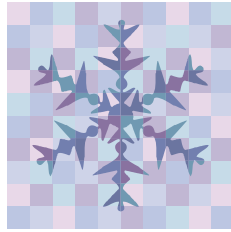


January 2011



**St. Paul's Church of Palmer
Universalist-Unitarian**

Box 307, 1060 Central Street
Palmer, MA 01069-0307
413-283-8185
stpauluu1@verizon.net
www.uuchurch-palmer.org

Tracie Shea, Church Administrative Assistant
Barbara Stone, Music Director
Rob Faulkner, Church Custodian

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 am-2 pm

NEWSLETTER

One Minister's View

This is the time of your life. So, are you having "the time of your life?" Or, are you instead saying, "Maybe someday."

We journey through the changing years. We live here and now in the present, so, must the past be prologue? The idea of the "past" as "prologue" was created by Shakespeare in "The Tempest," Act II, Scene I.

In the 1999 Hollywood film, "Magnolia," written and directed by Paul Anderson, actor William Macy spoke these haunting words. He said: "We may be through with the past but the past is not through with us."

"You look sad and worried," observed a child. "What are you worried about?" Replied the old man, "My future." Asked the child again, "What makes your future so hopeless?" Replied the worried old man, "My past."

Humorous British journalist, Hector Hugh Munro, who wrote novels under the pen name of "Saki", wrote this famous lament: "The young have aspirations that never come to pass; the old have reminiscences of what never happened." And, Alan Watts, a prolific author of Zen, said, "The wake does not drive the boat. The wake is the trail that is left behind."

We worry about our health, our advancing age, our need to lose weight, financial problems, our personal relationships, and, so much more. Even when everything is presently fine, anxiety is never far away. But, there are two days in every week we should not worry about. One is yesterday. The other is tomorrow. So, that leaves only today.

Today, have no fear. Today, have only authentic faith! Center your life on love, integrity, beauty, goodness, wonder, and discovery. Many worrisome problems take care of themselves. There is yet more life to live. The most important thing in life is not where you are standing, but rather, the direction in which you are heading, or at least facing.

May you each have a happy, anxiety-free, and joy-filled New Year!

Rev. Bill Baughan

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at 10 AM

Fellowship Hall

Jan. 2	Rev. Bill Baughan	"The Changing Years"
Jan. 9	Deborah Nowers	
Jan. 16	Rev. Jon Rehmus	
Jan. 23	Rev. Darrick Jaskcon	
Jan. 30	Rev. Bill Baughan	"Nothing Happens Unless First a Dream"

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

Coffee Hour

Following our services, you are invited to stay for coffee and fellowship. A huge thank you to Verna Besaw and Terry King, who graciously provide us with some wonderful "goodies" each week.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Jan. 9	Vicktorian Rose Harvey	Mary Papineau	Jan. 29
Jan. 17	Sharane Tierney	Maurice & Virginia Tierney	Jan. 11
Jan. 25	Rick Dunderdale	Holly & Larry Boulanger	Jan. 22
Jan. 27	Jane Alois		

Food Share

It's a new year! Many people are struggling between putting food on the table, or paying a bill. 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. If you choose, you can send 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 January meal will be held on **Saturday, January 22**, beginning at 5:00 pm.

FYI

Members and friends of UUPM, It is with great sadness that I must let you know of the passing of Elizabeth Pratt. Blessings, Rev. Darrick

If church needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, there will be an announcement made on Channel 22, WWLP.

CAPITAL FUND UPDATE: The FY 10-11 Capital Fund Drive has brought in \$5,875 in donations to date. Donations to the fund drive are still welcome and can be mailed to the church office with a "Capital Fund" notation. Thank you very much for your continuing support!

Bonny Rathbone was recently awarded the Annual Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Palmer Rotary. This award is given to those who contribute to its humanitarian and educational programs.

Joan (Flint) Belliveau, sister of June Bacon, passed away on November 23. Prayers and thoughts go out to her family. Many people of St. Paul's knew Joan well and have so many fond memories of her.

Rev. Bill Baughan was invited and is appointed to the Board Of Directors of The Universalist Herald, known as "the oldest continuously published liberal religious magazine in North America," established in 1847 as The Religious Reformer. During the past few years, he served on the Board of Directors of The Counseling Center Of The Berkshires in Pittsfield, MA.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT: In October, the pest control company returned to plug more holes in the attic roof ridge holes, which should solve the bat problem in the church. Also in October, a new fire alarm system was installed in the church building. November was a busy month. Rob Faulkner repaired exterior flood lamps and security lights as well as four toilets. The snow blower was serviced prior to winter snows, a service call was made to our organ, and Food Share paid for the re-roofing of the 39 Walnut Street building. And of course, the Tag Sales ended and the hall was cleared until next April.

