



First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

* The Parish Press

Editor: Cyndy Washburn-Doane

Holiday 2007

Preparing for the Holiday Season

Well, here it is again, the end of October. When I was growing up Halloween was a time for “trick or treat.” Lots of us carved pumpkins and lit them with a candle in front of the house, but that was about the extent of Halloween decoration. Now it seems that decorations for Halloween rival and perhaps at times surpass those for Christmas. It used to be that stores decorated for Thanksgiving with turkeys and cornucopia in windows and no one even thought of Christmas Shopping until after Thanksgiving. Now Christmas sales begin after Halloween.

I invite us to step back a little this year. With all that is going on in the world I invite us to truly savor Thanksgiving, not to let it get brushed aside as we move on to larger sales and busier days. Giving thanks should be more for us. If we have things to be thankful for, shouldn't we be working to insure that others have basic necessities? If we find time for peace, shouldn't we work for peace for others?

And as we approach Christmas might it not be a good time to remember Jesus' message—a message of peace and love for all people.

This Holiday Season let us really seek the meaning of the holidays and truly live them. Isn't that what being a religious person and a member of community is all about?

Ralph

Important Dates:

- 11-14 *Berry Bowl Making*
7pm
- 11-18 *Memorial Basket Making*
12 noon
- 11-23 *Wreath Making*
9 am – 3pm
- 11-30 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*
7 – 9pm
- 12-1 *Gingerbread Fair*
9 am – 3pm
- 12-9 *Dana Brass Concert*
2pm
- 12-16 *Kid's Christmas Party*
5:30pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*
5pm
- 1-13 *SSVMS: Rob Ward*
6:30pm
- 2-10 *SSVMS: Melissa Dymek*
6:30pm
- 3-9 *SSVMS: Resurrection*
Brass
6:30pm

Rev. Ralph Clarke
RE Director: Nancy Hubbard

Pianist: Melissa Dymek

Church 6:30 pm
Sunday School 5:30 pm

How to contact us:

First Parish Unitarian Church, Box 509, Hubbardston, MA 01452

Church
Phone:
978-928-
5822



Minister's Email:
rclarke@uuma.org

Minister's Phone:
978-808-3770

Websites:
hubbardstonunitarian.org
www.uua.org
www.cbd.uua.org

COMING EVENTS:



Laurel Wreath Making – The tradition of wreath making lives on. Beginning Friday November 23rd of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday November 25th from 9 am till 4 pm, we will create, assemble, fashion, build and construct close to 75 big fluffy laurel wreaths bejeweled with large pinecones and big red bows. If lots of us help, Sunday will not be necessary. Please bring a snack to share and 2 bags of laurel. If you do not have laurel on your property, give us a call and we will direct you to the great laurel pickin' patches. The laurel can be picked a few days in advance, make it an after dinner family excursion to get rid of those calories from that extra slice of pie. Better yet, pack up the pie and bring it for a snack. Place your orders for these handsome wreaths with Barbara (928-4475). They go quickly.



Woodland Christmas Quilt Raffle - The Woodlands Christmas Quilt will be raffled off at the close of the Gingerbread Fair on December 1st. This quilt is a 79" x 96" pieced country quilt that is tied and quilted with stars twinkling in a field of maroon and sage. This quilt can be displayed all year long. We are enclosing 6 quilt raffle tickets. When you attend the Fair, please return the sold ticket stubs, or mail them to Box 509 before November 29th. Tickets are \$1.00 for one or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets will be available all day at the Fair or from Parish Committee and members. For more information, contact Cyndy Doane at cwdoane@charter.net.



Gingerbread Fair – The annual Gingerbread Fair will be held on Saturday December 1st from 9 AM – 3 PM. Our bighearted members along with our supportive and kind friends continue to donate time and

services to make this a festive day filled with music, food, conversation, raffles and reconnecting with friends and neighbors.

The Silent and the Chinese Auction tables are jam-packed with donations from local businesses and folks from Hubbardston and the surrounding towns. There are restaurant certificates from Olive Garden, Gardner Ale House, South Side Grill, Outback, Unos, Jenkins Inn and local pizza & sub shops. Gift items include a microwave from Stasukelis Appliance, a lamp from Rome Furniture, a wrought plant stand from Country Trail Antiques, tool sets from Lynde Hardware and Maki Home Center. Putin' on the Ritz has donated dog grooming. Changes Hair Salon donated a wash cut & blow dry. Gardner Ten Pins donated bowling; Roll On America donated roller-skating. There will be gift baskets from Emmm's Bakery and Joyce's Pies in Leominster and Petersham Bread. Several museums have given free admissions or yearly memberships. Gifts and certificates will be raffled from all over. Betty Bumpus, Nancy Hubbard & Cyndy Doane will be chairing these tables.

