

Belleville Congregational Church

December 2011
News and Views



MISSION OF BELLEVILLE CHURCH

Centered in the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we seek to be a welcoming, affirming, and healing congregation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to grow and be renewed through our worship, fellowship, Scripture study and the sharing of our gifts.

Strengthened by God’s love and guidance, we strive to serve with compassion those in need, both near and far.

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Dear Friends,

We join with followers of Christ all over the world in beginning a new Christian year with the season of Advent. Just as we prepare for Christmas holidays with lights, food, presents, perhaps more importantly we can prepare our hearts and minds for the Spirit of Christ coming in our midst. “Prepare ye the way of the Lord” was John the Baptist's cry in the wilderness, and still we need to prepare our hearts and minds if we are to have “eyes to see and ears to hear,” a saying used by the prophets and Jesus.

We know that John the Baptist had a rather radical message, asking people to “repent,” meaning to do an about face, a 180 degree turn, to change one's ways. We each have various things we would like to change in our lives, so John the Baptist can be the herald to give us that nudge. Every year, people like me talk about turning from a frenzied commercialism that can take over our Holy Season. We talk about less rushing around, more quiet times for prayer, coming to Advent worship to ponder prayerfully the candles of hope, peace, love and joy. While less materialism is still a focus for me (I have no interest in the day-after-Thanksgiving sales and lines, nor in quantity of gifts under the tree), I am thinking of another blessing of the Christmas season.

I'm thinking of the Nativity scene itself, and this year, we have two special opportunities to behold it, the “Journey to Bethlehem” on Thursday December 8 (see details inside), and a mini Children's pageant on Sunday December 11. In the Nativity scene, we see in clear symbols how God, the Divine Spirit is made known in vulnerability and humility. It is as simple and profound as that. Precisely how Jesus is “Son of God” is a matter of rational debate and varying doctrines, but the way that the Divine entered the world in Bethlehem, humble, vulnerable, yet powerful in Love, is still the way that we may experience God's Spirit today.

Jesus' coming into the world as vulnerable child years ago gives us the best model for how Divine Spirit still comes into this world, for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. Sometimes we are tempted to set aside the nativity scene in favor of facts, history, and rational debates regarding Jesus’ actual birth. Instead, perhaps we can set aside the overstimulation of our eyes and ears in this busy season to look and listen for the humble and vulnerable ways that Peace and Love enter this world. We remember Jesus promising “My peace I give to you, not as the world gives peace.” May we enjoy, but look beyond the twinkle lights to the Light of the World. May we look beyond the glitter, to the glory of the Spirit that came in a dark, quiet stable. May Peace and Love grow in our midst, just as the Spirit grew in the child of Bethlehem. See you by the manger this Christmas season!

Yours in Christ's service,
Ross



Building Community through Music

2011-2012 Belleville Roots Music Concert Series

Upcoming Concerts

Friday, December 9th, 8 pm

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Concert and Dance

www.billkirchen.com

Grammy nominated guitarist, singer and songwriter Bill Kirchen is one of the fortunate few who can step onto any stage, play those trademark licks that drove his seminal Commander Cody classic Hot Rod Lincoln into the Top Ten, and elicit instant recognition for a career that has spanned over 40 years and includes guitar work with Nick Lowe, Emmylou Harris, Doug Sahm, Elvis Costello and many more. Named "A Titan of the Telecaster" by Guitar Player Magazine, he celebrates an American musical tradition where rock 'n' roll and country music draws upon its origins in blues and bluegrass, Western swing from Texas and California honky-tonk. His current CD Word To The Wise on Proper American features duets with many of these artists he's worked with, including Elvis, Nick, Maria Muldaur and Dan Hicks.



Friday, February 17, 8 pm

Mardi Gras Concert and Dance with Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys

<http://mamouplayboys.com>

Cajun French music from the backwaters of Southwest Louisiana. Their third release garnered them a Grammy nomination in the worldwide field of traditional folk music, another in 2004, and then another in 2009.



Thursday, March 15, 7:30 pm
Irish Celebration with Traditional Irish Group Téada
www.teada.com

Téada, now firmly established as one of Irish music's leading exponents on the international world music stage, continues to be driven by a fascination with the timeless, expressive force of traditional tunes inherited from previous generations of musicians.



