



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

June, July, August 2010

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

“Time flies when you’re having fun.” So goes the familiar saying, a saying that is not without truth. With summer right before us I am reminded that our time together is quickly drawing to a close. My contract with St. Paul’s ends in August and I will be moving on in the fall to a two-year internship at First Parish in Concord, MA.

I hope you have enjoyed our time together as much as I have. I came to St. Paul’s confident in our ability and willingness to work together and indeed, much has been accomplished. I have learned so much from all of you and you have taken my insights and observations to heart, courageously accepting some of the risks and challenges I’ve invited you to take over these last nine months. Things like wearing name tags has made Sunday mornings more welcoming for visitors and my challenge to you to bring a friend to church saw a nearly 30% increase in attendance for that Sunday. I commend your efforts, for it can be difficult for a small church to risk the comfort of familiarity to let others into the circle. Your efforts have shown however that you can do it.

Of course, there is still much to be done. The vision and hope for St. Paul’s I have heard expressed by many of you will require St. Paul’s to continue the work we’ve begun together and to seek out and accept greater risks and challenges in the years ahead. Remember our benediction:

Go out into the world in peace
Have courage
Return to no person evil for evil
Strengthen the fainthearted
Support the weak
Help the suffering
Honor all beings

These words speak not only to our responsibility to the world outside the walls of the church, but to our responsibility to the world within it as well; for we too are, at times, the fainthearted, the weak, and the suffering. We too, at times, must choose courage over comfort and be willing to honestly examine the motives behind our action or inaction. This reality can be hard to face sometimes, but I know we can do it.

I look forward to the remaining time we have together this summer and to welcoming our friends from other area congregations at our union services. I also want to thank each and every one of you for your gracious hospitality and support over the past year. I know our time together will have a lasting impact on my ministry and I hope, in some small way, on your ministry as well. Indeed, as the 19th C. Unitarian minister Minot J. Savage observed, "We say we exchange words when we meet. What we exchange is souls."

Peace and blessings,
Craig

--- Thank you Craig for all you have done for this congregation. Good luck in the future, and please come to visit us from time to time. ---

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM

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

June 6 Craig Nowak

13 Rev. Jon Rehmus

20 Craig Nowak

27 NO SERVICE

July 4 Rev. Bill Baughan

Held at St. Paul's

11 Craig Nowak

Held at St. Paul's

18 Craig Nowak

Held at St. Paul's

25 Baptist Church

Aug. 1 Baptist Church

8 Baptist Church

15 Congregational Church

22 Congregational Church

29 Congregational Church

Regular Services begin on September 5 at St. Paul's

Coffee Hour

If you are willing and able to host a coffee hour, please call June Bacon at 413-283-5290 or Harriot Henrichon at 413-289-1870 to help out. Verna Besaw and Terry King have been providing wonderful goodies for coffee hour every week this past year. Enjoy your summer girls !

Anniversaries and Birthdays

June 3 Bob Faulkner

June 13 Amy Bacon

10 Jane & Art Alois

24 Sam Allen

July 1 Jennifer Torrel

29 Barbara Stone

7 June Bacon

30 Virginia Tierney

8 Eleanor Keydel

9 Barb and Dan Windoloski

Aug. 12 Crystal and Jerome Torrell

Aug. 29 Mary Lee-Henrichon

22 Harriot Henrichon

Peggy Corriveau

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.

Church Greeters

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

Community Meals

No community meals during the summer.



FYI

June 6 – St. Paul's Annual Meeting

June 14 is Flag Day.

June 20 is Father's Day

June 16 is the last day of school in Palmer.

June 21 is the FIRST day of Summer.

July 5 (Monday) Independence Day is observed

The Book Sale and Curio Shoppe is open in Fellowship Hall on Saturdays, from 10 am until 1 pm. If you are willing and able to help out on a Saturday, please let June Bacon or Gordon Christiansen know.

We are still collecting items for our military personnel overseas. See Jane Alois if you have any questions.

Clara Barton and Mass Bay Districts are very excited to announce that we have named Doug Zelinski as Director of Leadership Development under the new shared staffing arrangement between the districts. Doug will begin his duties on July 1, 2010.

Doug will develop infrastructure for training and support of key lay leaders in our congregations. He will also share many district staff functions such as leading training programs, assisting in staff and ministerial transitions, responding to congregational requests for assistance, and deepening UU identity.

Doug has served three years as the Leadership Development Consultant for the Metro New York District of the UUA. Prior to that, he honed his skills during 20 years of organizational development work with human service nonprofit agencies as well as city and county government.

His experience ranges from program evaluation, metrics identification and management, to board development and community-wide planning. He is familiar with the challenges of congregational lay leadership roles, occupying many of them during his time with the First UU Church of Columbus, Ohio.

Doug will be relocating to the Clara Barton district over the summer. His partner of

seventeen years, Steve Schack, is an elementary school teacher for the Columbus City School system. Doug looks forward to serving both Districts by providing the tools, know-how and inspiration to create healthy vital congregations. Doug may be contacted at dzelinski@uua.org.

Please join us in welcoming Doug to his new position!

Changes in the CBD Office

The CBD District Administrator, Mary Ellen Wilson, has left our District employ. We thank her for her dedicated service and wish her well in her future endeavors!

In the interest of cost effectiveness we have closed the physical office in Westford and melded operations with the Mass Bay office. The same phone number (978-392-6700) and email address (clarabartondist@verizon.net) are in use.

Office staff, Judy Murray and Meck Groot, are ready and willing to assist you. Feel free to call and introduce yourselves!

CBD Newsletter Editor

Clara Barton District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations

978.392.6700

Creating and Leading Dynamic Lay-Led Worship

DATE: June 12, 2010

TIME: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

LOCATION: First UU Church of Milford, MA

Come explore the worship theory and theology that lie behind your congregation's Order of Service. This experiential workshop will help move participants toward a holistic understanding of the art and craft of creating and leading worship. We'll explore Unitarian Universalist worship theory and focus on the flow and thematic integration of worship elements. Participants will emerge with more awareness of what makes worship spiritually enlivening and theologically deep, and with the tools to put this awareness into practice.

This workshop will be especially helpful for:

- Worship Committee Teams
- Worship Associates
- Lay preachers, readers, musicians or other individuals who show gifts or interest in liturgy
- Ministerial Interns
- Directors of Religious Education

Fee: \$35 ministry students; \$90 individuals; \$350 for a congregational team of 4 or more - includes breakfast, lunch, and materials.

Have a Safe Summer. The newsletter will resume in September.
spending my summer! *Barb Windolowski, editor*



You know where I'll be