Jeanne Donahue will chair the bake table with Pat Woodward assisting. This table is piled high with Finnish coffee bread, homemade pies, quick breads, squares, Indian pudding, cookies and other goodies.

Home made jams and jellies, including Concord grape, wild red grape, blueberry, mint and crab apple is a new feature this year. Barbara Hubbard, June Hubbard-Ward and Mary Taylor made all these jellies/jams. They also donated the fruits, sugar and jars.

Carol Whitney will chair the candy table with Kim Pirner assisting. They will weigh up a pound of this fudge or a pound of that fudge, or sell fudge by the piece. But remember; nobody can eat just one. Some of the favorites at

this table are penuche, peanut butter, chocolate fudge and butter cream mints.


Laurel Wreaths will be for sale and they go fast. Give Barbara a call at 978-928-4475 with your order. The Naturals Table has berry bowls, pinecone garland, memorial baskets and other little earthy items. Be sure to say hello to Diane and Megan Watkins, chairs of this table.


The Craft Table again this year will be mounded with handmade items, tree ornaments, tree skirts and a lot of great stuff for gifts. Mary Taylor, and Carol Hubbard-Kelley will be chairs. Fair goers may also purchase hand knitted items and linens. Barbara Hubbard and Janet Dubois will be working at that table. The Spice Shoppe will be open, be sure the visit this aromatic table of hand packed spices. Among some of our favorites is cardamom, and catnip for your feline friends.

Lori Prentiss will chair the Gingerbread House Raffle, and our Woodlands Christmas Quilt Raffle. Be sure to treat yourself in these games of chance.

The winners of the Silent and Chinese Auction and all raffles will be announced at the end of the fair. Good Luck..!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Afternoon Dana Brass and Pot Luck -
December 9, 2007, our Church will be

hosting a Christmas
Potluck Luncheon at
12:30 PM followed by 
a free concert with

 The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet at 2:00 PM. The Quintet features trumpets, horns, trombones and a tuba. The performance includes an array of Holiday songs, arranged by the Quintet members. These services are given to any church desiring a high quality musical service. This organization came into being when the Quabbin Reservoir was constructed, which flooded 4 towns

during the 1930's. The First Universalist Parish of Dana established a trust fund to keep the memory of North Dana and their churches alive. Save the date and join us for this Christmas Tradition with potluck and then retire to our acoustically perfect sanctuary for this wonderful free musical performance.

Children's Christmas Party – Sunday December 16th at 5:30 PM the Sunday School will hold their Christmas Pageant upstairs in the Sanctuary. Directly following the pageant a party will be held downstairs with cake and presents. We hope an Ambassador from the North Pole will pay us a visit if we sing very loud. Please let Nancy Hubbard know if you are bringing a younger guest. She will notify the Ambassador that they will be coming to the party.



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Monday December 24th at 5:00 PM. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE TIME FROM THE REGULAR SERVICE. This will be a very traditional service. We light candles and sing carols. Please join us for this very special service

**There will be no church service on
December 23rd or 30th.**

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Meeting Held September 30th
– Our annual meeting was held September 30th in the vestry at 7:30 PM. During the business meeting annual election of officers was held. The new officers for the up coming Church year of 2007-2008 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Mary Taylor, Clerk, Cyndy Washburn-Doane, and Lori Prentiss, Vice Presidents. Those in attendance received an Annual Report. Welcome back Parish Committee members.

120 Club Continues – The 120 Club started by Barbara in 1990 benefits the Restoration Fund. During the year she completes two rounds of 1-20 club tickets. This fund permitted us to repair the septic system, work on the steeple, complete building work as needed and replace the roof. Thanks to our Members & Friends that purchase tickets over the years. Donations are accepted to this fund at any time.

Take me out to the Ball Game 2008 – Be on the look out again for our “FUN” Raiser. Beginning in early January 2008 the Church will be raffling off 4 tickets to a baseball game at historic Fenway Park in Boston. The package also includes luxury bus transportation by Wilson Bus Lines in Templeton to the ballpark and back to Templeton. Your tickets may be purchased from any member of the Parish Council and members of the church. Ticket prices are \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. The Raffle will be drawn on Sunday May 11th at our Mother’s Day Potluck Dinner and our Children’s Sunday at the Church beginning at 5:30 PM. For further information please contact Mary Taylor at 978-928-4289 or e-mail her at mjt123@charter.net. Proceeds from this raffle will benefit the Restoration Fund.



Hubbardston Community Theatre – HCT will be holding auditions for their upcoming show “*Once Upon A Mattress*” in the Sanctuary of the Church on Sunday November 18th at 1 pm. The auditions are open to everyone. Many of our younger parishioners will be trying out, along with our favorite older familiar faces. Other members take on many jobs with the show; back stage, orchestra and props just to name a few. The show is March 13, 14 and 15 in the Hubbardston Center School auditorium. See you there. A box will be placed at the Church entry for our Community

Food Drive. Please bring a non-perishable or canned good. This food will be donated a Hubbardston family in need.