Did You Know:

Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

Use a wet cotton ball or Q-Tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.

Place a dryer sheet in your pocket to keep pesky mosquitoes away.

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy shirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in the seam of the slacks and....

Static is gone !

If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place the sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. It unseals easily.

Santa Deflated

Stopped at the traffic light
I observe
Vinyl Santa deflated,
lying prone on someone's lawn,
flaccid, fixed eyes staring
beatified toward the heavens above.
His life-giving ether expelled,
recombines with the greater atmosphere--
his holiday spirit quelled.

And while I ponder, trance-like,
the significance of this scene,
seasonal, spectral wave-lengths before me,
reverse from red to green,
while irate car-horns sound to reveille,
the harmonic, post-holiday mean.

Submitted by Cathy Senecal



"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.
A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

-Bill Vaughan



From the Ground Up...

My first grade experience was probably more of a trial for my teacher than it was for me. I was five years old when I started school. There had been no Pre-K or Kindergarten. I gave up my leisurely days at home with adults “cold turkey.”

School and I were mutually unsuited to each other. The regimentation felt demeaning and I thought it unnecessary. The cafeteria food was disgusting and I had never drunk milk with a meal. I was claustrophobic in the classroom bathroom. I felt silly reciting the “sounds” that letters make. I couldn’t understand why we had to sing “dumb” songs like “This is the Way We Wash Our Clothes” instead of something by Perry Como or the Shirelles, why we didn’t have colored chalk for the chalkboard, why we could only use our tin box of colored wooden pegs for adding and subtracting and not for making pretty designs. I was shocked to learn that some kids thought their parents’ only names were “Mommy and Daddy,” and some kids chewed rubber erasers and ate library paste off a wooden ruler.

I was smaller than everyone else, had undiagnosed vision problems, couldn’t run fast, couldn’t bounce a ball, couldn’t tell right from left (I still can’t), ruined all the class pageants because I couldn’t follow directions and rung up a string of “zero’s” on my classroom work for asking the same questions too many times.

I had a feeling that talking about things like how funny Nikita Khrushchev looked banging his shoe on the table at the U.N. General Assembly, would not find favor with my teacher during ‘sharing circle.’;

I kept all my resentments to myself, however, as well as low profile, and went along to get along much as I was able. “Your name is ‘Catherine.’ Do they call you ‘Cathy?’” my teacher asked. I readily nodded in the agreement, though I had never been called ‘Cathy’ in my entire life.

At the end of the first school week I whispered to a veteran classmate who was repeating first grade, “What happens when you do something wrong?”

“You get sent out in the hall,” he whispered back.

“And then what?”

“That’s it.”

I was nonplussed. Being sent out of the classroom seemed more like a reward—until it happened to me, that is.

“Why are you out here in the hall with your coat on?” the principal demanded to know.

“I can’t undo the top button.” I answered, sweating profusely by then.

“There must be more to it than that,” she insisted.

“No, that’s all.”

“Let’s go back to the classroom,” she ordered, whereupon my teacher dragged me up in front of the room and spun me around to face the entire class,

“Now do you think it’s fair that I should help you when everyone else has been sitting at their desks for half an hour doing their work?” she criticized

“Yes.”

“Why!”

“Because I can’t get my coat off by myself.”

In exasperation, she unfastened the difficult button. “Go sit down!” she yelled.

After that, I was out “sick” a lot.

As a consequence, I was placed in a group for struggling readers, but the “silly” sounds that the letters made had begun to coalesce easily for me, and reading had become one of my few schooltime pleasures. I listened with envy to the “Bluebirds,” the advanced reading group, recite their daily readings, with the heartfelt certainty that I belonged there with them.

Regardless of the possible retribution, there was something inside of me that had to come out, and I gathered the nerve to address my teacher, “I want to read with the Bluebirds. I can read as good as they do.”

“Oh, you think so, do you?” she answered with raised eyebrow. “Well, I’ll let you try it, but you’re going to have to work hard if you want to stay there,” was her taught-lipped response.

Actually, it was less work for me to be free to read at level than to have to pretend to read poorly. My first reading with the Bluebirds was flawless and I waited for my teacher’s surprised words of praise.

