fund to keep the memory of North Dana and their churches alive.

Don't forget that the public schools will be on Christmas holiday this month.



A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous... When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why... "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come he doesn't answer it?" she asked.

When my daughter, Lucy, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Lucy would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Lucy, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook", said Johnny.

Until next year....