Rental Space – Our spruced up vestry is now ready to become prime rental space.

Some excellent uses for our space could be a dance studio, craft instruction, yoga, or exercise. Please pass the word and anyone interested should contact the Parish Committee.

Milestones - Barry Taylor, formerly of Hubbardston passed away September 9, 2007 in Dallas Texas. Barry grew up on Main Street here in town, attended local schools, then headed west. He leaves behind 3 sons, Barry, Neil and Steven, and 3 brothers, Elwood Jr. of Templeton, Randy of Gardner and Wayne of Hubbardston, several grandchildren, nieces and nephews and cousins. Barry was 64 years old.

Parish Press Spring 2008 – The spring edition of the Parish Press will be going out at the beginning of March 2008. Articles, ideas and news are always welcome. Please contact Editor Cyndy Washburn-Doane at cwdoane@charter.net. There is also a drop off for articles in the Church kitchen.

Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Series - This new addition is on the second Sunday of the month during our 6:30 PM service. Each performance is about 20 minutes long and is part of the worship service. Pot Luck supper is also on the second Sunday at 5:30 PM in place of Sunday school.

Remaining Schedule:

Dec. 9	Pioneer Valley Brass at 2 PM Pot Luck Lunch at 12:30 PM
Jan. 13	Rob Ward, singer and guitarist
Feb. 10	Melissa Dymek, pianist
Mar. 9	Resurrection Brass
Mar. 23	Kris Bumpus singing, Easter Service @ 7:30 am

Apr. 13 Circle of Song
May 11 Children's Play

A special thanks to our first two performers: The Chair City Pipers and Faithful Men Singers. If you are interested in being included for next year's series, please contact Carol Whitney at 978-928-3748 or e-mail her at caroljwwhitney@charter.net. Please pass the word.

Welcome New Members - Our Church is happy to welcome the following new members into our congregation: Brianna Whitney, Mark Kelley, Gwendolyn Bertrand, Tricia Deforge and Lauri & Martin McAvey.

Annual Giving - It is not too late to give to the 2007-2008 Annual Giving or to send in a pledge. These combined with the proceeds from our fairs, fund our operating budget and provide Rev. Ralph and Melissa, our pianist their salaries. If you need a pledge form or have any questions, please see Carol Whitney.



Bible Stories - Stories and quotes from the Bible appear in literature in movies and all sorts of places in our lives. Time was when everyone was familiar with the stories and quotes. Now many of us have grown up without reading or studying the Bible. Over the next few months on the first and third Sundays (if there is Church) some of us are gathering at 5:30 to hear and talk about these stories. It is not a formal "Bible Study," no hard study or preparation, just an opportunity to refresh or hear for the first time those familiar stories. And you don't need to come for every meeting. What could be easier than that!

Parish History - On September 21, 1938 a hurricane toppled the Church's steeple. A committee, formed for the

purpose of raising the money required to restore the steeple, included Edwin C. Wheeler, Miss Katherine Wheeler, Mrs. Lyman Woodward, Mrs. Roy Clark, Lucy Lovell, Mrs. Alton Clark, Mrs. Dorothy Gardner, Mrs. Dwight Pierce, Mrs. Horace Hubbard, and Mrs. Silas Wheeler. Through donations, card parties, and food sales the committee attacked the task of raising the \$10,000 that was estimated for the repair. In a moment of great triumph the new steeple was dedicated in June 1941, at a cost of about \$7000. (*We are looking for historical facts, pictures or stories.*

All material will be returned)



Local Artist Donates Painting of our Church - Hubbardston artist and craftsman, Walter Martin has donated to us, a framed oil painting of the Church. His subject matter is Americana in nature in a effort to recall some of our past heritage. The view is of the back of the building, looking southwest and includes part of the Parish Cemetery, the Common, and homes on Brigham Street. We plan to hang this painting in the vestry. Walter has agreed that we may generate a limited number of copies to use for our capital campaign or our benefit auction. More details will follow on both of those projects.

Parish Committee - The First Parish Unitarian Church's Parish Committee continues to be very busy. They meet every Wednesday at 4:00 pm at the church and have been working out the details of the many issues that the church has to deal with. If you need to contact any of them please refer to the following list or come to a meeting.

Carol Whitney: Pres.	978-928-3748
Barbara Hubbard: Treas.	978-928-4475
Cyndy Washburn-Doane: VP	978-928-4866
Lori Prentiss: V P	978-928-5818
Mary Taylor: Clerk	978-928-4289