“Stephen, you’re next,” she said.

I thought perhaps I hadn’t been given enough to read to prove how well I could do it, but as time went on and I was tutoring others in the group, there was still no acknowledgement from my teacher. Even as I eventually advanced enough to leave the classroom altogether and be placed with 2nd and 3rd grade readers—still no word from my teacher.

My teacher’s peculiar unwillingness to offer encouragement seems as much of a deficit to me now as it did when I was barely six. Fifty years later as I type this article, I recognize many parallels in my past challenge to achieve literacy with my present journey to create my own theology. I suspect that most of you, like me, find yourselves in a UU church because you also have “something inside” that needs to find expression and no other venue fosters and nurtures individual spirituality like Unitarian Universalism.

I choose the title “*From the Ground Up...*” for this Newsletter feature because my early years at St. Paul’s were spent slightly below ground in the basement, teaching Religious Education and since then I have been encouraged by the members of St. Paul’s to stretch beyond my own self-doubts and participate in many other areas of church life as well. My experiences here are dynamic and ever-changing, have kept me growing spiritually and helped me maintain a footing through life’s vicissitudes. Here, at St. Paul’s, I’ve finally been vindicated from a demoralizing past!

We, at St. Paul’s, have our Trustees meetings, our stewardship and our building maintenance. We have our covenant, our community service and our Sunday service. We even have a mission statement. But our **unstated** mission is the support we give one another to be the best individuals we can possibly be. At St. Paul’s this encouragement is at the core of everything we do. And really, isn’t that the essential purpose of any religious faith?

Let us keep our clear and optimistic vision in front of us and carry with us what we do so well into the new year and all the years ahead.

Happy New Year, and thank you all for some happy old ones,

Cathy





Clara Barton and
Massachusetts Bay Districts
of Unitarian Universalist Congregations
invite you to

Creating and Revitalizing Lay Pastoral Care Teams



Rev. Sue Phillips, District Executive

This program will help your congregation create, update, or re-energize your network of lay parish and pastoral caregivers. Explore the differences between parish care (cards, casseroles, rides) and pastoral care (visiting and longer-term support) and the different training, support, and organizational infrastructure required for each. Reflect on the minister's role in pastoral care and the ministry of lay people to

each other, and learn how to design or revitalize pastoral care programs that address your congregation's needs. Special attention will be given to identifying, recruiting, training and supporting pastoral care teams. We will also spend time reflecting on the unique skills required of lay pastoral caregivers and explore the spiritual shifts necessary to become grounded pastoral caregivers. Teams of lay people and ministers are strongly urged to attend.

Cost: \$300 for a congregational team of up to 6 (\$50 per additional team member); \$75 for an individual; \$35 for ministerial students

This workshop is being offered twice - once in CBD and once in MBD. You are welcome to attend whichever session is more convenient for your team.

OFFICE

182 Main Street,
Watertown, MA 02472
[Email](#)
617-393-4216
www.cbd-mbd-uua.org

MBD Offering

January 22, 2011
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
[First Parish Church in Weston](#)

Register now! Click [here](#) to register for this offering in MBD. One person can register as many as 5 people at one time. Register the first person, then register the rest as "guests."

Registration **deadline:** January 17, 2011

CBD Offering

January 29, 2010
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
[Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel](#)

Register now! Click [here](#) to register for this offering in CBD. One person can register as many as 5 people at one time. Register the first person, then register the rest as "guests."

Registration **deadline:** January 24, 2011

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT PAST OFFERINGS OF THIS WORKSHOP

- Very helpful. Worth the time! Definitely GO!
- I came away with many ideas of what we might improve and with some validation that many of the things we are doing are right on.
- I very much enjoyed meeting others involved in lay ministry and hearing their "joys and concerns" about their own efforts.
- It was helpful to hear what Pastoral Care is and what it is not.
- Sue Phillips seems very familiar with how Lay Ministry works in various congregations. This, along with input from other congregations that have been doing this for a while, was the most valuable.
- The speaker was well-prepared and a fine presenter. The clear explanation of the difference between Parish Care and Pastoral Care was so helpful. The emphasis on finding Gifts in a congregation versus finding Needs is a big concept to embrace and seems worth looking at.
- I found it helpful that the material did not assume our church had a program already in place.

January 2011

Cancellation of services due to inclement weather will be listed on 22News
or you may contact Cathy Senecal at 413-283-7277 after 6am on Sunday

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