Saturday, April 21, 8 pm
An Evening with Carrie Newcomer
www.carrienewcomer.com

Carrie Newcomer is a rare breed of singer/songwriter: the kind who illuminates life with startling depth, humor and clarity. Her ability for sharp observation of the world lead the Dallas Morning News to rave, "She's the kind of artist whose music makes you stop, think and then say, 'that is so true'." She has been described as "a soaring songstress" by *Billboard*, a "prairie mystic" by the *Boston Globe*, and *Rolling Stone* has said that she "asks all the right questions." Carrie is one of the definitive voices of the Heartland and progressive spirituality.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$10 ages 12 and under/\$25 day of show

Available at:

Belleville Office, 300 High Street, T/ Th/Fri 9 – 1.

Belleville Thrift Shop, 300 High Street, Wed 9-12, Saturday, 9-12

Dyno Records, Middle St. Newburyport

online at www.mvarts.info

Contact

For more information about the Roots Music Concert Series, please contact bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com or call the church office at 978/465-7734. To join our concert email list for regular updates on upcoming concerts, please send an email to bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com

Belleville Roots

Belleville Congregational Church has longstanding roots in the Newburyport community as a gathering place and supporter of local service organizations. The Roots Music Series, founded in December of 2010, has two important missions: First, the series brings a variety of high quality Roots Music concerts to the Newburyport area for all to enjoy. The series celebrates music ranging from a cappella to zydeco and includes a diverse range of blues, bluegrass, Cajun, Celtic, country, folk, gospel, Irish, jazz and world music. The second mission of the Roots Music Series is to raise funds to restore and maintain the historic 1867 Belleville Meeting House and adjacent Fiske Chapel complex at 300 High Street in Newburyport. Our objective is that the Meeting House and adjacent complex will continue to serve as a gathering place for many generations to come.

**The Newburyport Choral Society
2011 Winter Concert
“Gloria”**

**Saturday, Dec. 10th 8pm
Sunday, December 11th 2:30pm**

**Tickets: Adults \$20, Students & Seniors \$18
Groups of 12 or more \$15**

2011 Calendar

December 2011

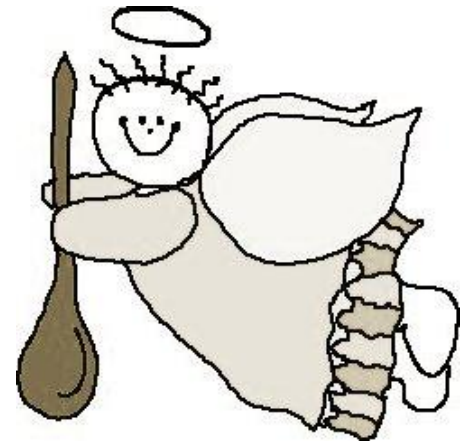
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	2	3 9am NBPT Choral Society 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
4 PEACE 10am Worship 11am Decorate the Chapel	5 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm NBPT Choral Society 7pm CODA	6 4:30pm Brownie Troop 5pm Swim team meets	7 9am Thrift Shop 6pm NBPT Choral Society	8 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 6:30 Journey to Bethlehem 7:30 Choir	9 Concert: Honkytonk Holiday Concert and Dance	10 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop 6pm NBPT Choral Society
11 LOVE 10am Worship 12:30pm NBPT Choral Society	12 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	13 1:30pm Service Club 4:30pm Brownie Troop 7pm W/E Board	14 9am Thrift Shop	15 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	16	17 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
18 JOY 10am Worship	19 7pm CODA	20 4:30pm Brownie Troop 5pm Swim team meets 7pm Exec. Board	21 9am Thrift Shop 7:30pm Longest Night Service	22 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	23	24 Christmas Eve 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop 7pm Candlelight Service in the Meeting House
25 REJOICE Christmas Day 10a Worship	26 7pm CODA	27 5pm Swim team meets 6pm Men's Group	28 9am Thrift Shop	29 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	30	31 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop



Service Club Christmas Party!

Join us for our Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13th at 1:30pm in the Bannister Room. Brenda Marshall will give demonstration on her iPad. There will be a Yankee Swap and Christmas Carol Singing with Ross.

All are welcome!



December

1 James Marshall
2 Stephen Middler
9 Duncan LaBay
10 Steven Heine
12 William Webber Jr.
15 Barbara Dennis
20 Jean Kirkpatrick
20 Stacy Baratelli
24 Jennie DeLong
24 Cynthia Peirce
28 Stacey Himeon

January

1 Robert Locke
5 Kip Tyler
7 David Wood
11 Isaac Butler
11 Nancy Salvage
12 James Guyette
13 John Richards
15 Jennifer Locke
21 Erika Kamp
23 Robert Crofts
28 Meg Marshall

Service Club Cook Book

Are you looking for an inexpensive but creative gift to give a loved one?

