

# St. Paul's Church of Palmer



Unitarian Universalist

1060 Central Street  
PO Box 307  
Palmer, MA 01069

413) 283-8185  
StPaulUU1@verizon.net  
www.uuchurch-palmer.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
Tuesday 9am – 2pm  
Wednesday 9am – 2pm  
Thursday 9am – 2pm

## April Newsletter

### One Minister's View

Photos by  
Cathy Senecal

Hooray! Just two weeks ago, we were able to officially say it's finally Spring! Spring is my favorite time of year! Spring is birth, and re-birth, and new beginnings. If I could say it better than Al Cole or Ray Baughan, I would, but, they said it all for me, as follows.

Poet-minister, the Rev. Alfred S. Cole, who died in January 1977, had this to say about it:



"Something there is in the heart of April that cannot fade or die. Something across the centuries which has lifted humanity's face from the dust and pointed onward to new horizons.

"The bird in the treetop sings of the joy which lies at the heart of things; something leads humanity to leave the valley roads, scale the heights, weigh the stars, pit puny strength against the elements, and peer into the flaming center of life itself.

### CHURCH CALENDAR

Services are at  
10:00 AM

#### April 3

**Rev. Bill Baughan**

*Who Was The Man Jesus*

#### April 10

**Rev. Darrick Jackson**

*Shadow Work*

#### April 17 (Palm Sunday)

**Rev. Bill Baughan**

*The Real Victory of Jesus*

#### April 24 (Easter Sunday)

**Rev. Darrick Jackson**

*The Four Paths*

Services return  
to the  
church sanctuary  
on April 10<sup>th</sup>

Coffee Hour immediately  
following the Sunday  
Service in Fellowship Hall.

“Look up and listen! The trumpets of Spring are sounding! Life surges upward in the dull sod and in the heart of human beings. Cry aloud for the sheer wonder of living, the glory of friendship, and the strength of love.”

\* \* \*

Poet-minister, the Rev. Raymond J. Baughan, my father, who died in February 1993, wrote these words about his anticipated death during the last three months of his life. He published five books of meditations, but, this one is from his notes and was never published.



“The broken branch reveals no flower. Spring skies bring blossoms forth, and the whole earth moves when the tired world floats in transforming skies, while, if you ask the rain, some things stand still: the shapes of hills, the sound of seas, breath, death, and the speed of light.

“But then you disappeared! Where'd you go? Next door! You have gone where you really were – one with earth and sun and the human heart. “Bells ring and sing through the depths of me. It's Spring. It's Spring.”

Happy Easter  
To Each And All!

*Rev. Bill Baughan*



## COFFEE HOUR

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Verna Besaw for preparing goodies for coffee hour week after week. Coffee hour is the time when we get to touch base with and care about each other and Verna makes that time "sweeter" for all of us.



## 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.

## FOOD SHARE

Winter may be over, but many folks are still struggling to make ends meet. 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. You can even mail monetary donations to Food Share, 39 Walnut Street, Palmer 01069.





## ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS



April 4 Bryan Tierney  
April 9 Robyn Faulkner  
April 29 Denise Faulkner



~ FYI ~



**TAG SALE** season opening is **SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH**. It will be open every Saturday, 10am – 1pm, and open Tuesday through Saturday during Flea Market weeks (May 10-14; July 12-16; Sept 6-10). As you undertake your 'spring cleaning,' please remember: donations of furniture, lamps, books, compact discs, videos and assorted odds & ends are greatly appreciated (no clothing, toys, computers, televisions, mattresses or encyclopedias please). If you have some items to donate or if you'd like to help out on a Saturday, please contact Gordon Christiansen or June Bacon.

**SET-UP FOR THIS YEAR'S TAG SALE WILL BEGIN**

**AFTER SERVICES THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 3.**

**ANY HELP MOVING AND PLACING ITEMS WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED!**

**CLARA BARATON DISTRICT** annual meeting will be held April 9. Further info is available in Fellowship Hall, or visit the district website: [www.cdb-mbd-uua.org](http://www.cdb-mbd-uua.org)

**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY** will be held this year in Charlotte, NC from June 22-26. Further info is available in Fellowship Hall, or visit their website: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) (>events > general assembly).

**SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY:** This school year a local Daisy Girl Scout Troop has been meeting weekly upstairs in Fellowship House. Additionally, the Celtic Thunder Youth Pipe Band has been using Fellowship Hall each month for rehearsals, and St Paul's is hosting a film series for BlueStar Equiculture this spring (there's a flyer posted in the hall if you're interested in learning more about the films).



**Spring is wonderful....**

**It makes you feel young enough to do all the things you're old enough to know you can't!**

-Franklin P. Jones

**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 April meal will be held on Saturday, April 23rd, beginning at 5:00 pm.

**THANKS TO** Cathy Senecal for sharing her wonderful photographic talents with us! Her photographs have certainly brought new life to our newsletters.



**Congratulations** to Maura & Ellie Shea (daughters of church admin Tracie) on their recent achievements at the Worcester County 4H Visual Presentation competition. Both girls qualified to continue on at the state level on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Bedford and also earned a "Big E Quality" award, entitling them to present on the 4H stage at the Eastern States Expo this fall. Maura's presentation was titled "Topographical Maps: Don't Leave Home Without One" and Ellie's was titled "Macaws of the Amazon Rainforest."



**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** As we've all noticed, it was a tough winter –street clearing caused huge snow bankings on the sidewalks around the church property that were especially tough to deal with, and we received no assistance from the town of Palmer with their removal. Our thanks again to Rick Dunderdale for his snow removal efforts, and to Rob Faulkner for helping out. Now that spring has arrived, Rick should have a reprieve for a few months! Despite the rough weather, we remain well within our fuel budget, which is always a good spot to be. The old dishwasher has been disconnected, thanks to Rob, and efforts are underway to select a replacement. Bob Faulkner has met with a representative of Columbia Restoration to assess the situation with the bulge in the granite wall of the church building near the steeple. The representative will be submitting a report and quote to Bob & we'll update you after that.



**CAPITAL FUND:** Thank you for your generous support of St. Paul's Capital Fund drive. Donations to date this fiscal year total \$6,450.00. Donations are welcome at any time and checks may be sent to the church office (address at top of newsletter) with "Capital Fund" noted in the memo.

**DISCUSSION GROUP FORMING:** Bi-weekly discussion group with Palmer and Monson churches is in the formative stages, for anyone interested in gathering for informal discussion on a variety of topics. See Cathy Senecal for more details.

**POT LUCK:** Our next pot-luck will be following Sunday service on May 22.



## From the Board.....

At the March meeting, these items were discussed:

### *Building & Grounds:*

The old dishwasher has been disconnected and will be sold for scrap. Barbara Stone and June Bacon will shop for a new dishwasher. Bob Faulkner has met with Roy Brown in February and with Michael Aiezza on March 18th regarding the Church granite problem – wall near steeple. Quote forthcoming.

### *Religious Services:*

Starting in September, Jonathan Rehmus will preach the third Sunday of every month; Bill Baughan will preach twice a month; the Religious Services committee will search for a third minister to round out the remaining Sundays. The Fundraising committee will begin setting up the Tag Sale on Sunday, April 3rd.

### *Membership/Program:*

New pamphlets will be inserted with "welcome letters" sent to visitors who sign the guest book.

### *Religious Education:*

Cathy Senecal will be working with both Palmer and Monson next church year on religious education. Every other week the R.E. program will be in Monson/Palmer.

### *New Business:*

The Board voted to instruct the employees of the Quaboag Children's Center to park on Converse St., except from Dec. 1st to March 1st.

The Board also voted to authorize Bob Faulkner, Gordon Christiansen and June Bacon to dispose of Church property valued at less than \$500 per item.

Blue Star will use Fellowship Hall Friday, April 1st and one of the downstairs rooms on Friday, April 8th.

Junior Celtic Band will practice in Fellowship Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month in two rooms downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



**FLOWER TIME!** Those wishing to place a plant in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday are asked to complete the following and return it to Barbara Stone. Additional forms will be available in Fellowship Hall. Orders must be placed by Sunday, April 17.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEDICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**E** aster will arrive with its praises and alleluias  
**A** fter a long, cold, and wet winter  
**S** pring flowers will be blooming  
**T** ulips, lilies, daffodils, and more  
**E** arning the oos and aahs of all  
**R** eady to begin the new season

**EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in Fellowship Hall, or you may complete the following and mail it to the church office (address at top of newsletter).

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## My Easter Offering....



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# 135<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LADIES' SOCIAL UNION

Submitted by Barbara Stone

The Ladies' Social Union was formed in 1876 with both men and women joining to serve the church. The women had several money-making projects consisting of rummage sales, food sales, birthday aprons, and church suppers. They raised part of the money for carpeting in the sanctuary, plus pulpit furniture and cushions for the

pews. You are sitting on the original cushion filling (horsehair) each Sunday! About 65 years ago, the ladies brought their sewing machines to the parlor (now one of the rooms used by the daycare) and made coverings for the pews. These are now being re-

recovered by Barbara Stone in "pillow-case" style so they can be reversed.

1952-1989 secretary

records are in existence as are some of the old financial reports. Older records have been lost during home cleanings of those members who have passed away.

Another project started was an Altar Flower Fund to provide flowers on the sanctuary altar each Sunday. For the most part, this tradition continues today.

At the Centennial Tea on April 18, 1976, there were ten members present. Today, Irene Christiansen and Barbara Stone are the remaining members.



2011 will mark the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ladies' Social Union here at St. Paul's. Pictured here on the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary are: Beth Stone, Irene Christiansen, Virginia Faulkner, Frances Fulton, Jean Dinwoodie, Madelyn Masson, Barbara Stone. Irene and Barbara are the remaining members.

The following words were contained in letters to the LSU on their anniversary from former member Lois Carsely and husband of a member, Ed Fisher.

“It is a real pleasure to address you and to remember back when I was an active member and really worked on church suppers which was our great purpose of the Ladies’. I first joined with Anne Slaney as we observed how hard the ladies were working on their annual turkey dinner and thought they might like some younger members. Our great affair at that time was the turkey dinner and fair in November which was the only affair of its kind in the whole town, but later the other churches started having them, but I still remember the ones at St. Paul’s when we only had a coal range and coffee was made in a boiler.” (This was from Lois Carsley)

And from Ed Fisher:

“It was the 19<sup>th</sup> of April in 1776 of 1975 I’m not sure of the year as there is no man alive who remembers that famous day and year when the Ladies’ Social Union was formed right here. They met to decide what would be their aim and they bored to help build the church and help maintain the same. They have continues year after year doing their thing, like remembering others (and me in 1971 when I was ill up at the Wing). So may I say God Bless the Ladies’ Social Union – one and all. May God be with them for the next hundred years as they continue their good work from Fellowship Hall.”



**A PHOTO FROM BARBARA STONE'S ALBLUM:**

Choir Members prior to a Sunday service: Dennis Ryan, Rev. David Boyer, Myrtle Fulton, Choir Director. Seated: Barbara Stone, Beth Stone, Back, Jacynth Estabrook, Chris Ryan, Madelyn Masson, and organist Glenys Cutler.



## *From the Ground Up...*

*"The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed- It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes." William Shakespeare*



As March's piercing winds subside, a day of April rain can take possession of our expectations for spring's warmth and light.

This 'blood of the earth' roils in the subterrain and as the tables rise, trees wriggle their hair roots into the yielding permafrost and worms and lichens lift their consciousnesses to the inevitability of life's renewal while the Robin warbles a throaty song of gratitude.

The rain washes our cars and turns the views from our spattered windows into impressionistic mosaics. It founts out of manholes and washes through downspouts like waterfalls, while its spilling echoes resonate at the bottom of storm drains.

Torrents of rainwater rush down my driveway and over the embankment to the Swift River, where the accelerated flow of the spring freshet over the Bondsville Dam crescendos in harmonic oscillation, to rattle my windows and doors and the dishes in the cupboard.

Water and mud in the back yard ooze under my footsteps as well as the feet of the cats and the squirrels. The tracks we leave behind quickly fill to become little vernal pools, broadcasting concentric circles in time with the dripping metronome. The soil percolates the rain in its embrace until all its asymmetries are leveled and can accept no more.

When the evening clouds finally unsheathe long and ethereal rods of sunlight, water slowly recedes and the dimpled, irregular ground is revealed once more. The moss sporophytes raise their brown caps aloft as if from prayer. Unwieldy clots of mud are drawn and sculpted into ferny friezes along the ground and convoluted crisscross patterns of water rill off into ditches. Ground fog lifts like a receiving blanket to swaddle the birthing spring and the earth is swollen and fecund and ripe with new life.



The land is the glad recipient of all that the clouds offer, and in the steamy days of mid-July will return the gift again.

On early May mornings, the sedum plants in my garden cup from the abundant morning dew a plump little drop in every succulent leaf. Nestled so, they are quick to deflect the sunlight--now green, now blue, now glittering bright-- and hide themselves behind emerald, sapphire and diamond. But a look from the shaded side reveals their transparency. When I touch a droplet, its form relaxes and leaves a darkened trail as it acquiescently weeps into the palm of my hand.

We, too, think we are hidden from view and then turn to find a thousand eyes upon us. Is it so hard then, to accept without reservation, the gifts that are freely offered, common to us all?



*Keep a perspective,*

*Cathy*