The Service Club Cookbooks are in and are only \$5.00

Please see Sue Wolfendale to purchase your copy!

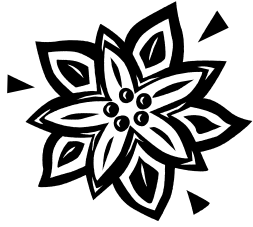
Advent Candle Lighting

Sun. Nov. 27th The Gandolfi Family

Sun. Dec. 4th The Silsby Family

Sun. Dec. 11th Ross & Lynn Varney

Sun. Dec. 18th Confirmation Class:
Nicole, Hunter, Skye and Peter



Poinsettia Order Form

The Details:

Cost of each plant is \$9.50. Cash or check made payable to Belleville Church. Payment may be put in the collection plate, flower coordinator's mailbox or mailed to the church office. Please attach completed order form to your payment. The deadline for orders is December 11, 2011.

Order Info:

Number of plants: _____

In honor of: _____

In celebration of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Please check one of the following:

_____ will take plant after service

_____ have plant sent to a shut-in, nursing home, etc.

Questions?

Please contact Shirley Locke at ph: 978/462-8432

SCRIPTURE READERS LIST 2011

Dec.

- 4 Gail Gandolfi
11 Carolyn Kyle
18 Jim Marshall
25 Cathy Morrow

Jan.

To Be Announced!

If you cannot read on the date that you have been assigned, no worries, just call the next person on the list or send out an email and trade.

Peace, Gail



Coffee Hour

- Dec** 4th Sue Wolfendale, Kathy Raywood, Marion Spark
11th Peggy Utterback, Marge Killam, Mardee Beauparlant
18th Audrey Clarkson, Debra Moore, Lori Wiswell
25th No Coffee Hour
- Jan** 1st No Coffee Hour
8th Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson, Carolyn Kyle
15th Nancy Canali, Gail Gandolfi, Jane Thomas
22nd Shirley Locke, Karen Conway, Marcia Samuelson
29th Marylou Tyler, Diane Crofts, Cynthia Peirce

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and can notify the rest of the committee if needed. This schedule is included in the News and Views and is posted on the bulletin board. Please feel free to swap around with anyone if the assigned week is a conflict for you.

Ushers

- Dec.** 4 Norma Dean & Audrey Clarkson
11 Bob Locke & Jon Pearson
18 Jean Kirkpatrick & Gail Gandolfi
24 Shirley Locke, Peggy Utterback,
Sue & Ben Heersink
25 Ann Guyette & Carolyn Kyle

- Jan.** 1 Kathy Raywood & Michelle Burke-Anderson
8 Rita Vreeland & Hans Erwich
15 Jean Kirkpatrick & Ann Guyette
22 Norma Dean & Kelly Burke-Anderson
29 Ben & Sue Heersink

Worship Opportunities during Advent



Join us on Thursday, December 8th at 6:30pm as we "Journey to Bethlehem".

We will leave the church at 6:30pm and carpool to Windham Bible Church in Windham NH for an outdoor guided reenactment of the journey Mary and Joseph took as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The event is free and each tour lasts 30 minutes.

Join us on Wednesday, December 21st at 7:30pm for our Longest Night worship service. This is a quiet service with honest reflection for those feeling loss during this holiday season.

Saturday, December 24th at 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held in the Meeting House.

Belleville Congregational Church

Church Staff & Contact Information

Pastor Ross Varney **978-462-4899**

office hours: Tuesday 11 AM - Noon;
Wednesday-Thursday 10:30 AM - Noon;
or by appointment, suggested Wed/Thur.
evenings

Please call to assure the pastor is available

Church Office **978-465-7734**

Heather Ryan, Office Administrator

office hours: Tuesday Thursday, and
Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Email: bcchurch@worldpath.net

Website: www.bellevillechurch.org

David Morrow, Organist/Choir Director

Bob Locke, Sexton

Non-Profit Organization

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Newsletter Submissions:

Do you have an article that you would like
to include in the monthly newsletter?

If so, please submit your article to the
church office by the 20th of each month.

Thank you!

Church Officers:

Moderator

William Silsby

Clerk

Jean Hansen

Treasurer

Mary Lou Tyler

Collector

Assistant Treasurer

William Silsby

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Auditor

Jim Samuelson

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Brenda Marshall

[Vacancy](#)

Contact Persons:

Board of Fellowship & Outreach

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship & Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship & Finance

Bob Locke

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson